

The Intercom



Official Newsletter of the Interlake Sailing Class Association



April 2026



2026 Midwinters Great Start to the Season Fun, Family, Fellowship, Food & Fair Breezes!



From the President

By Jim Ward, Interlake #1425



Hello Interlake Family,

This time of year, always seems to be challenging. In Cleveland, we experienced 70-degree temps last week, but today it's snowing. Before we know it, warm temps will return, and we will finally be able to go sailing again.

I am very much looking forward to the upcoming sailing season. My twelve-year-old has told me multiple

times that he is really looking forward to skippering our Interlake in a regatta, which I am also looking forward to. He already has the Interlake Junior Nationals at NCYC circled on his calendar for the upcoming season. The rest of the family is also looking forward to the Nationals at NCYC, as they always put on a great event.

My wife has been busy with some new Interlake website duties. She asked me to thank Mike McClinchie for making the transition so seamless. The class is lucky to have Mike, and thank you again for all you do for us. That thank you is extended to all of those who graciously provide their time to serve on the other board positions. It's all of your time and love for the Interlake that has allowed the class to remain strong for so many years.

Looking forward to seeing you out on the water soon!

Jim



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Cover photos: Supplied by Steve Aspery

- Sunset
- Team R – Kate Harris, Nick Schmitt & Jeff Clark
- Team Aspery – Ashley Portale, Steve Aspery & Dave Aspery

From the Editor

By Sue Wills, Interlake #1372



Greetings!

I'm sure most of us are itching to throw off the covers & head out to the lakes. A few adventurous souls traveled south and already got some racing under their belts.

Inside this edition you'll find: The 2026 Travelers Series Schedule; preliminary info about Nationals; Results from 2025 Travelers series; Reports on what the Board has been busy prepping for the new season; Inspiration for the new season & more.

While we wait for sailing season to resume, ponder what we can do as individuals, clubs & the sailing class to promote sailing and encourage more folks to try it.

Let me know what's on your mind. A recurring theme this issue is sailing is Fun & a great activity done with Family.

If you see any interesting sailing articles, tips, or pictures send them my way to help me keep the issue full and interesting. I welcome any rigging, racing or fleet info for publication. Send them to me at Thwills@earthlink.net – please put INTERCOM in the subject line. You can also text me at 419-528-3226.



INTERLAKE NATIONALS NORTH CAPE YACHT CLUB

2026

Welcome!

Join Us for the 2026 Interlake Nationals

We're thrilled about this year's event and hope you are, too!

Our host club, North Cape Yacht Club in La Salle, Michigan, is preparing for an unforgettable event, and we're honored to have one of their major regattas this summer.

This website is packed with details about the regatta and venue, but if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us—we're happy to help!

General Regatta Question?

Contact:

Craig Koschalk

ncycregattas@gmail.com

What to Expect:

- 1 Top-Notch Racing
- 2 Competitive sailing at its best
- 3 Live Music
- 4 Fantastic Social Events
- 5 Exciting activities on and off the water
- 6 Delicious Dinners and camaraderie

This is shaping to be an incredible event, and we can't wait to see you there!

Get your Regatta Gear - Coming soon

Event Website:

<https://ncycregattas.wixsite.com/interlakenat2026>



INTERLAKE NATIONALS

2026

July 8 - 11

Intercom Feature

Getting ready for the 2026 Season

By Skip Dieball, Interlake 1172

Finally, some breaks in the weather to get us thinking about sunshine and warmth! Sailing in the Midwest is unique as we spend ½ the year sailing and the other ½ thinking about sailing!

In the winter, I like to size up my sailing goals and work backwards to see what I need to do to accomplish them. Over the years, the goals have included championships, but these days, I simply want to get out onto the water as much as possible with friends and family. Of course, I still strive for doing as well as I can in the biggest events, but it isn't as important as getting the most out of the summer months.

With that in mind, let's outline a few key areas that will have you feeling fulfilled in your sailing adventures for 2026. As mentioned, I recommend developing a plan. It doesn't have to be anything elaborate but should clearly help you achieve whatever goal you set for the summer. For my family, we have a goal of sailing in 2-3 events and as many local club nights as we can. With that, we have cleared the evenings of racing and have pinpointed the events we are looking to do. With a 12-year-old helmsperson, we want to be sure that we pick events that are FUN and don't overwhelm him too much. He's gritty but we still need to make sure he keeps coming back!

Speaking of FUN, that is something that gets defined individually. For us, the FUN will be sailing together as a team/family and transferring as much skill as we can to the next generation. Winning isn't the defining variable. Growing and getting better (and packing a good cooler) are the contributors.

As mentioned, we are hoping to sail locally here in Toledo. Water levels may impact that plan, but the beauty of the Interlake is that we can set up and go relatively easy. The activity on the river at Jolly Roger has grown in the past few years and the proximity and simple racecourse make it something we look forward to. As I look back over the years and think of key success factors to participation in sailing, it often points to the local activity. Fleets like Hoover, Sandusky, etc. all have great home racing and that is something we should all strive to grow for 2026. Traveling events are



Dieball family enjoying Interlake sailing

critical to the success of the class but are extensions of local fleet activity.

Of course, the pinnacle of Interlake sailing is our annual National Championship. This summer, North Cape (my home club) will play host. I've played a small part in the organization of the event in the early stages of planning, and I foresee great camaraderie and better sailing in July! As I've gotten older, the racing has always been important, but not as important as getting together with fellow fleet mates and celebrating our shared passion of Interlake sailing. You should consider making the trip. Think of it as a great beach party with some fun sailing too.

Looking for an added incentive for the Nationals? I'll be hosting a clinic before the event at NCYC to help folks get used to Western Lake Erie, while offering some speed and set up tips to springboard your Nationals weekend!

I'd be remiss if I didn't share with you that part of our summer outline has us scheduling some great fall sailing. Over the years, the Interlake schedule traditionally has great events from August through October. Honestly, this is the best time of year for sailing and if you can squeeze in an event, you won't be disappointed. It is a great way to cap off a fun summer whether it is Traverse City, Mohican, Sandusky, Portage.... all great stops with fun people!

