

Lake Townsend Yacht Club

TELL-TALES

August 2026



LTYC



The Many Faces of a Sailing Community



Every sailing club is a tapestry of personalities, experiences, and motivations. Walk down a dock on any given weekend, and you could find racers tightening sheets with laser focus, cruisers packing picnic baskets, and learners quietly studying the wind. Some members arrive with a plan; others simply wander down to see who's around and whether the breeze looks friendly. Each sailor brings something unique to the water — and together, they form a community that thrives on diversity rather than comparison. In a club setting, these differences aren't divisions; they're the threads that make the place feel alive.

Some sailors live for the thrill of competition. They love the adrenaline of a starting horn, the strategy of tacking for position, and the camaraderie that comes from racing side by side. For them, sailing is a sport — a test of skill, timing, and teamwork. They study wind shifts, tweak rigging, and replay races in their minds long after the boats are back on shore. Yet even in the heat of competition, there's a shared respect for the sea and for those who sail it, whether they finish first or last. Racers bring energy to the club, inspiring others to try new things, sharpen their skills, or simply admire the beauty of a well-executed tack.



Others prefer the slower rhythm of exploration. These sailors find joy in discovery — a quiet cove, a new harbor, or simply the changing colors of the sky. They might not care about speed or trophies; their reward is the journey itself. Explorers often sail with a sense of curiosity, letting the wind decide their path or lingering in a peaceful spot just because it feels right. They remind the rest of us that sailing isn't only about performance — it's also about peace, reflection, and connection with nature. Their presence in the club encourages a gentler appreciation of the water and the world around it.

Then there are the learners — the sailors who are just beginning to understand how wind and water dance together. They ask questions, make mistakes, and celebrate small victories like a perfect tack or a smooth docking. Their enthusiasm is contagious, reminding seasoned sailors of the wonder they felt the first time a boat moved under sail alone. Learners bring freshness to the club: they keep traditions alive by asking why things are done a certain way, and they keep experienced sailors humble by reminding them that everyone was new once. A club with active learners is a club with a future.

The Many Faces of a Sailing Community



Some sailors are storytellers. They've crossed oceans or capsized in local lakes, and they share their tales with humor and humility. Their stories knit the community together, turning individual experiences into collective memory. They're the ones who can make a rainy day on shore feel like an adventure, or turn a minor mishap into a legendary anecdote. Listening to them, you realize that every sailor — no matter their background — has a story worth telling. Storytellers give the club its folklore,

its laughter, and its sense of continuity across generations.

There are also the helpers — the ones who show up early to rig boats, teach newcomers, or lend a hand when someone's halyard jams. They embody the spirit of the club: generosity, patience, and a belief that sailing is better when shared. Helpers are often the quiet heroes of the community, doing the small tasks that keep everything running smoothly. They're the first to notice when someone needs assistance and the last to leave after making sure everything is put away properly. Without them, the docks would be quieter, and the learning curve steeper. Their contributions form the backbone of club life.



And finally, there are the dreamers — the sailors who imagine future voyages, new boats, or simply another perfect day on the water. They keep the community looking forward, reminding everyone that sailing is as much about imagination as it is about skill. Dreamers are the ones who propose new events, envision improvements, or talk about destinations they hope to reach someday. Their optimism keeps the club vibrant and evolving, ensuring that there's always something to look forward to.



Together, these different kinds of sailors create something greater than any single type could achieve alone. A sailing club isn't defined by who sails fastest or farthest — it's defined by the friendships, laughter, and shared respect that ripple across the water. The racers bring energy, the cruisers bring calm, the learners bring curiosity, the storytellers bring connection, the helpers bring heart, and the dreamers bring vision. In the end, every sailor belongs, because every sailor contributes to the wind that keeps the community moving. A club thrives not because everyone sails the same way, but because everyone sails together.

Don't Miss The Boat!

Membership Benefits Await!

When you join Lake Townsend Yacht Club, not only are you joining a friendly, welcoming and supportive sailing community, you're gaining year-round access to training, racing, social events, club sailboats, and so much more - an incredible value at a truly incredible price. Only \$125 for new members and renewals, and \$62 in conjunction with learn to sail classes! And, yes, these rates include **EVERYTHING** below!

