

Dear PHRF-LE Members;

Some of the heaviest snowfalls and coldest days of the year are hopefully behind us. The Spring Equinox on March 20 is around the corner and we will be back in the boatyards doing the seasonal prep work once again.

We have spent an entire year re-working our lives and doing our best to stay healthy during the Covid crisis. We have withstood restrictions in our businesses and social activities. We have endured lockdowns, shutdowns and curfews. We have become familiar with gathering via Zoom and Facetime rather than in person.

With all of this, most people have developed new routines, interests and pastimes that no longer include large gatherings of people. Discussions with fellow sailors indicate that our clubs and events will need to re-think the very things we used to take for granted in order to return to anything that resembles "normal" participation again.

All around, it is easy to see that people have found new patterns in their lives. Being creatures of habit, most are not going to jump right back into the things that were commonplace just a year or two ago. We are going to need to make significant efforts to attract back sailors safely to our races. Do not take participation for granted in 2021. Reach out and promote the positive aspects about your club, your events and your members. The challenge is to make returning to racing a more attractive alternative than the many other activities that have captured people's attention but starting early it can be done with the collective energy and ingenuity of so many of the good people in our sailing clubs and race committees.

PHRF-LE wants to assist the sailors, events and clubs as much as we can in order to support our sport. Among other things, PHRF-LE can help promote your events, boost participation with fast certificate turn-around, provide discounted membership to USSailing, and support multiple events across Lake Erie through the I-LYA's PHRF-Lake Erie Championship.

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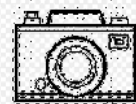
### 2021 Certificate Renewals:

During the last week of February, we have sent your certificate renewals by E-mail! PHRF-LE sends the letters out in a series of batches, and some email systems may filter this to your Spam box. If you don't see your renewal check your spam and if it is not there please contact [PHRFLE@gmail.com](mailto:PHRFLE@gmail.com) and we'll get that renewal to you! Renewals and new certificates are \$40.

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Your club will soon begin working on next season's race schedule. When your club has determined race dates for next season, let PHRF-LE know via [PHRFLE@gmail.com](mailto:PHRFLE@gmail.com) and we will help publicize them in this newsletter!

Appeals of a rating are accepted from October 1<sup>st</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup> (Class Rule 17.3) and the Appeal Form is available at <https://phrf-le.org/information-and-forms/>



Please send us photos for our newsletter -----  
[phrfle@gmail.com](mailto:phrfle@gmail.com)

## SOLO SAILING

The Great Lakes Solo Sailors (GLSS) will be hosting a “Safety / Informational” meeting on Wednesday April 14, 2021, at the Vermilion Boat Club, in Vermilion, OH. This event begins at 6:30 PM and is open to all those who participate in solo sailing, along with any interested sailor or sailing enthusiast. Topics will include the “20 steps to the starting line”, along with safety information. Highlight of the evening will be two speakers who have raced all 5 Great Lakes in solo challenges. They will be presenting the thrills and chills of their solo adventures.

Due to social distancing, seating is limited. Contact Jeff Marshall at [Oneice@aol.com](mailto:Oneice@aol.com) to reserve your place at this April 14th event.

The GLSS has announced its 2021 Lake Erie racing schedule with the Lake Erie Challenge Saturday, August 14, 2021. This 300-mile solo challenge starts off Toledo, races around Niagara Reef near Buffalo and ends in Erie PA. Other GLSS races include the Mackinac race, starting from either Port Huron or Chicago and all ending at Mackinac Island, June 19, 2021, Lake Ontario Challenge starting in Toronto, July 10, 2021 and the Trans-Superior, starting in Sault Ste. Marie and ending at Duluth August 7, 2021.

The solo season ends September 25, 2021 with the Vermilion 45005. This 42-mile race begins in Vermilion, races to Huron, OH, out to the weather buoy 45005 and back to Vermilion. This solo event will also include two sailor crew and full crew divisions.

So, come and explore the fun and excitement of solo sailing at the April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting in Vermilion, where on Lake Erie we have been “Social Distancing” for the past 15 years.



## I-LYA News



**Inter-Lake Yachting  
Association**

We are looking forward to an exciting I-LYA regatta for 2021, July 30, 31 August 1. The Notice of Race has been posted on Yachtscoring with lots of important information. We have to address an increase in dockage rates with a slight increase in registration fees but have made some other changes which we hope will be positively received.

We have realized that the full social package experience has become expensive to purchase and difficult to run. Looking at recent regattas we found social attendance dropping as competitors chose to take advantage of other island offerings. Registration fees this year will include competitor free-beer wristbands. The Stay tuned for details.

Our Committee is focused on delivering a top-notch sailing regatta, let us know if you would like to help. See you at the Bay.

-- Bill Pribe  
2021 I-LYA Sail Chairman  
2021 AYC Sail Fleet Captain  
Past Commodore NCCYC 2010  
419-349-7353 Cell  
419-866-9050 Work



### 2021 Rating Range Review

This year, all boats with ratings from 100 to 135 are being reviewed, as well as any boat that had a rating changed in the last three years. There are approximately 189 boats that the committee will discuss before certificate renewal letters are sent out in the early spring. If the committee spends just 2 minutes discussing each boat, that requires over 6 hours of evaluation! With 13 on the committee, that is a minimum of 78 man-hours. We have been working on this since November and the review was completed during the February meeting

#### Future Rating Review Bands:

2021/22	136-171 (next year)
2022/23	172-264
2023/24	< 0 - 99
2024/25	100-135

## MEET YOUR COMMITTEE

### A. J. FICCARDI

AJ heralds from Erie Yacht Club in Pennsylvania, home to 1500 members and 350 slips. On any given Wednesday through the summer there are 60 boats spread across four starts competing for victory in Presque Isle Bay. EYC has 47 PHRF-LE certificate holders and is a strong sailing club. AJ has his work cut out for him as he tends to and represents this large number of sailors.

