

Dear PHRF-LE Members:

With not much of a winter and virtually no ice cover on Lake Erie so far, the days are finally beginning to get a little longer. Maybe you have been to a couple boat shows this season and visited the I-LYA booth at the Cleveland Boat Show, even though pontoon boats seem to be crowding out new sailboats at these shows.

This month we highlight the new Lorain Harbor Boat Club, whose members have overcome some challenges to demonstrate once again that together, our clubs are greater than the sum of its parts.

PHRF-LE Announcements:

Do you remember what you were doing in 1988? Motorola was selling the first portable cell phone the size of a brick for \$3,995, and Donald Trump was promoting WrestleMania with Andre the Giant. That was the year the first production Wing Keel was introduced on the Hunter 33.5 along with four other Hunter designs. This was just 12 years after the founding of PHRF-LE and the year that Bill Kellner, sailing out of Sandusky Sail Club, joined the PHRF-LE committee.

For 32 continuous years Bill Kellner has been a member of the PHRF-LE committee, 22 of them as Chairman. Bill and his wife Judy (PHRF-LE Secretary) have sailed a number of boats including a Sabre 28, C&C 29-2 and currently a J-92. Through these years there have been some significant changes to racing on Lake Erie. Under Bill's guidance, Cruising Credits were implemented to provide a more even playing field to boats with fixed props, roller furling and Dacron sails. Dues that had been \$45 in 1994 were stabilized, spending was cut and dues are now at \$35 while still remaining solvent. Bill created an automated PHRF-LE database for boat, sail, rig and owner information and the www.PHRF-LE.ORG website was built. He began electronic "GoTo" meetings to reduce travel during poor winter weather (the PHRF-LE committee members span the entire length of Lake Erie, from Downriver Detroit to Buffalo, NY). In the 80's many racing boats traveled every weekend across the lake to regattas, and as family demands and other demographic realities evolved, PHRF-LE remained viable through the national downward trend in competitive sailing. Bill also served on the National US Sailing PHRF Committee for 12 years, with 6 of those years on the National US Sailing PHRF Appeals Committee.

Today, with PHRF-LE on stable membership and financial footings, Chairman Bill Kellner announces he has "retired" as the active Chairman, yet remains on the PHRF-LE committee as an Emeritus member with a deep technical knowledge of boats and their performance characteristics.

When you see Bill this summer, be sure to thank him for the decades he has spent to ensure the fairness, competitiveness, and affordability of handicap sailing in Lake Erie.

PHRF-LE IS PLEASED TO WELCOME TWO NEW MEASURERS TO PHRF-LE:

Erie Yacht Club: Mr. A. J. Ficcardi

Port Clinton Yacht Club: Mr. John Earhart

Thank you for volunteering to serve your fellow Lake Erie Sailors!

Lorain Harbor Boat Club

After a change in direction by the Lorain Port Authority in 2018, the Westlake Yacht Club (WYC) found themselves in need of new facilities for their clubhouse and restaurant/bar operation. WYC approached the Lorain Sailing and Yacht Club (LSYC) with a proposal to merge the two clubs.

With each club having resourceful people and valuable assets, joining together and pooling the resources seemed a sensible approach. WYC brought to the merger a liquor license and experience operating a restaurant and bar. LSYC brought to the new club its marina operation, clubhouse, gas dock and an established racing program.

The merger was agreed to in the winter of 2019 and club members choose "Lorain Harbor Boat Club" (LHBC) as the new name. The new club now occupies the old LSYC facilities next to the Lorain Coast Guard station on the Black River. Utilizing the WYC club liquor license, a bar was added to the clubhouse.

LHBC offers weekly club racing for their Star fleet on Sunday afternoons and their PHRF fleet on Wednesday evenings.



As your club establishes your race event calendars, please send it to phrfle@gmail.com so we can put together a list of race events around the lake for our May issue.

Lorain Harbor Boat Club...Continued

In addition to weekly racing LHBC offers these individual competitions:

- The annual “*Lorain One-Design Regatta*” which features racing for the Star fleet and visiting Interlake and Jet14 classes. This year’s regatta is July 11th.
- LHBC was chosen to host the annual *Star Class District 4 Blue/Green Championships*. This two-day affair will be conducted on August 1st and 2nd.
- In its fourth year, the annual “*MAST*” Race features a 22-mile offshore triangle utilizing mooring buoys anchored over two shipwrecks which were surveyed by the Marine Archaeological Survey Team (MAST). The race starts and ends off the Lorain breakwater. This year’s MAST race is Saturday July 25th.
- The twelfth annual “*Tom Gibbs Memorial Kelley’s Island*” race is held in late August.

