



# LSYC Newsletter

## December 2018

### Upcoming Events

Westlake Yacht Club Christmas Party December 8

LSYC Board Meetings Dec 3, 2018 and Jan 7, 2019

Soup and Salad Night at the Club Jan 26, 2019 with Q&A on proposed merger

### Board of Trustees Activity: Proposed Merger with Westlake Yacht Club



By now most have heard that LSYC and Westlake Yacht Club are discussing the potential for merging the two clubs. The building that Westlake Yacht Club has occupied for nearly three decades was sold, and as a result, WYC lost their lease. Earlier this fall, the WYC board approached the LSYC board about the possibility of merging the two clubs. After some discussion the LSYC board decided that yes, a merger was an idea worth pursuing, although there are obviously a lot of details to work out.

Westlake Yacht Club's members have already voted to authorize their board to consummate the merger once the details have been worked out. Our constitution requires a different approach. The board has created several joint committees with WYC to work out details, including a new or revised constitution, which will be presented to the LSYC membership to vote on as a package.

The target is to have all this done and ready for a membership vote in the spring so we can begin the next boating season as a stronger, unified club.

***We try to refer to the merger as the proposed merger, but sometimes the language gets convoluted, so regardless of what you may hear or read, the proposed merger is not a done deal until it is voted on by the membership.***

We are approaching this as a merger between equals with each club bringing complementary strengths and resources to the table, rather than an acquisition or absorption by one club or the other. A new name for the joint club may be on the table.

Westlake Yacht Club operated a bar and restaurant (The Wheelhouse) as a central part of their club. One of the key elements of the merger will be to transfer their liquor license ( a club-members only license) and figure out how we run a bar out of our facility. Ryan Pinter and Don Kasper (along with

Kevin Welch and Tim Brunk from WYC) are hard at work on plans for clubhouse renovations to accommodate the bar operation with potential for future expansion into limited food service, while maintaining our ability to use the facility for other functions. They are creating an overall plan that can be implemented in stages as our needs require and finances allow.

It will be challenging to find the funds, but the good news is that between the two clubs we should have many people willing to contribute time and effort to keep the labor costs down.

Since transferring the liquor license can be a lengthy process, and requires a legal, physical address, LSYC will be leasing space to WYC until the merger is complete. Funds received from this lease will be dedicated to the initial clubhouse renovations.

At its last meeting, the LSYC board granted “full reciprocity” to current WYC members until the merger is complete. This means the WYC members are essentially “associate members” of LSYC, with access to the clubhouse and will be eligible to participate in LSYC events or rent docks, but will not have voting rights. Westlake is inviting LSYC members to their events. The two Boards are meeting as separate boards, but have invited each other to attend their respective meetings.

WYC members were also offered a \$100 discount on the 2019 dock rates. This represents the change in our rates to include active membership in our dock rates so that WYC members who take the discount will be associate members of LSYC.

***If you have not yet signed a 2019 dock contract, you might want to do it soon. All docks without contracts are open first come, first serve to both LSYC and WYC members (and any new members).***

The joint committees created are listed below. We want to keep them small and nimble to start, with two members from each club. If you would like to serve on one of these committees that still have openings, please contact our Commodore, Joe Spainhourd. If you have questions or concerns about the proposed merger, please contact the relevant committee members or a member of the board. We will need input from many to pull this off.

Committee	Responsibility	LSYC	WYC
<b>Administrative</b>	New board of trustee composition Constitution and by-laws Lease modifications WYC lease arrangements	Joe Spainhourd Jon Peter	Ken Klein Kevin Welch
<b>House and Grounds</b>	Clubhouse remodel Gas dock build out Capital improvement plan	Ryan Pinter Don Kasper	Tim Brunk Ed Rico
<b>Financial</b>	Book keeping practices Business plan/pro-forma for merged club Loan refinance/line of credit	Jim Morse Joe Spainhourd	Rick Case Mike Waybright

