

Lake Townsend Yacht Club

TELL-TALES

JANUARY 2026



LTYC



GREENSBORO
PARKS & RECREATION

Change of Watch and Annual Awards Banquet

The Sunday, January 18 2025-2026 Change of Watch Banquet was an evening of fun, friendship, food and celebration of member and club achievements throughout 2025. It also featured much well-deserved recognition and the sharing of goals and aspirations for the year to come. The evening's detailed program can be found on Tell-Tales page 4, but we will let the pictures here on pages 2 and 3 speak to the evening's success!



Change of Watch and Annual Awards Banquet



DOUBLE CLICK COVER BELOW TO VIEW ENTIRE PROGRAM

Lake Townsend Yacht Club

2025 – 2026

Change of Watch

Sunday, January 18, 2026, 4:00-8:00 PM

Venue

Bryan Park Event Center

6275 Bryan Park Rd.

Browns Summit, NC 27214



A special thank you to Ron Washburn for
organizing this year's event!

Additional thanks to our Change of Watch photo contributors, Ron Washburn, Rob Bradley and Andy Forman.

Camping and Dinghy Sailing on the East Coast: Where Land and Sea Meet

The east coast has a quiet, expansive character that makes it ideal for a simple, self-reliant kind of adventure. Wide skies, long beaches, tidal rivers, and marshlands create a landscape that feels open and unhurried. For those who enjoy both camping and dinghy sailing, the east coast offers a rare combination: easy access to sheltered waters, affordable campsites close to the shore, and a rhythm shaped by wind, tide, and weather rather than crowds.



A Coast Made for Small Boats



One of the great strengths of the east coast is how well it suits dinghy sailing. Compared to more exposed coastlines, many stretches are protected by sandbanks, spits, and estuaries. This creates large areas of relatively flat water, perfect for beginners learning the basics as well as experienced sailors looking to refine boat handling and navigation skills.

Tidal rivers and creeks add variety to each day on the water. Sailing up an estuary with the tide, beaching for lunch, and returning as the water drains away is a uniquely satisfying experience. The tides are an ever-present teacher here, rewarding those who plan carefully and respect local conditions. A small dinghy lets you explore places that larger boats simply cannot reach, from quiet mudflats alive with birds to narrow channels winding through reed beds.

Camping Close to the Water

Camping on the east coast tends to be practical and unfussy, which suits sailors well. Many campsites are located within walking distance of beaches, sailing clubs, or launching points. This makes it possible to rig a boat in the morning, spend the day on the water, and return to a tent as the sun sets over the marshes.

The appeal of camping is how closely it connects you to the environment. You wake to the sound of wind in the grass and halyards tapping on masts in the distance. Evenings are spent cooking simple meals, drying sails, and talking through the day's sailing decisions. Without the distractions of hotels or busy resorts, the focus naturally shifts to weather forecasts, tide tables, and the small details that make each sail different.

Camping and Dinghy Sailing on the East Coast: Where Land and Sea Meet (cont.)

Weather, Wind, and Patience

East coast sailing and camping both reward patience. Winds are often lighter and more variable than on exposed western coasts, which can make sailing feel subtle and technical. Light airs teach balance, sail trim, and an awareness of every ripple on the water. When stronger winds arrive, the shallow waters and long fetch can still create exciting conditions, reminding sailors not to underestimate the coast's power.

Camping alongside this teaches flexibility. A calm evening might invite a beach walk or an early night, while a blustery forecast could mean reefing sails in advance or even choosing a rest day. This slower pace encourages a deeper appreciation of the natural setting rather than a rush to fit everything in.

Wildlife and Landscape

One of the quieter joys of the east coast is its wildlife. Sailing silently in a dinghy brings you close to seals hauled out on sandbanks, flocks of wading birds lifting off at once, and the constant movement of life along the shoreline. From a campsite, dawn and dusk offer changing light over flat horizons, with big skies that feel almost endless.

