

THE ANCHORLINE

Harbor Island Yacht Club

GREATER NASHVILLE'S OLDEST YACHTING MONTHLY

**January 2012
Volume 44 Number 10**



HIYC'S RC LASER FLEET

Pure Fun.



Our Boat: The Vanguard 15

EASY TO SAIL

- Two sail control lines - main and jib
- Not complicated - no spinnaker or trapeze
- Two people - husband/wife, parent/child, mentor skipper/novice crew
- Stable and comfortable
- Self-bailing cockpit
- Simple, user-friendly rigging

EASY TO OWN

- Very reasonable price point for used and new (ranging from \$2,000 to \$8,000)
- Well-built - hand-laid, vacuum-bagged, fiberglass sandwich construction for long-term durability
- Lightweight (190 lbs) - easy to transport with small car
- Strict one-design class (no modifications allowed to hull or sails): keeps costs low and boats competitive

FUN TO RACE

- High-performance - exciting and responsive, will plane upwind in 12kts+, more fun than any other boat in its class
- National-level competition as well as novice training
- The boat of choice for team racing
- Optimal crew weight 270-340 lbs.

Get into dinghy racing in Nashville.

Join us for some great one-design sailing this year. If you have raced before or have sailed just enough to want more, you need to check out the Nashville Vanguard 15 Fleet. You will find a fun group of sailors who enjoy high-quality competition and welcome new players. You'll be racing against those with years of experience, as well as newbies, in an environment of good sportsmanship, learning and camaraderie.

The Vanguard 15 is a two-person dinghy that is easy to handle and does not depend on the size or strength of the sailors. It is perfect for couples, parents with kids or young professionals who want to meet other sailors.

For more information, check us out online and contact Robert or Chris.

Nashville Vanguard 15 Fleet 77

CONTACT

Robert Mattix
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robertM@nashvilleV15.org
Chris LaBorde
318-218-0359
chrisL@nashvilleV15.org

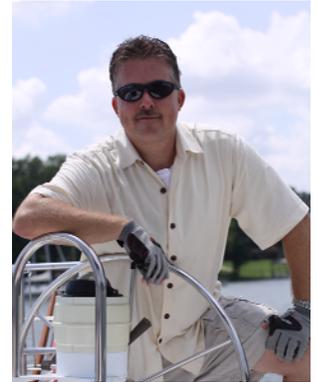


FIND US ON 

www.nashvilleV15.org

Friends & Fellow Sailors,

As I look forward to the future of our wonderful sailing club, I can't help but look back. Not just to this past year, but even further back. Back to the time when a small group of like-minded sailing enthusiasts banded together and started what we now know as Harbor Island Yacht Club. Cully Cobb and his friends all shared a passion for sailing, and since they saw an opportunity to purchase an island that would be in the middle of what would become Old Hickory Lake, what better time and place to start a club. I have a deep admiration for the forethought and planning these gentlemen and their families had over a half a century ago. I have no doubt they sacrificed many things on different levels, and 50 years, later we still get to enjoy the fruits of their efforts. As the only original founder that I personally know, I thank you, Cully. Thank you for the great time and memories that I have been able to share with my family and friends throughout the last twenty years.



I hope we can continue to follow these early Nashville sailors' lead by continuing to promote sailing and further developing our club. Many great things are happening around HIYC, some new and some old. Thanks to the countless hours of hard work and dedication of the Hofmeister, Ward, Killebrew & Richards families, as well as many other volunteers throughout the last 20 years, HIYC has the most successful sail camp in the state. Our program not only introduces kids to our sport and pastime, but also helps develop young counselors (*most of whom were once "campers" themselves*) into not just better sailors, but future leaders. Then there is Andy and Cathy Griswold, who have assembled together the largest Sea Scout Troup in the state, Troup 1851. Their efforts have paved the way for other Sea Scout Troops in the middle Tennessee area, and even re-introduced sailing to the Boy Scouts. Their efforts have also brought many new members to our club over that last twenty years.