“A sailor is an artist whose medium is the wind.” – Webb Chiles

“A bad day sailing is 100 times better than a good day at work.”
– Anonymous

2026 Interlake Travelers Series

(Italicized events do not count toward the Traveler Series)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Date</u>
MidWinters	Davis Island Yacht Club	March 13-15
Chiefs	Leatherlips YC	May 2-3
Cattail	Jolly Rogers YC	May 30
George Fisher	Hoover SC	June 20-21 (Founders Cup)
ISCA Nationals **	North Cape YC	July 8-11
Indian Lake	Indian Lake SC	July 25
President's Cup	American Sailing Institute	Aug 8
Hot to Trot	Portage YC	Aug 15
Great North	Grand Traverse YC	Aug 21-22
Sandusky One		
Design	Sandusky SC	Sept 12-13
Haphazard	Mohican SC	Sept 19
Poltergeist	Indianapolis SC	Oct 3
Fall Blowout	North Cape YC	Oct 10
Snowball Regatta	Buckeye Lake YC	Oct 10
<i>Old Fox Regatta</i>	<i>Alum Creek SA</i>	<i>Oct 10 (not Travelers Series)</i>

Time to renew your Interlake Sailing Class Association membership!

Your ISCA membership allows you to vote on issues regarding the future of our boats, sail at sanctioned events (like the National Championship), and support the organization that is maintaining the value and integrity of your one-design boat. You also get the **Intercom**, our quarterly newsletter full of pics, news, and tips about the Interlake, a cool sticker for your transom, and a directory with info on all the other ISCA members.

If you haven't already renewed.... Join today online at <https://interlakesailing.org/membership/>
It only takes a moment!

Nominating Committee

Bridget Ireland, Bob Sagan, Bernie Ashyk, Mike McClinchie, and Clark Chapin are the 2026 committee. We need candidates for ISCA President & Vice President this year. Please reach out to one of the members if you would like to volunteer OR if you have a suggestion of someone you think would be a good candidate. See the Officer/Fleet Captain listing at end of newsletter if you need contact info.

2026 Interlake Traveler Series

Schedule a Getaway!

On the road again...

By Sue Wills #1372

The 2026 schedule has a number of opportunities to combine regattas and create vacation getaways – midsummer, late summer and fall. Some folks already took advantage of the Midwinter regatta for a late winter/early spring getaway.

Con't pg 6

First event that comes to mind is **Nationals**. Being a multiday event, you can tag a few more days and have a vacation week. Fourth of July is the weekend before and could give some unique activities to add in to the Nationals itinerary. Check out the website that *North Cape* has put together to see highlights in the area for a Mid-summer getaway.

Michigan Mitten Meander has been part of the schedule for a few years. *Regattas at ASI, Portage YC and Grand Traverse YC are on consecutive weekends*. Portage YC graciously allows us to leave our boats parked at PYC between regattas so we don't have to drag them back & forth each week. You can get multiple events for one trailering. Some folks head home between the regattas and reappear for the racing. Tom & Sue Wills like to schedule a week of vacation between regattas. We have spent a week in the Traverse City area between Hot to Trot and the Great North numerous times. There are so many things to do in the area that we haven't needed to repeated activities. One year when the Great North was earlier in the season, we spent the week between the President's Cup and Hot to Trot in Wisconsin Dells. After the ASI regatta, we spent the night in Grand Rapids and the next morning drove to Muskegon to catch the high-speed ferry, the Lake Express over to Milwaukee. From Milwaukee, we drove to Wisconsin Dells. Friday, we reversed and took the ferry back to Muskegon. Sat am, we headed down to PYC. Wisconsin Dells has so many interesting things to do that you could spend a couple of weeks there and not see it all. We enjoyed outdoor activities, attended a show, visited museums, solved an escape room and much more. Opportunities abound for a late summer getaway in Michigan or neighboring areas.

This year we have an opportunity of an **Ohio Outing**. *Sandusky One Design & Mohican Haphazard* are back to back weekends. This can provide 3 days of racing in one trip. Some racers don't feel it's worth the effort to travel for a single day regatta so this gives more bang for the buck – as long as you don't have school aged kids.

Lots of activities await in Ohio. Most are familiar with the offerings near Sandusky including Cedar Point and the Lake Erie Islands. Plan to leave your boat in Sandusky or at Mohican and explore some of the Ohio offerings. The Cleveland area is home to the Rock Hall of Fame, and many other museums, eateries & shows. Mansfield highlights include Ohio State Reformatory (site of the Shawshank Redemption movie) which also includes an interesting industrial museum, a new aviation museum & an escape room. Nearby are a number of local breweries & eateries. Loudonville & Mohican State Park are not far nor is Hocking Hills or Columbus. There are many different choices of activities to fill your time between Sandusky One Design & MSC Haphazard. Plan a fall get away week.

2025 Interlake Boat Grant Apply Now!

The Interlake Boat Grant provides a competitive Interlake to deserving young people for use for a season. **Reach out to your college or young adult sailors and urge them to apply!** The deadline for 2025 applications is April 30, 2025.

Applications and more details:

<https://interlakesailing.org/boat-grant/>

Questions? Email or call Steve Aspery
saspery1@gmail.com or 614-205-9897



ISC fb pg; Sledding before the Christmas party.



More fun on the ice at GTYC – March; Source GTYC fb pg

Sailing up North

By Will Merriman #1158

A bit of a long road, but Interlake #1158 is now in Alaska and sailed by the third generation of our family.

#1158 was named 'Second Chance' by my mom and dad, Howard and Dottie Merriman after the original boat #879 burned in the Franklin County Fairgrounds fire. From at least 1978 (and maybe earlier) until maybe 1991 we were members at Hoover. I remember the old bridge and some very exciting 'old-school' playground equipment. My twin sister and I took lessons in the Opti mom and dad bought for us. Dad's regatta career took a back seat to raising kids, but I have very fond memories of sailing with him.

Life took us in unique directions and my amazing wife Laura and I ended up settling in Anchorage, Alaska and when our kids were old enough we joined the Alaska Sailing Club. ASC has a very active Buccaneer 18 fleet and just hosted the Nationals Championship for the first time. We day sail and race our Bucc, 'Wind Rush.'

