

Lake Townsend Yacht Club

TELL-TALES

April 2026



LTYC



SPRING TO IT!

Get Your 2026 LTYC Membership Today!

The Benefits of a LTYC Membership



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.

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.

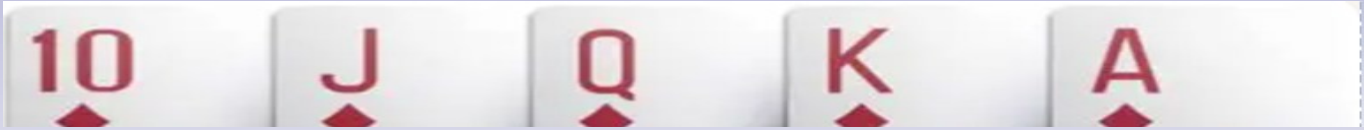
Other Benefits

- 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

LTYC 2026 Fowl Regatta - Opening Day Fun, With A Poker Run



Celebrating spring with sunny weather and much comradery, Lake Townsend Yacht Club kicked off the season with the Fowl Regatta and a fun, challenging poker run and after-party meal, Saturday, April 4.

The day began around 9:00AM with boat preparation, followed by a 10:00 meeting for a competitors' meeting. There, rules were discussed for the poker run, as follows:

The Poker Run consists of two races of sailing to six buoys spread out around the lake. In the first race, each boat will pluck a plastic bag containing a playing card from any 3 of the 6 buoys and the crew of each boat will touch the other 3 buoys. The final two cards for the poker hand will be dealt at shelter 10 in the order of finish of the race. These playing cards will become a poker hand that will be ranked after the meal at Shelter 10. In the second race, the crew of each boat will touch each of six buoys. The final score for each boat will be a combination of their finish place in the two races and the rank of their poker hand.



Congratulations to overall winners,
Uwe Heine and Nancy Collins



Photos Courtesy Annette Grefe and
Shauna Rankin-Byrne

2026 Mayor's Cup



Get ready for our **49th Annual Mayor's Cup Regatta!**

LTYC's premier regatta of the year will be held on **June 6th & 7th, 2026**. The Mayor's Cup, with its famous after-party on Saturday evening, historically attracts at least 30 boats, and this year we expect many more as the event is also the designated Flying Scot Carolinas District Championship this year. We also anticipate having a Weta class in addition to the proverbial Wayfarer, Flying Scot, and Open Classes (the Open class is for any boats that don't have enough entrants to warrant a separate class, so there's a class for you to sail whatever type of boat you'd like—everyone is welcome).

Hey Sunfish Enthusiasts—why not race the LTYC's Sunfish boats? If at least 3 boats enter, you'll get your own start and a class trophy for the winning boat. It could be the start of a new tradition!

More information and calls for Race Committee and on-shore help will follow as the weekend draws closer, but **registration is open**. Early registrations—prior to May 20—get a \$5 discount. We also would like to get as many t-shirts pre-ordered as possible.

Let's see which classes will take home the Mayor's Cup trophy and the Bryan Cup trophy this year!

Mayor's Cup Documents

[Notice of Race](#)

[Sailing Instructions](#)

[Online Registration Form](#)

Give The Gift Of Springtime Sailing!



Only \$75 to gift two people a memorable first sailing experience? **YEP!** 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 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

Perspectives From The Helm - Racing Maxims To Remember (Pt. 2)



Shared by Jim Heffernan

There is a lot of wisdom from the old salts. Most importantly, have fun and enjoy being with a teammate on the water whether racing or just noodling about. Don't play the blame game when a mistake occurs at a crucial mark rounding or a spinnaker take down. Stuff will happen out there. Here is Part Two of Words to Live By from Canadian guru and sailor Uncle Al. These get a little more technical than "When in doubt, let it out "or "Avoid Messes".

The harder I work, the luckier I get.

Keep the sails perfectly trimmed - don't be lazy. Play the main upwind, especially in puffy conditions: Ease in lulls, crank back in when wind picks up again. Don't forget to sheet in a bit harder once your boat is back up to speed after a tack.

Keep your eyes on the big picture.

Watch what is going on around you, both near and far. Don't spend too much time and thought on fiddling with non-essentials in the boat.

Love the rhumbline

Upwind: Staying relatively near the rhumbline keeps your options open - to play shifts.

Reaching: The rhumbline is the shortest distance to sail. Warning: Great mental toughness is often required to make yourself stay low.