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.

Education

- Sunfish Sailing Saturdays. On the fourth Saturday of each month spring through fall, members can sign out one of the club's Sunfish and sail and learn on the lake with a seasoned sailor.
- 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, kids sailing camp and 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.

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 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

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, the spirited performance of a Flying Scot, or the comfort of a cruising keelboat, 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, the camaraderie of a Flying Scot crew, 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

Perspectives From The Helm - Lessons Learned



Shared by Jim Heffernan

World champion and sail maker Mike MacNamara shares starting techniques. Part II
Those last few seconds (continued from Starting)

1. As those seconds tick away there is nothing that we can do about our position on the line. That was taken care of long ago when we went through our "checking which is the right end to start" routines. In fact, there are quite a few ways to find out which is the best end. The most simple and therefore the easiest one, is to sail along the line, sheeting the mainsail in as perfectly as possible. Once you've got that organized, tack but be careful not to alter the mainsail setting as you do so. As you sail away back down the line, check to see if the mainsail is set as perfectly as it was before. If it is not, then one or other end of the line is the paying end. If the mainsheet has to be eased, the wind is further behind and so the end you are sailing from is the paying end. If the mainsheet has to be pulled in, the wind is further in front and so the end you are sailing towards is the paying end. If the wind is shifting, you will have to check and keep checking. So don't sail outside the end of the line because it may be impossible to get right back to the other end if the wind changes.

2. If it is obvious to you which is the paying end then it will be obvious to everyone else. That leads to the fleet all ganging up together in one place. The result of this congestion is that the wind drops as it goes up and over the top of the mass, wash increases and confuses the wave pattern and, worst of all, boats congregate early and, as they stop, they raft up. If it is a big committee boat you can even run out of wind under it. So, as we know to our cost, it is only one or two boats maximum that get away. The rest all wallow in their dirty wind. Much better to be just away from the paying end. To leeward of the bunch, at the windward end for example, with all the luffing rights, etc. that gives you. Hidden from the race officer's eyes, you can nibble up to the line and be ready to bear away, accelerate and go as soon as the gun goes. O.K., so you've lost a few meters by being further down the line, but at least you're safe. Besides, the raft of boats to windward acts as a buffer against those poor unfortunate naive sailors who come down from beyond the committee boat hoping to find space. If it's the leeward end that pays, then this playing for safety is even more important. The timing to get it right has to be so perfect that it just isn't worth the risk to start right next to the buoy.



Perspectives From The Helm - Lessons Learned



Shared by Jim Heffernan

World champion and sail maker Mike MacNamara shares starting techniques. Part II cont.

3. Never go outside the windward end of the line. As windward boat you have no rights. Rule 18.1(a) is clear when it states that you are not entitled to water at a starting mark surrounded by navigable water. Besides which, as you bear away hoping for a gap, it will already be closed and you're speeding up to a certain 720° or worse.

4. Try to keep speed on. If you have to hover, do so a few seconds away from the line. Then you've got a chance to build up speed before the hordes envelop you and envelop you they surely will if you try to hover exactly on the line. You will already have worked out how long it takes to get going in the conditions, so that is your guide to the safe hovering distance.



5. Practice your acceleration techniques and keep the boat upright, otherwise you will be in the dirty wind of the boat to leeward. Try to bear away as the gun goes to get a bit of speed. You can only really do this if, as you nibbled up to the line, you luffed up minutely from time to time to create a gap between you and the boat to leeward. Don't overdo this otherwise the gap will be spotted and will be filled by a boat coming in from behind, who then has rights over you because you're windward boat! How unfair can you get?

6. As the fleet comes up to the start the wind will drop all the way down the line. So ease kickers (vang for us Americans); don't oversheet jib; don't sit too far forward (or aft). Then as the fleet spreads out, bring the controls back on to their proper settings.

7. Keep a good watch out all around and get your crew to do the same, reporting in all the time. Crews should be doing the timing too. In big fleets don't expect to hear the gun. There will be too much other noise and besides it is visual signals that count.

Perspectives From The Helm - Lessons Learned



Shared by Jim Heffernan

World champion and sail maker Mike MacNamara shares starting techniques. Part II cont.