My dad passed away in 2011, but mom hung on to the Interlake all these years for me and we were able to bring it up to Alaska a couple weeks ago (in 2025).

Wes Blazer did some excellent repairs and updates, Rick Lyons found us some used spinnakers and here we are. Our boys Henry and Ethan took turns driving while I crewed on a very light wind day. If Interlake sailors are ever visiting Alaska, drop us a line!

Editor's note: The information about 'Sailing up North' was forwarded to me in Aug. 2025. I didn't have room for the interesting adventure in the previous editions of the Intercom but here it is.

Will added later, 'The Opti that I learned to sail on was also transported to Alaska and my kids sail it as well.'



Class News

2025 Travelers Series

by Steve Aspery #1435

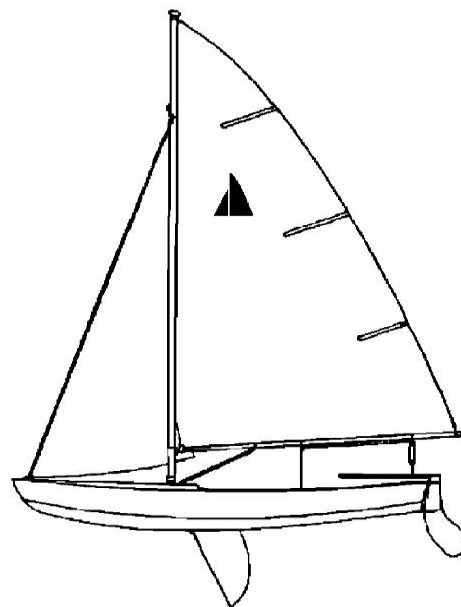
Are you missing out?

The Interlake Travelers Series is a hidden gem for many. We have 14 events, most within just a couple of hours drive (or less), all with friendly people and great competition. If you aren't taking advantage of sailing at other events, you are missing out. When we travel to other events, we get to see old friends, meet new sailors, and learn a new set of sailing conditions. It makes us better sailors when away and at home!

In 2025, we had 61 boats sail at one or more events, and 27 who sailed at least three events on the series. There was some great racing in a variety of conditions and a lot of good food and hanging out. Travelers events are also a great chance to mix things up. You can recruit another skipper at your club to sail with you, borrow someone else's regular crew, or even ask the host club if they have someone who could sail with you.

For 2025, I had ten different people sail with me in the Travelers Series: Matt Savage, Chip Wood, Will Miller, Jamie Jones, Rachel Jones, Emma Hershey, Alex McBride, David Aspery, Ashley Portale, and even Lisa Aspery (recruited out of retirement!). Four of those are under 21 years old, five I had never sailed with before, and all of them did a great job! Thank you all!

Tom and Sue Wills had a great year too, finishing second in the series. They had a 3rd place event finish and three 4th place finishes, I suspect it was their best year so far. Tom and Sue have put in the work, traveling to most events for the past few years, and their sailing and effort show in the results. Jeff Clark was 3rd overall, Don Bacharowski 4th, and Bill Sanderson 5th. Each sailed well and would have benefited from just one more series score.



I am ready to share my secret to success on the Travelers Series... **You have to show up!** Grab some crew, any crew, go to the regatta, sail, eat some great food, visit with friends. You are sure to be a winner!

Editor's note: Results listed below show competitors who ended up with 4 or more event scores. To see the complete listing of competitors, check out the ISCA website. <https://interlakesailing.org/traveler-series-scores/> and click on the 2025 tab. The ISCA Board decided to populate the 2026 results as regattas happen – or at least quarterly as the Intercom is published; to allow everyone to check and see how they are doing. Perhaps this will spur a few boats to travel to one more regatta to qualify for the series or attend one more race in search of a higher finish since the skipper's BEST five tallies determine placement in the traveler's series.

Rank	Hull #	Skipper	Home Club	Eligible for Trv. Series	# Regattas attended	Total Points	Adj. Score (5 lowest)	Mid-winters	Chiefs	Cattail	Geo Fisher	Indian Lake	SSC One Design	Nat'l's #1	Nat'l's #2	ASI Pres Cup	Hot-to-Trot	Great North	Hap-hazard	Poltergeist	Fall Blowout	Snow-ball
1	1435	Aspery, Steve	HSC	Yes	9	37	5	C	3	1	1	1		14	14		1		1	C	1	C
2	1372	Wills, Tom	MSC	Yes	7	38	21	A	6	7		3				4	4	4	10	A		A
3	1370	Clark, Jeff	HSC	Yes	5	25	25	N			2			8	8		3		4	N		N
4	1386	Bacharowski, Don	HSC	Yes	6	54	39	C			8	4	10	15	15				2	C		C
5	1433	Sanderson, William	MSC	Yes	5	61	61	E	8		6			22	22				3	E		E
6	1081	Blazer, Wesley	SSC	No	4	17	117	L					2	6	6					L	3	L
7	1317	Chapin, Clark	PYC	No	4	18	118	L	7				4			2	5			L		L
8	1382	Presley, Mark	HSC	No	4	48	148	E			9		5	17	17					E		E
9	1405	Campbell, Jacob	ILYC	No	4	62	162	D		5		5		26	26					D		D

MidWinters

Davis Island Yacht Club

by Steve Aspery #1435

Interlake Midwinters – 80s, breezy,

and great fun! The Interlake class was well represented at the Interlake Midwinters held at Davis Island Yacht Club in Tampa, March 13 - 15. We had some good sailing, tight competition, and great food and camaraderie. Making the trip were Tom Fee, Arash Ghazvini, Amy Fee, Allison Fee, Katie Fee, Bill Sanderson, Mike Stratton, Julie Senff, Bruce Moore, Cara Bown, Jeff Clark, Kate Harris, Nick Schmitt, Steve Aspery, David Aspery, Ashley Portale, and Lisa Aspery. Tom Fee's Highlander crew from 20 years ago, JC, who lives in Tampa now, was his third crew.