Downwind: In my experience, the straight mark-to-mark course is usually the best course on a run, especially when you are doing hull speed or close to it. Tacking downwind sometimes does pay off, notably in the lighter airs or where sailing a higher course let's you start to plane.

How high should you sail when tacking downwind? Richard and Mark Hartley, our fine Wayfarer builders, taught us a thing of beauty. Sail just high enough to keep the genoa pulling .

Czech proverb: Misfortunes always come in by a door that has been left open for them.

Almost all bad luck is preventable with careful boat maintenance, well oiled helm-crew work and sensible choices on the water. And when bad luck does strike, the way we react can minimize the damage. Imagine for example that the fleet has caught you on a run because the wind has come up from astern, erasing your big lead. You can go to pieces or you can see the bright side.

We are still with the leaders; let's get the lead back!

Got Wind?

Estimating Wind Speed Using Visual Clues

The Beaufort Wind Scale offers a vivid, structured way to understand the power of moving air—from the faintest rustle of leaves to the roar of storm-force gusts. In the chart below, each level of the scale

translates wind speed into clear, observable effects, turning an invisible force into something you can see, feel, and anticipate. Whether you're a sailor gauging conditions, a weather enthusiast tracking a front, or simply curious about the language of wind, this visual guide brings clarity to a phenomenon that shapes our daily lives.

Feature inspired by
AnnMarie Covington



Beaufort number	Description	Speed	Visual Clues and Damage Effects
0	Calm	Calm	Calm wind. Smoke rises vertically with little if any drift.
1	Light Air	1 to 3 mph	Direction of wind shown by smoke drift, not by wind vanes. Little if any movement with flags. Wind barely moves tree leaves.
2	Light Breeze	4 to 7 mph	Wind felt on face. Leaves rustle and small twigs move. Ordinary wind vanes move.
3	Gentle Breeze	8 to 12 mph	Leaves and small twigs in constant motion. Wind blows up dry leaves from the ground. Flags are extended out.
4	Moderate Breeze	13 to 18 mph	Wind moves small branches. Wind raises dust and loose paper from the ground and drives them along.
5	Fresh Breeze	19 to 24 mph	Large branches and small trees in leaf begin to sway. Crested wavelets form on inland lakes and large rivers.
6	Strong Breeze	25 to 31 mph	Large branches in continuous motion. Whistling sounds heard in overhead or nearby power and telephone lines. Umbrellas used with difficulty.
7	Near Gale	32 to 38 mph	Whole trees in motion. Inconvenience felt when walking against the wind.
8	Gale	39 to 46 mph	Wind breaks twigs and small branches. Wind generally impedes walking.
9	Strong Gale	47 to 54 mph	Structural damage occurs, such as chimney covers, roofing tiles blown off, and television antennas damaged. Ground is littered with many small twigs and broken branches.
10	Whole Gale	55 to 63 mph	Considerable structural damage occurs, especially on roofs. Small trees may be blown over and uprooted.
11	Storm Force	64 to 75 mph	Widespread damage occurs. Larger trees blown over and uprooted.
12	Hurricane Force	over 75 mph	Severe and extensive damage. Roofs can be peeled off. Windows broken. Trees uprooted. RVs and small mobile homes overturned. Moving automobiles can be pushed off the roadways.

Source: National Weather Service Portland, <http://weather.gov/portland>

Tips and Tactics

Getting the Most Out of Early-Season Puffy, Shifty Winds

Early spring sailing brings a unique mix of excitement and unpredictability. The water is still cold, the land is warming unevenly, and the breeze hasn't yet settled into its familiar summer rhythm. For small-



boat and dinghy sailors, that means puffs that arrive suddenly and shifts that can swing the bow without warning. Instead of treating these conditions as a challenge to endure, think of them as an opportunity to sharpen your instincts and reconnect with the feel of your boat.

The first skill to develop is awareness. Early-season puffs are often easy to spot if you know what to look for: dark patches on the water, ripples moving toward you, or a sudden change in surface texture. Because the air is cooler and denser in spring, these puffs tend to hit harder

than expected. Keeping your eyes upwind gives you the time to prepare—ease the sheet slightly, hike early, and keep the boat flat so you can convert the extra pressure into smooth acceleration rather than sudden heel.

Wind shifts are just as important to manage. Spring breezes are unsettled, and shifts can be frequent, sharp, and short-lived. When the boat suddenly feels lighter or heavier on the helm, assume the wind has changed direction before assuming you've made a mistake. A gentle head-up in a lift or a smooth bear-away in a header keeps the boat moving while you assess whether the shift is temporary or part of a developing pattern. Staying flexible with your course and trim is far more effective than trying to force the boat to hold a single line.

