



Laguna Woods Yacht Club

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# THE MAIN SHEET

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***LWYC Board of  
Directors and  
Committee Chairs***

***Board of Directors***

- Commodore -  
Wayne Carlson
- Vice  
Commodore -  
Pat Rojek
- Rear  
Commodore -  
Glenn Brown
- Secretary -  
Tracy Rich
- Treasurer - Jim  
Updike
- Staff  
Commodore -  
Lloyd Chase
- Staff  
Commodore -  
Darrel  
Vorderstrasse

***Committee Chairs***

- Sailing Academy  
- Tammy Rones
- Skippers -  
Darrel  
Vorderstrasse
- Social - Doris  
Vanzandt



## The Commodore's Corner

Wayne Carlson

Hey Sailors!

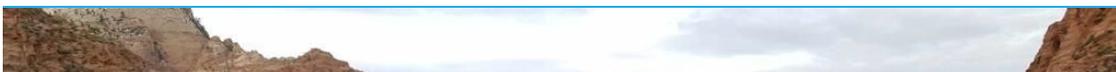
After moving from the Upper Midwest I never thought that I would say this; I can feel fall in the air! Mornings are a bit nippy and the sea air is very fresh. The on-shore winds make it possible to forget (if only for a few hours) that the fires are still raging north of us.

Fall also is yet another measure of how long we have been dealing with Covid-19 and the associated restrictions; my calculations are 8 months and counting. The actions implemented to minimize the spread of the virus have caused us to change many of the club activities we have enjoyed for years. The restrictions also have challenged us to become more creative in our approach to our personal interactions. Rather than putting the Hiatus into storage for the duration of the pandemic the club "got creative" and developed a sensible plan to safely return members to the water. Let's use the same creative spirit to re-establish our long tradition of monthly Happy Hours, in a format that provides safe social interaction. The LWYC Social Committee has been challenged to propose a plan for "Mini Happy Hours"; small gatherings of club members, at a variety of locations, that will allow for safe and relaxed social interaction. Stay tuned for more information.

The world around us has changed and, rather than resisting those changes lets get creative and find ways to thrive in this new environment.

Happy sailing!

Wayne





**Meet Your Board**  
**Secretary**  
**Tracy Rich**

There are few activities in life that effectively get people out of their heads and totally into the joy of the moment. For me, sailing is one of them. I love the ocean, which is my absolute favorite natural phenomenon. Furthermore, the experience of sailing offers joy, relaxation, excitement and freedom.

My first opportunity to sail arose when I was 17 and a friend invited me to go out on his hobbi cat. I was immediately hooked. Unfortunately, school, work and familial obligations prevented me from actively pursuing what felt like a passion from the start. Nevertheless, over the years, I took advantage of every opportunity that presented itself to climb onboard a sailboat and experience all of the benefits that sailing has to offer. I purposefully chose vacation spots on the water to make this possible. My friends and I, all novice sailors at best, rented sailboats whenever possible, learned what we could through hands on experience, and attempted to stay afloat and bring the boat back in one piece. However, I knew that when I had more free time, a precious commodity in prior years, I would make sailing a top priority.

When I finally retired after many years working as an attorney for NBCUniversal, I purposefully looked for a retirement community that made sailing readily available. This was one of my major motivations for moving to

sailing readily available. This was one of my major motivations for moving to Laguna Woods, and I was thrilled to discover the Yacht Club. It has provided the opportunity to frequently sail on the Hiatus and share the comradery of fellow members who have the same passion. Additionally, the club offers the opportunity to learn sailing skills in a supportive and fun environment. And on top of everything else, I have made numerous close friends through both the sailing experiences and the club's social activities.

I am looking forward to many more years of sailing and enjoying everything the Yacht Club has to offer.

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### "Mini Happy Hour" Experiment

Since the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic, the safety of our membership has been the highest priority of the LWYC Board. Initially, all activities were suspended. In May we resumed our monthly membership meetings using the Zoom video platform. In mid-June, after careful consideration and study, we resumed a modified day sailing program with limited crew size, masking and social distancing requirements, and sanitizing of touchpoints before and after each sail.

In October we plan to experiment with a modified form of another LWYC favorite – the Happy Hour. For most LWYC members the second Friday of each month was a happy time to gather with old friends, make new friends, enjoy food and drink, and share our common love of sailing. While Covid has made such large gatherings impossible for now, we have been giving thought to how we might be able to have similar (albeit smaller) gatherings. We need to do this in a manner that is safe and consistent with state and county guidelines.

Participation in this program would be entirely voluntary. We understand and respect that many of our members are being especially cautious with social interactions. A solicitation will be going out in early October for members to opt-in. Assuming that enough are interested, we would randomly assemble small groups of 6 to 10 people. The groups would find a safe outdoor environment (patio, park, etc.) to meet, social distancing would be practiced, no shared food and drink (BYOE – Bring Your Own Everything). We hope to have this program going on or about October 16 (the second Friday in October). Look for more information coming soon via e-mail.

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### Day Sailing Schedule

A necessary part of our reopening of the day sailing program during the Covid-19 pandemic was a reduction in crew size so that some form of social distancing could be practiced on the boat. This reduction in the inventory of sailing slots has had the effect of making it more difficult for members to book sailing opportunities. To partially address this, we have expanded the sailing calendar to six days per week, but still many members have found it difficult to reserve sailing slots. Some members have also complained that it has been unclear when a new month's sailing dates would open on the website calendar.