Committee	Responsibility	LSYC	WYC
<b>Membership</b>	Retention of members New member strategy Coordination of functions and events	Dwight Sablack (open)	Libby Landers Norm Scholl
<b>Boating</b>	Race program Education programs Cruising programs Fishing programs	Jon Peter (open)	Amy Brunk Wayne Ross

In addition to the business relating to the proposed merger, the board passed motions to authorize the Junior Big Boat Program, and request the Finance committee evaluate the current practices related to the Gas Dock. Secretary Jon Peter agreed to edit the newsletter. Articles should be sent to [jtpeter@att.net](mailto:jtpeter@att.net) in rich text format (.rtf).

## Commodore’s Report: Joe Spainhourd



I’ll assume everyone saw the letter I sent out to the membership on Nov. 15 regarding dock contracts. If you haven’t done so already, sign a contract for a 2019 dock.

Talks on the proposed merger are proceeding. See above for details, and note that we have some openings on the subcommittees. We need everyone’s help in this endeavor. The Board of Trustees cannot do this alone. If you are interested in filling out the subcommittees listed above, or helping out with this transition in any other way, please email me at [commodore@lsyc.info](mailto:commodore@lsyc.info).

This proposed merger would have a lot of positive aspects. There would be an increase in membership and an opportunity to make new friends. WYC brings with them a members-only liquor license and a great deal of commercial equipment. We offer a marina and clubhouse and have a long lease on both with the city.

With an influx of so many new members there would be some cultural changes to our club. I see most of these changes in a positive light, but I know some of you will have questions and concerns. Please email me at the address listed above with any and all concerns, comments and questions. We want this process to run as smoothly as possible.

We are in need of a new Fleet Captain. Wes Scott is stepping down to concentrate on the Keel Boat classes, First Sail and Junior Big Boat Program. After several years of intense work, big boat racing is making a comeback. This past year saw the largest number of participants ever in the Gibbs race. The MAST race has become a new tradition, and both the Big Boat and Star fleets continue weekly racing. The racing programs, including regattas, have been net money makers for the club. Wes has been the primary driver for the race programs, and has done countless other things for the club. He has served the club well, and we all owe him our sincere thanks and gratitude.

With that being said, a new Fleet Captain has some big shoes to fill, perhaps too big. Therefore, we are looking to divide the duties between several Fleet Captains. The primary Fleet Captain should be an overall supervisor and organizer and not a jack of all trades along with chief cook and bottle

washer. Each fleet should have their own Fleet Captain. At this point we have the Star Boat Fleet and PHRF Fleet. Each of these Fleet Captains will be responsible for the weekly race starts, finishes and record keeping. The Primary Fleet Captain will concentrate on Regattas, equipment and MAST and Gibbs races. The Cruise Captain could also fall under the umbrella of the Fleet Captain. On the plus side, a lot of the hard work has been done, and the new Fleet Captain will have a good foundation on which to build. If you are interested in the Fleet Captain position, please email me at [commodore@lsyc.info](mailto:commodore@lsyc.info).

## Vice Commodore's Report: Dwight Sablack



First let me introduce myself. I am Dwight Sablack. I have been granted the honor of serving as the club's "Vice Commodore" this year. Many of you that know me gave me your acknowledgment that I would be a good fit for the board throughout this year. I thank you for your vote of confidence. For those of you who don't know me, I have become a frequent face at the club this past season. I have been a member of LSYC since 2009, when I bought Windara from the club as my first keel boat. I sold her and bought Pequod in 2013. She had been in Vermilion, where I am from as well, since her birth in '72. She needed a lot of work that was easier at a working marina, so I stayed there until last year. However, I remained an active member of LSYC. (Many of you may have known my brother, Dan, who was more active in the board and activities until his passing in 2015. He was certainly the more outspoken diplomat of the two of us.) Through a series of pros and cons, it became obvious it was time for me to come home and move back to LSYC. Here I participated in both of the racing series and started a Pequod tradition in 2015 called "Monday Night Madness" where a growing number of club members joined me. I will explain this in greater detail and hope to extend this idea at a later date.