The landscape itself may seem understated at first, but it reveals its beauty over time. Subtle changes in tide transform the scenery daily, turning water into land and back again. For those who enjoy observing as much as doing, this is part of the magic.

A Simple, Lasting Adventure

Camping and dinghy sailing on the east coast is not about luxury or dramatic scenery. It is about simplicity, skill, and connection—to the boat, the weather, and the land. The combination encourages independence and mindfulness, whether you are launching at first light or zipping a tent closed against a rising breeze.

For anyone seeking a low-key adventure that still offers challenge and reward, the east coast delivers. With a tent, a small boat, and a respect for the tides, it provides the perfect setting for days shaped by wind and water, and nights spent under open skies.



September 2025 Camping and Sailing Adventure -

AnnMarie Covington

Andy Forman

Pamela Brunk

Andy Brunk

Goose Creek State Park,
Pamlico River



Camping and Dinghy Sailing on the East Coast: Where Land and Sea Meet (cont.)

Ready to get away? Here are some North Carolina state parks and state recreation areas with significant water access where you can launch or use sailboats .

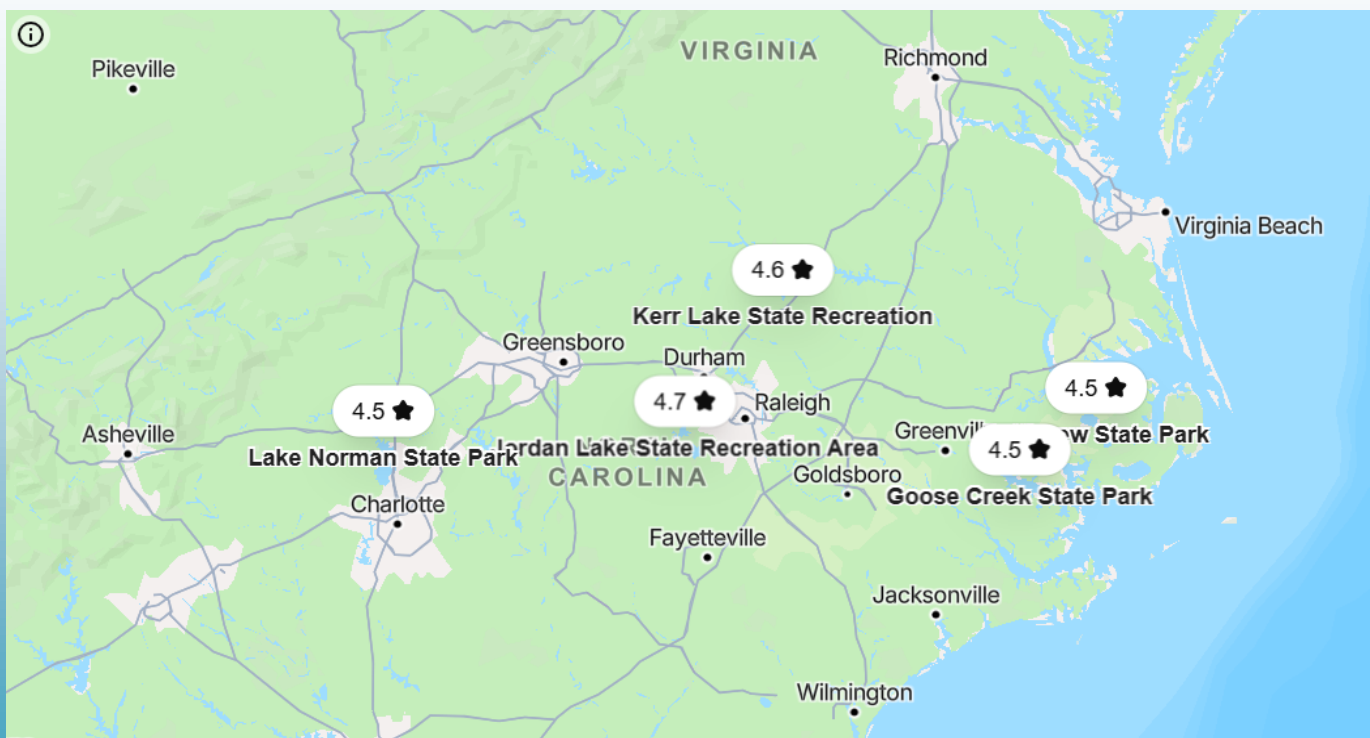
1. Jordan Lake State Recreation Area—Huge 14,000-acre reservoir with boat ramps and plenty of open water great for sailboats, powerboats, and other boating. Multiple access points (e.g., Vista Point, Seaforth) with boat ramps and beaches; ideal for sailing, cruisers, paddling, and fishing.