To address these concerns, and to make it easier for more members to enjoy day sailing, several changes have been made to the scheduling process. Previously sailing dates for a given month were opened more than one month in advance. For example, under the old system, sailing dates for November would have become available sometime in the latter part of September. This long lead time has had the unintended consequence of increasing cancellations as it is sometimes difficult to foresee events that far in the future. This system was also confusing since the exact date and time when reservations could be made was not known.

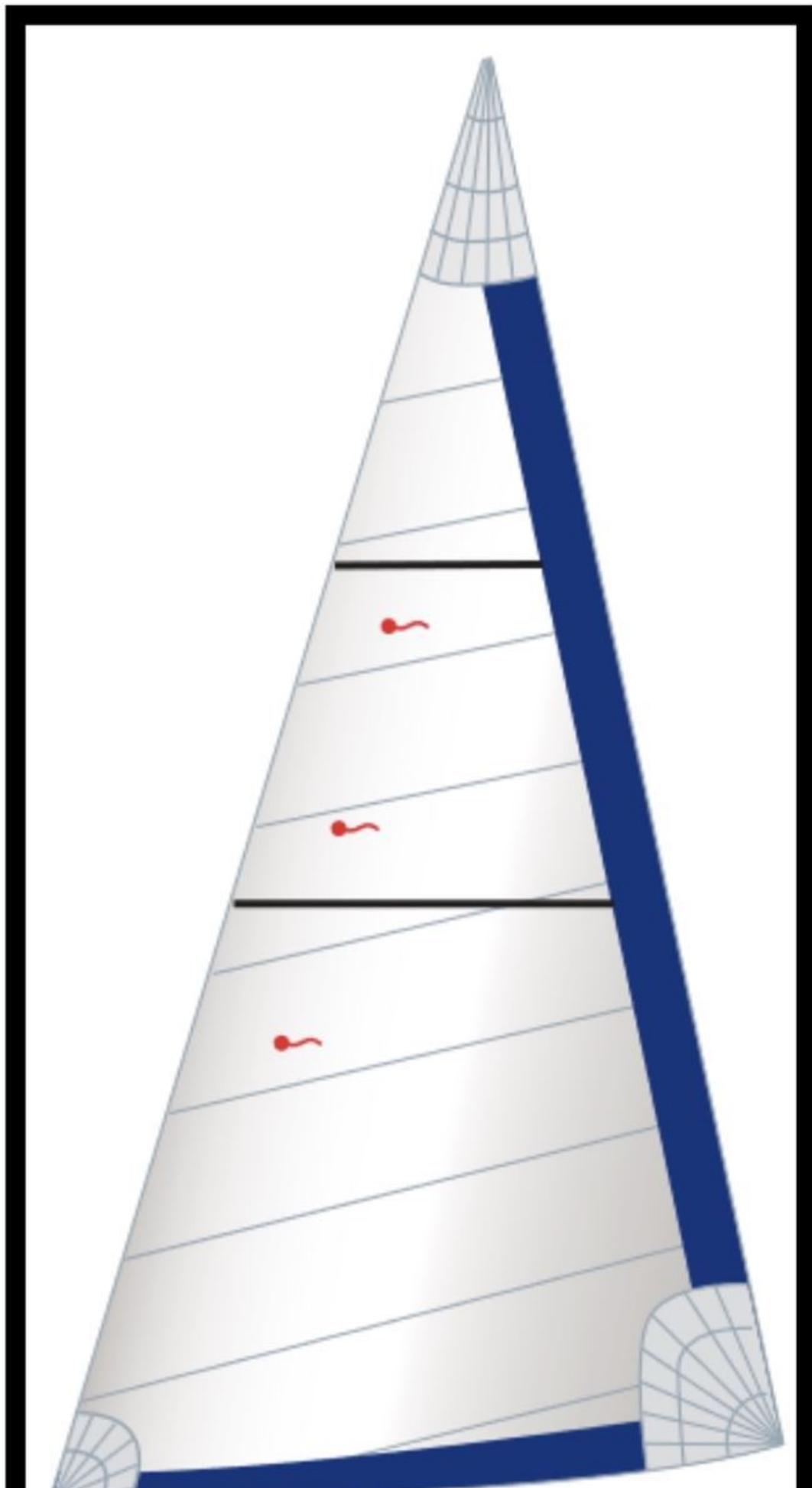
The new process changes scheduling in three ways. First, sailing dates will open in the middle of the prior month. Specifically, sailing dates for November will open in mid-October. Second, the date and time that scheduling will become available on the website will be announced to the membership by email approximately 1 week in advance. This will make the scheduling process more transparent and give all members equal access to the available slots. Finally, each member will be limited to a total of 4 requests for a sailing slot or a place on the waitlist.

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### A new Jib for Hiatus

Hiatus is out sailing six days a week and as you can well imagine the sails take a beating (even when we're on a reach... a bit of sailing humor). At any rate, the jib on Hiatus recently had a seam let go and it became apparent (even in True wind...more sailing humor) that our head sail had seen better days.

After considering five sources for our jib replacement, the board decided to go with North Sails out of San Diego. Our new jib will be a 135% Genoa manufactured in a more durable cross-cut design. We decided to go with North Sails because they are a local source and they offered a very attractive price. We should see the new sail sometime in November.





We would appreciate any feedback you could give us not only about this newsletter in particular, but on our Club in general. If you have any comments and/or suggestions, please email Jim Updike at [jeusail@gmail.com](mailto:jeusail@gmail.com).