We had great weather, warm and sunny every day, and had solid breeze two days out of three. We had 8 well-run races (the DIYC group does a really nice job) and enjoyed our shore time quite a bit, too. We saw dolphins, manatees, and pelicans, all on a backdrop of palm trees and sunshine. Jeff

Clark, with crew Kate and Nick, was fast and particularly quick downwind, but in the end, the Aspery Team (Steve, David, and Ashley, David's fiancé) won the event with Team R, (Jeff Clark, Kate Harris, Nick Schmitt) second, Bill Sanderson with Mike Stratton and Julie Senff third, Bruce Moore and Cara Bown fourth, and Tom Fee's team (Tom, Arash, and JC) fifth. The racing was much tighter than the scores might indicate with many lead changes and all the boats finishing close together after a long course.

We hope to see more of our Interlake friends make the trip next year. The road trip is an adventure, and the sailing and hanging out are unique experiences. It is a great, well-run event at a world class venue. And it doesn't snow there! Everyone should do it at least once, make plans now for next March!

Interlake Midwinter Regatta -- Davis Island YC														
Pos	Sail	Boat	Skipper	Crew	Home Club	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
1	1435	Ubiquity	Steve Aspery	Dave Aspery, Ashley Portale	HSC	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	[2]	7
2	1370	R	Jeff Clark	Kate Harris & Nick Schmitt	HSC	2	2	2	3	[4]	2	2	1	14
3	1433	Go For It	William Sanderson	Mike Stratton & Julie Senff	MSC	4	4	3	2	2	[5]	3	3	21
4	1417		Bruce Moore	Cara Sanderson Bown	GTYC	[5]	3	4	4	3	3	4	5	26
5	1254	Redshift	Tom Fee	Arash Ghazvini & JC	HSC	3	[5]	5	5	5	4	5	4	31



Interlakers at Midwinters.

Nick Schmitt, Kate Harris, Jeff Clark, Kristin & Bruce Moore, Tom Fee, Mike Stratton, Bill Sanderson, Marlene & Dan Graf (who stopped by to visit) Steve Aspery, Dave Aspery, Ashley Portale, Julie Senff & Lisa Aspery. Racers not pictured: Cara Sanderson Bown, Arash Ghazvini & JC.

ISCA Budget 2026

Hello Interlakers!

The 2026 ISCA Budget is published here for your information.

A few things to note. Dues are still our primary income driver, but we have been fortunate the past few years to have members who have made donations too. The positive net income is a good thing as we work to rebuild our reserves after purchasing the molds, tooling and parts from Terry Kilpatrick a few years ago.

We also have other periodic expenses to prepare for such as the trademark and logo registrations that need to be paid every ten years. We spent \$3600 on that this past two years so we should be prepared for that and more in 8 or 9 years.

Your Board is working hard to keep the class strong and spend money wisely. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns on this budget.

Steve Aspery, Interlake Secretary-Treasurer



JRSC - We wrapped up another season of euchre to support Junior Sailing, and it's safe to say the cards weren't the only thing being dealt. There was plenty of laughter, a little friendly trash talk, and a whole lot of good company all 10 weeks. Nights like these are what make our club feel like home for so many people. Source JRSC fb pg



MSC - High water; Easter Sunday; Pic by Tom Wills

ISCA 2026 Budget	
Account	2026 Budget
Operating Income	
Donations	1030
Interest Income	1
Member Dues	5230
Royalties (Builder, Sails, Nationals)	100
Intercom Ads	160
Sales Items	950
Total for Operating Income	7471
Operating Expense	
Paypal and Bank Fees	400
Travelers Series - Trophies	250
Secretary-Treasurer	
Directory and Decals Printing	325
General Postage	100
Secretary treasurer Stipend	500
Total for Secretary-Treasurer	925
Intercom	
Intercom Postage	500
Intercom Printing	550
Intercom Stipend	500
Total for Intercom	1550
Administration	
Legal & Professional Fees	
Office Supplies and Expenses	30
Online data charges and service	30
Total for Administration	60
US Sailing	
US Sailing Dues	260
Total for US Sailing	260
Marketing	
Web Site	400
Total for Marketing	400
Total for Operating Expense	3845
Net Income	3626



What is the Interlaker of the Year Award?

The Interlaker of the Year is an award given by the Interlake Sailing Class Association (ISCA) to recognize outstanding service provided to the Interlake Class. The award is typically presented during the Interlake Nationals competition although it isn't necessarily awarded every year.

Who: The Awardee is a person who accomplishes extraordinary things; Someone who enhances the Interlake class; Someone who goes above & beyond. Someone who may think no one else is paying attention to what they are doing.

Why: To recognize extra efforts provided to enhance and support the Interlake Sailing Class and the sport of Interlake sailing. Ever catch someone giving an extra effort to make sure an event runs smoothly; someone on call just in case; someone promoting sailing, Interlake Sailing or more? The Interlaker of the Year recognizes the ultimate go getters in our class.

When: Nominations must be submitted by June 1. Send to the attention of the ISCA Class President a written summary of the reasons the nominated person should be considered for the Interlaker of the Year award. Nominees will be considered by ISCA board.



Interlakers of the Year

2024	Bill Sanderson	2000	Jeff Clark
2023	Tom & Sue Wills	1999	Lisa Aspery
2022	Bryan Parker	1998	Bob Sagan
2021	Carolyn Tanner	1996	Barb Gall
2019	Thane Morgan	1995	Clark Chapin
2018	Kevin Bracey	1994	John Hollo
	Becky Vardian	1992	Jeff Thompson
2017	Jamie Jones	1991	Bob & Martha Speers
2015	Bob Sagan	1990	Ray Gall
2014	Tom Humphrey	1987	Clark Chapin
2013	Steve Aspery	1983	Dave White
2012	Terry Kilpatrick	1982	Cecil Bazley
2011	Mike McClinchie	1981	Tony Burkhart
2008	Kevin Bracy	1980	Bonnie & Maury Benbow
2006	Ron Gall	1977	John A. McMinn
2005	Karen Foy	1976	Betty & Leonard Marschke
2004	Lisa Aspery	1975	Bob Pearson
2003	Martin Howell	1974	Joe Holtzman
2002	Mike Muhn	1973	James Boucher
2001	Scott Savage	1971	John H. White
		1969	Bill Jellison

What Makes Your Club Run?

