



# THE LOG

## Commodore's Report

By: Mike Sherwood



### IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Commodore's Report
- 3 Vice Commodore's Report
- 4 Rear Commodore's Report



*Please be sure to mark your calendars for the 2026 Commodores Ball which will be held on October 24th at the Assumption Cultural Center, St. Clair Shores. Bernadine and I look forward to a memorable evening with many of you. Official invitations will be forthcoming via email.*



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THE COMMODORE'S REPORT

--Continued

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Now on another important subject: MEMBERSHIP.

I attended a DRYA end of the 2025 year meeting and after discussing the races of 2025, the conversation led to crew members and how to attract the younger individuals into the sport.

I am sure that most are in agreement that clubs have an issue with attracting new members, especially younger people. There seems to be a declining participation in sailing and there seems to be fewer volunteers. Oh, we can discuss higher inflation, greater compliance costs, i.e. insurance and individuals getting older (the average age is usually around 60) and selling their boat, but clubs have tried all kinds of promotions to increase membership. Many clubs offer a discounted membership/reduced initiation fee for people under 25-30, which is a great way to reduce the barrier to entry and capitalize on the much-needed youth for the sport, but how do we keep them involved? Aside from club fees and focusing on sailing, sailing clubs in general are having trouble attracting and retaining 20-30 something's. There are a lot of decent junior sailing programs, and I have found that there is quite a bit of participation in the High school and college sailing scene. I have found that most of the people involved in those programs stop sailing after high school and/or college. Sailing clubs could (and should) do more to appeal to these people and keep them involved with the sport, such as getting our current skippers acclimated to having these young individuals as crew members on various race events.

Has anyone considered that boating also has an image problem, where individuals see sailing as a form of entertainment for the rich? There are a lot of affordable ways to get out on the water (for example, racing on other peoples boats), but the general public I have found really doesn't understand this and we sometimes lack the thought of mentoring those young, eager, sailors for new growth and sustainability in our clubs membership. Sometimes this mentoring even leads to, the once novice crew member, buying their own boat.

Maybe we need to partner with a junior sailing program or visit the high school and/or college sailing programs and let them know our skippers are interested in mentoring for crew positions. Let's not forget that we were all young once. I have been asked by a number of our members, "What advise do you have for individuals who want to get involved with racing?" What about getting people interested in Race Committee? My advice: "jump-in". We are racing almost every Wednesday evening starting in May with races on weekends too and most events could use crew members. Don't worry if your first time out isn't a perfect fit, as you will learn a lot from the experience and meet other club members too.

Everyone can learn something new by spending time on the water or they can learn the logistics of running a race by volunteering. I can promise you this; interested individuals will have more fun out on the water then staying home doing the laundry. When you see our Race Chair, PC Danielle Templeton at events, please talk to her and find out where you can help. It's not only her but there are many more club members that can help interested individuals really enjoy their upcoming summers, by just being involved with the LSSC race functions.



## Vice Commodore's Report

By: Andy Schultz



Welcome to 2026! Water levels are down, not sure how with all the snow we had! Everyone needs to keep their winter weight so we can heal the boats over when we run aground this summer.

The winter outing was a success. Bowling, with lots of suspense and drama around the turkey and first place prizes, Joey Baker winning both of them!

There is a May 2nd Players outing, but I'm just the middleman, your Commodore Mike is the brains and conduit for it. Reserve your seat by April 20th, only a couple left.

There was some discussion on a format change for the Ice Breaker into a dual/partial hybrid W/L - P/P. Yep it appears to me to be as messy as it sounds, so after discussion with RC, membership and scoring we are keeping the same format as before. The Ice Breaker race will be May 16th this year.

And our second year for Friday night lights June 26th, with a new prize on the line, as the race is part of the Nine Mile Cup and may include local moorage for remote boats. No formal party is planned as of now but I suspect a get together will happen as the race.

Memorial Day Picnic is in the planning stages, fingers crossed I get everything lined up and we can have it. Right now-thinking sign-up genius for a dish to share. More to come.



# Rear Commodore's Report

By: Mark Bowery



My shoulders burn this time each year from sanding, painting, buffing, and waxing—but I find myself smiling as they do. That familiar shoulder warmth rises right along with the temperature, reminding me that soon my shoulders will be able to relax onboard, out on the water under May's sunshine.

And then... they'll burn again under the May sun.

We have received USCG and DNR approvals for the placement of our LSSC mark buoys, as well as for our Sunset Series and Club races. Beth Baker has updated the website calendar with approved race dates and has posted the Notice of Race and Race Application—please encourage your fellow boaters to sign up.

Those buoys you round during races are the result of coordination by Bob Mann and Gerry Gilis, our Marks Committee Co-Chairs. A special thank you as well to past Marks Chair Pete Ross, who continues to support Bob and Gerry as they prepare for the upcoming season. Past Commodore Dan Guendelsberger sent an email regarding committee boat sign-up. Boat-owning members should know the role of the RC boat skipper is straightforward: navigate the boat to and from the start location and set and retrieve the anchor. Our Principal Race Officer (PRO), Danielle Templeton, along with the Committee Boat team she leads, will take care of the rest. Signing up will add depth to your sailing experience whether you are a racer or not.

Race results are also undergoing a transitional upgrade this season. Currently, results are calculated using software developed and managed personally by PC Dan Guendelsberger. PC Tim McGuire has generously offered commercial software to the club at no cost. This season, we will run both systems in parallel as we transition to Regatta RC, developed by MicroCODE Incorporated, founded by PC Tim. Of course, accurate results depend on ratings, and our Ratings Chair, Matt Savage, continues to organize and manage the ratings for each racing vessel. If a red flag is hoisted during a race, Brian Lang will once again step in as Protest Chairman, providing oversight with his deep knowledge and understanding of the rules.

Wednesday night Sunset Series racers will continue the tradition of gathering at Great Lakes Yacht Club after racing—sharing stories while awaiting results and enjoying a limited but delicious menu available for purchase. Purchases remain credit card only, and beverages are bring-your-own. A sincere thank you to Chef David and GLYC for their continued hospitality.





## Rear Commodores Report Cont.

Please remember to thank and support our sponsors. You may see them at LSSC events, on competing boats, or while picking up parts, service, or supplies. Take a moment to show your appreciation. If you know of a business interested in supporting LSSC, please connect them with PC Susanne Guendelsberger, who continues to serve as our Sponsorship Chair. Her efforts are a tremendous benefit to our club as well as to our sponsors.

As you can see, it takes a dedicated team to support the sport we all enjoy. The team at LSSC is truly exceptional and I am honored by your trust to serve as your 2026 Rear Commodore.

Thank you to Vice Commodore Andy and Commodore Mike for their guidance during this transition and for their continued support.

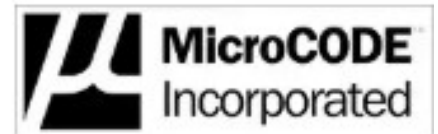


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