

WSSC: promoting the sport of sailing and seamanship since 1972

**THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS THURSDAY, MAY 7 — SWAP MEET!**

From the 2026 Commodore (including Executive Committee)

Todd Harris



**WEST SHORE SAIL CLUB IS 54 THIS MONTH:** This is our Birthday song. It isn't very long! Happy Birthday West Shore Sail Club!

**COMMODORE'S BALL:**

A toast was raised to celebrate with our friends and family during the 2026 Commodore's Ball.



Thank-you to all that supported Lady Maria to setup and host this annual event. It was a casino themed party that was "over the top"—loaded with food, drinks, fun games, music, and dancing. Many of our friends and family joined us as well, including representatives from our sister clubs. I'm hoping they will help us to get to know themselves and their Clubs better during the coming season. Attending from our Sister Clubs were ...



Commodore Todd and Lady Maria at 2026 Commodore's Ball

**I-LYA REPRESENTATION:** West Shore is "Getting into the Mix in 2026" with I-LYA as three of our

members from both WSSC and their home clubs: Alec Chabalowski (WSSC) is I-LYA Junior Sail Chair, Todd Duffet (GIYC) is I-LYA Vice President, and Dave Monk (EMBC) is I-LYA Fleet Captain. In fact, most of our members are also members of several other local clubs.

As part of the overall boating community, West Shore Sail Club represents the best of community involvement and sportsmanship in sailing - whether racing or cruising. We are well represented in the Great Lakes boating community on both ice and water.

**A BUSY YEAR EVEN BEFORE WE SPLASH:** So

far this year, Maria and I have been out on the ice for the Toledo Ice Festival and a Walleye's hockey game as part of our WSSC car cruise activities. Next we enjoyed an afternoon inside the Little Caesar's Arena for a "behind the scenes" tour along with several great stories about the home of our favorite teams told by our own WSSC PC Dave Monk.



- EMBC—PC Dave Monk
- NCYC—PC BILL PRIBE & LADY DONNA
- FYC—RC DAVID BUTTERFIELD & LADY BRIDGET
- GIYC—PC MARK SAWKA & LADY SHEREE
- AYC—RC ANTHONY CEBULL & LADY LUCY

2026 Commodore Todd Harris sails FANDANGO (a Catalina 30) with Lady Maria Gonzàlez

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR for these MAY & JUNE EVENTS

**\* MAY 7 at 7:30pm General Membership Meeting \***

at Whiskeys on the Water — 6:30pm social hour — 7:30pm meeting

**DON'T MISS OUR ANNUAL SWAP MEET BEFORE AND AFTER THE MEETING!**

\* Buoy work day May 2 at 9:00am at FYC \*

\* Buoy LAUNCH Saturday May 9 leave GBY gas dock at 8:30am—leave FYC at 9:00am \*

\* **Racing Competitors'/Skippers' Meeting — Tue. May 12 7:00pm at FYC\***

\* **ICE BREAKER "CRUISE" Saturday May 9 at 3:00pm until ? \***

(see ads on pages 7 & 13 for details)

\* **Next Cruising Committee Meeting — at the Memorial Day Weekend Cruise \***

\* *Deadline for the MAY Starboard Tack articles, flyers, ads, photos is Friday, May 8 \**

**Commodore (continued)**

**UPCOMING ICE BREAKER CRUISE:** Soon it will be time for our Ice Breaker car cruise, hosted by PC/Director Carver Dumke & Lady Allison. And then, finally, it will be time to get our keels wet as we “splash” into the (currently cold) waters of Lake Erie for what’s sure to be a fun-filled season of sailing.

Sincerely,  
**2026 Commodore Todd Harris**  
 wssccommodore@gmail.com



March Car Cruise fun with the West Shore gang at Little Caesars Arena. A fabulous tour with tour guide PC Dave Monk!



**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

**FIRST THURSDAYS** (except as noted in club calendar) ... Social Gathering starts at 7:00PM ... **MEETING starts at 7:30PM**  
 Meetings are typically "hybrid" — both **LIVE at Whiskeys on the Water** and on **ZOOM**

**LIVE MEETING LOCATION: WHISKEYS ON THE WATER** at 2903 Biddle Avenue, Wyandotte, at the southeast corner of Oak and Biddle. Meeting will be held in the upstairs space — there is an elevator available. Enjoy the upstairs bar. **COME EARLY AND ENJOY DINNER** before (or during) the meeting. The whole menu is available starting at 6:30 and throughout the evening.

**Online "ZOOM" MEETING LOCATION** is emailed by the Secretary to Members and Friends the week of the meeting.

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## \* COMPETITORS'/SKIPPER'S MEETING—TUESDAY MAY 12TH 7PM AT FYC \*

From the 2026 Vice Commodore (including Racing Committee)

Mike Soltis



### RACING SEASON—HERE BEFORE YOU

**KNOW IT:** Racing season is fast approaching with the opening race of the WNATR Spring Series just a couple of weeks away on Wednesday, May 20. Thank you Racing Committee for the planning and organizing the 2026 Racing Season.



Fleet Captain—Racing



Racing Committee



WSSC  
Lighthouse  
Challenge  
Regatta

### WNATR SERIES REGISTRATION & COMPETITORS (SKIPPER'S) MEETING:

The WNATR Competitors (Skippers) Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 12 in the FYC dining room at 7:00 PM to review courses and sailing instructions. Thanks to Dick Synowiec for getting us permission to use the FYC dining room for this meeting.

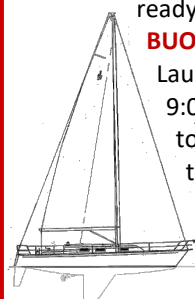
Chris McCardell turned the WNATR registration live in Notice of Race on April 1 (no foolin'). He requests that you sign up on [NoticeOfRace.net](http://NoticeOfRace.net) and email (or snail mail) him the race application and a copy of your PHRF certificate. Payment can be made

online using Zeffy (link on [WSSC website](http://WSSC website) and race application form), check, or cash. Thanks, Chris! If you don't have a PHRF certificate, contact either of our PHRF-LE Measurers, Dick Synowiec or Doug Howe.

But before the first race, some last-minute preparations still need to be completed. Dick and Bertie Synowiec have graciously volunteered to bring home the 2 new racing buoys that we ordered from the Rolyon Buoy factory in Cedar, Wisconsin. Thanks for transporting our stowaways and saving WSSC the shipping charges, Dick and Bertie. The buoys have been manufactured with the WSSC contact information already painted on the buoys at the factory. After the buoys arrive, we will still need help on for buoy prep and launch.

