



Broad Bay Banter

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BROAD BAY SAILING ASSOCIATION
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March 2016

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Website link: [Broad Bay Sailing Association](#)

COMMODORE'S CORNER

Andrew Spittler, commodore@broadbaysailing.org

Great things are happening within BBSA for 2016. The February Meeting at the Mermaid Winery was a rousing success. From what I heard, this was the best attended February meeting in years. Thank you Mary Greblunas for all the time and effort in organizing and setting up the venue.

The Cruise meeting at Mary and Joe's on Willoughby Bay was well attended. We've got a solid schedule for 2016. Remember, ad hoc cruises are encouraged.

Besides cruising, the Little Creek and Willoughby Racers prepare for the Wednesday/Thursday night competition. Wharf Rat is going on the hard; checking bottom paint to ensure we are as competitive as possible. Check on the remarks from Scott, Randy, and Guy for the latest information.

The March Membership Meeting is scheduled for 15 March at the Big Ugly Brewery with food provided by Camos American Grill. See flyer on next page for detailed information. I personally recommend the Ghost Rider India Pale Ale.

We are off to a rousing start. If you haven't paid your dues for 2016, read Sergio's remarks below. You don't want to miss a single fun filled event this year. Dues for BBSA are still a low, low, low \$35.00.

If you haven't picked up on the theme for 2016... get involved. You will have fun.

MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Big Ugly Brewing
1296 Battlefield Blvd S, Chesapeake, VA 23322
<http://biguglybrewing.com>

15 March 2016/1800

Guest Speaker: Jim Miller/Doyle Sails

Please RSVP no later than 11 March 2016 so Big Ugly and Camos can ensure enough staffing.
commodore@roadbaysailing.org

Thank you Aaron of the Big Ugly Brewery; we will have the entire bar to ourselves, I recommend the Ghost Rider Pale Ale. Food is available from Camo's American Grill (10% off for Big Ugly Customers). You can text or call your food order in, and they will deliver to the Big Ugly. I plan to get there at 1800, and folks can wander in and order food and drink. Jim will speak at 1900. Follow the web links for more info on Big Ugly and Camos.

1800 - Brewery Opens

Order food at Camos in person, by text, or online (see below for contact information)
Eat, Drink, and be Merry

1900 – Speakers:

Jim Miller
Various Officers
Members

RACING NEWS

PHRF Racing News, Scott Almond, racing@broadbaysailing.org

First of all, congratulations go out (again!) to our 2015 Big Boat Skipper-of-the-Year, Carey Hardesty; he and his crew aboard LONA B were just awarded the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association (CBYRA) Labrot Trophy for the best overall PHRF boat on the Chesapeake Bay (that is: **best overall in ALL PHRF fleets on the ENTIRE Bay**)! This is an incredible honor... congratulations, Carey!!

The 2016 Southern Bay Racing calendar is posted on the lower right hand corner of our homepage: www.broadbaysailing.org. The first big-boat races of the season are less than a month away as Little Creek starts their Wednesday Night Series on April 6th and Willoughby starts their series the next day. Registration for these games is March 26th and March 24th, respectively. Details are posted on our website.

Don't forget to finish up the following applications/renewals before the prep flag drops:

- **US Sailing** - as a member of BBSA, you get a discount on your membership: <https://www1.ussailing.org/membership/MPP/Default.aspx?ycid=108856C>
- **CBYRA** - for eligibility in their season long High Point competition (and, indeed, to compete for the Labrot Trophy); the Southern Bay has its own division (Region IV) for trophies. If you haven't done this before, give it a shot this year. There's no extra work as you're probably ALREADY racing in many of the area's CBYRA-sanctioned events (like BBSA's Cape Henry Cup, Cape Charles Cup, and Neptune's Atlantic Regatta); this just gives you the opportunity to win more trophies. Might as well, eh??
https://www.regattanetwork.com/membermgmt/CBYRA/membership_registration_start.php
- **PHRF of the Chesapeake for your Valid Rating** - a necessary evil for racing. <http://www.phrfchesbay.org/bin/renew.php>. Two-step process; fill out the electronic application/renewal form and then use the link below it to pay online. Both new applications AND renewals must use BOTH steps (you can't just pay for a renewal without submitting the renewal form). Put BBSA in the blank for Primary Club and put your (newly acquired?) CBYRA membership number in the blank for CBYRA.
- **CCV** - Their racing membership automatically enters you in all of their races for the season (except for Southern Bay Race Week); saves time, money, and headaches!! Worst case, join as a club member to get your copy of the annual racing bible (the CCV Racing Guide) to have information on every significant race in this area. <http://www.ccvracing.org/Membership/membership.html>. There is a link at the bottom to an online application.
- **Southern Bay Race Week (June 3rd-5th)** - why wait to get registered in the most competitive racing event of the year?? 3 days of racing (2 for the Cruising Fleet)... take advantage of the early bird entry fee and free beverage tickets! <http://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=1547>.

Upcoming dates of which to be aware:

24 March - Willoughby Racers Registration Night - www.broadbaysailing.org

26 March - Little Creek Sailing Association 2015 Awards and 2016 Kick-Off Social - www.broadbaysailing.org

6 April - LCSA Wednesday Series begins

7 April - Willoughby Racers Thursday Night Series begins

One Design News, Jerry Pattenaude, onedesign@broadbaysailing.org

March is the time of year that I get back to doing the things on my Shark that I didn't finish at the end of last year's season. Since it is a woody I have to sand and varnish it every two or three years and that should have been done last year. But alas, it didn't and I have to think that had something to do with my placing 5th at the Shark Nationals last year. Along with the demisting when the tang pulled apart at the top of the mast in the 2nd from last race. This all points to a lack of maintenance and the inattention to the details that matter. Sometimes getting ready to compete is not the best time to be doing maintenance.

The gist is; all of this could have been prevented by Cruising less often. No, I am just kidding! It has to do with getting the girl ready (that would be my boat) not Jean, in a more timely manner like NOW.

BBSA hosts our first dingy regatta on June 25th at ODU. Other clubs are doing the same all summer long. This is a chance to compete with your fellow club members and against other clubs one on one. If you make a mistake you own it. This brings out the best in us. It is also true that other sailors want to see you do well and are willing to help get a boat out of the shed (or weeds) and tune her up. Many time this also builds lasting friendships and you can always learn a trick or two.

So if you are interested in getting out there with your Laser, Sunfish, Thistle, Force five, Shark, Hobie, or whatever boat you have, and you would like some help doing so please give me a call. This is a good time to get together off the water and still be with your friends doing what we all like to do.

I have to get ready now; How about you?

Warm regards,

Jerry Pattenaude 543-3029

One Design Captain

Little Creek Sailing Association Wednesday Races, from Randy Goodman:

lcsa@broadbaysailing.org

I have sent a draft copy of the 2016 LCSA Sailing Instructions to all of the Skippers. If you have comments or did not get a copy, please let me know.

We are continuing to recruit new boat owners and crew for the 2016 Season.

We are expecting about 25 boats to be competing in LCSA Wednesday Night Races this year. If you have not yet, please submit your BBSA and LCSA dues.

We are expecting two of the LCSA boats to be predominantly manned by US Patriot Sailing members. US Patriot Sailing is 501c3 non-profit with a mission of supporting combat and wounded Veterans through competitive Sailing. If you would like more information about US Patriot Sailing, please email Randy@USPatriotSailing.org.

LCSA March activities include:

- **17 March St Patrick's Day** (we're all Irish on the 17th) - I am sure there will be some training going on somewhere)
- **23 March LCSA Rules of Racing Seminar; Race Committee Refresher and SI review (at Sail Nauticus, Norfolk)**, 7-9 PM (arrive NLT 6:45 PM, so you do not interrupt the presentation). Parking across the street from Nauticus. Presentation will be in the Virginia Room at the Half Moon Cruise and Celebration Center / Nauticus. All LCSA Skippers should try to attend this meeting. Strongly recommended all LCSA Crewmen also attend. Please RSVP via email to Randy Goodman
- Presentation will include:
 - Review Rules of Racing (Mike Veraldi)
 - Discuss Race Committee Duties, Responsibilities and "How To" for LCSA Races (Scott Almond)
 - Review of the LCSA Sailing Instructions for 2016 (Randy Goodman)
- **26 March LCSA 2015 Awards Ceremony and 2016 Kickoff Party** (Host: Randy and Dani Goodman). 2 to 5:30 PM. All attendees should bring an hors d'ourve, dessert etc. LCSA will provide beverages & paper products.
- Skippers: Please RSVP to Randy Goodman NLT 19 March with names from your crew on who will be attending.
- We will have race committee sign-ups at the party and you will be able to pay your dues (check, cash or credit card).
- **06 April LCSA Race Season Begins (1800 start)**

I am continuing an LCSA email distribution list. If you are not on the LCSA email list, but want to get on it please email the following info to the LCSA POC: Randy Goodman

Your Name

Name of the LCSA boat you race on

Your email address

Willoughby Racers Thursday Races, from Guy Sorensen:

Contact Guy at willoughbyracers@broadbaysailing.org or (757) 754-6418. Check our website <http://www.broadbaysailing.org/racing/willoughby.asp> and our Willoughby Racers Facebook page for updates and more information.

Sailing season is quickly approaching! Be sure to update your BBSA membership and register for the Race Season when you do! We are looking for 3 Series Captains, please contact me if you are interested. If you need to update your PHRF rating the earlier the better. The paper work takes just a minute to fill out and can be done online. Please be sure to talk to your dock mates and other sailing friends to remind them to get registered and on the water with Willoughby Racers! This year we will have 2 U.S. Patriot boats racing in our fleet. If you know any Wounded Combat Vets, Combat Veterans, Veterans, Active Duty Members or Gold Star Families that might be interested in our program please have them get in touch with myself or Randy Goodman. We will be having our Race Committee Refresher course soon and I will post dates and times as soon it is determined. Spring is right around the corner, get ready now for a great season on the water!

Upcoming events:

- **24 March, 6:30pm** - Registration night for the 2016 Willoughby Thursday Night Race Series will be in the lounge of **Rebel Marine**. Notice of Race and Registration Form are posted on the website. Please bring your filled out form and a race committee date in mind.
- **07 April** – Racing begins

SBRW and Norfolk Harborfest Challenge, from Lin McCarthy:

This coming JUNE will be a special time on the southern Chesapeake Bay in Hampton Roads.

There will be two significant events within the first two weeks of June:

- **Southern Bay Race Week** opens the evening of June 2nd with racing from June 3rd through June 5th. This is the weekend *AFTER* Memorial Day Weekend. This year there will be 4 divisions for racers – PHRF, One-Design, Cruising, and Multihull. Regatta headquarters are at Hampton Yacht Club. Information on entries, scratch sheets, accommodations and docking, Notice of Race, complimentary rafting as well as launch and trailer storage, on-line entry or paper entry (including “financially friendly” entry fees), and more is available at <http://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=1547> and www.hamptonyc.com or contact Lin McCarthy at (757) 850-4225, email mcbear@earthlink.net. **Y’ALL COME RACING!**
- **Norfolk Harborfest Challenge** opens with the Skippers Meeting and check-in at Norfolk Yacht and Country Club on the evening of June 8th, the Wednesday following SBRW. The race will be on Thursday, June 9th, as part of the celebration of the *40th Norfolk Harborfest festival*. Racers may choose a special entry package which includes docking at the Waterside docks for the entire festival weekend, Wednesday night through Sunday afternoon, June 8th through June 12th. The racing on Thursday will be in Hampton Roads Harbor and will finish up the Elizabeth River with the finish line in front of Waterside. On Friday all racers are invited to participate in the official festival opening Parade of Sail and to the race party and awards presentation on the Harborfest Main Stage. All race information (entry form, competitors list, race announcement and more) is available at <https://festevents.org/norfolkharborfestchallengeregatta/> or contact Lin McCarthy at (757)850-4225, email mcbear@earthlink.net. Norfolk Festevents invites you to the grand 40th anniversary celebration. This may be the only time you and your crew will be among tall ships in a Parade of Sail on the Elizabeth River – enjoy!

CRUISING NEWS

Andy Spittler, andrew.spittler@gmail.com or cruising@broadbaysailing.org

Thank you everyone who came out for the Cruising Planning meeting. We had beautiful weather and I feel it is a great omen for this year's cruising weather. Thank you for all the Cruise Captains that signed up.

You can help our Cruise Captains, as well, with their planning. Please take the time to let the cruise captains know if you think you will be joining their cruise. No commitment, just your best guess! The flyers for the first gathering are below follows the Cruising Calendar.

On the next page is the BBSA Cruising Calendar, it is a work in progress. It's shaping up nicely, but it still needs a little more time to grow. If you would like to Captain a cruise, please send me an Email and I would be happy to add it to the calendar. We also have a growing list of cruisers that I can send an email to for "ad hoc" cruises. If you would like to be added to the list to get the special Emails for cruises, please let me know.

Below are the upcoming cruises. See you there!!!

- ⚓ Sunday, April 3rd, 2 – 6pm › Sock Burning & Summer Sailstice Stone Soup Party (Land Cruise)
- ⚓ April 30th – May 1st › Uno de Mayo Cruise (Waterside Cruise)
- ⚓ May 21st – 22nd › Pet Friendly Cruise (Salt Ponds Marina)
- ⚓ May 28th – 30th › Memorial Day Cruise (Mobjack Bay)
- ⚓ June 10th – 12th › The 40th Annual Norfolk Harborfest®
- ⚓ June 18th – 19th › Summer Sailstice (Lower Chesapeake)
- ⚓ Tuesday, June 28th – July 3rd › Summer Cruise Part 1 (Sarah Creek, Broad Creek, Urbanna, Reedville, Dymmer Creek & meet up with Part 2 cruise at Cape Charles)
- ⚓ July 2nd – 10th › Summer Cruise Part 2 (Poquoson, Cape Charles, Onancock, Corrotoman, Indian Creek, Little Bay & Ware River)
- ⚓ Date TBD › Ad Hoc (You plan the cruise at the last minute and I will send an email to everyone, so they could join you, if it works with their plan. If you were not at the planning meeting, please let me know if you would like to be added to the "Cruising Communication" list.)



Fair Winds,
Andy

BBSA Cruising Calendar

Date	Cruise	Destination	Cruise Captains
Sunday, April 2 - 3 rd 6pm	Sock Burning & Stone Soup Party	464 W. Ocean View Park at the Ocean View Fishing Pier	Cindy Lee Hall & Eric Fee (s/v Big E) Mary & Joe Greblunas (s/v Tiki Rose)
April 30th – May 1st	Uno de Mayo Cruise	Waterside	BBSA Officers
May 21st - 22nd	Pet Friendly Cruise	Salt Ponds Marina	Andy & Carmen Spittler (s/v Coriolis)
May 28th - 30th	Memorial Day	Mobjack Bay	Eric & Cathy Brinsfield (s/v Flight Risk)
June 10th - 12th	The 40th Annual Norfolk Harborfest®	Norfolk or Hospital Point	John Scott (s/v Summer Wine)
June 18th - 19th	Summer Sailstice	Lower Chesapeake	Mary & Joe Greblunas (s/v Tiki Rose)
Tuesday, June 28th - July 3rd	Summer Cruise Part 1	Sarah Creek, Broad Creek, Urbanna, Reedville, Dymer Creek & Seigo's at Cruise Cape Charles	Jim & Bev Borberg (s/v Dreamtime)
July 2nd - 10th	Summer Cruise Part 2	Poquoson, Cape Charles, Onancock, Corrotoman, Indian Creek, Little Bay & Ware River	Sergio Diehl (s/v Modus Vivendi)
August 20th - 21st	Anchoring Cruise	Back River	Don & Jewel Snyder (s/v Marigot)
August 27th - 28th	TBA	TBA	Cindy Lee Hall & Eric Fee (s/v Big E)
Sept 3rd - 5th	Labor Day	Ware River	Jean & Jerry Pattenaude (s/v Shangri La)
Sept 17th -18th	Anchoring Cruise	TBA	Jim & Susan Currie (s/v Sea Doc)
Sept 24th - 25th	Yorktown Cruise	Riverwalk Landing	Chip & LeMoine Jones (s/v Virginia Breeze)
November 19th - 20th	Grand Illumination Parade Cruise	Waterside	Jonathan Romero (s/v Cannonball)
<p>If you would like to Captain a cruise, please send me an Email and I would be happy to add it to the calendar. We also have a growing list of cruisers that I can send an email to for "ad hoc" cruises.</p>			

BBSA Sock Burning & Summer Sailstice Stone Soup Party

Broad Bay Sailing Association Cruisers & Racers are invited to come wearing their last pair of socks they are going to wear, until after the summer. Plus, bring a mug of ingredients to add to the stone soup. In your RSVP, please include the ingredient that you plan to add to the soup. Please also bring a dish to share and your drink (to share?) Tea and water will be provided.

2 pm: Gathering with ingredients to add to soup. Bring a beach chair, sailing tales and enjoy Eric's backyard, Ocean View Beach. This is an OUTDOORS event - feel your sockless feet in the sand, wind in your face, sun on your skin and the sound of the Chesapeake Bay calling us back!

3pm: Discuss 2016 Summer Sailstice Plans, BBSA Cruising, & BBSA Racing

**4pm: Sock Burning Ceremony – “Ode to the Sock Burners”
(Enough with the socks, it's time to go sailing!)**

Next: Soup's up – Fill your mug with the tasty Stone Soup.

Host

Cindy Lee Hall & Eric Fee (s/v Big E)
Mary & Joe Greblunas (s/v Tiki Rose)



When

Sunday, April 3rd
2pm – 6pm

Where

Eric's Backyard
464 W. Ocean View Ave, Norfolk, VA 23503
Park at the Ocean View Fishing Pier
Facing the pier, walk to the left up the beach about 50 yards.
Lost? Call Eric 757-876-5148



Please Bring

- ⚓ Sailing Stories
- ⚓ Your Old Winter Socks
- ⚓ Beach Chair
- ⚓ A mug filled with ingredients for the Stone Soup
- ⚓ Anything particular you would like to Drink
(beer/soda/wine/water will be provided)
- ⚓ An Appetizer to share

Please RSVP

(Please include in your RSVP what soup ingredient you are bringing.)
marygreblunas@yahoo.com
804-402-1181

2016 BBSA Summer Cruise

Jim & Bev's Cruise

			Miles		Restaurant	
1	28-Jun	Tuesday	28	Sarah Creek or York River Yacht Haven	Eat on Board or York River Oyster Company	Anchor Marina
2	29-Jun	Wednesday	32	Broad Creek - Doziers	BBQ	Marina
3	30-Jun	Thursday	16	Urbanna or Urbanna Town Marina	Eat on Board or Restaurant in town	Anchor Marina
4	1-Jul	Friday	29	Reedville - Anchor	Crazy Crab or onboard	Anchor
5	2-Jul	Saturday	17	Dymer Creek - Anchor	Eat on Board	Anchor
6	3-Jul	Sunday	34	Join Sergio's Cruise	Cape Charles	Marina

Sergio's Cruise

6	1	2-Jul	Saturday	20	Back Creek	Poquoson	Anchor
7	2	3-Jul	Sunday	22	City Marina	Cape Charles	Marina
8	3	4-Jul	Monday	0	City Marina	Cape Charles	Marina
9	4	5-Jul	Tuesday	14	Town Dock	Onancock	Marina
10	5	6-Jul	Wednesday	42	Eastern Branch	Corrotoman	Anchor
11	6	7-Jul	Thursday	20	Chesapeake Boat Basin	Indian Creek	Marina
12	7	8-Jul	Friday	4	Little Bay		Anchor
13	8	9-Jul	Saturday	36	Ware River		Anchor
14	9	10-Jul		31	Home		

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Sergio Diehl, membership@broadbaysailing.org

Membership Renewal:

First of all, thanks to everyone that has renewed their membership. Your promptness is appreciated. Also, I would like to welcome the new members that have recently joined and look forward to seeing you at this month's meeting at the Big Ugly Brewery and on the Cruise onboard the Rover next month.

If you have not done so already, please to take a few minutes to fill out the renewal form and e-mail it back to me. I am in the process of getting the roster finalized and sent to the printer. Please get these into me so that I can have the roster correct. This form also includes all of necessary data to sign up for either the Little Creek Sailing Association or Willoughby racers. This year's fees are the same as last year (\$35 BBSA Membership and either \$20 for LCSA or \$45 for the Willoughby racers). Please either mail a check made out to BBSA for the amount indicated or use the following link to pay by credit card or PayPal. <http://www.broadbaysailing.org/renew/index.asp>

Sunshine Chair News: Kathie Roberts, chassail@infoonline.net

As BBSA's Sunshine Chairman, my responsibility is to convey congratulations, sympathy, condolences, get-well wishes, etc. to members or their close relatives when the occasion arises. I am happy to do this, but I need the help of all the membership for this to be effective. So, if you hear of someone in need of any of the above, please let me know. You can reach me at (757) 497-5783 or e-mail chassail@infoonline.net. Many thanks for your assistance.

Ship's Store News: Bev Borberg, 757 460 1051, bevborberg@yahoo.com

March is almost here and it is time for sailing thoughts and getting your boat in "good order" for the season. One of the simple things to do is to check the condition of your Burgee and for you new members to buy one so we all know who our members are when we are out sailing. So if you need to replace or buy contact me. I usually have a bag full at the meetings. The price is \$20 if bought directly or \$21 if mailed.

If you want a cap or shirt with BBSA logo and ship's name embroidered on it, contact Sean Myers, kila2351@yahoo.com. Tell him Bev suggested it. He does a good job.

From Guy Sorensen concerning the Fundraiser for the Victims of the Willoughby Fire:

Dear Friends,

On February 13, 2016, a massive fire ripped through the 1200 block of West Ocean View Avenue in the Willoughby Spit neighborhood of Norfolk. As a result, 14 properties were affected and more than 30 families were effected or displaced.

In response to this tragic loss, Meadow Green Builders and Sunset Grill partnered together along with a group of citizens and organized a fundraiser to raise money for the families impacted by this tragedy. We will be hosting the fundraiser at Sunset Grill on Saturday, March 12th, 2016 From 10:00am to 7:00pm. The event will feature live entertainment, great food, a silent auction, raffles and lots of friendly fellowship. Over 300 people are expected to attend and monies raised will support families rebuilding their lives in the wake of this tragedy.

I am writing to ask you to donate to our silent auction/raffle. We need your help to make this a fantastic event. Please feel free to contact me at 757-754-6418 or at indawater@gmail.com for more information about the fundraiser and how you can help make it successful. Every donation is important and so greatly appreciated

With gratitude,
Guy Sorensen
Willoughby Fire Fundraiser Committee

P.S. Mark your calendar for March 12, 2016, bring your friends and come out to the Sunset Grill. Thanks in advance for your generous support!

Secretary's note: Guy had informed me that one of the raffle items is 6 months' free rent for a slip at Willoughby Harbor. And if you sail over for the fundraiser, slips at Willoughby Harbor are comped for the event.

From Ariel Darrow, Sailing Director at Hampton Yacht Club:

Hampton Yacht Club will be starting Spring Break sailing classes for junior sailors (ages 8 to 18). This is a two half-day program designed as a summer warm-up for beginner Opti or 420 sailors. Cost is \$35 with dates running March 21-22, April 4-5 or April 7-8. HYC will also be running our typical Spring Season for c420s and Optis on Sundays from 1:00pm to 5:00pm, starting May 15th (May 15th, May 22nd, May 29th, June 12th and June 19th). These Sundays are for junior sailors with racing experience looking to increase their racing skills and tactics before the start of summer. Cost is \$150 for all 5 Sundays or \$35/day. For more information and times about these two great opportunities please see <http://hamptonyc.com/yachting/junior-sailing/spring-sailing-program/>.

Arielle Darrow
Sailing Director
Hampton Yacht Club
4707 Victoria Blvd.
Hampton, VA 23669

E0 Gas Is Going Away for Boaters

Disclaimer: This is not intended to be a political endorsement for any candidate running for any election. The goal is to make the membership aware of laws concerning “biofuels” and the impact it is having on “E0 fuels.” Most of us are already aware of what damage ethanol based fuels can have on boat engines. John Scott recently shared an op-ed with me about “E0 fuel” going away for boaters. It was published in South Carolina newspapers just before the democratic presidential primaries and was targeted at the candidates. This issue is probably very low on their radar of “important things to a presidential candidate” but does bring up some good discussion points to know about as it relates to the need for fuel without added ethanol. The main focus is, a) the dangers that ethanol based fuels impose on marine engines, b) federal mandates requiring increased use of “biofuels,” c) the dwindling supply of “E0 fuel” remaining, and, d) a call to action for legislators to fix the issue. A few excerpts are provided below.

Credit goes to Margaret Bonds Podlich, President of BoatUS.

...That law is the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and it has led to some significant, albeit unintentional, negative consequences for owners of the roughly half-million boats registered in the Palmetto State.

When gasoline containing ethanol and boats mix, boat owners lose. That’s because of something called “phase separation” – think oil and vinegar – that can turn fuel stored in a boat’s gas tank into corrosive, water-soaked ethanol mixture, unusable in any engine. Half of those who responded to a recent informal national survey by the Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) said they have had to replace or repair boat engine or fuel system parts because of suspected ethanol-related damage. The average cost for these repairs was \$1,000.

The federal ethanol mandate requires increasing amounts of biofuels – primarily corn ethanol –to be blended into America’s gasoline supply every year. In part because of the mandate, more than 90 percent of American fuel today is E10, or 10 percent ethanol. In addition, higher ethanol-blend fuels such as E15 are becoming more prevalent in the marketplace, even though federal law prohibits the use of 15 percent ethanol in marine engines, ATVs, motorcycles, lawnmowers or any cars made before 2001.

Boaters have long preferred ethanol-free gasoline to other fuels, so much so that many refer to E0 as “marine fuel.” However, our country’s supply of E0 is projected to be reduced dramatically from over 8 billion gallons in 2014 to just 200 million, possibly as early as this summer’s boating season. E0 is in effect being pushed out of boat fuel market to make room for the RFS’ mandated E15 and other higher ethanol blends. The prospect of this disappearing act has the boating community in South Carolina and around the country extremely concerned.

Correcting the RFS before it wipes out the availability of E0 for boating families and wreaks additional havoc on marine engines is the responsibility of our next president—perhaps Secretary Clinton or Senator Sanders—and Congress. Ted Cruz, by becoming the first candidate to win Iowa while opposed to the mandate, shows that supporting the RFS is not a political necessity. It is now time to fix this broken law. Thankfully, there are bipartisan ideas to fix the ethanol mandate in Congress, but the question remains whether our elected leaders will act and solve the problem. America’s boaters, and certainly those in South Carolina, hope they will.

2016 BBSA Officers

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