Judy Netherton, a relatively new member at HIYC, was instrumental in developing Sailing 101, and is working on another educational event in the early spring. Newly elected Governor, Chaplain and Mooring Fleet Admiral Gene Lovelace has been the "pied piper" of the JaM Fleet, building on an idea by longtime member Chuck Konesky to get more of our members on the race course. Gene has been instrumental in motivating members that normally would not have raced their own boats, to come out and race, consistently adding 10+ boats to the starting line. Bill Hofmeister and Dennis Colby have led the Frostbite series for years, getting Laser sailors on the water in conditions that would make a polar bear shiver, and Kent Martin has taken ownership of the Winter series, some of the best cruiser racing of the year. These weekly races in the dead of winter end up being some of my favorite of the year.

Recently, Rodney Beason has brought remote control sailboat racing at HIYC to an all-time high with the introduction of the RC Laser to our club. At last count, at least fifteen of our members have purchased these high-tech little boats, with our next Commodore Rick Smith leading the way by personally ordering them and guaranteeing to the distributor that they will be sold. This new fleet is in the early stages of planning regattas, as well as sailing with the Lake Providence Laser Squadron. Robert Mattix is working on building a Vanguard 15 fleet at our club. These Vanguard 15's are essentially like a large, more stable Laser with a jib that can easily go from storage to sailing in 15 minutes or less. Although I have not necessarily been a dinghy sailor in the past, I am very excited about this new fleet and my hope is that these new 15-footers may revive dinghy sailing at HIYC. If you have never experienced the purity of small boat sailing, you will be in for real treat once you discover the joy and responsiveness of sailing on a small boat so close to the water. I'm personally planning to lead the charge for a "Dinghy Day" in the early spring, where we can introduce our members to club Opti's, Lasers as well as the venerable Sunfish, of which the club was just given two by friends of the Konesky's for all of our members to use.

Frazier Fielder and Gary Cerrito have stepped up to manage HIYC's new Catalina 22 Club Boat, a program that I hope will continue to develop, allowing many of our current and future members to sail a small cruising boat without having to buy one, further taxing our limited waterfront resources. I'm also hoping that this boat, a type of which we have 5 or 6 at our club and at least a dozen or so at Percy Priest, will compete in one design fleet racing, interclub racing and even match racing.

We had our very first Town Hall style meeting this past fall, bringing together members to openly discuss several key issues, something I hope we will continue to do. Without open discussion and member involvement in decisions that affect the future, our club will not continue to succeed. A member survey is in the works to further inquire what other topics you

would like to see the Board of Governors address, as well as what talents you can contribute to the club. Last month, I assembled our Race Committee, next three Commodores, as well as other influential long time racers, to discuss the future of racing at HIYC. Many ideas and improvements came out of this meeting, most of which will be implemented in the coming racing season. Some of these changes will be evident, such as reducing the number of two-day regattas, slight fleet re-alignments, and course changes that will encourage multiple races in one day.

I mention all of these positive endeavors as encouragement, and to attempt to recognize those who consistently volunteer their time and talents to make our club a better place. Now for the area that we must work to improve upon—member participation. Cully and friends started a sailing club, built on the backs of its members through camaraderie and volunteerism. I have no doubt that a sailboat marina was the furthest thing from their minds. In my mind, member participation is one of the key differences that sets HIYC apart from a typical marina, and I believe that we must do everything that is necessary to remain a Sailing Club.

Last, I'd like to thank all of you for your generous support over the last year. It is amazing how many people stepped up to volunteer for things, or said “yes” when I asked for their services, all solely for the good of our club and its members. It has truly been my pleasure to serve you, my friends and fellow members. Now, as I hand over the proverbial helm to Vice Commodore Rick Smith, I will do all I can to support him and the Board in the quest to continue the momentum of building upon the vision of those early enthusiast.

Dave Desforges



HIYC Quarterly Meeting *and* Change of Watch



Sunday, January 8th is the First Quarterly Meeting for 2012. Please join us for this ceremonious event where we pass the burgee and sword through the ranks of former Commodores and welcome in new Commodore Rick Smith, as well as present awards to some of our members.