2. Kerr Lake State Recreation Area—Access to the 50,000-acre Kerr Lake reservoir (also called Buggs Island Lake), with extensive boat ramps and open water that's well-suited for sailing, fishing, and general boating. Several campground access areas provide ramps and shoreline access for trailers.

3. Lake Norman State Park— On the northern shoreline of Lake Norman — the largest man-made lake in NC with extensive open water and sailing potential. Boat ramp and docks enable launching sailboats, kayaks, and other craft; water skiing and fishing are common here too.

4. Pettigrew State Park— On **Lake Phelps** (16,600 acres), offering boat ramps and access for canoes, kayaks, rowboats, and engine-powered boats. While primarily quieter waters, there's plenty of space for slow-wind sailing or cruising if conditions allow.

5. Goose Creek State Park— Situated on salt-water marshes, creeks, and near Pamlico Sound; includes a boat ramp and permits motorboating, sailing, and windsurfing. Good option if you're interested in combining coastal waters and inland waterways.



Member's Cove

A day on the water with the Randy Shelton family!

What better way to shake off the post holiday flurry, than enjoying an unusually balmy December day on Lake Townsend. The Shelton family enjoyed a lake to themselves and everyone had a hand at helm and crew. Shirtless Randy proves that conditions were, indeed, balmy! On board December 28 were Randy, Candice, Austin and Chloe Shelton.



Share your on-the-water experiences for future editions of Tell-Tales! Send pictures and context to newsletter@laketownsendyachtclub.com

Perspectives From The Helm (...and crew)



Contributed by Jim Heffernan

Crewing In a Dinghy

According to Simon Townsend, a top level crew in the UK, the ideal crew should have the following qualities:

- Unquestioning obedience.
- Does not mind getting wet, cold and bored.
- Will not bruise easily nor complain when bruised.
- Strong, silent and agile.
- Enjoys being blamed for things that are not his/her fault.
- Has a bent towards telepathy.
- Impeccable time-keeper and recorder of courses.
- Naturally good eyesight - for spotting minute buoys.
- Likes winning and can be a very good loser.

Well, I think that about covers it from the crew's perspective... which probably explains the increase in single-handers about the country.

Teamwork

The crew and helm should preferably be a team at all times, after all, if you don't get on too well off the water what chance have you when spending 2-6 hours together in a competitive and tense 5' x 4' open plan cockpit.

How good a team you make will depend greatly on the attitudes and expectations one has of the other. A crew new to sailing cannot be expected to perform as well as one who has been sailing since birth, and likewise it would be unfair of a helm to get into a situation where the crew had to work at great speed in order to 'save' the helm e.g. gybing a spinnaker at the wing mark in a Force 5 with 2 or 3 boats outside.

The Helm - as seen by the crew.

For my part I feel a helm is a very intricate creature. They suffer massive mood swings, one moment telling a joke, the next getting paranoid about boat speed. Once they have convinced themselves the boat is slow, you can bet the crew will be top of the list to blame. The rule is, try and coax the helm off the boat speed grumble - thereby avoiding the crew grumble!