**BUOY PREP DAY—SATURDAY MAY 2:** Buoy Prep Day will begin at 9:00am on Saturday, May 2 at FYC. Meet in the trailer storage area behind the grounds barn where the buoys were stored for the winter. Work that needs to be accomplished is as follows: paint the compass points on the new buoys, transfer and seal the T-handles from the old buoys to the new ones, paint a new phone number on all nine buoys, and replace/repair any damaged portions of the buoy anchor chains. It should be a full morning to get them ready for the season.

**BUOY LAUNCH DAY—SATURDAY MAY 9:** Buoy Launch Day will begin by meeting at FYC at 9:00am on Saturday, May 9 to move the buoys to the "H" dock for loading, and then taking them out to the race course area south of Bar Point in Canadian waters. Tim Steffke has



2026 Vice Commodore Mike Soltis sails KINGFISHER (a J-37) with Lady Lana Hawkins

agreed, once again, to borrow and skipper the boat that facilitates transporting and setting the buoys in the race course. Thanks, Tim. That boat is perfect for the job, which would be a lot harder without that boat and the experienced skipper (you).

### CANADIAN COAST GUARD

**PERMISSION:** Speaking of which,

Fleet Captain—Racing Chris McCardell has informed me that we have received an affirmative response from his letter requesting that the Canadian Coast Guard grant us permission to set our buoys in their waters in the same locations as last year. Thanks, Chris, for keeping us legal.

**SPECIALTY RACES:** WSSC will run two specialty races this year, the Lighthouse Challenge on Saturday, August 15, as well as the Jack & Jill Race on Sunday, September 6. The Afterglow Party following the LHC race will be at the Grosse Ile Recreation Pavilion at Waters Edge, just behind The Topsy Fish at the corner of West River Road and Bellevue Road. This is the location that was used two years ago. It's near the Grosse Ile Recreation Department pool.

**2026 WSSC LHC CHARITY PARTNER:** As mentioned last month, the 2026 Light House Challenge Charity Partner is Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association (GLLKA) <https://www.gllka.org/>. They restored and maintain the



### WSSC 2026 RACING CALENDAR

**RACING COMMITTEE MEETING** Wed. FEB. 25 at 7pm

**Racing Committee Meeting—Wed. April 8**  
7:00pm at Soltis/Hawkins house

**Competitors'/Skippers' Meeting—Tue. May 12**  
7-9pm at FYC

### 2026 WSSC SPECIALTY RACES

**Lighthouse Challenge Regatta—August 15**  
and charity afterglow supporting GLLKA

**Jack & Jill Race—September 6**

### 2026 WNATR RACING SEASON

**Buoy Prep Day—Sat. May 2** (morning meet at FYC)

**Buoy Launch—Sat. May 9** (10am meet at FYC)

**Wed. Spring Series—May 20, 27, Jun. 10, 17, 24**

**Summer Series—Jul. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

**Fall Series—Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26, Sep. 2**

**Buoy Retrieval—Sat. Sep. 19** (10am meet at FYC)

### 2026 WSSC RACING AWARDS NIGHT

Oct. 21—7:30pm

## Vice Commodore (continued)

St. Helena Lighthouse (Light Station) in the Straits of Mackinac. At right are some photos of the St. Helena Lighthouse. You might remember last year's after-meeting presentation discussing the restoration of this lighthouse.

**LOOKING FORWARD TO AN EXCITING AND COMPETITIVE 2026 RACING SEASON!**

Sincerely,

**2026 Vice Commodore Mike Soltis**

wsscvicecommodore@gmail.com



WOW! THAT'S A BIG BUOY! Dick and Bertie brought home two new WSSC racing buoys from the Rolyon buoy factory in Cedar, Wisconsin.



St. Helena, the GLLKA-owned lighthouse in the Straits of Mackinac (top) the main group of buildings, (middle) Tower Cam view down on the Boathouse, dock and Assistant Keepers House (bottom) the Boy Scout yawl Retriever leaving the mooring ball and headed toward Mackinaw City



### NEWS FROM PHRF-LE REGARDING 2026 CERTIFICATE RENEWALS

from the PHRF-LE website via PC Dick Synowiec (PHRF-LE Measurer)

<https://phrf-le.org/information-and-forms/>

**2026 Renewal Notices:** 2026 renewals were emailed on March 13th to all members with a certificate in 2025. If you do not have an email address registered with us, you will receive a renewal notice by regular mail. If you did not receive an email, please check your spam folder first and then send an email to [phrfl@gmail.com](mailto:phrfl@gmail.com) and we will resend. If you have not been a member for several years and need a renewal letter, please send an email to [phrfl@gmail.com](mailto:phrfl@gmail.com).

The 2026 Renewal Fee remains the same at \$40.00.

**RENEWALS AFTER MAY 15TH WILL BE \$50.00:** Payment can be made using Venmo. The venmo user name is @PHRF-LE, or use [phrfl@gmail.com](mailto:phrfl@gmail.com); Registered Phone #: 440-667-0745. Or send a check by regular mail. You can also pay by credit card with the link on the home page.

**2026 Certificates:** 2026 Certificates will be emailed upon renewal.

Registration, courses, and race results can be found on the Notice Of Race website. <http://noticeofrace.net/>



**FINDING RACING SIGN-UP AND INFORMATION:** Racing registrations, sailing instructions, courses, and **results** for WNATR, WSSC Specialty Races, and races sponsored by other clubs, can be found on the Notice Of Race website at <http://noticeofrace.net>

**\* PLEASE VISIT OUR LHC SPONSORS WHO HELP MAKE THIS CHALLENGE A SUCCESS \***



# WEST SHORE SAIL CLUB

2025

## 23RD ANNUAL LIGHTHOUSE CHALLENGE

Thank you to our sponsors and donors for your generosity in supporting our Lighthouse Challenge charity partner:



“SAILING THE RIVER, WRITING OURSELVES”

FOR MORE INFORMATION on Detroit Story Lab  
<https://sites.lsa.umich.edu/detroit-river-story-lab/>



WSSC 2025 Commodore  
**Jonathan P. Cotter**  
and  
**Lady Helena Thornton**

WSSC 2025 Vice Commodore  
**Todd Harris**  
and  
**Lady Maria Gonzalez**

WSSC Past Commodore 1982  
**Brother John Brendan, AF**  
and  
**Lady Lea Ellwood-Filkins**

**Matt Dubois**  
**Amy Deller-Antieau**

# WHISKEYS ON THE WATER

- Join your friends at West Shore Sail club for our monthly general membership meetings and programs on the **FIRST THURSDAY** of each month, upstairs at Whiskeys on the Water at Biddle and Oak in Wyandotte.
- If you would like to join our mailing list to receive the **STARBOARD TACK** newsletter, send a note to [wsscmembershipchair@gmail.com](mailto:wsscmembershipchair@gmail.com)

## \* NEXT CRUISING COMMITTEE MEETING at the Memorial Weekend Cruise \*

From the 2026 Rear Commodore (including Cruising Committee)

Lana Hawkins



### REAR COMMODORE'S KINGFISHER (AND OTHER THINGS) UPDATE:

I don't know about you but I feel like it's time to start working on the boat!

