

The Jib Sheet

August 2007

A publication of the Watauga Lake Sailing Club – Founded 1979

Commodore

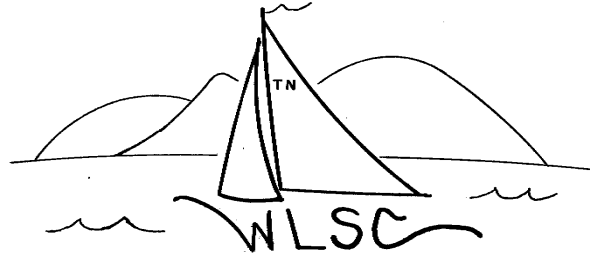
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Coming in August: Long Distance Race - Voyage of Discovery - Race Clinic

Labor Day Weekend: 1st Fall Race - Annual Fish Fry – Overnight Cruise

Long-Distance Race Sets Sail September 18

The annual Long Distance Race is slated to begin Saturday, September 18, at 0930. One of the WLSC's triple crown of named fun races, the LDR provides an opportunity for aspiring racers to test tactics and hone strategies, without the stress of a mass start or consideration of those pesky right-of-way rules required when rounding a crowded race mark.

The theme of the LDR is "FUN". The race committee has eliminated the mass start, and there are no buoys to round. It's a great opportunity for first-time racers to get the feel of competition under sail, and an ideal event for crew members who may find the close jockeying for position during PHRF events to be a little intimidating.

Racing from Lakeshore Marina to the Butler Bridge, the LDR is the only point-to-point race on the schedule. Race Captain Wayne Catoe will assign each vessel a start time based on the boat's individual handicap. Each boat crosses the start line individually, and the first boat to pass under the bridge is the winner.

Additionally, it's the only race in which contestants are allowed to use auxiliary engines to improve their position. The last boat in the fleet is allowed to use its engine, until it pulls even with the next-to-last boat. That way, the worst thing that can happen is that a vessel ties for last place. There are no losers in the LDR!

Judicious (even injudicious) use of water cannons, balloons and rude noises to distract opposing skippers is not only tolerated – it's encouraged!

After the race, the fleet will transit to Mallard Cove Marina for a lunch outing on the dock. The good folks at Mallard Cove offer burgers, barbeque and cold beverages, but remember, it's BYOB (buy your own burger).

The LDR requires an early start, so racers should be on the sail dock no later than 0830. Skippers meeting will be 0900, with the first boat scheduled to start at 0930 (highest handicap, slowest boat starts first). With an 0900 skippers meeting, many participants overnight at dockside on Friday. Either way, come early, stay late and bring the family.

Voyage of Discovery Overnighter Follows LDR

Explore new cruising grounds and the wide vistas and far-flung horizons of Watauga's eastern reaches during Cruise Captain Bill Murdoch's Voyage of Discovery.

Due to the proximity of Lakeshore Marina to the WLSC's normal racing and cruising grounds, and the speed (or lack of it) at which we sail, many of us seldom experience the really fine sailing and uncrowded anchorages east of Watauga's confluence with the Elk River.

Following Saturday's lunch outing at Mallard Cove, we shift from a racing to a cruising fleet, as Captain Bill guides us to a little known anchorage in the Elk River. Again, maintaining our goal of ensuring a stress-free weekend, this is a great opportunity for new members to cruise in company. The Voyage of Discovery will allow fledgling cruisers a chance to practice boat-handling, navigation, mooring and anchoring skills under the watchful eyes of more experienced cruisers.

If you've hesitated to anchor out on your own, this is a great time to hone those skills under the tutelage of several real masters of the art.

Be sure to bring adequate mooring lines and fenders, and sufficient provisions to keep your crew fed and hydrated Saturday evening and Sunday morning. A chart of Watauga Lake (available at most sporting goods stores, big-box outlets and local marinas) will add to the fun, especially if you have a working compass (even a Boy Scout compass is adequate). A VHF radio is a plus, but not required – most of us can shout really loudly.

After we moor for the evening, Captain Bill is sponsoring a no-entry-fee, hook-and-line, reverse fishing contest, sing along and story-telling competition. Smallest fish caught wins a framed certificate and the envy of the entire club. Rules will be made up as we go along, and any decision of the cruise captain is final.

We'll break up the raft in time to be back at Lakeshore for the 1300 race clinic.



Race Clinic August 19 Follows the Voyage of Discovery

The fall race series is just around the corner, and Race Captain Catoe has a plan to hone those rusty racing skills, just in time for Labor Day's start of the season. Sunday's clinic will focus on two of the most difficult aspects of sail racing: starting and the racing rules.

Participants should be ready to learn and ready to sail, on the sail dock at 1300. Captain Wayne has scheduled about 30 minutes for a basic primer on starting techniques and general rules of the road; then we'll be on the water for some real practice under sail.

Mass timed starts can be a little stressful, especially for inexperienced racers. A start line will be set up, and we'll run as many starts as possible for about an hour. The next exercise will be beating to a weather mark, rounding, and returning to the line. The weather line will be shortened, in order to run as many starts as possible in one hour.

And if that's good news, this is better: Captain Wayne has pressed (at least) five of our more experienced racers to crew for new skippers that would feel more comfortable with an experienced hand aboard.

The primary focus for this clinic is to encourage new (and old) sailors that haven't been involved in the racing program. If you're ready to join the racing fleet this year, this is a golden opportunity. Contact Wayne at (828) 260-2666 for additional details or to request an old salt to crew aboard your boat.

First Fall Race Sails September 1 (Labor Day Weekend)

The first race of the fall PHRF series will set sail Saturday, September 1. As with all PHRF events, skippers meeting is at 1300, on the sail dock, with the 10-minute warning at 1400, race underway at 1410.

Followed by...

Annual Fish Fry and Overnight Raft-up September 1-2

Our traditional on-the-dock fish fry will be served to all comers following the first fall race. This is a free event for all members of the WLSC. Crispy fried fish, Captain Bill's golden fried potatoes and tangy cole slaw will highlight the menu, but if members elect to bring a desert, it wouldn't go unappreciated. A few soft and not-so-soft beverages will be available, but if you have a monumental thirst, it might be a good idea to bring a few extra for your crew.

After the fish fry, we'll degrease, cast off the dock lines, and sail away for another overnighter in a location yet to be disclosed.

Old Business: Commodores Cup and the World-Famous Pig Roast

The mid-week 4th of July Pig Roast and Commodores Cup Race was a smashing success. Nine boats sailed in fluky-to-nonexistent winds, with Baron Eliason taking the gold, followed by Bill Murdoch and Jeff Arnfield.

Again ..., and again ..., and again..., our thanks go to Bill and Adair Murdoch for organizing our premier social event, The Annual Pig Roast. With a host of volunteers, we fed, drank and entertained 93 hungry sailors for one of our best-attended and best-loved events. Thanks to all who pitched in to make this get-together a resounding success.

Jib Sheet Classifieds

1984 Catalina 25: Swing-keel sloop; main and furling genoa; dodger and bimini; Suzuki 15 HP electric-start kicker; newer (2005) Magic Tilt dual-axle trailer w/ electric brakes. Slip E-78, Watauga Lakeshore Marina. \$13,000.00. Jeff Morrison: (828)674-3149 or jeffrymorrison@aol.com

1969 Cal 2-24: 24' flush-deck design; 5 sails; spinnaker and whisker pole; installed head; VHF; knot meter; compass; trailer. Interior needs work, cushions need covers. Motor not included. \$2,500.00. Barry Schorr: (828)387-2613 or bdscgt@skybest.com

Soling 27 – A 27' classic, one-design sloop, suitable for racing or day sailing; Olympic-class racer. Only \$1000.00. Skip Greene: robertpattyg@aol.com or (423)323-3533.

2003 Flying Scot: Practically new; sailed only a few times; always under cover; always stored out of water. Radical racing package (too many options to list; contact owner for additional details). All North sails; custom spinnaker with all rigging; custom covers for storage, trailering, mooring; trailer. A serious racing machine in perfect condition. Priced well under market value. \$11,400.00 Mike or Patty Adkins: bigbub1@earthlink.net or (423) 768-3506 or (423) 957-6667.

Ratty's Boat Works: Restoration, repair, renovation by Lowell "Ratty" Shipe. Fiberglass work, wood construction, brightwork, custom joinery. Experience with sail, power or oared vessels. Complete woodworking and fiberglass shop. (336) 385-1498 or shipe@skybest.com

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