Having said all this, when you do find a helm you are happy with, whether you are racing to win or to improve your sailing, then stick with him/her because as you get to know each other's habits, so the enjoyment increases.

Renew Your LTYC Membership!!

2026 Membership Renewals Are Open

The Benefits of a LTYC Membership

Competitive Fun Sailing

- On the second Saturday of each month, the club holds its regular LTYC race series! A course is established, race-around-buoys are set, and the Race Committee administers the race from the club signal boat. There is a preset captain's meeting on the day of the race which details race specifics and launch and start times. Typically, three races are held the day of the event.

Social Fun Sailing

- On the fourth Saturday of each month, we have a Sail-A-Bratton! There is no set time or agenda. This is a day of just cruising and having fun. Club members are present who may either invite you to go sailing on their boat or give you advice about sailing your boat or a rental. It's a great time to practice and improve your sailing or racing skills.

Other Benefits

- Members enjoy free food, drink and camaraderie at all club socials following racing events. Racing participation is not mandatory, but volunteer assistance on race day is both encouraged and appreciated. It's also an awesome way to get to know club members!
- Members enjoy many opportunities to hone sailing skills and contribute to the club's success by volunteering to lead or assist with LTYC's sailing education classes and kids sailing camp.
- Members have the opportunity to help with LTYC-sponsored regional High School Sailing Team activities and events.
- Members can take advantage of ongoing club seminars and training for beginning and intermediate sailors.
- Members have access to all club fleet boats and club fleet boat launches, free of charge! Club boats include five Sunfish (first quarter 2026), three Flying Scots, two Wayfarers and a Tanzer 16. All are ready for use, mast up and on trailers. For more information, see the [club sailboat usage policy, agreement, and reservations](#) in the Members' Cove on the LTYC website.

Membership Renewal

New Membership

Sailing Small...Learning BIG

Contributed by Ray Bednar, LTYC Marketing

A Sunfish sailboat is one of the best gateways into our sport, and it fits perfectly with the spirit and sailing conditions at Lake Townsend. New sailors quickly discover that this small, simple boat teaches the same core skills they will use for a lifetime of sailing—whether they move on to Lasers, Wayfarers, Flying Scots, or larger keelboats.

Why the Sunfish works for beginners

The Sunfish's uncomplicated lateen rig and minimal control lines keep the focus on what matters most: steering, sail trim, and learning to “feel” the wind. Rigging is fast and straightforward, which means more time sailing and less time fiddling with gear on the dock. This makes it especially well suited for club classes, intro days, and casual evening sails.

Stable, forgiving, but still exciting

On the water, the Sunfish offers a reassuring mix of stability and responsiveness that builds confidence instead of fear. Its hull shape provides a steady platform while still reacting clearly to changes in trim and body position, so sailors quickly connect actions with outcomes. When the breeze picks up, the boat rewards good technique by lifting onto a plane, giving newer sailors a safe taste of real performance.

Building skills that translate to every fleet

Time spent on a Sunfish pays off across the club's entire fleet. Sailors learn tacking, jibing, upwind and downwind strategy, capsize recovery, and balance—skills that carry over directly into Lasers, Wayfarers, Flying Scots, and beyond. When they later add a jib, spinnaker, or a heavier keelboat, they already understand how a well-sailed boat should behave, making each new step feel like a natural progression instead of a leap.

Accessible, fun, and community friendly

The Sunfish is easy to launch, easy to store, and welcoming to all ages, which makes it ideal for a community-centered club like Lake Townsend Yacht Club. Its light weight and beach-friendly design lower the barrier to getting out on the water, whether for a quick solo sail or a structured learn-to-sail session. Because the boat is just as enjoyable for experienced skippers as it is for first-timers, it also creates a natural bridge between mentoring, racing, and casual fun.