As is tradition, the festivities will begin with a social at 5:00 P.M.,

A Pot Luck dinner at 6:00 P.M., and the Business Meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M.

It is important that we establish a Quorum, so if you are unable to attend, please fill out the Proxy Below and send it to Secretary Robertson or a fellow member.

PROXY FORM

I, _____ an Active member of Harbor Island Yacht Club, entitled to vote at the Quarterly meeting, do hereby constitute and appoint _____ as my proxy to attend the Quarterly meeting to be held on **January 8, 2012**, or the continuation or adjournment thereof, with full power to vote and act for me in my name, place and stead, to the same extent and with the same effect as if I were personally present. Any proxy or proxies I have heretofore given to any person or persons whatsoever are hereby revoked.

Signed _____ Date _____

Mail to: John Robertson, 114 Lakeshore Dr., Old Hickory, TN 37138 email: Secretary@hiyc.org

2012 Change of Watch Regatta

(Winter Series Race #1)

Saturday, January 7th

Registration, coffee and Donuts: 9:00 AM

Skippers' Meeting at 10:00 AM

10:55 AM Warning Signal for the first start

3:30 Trophy Presentation

This annual event celebrates the start of the new year's regattas by recognizing and saluting the new HIYC leadership, and cementing the club's commitment to sailboat racing, refreshed by a new year, new winds, new directions of intensity and new leadership! This is the first race of the 2012 Winter Series of 7 races which will be held every Saturday in the month of January and February (except Feb 11). If the **Friday night Channel 4 ten 0'clock news Website** forecast is for a HIGH temperature of 34 degrees or less, the Winter Series race for that Saturday is automatically cancelled.

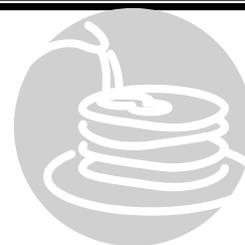


Annual Pancake Breakfast

Before Winter Series Race #2

January 14, 2012 9:00 AM

HIYC Clubhouse



ODE TO THE WINTER SERIES

COME ALL YOU HARDY SAILORS
WHO WINTER SAILING GO

COME FREEZE YOUR DERRIERE OFF
WHILE SAILING IN THE SNOW

YOU'LL NEED TO BE QUITE NIMBLE
TO MAKE YOUR BOAT GO FAST

AND IF YOUR FIRST ACROSS THE LINE
YOU'RE SURE TO WIN SOME GLASS

Thank you,
Kent Martin

REMINDER

Effective this month, The
Gate code to Harbor Island
has changed.

See Hard Copy

The Contractors code remains
unchanged and is

See Hard Copy

It works between the hours of
5Am and 7PM. Please give
this code out to non members
that come out to work on your
boats.

History of the Flotsam/Jetsam

Besides being blood brothers, Billy Bob and Bubba became best buddies. The brothers' brides, both beautiful belles; Billy Bob's beloved Betty - blond, blue-eyed, big breasted, a bewitching beauty, both bright and bubbly; and Bubba's lovable Barb - a brown-eyed brunette, buxom, with a bulging bosom, beguiling and bashful, but well bred; brought bliss to the brothers by both bringing bouncing baby boys to both brothers' border adobe abodes.

Brad and Brandon were born by Betty to Billy Bob; while Barb bore Billy Big Mouth Bass for Bubba. And so it was as so it is that Billy Big Mouth Bass went on to discover sailing and in particular sailing on Old Hickory Lake. Many a tale can be told. But many more tales can be told about Billy Bass bantering about in his boat.

Billy Big Mouth Bass bantered about, about as much as could be believed. Unfortunately for Billy Big Mouth Bass, he was beguiled, beaten and battered by the ever-present Flotsam & Jetsam.

So it is as so it was, we now gather on the banks of Old Hickory Lake on this date once a year, to pay our respects to Billy Big Mouth Bass. In the immortal words of Billy Big Mouth Bass; TAKE ME TO THE RIVER...

