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Commodore's Corner *Tom Connors*

The sailing season is in full swing and that means its time to do what we sailors do second best...socialize! Annette and I are looking forward to the July meeting and cookout at our house on 3 July at 6:30 pm. Please make every effort to come out and join us! Bring family, friends, and lawn chairs. We'll just relax and enjoy the camaraderie.

We are planning a number of other events designed to continue to develop cohesiveness and make LYC an enjoyable and productive organization. The first of these is



Cruise News

from Cruise Captain Brian Muller

Hello all.

The plans for the **4th of July raft-up** off Ft. Monroe are in full swing! I hope everyone is planning to come with or without your boat. We plan to grill, swim, and after dark, enjoy the spectacular fireworks display. We have people ready to ferry folks from Ft. Monroe to the raft-up so call me (675-0388) to arrange a ride or let me know you are bringing your boat. Some of the boats are planning to anchor for the night but there will be rides back over to Ft. Monroe for those not staying over. I hope to see you there!

Our event for August is "**Captain for a Day**" on Sat. Aug. 16, designed to give the kids a chance to learn safety and have fun

the 4th of July raft up at Ft. Monroe. Remember, these raft-ups are for sailboats and motorboats or anything else you can make float. Even if you don't have a boat, you are welcome to join as we will make provisions to bring you from shore to the raft up, or any other arrangements that need to be made. Annette and I will have *Fins Up* out there early on the 4th. Good Music, food and fireworks will ensure a good time for all. Feel free to call me with any questions (593-8950). Cruise Captain Brian Muller is putting

on a sailboat. Of course this is for kids of all ages including the parents. We will use several boats as needed. There are no fees for this event but it is very important that you express your interest as soon as possible so we can make a sail plan for the day. **Please email or call me to reserve your child's spot.**

We have some great destination cruises coming up in the fall. The temperatures in the fall make for comfortable overnights on the water. Details for these cruises are coming up in the August newsletter.

I hope you will all plan to join us for some of these events as they fit into your schedule.

—Brian (675-0388)

together other gatherings as we speak.

Of course the Vets Cup race is fast approaching. Planning is coming along and things are falling into place. We are still looking for goodies to fill the skipper's bags so if you have ideas let me or Race Captain John Ritter know. I ask that you take advantage of every opportunity to get the word out about the Vets Cup between now and the race. If you've never raced before, the Vet's Cup Cruising Class is the perfect place to start! Just want to crew on one of the race boats? Let us know...no experience needed.

Of course to make all of these and future events successful we need participation. I thank each of you who continue to join in all the functions and hope more of you will participate as your schedule allows. I look forward to getting to know each of you. The future of LYC is looking bright!

See you on the water--Tom

Upcoming Events

- **LYC Meeting & Cookout**
3 July, Thursday, 6:30pm
at the Connors' Home, 2
Bonaire Dr., Hpt. 23669
- **4th of July Raft-up**
4 July
off Ft. Monroe
- **Veterans Cup**
12 July
- **Tri-Service Cup**
13 September

Racing News & 'Clews' from Race Captain John Ritter

The first place to win or lose a race is the start – a great start puts you ahead of the fleet, whereas a bad one means you're playing catch up for the rest of the regatta. This month's column is devoted to a discussion of starts, to help everyone capitalize on getting out in front early.

A refresher in RRS 26, as used by everyone locally, is in order to set the chronology. The Race Committee (RC) boat typically arrives on station up to a half hour before the first warning to anchor, determine wind information (direction, strength, shift trends, etc) and current, and set the starting line. It's a good idea to leave them alone at this time, as the anchor lines are settling, the boat may be swinging, and sailboat wind shadows in close proximity can cause errors in the wind readings. Once ready to post the course and commence checking boats in, the RC will fly the L ("Come within Hail", the yellow/black checkerboard) Flag. Boats should parade past the courseboard and hail the RC with their sail number and the words "Checking in". When acknowledged, it's a good idea to get out of the parade. Remember that nobody is racing yet, so collision avoidance is paramount but it's OK to hail a starboard tacker for room if on port tack...

At approximately 5 minutes before the first warning signal, the RC will give an Attention signal – multiple blasts on horn and a radio call. The L flag will come down, and boats not in the first start should clear the starting area (1000 feet is plenty).

The rest of the sequence is a repetition of Warning, Prep Up, Prep Down, and Start for each class: **The Warning is a horn at 5 minutes to go and the Class Flag goes up, at 4 minutes to go the prep flag goes up (P – blue with center a white square) with a horn, at one minute to go the P comes down with a long horn, and at the start the Class Flag comes down. Normally the RC will make a class' start the Warning for the next start, so the new class flag for the next start will typically come up as the starting class' flag comes down (so a second start boat shouldn't be too far out of the starting area!). This sequence repeats for each starting class.**

Other horns and signals may occur: in the event of a reset, the Postponement flag (red and white stripe, looks like Dr. Seuss' "Cat in the Hat" hat) and 2 horns indicates the sequence has stopped for those yet to start, and will resume with a Warning. The X flag (white with a thin blue cross) and horn indicates someone in the last start was over early. Remember that a returning boat has no rights, no matter which tack they're on.

The P flag UP for your class is when all the racing right of way rules (and motor rules) takes effect.

The above talked procedures; the remainder of the column dis-

cusses tactics. First, use the time before your sequence. Know the line: sail the line from end to end to know how much time it takes (good in that parade time before the Attention). At some point luff up and see if the line is square to the wind (do this from Starboard tack so you have rights). If not, the end of the line closer to the wind is favored. Sail to the pin and check the current (or use a crab pot) – the deeper water around Y always has stronger current, so this can tell you whether you want to be in it or out of it. Work out the bugs – get the sails up and do a racing tack or two for practice. And get out the stopwatch! Devote one pair of eyes to hack on your warning signal for a 5 minute count-down (if you miss it, catch the Prep up one minute later). Use the flags and not the horn due to the possible sound delay.

If you're not in the first heat, see where the other folks are lining up – if they go the wrong way, use that info and go the other way.

Some other tips:

While the favored end can be important, starting in clear air is more important! If the middle is clear, a mid line start is easier to understand in the heat of battle, you're never more than half wrong (compared to folks going to the wrong end), and the air is clear.

Try to start "above full speed" – if you run the line a tad early, you be on a reach and faster than close hauled (remember the polars discussion last time?) tighten up and outpoint the competition at the start. A word of warning: keep an eye beneath you here – remember a boat underneath has rights and can push you up and over the line early. It's especially bad in the barge area with the RC boat right there (which, by the way, is NOT and obstruction per RRS).

Don't forget you can also force your competition over early from underneath... leeward boat has the rights.

If a conflict is in the making, try easing the sails (to the luff if needed) – it will depower you without moving you from where you want to be – and winching back down will accelerate you back to speed.

For folks in the cruising class – the safest place to be at your start time is crossing the line on time – cruisers are notorious for being late. Win the battle of the stopwatch and you're already well ahead.

Just for the fun of it... free summer concerts!

TGIF OCEAN VIEW BEACH PARTY Ocean View Beach Park (info 441-2345) 6:30pm

- ⇒ July 11 The Michael Clark Band
- ⇒ July 18 Fab
- ⇒ July 25 The Janitors
- ⇒ Aug 1 Coastline Band
- ⇒ Aug 8 SnackBar Jones
- ⇒ Aug 15 The Showmen
- ⇒ Aug 22 Heather Edwards Band
- ⇒ Aug 29 Gentlemen & Their Lady

GROOVIN' BY THE BAY, Buckroe Beach, Hampton (info 727-8311) 6pm

- ⇒ July 6 Fab
- ⇒ July 13 The Janitors
- ⇒ July 20 Coolin' Out
- ⇒ July 27 Savannah
- ⇒ Aug 10 Slapwater
- ⇒ Aug 17 Strictly Bizzness
- ⇒ Aug 24 10 Spot

COMING SOON! CLASSIFIED ADS!

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