We have a manual foot pump for our kitchen sink that finally failed last fall as I was pumping out the last bit of water in the holding tanks—that needs replacing. And there's a new alternator to install. Hopefully this one makes the tachometer work consistently. It definitely had a loose wire. And then here's hoping that the closed loop for the coolant goes back together without dripping, as well as the diesel fuel lines that started weeping again

last year. And then the torn boat cover needs repair. Don't forget the bottom paint. And hopefully the water will rise enough to get in and out of the boat well.

### UPDATE ON SPEAKERS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Here is the speaker and meeting activity roster for the upcoming GMMs.

- MAY — Annual WSSC Swap Meet
- JUNE – Matt Bounds "Sailing and sailboat racing have been my passions for over fifty years." Matt is an active competitor in several one-design classes. A race officiate and judge. A World Sailing certified International Race Officer and US Sailing National Judge. And more....!

Do we have any questions for Matt that you want me to ask him to speak about in June? If so please let me know so he can prepare.

- AUGUST – Kevin Arnold from Lake Erie Metropark on the topic of the Hawkfest
- SEPTEMBER – (pending) John Samuelson speaking about his experience at the International Seafarer Center in Brunswick, GA
- OCTOBER or NOVEMBER — We're hoping that Harry Jones will speak about the Detroit Community Sailing Center
- DECEMBER – Holiday Party & Charity Drive

**SUMMER CRUISING—WHAT'S THE AGENDA FOR THE WEEK-LONG CRUISE?** We need to decide on how to fill out the first part of the weeklong cruise this summer which goes from July 25<sup>th</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup>. John Kukla suggested we try for an anchorage because it will free you from expensive and sometimes tricky docking situations. **Any ideas?**

The first portion is open for ideas. Here is a suggestion: Pelee Island, Middle Bass and possibly North Bass Island anchorage of the



2026 Rear Commodore Lana Hawkins sails KINGFISHER (a J-37) with Gentleman Mike Soltis

mooring balls if they are installed. I'll be sending emails to the cruising roster for input — or feel free to email, text or call with your ideas.

The second part will be at South Bass Island for the Senior Sail.

### PORT CAPTAINS ARE NEEDED FOR:

- Commodore's Tea (June)
  - Weeklong Summer Cruise (July): Put-In-Bay (and the first part ports that are not decided)
- 2026 – WEEKEND AND LONGER CRUISES**
- May 9 Ice Breaker Land Cruise. Grosse Ile, MI. Port Captains PC Carver and Lady Allison Dumke.
  - May 22 – 25 Memorial Day – Safe Harbor Toledo Beach LaSalle, MI. Port Captain Dave Wright.



### UPCOMING AFTER-MEETING PROGRAMS

March 5: Cruising with Friends in the BVI

April 2: US ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS  
Water Predictions for Summer Sailing

May 7: Annual Swap Meet

June 4: Matt Bounds "Sailing and Sailboat Racing"

August 6: Kevin Arnold, Lake Erie Metropark "Hawkfest"

### WSSC 2026 CRUISING CALENDAR

#### NEXT CRUISING COMMITTEE MEETING

at the Memorial Day Weekend cruise

#### WSSC 2026 CRUISING CALENDAR

#### ICEBREAKER "LAND" CRUISE—SAT. MAY 9 AT 3PM

(after the racing buoy launch)

at PC Carver and Lady Allison Dumke's, Grosse Ile

#### MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND CRUISE

FRI.-MON. MAY 22-25

to Safe Harbor Toledo Beach Marina—Port Captain: Dave Wright

and Cruising Committee Meeting

Sun. May 24 at the Memorial Day Weekend Cruise

#### COMMODORE'S TEA—SAT. JUN. 19-21

to Leamington, Ontario—Port Captain: (TBD)

#### WEEK-LONG CRUISE JULY 25-AUGUST 2

PART I—(Lake Erie Islands TBD)

#### PART II—in conjunction with I-LYA SENIOR SAIL REGATTA

at Bay Week JUL. 30 - AUG. 2 at Put-in-Bay Yacht Club

Port Captains: (TBD)

#### LATE SUMMER CRUISE—AUG. 21-23

to Bay View Yacht Club of Toledo (confirmed)

at BVYC's Homecoming Weekend—Port Captain: (TBD)

#### HARVEST MOON CRUISE—SEP. 25-27 (dates to be reconfirmed)

to Monroe Boat Club—Port Captain: Dan Williamson

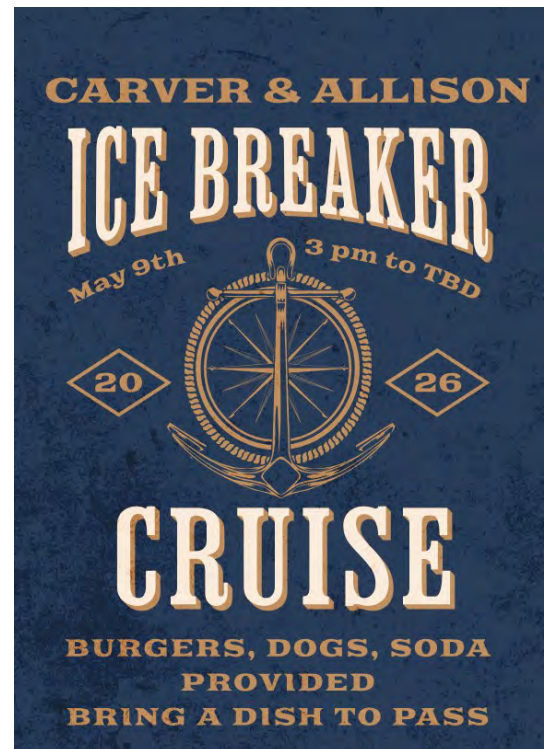
## Rear Commodore (continued)

- June 19 – 21 Commodore’s Tea – Leamington, ON. *Port Captain TBD.*
- July 30 – Aug 2 Week-Long Summer Cruise core portion at Put-In-Bay as part of Senior Sail Week in the Rendezvous Class for Sailboats only at PIBYC PIB Harbor. *Sailing ports before Senior Sail need to be decided. Port Captain TBD.*
- August 21 – 23 Late Summer Cruise — TBD Location or Sailing to Toledo Yacht Club, OH needs to be on a different weekend. We’re working on it. Port Captain VC Mike Soltis.
- Sept. 25 – 27 Harvest Moon Cruise — to Monroe Boat Club. Dates will be confirmed by early September. Port Captain Dan Williamson.

