



Lorain Harbor Boat Club

Newsletter Spring 2021



Robert Coffman, Commodore

I would like to first take the opportunity to welcome the members back this season as well as welcome to the new dockers and members that have recently joined. There has been plenty of activity at the club house and marina already this spring. Currently we have about a half a dozen docks open to rent for the season. The rest are full and people are anxiously awaiting the start of the season and the launch of boats.

Currently the Travel Lift is undergoing the final stages of maintenance with the new motor on and the valves taken to be rebuilt to make it safer and easier to use, which should allow for quicker launch times. Thank you, Joe and Wes, for attending to those items. The wall is up in the gas dock and we are getting the plumbing completed to have a little bit nicer bathroom for that side of the marina. Thank you, Don and Claudia, for your time building that out. The roof install is complete and looks amazing and the soffit above the patio will be on shortly, weather permitting.

Members should be receiving their cards as they are being mailed out now. If you don't get yours, please reach out so we can make sure that is done early on in the season. I know it has been an unusual offseason with no invoicing, but it has saved the club a lot of money in needless postage. I would like to ask for members patience as this is still a time of transition. For those with a balance due a reminder email is being produced and sent to you. If you do not know what your dock balance may be, please contact me and I will get it for you. Remember that your dockage and/or storage balance must be paid to be launched and/or occupy a dock.

All members of this board have worked tirelessly throughout the offseason to get ready for the boating season. They are all volunteers and I commend them all for their dedication to this club. We will be having a dock work party coming up April 17th and I invite as many people as we can get to pressure wash and do dock repairs to get the season started. As in the past, it will be a process and I appreciate ANY time you may have to contribute. I will have burgers and dogs on the grill at my expense to show my appreciation for your time invested back into the club. Everyone makes a difference in making the club a success.

I look forward to seeing everyone again in the coming weeks.

Wes Scot, Rear Commodore

In case you haven't noticed our club website, LorainHBC.org, is full of information on getting the most out of your club membership. Probably most of you are aware of the club's private bar, docks and

winter-storage options. But the site also contains a calendar full of social events planned for the year. Presently we have nine (9) social events on the calendar along with two (2) general membership meetings. The club holds general membership meetings in the spring and fall. The spring meeting is coming up April 17, 2021, 4pm. All members are welcome to attend, members with Active standing are permitted to vote on matters that may come before the membership.

Our social events will kick-off this year with a picnic event on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend – May 29. Other events include the annual Clam Bake, Halloween and Christmas parties. Some of our events are linked to sailboat races sponsored by the club. All members are welcome to race and/or attend any post-race parties when offered.

Sailboat racing is another social activity and includes weekly PHRF races on Wednesday evenings from June through September. We also host a couple one-off races including the annual Gibbs race to Kelleys Island in late August. The Gibbs is a two day affair with an overnight stay and dinner on Kelleys Island included. You don't need to race to join us on Kelleys for the party.

Membership is key to our club. We operate as a 501c7 “sport club” and most of our annual revenue must come from members, not the general public. There is a special exception for guests of members and we encourage everyone to invite a friend to our events, show-off our club and perhaps grow our membership.

The first three months of the year is our membership renewal period. For people utilizing our storage and/or dock facilities we allow an early enrollment period for next year's membership starting October 1st of the prior year. So far we have 88 memberships including 30 new ones.

Of course while the increase in vaccinations is promising, we remain conscious of safe practices we must all observe when attending club events. And this also means that should area restrictions change, we may adjust, limit or cancel events. We're planning for the best outcome but are aware that not all events may happen.

Finally, we are looking for members interested in helping plan our events. If you'd like to help please contact Rear Commodore, Wes Scott.

Jon Peter, on behave of the LBEF

Now that some Covid restrictions are easing, and our instructors have been vaccinated, LBEF will be resuming some of its teaching programs in the 2021 season. This year, we will be offering an adult sailing class, and a youth sailing day camp. LBEF is an accredited US Sailing school allowing us to offer US Sailing Basic Keelboat certification on the completion of the adult sailing class. The youth day camp uses the US Sailing Junior Big Boat program. We hope to resume the First Sail program that provides a two-hour taste of sailing in 2022.