*From: Dom Barnes Coaching fb pg (UK Sailing coach pg):
reposted on Indianapolis SC fb pg*

Most people arrive at a sailing club, rig their boat, go sailing, come back in, pack away and head home, and on the surface that is exactly what most sailing clubs look like.

But it only works because, long before that first sail is hoisted, someone has unlocked the gates, checked the conditions, set the course, launched the safety boats, organized the racing, and made sure that when you arrive, everything simply works.

I see both sides of that, week in, week out.

I volunteer as Commodore and Chief Instructor at my club, I teach adults RYA Level 3 and Start Racing on a Thursday evening, on a Friday evening I work with the kids from Stage 4 onwards, I sit on an RYA Committee, and alongside all of that I still do what every member should do and sign up for duties like everyone else.

And all of this sits alongside a full-time non-sailing 'proper' job and running Dom Barnes Coaching.

Now I know there are clubs where none of this is needed, where things are paid for, staffed, and taken care of, and if you are part of one of those then you are fortunate.

But most clubs are not built like that.

They are built on people.

People who step forward, people who give their time, people who quietly keep the whole thing moving without ever making a fuss about it.

FAMILIES WHO SAIL TOGETHER, stay together.

*From International Lightning Class Association fb pg
March 21 at Savannah Yacht Club*

Ten teams on the line have two or more family members racing side by side, proving there's no better way to spend a regatta. It's all laughs, hopefully not too much arguing, and a little friendly competition that makes every finish and every post-race debrief even sweeter.

Kevin Robinson, sailing aboard Deez Nutz with Spencer Barnes and his daughter, Paige, shared, "Looking forward to a bit more breeze on the course and some fun Savannah conditions. Yesterday the RC did a great job getting two races in. We're really enjoying SYC and their amazing southern hospitality."

Day 2 is shaping up with 10 to 12 knots on the forecast, bringing more breeze, fresh conditions, and the perfect setup to close out the 2026 Southern Circuit at the Deep South Regatta.

10am first warning. It's go time.

And here is the bit that often gets missed.

Volunteering is not the sacrifice people think it is.

Yes, you are giving your time so that others can enjoy their sailing, but what you get back is far greater than that.

You start to understand the sport properly, not just your own race, but how everything around you works.

You improve faster, because you are more involved, more aware, more connected to what is going on.

You build real friendships, not just passing conversations, but proper relationships with people who are all pulling in the same direction.

And you become part of something that actually matters.

Because most sailing clubs are not businesses, they are communities, and communities do not run on convenience, they run on contribution.

So next time you walk through the gate, wherever your club is, just ask yourself one simple question. Are you just enjoying what is there, or are you helping to make it happen?

Because the clubs that really thrive are not the ones with the biggest budgets or the best facilities.

They are the ones where people turn up, get involved, and take a bit of ownership.



From the Archives: Men leaving the nearly completed Toledo Harbor Light, OH on Lake Erie over the ice on December 16, 1903. Wisely, they decided to drag their own small boat along for safety in case the ice gave way. The lighthouse was finally finished and first lit on May 23, 1904. Source Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association fb page and NCYC fb pg.

ISCA Club Activities over the Winter

The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald and its 50th anniversary resonated with a number of our clubs as they had presentations which were open to the public. Source: respective club fb pages.

Jolly Roger Sailing Club

Whether you're a history lover, a sailor, or simply drawn to Great Lakes lore, this presentation offers a fascinating dive into the mystery, music, and memory of the Edmund Fitzgerald. Presented by Western Lake Erie Historical Society.

North Cape Yacht Club

The National Museum of the Great Lakes presented "The Edmund Fitzgerald: What 'Really Happened: The Story You Have Never Heard!' Many thanks to the North Cape Sailing School for hosting this event. And thanks to NCYC's RC Jen Logan and her team who prepared dinner...replicating the final meal served aboard the Edmund Fitzgerald.

Grand Traverse Yacht Club

Really out did themselves by hosting 3 evening dinner theater events -- Ten November -- a dramatic retelling of the true story of the Edmund Fitzgerald.

Continuing to share local history.

Jolly Roger Sailing Club offered:

Stepping Through History, with John Thompson from the Western Lake Erie Historical Society. 20th Century River Pirates: Explore the little-known story of the Maumee River "pirates" - from sewers to tugboats - and how the exploits of these river bandits shaped local history.

Indian Lake Yacht Club

Continued finishing touches on the new Club house. Nov. found crews working in the kitchen; crown molding and kick plates were installed.

Dec. saw kitchen items unpacked, cleaned and organized.

March, they invited the local community to an Open House during the 2026 Indian Lake Boat Show! If you're a lifelong lake resident, a weekend sail boater, or simply curious about sailing, stop by and see what the Yacht Club has to offer!



Leatherlips Yacht Club

Interlake Fleet 23 Christmas party hosted by Tim Savage and Angie Early. As is tradition, we had a white elephant exchange with wonderfully bizarre gifts! It was the same night as the Big 10 championship game, so we all cheered on the Buckeyes together while swapping sailing stories. A great time was had by all! Pics supplied by: AJ Savage



Mohican Sailing Club

Got into being super sleuths. In Jan, a group went to the Ohio State Reformatory for a Murder Mystery Dinner theater -- "Love in the Afternoon, Murder in the Evening" -- a soap opera themed show. They had so much fun they booked another murder mystery event held on the Cuyahoga Valley RR in March. Theme of this event was an ocean cruise. Here 12 audience members were given small parts in the play. 4 of the MSC gang played parts with Sue Wills playing Dolly Finn, the environmentalist, who was the triple murderer!