When the selections were finished, I had volunteered for "Vice Commodore" without really knowing what the responsibilities were. The short of it is that I am tasked with maintaining the premises and grounds. On one hand this makes sense. I am only 6 minutes away from the club. I have some knowledge of maintaining property as the de facto land lord of 3 homes my elderly father owns. I have ideas that I have expressed over the years about better ways to use the facility. On the other hand, this is NOT a normal year. As most of you, hopefully, know we are negotiating a possible merger with WYC. With them comes a lot of value and changing meaning of the property. Along with their previous property contents that need stored and valued, we would also incorporate their liquor license into our combined operation. This will change how we utilize the club house area. If there is one thing a sailor knows, it is that "change does not come without trade-offs." The things we gain in this case outweigh that which we are giving up by a long shot.

In a moment for full disclosure, I am feeling the urgency of needing to prepare LSYC for winter status, prepare my own boat for her winter slumber (They did it at Parson's), and play my part in the massive undertaking of forming a new stronger and unified club. My regular crew who know me, know the worse the seas get, the stronger I become. But I am well aware that I need help from the crew, and appreciate every one of them. Likewise, I am asking you all to contribute and help the board make this a place you will be proud to tell people you are part of.

I think this year you have a really good and passionate board that will be required for this change. Every one of us loves our little space on the Black River and wants to see it flourish. We bring unique and varied skills. I do notice that we are underrepresented by power boaters and fishermen. This may jade our perception in the future, so please, feel free to point something out that might not be obvious to us. As a union steward, I know that positions like this come as lightning rods for people's frustrations. Please remember we are doing this out of our passion for the club, boating, and Lake Erie. In future newsletters I hope to cover my experiences of being at a "Marina" vs. being at a "Yacht Club" and how we can expound on those differences. I want to ask you, the club members, to be thinking about what you would like to see. You should consider owning a boat, belonging to a club, and access to the facility an "investment" in your family and personal leisure time. We want to know what we could do that would encourage greater presence and participation in the events and use of the facility. My overall vision is to pull into the club on a weekend and a few days and/or nights during the week and see it buzzing with some kind of activity. Then I think all of us will come to see it as more than just a place to dock our boats. Related to this, we have formed a "membership committee" with the two clubs and I think we could use another LSYC member to help. We are dealing with issues of how to merge the memberships, retain old members, and bring new ones in. Please contact me if you have an interest.

### **Rear Commodore's Report: Karen Pleban**



I would like to thank the membership for electing me as one of the officers. I was honored to assume the Rear Commodore's position. With that being said, I will say that I am planning some fun times for Lorain Sailing Yacht Club!! To start with, we are planning a card/board game night with soup and salad on January 26, 2019, and members of the board will take some time for Q&A about the proposed merger. In February there will be a spaghetti dinner. Both events will have 50/50 drawings.

I am very excited about the possibility for uniting with Westlake Yacht Club. WYC and LSYC coming together can only bring on good things. While merger negotiations are underway, WYC is going to share our facilities, and we will be inviting each other to social events. Much needs to be done, working out the details of the merger and figuring out how to put a bar in the clubhouse. I will be touching base with their Rear Commodore to coordinate our events. Please watch your email, Facebook or the website for more details.

Being involved with the sail boat race committee and being an angler and owner of a motor boat gives me the unique opportunity to enjoy both types of boating and gives me the ability to relate to both types of boaters.

I welcome any ideas for entertainment at the club. My phone is 440-281-3618, and my email is [rcommodore@lysc.info](mailto:rcommodore@lysc.info). If you decide to Skype me, my account is Karen.pleban

Hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and wishing everyone Happy Holidays!