**NEXT CRUISING COMMITTEE MEETING** – May 24 at 2 to 4 pm at Toledo Beach Marina (at the WSSC Memorial Weekend Cruise). Hosts Vice Commodore Mike Soltis and Rear Commodore Lana Hawkins.

Sincerely,

2026 Rear Commodore Lana Hawkins  
wssc Rear Commodore@gmail.com



### Annual West Shore Sail Club Swap Meet

**May 7th 2026**

after WSSC General Meeting  
Whiskey's on the Water



Yes ! Perfect timing as you dig into your boat prep routine: search your garage, basement, attic and anchor locker for all the treasures you don't need anymore but that guy or gal with the "new" sailboat surely does.  
What do we see at the swap meet ?

*winches - rope - sheaves - cleats - shackles  
anchors - PFDs - teak plywood - cabin fittings  
Maybe some unopened West 105 epoxy?  
A barely used X-drive carbon fiber racing jib etc.  
... OK well maybe what you can bring upstairs.*

**WSSC SWAP MEET**

**HOW IT WORKS**

**SELL:** Tag or mark your item with...

- ✓ your NAME, and
- ✓ your ASKING PRICE or swap criteria

**BUY:** When you find something you like...

- ✓ contact the person who is "selling", and
- ✓ work out a price or SWAP between you

## From the Secretary (including Correspondence and Reciprocity)

Patti Duffett



**FOCUS:** The primary focus this month has been maintaining accurate club records, managing correspondence, and supporting the

administrative needs of the Executive Committee.

**MINUTES AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS:**

Meeting minutes from the previous Executive Committee meeting and General Membership Meeting were prepared and will be distributed to members via the meeting notice email. These draft minutes are available for review, and members are encouraged to submit any corrections or additions prior to formal approval to [wsscexecutivesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:wsscexecutivesecretary@gmail.com)

**ON-GOING TASKS—ORGANIZING THE**

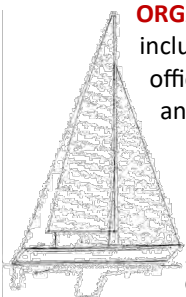
**ORGANIZATION'S RECORDS:** Club records, including membership documentation and official correspondence, have been organized and updated to ensure continuity and



accessibility. Communications received by the Secretary were reviewed and forwarded to the appropriate officers or committees as necessary. Routine administrative duties were completed, including maintaining the club's document archives and assisting with preparations for upcoming meetings and seasonal activities.



Respectfully submitted,  
2026 Secretary Patti Duffett  
[wsscexecutivesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:wsscexecutivesecretary@gmail.com)



2026 Secretary Patti Duffett sails GO BABY! (an LS10) with Todd Duffett

## From the 2026 Treasurer

Mike Fluegemann



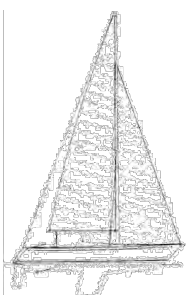
**NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS—ONLINE PAYMENT AVAILABLE:** The online payment system through Zeffy is a great way to pay for events, make donations, and pay your membership because the money gets deposited into our bank account directly.

**GENERAL FINANCIAL UPDATES:** The current monthly financial report was presented at the General Membership Meeting and is available to WSSC members by contacting the Treasurer at [wsscfinancial@gmail.com](mailto:wsscfinancial@gmail.com)

Sincerely,  
2026 Treasurer Michael Fluegemann  
[wsscfinancial@gmail.com](mailto:wsscfinancial@gmail.com)



You can scan this QR code to renew using Zeffy



2026 Treasurer Mike Fluegemann crews on GO BABY! (an LS10) with Todd & Patti Duffett

# From the 2026 Membership Officer

Todd Duffett



**MEMBERSHIP TAB ON OUR WEBPAGE:** Be sure to check out our Membership tab and the rest of our website at: [www.westshoresailclub.org](http://www.westshoresailclub.org)



**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:** Membership renewals are still coming in and we expect this to continue following a personal email sent out to those on the list who haven't renewed as yet. The \$10.00 late fee is in effect for those who have not paid up and are intending to renew for 2026.

**TWO WAYS TO PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE:** Membership renewals are nearly complete. Thank you for those who have already paid their dues through Zeffy!

**You can still pay 2026 dues from the WSSC website at:**

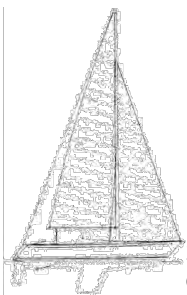
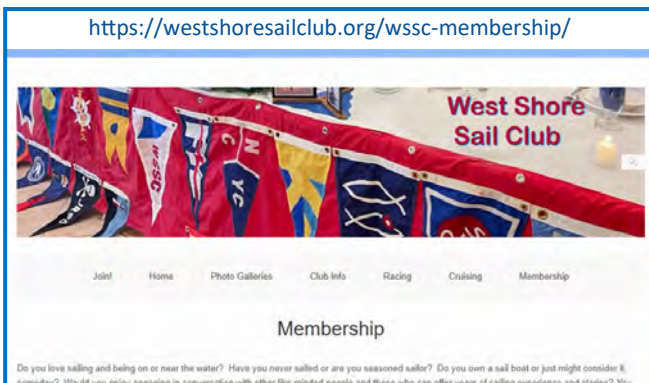
<https://westshoresailclub.org/pay-dues/>

**Here is a direct link to pay dues using Zeffy:**

<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/c3c21d54-28f1-4fcf-aa9e-85bbd2cb1f27>

Sincerely,

**2026 Membership Officer Todd Duffett**  
wsscmembershipchair@gmail.com



2026 Membership Officer Todd Duffett sails GO BABY! (an LS10) with Patti Duffett

Join us at our GMMs (General Membership Meetings)...  
**WE ALWAYS HAVE BIRTHDAY CAKE!  
AND FUN!  
AND OTHER IMPORTANT STUFF!**

## CELEBRATING MEMBER BIRTHDAYS!



### MAY BIRTHDAYS



- Lyle A.
- Michael B,
- Alec C.
- April C.
- Lea E.
- Kimberly K.
- Amy K.
- PC Chuck L.
- Juliann L.
- PC Tim L.
- Roy P.
- Jade S.