8. Don't try to tack too soon around the front of the committee boat. His anchor warp is dangling there desperate to entangle you. So, in your pre-start checks have a look at the anchor cables at both ends.

9. If you've made a really good start, don't blow it in the euphoria of the moment. Relax and get on with the race but a small smile is permitted!

If you've blown the start, don't panic! Be consoled that everyone does from time to time - but you don't have to make a habit of it. Just get on with things - getting into the tacking routine as you hunt for clear air, keeping the boat moving. It is possible to make a come-back. After all, there is the whole race in front of you to do it. All it needs is patience.

In club races, if you have the courage, try starting at the back just to experience the feeling. Then if it happens in big time stuff, you won't get so grumpy.

10. My favorite routine is to sail along the line on port, towards the right end looking for a gap to tack into. If you remember in Golden Rule No. 5, there will be gaps being created all the time. All you have to do is find them!

11. It was the Dane, Paul Elvstrom who said that "if you're not over the line once in every five races then you're not trying". Well if that's your view too, be over the line in non-important races. But I bet that it will be the other way round! Finally, if all else fails, keep your cool. There is a whole lot of race left to go. Happy Starting.

Michael McNamara UKWA News #70/Summer 1996

Give The Hot Gift Of Late Summer Sailing!



Only \$75 to gift two people a memorable first sailing experience? How cool is that? 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

The Flying Scot

A Timeless Dinghy With a Community All Its Own

When sailors talk about boats that have stood the test of time, the Flying Scot is almost always part of the conversation. It's a boat with a story — one that begins in the mid-1950s and continues today in clubs large and small across the country. More than just a design, the Flying Scot has become a symbol of accessible, joyful sailing, beloved by racers, cruisers, families, and newcomers alike.

The Flying Scot was designed in 1957 by Gordon K. "Sandy" Douglass, a name already well known in the sailing world. Douglass had previously created the Thistle and the Highlander, two boats that earned reputations for speed and performance. But with the Flying Scot, he wanted something different — a boat that blended performance with stability, excitement with forgiveness, and racing potential with family-friendly comfort. The result was a 19-foot centerboard sloop that would go on to define an entire class.



Douglass built the first Flying Scots in his Ohio workshop, shaping each hull by hand. From the beginning, he insisted on quality and consistency, believing that a strong one-design class depended on boats that were truly identical. That commitment became a cornerstone of the Flying Scot's identity. Sailors could compete knowing that victory came from skill, teamwork, and understanding the wind — not from expensive modifications or technological advantages.

As word spread, the Flying Scot quickly gained traction. Sailors appreciated its roomy cockpit, forgiving handling, and ability to perform well in a wide range of conditions. Families loved that it could comfortably hold several people without feeling cramped. Racers loved that it was responsive and lively, capable of impressive speed when sailed well. Clubs loved that it was durable, easy to maintain, and welcoming to newcomers. The Flying Scot was, in many ways, the boat that could do it all.

By the 1960s, Flying Scot fleets were forming across the United States. Regattas grew in size, and the class association became a vibrant community of sailors who valued both competition and camaraderie. The boat's reputation for fairness and accessibility helped it spread to lakes, rivers, and coastal clubs alike. Even today, many fleets trace their origins back to those early decades, when sailors discovered that the Flying Scot was not just a boat — it was a gathering place.

The Flying Scot

A Timeless Dinghy With a Community All Its Own

One of the reasons the Flying Scot has endured is its thoughtful design. The boat is stable enough for beginners yet responsive enough for experts. Its centerboard makes it versatile in shallow waters, while its sail plan offers both simplicity and performance. The Scot can be sailed single-handed, double-handed, or with a full crew. It's comfortable for leisurely afternoon cruises but also capable of tight tactical racing. Few boats strike that balance so well.



Durability is another hallmark of the Flying Scot. Many boats built decades ago are still actively sailed today, a testament to Douglass's craftsmanship and the class's commitment to quality. Owners often speak fondly of their boats lasting through generations, becoming part of a story waiting to be told.

The Flying Scot Sailing Association (FSSA) has played a major role in preserving the boat's legacy. Through strict one-design rules, active fleets, and national events, the association ensures that the class remains vibrant and unified. Sailors from all backgrounds come together at regattas, sharing tips, stories, and laughter. The

sense of community is one of the strongest in the sailing world, built around a boat that encourages participation rather than exclusivity. Many Flying Scots have become part of family traditions and club histories, and a Scot on the dock is never just a vessel — it's a piece of the community itself.

Another reason sailors love the Flying Scot is its accessibility. New sailors can learn on it without feeling overwhelmed, thanks to its stability and predictable behavior. Experienced sailors appreciate the tactical depth it offers — mastering a Scot requires finesse, teamwork, and an understanding of subtle sail trim. The boat rewards skill but doesn't punish mistakes harshly, making it ideal for teaching and learning.

The Flying Scot

A Timeless Dinghy With a Community All Its Own

The Scot also shines as a club boat. Its durability means it can withstand frequent use, and its versatility makes it suitable for lessons, casual sails, and competitive racing. Many clubs choose the Flying Scot as their primary fleet because it brings people together. Families can sail it. Juniors can learn on it. Seniors can race it. The boat doesn't belong to one type of sailor — it belongs to everyone.

On the water, the Flying Scot has a personality all its own. It accelerates smoothly, handles gusts with grace, and offers a satisfying blend of stability and responsiveness. Sailors often describe it as “friendly,” a boat that communicates clearly and forgives small errors. Yet in the hands of experts, it can be fast, tactical, and thrilling. That dual nature is part of its charm.

The boat's longevity also contributes to its appeal. When sailors join a Flying Scot fleet, they're joining a tradition that spans nearly seventy years. They're stepping into a community that values sportsmanship, friendship, and shared experiences. Regattas often feel like reunions, with sailors returning year after year to compete, connect, and celebrate the boat they love.

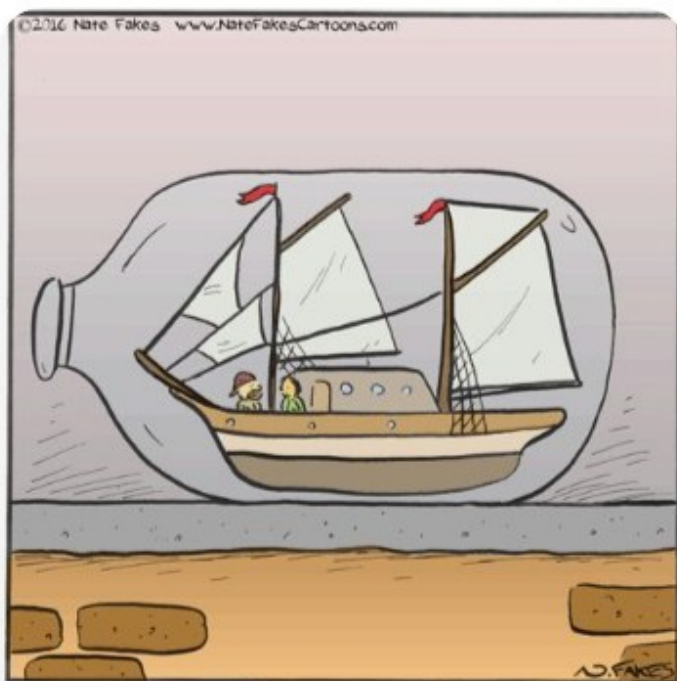


Perhaps the greatest reason the Flying Scot is so well liked is its ability to bring people together. It's a boat that encourages conversation on the dock, teamwork on the water, and laughter at the clubhouse afterward. It's a boat that welcomes newcomers, challenges veterans, and supports sailors at every stage of their journey. In a world where sailing can sometimes feel divided by skill or resources, the Flying Scot remains refreshingly inclusive.