Balance and body movement play an outsized role in these conditions. Dinghies reward sailors who stay active—sliding weight fore and aft to keep the bow free, shifting side to side to maintain a flat heel, and adjusting sheet tension in small, frequent motions. Think of your body as part of the boat's suspension system. A responsive, balanced boat will slice through puffs and shifts with far less drama than one that's sailed stiffly or over-trimmed.

Sail trim also deserves special attention in puffy conditions. A slightly open leech and a bit of twist allow the sail to spill excess power when a gust hits, keeping the boat controllable and fast. Over-sheeting is the enemy; it locks the sail in place just when you need it to breathe. A touch of vang tension, a willingness to ease momentarily in the gusts, and constant small adjustments help the boat stay lively and forgiving as the wind dances around.

Above all, treat early-season sailing as valuable practice rather than a test. These puffy, shifty days

Share Your Sailing Story

Every sailor has a beginning—a moment when wind, water, and curiosity came together and set them on a lifelong course. Maybe it was a childhood summer camp, a friend's invitation, or the simple thrill of watching sails fill on a breezy afternoon. However your journey started, it's part of the rich tapestry that makes our club such a vibrant community. We'd love to hear how you first found your way to sailing and what drew you back for more.



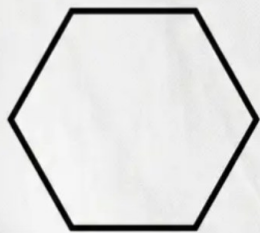
Of course, no sailor's story is complete without a favorite boat. Whether you swear by the simplicity of a Sunfish, the elegance of a Wayfarer, the speed of a Laser, or the comfort of a cruising keel-boat, your preferences say something about the sailor you've become. Tell us which boats have captured your heart and why—was it the feel of the helm, the challenge of the rig, or the memories made aboard?

We're also inviting you to share the adventures that have shaped your time on the water. Maybe you've weathered an unexpected squall, discovered a hidden cove, or enjoyed a perfect afternoon race where everything just clicked. Big or small, triumphant or humbling, these stories remind us why we sail and what keeps us coming back to the lake again and again. Your experiences inspire new sailors, strengthen our community, and celebrate the spirit that makes our club special. Send us your stories—funny, heartfelt, daring, or reflective—and we'll feature them in upcoming newsletters. Let's fill our pages with the voices of the people who make this club more than a place to sail. It's your turn at the helm; we can't wait to hear what you have to share.

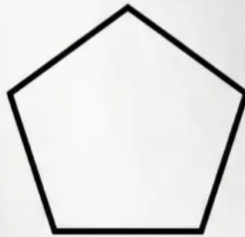


Send To Andy Brunk—newsletter@laketownsendyachtclub.com

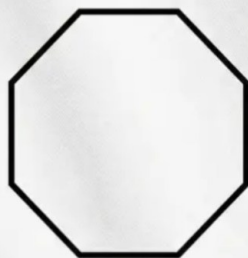
The Knot-So-Serious



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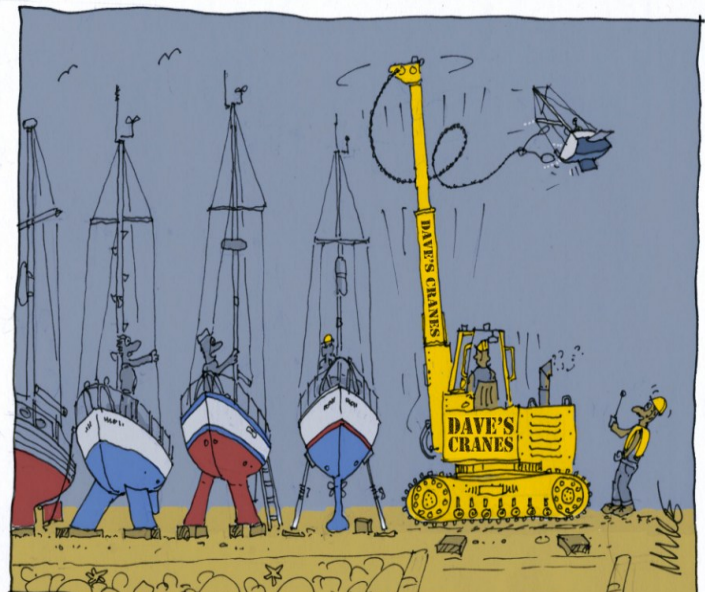
Octagon



Moneygone



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"Look's like Dave's found out about the Commodore and his wife."