Official Results

2011 Flotsam/Jetsam (Billy Bigmouth Bass extravaganza)

SKIPPER	BOAT	FLEET	PHRF	Elapsed Time (sec)	Corrected Time (sec)	PLACE
Bob Cotton	J-32 Spinnaker	A	123	5649	5876	1
Greg Theriot	J-105	A	99	5534	5969	2
Chuck Konesky	C&C 99	A	102	5737	6159	3
Anne Beesley	J-32 Spinnaker	A	123	5952	6191	4
Jim Waller	Northstar 500	B	228	6240	5614	1
Rodney Beason	Beneteau 345	B	135	6441	6582	2
Joe Ballard	Pearson 323	B	180	7970	7642	3
Rob Hempel	Marshal Cat 18	J	300	8891	7322	1
Scott Howard	C&C 38	J	123	7084	7368	2
Marcello Perez	Cat 30 TM	J	180	8254	7915	3
Rafal Ablamowicz	Seafarer 23	J	261	9338	8060	4
Tim Naeser	J-24 OD	L	168	5577	5437	1

Audited edition

"The audits were conducted by Price Waterhouse in accordance with applicable auditing standards and were supported by appropriate audit evidence."

New Members

"Ray and Debbie Briggs have been married for 3 years. Ray is Retired from Peterbilt Motors and is also a Retired Scuba Instructor. Debbie is an Electronic Technician and is employed with AT&T of 38 years service in Nashville, Tennessee.

We own a Pearson 303 and a Catalina 22; however, we are both fairly new to the Sailing world. We love Sailing and love meeting new people who also have sailboats

Ray and Debbie Briggs



Gary Perkins

Laura Sherman Perkins

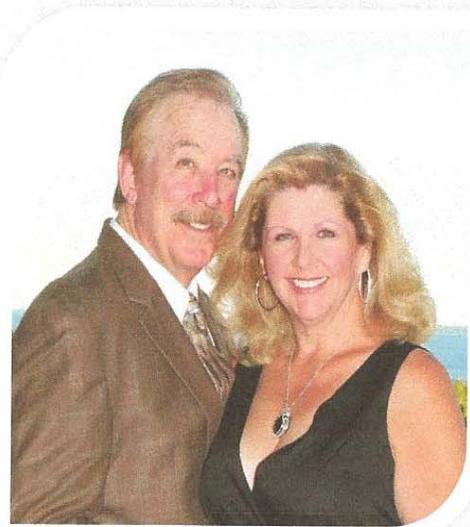
Gary and Laura moved to Tennessee in 2010. They traveled the country in their 44 foot motorcoach for a couple of years before settling here, often stopping to visit family in Mt. Juliet and Smyrna. Both had been long-time residents of the Miami and Homestead, FL areas since the mid 1980s. They met through match.com in 2002 and were married in December of 2006.

Gary has sailed for 40+ years and savoured the waters from the Chesapeake to Florida to the Virgin Islands and the Caribbean. He was a member of the Upper Keys Sailing Club in Key Largo for over 20 years. He has chartered and owned boats of all sizes, the last was a Beneteau Oceanis 370. He converted Laura from a powerboater to happy sailor after they met.

Born in Jonesboro, AR, Gary spent most of his childhood in Marianna, FL and moved to Nashville his senior year of high school graduating from Donelson Sr. High. He earned his Bachelors and Masters degrees here, served in the Air Force, taught ground school and flying and ultimately had a career with the FAA that took him to Washington, D.C. and Miami. Since retiring from the FAA he has been working as an aviation safety oversight consultant assisting both airlines and civil aviation organizations around the globe.

Laura was born and raised in Fond du Lac, WI, attended the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and is a proud life-long Packer fan! She owned an interior decorating business in south Florida, worked in the produce industry and now assists Gary doing technical publishing for his consultant group. She loves golf and has played since she was 8 years old. Gary joins her on the links when he can.

They enjoy living in the Del Webb at Lake Providence community in Mt. Juliet with all of its amenities and close proximity to Gary's sons and grandchildren.