Our WSSC April birthday celebrants Bertie and Karen share their delicious cake with everyone who attended the GMM. Mmmmmmm! Thanks!

**WSSC TRADITIONAL BIRTHDAY SONG**  
is sung at each Membership Meeting:  
**This tribute to our Birthday members**  
is sung with **GUSTO**  
(you don't even have to sing it in tune)  
**to the tune of Ta-Ra-Ra-BOOM-De-Ay!**

**This is your**  
**BIRTHday song!**  
**It isn't VErY long!**

We join our birthday celebrants after every monthly membership meeting for birthday cake, compliments of ELLIOTT'S BAKERY!

# Members asea .... A Membership "Meeting" in the British Virgin Islands



The Duffetts and Bohls met up with John and Ana Kukla while all were sailing in the British Virgin Islands—the Duffetts and Bohls on a charter, and the Kuklas continuing their Caribbean adventures on KEY OF SEA.

With the Kuklas at Saba Rock



Bohls and Duffetts with Kuklas at Cooper Island



**\* ANNUAL SWAP MEET AT THE MAY 7TH MEMBERSHIP MEETING \***

**STANDING COMMITTEE NEWS:  
ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

**Jane Bersie, Chairperson**  
westshoresailclub.org/events



**YOU "BET" WE HAD A FABULOUS TIME AT THE APRIL CAR CRUISE TO THE COMMODORE'S BALL:** Don't miss our Facebook page and the May issue of the Starboard Tack for photo fun from our premiere annual event celebrating our newest Commodore, Todd Harris, and his Lady Maria Gonzalez. The theme was a night at the casino and it was loads of fun and excitement. A great time was had by all!



**MAY 7TH SWAP MEET AT THE MAY GMM:** It's Spring! And you know what that means! It's time to clear out your lazarette, your garage, your boat locker, and share your "Treasures from the Deep" at the Annual WSSC Swap meet coming up at the May 7th General Membership Meeting. Tag your items with your price and/or swap criteria, then be sure to get there early to find some prime table space.



**MAY 9TH ICEBREAKER "CRUISE" POTLUCK AT THE DUMKE'S:** Is this our last "Car Cruise" of the season, or our first "Cruise Cruise"? It doesn't matter because the food is always great and the camaraderie is always the best. The club provides hot dogs & hamburgers & beer & soda. YOU provide a dish to pass! Then, it's "A Great Time To Be Had By All!" See you there! (see the advert on page 13 for more details and location)

Sincerely,  
Jane Bersie, Activities Committee Chairperson  
bersi001@yahoo.com

# WSSC SWAP MEET May 7th 2026

## HOW IT WORKS

**SELL:** Tag or mark your item with...

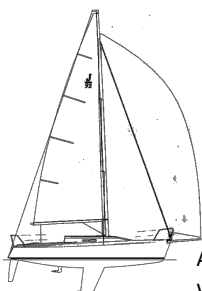
- ▶ your NAME, and
- ▶ your ASKING PRICE or swap criteria

**BUY:** When you find something you like...

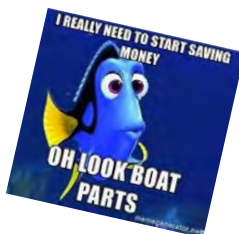
- ▶ contact the person who is "selling", and
- ▶ work out a price or SWAP between you

**WSSC 2025/2026 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR**

- JANUARY 8**  
Change of Watch at the GMM
- FEBRUARY 15**  
Toledo Walleye Hockey
- MARCH 29**  
WSSC tours of Little Caesar's Arena with PC Dave Monk
- APRIL 11**  
Car Cruise to the Commodore's Ball!
- MAY 7**  
Annual SWAP MEET before and after the meeting at Whiskeys on the Water
- MAY 9**  
**ICEBREAKER "LAND" CRUISE AT 3PM**  
(after the racing buoy launch)  
at PC Carver and Lady Allison Dumke's, Grosse Ile  
*[June—September on hiatus]*
- OCTOBER**  
Wed. Oct. 21 Car Cruise to WSSC RACING AWARDS NIGHT  
Car Cruise to WSSC ANNUAL HARVEST • FEST  
Sat. Oct. 24 Car Cruise to HarvestFest  
Sloppy Joe Pot Luck • Hayride  
and S'MORE FUN than a barrel of sailors!
- NOVEMBER**  
Car Cruise to Thursday Burger Night at MBC
- DECEMBER 3**  
Holiday Party and Charity Drive



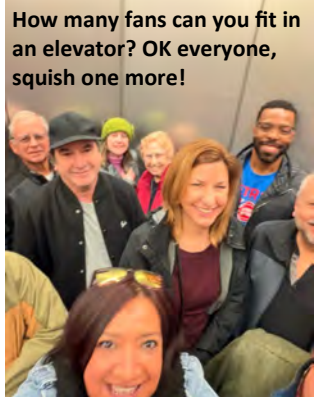
Activities Chairperson Jane is co-owner and sails with her family on FAMILY TRUCKSTER a J-92 30'



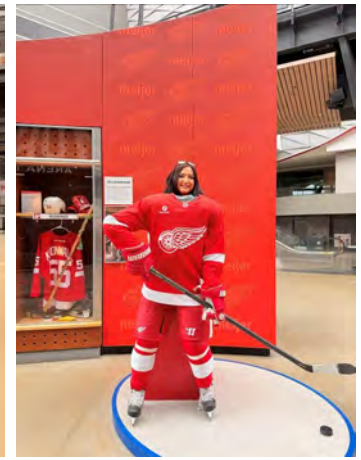
# March Car Cruise: WSSC tours Little Caesar's Arena with PC David Monk



PC David Monk did a fantastic job getting us the access to this tour, and we are thankful that he was our guide. Thanks, Dave!



How many fans can you fit in an elevator? OK everyone, squish one more!



I don't remember these two on the announced rosters.



Definitely penalty box material.



# Activities: Upcoming Event Information for WSSC, Sister Clubs, and Friends

## Annual West Shore Sail Club Swap Meet

**May 7th 2026**

after WSSC General Meeting  
Whiskey's on the Water



Yes ! Perfect timing as you dig into your boat prep routine: search your garage, basement, attic and anchor locker for all the treasures you don't need anymore but that guy or gal with the "new" sailboat surely does. What do we see at the swap meet ?