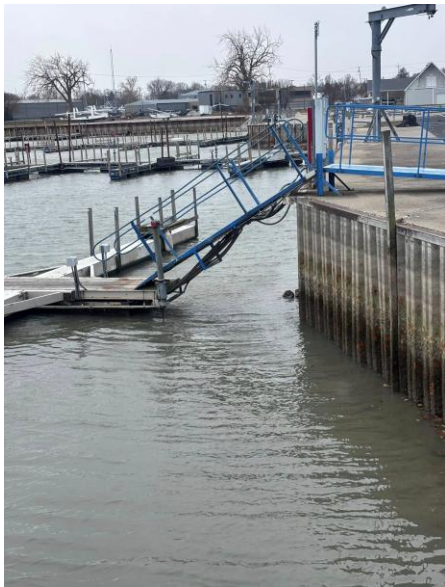
Grand Traverse Yacht Club

Had fun on the ice. Sure, you can go to Florida for sun, warm water, and winter sailing, but our yacht club has an ice carousel! and it's fast! on the West Bay. The ice was over 8 inches thick, and the depth of the water under the carousel is no more than three feet, and under two in spots, including the ice. Watch it spin with the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/25820721510903290>



More pictures from around the fleets & the lakes



SSC. I've been on Lake Erie for all my 54 years and never seen anything like this. At -30 this is just insane! Tim Willford 12-2-25



SSC fb pg -- Shoveling snow in the basin and running around the ice with a stick welder. Just a little winter maintenance. Pic by Tim Willford 2-14-26



Pancake Ice; Lake Erie near Kelly's Island. These circular chunks of ice form as waves and currents spin slushy ice together, smoothing them into that "pancake" shape. Our recent near-historically cold start to winter is to thank for the early ice formation. Meteorologist Ryan Wichman fb pg. 12-14-25 pic by Patti Fox Johnson



When the ice hits 18 inches thick, even a 40,000+ pound excavator can roll right out onto the lake.

Crews took advantage of the frozen conditions to access the marina channel break wall and get critical work done. Lake Erie turned into a temporary work platform!

Catawba Island, Ohio, Lake Erie in Photos fb pg; Greg Pieffer, 2-9-26



Luna Pier, MI. Lake Erie
It's estimated they walked roughly a 1/4 mile from the normal shoreline, viewing finds on the exposed lake bed normally under 10-12 ft of water. One discovery was a snowmobile covered in zebra mussels. The owner had fallen through the ice two years ago, and his friend was also searching for it during the seiche. The friend, successfully retrieved the snowmobile and plans to try & have it restored. Pic by Austin Lada. 12-30-25. WXYZ.com Detroit MI.



Cleveland; Strong easterly winds created more seiche conditions and dropped the water levels more than they were a few weeks ago. USS Cod curator Ben Yanke documented the exposed rudder and stern features in this image. More of Cod's hull bottom sits on the uneven lake bed, resulting in a rare 2 deg. starboard list until water levels rise again. JRSC fb pg; Gerald Gates 12-22-25

12-29-25; Seiche on Lake Erie, the water dropped 6.5 feet near Toledo, and is about 12.2 feet lower than Buffalo, NY!

More on... Supporting Another Generation of Sailors!



Traverse Area Community Sailing

TACS – Traverse Area Community Sailing

by Kim Bails

Vice President, Marketing

TACS Board of Directors

At Traverse Area Community Sailing (TACS), our mission is simple: remove barriers and make sailing accessible to everyone in our community. Through strong partnerships with local fleets — including our Interlake sailors — we're building pathways that introduce new families to the sport while strengthening long-standing class traditions.

How It Started

TACS was founded with the belief that access to the water should not depend on boat ownership. Located on Boardman Lake, our programs began as small learn-to-sail offerings designed to give youth and adults an entry point into sailing without the high upfront cost.

What started as a grassroots effort in 1994 has grown into a year-round community sailing organization serving youth, high school and middle school race teams, adaptive sailors, women on the water, and adult racers and adult beginners.

Learn-to-Sail at TACS

Our Learn-to-Sail programming runs throughout the summer in structured weekly sessions, typically offering:

- **Youth Learn-to-Sail (ages 8-17)**
- **Adult Learn to Sail**
- **Women on the Water**
- **Private & Small Group Instruction**
- **Adaptive Sailing**

Each summer we host multiple one-week and two week-long sessions for youth sailors, with class sizes intentionally capped to maintain strong safety standards and quality coaching ratios.

In recent seasons, TACS has served well over 150 youth sailors annually, with additional adult participants joining evening and weekend courses. Many of these sailors are stepping into a sailboat for the very first time. Scholarships are a core part of our model - ensuring cost is never the reason a child stays ashore.

Accessibility & Scholarships

Affordability remains one of TACS's guiding values. We actively fundraise to provide scholarships so cost is not a barrier to participation. In recent years, we have supported

Westerville City Schools

By Charlie Boss

December 20, 2025

Westerville Central High School's Sailing Club wrapped up its fall season with a fourth-place national finish at the Great Oaks Invitational Championship last month at the Southern Yacht Club in New Orleans.

After an eight-year hiatus, the club returned this year and quickly reestablished itself as a force in Central Ohio's high school sailing scene, competing in the Buckeye Cup circuit at the Hoover Sailing Club.

WCHS competed in eight separate events since September, placing first in three competitions. The club is a member of the Central Ohio High School Sailing Association (COHSSA), which includes programs from New Albany, Olentangy, Olentangy Liberty, Thomas Worthington and Worthington Kilbourne.

Vincent and Quinton Ireland, a junior and freshman at WCHS, respectively, helped revive the club this year.

The spring season starts in March and runs through the beginning of May. COHSSA will host an open house on March 30 for those interested in learning more about its sailing program. More information is available [here](#).

Source: <https://www.westerville.k12.oh.us/all-wcsd-news/post-detail/~board/district-news/post/wchs-sailing-club-returns-with-fourth-place-national-finish> (& Bridget Ireland fb post)



Quinton (front) & Vincent (rear) Ireland

dozens of youth sailors through scholarship assistance - ensuring talent and enthusiasm, not finances, determine who gets on the water.

This inclusivity directly supports fleet growth. The broader and more welcoming the entry point, the stronger the class becomes long term.

From Lessons to Racing

While many youth begin in entry-level boats, we intentionally introduce double-handed concepts early: teamwork, communication, weight placement, sail trim, and race strategy.