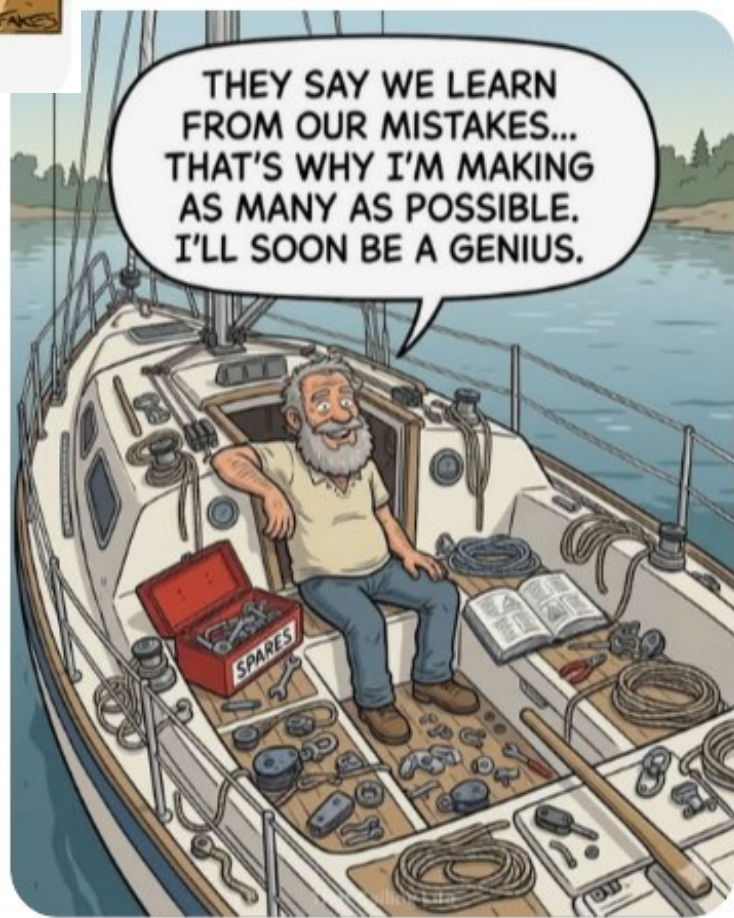
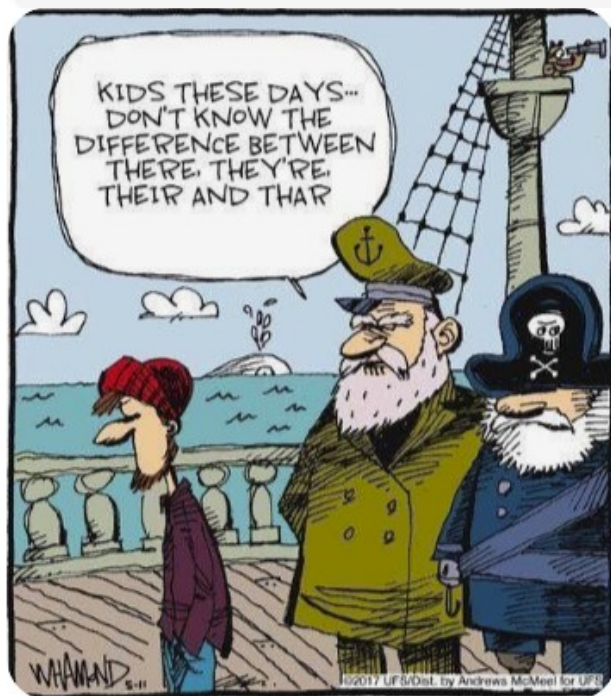
Today, the Flying Scot continues to thrive. New boats are still being built, fleets are still growing, and sailors of all ages are discovering the joy of sailing a boat that feels both timeless and modern. Whether racing in a national championship or cruising on a quiet lake, Flying Scot sailors share a bond — a connection to a boat that has shaped generations of sailing communities.

In the end, the Flying Scot's story is not just about design or performance. It's about people. It's about the sailors who rig their boats on Saturday mornings, the families who pack lunches for afternoon cruises, the racers who study wind shifts, and the newcomers who feel the thrill of their first perfect tack. The Flying Scot is beloved because it reflects the best of sailing: skill, joy, tradition, and community.

The Knot-So-Serious



"Now what?"