*winches - rope - sheaves - cleats - shackles  
anchors - PFDs - teak plywood - cabin fittings  
Maybe some unopened West 105 epoxy?  
A barely used X-drive carbon fiber racing jib etc.  
... OK well maybe what you can bring upstairs.*

**WSSC SWAP MEET**

**HOW IT WORKS**

**SELL:** Tag or mark your item with...

- ✓ your NAME, and
- ✓ your ASKING PRICE or swap criteria

**BUY:** When you find something you like...

- ✓ contact the person who is "selling", and
- ✓ work out a price or SWAP between you



## West Shore Sail Club

Sail in, row in, power in, drive in .... no matter how you get here, don't miss the



# Ice Breaker Cruise Party

**May 9, 2026 3PM – TBD**

Carver & Allison Dumke's  
7722 Stout Ave - Grosse Ile, MI 48138  
(313) 377-2446

Please bring a dish to pass



Let's fire up the cruising season with a fun time discussing the finer points of martini mixing, pouring margaritas, sipping Jefferson, cooling Labatts and sailing to all ports – ready to enjoy it all!

Hamburgers & Hot Dogs on the Grill – provided! *AGAIN THIS YEAR – BEER & SODA PROVIDED*

*Please bring a dish to pass!*



## OTHER COMMITTEE NEWS

### COMMODORE'S BALL

### Maria Gonzàlez, Chairperson

**A FABULOUS TIME WAS HAD BY ALL:** Join us in next month's Starboard Tack for tons of photo fun from the 2026 Commodore's Ball celebrating Commodore Todd Harris and Lady Maria Gonzalez. The Ball was celebrated just one day away from the 54th Anniversary of WSSC!

Sincerely,  
Lady Maria Gonzàlez, Chairperson  
wssccomb@gmail.com



# OTHER COMMITTEE NEWS: MEMORY ALBUM IN OUR 53RD YEAR



**HELP-WANTED:** For many years Frank Pavia helped members — new and old — to assemble their photo memories in the WSSC Memory Album; it's the "photo wall" for our club. Frank made sure the album got to meetings and events (in its own "trailer" which was custom-built by Frank). The Memory Album is such an important and fun part of WSSC. Can you help?

Sincerely,  
**Commodore Todd Harris**  
**(Acting) Album-Keeper**

Pictured at left are some members and friends looking at the beautiful WSSC club album, created by Life Member Frank Pavia for the 40th Anniversary of the club. Members add photo memories to their pages with each new sailing season.



Pictured above is the beautiful wood-carved cover of the WSSC Memory Album, created by Life Member Frank Pavia for the 40th Anniversary of the club.

## From The Webmaster

Lana Hawkins

**GOOGLE PHONE NUMBER:** The webmaster has secured a google voice number for "free" to use on the racing buoys. The phone Number for WSSC (734) 288-7885.

**ACCESS TO PREVIOUS ISSUES OF THE STARBOARD TACK:** Your current Starboard Tack is accessible from the website, as are Tacks from the past.

**CREW! A FORM FOR YOU!** A Crew Sign-up Form was added so we can connect people looking to sail with sailboats and captains. When you fill out the form the information goes the Membership Officer. Todd Duffett will contact members about interested sailors. I put this page on the menu under Join! If you have a better idea for where it should go please let me know. Also the form doesn't send a form received email to the person that filled it out. Working on it.

**CLUB EVENTS CALENDAR:** All WSSC events that I am aware of are on the website calendar. Lighthouse Challenge page updates are coming soon. This involves input from the Vice Commodore.

**WEBMASTER EMAIL:** The official email for the webmaster is web@westshoresailclub.org. If you need anything updated on the website or see mistakes, please let me know so I can fix it asap. I do check emails often. Also let me know if you have suggestions for the site.


**MEMBER LOGIN PASSWORD:** If you need the password for the Member Login section, please contact the Membership Officer via email at wsscmembershipchair@gmail.com

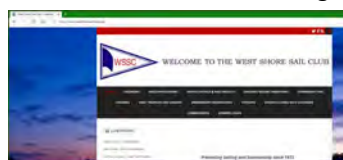
Sincerely,  
**Lana Hawkins, Webmaster**  
web@westshoresailclub.org





 VISIT US ON **FACEBOOK** for photos, news, event updates, and more!  
[www.facebook.com/groups/WestShoreSailClub](http://www.facebook.com/groups/WestShoreSailClub)



 VISIT OUR **WEBSITE** for links to calendars, membership, newsletters, and more!  
[www.westshoresailclub.org](http://www.westshoresailclub.org)



 VISIT US ON **INSTAGRAM** for photos from our races, cruises, and other events!  
[www.instagram.com/westshoresailclub/](http://www.instagram.com/westshoresailclub/)



**AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS — NEWS & INFORMATION**

NEW INFORMATION IS MARKED WITH \*

**BoatUS/WEST MARINE**

Rep. PC Doug Howe

WSSC remains a co-operating group with BOAT/US. Our membership number is GA81337S. While our members no longer get reduced membership fees, we still can receive discounts on towing insurance and more. PC Doug reminds us that ONE GREAT BENEFIT is the Boat U.S. magazine, published every other month, and each purchase acquires points towards a future purchase. PC Carver shares that the Towing Insurance can save you many hundreds of dollars for even a short tow and would be well worth the price of membership.



See benefits at: <https://www.boatus.com/products-and-services/membership>.  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT Doug Howe at [d1howe@wowway.com](mailto:d1howe@wowway.com)

**I-LYA (INTER-LAKE YACHTING ASSOCIATION)**

Rep. PC Kathy Howe

WSSC is a member of I-LYA and every member of an I-LYA club is automatically a member of I-LYA. See I-LYA on social media for the latest schedules and updates:



- WEBSITE: <https://i-lya.org/>
- Facebook: I-LYA Inter-Lake Yachting Association <https://www.facebook.com/ILYAInterLakeYachtingAssociation>
- I-LYA Junior Sailing: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ilyajuniorsailing>
- Inter-Lake Yachting Association History: <https://www.facebook.com/interlakeyachtingassociationhistory>
- The latest I-LYA newsletter is available at <https://i-lya.org/i-lya-news/>

SPRING MEETING: March 27-28, 2026, at Detroit Metro Airport Sheraton  
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON I-LYA CONTACT Kathy Howe at [kahowe@wowway.com](mailto:kahowe@wowway.com)

**PHRF-LE (Performance Handicap Racing Fleet-Lake Erie)**

(Measurers PC Doug Howe & PC Dick Synowiec)

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED:** While PC Dick Synowiec and PC Doug Howe continue their service to PHRF-LE and to the club s as PHRF-LE measurers, the club is still looking for a volunteer to be a PHRF-LE representative. Please contact PC Doug Howe or PC Dick Synowiec to find out more about this important position. AND DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR CERTIFICATE (see page 4)  
The PHRF-LE website is [www.phrf-le.org](http://www.phrf-le.org)



**U.S. SAILING.ORG**

Rep. PC Doug Howe

WSSC continues to be a member of U.S. Sailing. However, the current level of membership no longer provides for discounted membership rates for club members. U.S. Sailing still provides services for sailors as a part of membership. Individual members can join or renew at a discount at: <https://ussailing.org>



**Members can download the current Racing Rules onto their phone.**  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT Doug Howe [d1howe@wowway.com](mailto:d1howe@wowway.com).