An inviting entry path into LTYC sailing

By encouraging new members to start on the Sunfish in our fleet, LTYC can offer a clear, confidence-building pathway into every part of the club's sailing life. Sailors can begin on a simple, forgiving platform, then grow into our singlehanded and doublehanded dinghy fleets and, ultimately, into larger keelboats with a solid foundation under them. In doing so, the Sunfish becomes more than just a small boat—it becomes the club's most welcoming first step onto the water.



Give The Gift Of Sailing!!



Even though the holidays are now fully astern, it doesn't mean you can't introduce your friends and loved ones to this great sport!

LYTC will continue offering an affordable, three-hour Discover Sailing experience for up to **TWO** on beautiful Lake Townsend, hosted by a seasoned club sailor. This great deal is only \$75 for up to **two** individuals and will include sailing, boat and safety basics and real hands-on, on-the-water experience, designed to spark interest in this great sport and, of course, our great club and membership!

BONUS! In addition to an unforgettable three-hour experience, your giftee(s)) will have immediate follow-up access to a "Member Mentor," who can help them chart a course for continuing club education, event participation, networking and membership!

To order this one-of-a-kind sailing experience, visit [Discover Sailing Order Form](#) to make your purchase. We will forward a copy of your gift certificate that you can print and/or email for gifting. Pay Pal, and major credit cards are accepted.

For information on gifting lessons, email education@laketownsendyachtclub.com

For information on gifting a membership, email membership@laketownsendyachtclub.com

Calendar of Events

24 JAN, SAT

- Social Sailing

30 JAN, FRI

- Wayfarer Midwinters (LESC) (Day 1/3)

31 JAN, SAT

- Wayfarer Midwinters (LESC) (Day 2/3)

1 FEB, SUN

- Wayfarer Midwinters (LESC) (Day 3/3)

5 FEB, THU

- 6pm Board Meeting

14 FEB, SAT

- Snowflake Races
- Valentine's Day

28 FEB, SAT

- Social Sailing

5 MAR, THU

- 6pm Board Meeting

14 MAR, SAT

- March Madness Races

17 MAR, TUE

- St. Patrick's Day

28 MAR, SAT

- Social Sailing



LTYC Social Media Connections



Please LIKE LTYC on Facebook!!



- Go to LTYC on Facebook
- Tag us
- Write an endorsement for LTYC
- Like LTYC on the "Like" page
- Post a review of LTYC on FB
- If you need help to post pictures or a video on our page, please contact JC Aller at aller.jc@gmail.com

Readers, Feedbackers & Contributors?

Thank you for reading Tell-Tales!

Like what you see? **Tell us!**

Something you'd like to see improved? **Tell us!**

Have an article suggestion or pictures of an outing or event you'd like to share? **Share it**, and we will do our best to get it included in a future issue.



This is YOUR newsletter!

Reach us at newsletter@laketownsendyachtclub.com

Your 2026 LTYC Board of Directors

Commodore: Mark Wilson	◆ commodore@laketownsendyachtclub.com
V. Commodore/Racing: Steve Jones	◆ vicecommodore@laketownsendyachtclub.com
Rear Commodore/Education: Andy Forman	◆ education@laketownsendyachtclub.com
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Membership: JC Aller	◆ membership@laketownsendyachtclub.com
Social Outreach: OPEN	
Socials: Ron Washburn	
Newsletter: Andy Brunk	◆ newsletter@laketownsendyachtclub.com
Social Media/City Liaison: OPEN	
Marketing: Randy Shelton/Ray Bednar	◆ marketing@laketownsendyachtclub.com
Website/Publicity: Sid Hale/Chris Morris	◆ newsletter@laketownsendyachtclub.com

Please note the **OPEN** positions above and reach out if you can be of assistance! But, you don't have to be a board member to help out. Everything our club does is done by volunteers. Please contact the individual board members to see how you can contribute. Thanks for making LTYC its best!

Board meetings are open to all members. They are held virtually, via, Zoom the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to attend, see the club calendar for times and reach out to membership@laketownsendyachtclub.com for a zoom link.

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