That foundation naturally transitions sailors toward boats like the Interlake.

As our students grow in skill and confidence, many begin looking for the next step beyond structured lessons. That's where partnership with **Grand Traverse Yacht Club** becomes incredibly meaningful.

Crewing at GTYC: Real-World Experience

One of the most powerful outcomes of our program is watching TACS youth sailors step onto larger race boats as crew.

Each summer, TACS sailors crew in weekly races at **GTYC** - particularly on **Melges and Interlake boats**. Fleet members regularly welcome our trained youth sailors aboard for Wednesday and Thursday night racing and other events.

This partnership benefits everyone:

For Youth Sailors:

- Real race pressure experience
- Exposure to advanced sail trim and tactics
- Mentorship from seasoned fleet sailors
- A sense of belonging within the broader sailing community

For Fleet Owners:

- Enthusiastic, coachable crew
- Strong foundational skills
- A consistent pipeline of trained young sailors
- Energy and continuity for the class

For many of our high school sailors, that first invitation to crew on an Interlake is transformational. They see firsthand how skills learned on Boardman Lake translate directly to competitive one-design racing.

It also builds something deeper than technique - it builds relationships across generations.

Why It Matters to the Interlake Class

The Interlake has long been a cornerstone of accessible, family-friendly racing in the Midwest. Its stability, performance, and manageable two-person configuration make it an ideal transition boat for sailors moving beyond entry-level dinghies.

At TACS, we see our role as creating the **pipeline**:

Opti or beginner boat → double-handed instruction → high school racing → fleet racing → lifelong class involvement.

We regularly introduce sailors to double-handed sailing concepts that naturally translate into boats like the Interlake. As families grow more comfortable on the water, interest in fleet participation grows as well.

For many new sailors, organized fleets provide:

- Mentorship
- Camaraderie
- Clear racing pathways
- Community belonging

And that's where the strength of the Interlake Class truly shines.

Looking Ahead

Partnership between community sailing programs and established fleets like the Interlake Class creates something powerful: a sustainable future for the sport.

When new sailors feel welcomed, supported, and mentored, they stay.

And when they stay, fleets thrive.

TACS continues to focus on:

- Expanding youth participation
- Strengthening double-handed skill development
- Supporting high school racing development
- Supporting transitions into fleet racing
- Encouraging adult newcomers to explore fleet racing
- Deepening partnerships with local yacht clubs

When community programs and one-design fleets work together, everyone benefits.

The future of the Interlake Class depends on sailors who feel welcomed early, mentored often, and invited aboard.

At TACS, we're proud to help make those introductions happen.

Editor's note: See the full history of TACS
<https://www.tacsailing.org/history>

2025 Interlake Boat Grant Apply Now!

The Interlake Boat Grant provides a competitive Interlake to deserving young people for use for a season. **Reach out to your college or young adult sailors and urge them to apply!** The deadline for 2025 applications is April 30, 2025.

Applications and more details:

<https://interlakesailing.org/boat-grant/>

Questions? Email or call Steve Aspery
saspery1@gmail.com or 614-205-9897

2026 CHIEF'S REGATTA

MAY 2 & 3, 2026



LEATHERLIPS YACHT CLUB

Shownee Hills, OH

Saturday:

Registration - 10:00-12:00 (\$35)

Skippers meeting - 12:15

First Race - 1:00

Sailor's hour and Steak dinner following racing!

Sunday:

First Race - 9:30

No warning signal will be made after 11:30

Lunch and awards to follow

Contact: A.J. Savage interlake1293@gmail.com with questions



Interlake Sailing Class Association

Board of Directors Meeting January 22, 2026

Video Conference @7 pm

Minutes



President Jim Ward presided, and Sec-Treas Steve Aspery recorded the minutes. The following members were present:

X Jim Ward, President	X Tim Cullenen, Vice President	X Steve Aspery, Sec-Treasurer	X Bryan Parker, Chief Measurer
X Kate Harris, VP-Southern OH	X Clark Chapin, VP-Michigan	X Sue Wills, Intercom Editor	X Joe Novak, VP-Indiana & E Coast
X Bridget Ireland, Past President	X Mike McClinchie, VP-Mkting	X Dan Olson, VP-Northern OH	X: Present

- Secretary/Treasurer Report** - Current bank balance is \$8,925.52, current membership is 132, of which 110 are Active members, 18 Crew/Associate, and 4 Honorary. A proposed budget will be presented at the next meeting.
- Intercom Report** – Next issue deadline is March 20.
- Regional VP**
 - Southern Ohio – Kate Harris – Old Fox Regatta will be held Oct 10-11
 - Indiana – Joe Novak – No report.
 - Northern Ohio – All normal
 - Michigan – Clark Chapin – usual regattas
- VP National Race Committee** – The Board approved the following members for the 2026 NRC: Chip Wood, Jamie Jones, Will Petersilge, Craig Koschalk, with alternates Clark Chapin and Tom Wills.
- Nationals Bids** – The board accepted the following bids to host nationals: North Cape Yacht Club – 2026, Indian Lake Yacht Club – 2027.
- Marketing** – working with web developer to correct classifieds operation. Jayme Ward has volunteered to help with the website.
- Travelers Series** – The Board approved the Travelers Series as presented.
- Chief Measurer** – Bryan Parker shared suggestions for reducing the measurement time and effort at Nationals. The Board approved an Ad Hoc committee to consider options: Clark Chapin, Mike McClinchie, Jim Ward, Bryan Parker, and Steve Aspery.
- Interlaker of the Year** – discussion regarding formalizing the process. Board approved setting a June 1 deadline for submissions each year. Sue and Steve to create language describing criteria for selection.
- Next meeting** - scheduled for February 24, 2026 at 7 PM via Teams.
- Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Aspery

ISCA Secretary-Treasurer

George Fisher Memorial Regatta

☀ INTERLAKE SAILING CLASS ☀



DAY 1

Saturday, June 20, 2026

- **12:45 PM**
Racing begins — first warning signal
- **Evening**
Dinner & social for all competitors and guests

DAY 2

Sunday, June 21, 2026

- **9:00 AM**
Racing begins — first warning signal
- **Post-Race**
Awards ceremony — trophy presentation