**GLOBAL ENTRY (Canadian Customs and U.S. Customs & Border Protection /USA RE-ENTRY)**

Rep. PC Doug Howe

**IMPORTANT HEADS UP FROM DOUG ON CANADIAN CUSTOMS:** "If one does not properly check into Canadian Customs, you can be subjected to a fine of not less than \$1,000."



**DO YOU HAVE YOUR DTOPS DECAL?** Boats of length 30' or more need a DTOPS decal to RETURN to the U.S. This number as well as a Trusted Traveler number (may not be required for boaters) should be entered into CBP Roam as well as passport numbers.

**CBP ROAM:** US re-entry via boat requires in-person customs clearance or the use of CBP Roam app. Boaters can use the Reporting Offsite Arrival-Mobile (CBP ROAM) app as a faster way to report their arrival in Michigan, Ohio, and other locations.



FOR MORE INFORMATION or to sign-up go to: <https://tftp.cbp.dhs.gov/> (Official Trusted Traveler Program Website | Department of Homeland Security (dhs.gov))

**NEXUS:** Also, for more extensive travel, Nexus is the least expensive method. The current cost is \$120 valid for 5 years. Information on Nexus and the other Trusted Traveler programs is at <https://tftp.cbp.dhs.gov/>

CTRL+click on this link to find helpful links on our club website: [westshoresailclub.org/visiting-canada/](https://westshoresailclub.org/visiting-canada/)

# THE WSSC "CORKBOARD"



**Elliott's**  
BAKERY AND COFFEE SHOP

Fresh bread, donuts, pies, cookies, and pastries. Custom cakes. Seasonal treats.

2636 W. Jefferson Ave.  
Trenton, MI 48183  
734-676-1940  
elliottsbakery.com

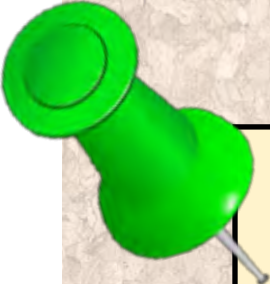
HOURS:  
Mon-Fri: 6am-6pm  
Sat: 6am-5:30pm  
Sun: Closed

Enjoy our full Espresso bar!

Thank you to Elliott's Bakery and Coffee Shop for your support over the years of our birthday celebrations. Your support makes our meetings quite delicious!

Thank you to this month's photo contributors: Lady Maria Gonzalez, Commodore Todd Harris, Patti Duffett, Ana Kukla, and Maria Gonzalez.

We couldn't do what we do without YOU!



**WSSC CRUISE SIGN-UP SHEET:**

Be sure to fill out the cruising sign up sheet once you know which cruises you plan to attend. Here is the link for the form (you can Ctrl+click on the link or copy and paste the address into your web browser):

<https://westshoresailclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/2025-Cruising-Log.xlsx>

**CORRECTED LINK**

**LETTERS OF RECIPROcity**

If you would like a copy of any letter for your cruising plans, send an email with your request to WSSC Secretary at [wsscexecutivesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:wsscexecutivesecretary@gmail.com)



**STARBOARD TACK** is the monthly newsletter of the West Shore Sail Club, Trenton, Michigan.

PUBLISHED 12 times annually, with a combined issue for June/July and a "calendar only" issue in late July. DISTRIBUTION by email to WSSC members, racers, and friends of the club, by posting to the club's Facebook page, and on the public section of the WSSC website. **ARTICLE AND AD DEADLINE IS FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH.** Submit all written information in Word or compatible format. Submit ads, graphics, photos in JPG, PNG, or PDF format. Please submit "high quality" (at least 600x600) graphics and photos. Contact Editor for ADVERTISING PRICES, SIZING, and DISCOUNT SCHEDULE. (Classified Ads for members are free.) The Starboard Tack is published mid-month.

**SUBMIT articles, classifieds, ads, and other information to [wsscstarboardtack@gmail.com](mailto:wsscstarboardtack@gmail.com)**

## WSSC CONTACTS for 2026

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & BOARD OF DIRECTORS <sup>+</sup> indicates Board of Directors

OFFICE	OFFICER	EMAIL
 Commodore <sup>+</sup>	Todd Harris	wssccommodore@gmail.com
 Vice Commodore <sup>+</sup>	Mike Soltis	wsscvicecommodore@gmail.com
 Rear Commodore <sup>+</sup>	Lana Hawkins	wssc Rear Commodore@gmail.com
Secretary <sup>+</sup>	Patti Duffett	wsscexecutivesecretary@gmail.com
Treasurer <sup>+</sup>	Michael Fluegemann	wsscfinancial@gmail.com
Membership Officer	Todd Duffett	wsscmembershipchair@gmail.com
Director <sup>+</sup>	PC 2017/2018 David Monk	david.monk@hotmail.com
Director <sup>+</sup>	PC 2012 Chuck Laskey	claskey1954@yahoo.com