## LSYC earns US Sailing school accreditation



Last spring, members Wes Scott and Jon Peter obtained their Coast Guard captain's licenses with sailing endorsements. In addition, Wes, Jon and Greg Geraciotti became certified Basic Keelboat Instructors with US Sailing, and submitted teaching plans that were approved for LSYC's accreditation. This allows us to certify students that pass the course as meeting US Sailing's Basic Keelboat requirements, the first step in US Sailing's adult education program. Our instructors volunteer their time, so this is a money maker for the club. Our first class was full with eight students, including one LSYC member. Our next class will be on two consecutive weekends, Jun 8-9 and Jun 15-16, 2019. Details about the course requirements are on our website.

## First Sail Program



First Sail is a program developed by US Sailing where sailing centers and clubs offer a taste of sailing to the general public. While a small fee is charged, it provides the opportunity to try sailing without the commitment of signing up for a full sailing course or buying a boat. In 2018, we offered 6 sessions, and took about 20 people out for their first sail. We are currently limited to 8 participants per session (two boats, captain's license required). We tailor the experience to the participant, but try to make this more of a first sailing lesson rather than a simple boat ride. First Sail is scheduled for Saturdays, June 22, July 6, and August 3, 2019, so if you know of anyone interested in giving sailing a try, send them our way. Details are on the website.

## Junior Big Sail Program Call for Volunteers

Several of us have been talking about how to reach out with sailing opportunities for youth in our community. We host the "Spirit of America" program run by Lorain County Metroparks, which is a great start, but where do the youth go for more? We have settled on the US Sailing "Junior Big Sail Program" (JBS) as an opportunity within our means.

JBS uses volunteer skippers and their sailboats in structured lesson plans to teach youth to sail. A key advantage to this program is that US Sailing has obtained an exemption to the usual "passenger for hire" regulations so that the sponsoring club can charge a program fee without needing to use licensed captains, provided the sailboat skippers are donating their time and boats to the program.

We have scheduled Junior Big Sail as a week-long sailing day camp for youth aged 12 to 17 years, Monday July 8, thru Thursday July 11, with Friday July 12, 2019 as a weather make up day. We may schedule an evening opportunity for students to take a parent out for a brief sail (student at the helm, but skipper still on board).

Daily schedule will be morning classroom session, morning sailing session, bring your own lunch ashore, afternoon classroom session and afternoon sailing session. We have three sailboats committed, but would like a few more, as we will limit participation to four students per boat.

To pull this off, we will need several additional volunteers.

We would prefer to have boats/volunteers that can commit to the full week, but we can probably work out a schedule if you would like to volunteer but can't do the full week.

We will need:

- 3 to 6 sailboats and their skippers
- At least one, and preferably two powerboats to provide safety support, place and retrieve marks, and run short practice races
- Several shore-side volunteers to check participants in and out and help supervise during lunch and while waiting for rides, etc.

Because we will be working with youth in this day and age, volunteers must meet certain requirements:

- Background checks are required for all volunteers.
- Safe Sport Certification required for all volunteers. (Training on abuse recognition and reporting requirements.) US Sailing members can obtain this on line free of charge. We are looking for other options as well.
- Skippers and at least some of the shore support must have current First Aid/CPR certifications.
- Skippers must have current OBEC license (or Captains license) and demonstrate ability to perform quick stop and figure eight man overboard recovery methods.

Volunteering for a program like this is a big commitment, but this is an excellent opportunity to expand our club's presence in the community and help fill the need for youth boating activities in our area. If you'd like to volunteer, or want additional information, please contact Jon Peter ([jtpeter@att.net](mailto:jtpeter@att.net)) We will schedule an organizational meeting in January.

## Fleet Captains Report: Wes Scott



The 2018 Sailing Season is over and it's been a full schedule of racing for LSYC members and visiting boats. For club members we had weekly racing for both our PHRF handicap and Star one-design fleets.

The PHRF boats raced nearly every Wednesday from mid-June through late-September in two series with an overall scoring. We had a smaller but more competitive fleet this year than in past years. The spring series saw After Midnight taking first, Copacetic second and Pequod claiming third.