Sea Scout News



Well after 18 years Cathy and I are finally retiring the old Sea Scout Uniforms. We've been through a lot with the kids and in a way it kind of hurts to give it up. - - - You know these uniforms were actually designed by the Scouts around 15 years ago. Sea Scouting is a part of Venturing and under the Venturing rules it is legitimate to have Scout designed uniforms.

So what's next?

In one of our November meetings the Scouts voted to go to formal 'Whites'. Just like you've seen in the Navy for years. Pretty cool. The new uniforms have started coming in and we hope to have all the kids fitted by mid January for some formal presentations they will be involved in. At our last meeting in December several of the Scouts tried on their uniforms and I must say they really look sharp.

2012 is the 100th anniversary of Sea Scouting in the United States and here at HIYC we're going to do it up right. Mark your calendars for the weekend of September 15th 2012. We will be putting on what is now a nationally recognized event with an expected group of 200+ youth and adults.

From our web page:

Sea Scouting is celebrating our 100 Anniversary

On September 14-16th, 2012 at the Harbor Island Yacht Club.

We will be gathering to experience a once in a lifetime event in Middle Tennessee. We'll have Sea Scout Ships and other groups attending from all over the State and neighboring BSA Councils to participate in this celebration. There will be groups from the US Navy, Coast Guard, commercial and other local marine related industries with displays and activities.

We will also have activities and games for all the participants to experience.

Sailing Regatta, Canoe Hockey, Funyack Tug-of-War, Food, Skills Competition,

And Much More.....

This is a big deal for the Sea Scouts and the club. Already several members have come forward to offer their assistance. For example Robert Mattix is hoping to have several of the new Vanguard 15's there for match racing etc. (I'm looking forward to playing in these boats.) And we hope to have additional displays as well.

Yes we're giving up the old Blue uniforms. But the fun continues.

Andy & Cathy Griswold



Mooring Fleet Reminder

This month, the Treasurer will assess each member who has a boat on a mooring the yearly \$30 maintenance fee. This fee is to cover the cost associated with the Courtesy Dock utilities and maintenance.

Plan on sailing in the 29th Annual

Warterfield March Winds Regatta

SATURDAY MARCH 3th, and SUNDAY MARCH 4th, 2012



Want to sail HIYC's club Catalina 22?

Contact Gary Cerrito to get "checked out" on the boat and to make reservations by calling him at 804-7345 or by emailing him at tennesseeack1@comcast.net.