The adult sailing class will be offered on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and Saturdays June 19 thru July 1. The youth day camp will run from July 5-10. Details are on the LHBC website education pages.

The Lorain Boating Education Foundation was established years ago by the Club to promote sailing and boating education. Being a separate 501c3 organization allows the foundation to take advantage of additional tax benefits not available to the Club. (Sales tax exemptions, tax deductible donations and access to additional resources.) The Club supports the foundation by providing free use of its facilities and members who volunteer to run the the programs. The LHBC commodore is an ex-officio member of the foundation's board. The foundation benefits the Club increasing publicity to non-members, and encouraging new boaters for the future. The foundation also offers a discounted rate to LHBC members for its classes.

The foundation recently reorganized. Wes Scott is serving as president, Jon Peter as secretary and Bob

Coffman as treasurer. Also serving on the board are Greg Geraciatti, Don Kaspar, Ray Peters, Bill Robb, and Joe Spainhourd.

Although the Club provides use of facilities and the foundation's programs are taught by volunteers, there are still expenses. We'd love to expand our offerings, especially for youth, so if you'd like to make a tax-deductible donation to support boating education in Lorain, please contact Bob Coffman. The foundation has occasionally taken boats as donations, but in order to concentrate our efforts directly on our programs, we are not actively seeking boat donations at this time.

The Lorain County Metro-Parks is also resuming its Spirit of America boating education program this year, although in a scaled back format. This is a free program for youth ages 12-15. LHBC supports Spirit of America through the use of our facilities and many volunteers. Spirit of America runs July 12-23. See their website for more information including volunteer opportunities.

Getting Ready for Spring

“Nice boat you got there. Shame if something happened to it.” No, the mob has not come to Lake Erie boating. Despite Tony Soprano's boat *Stugots*, the marine industry is not all mobbed up. We really don't want something to happen to your pride and joy.

With an influx of new members and boaters to our marina and as a reminder to all the veterans, dock lines and the way you tie your lines will impact not only your boat but the docks and other boats. Most boaters come down to the Club when the weather is nice. But if you have ever been down when the weather gets heavy, you know things in the marina can start to rock and roll. New docklines can chafe through in less than an hour if not properly done. Cheap old lines chaff even faster. You may as well be using old boot laces.

None of the boats in the marina should have anything less than ½ diameter nylon lines. If your boats cleats will fit bigger line, go for it. Nylon isn't as strong as Dacron but it will stretch. The stretch absorbs shock loads and is more abrasion resistant. Marine Grade in many items just means; 'we're jacking up the price for the same thing that isn't marine grade', but not in this case. Sure you can get ½ inch nylon line at Rural King or Tractor Supply for less but it will disintegrate in the sunlight (UV) in a few months. Spending a few dollars more for quality line is really cheap insurance. How much is your insurance deductible? Spending a fraction of that every few years for new docklines is a good investment.

Braided or twist? Braided construction is stronger for the same diameter of line than 3 strand twist. But 3 stranded is more abrasion resistant in tests by *Practical Sailor*, the *Consumers Digest*, of boating.

It is also a good idea to invest in some chaff protection regardless if you opt for braided or 3 strand. They say talcum powder is very good at preventing chaff... but not in this case. The rain would wash it off. Getting some sort of woven tubing is best. You can get lengths of slightly used fire hose for cheap on EBay. Slip it over your line and use it between your line and the dock cleat. Occasionally you will need to uncleat the lines and inspect. Then if a hole has worn into the sleeve, rotate it so an unabated area is now against the cleat.

Describing how to tie a knot or attach to a cleat is difficult for the writer and nearly impossible to follow for the reader. So the best solution is to show you. Below are some links to some useful YouTube videos. There are many YT videos on this subject. Some are not very well produced or presented

and some are just wrong. We have found these to be on point and well done. If you are reading this newsletter online, you should be able to open a new tab in your browser, highlight, right click and copy the web address below and then on your new browser tab right click again and choose 'paste and go'.

For a perfect cleat hitch see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KaF9IFn0Inw&t=399s>

Another example of a cleat hitch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMwXjckgiOs>

Why do you need spring lines? See this link and contains a video.

<https://www.cruisersforum.com/forums/f118/explain-to-an-idiot-what-spring-lines-are-for-228913.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6co0lIOPKeQ>