The fall series mixed it up with Copacetic first, Blustery second and Allegra third. Overall, both series combined resulted in Copacetic taking first, After Midnight second and Pequod third.

The four-boat Star fleet raced nearly every Sunday from late-July through late-September. Because of the late start to their season the Stars raced a single series this summer. Taking first was Ray Peters, with Mike Pinter second, and Thad Brej third.

This year we also attempted to start a Sunday PHRF series in the hopes that we would attract some additional racers on a weekend who can't race Wednesday evenings. This didn't pay off as we had only four of our regular PHRF boats racing the four-Sunday series (run every third Sunday). For the series Copacetic claimed first, Pequod took second and Allegra grabbed third. Given the low turn-out it's not clear whether this Sunday PHRF series will continue in the new year.

Besides our weekly series the club also held other racing events this summer.

The annual Lorain One-Design Regatta was run on the traditional second full weekend of July with boats racing in Star, Interlake and Jet 14 fleets. Most of the boats running the OD weekend were from other clubs. Placing in the 9-boat Interlake class' top three finishers were local sailors Brad Balmert (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Bryan Parker (3<sup>rd</sup>). There were no local sailors competing in the four-boat Jet 14 fleet.

The OD Star fleet included the Star District 4 Green Star (a regional competition) giving the Star fleet a two-day series. Top local sailor in the overall Star fleet was Ray Peters finishing fifth overall. In the Green Star finishes (a subset of the 9-boat Star fleet) local sailors Ray Peters took second, Mike Pinter claimed third and Jim Peters finished fourth.

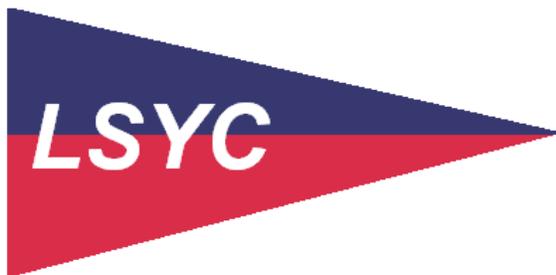
We also had an over-600' class finisher when the freighter Algoma Buffalo sailed through the course. We tried a new "Night Race" for the PHRF fleet on the last weekend of July. Like the Sunday series, this race turned out only four local boats of which only three competed. Claiming first was Copacetic, second was Nikn and Great Scot brought up the rear. The race sailed through a beautiful starry night.

Topping off the summer was the tenth annual Tom Gibbs Memorial Kelleys Island Race. This year's race pushed the envelope in many ways. We had our largest fleet at eleven boats, saw our highest winds at over 30 knots and our latest Sunday finish time around 11pm. Saturday's race had a major blow with winds consistently at or above 20 knots mostly on the beam. Sunday's trip home started off with a pleasant following wind which died off and was replaced with a light zephyr on the nose. Claiming first overall was Great Scot, second was Copacetic and third was claimed by Nikn. Harmony and Paradox were the only other yachts that qualified as combined finishers.

Many thanks to all those that helped with weekly RC duty and the extensive support for the OD and Gibbs races.

The racing program netted about \$3200 in income for the club after covering its immediate expenses.

After four years as the club's Fleet Captain, I am hanging up my officer's post in hopes of doing more sailing and racing of my own boat in 2019. The Fleet Captain post is open and looking for *you!*



*Submit items for the newsletter to Jon Peter at [jtpeter@att.net](mailto:jtpeter@att.net) in rich text format (.rtf) by the 25th of the month.*

LORAIN SAILING AND YACHT CLUB 108 Alabama Ave, Lorain, Ohio 44054 <a href="http://www.lsync.info">www.lsync.info</a>	
Commodore	Joe Spainhourd
Vice Commodore	Dwight Sablack
Rear Commodore	Karen Pleban
Treasurer	Jim Morse
Secretary	Jon Peter
Board Member	Don Kaspar
Board Member	Steve Chapman
Club Manager	Bobby Rhodes