January 2012 Dock Slip & Mooring Waiting List

Wood Dock Adm: Allen Mirse		Concrete Dock Adm: Dave Desforges		Plastic Dock Adm: Neil Cunningham		Causeway Dock Adm: Stephen Mitchell		Temporary Slips Harbor Master: Greg Theriot		Moorings	
Mbr since	Name	Mbr since	Name	Mbr since	Name	Mbr since	Name	Mbr since	Name	Mbr since	Name
5/30/1990	Sawyer	7/16/1995	Smokler	3/6/2006	DiCroce	5/30/1990	Sawyer	8/15/1995	Asgeirsson	5/15/2011	Iliev (Needs Double Block)
7/16/1995	Smokler	8/15/1995	Asgeirsson	11/13/2006	Latour	7/16/1995	Smokler	3/6/2006	DiCroce		
8/15/1995	Asgeirsson	11/11/2003	Hardesty	12/12/2006	O'Dell	8/15/1995	Asgeirsson	11/13/2006	Latour		
9/12/1995	Thomas	3/6/2006	DiCroce	2/12/2007	Andrews	9/12/1995	Thomas	12/12/2006	O'Dell		
10/12/1995	Osborne	11/13/2006	Latour	4/16/2007	Lovelace	10/12/1995	Osborne	2/12/2007	Andrews		
11/11/2003	Hardesty	12/12/2006	O'Dell	5/11/2007	Martin D.	11/11/2003	Hardesty	4/10/2007	Green		
3/6/2006	DiCroce	2/12/2007	Andrews	7/9/2007	Amos	3/6/2006	DiCroce	4/16/2007	Lovelace		
11/13/2006	Latour	4/10/2007	Green	10/2/2007	Jordan	11/13/2006	Latour	5/11/2007	Martin D.		
12/12/2006	O'Dell	4/16/2007	Lovelace	10/3/2007	Grissom	12/12/2006	O'Dell	7/9/2007	Amos		
2/12/2007	Andrews	5/11/2007	Martin D.	4/1/2008	Markey	2/12/2007	Andrews	9/10/2007	Knapp		
4/10/2007	Green	7/9/2007	Amos	4/3/2008	Putnam	4/10/2007	Green	10/2/2007	Jordan		
4/16/2007	Lovelace	9/10/2007	Knapp	12/1/2008	Eubanks	4/16/2007	Lovelace	10/3/2007	Grissom		
5/11/2007	Martin D.	10/2/2007	Jordan	4/26/2009	Carroll	5/11/2007	Martin D.	4/1/2008	Markey		
7/9/2007	Amos	10/3/2007	Grissom	5/4/2009	Brandon	7/9/2007	Amos	4/3/2008	Putnam		
9/10/2007	Knapp	4/1/2008	Markey	8/10/2009	Cerrito	9/10/2007	Knapp	12/1/2008	Eubanks		
10/2/2007	Jordan	4/3/2008	Putnam	9/14/2009	Koch	10/2/2007	Jordan	4/26/2009	Carroll		
10/3/2007	Grissom	12/1/2008	Eubanks	11/11/2009	Allegra	10/3/2007	Grissom	5/4/2009	Brandon		
4/1/2008	Markey	4/26/2009	Carroll	4/20/2010	Netherton	4/1/2008	Markey	8/10/2009	Cerrito		
4/3/2008	Putnam	5/4/2009	Brandon	3/8/2011	Cullen	4/3/2008	Putnam	9/14/2009	Koch		
12/1/2008	Eubanks	8/10/2009	Cerrito	4/11/2011	Haskell	12/1/2008	Eubanks	11/11/2009	Allegra		
4/26/2009	Carroll	9/14/2009	Koch			4/26/2009	Carroll	4/20/2010	Netherton		
5/4/2009	Brandon	11/11/2009	Allegra			5/4/2009	Brandon	3/7/2011	Cullen		
8/10/2009	Cerrito	4/20/2010	Netherton			8/10/2009	Cerrito	4/11/2011	Haskell		
9/14/2009	Koch	3/7/2011	Cullen			9/14/2009	Koch	5/15/2011	Iliev		
11/11/2009	Allegra	4/11/2011	Haskell			11/11/2009	Allegra				
4/20/2010	Netherton	5/15/2011	Iliev			4/20/2010	Netherton				
3/6/2011	Cullen					3/7/2011	Cullen				
4/11/2011	Haskell					4/11/2011	Haskell				
5/15/2011	Iliev					5/15/2011	Iliev				

Southeast Regional Sailing & Yacht Club Summit
February 11 and 12, 2011
Nashville, Tennessee

Featuring nationally renowned sailing advocate **Nick Hayes**, author of [Saving Sailing](#) plus a keynote address by **Jack Reigart**, Executive Director of [US SAILING](#)

Plan now to join fellow sailors who are concerned for the future of the sport of sailing. Modeled after the successful Inaugural Yacht Club Summit sponsored by US SAILING in Chicago last April, you are invited to participate in the nation's first regional summit, designed to address issues common to clubs and sailors in the Southeast .

Friday, February 10, 7PM to 9PM – [Parthenon](#) at Centennial Park, in the West End area, heart of Nashville's university and hospital district. *Early check-in and welcome reception, hosted by West Marine at the world famous Parthenon, Nashville's exact replica of the temple in Athens, Greece.*

Saturday, February 11 – Breakfast on your own

Saturday, February 11, 9AM to 5PM – Red Cross Headquarters (centrally located 2 blocks from Centennial Park) Red Cross partners with area clubs and camps offering CPR to the sailing community.

Sessions designed for networking opportunities and best practices sharing. Opening with best-selling author, Nick Hayes and panels led by some of the region's most experienced flag officers and engaged racing enthusiasts.