HSC
HOOVER SAILING CLUB

June 20-21, 2026

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Jamie Jones
jjone45@outlook.com



Interlake Sailing Class Association Board of Directors Meeting February 24, 2026 Video Conference @ 7pm Minutes



President Jim Ward presided, and Sec-Treas Steve Aspery recorded the minutes. The following members were present:

X Jim Ward, President	Tim Cullenen, Vice President	X Steve Aspery, Sec-Treas	X Bryan Parker, Chief Measurer
X Kate Harris, VP-Southern OH	X Clark Chapin, VP-Michigan	X Sue Wills, Intercom Editor	Joe Novak, VP-Indiana & E Coast
X Bridget Ireland, Past Pres	X Mike McClinchie, VP-Mkting	Dan Olson, VP-Northern OH	X: Present

- 1) Secretary/Treasurer Report** -- Financial results for 2025 were reviewed and the Budget for 2026 was approved. Current bank balance is \$9,814.10. The Secretary-Treasurer will email Conflict of Interest forms to all Board members to be completed and signed electronically. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as updated.
- 2) Nominating Committee** – The Board approved the appointment of Bridget Ireland (chair), Clark Chapin, Mike McClinchie, Bob Sagan, and Bernie Ashyk.
- 3) Marketing** – Jayme Ward has volunteered to help manage the website. Thank you, Jayme!
- 4) Chief Measurer** – The Board reviewed and discussed an updated process for measurement at Nationals designed to reduce workload for the Measurer, volunteers, and competitors while maintaining the one-design nature of competitors boats. Motion to

approve the new policy for 2026 and review after Nationals was passed.

- 5) Interlaker of the Year** – The Board approved language describing the criteria and deadline for the award. To be published in the Intercom and Directory.
- 6) Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Aspery
ISCA Secretary-Treasurer

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Fleet #17 Lorain Harbor BC

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Fleet #22 Portage YC

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Fleet #23 Leatherlips YC

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Interlake1293@gmail.com

Fleet #24 Hoover SC

Jamie Jones 614-216-2679
Westerville, OH
jjone45@outlook.com

Fleet #28 Indianapolis SC

Joe Novak 317-501-7805
Carmel, IN
joe.novak@sbcglobal.net

Fleet #38 Grand Traverse YC

Bruce Moore 972-342-0315
Traverse City, MI
moorebw@umich.edu

Classified Ads: *More info & photos on website*

Parts and Equipment new & used.

At Midwest Sailing we have a number of used Interlake parts and a few new. Contact Rick Lyons at rl@chartermi.net

Used masts, used booms, and used stainless steel centerboards. We also have line by the foot, wires made to your specifications, centerboard cables, Harken blocks and cleats, shackles, clevis pins, cotter rings, etc.

Customflex 1-Piece Rudder \$250
Customflex 2-Piece Kick-up Rudder with Tiller & Extension \$275
Used Sails - North Sails Main/Jib - \$350
Used Sails - Thomas Main/Jib - \$175

Brand New (never used) Spinnaker - Greiner (red/white/blue) - \$500

Skip Dieball - skip@dieballsailing.com - 419-392-4411

Centerboard – from scrapped boat. \$200. See Classifieds on ISCA website – Thane Morgan listing.

Have items to sell? List them in the Classified Ads on the new class website... Interlakesailing.org

Interlake #1313

\$3000. Racing deck with red hull. See Classifieds on ISCA website – Thane Morgan listing.

Interlake #1285

\$4500. Fully equipped race ready boat including sails, trailer, and cover. This package also includes first year Indian Lake Yacht Club membership and dock fee, along with training and assistance on how to sail and set up your new boat. Contact Chip Wood at cmwood87@gmail.com with any questions.

Interlake #1227

\$2000. Barn kept. Grass Lake MI. See Classifieds on ISCA website – Roy Scott listing.

Interlake #1012

\$2500. See Classifieds on ISCA website – Eric Beale listing.

Interlake #359

\$2600. Fiberglass hull with wood interior trim. VERY comfortable with room for 4+ people. Great boat for beginners and/or casual/social sailing. Race rigged with many new lines. Price includes: newer North sails; trailer with lighting upgrade, tires, bearings & bearing buddies within last 5 yrs.; cut down centerboard trunk, spin pole, paddle, newer tactical compass, multiple life jackets and throwable floating seat cushions. Currently under tarps at Hoover Sailing Club. Tim Cullenen 614.779.1999 ctyconcepts@gmail.com

eVOLUTION SAILS

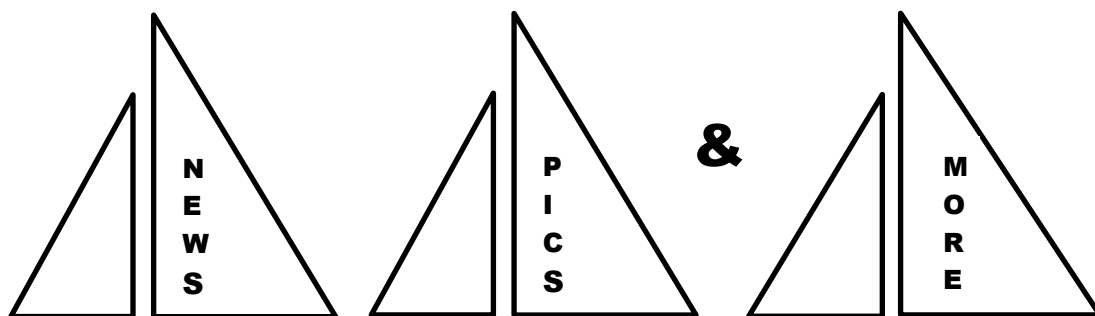


CHAMPIONSHIP CALIBER SAILS

Team up with Sailing Inc and Evolution Sails and get the support you need to sail smarter, sail faster, point higher and accomplish all of your sailing goals.

Contact Greg Fisher: 410-212-4916 & Greg.Fisher@thesailinginc.com

***What is
inside????***



The Intercom c/o Aspery
541 Tucker Dr.
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