### STANDING AND OTHER COMMITTEES <sup>\*</sup> indicates Standing Committee

OFFICE / COMMITTEE / ACTIVITY or EVENT	CONTACT	EMAIL
*Activities Chairperson	Jane Bersie	bersi001@yahoo.com
Advertising (ad placement)	Starboard Tack Editor	WSSCstarboardtack@gmail.com
*Audit Committee	Treasurer	wsscfinancial@gmail.com
Boat U.S. Representative	PC Doug Howe	d1howe@wowway.com
Budget Committee	Executive Committee	
Bylaws Committee	Past Commodores Committee	
Club Memory (Anniversary) Album	We need a volunteer!	send photos to joncotter@att.net
Commodore's Ball Committee Chairperson	Mariajose (Maryjo) Gonzalez	wssccomb@gmail.com
*Cruising Committee Chairperson	Rear Commodore	wssc Rear Commodore@gmail.com
Cruising Log Master	Rear Commodore	wssc Rear Commodore@gmail.com
Fleet Captain—Cruising	We need a volunteer!	
Fleet Captain—Racing (WNATR)	PC Chris McCardell	courttofficer@att.net
Fleet Captain—Racing (Specialty Races)	PC Chris McCardell	courttofficer@att.net
Facebook Page Administrator	(contact through WSSC Facebook page)	
Historian	Lea Ellwood-Filkins	leaf@ameritech.net
I-LYA Delegate	PC Kathy Howe	kahowe@wowway.com
M.C. (Commodore's Ball and Special Events Master of Ceremonies)		
Meeting Programs	Rear Commodore	wssc Rear Commodore@gmail.com
Membership Brochures	Todd Duffett	wsscmembershipchair@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor (Starboard Tack)	Lea Ellwood-Filkins	wsscstarboardtack@gmail.com
Nomination Committee	Past Commodores Committee	wssccommodore@gmail.com
*Past Commodores Committee Co-Chairpersons	PC Carver Dumke (Co-Chairperson) PC Dave Monk (Co-Chairperson)	cadumke@gmail.com david.monk@hotmail.com
PHRF-LE Delegate	We need a volunteer!	
PHRF-LE Measurer	PC Dick Synowiec PC Doug Howe	cptsnick1@gmail.com d1howe@wowway.com
Port Captains: Cruising Events	(see information on each Event in the Rear Commodore section or on our website)	
Port Captains: Specialty Races	(see information on each Event in the Vice Commodore section or on our website)	
*Racing Committee Chairperson	Vice Commodore	wsscvicecommodore@gmail.com
Social Media Moderator	Executive Committee	
Swap Meet Chairperson	PC Doug Howe	d1howe@wowway.com
Webmaster	Lana Hawkins	web@westshoresailclub.org -or- wsscweb48138@gmail.com
Website Committee Chairperson	Commodore	wssccommodore@gmail.com
WNATR Racing Committee Boat Chairperson	Fleet Captain—Racing	courttofficer@att.net (Chris McCardell)

WSSC ROLLING CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
WSSC Meetings & Events	Date & Time and Location	Event Contact
RED indicates WNATR racing event — BLUE indicates cruising event — ORANGE indicates specialty racing event — PURPLE indicates activities committee event		
<b>MAY 2026</b>		
• MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING ANNUAL SWAP MEET	MAY 7 *Thursday—7:30pm at Whiskeys on the Water PRE/POST-MEETING EVENT: ANNUAL SWAP MEET	Meeting: Commodore Swap Meet Event Chairperson
Starboard Tack DEADLINE	May 8 *Friday—11:59:59pm for May Starboard Tack Send articles, flyers, photos, etc. to wsscstarboardtack@gmail.com	Starboard Tack Editor
Racing BUOY PREP WORK PARTY	May 2 *Saturday morning (meet at FYC)	Vice Commodore
Racing BUOY LAUNCH	May 9 *Saturday—10:00am (ending in time to get to the Icebreaker Land Cruise) Meet-up location GBY and then Ford Yacht Club	Vice Commodore / Fleet Captain-Racing
• Cruise #1: ICEBREAKER "LAND" CRUISE	May 9 *Saturday—3:00-6:00pm with BBQ & Potluck Location/Port Captains: PC Carver and Lady Allison Dumke	Vice Commodore / Fleet Captain-Racing
Happy Mother's Day!	Sunday May 10	
• WNATR SKIPPERS'/COMPETITORS' MEETING	May 12 *Tuesday—7:00-9:00pm at Ford Yacht Club	
WNATR Practice	May 13 *Wednesday—6:50-9:00pm	Rear Commodore
• WNATR - Spring #1	May 20 *Wednesday—6:50pm	Vice Comm./Fleet Captain-Racing
• Cruise #2: MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND CRUISE with WSSC ANNUAL REUNION AND BBO	May 22-25 *Friday-Monday—to Safe Harbor Toledo Beach Port Captain: Dave Wright <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saturday 2pm Welcome Social</li> <li>• Saturday 4pm Dinner Reservations</li> <li>• SUNDAY—2:00pm CRUISING COMMITTEE MEETING and WSSC ANNUAL REUNION POTLUCK (BYO meat / grills available)—Bring a chair—BYOB</li> </ul>	Rear Commodore / Fleet Captain-Cruising
GIYC Day Race	May 24 *Saturday	Grosse Ile Yacht Club
• CRUISING COMMITTEE Meeting	May 24 *Sunday—2-4pm at Memorial Day Weekend Cruise	Rear Commodore / Fleet Captain-Cruising
• WNATR - Spring #2	May 27 *Wednesday—6:50pm	Vice Comm./Fleet Captain-Racing
<b>JUNE 2026</b>		
JUNE MEMBERSHIP MEETING	Jun. 4 *Thursday—7:30pm at Whiskeys on the Water PROGRAM: (TBD)	Meeting: Commodore Program: Rear Commodore
Starboard Tack DEADLINE for June/July issue	Jun. 5 *Friday—11:59:59pm for June Starboard Tack Send articles, flyers, photos, etc. to wsscstarboardtack@gmail.com	Starboard Tack Editor
TYC Mills Trophy Race (AYC)	Jun. 5-7 *Friday-Sunday (Toledo Harbor Light to Put-in-Bay)	Toledo Yacht Club & Storm Trysail Club
Opening of the Island (Grosse Ile)	Jun. 6-8 Opening of the Island and Blessing of the Fleet AMBC—FYC—GIYC—GLSBC—SBC—SSBC—WRYCC	
• Cruising Award Pre-Registrations Due	Jun. 10—Registration form on WSSC website	Cruising Log Master (Rear Commodore)
• WNATR - Spring #3	Jun. 10 *Wednesday—6:50pm	Vice Comm./Fleet Captain-Racing
• WNATR - Spring #4	Jun. 17 *Wednesday—6:50pm	Vice Comm./Fleet Captain-Racing
FYC Night Race	Jun. 19 *Friday	Ford Yacht Club
• Cruise #3: COMMODORE'S TEA	Jun. 19-21 *Friday-Sunday at Leamington Municipal Marina (Leamington, Ontario, Canada) Port Captain: (TBD)	Rear Commodore / Fleet Captain-Cruising
Happy Father's Day!	Sunday June 21	
FYC Solo Race	Jun. 22 *Monday	Ford Yacht Club
• WNATR - Spring #5	Jun. 24 *Wednesday—6:50pm	Vice Comm./Fleet Captain-Racing



# West Shore Sail Club

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- To promote the sport of sailing and seamanship at a moderate cost to the members
- To promote competitive aspects of sailing
- To bring to the sailing family the pleasure and good fellowship to be found in yachting