The race was named in honor of former club member, Tom Gibbs, who was an avid PHRF racer all along Lake Erie’s South shore. This two-day event races from Lorain to Kelley’s, and back the next day. While over-nighting on Kelley’s, racers enjoy a steak fry, party and mid-course awards for fastest Saturday corrected times by class. The round-trip fastest yacht is added to a perpetual trophy. This year’s *Gibbs Race* will be Saturday and Sunday August 29th and 30th.

The club holds a series of social events and organized cruises throughout the season, and the PHRF racers gather for social time at the LHBC patio after each Wednesday race.

The newly opened club bar has become a center of ad hoc gatherings for members and their guests. With 52 floating docks transient yachts are always welcome. Find out more about our events, facilities and race/cruise schedules at www.LorainHBC.org.

YOUR 2020 COMMITTEE

Officers for 2020:

Dave Ryan, Chairman and Chief Handicapper.
Bill Kellner - Technical Advisor
Troy Willett - Vice Chairman
Judy Kellner - Secretary/Treasurer

Handicappers/Measurers for 2020:

Dick Synowiec/Ford Yacht Club	Sandy Burris/Lakeside
Chris Merkle/Lorain	Paul Schiavoni/Buffalo At Large
George Raynor/Chagrin Lagoons	Rob Daley -/Buffalo Harbor Sailing Club
Bill Kellner/Sandusky Sailing Club	Jim Kulwicki/Buffalo Yacht Club
Dave Ryan/Catawba Island Club	A J Ficcardi - Erie Yacht Club
Troy Willett - Monroe Boat Club	John Earhart- Port Clinton Yacht Club
Tim Andrews - North Cape Yacht Club	

ARE YOU AWARE THAT.....

For Conventional Boats with Asymmetrical Spinnakers:

When flying an asymmetrical spinnaker on a conventional (non-bowsprit) boat, there are a couple of tack possibilities: One is to fly it from the spinnaker pole, another is to tack it to the bow, and there are even some cuffs that wrap around a furled jib. When gybing an asymmetrical kite tacked to the bow, there is often interference with the forestay and the bow pulpit.

PHRF-LE now allows a forward-of-the-headstay, non-articulating sprit up to 12% of "J" with a maximum of 20" for improved sail handling with NO rating penalty (Class Rule 11.6.2.4). This sprit can be either fixed or removable, with a tack line of any length. The rule is designed to assist in sail care and handling, and not impart a performance advantage. If you are considering adding such a sprit, ensure there is adequate structural support for the significant loads the spinnaker will apply.

Renewals were sent out by email on February 10th for all but 2 members, which were mailed out 2/21. Check spam before sending an email to phrfle@gmail.com. Remember you can save a stamp and pay with Zelle from your online banking if it is offered. KeyBank, 5/3, and Bank of America offer this as well as others. Use [phrfle@gmail](mailto:phrfle@gmail.com) for the payment. The only option for Canadian members is still an old-fashioned check.

NEW FEATURE: MEET YOUR COMMITTEE

Dick Synowiec
Ford Yacht Club Area Handicapper

- At Large Member of PHRF-LE since it began in the 70s and have been a handicapper for approximately 20 years
- Started sailing in 1967 when I rented a Sunfish on my honeymoon; I made my first kit sailboat in 1968- a Luger Flying Cloud.
- Helped start West Shore Sail Club in 1972, then joined Ford Yacht Club in 1973
- Owned a Lightning, an Interlake, a Snipe, several Force 5s, a Newport 20, Grampian 26, Tartan 30 and a J-33 SHENANIGAN) as well as several powerboats.
- Sailed in the Bayview Mackinaw race 42 times with 10 podium finishes
- Sailed many Wednesday night and local Club races, as well as the Bay Week, Mills, Trans Erie, Huron Double handed, Marion to Bermuda (Navigator), a number of NOOD regattas, and Regatta De Sol de Sol to Mexico.
- Sail-Cruised from the Azores to Gibraltar, Cruised the Intercoastal from NY to the Chesapeake and along the Florida Intercoastal waterway. Sailed in both oceans – Pacific and the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Chesapeake Bay and the Long Island Sound.
- Have held the rank of Commodore for three different organizations; U.S. Power Squadron Commander – Wyandotte once and hold the rank of Senior Navigator. I taught Safe Boating and Sailing for the Power Squadron for 50 years.
- Hold the rank of Captain in the Merchant Marine – 100 ton, with Sail and towing certification (retired).
- Past Delegate to US Sailing Symposium in Chicago – representing FYC in 2011
- 2017 recipient of US Sailing Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal.
- Presently member and P/C of West Shore Sail Club and Chairman of the Board of Ford Yacht Club.