Thanks to Phil Andrews for his contribution (top funny) and, again, sparking a great idea for the page! If you have one send it along!

From The Boatyard

Early-Season Centerboard and Rudder Inspections

Before the first launch of the season, a careful look at your centerboard and rudder can make the difference between a smooth sail and an unexpected struggle. These underwater workhorses take a beating every year, and early spring is the ideal time to give them the attention they deserve. A few minutes of inspection now can prevent costly repairs and frustrating performance issues later.

Start with the basics: clean both foils thoroughly to remove winter grime, residue, and any residual old growth. Dirt hides cracks and delamination, so a spotless surface helps you see what's really going on. Once clean, check for chips along the leading and trailing edges, soft spots in the laminate, or swelling around hardware. Even small imperfections can create drag or vibration when the boat is moving fast.

Next, inspect the pivot points and fittings. On centerboards, look for corrosion or wear around the pin and bushings, and make sure the board moves freely without grinding. Rudder gudgeons and pintles should be tight but not seized; any looseness can cause steering play or vibration. Lubricate metal parts lightly with marine grease and replace worn fasteners before they become a problem on the water.

Don't overlook alignment and finish. A warped or uneven foil can throw off balance and make the boat harder to steer. Sight down each piece from tip to tip—if it looks bent or twisted, it probably is. Sand rough spots smooth and touch up paint or gelcoat to protect against water intrusion. A well-finished surface not only looks better but also helps the boat accelerate cleanly through gusts and shifts.

Finally, reassemble and test everything before launch. Raise and lower the centerboard several times, check rudder movement under load, and confirm that all hardware is secure. Early-season inspection isn't glamorous, but it's one of the simplest ways to ensure your dinghy handles crisply and safely when the first spring breeze arrives. A little care now means more time enjoying the water and less time fixing surprises later.



Sunfish Sailing Saturdays Are Here!



Last autumn, LTYC added five Sunfish to its fleet, providing new sailors with a great gateway into our sport. But for the intermediate to advanced sailor, the Sunfish is a boat full of surprises—simple on the surface, yet incredibly expressive once you know how to make it move. After you've mastered

the basics, the boat becomes a place to fine-tune your instincts: small adjustments to the sail, slight shifts in your balance, and learning to sense changes in the wind before they reach you. For the experienced sailor, sailing a Sunfish is about finding speed through feel rather than force, and discovering how little tweaks can make the boat come alive.



Considering this, LTYC is pleased to offer Sunfish Sailing Saturdays, for the *experienced* sailor, the fourth Saturday

of each month from April through October. These events are not lessons, but opportunities to spend time honing already estab-



lished sailing skills, hosted by already experienced Sunfish sailors. Sunfish Sailing Saturdays will be an opportunity for attendees to Practice drills to improve skills, and sail for fun as well as rigging, launching, de-rigging and covering and storing the boats. The club's five boats are available for use but the sessions are open to an unlimited number of participants who can bring their own boats. The sessions will be from 10:00 a.m. to approximately 3:00 p.m.



Sunfish Sailing Saturdays are sure to be popular so early signup is encouraged. The link to sign up for SSS is <https://laketownsendyachtclub.com/activities/SignUp.asp>

Sunfish Sailing Saturdays! See you at the lake!

Calendar of Events

24 APR, FRI

- Hospice Regatta (LNYC) (Day 1/3)

25 APR, SAT

- Hospice Regatta (LNYC) (Day 2/3)
- Social Sailing

26 APR, SUN

- Hospice Regatta (LNYC) (Day 3/3)

2 MAY, SAT

- Great 48 (LNYC) (Day 1/2)
- Cinco de Mayo Regatta (BSC)

3 MAY, SUN

- Great 48 (LNYC) (Day 2/2)

7 MAY, THU

- 6pm Board Meeting

9 MAY, SAT

- May Day Races

15 MAY, FRI

- Adults Sailing Class 2 (Day 1/3)

16 MAY, SAT

- Adults Sailing Class 2 (Day 2/3)

17 MAY, SUN

- Adults Sailing Class 2 (Day 3/3)

23 MAY, SAT

- Social Sailing
- Sunfish Sailing Saturday

29 MAY, FRI

- Adult Sailing Class 3 (Day 1/3)

30 MAY, SAT

- Adult Sailing Class 3 (Day 2/3)



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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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.

Classifieds

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