Topics to include:

- State of the sport – Presented by **Nick Hayes** who, according to Bill Schanen, Editor & Publisher, Sailing Magazine: “ guides us to a conclusion that floats on a buoyant platform of instantly recognizable common sense and leaves us wanting to go sailing...”
- Membership and Organization - Offered for board members and club leaders responsible for current operation and future of their club focusing on the issues of shrinking membership.
- Racing Sessions – With sub-topics on promoting racing, how to manage regattas and prepare race committees to insure a great experience for competitors plus discussions of rules and rating systems.
- Education and Youth Sailing - A session that addresses the developmental range of education issues for novice to veteran with an emphasis on increasing youth participation in the sport and club experience
- Signature Events – Sharing other clubs' big, signature events that draw prospective members, re-engage less connected members and bring new competitors from other clubs.
- Community Sailing – Learn how clubs give back to their communities, and give curious non-sailors a taste of what could become a lifelong passion.
- Governance – Committee structures that work, and some that don't. New board member orientation programs. Dues structures.
- Club owned fleets – Why do it, why not to do it, mistakes, problems and successful experiences.
- Waterfront Management - Dealing with facility expansion, storage solutions, regulatory issues.

Saturday, February 11, 7PM to 9PM – [The Standard at the Smith House](#), Nashville's only remaining grand townhouse from the 1840's, a five minute ride from the day time venue

Dinner and keynote address by **Jack Gierhart**, life-long sailor and Executive Director of US SAILING, a co-sponsor of the Southeast Regional Yacht Club and Sailing Summit

Sunday, February 12, 9AM to 10:30AM - Red Cross Headquarters

Summit wrap-up and event awards ceremony

Sunday, February 12, 11AM to 3PM

Weather permitting, demonstration of radio controlled Lasers in the pond at Centennial Park and Tours of local clubs

- [Harbor Island Yacht Club](#) on Old Hickory Lake (30 minutes from the venue)
- [Percy Priest Yacht Club](#) on Percy Priest Lake (20 minutes from the venue)

Registration fee of \$75 includes Friday night reception; Saturday session materials; lunch; a copy of [Saving Sailing](#), which can be autographed by the author; plus, a goodie bag of sailing stuff from our sponsors.

Saturday night dinner reservations, \$53 (includes taxes and tip) – a terrific bargain for the Smith House facility!

To register, go to: https://www.regattanetwork.com/clubmgmt/applet_registration_form.php?regatta_id=4782

For additional information, call Marc Fortune at 615-866-9494 or email him: Marc@MarcFortune.com



The RC Lasers are coming to play... the RC Lasers are here to stay...and we are *smitten*.

It was a joy to see these little boats sailing in the harbor at HIYC after Clean-up Day...and to feel the love their owners

have for them and for the time they spend together playing with them. I watched with fascination from the long pier as they navigated them around the racecourse and was impressed that they behaved like "real Lasers"...pointing high, developing helm with heel, sailing fast by the lee. A "c'mon Bruce" was all the persuasion I needed from Mandy to take the controls of number 88 for the third race (won by virtue of beginner's luck)...and when Rick Campen handed me the controls of the red boat number

74 for the fourth race I was smitten... even though Todd Anderson's red number 20 nipped

it at the finish line. My first boat, a wooden dory that Dad built in Mum's living room one winter when I was 11, was red, number 74! It was as though I had been handed the best of my childhood sailing with no strings attached. "So sign me up for two..." I e-mailed Rick Smith, the Pied Piper of RC Laser sailing at HIYC when he announced that Steve Lang of SailRC had offered HIYC members a fleet discount and free shipping. My impulsive enthusiasm for the boat was matched by others in the most positively spirited flurry of e-mails imaginable. Bill Killebrew wrote: "We were on our way back from the Jubilee regatta in Pensacola and my crew, Mike Osborne has talked of little this weekend besides RC Lasers..." And Duane Hatch texted: "I'm itching to play with the RC Laser again."

What has transpired over six weeks may be a lesson for Saving Sailing...and bears some uncanny parallels to the arrival of the Laser in 1973, in a cardboard box, with a price tag of \$695, ready to sail after 10 minutes' rigging, simple, fast, fun and strictly one design. The RC Laser's price tag is only \$600 plus batteries but the concept, the Bruce Kirby design and the "game" are the same as the Laser's...modified to encourage beginners by giving them a 20 second head start. The successful launch of HIYC's "Fleet 77" is a reflection of the "power of three." First, a passionate catalyst and communicator in Rick Smith who has served as HIYC's "point person" with respect to this adventure. Second, a group of enthusiastic participants who have not been deterred by

either rain or certainty of marital discord ("You spent \$XXX on what???").

And third, dedicated mentors in Steve Lang and Steve Churchill who spent an entire afternoon with us reviewing every detail of the boat and making sure that each of ours were "rigged right" while sharing pearls of wisdom about sailing them and gems of history about their evolution. We have discovered that it takes only a little time to have a lot of fun racing these boats as Fred Beesley writes: "I left my office in downtown Nashville, drove 22.7 miles to the Del Webb neighborhood at Lake Providence just off the Mt. Juliet Exit of I-40, got in the gate with the



invitation of Rodney Beason, and joined seven other sailors at 1:00 for two hours of really



fun sailboat racing. Weather was sunny & cool, with light winds, so we used the big sails. Those guys surely were a lot better than me. I have got a lot to learn, but we got in about 7 or 8 races in a couple of hours. At 3:00 I stopped, folded my Laser bag and got back to the office at 3:45 and



was able to work until 5:45 and get in a pretty respectable six hour day of practicing law." And we have a perfect platform for playing the game: the end of the dock at Green's Point.

We are also "starting from scratch" as RC sailors. No one of us has any more experience, expertise or prowess than the sailor standing next to us--so we have all had a bit of "beginner's luck" and a large piece of "humble pie." In a reflection that should amuse all (even me in hindsight) I became vocally distraught when my boat seemed "dead in the water" one Sunday as a downpour abated: "I've got no rudder! I've lost my rudder!!!" Ever-helpful Mike Osborne came over to my side to analyze my plight, saw me flipping the right-hand joy stick up and down and calmly reminded me: "That one goes left and right [to control the rudder]" Fifty years of racing experience is of little value when you don't know left from right, up from down, or near from far when playing this game!

I love it! And you will too. Come play with us and enjoy

Smooth sailing,
Bruce Richards
RC Laser #3310, Pandaminimum

John Robertson
114 Lakeshore Dr.
Old Hickory, TN 37138



Harbor Island Yacht Club
Located on Old Hickory Lake
Visit us On-line at www.HIYC.org

2011 Officers

Commodore—Dave Desforges
Vice Commodore—Rick Smith
Secretary—John Robertson
Treasurer—Fred Beesley
Rear Commodore—JB Copeland
Senior Governor—Peter Bennett
Governor—Mike Birk
Junior Governor—Gene Lovelace

TO:

    **Schedule of Events**    

JANUARY 2012

Sun – 1	New Years Day
Sat-7	Change of Watch Regatta Winter Series Race 1
Sun-8	Quarterly Meeting-COW Laser Frostbite Race 1
Tues- 10	HIYC Board Meeting
Sat– 14	Pancake Breakfast/ Winter Series Race 2
Sun-15	Laser Frostbite Race 2
Sat-21	Winter Series Race 3
Sun-22	Laser Frostbite Race 3
Sat- 28	Winter Series Race 4
Sun- 29	Laser Frostbite Race 4

FEBRUARY 2012

Sat-4	Winter Series Race 5 Laser Frostbite Race 5
Tues– 7	HIYC Board Meeting
Sat-11	South East Regional
Sun-12	Sailing Summit
Sun- 12	Laser Frostbite Race 6
Sat-18	Winter Series Race 6
Sun-19	Laser Frostbite Race 7
Sat- 25	Winter Series Race 7
Sun- 26	Laser Frostbite Race 8

MARCH 2012

Sat-3	March Winds Regatta
Sun-4	March Winds Regatta