

March/April 2024



Join us April 13 for Casino Night. Our Social kicks off around 5 pm. Get Ready for a night filled with games and good company. LGSC will be joining us so let's show them how much fun we are! Bring your appetite and a dish to share as we'll be having a potluck style gathering. Don't forget BYOB

Commodore's Corner, Zack Lawson

Ahoy,

Guess what? It's finally spring, people are out of hibernation and the club is full of activity. We have had the best start to a year that I can remember. Chris, race committee, has put together a great race schedule and we have more and more people showing up to race. We have already had a great St. Patrick's day regatta that included the best party afterwards with live music and great food. Nobody left hungry and a few racers got some killer trophies. Jen, social chairperson, has really been killing it with great party themes, amazing food and really has a way to fill the clubhouse with club members for a great time. Susan, education chairperson, has filled all of the available spots for sailing classes. That is so awesome and I look forward to welcoming them into our club. All of this leads to one thing. Commodore is an easy job when you've got all of these great people pushing things along so I've been out sailing more.

This past weekend, Kameron and I went to Muscle Shoals sailing club for the Cat of Nine Tails Regatta. It's a 9 hour multi hull endurance race and it was a blast! It was both of our first times to race a catamaran and we finished in third place. Things we learned: 1.) long distance sailing without a back rest is tough. 2.) You can't take much stuff. Think one small cooler and one dry bag, and 3.) You will get comfortable sailing at 8-9 knots and think that is too slow.



Commodore Zack Lawson with crew Kameron competing in the MSSC Cat of nine tails Regatta

We have some big events coming up. Please keep an eye on the calendar and don't miss any of the upcoming events.

Zack Lawson Commodore, BCSA

Vice Commodore, Matt Birkbickler



Ahoy, Sailors!

Wow, what a great turnout we had for the pancake breakfast and boat clean up last Saturday! The day started off deliciously with the smells of syrupy pancakes and sizzling sausages wafting through the clubhouse. With full bellies, our crew of volunteers tackled cleaning and prepping the entire club fleet. It was all hands-on deck as members washed, scrubbed the sailboats.

Thanks to all the hard work, the fleet was gleaming by lunchtime, ready for launch into the new season. It was amazing to see so many pitching in together for our club. The camaraderie was off the charts as everyone pulled towards the common goal of preparing for smooth sailing.

A huge thank you goes out to all the volunteers who made this pancake breakfast and boat clean up such a success. Your dedication is why our sailing club is the best.



Hula Girl with RC and owner Chris Edwards is back



Top, Freshly cleaned BCSA Hobie Bravos by Matt, Dallas, and Pat. Bottom Catalina 22 cleaners, Marc, and Greg supervising

Fair winds,

Matt Birckbichler Vice Commodore, Chief Soup Connoisseur, and Bridge Avoidance Specialist



Treasurer and Membership Chair,

Elizabeth Starnes

Thanks to those who have renewed memberships or joined BCSA as new members this year. For those who have not, the door code has been changed so get your dues in so you don't miss out on all the fun!

We have lots of activities planned for the year. I hope you will send in your membership dues - only \$150 - and take advantage of all the club has to offer. Checks can be mailed to BCSA -100 Browns Creek Rd - Guntersville, AL 35976; put cash or check in the lock box by the door; or with PayPal - \$155 for processing fee. If paying with PayPal, be sure to include an email so we can put you on our list for the newsletter and information on upcoming events. PayPal: brownscreekmembership@gmail.com

We're off to a great start this year with 65 members. I hope everyone takes advantage of all the club has to offer.



Light air start

Race Chair, Chris Edwards



Swap The Tiller w/ LGSC NOR Notice of Race

Saturday 4/13/2024

BCSA

Guntersville, AL USA

This year we are doing two races with Lake Guntersville Sailing Club. One hosted by BCSA and one hosted by LGSC. This NOR is for the one at our club BCSA.

The fellow sailors at LGSC will come and join us in a pursuit race. We will be inviting the LGSC sailors to crew on our boats. We encourage you to let them at the helm. Each of the BCSA boats should have at least one LGSC member onboard.

After the race we are having a social and dinner that is themed "Casino Night" at 5pm.

The 2014 Portsmouth Handicapping System shall be employed to handicap this event. All Sailing Yachts shall be eligible for entry and shall be handicapped accordingly. Skippers meeting at 12:00pm at BCSA clubhouse, 105 Browns Creek Rd. Guntersville, AL. Races warning signal to be made at approximately 1:00pm in the region of Lower Guntersville Light (LGL). We are following the standard [BCSA Sailing Instructions](#), which are located on BCSA's website. Expected Fleets: Dinghy, Keelboat and Cruiser.

Fleets: Dinghy & Keelboat

Format: Pursuit

Entry Fee: Fee waived if a LGSC Member is onboard, otherwise \$10.

Skipper's Meeting: 12pm

Race Start Time: 1pm

Course: Will be determined on day of race.

Rules: [World Sailing Rules of Racing 2021-2024](#)

Sailing instructions: [BCSA Sailing Instructions](#)

Scoring: See the [BCSA Sailing Instructions](#) and section 16.5(C) g for pursuit races.



Dave Ellis Singlehanding his Raider Dinghy in Spring 2



Wilson!



Spring Series Notice of Race

March 24st thru July 21st, 2024
BCSA
Guntersville, AL USA

Welcome to the BCSA Spring Racing Series. We will be alternating racing formats between Buoy & Pursuit. There should be a RC team on the Buoy race days. The 2014 Portsmouth Handicapping System shall be employed to handicap this event. All Sailing Yachts shall be eligible for entry and shall be handicapped accordingly. Skippers meeting at 2:00pm at BCSA clubhouse, 105 Browns Creek Rd. Guntersville, AL. Races warning signal to be made at approximately 3:00pm in the region of Lower Guntersville Light (LGL). We are following the standard [BCSA Sailing Instructions](#), which are located on BCSA's website. Expected Fleets: Dinghy, Keelboat and Cruiser.

Calendar of Races: [Events](#)

Fleets: Dinghy & Keelboat

Format: Buoy & Pursuit

Entry Fee (mandatory): \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members.

Skipper's Meeting: 2pm

Race Start Time: 3pm

Course: Will be determined on day of race

Rules: [World Sailing Rules of Racing 2021-2024](#)

Sailing instructions: [BCSA Sailing Instructions](#)

Scoring: See the [BCSA Sailing Instructions](#) and 16 for buoy races and section 16.5(C) g for pursuit races. We will be using "Low Point" on the individual races and the "Cox-Sprague" system for the series standing. No drops. 1/2 the races in the series must be raced to qualify.

Race Committee: [Schedule](#)

Schedule of Races:

Spring Series Race #1 Buoy, Sunday 3/24/2024

Spring Series Race #2 Pursuit, Sunday 4/7/2024

Spring Series Race #3 Buoy, Sunday 4/14/2024

Spring Series Race #4 Pursuit, Sunday 4/21/2024

Spring Series Race #5 Buoy, Sunday 4/28/2024

Spring Series Race #6 Pursuit, Sunday 5/5/2024

Spring Series Race #7 Buoy, Sunday 6/2/2024

Spring Series Race #8 Pursuit, Sunday 6/9/2024

Spring Series Race #9 Pursuit, Sunday 7/14/2024
Spring Series Race #10 Pursuit, Sunday 7/21/2024

Racing Events, Results, and the Master Schedule can be found at:

<https://brownscreeksailingassociation.org/wordpress/racing-events/>

Education Chair, Susan Wilson 🎓



BCSA Education:

The Spring Sailing 101 class is coming April 27, 28, May 4, 5. This is the largest class we've ever had! BCSA will train 20 new sailors who are eager to join our club and have fun on the water. Our instructors this year are Linda Pope, Mark Proctor, David Chadwick, Monty Williams and me. We will be sailing on the three club Catalina 22's, Tim Thompson's Catalina 25, and Bob Arnold's Catalina 250.

BCSA members have two opportunities to meet these new sailors and possibly pick up a new crew for their boat. Saturday, May 4, is the mentor's race where we pair up experienced sailors with novices to race around the marks, have fun and learn sail trim, points of sail and ROW rules. We need members to come out that day and take on a novice crew. It's a casual fun race where the points don't count.

Sunday, May 5, our new sailors will graduate. Jen is planning a graduation party for them and we invite members to come welcome them into the club. Come share a cold one on the porch. They haven't heard your sailing stories yet!

Finally, THANK YOU to Matt and Jennifer Birckbickler and everyone who came out to

clean the club boats on Saturday! Everything looks clean and shipshape for the 2024 season.

Captain Susan Wilson 🎓

Cruise Chair, Mark Proctor



Here is the 2024 Cruise Calendar. I would like for anyone attending these events to step up and be the lead. I am currently operationally boatless until SV Escape is further along in her refit. Hope to be out on the water soon.

April 27th
LGSC overnight raft up-Short Creek

May 25th Memorial weekend
Pirates Cove

June 8th
Swap Tiller at LGSC
Overnight raftup-Short Creek

July 4th
Goat Island raft up celebration

July 20th
Cruise to City Harbor

August 10th
Pirate Cove

August 31 Labor Day weekend
Town Creek

*** itinerary Subject to change**

V/R

Mark

Ed: somebody give this guy and Sandy a ride!

Social Chair, Jennifer Birkbickler

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the unforgettable Pints and ST. Patty's Party! Your enthusiasm and support made the event a tremendous success. A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who dedicated their time and effort to ensure the celebration was a blast. We couldn't have done it without you! The band was amazing!



Vice Commodore Matt stealing the filling out of a twinkie.



Delicious! At Pints and Patti Regatta. Dallas caught in action!





Hard on the Chickens accompanied by former commodore Pat Upton entertained the party revelers at the Pints and Patties Regatta

Upcoming Social!

Casino Night April 13th Bring your luck and appetite as we gather for a night of thrilling games and delicious dishes. LGSC will be joining us for this special occasion. Everyone, bring a dish. Starting at 5pm

Jennifer
Social chair

Hudson River Pals

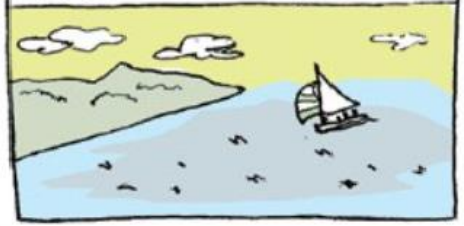
If you are not bored
by your own company



or the sound of the
sails luffing and
the birds wheeling



If you can take the
wind, weather and
tides as they come



but come out not
annoyed but refreshed
and reinvigorated



If so, then Sailing
May be for you,
My Friend.



Also if you can stand
the foaming kegs of
nasty-@*# Craft
Beer often served



July

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Secretary, Ed Hurst





The year is off to a good start. We've had some great socials, races and parties.

Lots to come, make sure you come around and sail with us.



2024 Board and Committee Chairs

Officer	Position	Officers Flag	E-mail
Zack Lawson	Commodore		Zack@skiersmarine.com
Matt Birckbichler	Vice-Commodore*		mattyb8562@gmail.com
Ed Hurst	Secretary*		Shenanigans770@gmail.com
Elizabeth Starnes	Treasurer*		estarnes245@gmail.com
Chris Edwards	Race Committee		chris@edwards.pub
Pat Upton	Member at Large*		patrickupton@sbcglobal.net

Jeff Wilson	Webmaster		jeffrey. wilson007@gmail.com
Mark Proctor	Cruise Committee		MSProctor2003@yahoo.com
Jenifer Birckbichler	Social Committee		JABirckbichler@gmail.com
Susan Wilson	Education Chair		suhurwil@gmail.com

*Voting Member

Our Dockmaster, Dallas, has been dreaming up an event to get people sailing. Details are sketchy at this time but this is what I think I heard:

The Great 2024 Sail Challenge

The purpose is to get people out sailing at least once every month.

You must leave the Marina and raise your sails at least once every month.

There will be a logbook (Float Plan) to log your trip. You must sign the log book and keep all required safety equipment for you and your guest. *I'm not sure what nonsense this entails, But BCSA has no liability in the event-expressed or implied.*

\$20/Year to buy recognition and wacky awards at the end of the year.



ed note; Don't know if this is a Limerick, poem, or advertisement, But one of our members, Joel Scott noticed the sad state of our Vice-Commodores inflatable dinghy and left a comment, I pushed it to the back of the Drifter since he says a bad word!

Have you ever had to look into the tired, hungry eyes of an abandoned dinghy? Left senselessly tied to a dock, left out in the bitter cold, forgotten. Sad and alone. Well, at the Dinghy Intervention Coalition of Kindness (DICK), you can adopt a dinghy today for only 24 beers a month. We'll help these poor forgotten souls find hope and dignity through a new life with loving, caring boaters. Call today.

