

The Jib Sheet

March 24, 2006

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Jeff Arnfield (windward@lizards.net)

Vice Commodore

Skip Greene

Race Captains

Tom Gerock

Sam Shafer

Dinghy Racing Committee Chair

Baron Eliason



Secretary

Gordon Wigle

Treasurer

Kathy Linebarger

Cruise Captain

Bill Murdoch

Member at Large

Jim Little

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The Spring Meeting Approaches!

In case you hibernated through it, winter's about over, and it's time once again for us to rise from our lairs, shake the creases out of our sails and spring forward to the club's season opener meeting. We'll meet at the Lakeshore Captain's Table for drinks, dinner, several informative presentations on various aspects of sailing, and a whole lot of socializing in between. This is a great time to bring along a few friends who are interested in learning more about sailing and the folks who do it.

We need to give Lakeshore a firm headcount, so **please RSVP by e-mail (windward@lizards.net) or phone (423-647-2671) to Commodore Jeff Arnfield no later than Tuesday March 28.** We always try to accommodate a few last minute changes, but no shows cost the club money. You can always join us for drinks at the last minute without RSVP.

Meet: Lakeshore Captain's Table Restaurant (Lower Level)

Date: Saturday, April 1, 2006

Time: Cash bar starts at 5:30, with dinner (by RSVP) at 6:30.

Cost: \$18 for members (\$9 for kids). Non-members add \$5 for adults, \$2 for kids.

RSVP: Yes, YOU!! Jeff Arnfield (windward@lizards.net, or 423-647-2671) by Tuesday, Mar 28

Fare: Salads, rolls, fried flounder, roast beef, oven roasted red potatoes, baby carrots, fried okra, fruit cobbler, chocolate trifle, coffee, tea

Content: John Middaugh has organized several of our experienced members for short, after dinner presentations discussing sail trim, rules of the road when boats meet, and an overview of our race procedures. There's content here for racers and cruisers alike, so whether you want to race faster or just get to your cookout anchorage quicker, you don't want to miss it.

Dues Mail to: Kathy Linebarger, 5600 Snapps Ferry Rd., Afton, TN 37616 (\$15 old, \$25 new members).

Summer Saltwater Cruise Pamlico Sound will have a few more boats plying its waters the week of June 10-18th, as intrepid WLSA sailors explore the area. Last year's trip yielded great stories, fine photos and more fish tales. This year, why not come along and spin your own yarns afterwards. If you are interested in either chartering a boat or trailering your own boat to the coast, send a note to Cruise Captain Bill Murdoch (wsmurdoch@aol.com) and let him know what you want to do.

Spring Race Series As much as this club loves change, the race series will be pretty familiar to most of you. This year we'll be racing on Saturday afternoons in an attempt to snare a few more participants and permit more people to hang out after the races. We'll also be pre-registering skippers so that there's not a frantic exchange of three dollar bills before each race. Remember, racers, that you are expected to volunteer as committee boat at least once during the year, so be thinking of when that will be.

No boat? No inclination to be a racing skipper? E-mail the group (wlsa@lizards.net) and you can probably scare up a ride. Not interested in actually sailing? Come out to kibitz and watch the race.

Need more information about racing? Contact Tom (tgerock@aol.com) or Sam (deck-hand@excite.com).

Dinghy Racing Baron Eliason, the Dinghy Racing Committee Chairman, is working with the race committee to establish a separate racing program for boats outside the “self-righting with a cabin” realm. The tentative plan is to hold a few events during the year to build interest and experience, with an eye to having a more formal series. Memorial Day Weekend is likely to be our first foray into small boat competition, with a reprise planned for the July 4th weekend. If you’re interested in racing or helping, even if you don’t yet have a dinghy, contact Baron at beliason@naxs.net or 423-434-4648.

Be Prepared: getting your boat ready for the season Maybe you didn’t get around to hauling your boat over the winter, stripping the bottom, wet sanding with 600 grit and burnishing a Teflon based bottom paint. Suddenly the mainstream part of the season is upon you, with no time to get into all that now. There are still a few things you can do to make your boat faster, safer and more enjoyable for the season.

- Scrub your (boat’s) bottom. Borrow the club’s brush, or get hardcore and slip into the wet suit, but get all that furry, slimy crud off the bottom, keel and rudder. You’ll go faster and the pictures taken when you’re healing like crazy will look much better.
- Scrub the deck. A little Soft Scrub with bleach will leave her looking way fine.
- Check all your hardware. Are the sheaves in your blocks cracking, chipping or binding? Are the pins working loose or the bodies deformed on your shackles or quick links? When was the last time you checked to see if the swing keel cable was frayed? Are the cam and clam cleats gripping properly?
- Wash your running rigging. Yup, take it off, take it home, annoy your housemate by putting it in the tub and wash it in warm water and Tide, then rinse repeatedly until no suds remain. I like to add a little liquid fabric softener to my second to the last rinse, but lots of people don’t. If washing doesn’t make it right, consider replacing some running rigging. A new sheet or halyard is a pleasure to handle.
- Remember to check wire halyards. Many roller furlers use the jib halyard to tension the luff, and few people remember to drop the sail once or twice a year to inspect the halyard.
- Inspect and tune your standing rigging. Is the mast straight? Are your shrouds flopping in the breeze, with meat hooks forming on the wires? Getting your rig right pays dividends in boat performance and helps keep the stick upright. Tuning guides are available on the web or through better bookstores.
- Check the water level in your starting and house batteries. If they need to be topped up, use distilled water. Then change the lower unit lube in the outboard (or change the oil in that inboard), and stick some new spark plugs in the gas engine. C’mon, be honest: when was the last time you did that?
- Check the life jackets, fire extinguisher and air horn. Replace the batteries in your emergency flashlights.
- Consider getting her something nice. No radio? How about a little handheld VHF with NOAA weather band? No knotmeter? Maybe an inexpensive GPS? Dark in the cabin? Perhaps a brass oil lamp?



Watauga Lake Sailing Club
337 Beaver Circle
Bluff City, TN 37618

Spring Dinner Meeting
Saturday, April 1.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES ???