



Waterlines

ISSUE 56-01
JANUARY 2015



Cultivating a Rich and Proud Legacy of Boating for Pleasure and Sport

Waterlines
Editor
Kim Marian

Articles & photos due by the 4th Tuesday of the month prior to publication - 500 words or less please.

waterlines@gtyc.org

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Editor's Notes

"Welcome 2015!"

Welcome 2015, the future made famous in *Back to the Future II!* (or not so famous if you missed the sequel) I look forward to continuing as *Waterlines* editor at the pleasure of Commodore Owen. This month's *Waterlines* is a bit light, as is the current snow cover. As they say, it's the calm before the storm.



This issue highlights a number of off-the-water events and even an on-the-water opportunity to give us reasons to connect and possibly meet someone new at our yacht club. Perhaps you want to know more about electronic navigation and the latest offerings there ... the GTBSPS can help with an 8-week course (page 2). New Commodore Jordan Owen has some intriguing and grateful words (page 3). Your Social Committee is hard at work finding new ways (and old ways) to build club camaraderie (page 4-5). The ice boaters would love to have a new ice-sailor or two (page 6) and with a new year comes a new calendar ... mark yours for these major 2015 events (page 6). Eric Lind has some thoughts about finish line antics (page 7) plus *Waterlines* is now accepting classifieds (page 7). We close with coming events and some fun seen and heard at the club (page 8).

Happy Reading, and, as always, your comments and suggestions are welcome!


kim



Check the Club's ONLINE CALENDAR for Up-to-date Event Info.
Refer to NORs and SIs for official racing dates, not the online calendar

OFF-THE-WATER LEARNING

ELECTRONIC NAVIGATION GTBSPS



Our friends at the *Grand Traverse Bay Sail and Power Squadron (GTBSPS)* continue to offer boating related courses and the GTYC is happy to host many of them. Starting January 19 on Mondays for 8 weeks, they will offer the US Power Squadron (USPS) course on Electronic Navigation. GTBSPS is extending the GTBSPS member discount to GTYC members, so register soon for this off-the-water learning opportunity.

Electronic Navigation introduces GPS technology from the most basic receiver to chart plotter systems for navigation on board. The process of navigation by establishing waypoints and routes and then running the planned course is demonstrated. Further, electronic charting software for the desktop computer is examined with creation of waypoints and routes on the desktop and subsequent download to the onboard unit. Despite

differences among the various manufacturers' offerings, a thorough discussion of the features being made available is included. Special attention is paid to apps for tablets and smartphones that provide the electronic navigation function at the helm for relatively little cost.

Students should be familiar with the basic charting concepts such as latitude, longitude, the compass, course plotting, and time/distance calculation to get the most out of the course. This course omits Radar and Depth Sonar technologies, however Appendix 8 of the course text on Automatic Identification System (AIS) is presented and made part of the examinable material for USPS course credit.

Course cost per person	USPS or GTYC Member	\$60
	Non-members	\$85
Dates/Time	Mondays, Jan 19 – Mar 9, 7:00 pm, 8 weeks	
Location	Grand Traverse Yacht Club	

If you are interested, please e-mail Jerry Williams (jwilliams6@sbcglobal.net) to reserve your spot.

COMING SOON ... BASICS OF SAILING COURSE

FROM THE HELM



On the cold, dark Thursday morning of January 1, on my way out to the ski hill, it will be my privilege to hoist the blue signal of Commodore to begin my tenure in service to our membership. With the arrival of the New Year, it is my honor to relieve Gregg Diehl at the helm of the Grand Traverse Yacht Club.

Moving forward from 2014, we can reflect that the past year will stand as one of the most eventful and remarkable years in the 55 year history of our club, highlighted by the first week in August when we joined together with Traverse Area Community Sailing to bring the country's finest youth sailors to Traverse City for the US Sailing Chubb Junior U.S. Championships. In what grew to be an all-encompassing effort, we proved to both ourselves and folks far and wide that we are an extraordinary sailing community, at the center of which sits the Grand Traverse Yacht Club.

*we are an extraordinary
sailing community*

What lies ahead for 2015 will be our responsibility to secure the legacy of the fine work done by my predecessor and the 2014 Board of Directors. We will continue to keep a weather eye on the property to the north as the winds of change bluster. Accordingly, we'll also look for new solutions for how we use our property and where we might expand in the future. Also, we'll continue to work through the process of reforming the Club by-laws. This project was begun this past fall by a working committee comprised of the Board of Directors and representatives of the membership under the leadership of Past Commodore Diehl. Soon,

the proposed by-law revisions will be available for the consideration of all our members. It has been the goal to bring the key organizing document of our club up to speed with the demands of a club providing greater services and opportunities throughout the year to an even greater range of membership. I believe you'll find that the hard work of the committee has produced a comprehensive and fair set of principles that will serve the club well into the future, but I look forward to input at length from all of our members.

While there is much to do, the new year holds the fantastic promise of a calendar that provides the longest possible practical summer — from an early Memorial Day on May 23 spanning to an especially late Labor Day on September 7. Our club calendar is coming together nicely, and will be finalized by the of the month, featuring the return of all our favorite annual occasions along with some new surprises. I'm looking forward to sharing my plans for the year as they unfold, and will keep you updated through e-mails, our website, and in person of course — just ask me! Most of all, I'm looking forward to seeing you at the club and on the water!

Here's to a great 2015!

Jordan Owen

Commodore

commodore@gtyc.org



SOCIAL COMMITTEE

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!

Danielle Higgins

Let's try *craft night* again during the non-sailing months! Join us on the *first Wednesday* of each month. We'll be upstairs starting at *5:30pm* and everyone is welcome to bring their portable crafts and join us. Hope to craft with you at the club!

Craft Night
Wed, Jan 7,
5:30pm

CALLING ALL EUCHRE PLAYERS!

Susan Kraus

It's winter in northern Michigan and that means it's time to warm up those *Euchre* skills! Join us at the Club on the *second Wednesday* of each month for a friendly game of Euchre starting at 7pm. We'll have a sign-up sheet in the entryway or simply show up at the Club by *6:45pm*. If you don't have a partner, we'll be happy to pair you with someone for the evening's round. You've never played and want to learn? Arrive even earlier and I'm sure one of our veteran players will gladly share the rules and gameplay with you. Just remember, Jacks are high, nines are low, and even a lowly nine can win a trick.

Euchre Night
Wed, Jan 21,
6:45pm

** New This Year **

COMMODORE'S TEAM TRIVIA NIGHT

Commodore Jordan Owen

Start calling the crew and warm-up those noggins – Commodore Owen presents the *GTYC Team Trivia Night* the last Wednesday of each month this winter starting *January 28 at 6:30pm*.

Put together a team of more than two and not more than six people ready to answer 15 multiple-choice questions drawing from the usual subjects plus Yacht Club specific categories about Traverse City, sailing, maritime history and customs, and yachting at-large. The Commodore specifically encourages Wednesday Night Sailing crews to form their own teams while also inviting Cruisers, Motor Yachtsmen, and non-denominational types to form teams as well. Over the course of four Wednesdays, a season champion will be crowned!

Commodore's Team
Trivia Night
Wed, Jan 28, 6:30pm

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

CREW DINNER SEASON IS UPON US!

Jed Mooney

The 2015 Social Season at the Grand Traverse Yacht Club is about to launch! Traditionally, themed Friday night Crew Dinners have been a big part of the sailing off-season entertainment at GTYC, with the side benefit of providing crew camaraderie and team-building beyond the race course and/or cruising waters. On the line is GTYC's coveted annual "Culinary Award" - the mounted stainless steel whisk currently held & defended by the crew of Capt. Dan Spyhalsky's *Spyke* with "Spaghetti Jim" Abfalter for their fantastic "Paella On The Porch" event put on in spite of a Friday night blizzard last February.

Crew Dinner hosting and the competition for the silver whisk is open to racing boat crews eager to keep that competitive edge sharp in the off-season, to cruising crews wanting to display their bountiful and creative galley skills, to combinations of boats and their crews who band together for strength in numbers, and even to "crews" of GTYC members grouped together by shared interests. Party themes, cuisines, special drinks, costumes, decorations, and entertainment are all up for grabs -- get creative!

The 2015 Friday Night Crew Dinner season will run thru April. Already scheduled is the annual O'llusion's St. Patrick's Day (pre-)party, set for Lucky Friday the 13th of March, hosted by the combined crews of *Illusion*, *Spyke*, *Gotta Wanta*, and assorted other leprechauns. Lots of Friday nights remain to choose from. Get your "crew" together and pick your date from the calendar on the Club's website, gtyc.org, or from the new events calendar board soon to be posted in the Clubhouse entryway.

Guidelines for hosting a Crew Dinner event may also be found on the [Club website](#): Click the "Calendar" tab to reveal a drop-down menu where you can select "Crew Dinners" for this information. With Folgarelli's now providing the Club's food service operations, crews can arrange with Chef Roy to provide a themed menu at a reasonable price-point, or can give the Folgarelli's staff the night off by shopping, cooking, and serving the whole magilla – but, remember, the rule of thumb is to at least break-even with costs vs. sales!

Contact your 2015 GTYC Social Committee: Jessica Gerber, Jed Mooney, Danielle Higgins, Karen Copeland, and Bob Cornwell (social@gtyc.org) to sign up for Crew Dinner events. Club Manager Ian is a great resource for any questions and to arrange use of the kitchen and other facilities.

We're looking forward to another full & festive Friday Night Crew Dinner season to help weather the long, dreary winter, so break out your crew's best recipes, all hands to the galley, trim for power, set a course for inside room at the mark over *Spyke* ... and create a GTYC culinary legend of your own!



ICE BOATS and ANNUAL EVENTS

CLUB EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Certain events happen each year like clockwork. Add these events to your mental (or digital or paper) calendar so you can plan to participate as much as possible in our Club's activities.

Commodore made me say it: all dates are tentative until approved by the Board.

Wednesday/Friday Nights ... Club Open!

1st Tue* ... Grand Traverse Ice Yacht Club Meeting

1st Wed* ... Crafts

2nd Wed* ... Euchre

2nd Thu* ... Cruiser's Fleet Gathering

3rd Tue ... GTYC Board Meeting

4th Tue ... Waterlines Deadline

4th Wed* ... Commodore's Team Trivia

Sun, Feb 1 ... Super Bowl Crockpot Classic

Sat, Apr 18 ... Club Clean-up (& Dock-in?) Day

Fri, Apr 24 ... Spring Membership Meeting

Fri, May 1 ... Clambake/Oyster Stag Public Event

Wed, May 6 - Sep 30 ... It's Wednesday Night! Racing†

Sat, May 16 ... Spring Babel Cup/Laser Race†

Fri, May 22 ... Founders Day/New Member Party

Sat, Jul 4 ... Cherry Festival Air Show & Fireworks

Sat, Aug 1 - Tue, Aug 4 ... Interlake Nationals @ GTYC

Fri, Aug 7 ... GTYC Nominations Meeting

Sun, Aug 9 ... Coast Guard Day @ GTYC

Sat, Aug 22 - Sun Aug 23 ... Melges 24 Invitational†

Wed, Sep 2 ... Nan-C-Jay Race†

Sat, Sep 19 ... Fall Babel Cup/Laser Race†

Fri, Sep 25 ... GTYC Election Meeting/Ballots Due

Sat, Oct 10 ... Cornwell Memorial High School Regatta†

Sat, Oct 17 ... MSU v UM Football Party

Sat, Nov 7 ... Awards Banquet/Commodore's Ball

Fri, Dec 4 ... GTYC Adults' Holiday Party

Sat, Dec 5 ... GTYC Children's Holiday Party

**Winter months only*

*†Confirm all racing dates in NORs/SIs ***

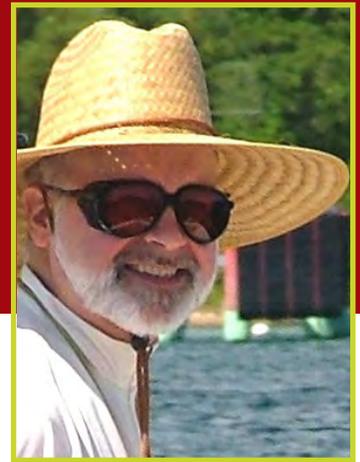
ICE BOATING SEASON IS HERE!

Ice Boaters, rejoice! There are rumors of ice fit for racing. Do you want to learn more about ice boating? Find an ice boater ... there's even a regional champion in our midst ... and ask away. They are a friendly bunch and love to share their love for the fastest sport on ice. Learn more or find where the good ice is by visiting the Grand Traverse Ice Yacht Club website at gtiyc.org or call the ice hotline at **231-922-3836**.

When pondering an adventure on the ice, always make safety your first objective. Mother Nature, Father Frost, and Murphy's Law all are in play and are unpredictable (except Murphy, of course). To quote the GTIYC, "never boat alone, most of us would like to go boating with you, give us a call!"



MISC. RAMBLINGS PC40



I just received a phone call from US Sailing with some really great news. TACS has been named as the Outstanding Community Sailing Program of the Year and will be recognized at the Annual Awards Dinner at the National Sailing Program's Symposium in New Orleans next month!!! I'm still picking myself up off the floor. We've won a few awards in the past, but this is the 'big one' for Community Sailing Programs. This award is given annually to a program that has made notable contributions to promote public access sailing. This is a well-deserved award for so many people who have put in so much hard work over the past 20 years. We can ALL stand proud!!!

Now, let's get back on the water. Last month I talked about start line tactics so this month, let's discuss the finish line. First, read the definition of finish in the *Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS).

"Finish – A boat finishes when any part of her hull, or crew or equipment in normal position, crosses the finishing line from the course side."

Basically, you finish when the first part of your boat, in its normal position, breaks the plane of the finish line. You do not need to 'cross' the finish line, just break the plane. Kind of like today's football touchdown.

I get a very unique view from the boat-end of the line and it can be a bit amusing at times. The most common mistake I see all too frequently is when a boat sails nearly parallel to the line to either the pin- or boat-end to finish when, in fact, they could have tacked and finished in less time. Tacking in the sometimes-fluky air found at the finish can be a challenge and a bad tack is amplified.

First, when the helm says 'tacking' or 'helm's alee' the headsail should be eased a foot or so and the main kept sheeted. This will help the boat to turn and as the headsail backwinds, release the sheet and allow the jib to come around. Practice this a few times and see if it improves your tacks. A tight jib in a light air tack really fights the helm.

Another common mistake is 'shooting the line' too early or too late. Timing will depend on your speed and the mass of your boat. Again, practice this maneuver enough that you get a feel for it in different conditions. Also, look to your bowman for input as to your position in relation to the line.

That's all for this month. Hope you all have survived the holidays and are looking forward to a great year at GTYC !!!

NOW AVAILABLE: *Waterlines* Classifieds! Sell your dinghy, shop for crew, request a boat ... in 50 words or less, rated G, PG, or PG-13 please. \$10 per month per classified. (no photos, text only ... like the original Twitter but with more characters)

HELP WANTED: *Waterlines* Assistant Editor; goal: transition to Editor by Fall. Comfortable with computers and willing to learn creative software. Pay is in smiles and thanks. Contact: Kim (Waterlines@gtyc.org)

COMING EVENTS

January

Jan 1 Happy New Year! Club Open (potluck)
Jan 6 Ice Boat Meeting
Jan 7, 5:30p Craft Night
Jan 8, 6p Cruising Fleet Meeting
Jan 9 Christmas Tree Take-down Night
Jan 14, 7p Euchre Night
Jan 20, 6p GTYC Board Meeting
Jan 27 *Waterlines* Submissions Due
Jan 28, 6:30p Commodore's Team Trivia Night

February

Feb 1 Super Bowl Crockpot Classic
Feb 3 Ice Boat Meeting
Feb 4, 5:30p Craft Night
Feb 5, 6p Cruising Fleet Meeting
Feb 11, 7p Euchre Night
Feb 14 St. Valentine's Day
Feb 17, 6p GTYC Board Meeting
Feb 24 *Waterlines* Submissions Due
Feb 25, 6:30p Commodore's Team Trivia Night

Because a date/holiday is listed should not imply the Club is open for that holiday.



Check the Club's ONLINE CALENDAR for Up-to-date Event Info.
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SEEN AND HEARD AROUND THE CLUB

photos and quotes may be wholly unrelated

Thank You



Who's going to do the sorority girl pose? Bill ... ?



*3 ... 2 ... 1 ...
Happy New Year!*



Thanks for the Commodore's Balls