If you have a funny, send it along!

newsletter@laketownsendyachtclub.com

Classifieds

Laser 1979 hull 69511 red "Ruby." Comes with trailer. Mast step has been repaired. This is an older boat and has sailed well in the waters of Oriental and Lake Townsend. Would be a good starting Laser. The deck is soft but intact. Comes with 2 sails (one like new-intensity, other is lightly used), centerboard, very nice rudder, boom, Radial and full mast spars, Harken XD Laser race vang system. **Contact Jason at jreiner91@gmail.com**



Have something to sell or trade or something you are interested in finding? Send it to **newsletter@laketownsendyachtclub.com** and include "Classified" in the subject line. Members advertise for FREE!

Sunfish Sailing Saturdays!

LYTC is pleased to offer **Sunfish Sailing Saturdays** for experienced sailors, held on the **fourth Saturday of each month** from now through October. These sessions are designed not as formal lessons, but as relaxed, skill-building opportunities hosted by seasoned Sunfish sailors who enjoy sharing their knowledge. Participants will have the chance to spend dedicated time on the water honing already established sailing skills in a supportive, low-pressure environment.

Sunfish Sailing Saturdays provide a structured yet flexible format where attendees can practice a variety of on-the-water drills aimed at improving boat handling, sail trim, balance, and overall confidence. Sailors are encouraged to work at their own pace, revisit familiar techniques, and challenge themselves with new maneuvers. Alongside skill practice, there will be plenty of time simply to sail for fun — enjoying the responsiveness and simplicity that make the Sunfish such a beloved boat.



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In addition to time on the water, each session will include hands-on opportunities to refine essential boat-care skills such as **rigging, launching, de-rigging, and proper covering and storage**. These fundamentals are key to keeping the boats in excellent condition and ensuring smooth sailing experiences. Experienced hosts will be available throughout the day to offer guidance, answer questions, and demonstrate best practices for maintaining the club's fleet.

The club's **five Sunfish** will be available for use, and sailors are welcome to bring their own boats as well — participation is **unlimited**, making these Saturdays a wonderful chance to gather a large community of Sunfish enthusiasts. Whether you sail a club boat or your own, the focus is on camaraderie, shared learning, and enjoying time on the water with fellow sailors who appreciate the unique charm of the Sunfish.



Sessions will run from **10:00 a.m. to approximately 3:00 p.m.**, allowing plenty of time for rigging, practice drills, open sailing, and end-of-day de-rigging. Sailors may come for the full session or drop in for part of the day, depending on their schedule. The relaxed format makes it easy for participants to tailor the experience to their interests and comfort level.

Sunfish Sailing Saturdays are expected to be very popular, and **early signup is strongly encouraged**. These gatherings offer a rare opportunity to sharpen skills, enjoy time on the water, and connect with a vibrant community of sailors who share a passion for the Sunfish. Whether you're looking to refine your technique, enjoy a day of breezy fun, or simply spend time with fellow sailors, Sunfish Sailing Saturdays promise to be a highlight of the season.

The link to sign up for SSS is <https://laketownsendyachtclub.com/activities/SignUp.asp>

Sunfish Sailing Saturdays! See you at the lake!

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

Calendar of Events

1 SEP, TUE

- Wayfarer Chesapeake Cruise (Day 1/5)

2 SEP, WED

- Wayfarer Chesapeake Cruise (Day 2/5)

3 SEP, THU

- Wayfarer Chesapeake Cruise (Day 3/5)
- 6pm Board Meeting

4 SEP, FRI

- Wayfarer Chesapeake Cruise (Day 4/5)
- Weast River Regatta (WRSC) (Day 1/3)

5 SEP, SAT

- Wayfarer Chesapeake Cruise (Day 5/5)
- Weast River Regatta (WRSC) (Day 2/3)

6 SEP, SUN

- Weast River Regatta (WRSC) (Day 3/3)

12 SEP, SAT

- Harvest Moon Races

18 SEP, FRI

- Adult Sailing Class 6 (Day 1/3)

19 SEP, SAT

- Adult Sailing Class 6 (Day 2/3)

20 SEP, SUN

- Adult Sailing Class 6 (Day 3/3)

26 SEP, SAT

- Social Sailing
- Sunfish Sailing Saturday



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

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Website/Publicity: Sam Martin/Sid Hale	◆ 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.