It all started for AJ when his father enrolled him in the Junior Sailing Program. AJ's dad had a power boat and no sailing experience, but little did he know the fire that would be lit in AJ's heart for the wind and sails. To this day, the many friends and crew surrounding AJ stem from his early days in Junior Sailing. This is a testament to getting our youth started as young as possible to encourage and maintain growth in the sport.

AJ has quite a bit of experience on J boats. "I started racing on a J35 (Magic), for about 12 years, racing locally as well as traveling to do Bay Week and NA's. Shortly after getting into racing on the J35, I bought a J24 (Joker) and started racing that myself in Erie. I had that for about 10 years and then moved on to a J29 (also named Joker) which is my current boat," he said.

AJ's favorite race is the Lake Erie Interclub Cruise which is a five-day event involving seven clubs on the East end of the lake. The race has been held since 1957 and goes between Erie, Port Dover and Buffalo. AJ was on the podium in 2019 and looks forward to competing again in 2021.

To learn more about the Lake Erie Interclub Cruise visit their website <https://www.erieinterclub.com>.

To learn more about Erie Yacht club visit their website <https://www.erieyachtclub.org>.

In closing, it is a pleasure to have AJ join the PHRF-LE committee as we look forward to utilizing his experience and knowledge.

Troy Willett  
Vice Chairman, PHRF-LE





## PHRF-LE Budget

During January we closed the books on 2020 and we are pleased to report to our members that PHRF-LE is solvent, and for the past several years have incorporated many cost saving measures. During 2020, PHRF-LE was *Under Budget* by \$738.00 for total expenses including: Meeting expenses were \$588 Less than budget, and Office expenses were \$168 Less than budget. Unfortunately, as income is only derived from issuing certificates, income was also under budget by nearly \$2,200.00. PHRF-LE had budgeted for a deficit last year, and the actual deficit was \$2,504.63.

Racing participation and certificate holders are down throughout the country; this is not a local or even regional phenomenon. In 2007, prior to the Great Recession, we had 629 members, and as racing participation throughout Lake Erie has fallen, we have seen a slow but steady decline in certificate holders. By 2018, there were 447, in 2019 there were 438 and with Covid preventing group gatherings and even access to the Canadian side of Lake Erie, membership dropped to 379 certificates in 2020 while several of our fixed costs have risen.

Committee members have never been reimbursed for travel expenses to monthly meetings, and every year we have been reducing our expenses. We send renewals and certificates via E-mail to eliminate postage. We have reduced phone and internet costs by going to Magic Jack and shopping for internet service. We are holding meetings via Zoom to both reduce meeting expenses and maintain committee meetings during the pandemic.

PHRF-LE historically keeps about 1 year of operating expenses on-hand at all times, and our reserves now total approximately \$8,000.00, having dropped below the one-year benchmark for each of the past 4 years. Costs have exceeded income by about \$2,000 for the past couple of years.

In order to be financially responsible and to maintain the services to certificate holders, this spring there will be a modest \$5.00 increase in the certificate fee. This is the first increase since 2006 and at current membership levels this will *almost*, but not quite balance the budget. We would much rather gain members than raise the cost of a certificate, so please ask your dock mates, sail fleet captains and other sailors at your club to encourage PHRF-LE certificates and enjoy racing in 2021.

## I-LYA News



Inter-Lake Yachting  
Association

Meet the I-LYA Vice Commodore Mike Fishbaugh of Sandusky Sailing Club, Trustee's Arnie Hansen of the Jolly Roger Sailing Club, Bruce Sattler of the South Shore Cruising Club, Bill Pribe of North Cape Yacht Club, and the rest of the I-LYA administration at the Spring Meeting scheduled for March 26-28 at the Hilton Double Tree in Independence, Ohio. Further information is available at [www.I-LYA.org](http://www.I-LYA.org).

### **The PHRF-Lake Erie Championship returns to BayWeek in 2021**

After a long hiatus, the PHRF-LE Championship Series will be a big part of BayWeek this year and supported by PHRF-LE. The I-LYA Intersectional Committee is discussing an overall format for the PHRF Championship Series, with details being developed with the Sail Committee. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting event!

## PHRF-LE Provides Benefits for You:

### Promote your Club and Events

Three years ago, during the 2018 I-LYA Fall Meeting the sailors in attendance requested that PHRF-LE provide periodic communications to the sailors, and we began to publish this newsletter. Through the newsletter, sailing clubs are provided visibility, and clubs are able to promote races at no cost across the lake.

### Discounted US Sailing membership thru PHRF-LE!

Save \$10.00 on an individual, \$30.00 on a Family, and \$5.00 on a Youth *US Sailing* membership through the PHRF-LE "MVP" program. When you join or renew a membership with USSailing, just click on PHRF-LE as your MVP club in their Membership section. Memberships are on rolling expiration dates, so renew now to have your existing membership extended for a full year and save.



Follow this link for savings:

<https://www1.ussailing.org/membership/MPP/Default.aspx?ycid=1517221>

### Fast Certificate Creation:

Several members have called the week (or even one day!) before a race looking to be issued a certificate. We do everything we can to get a boat measured and a certificate issued for sailors to enter an event. PHRF-LE provides on-site personnel for several of the larger regattas in order to issue same or next-day certificates.