

“New Guy’s Guide” to the Lake Pleasant Sailing Club

By Bill Cunningham
LPSC Commodore 2019

Want to know what to expect from LPSC? Well, this is Barbara’s and my story of our first twelve months with the club and the events leading up to our joining.

As most of you recent members probably did, we heard of the club by doing a Google search. Our search was back around 2014 where I discovered the Arizona Yacht Club. The webpages and links between AYC and LPSC were such that it appeared if you joined one, you were really part of the other. The AYC name was really cool so Barbara and I joined. No one in New England would believe that there really was an Arizona Yacht Club in the middle of the Sonoran Desert.



Barbara took advantage of the ‘learn to sail’ program in Tempe Lake on a Capri 14.4. Not only did she learn to sail, she and her co-sailor learned what to do if the boat capsized, which in October was quite refreshing. We have no regrets in joining AYC and seriously considered “adopting” one of their club boats to race. Mike Ferring, a member of LPSC and also author of “*New Guy’s Guide*” to AYC”, took both us under his wing and made us feel very welcome. However, AYC

was primarily a racing club and we are definitely cruisers. *If plagiarism is the greatest form of flattery, then Mike Ferring should feel very flattered by this article.*

Somehow, somewhere, we heard of the LPSC Surf and Turf event at Lake Pleasant in November 2015. Being a boatless sailor and finding an event where boaters with and without boats could gather on shore twice a year was very appealing. We were greeted warmly by both John Bagwell and by Carolyn Cronin. After we met a few members, we felt very much at home and Carolyn mailed us a membership application. We made sure we were members in time for us to attend the Christmas Party a few weeks later.

Since then we’ve both become deeply involved in LPSC and besides enjoying the club events, my wife Barbara and I have made many good friends who sail. This is truly the greatest benefit of joining LPSC: the fun of hanging out with people you like.

Monthly Meetings

For us, the monthly meetings were one of the best way to connect. They’re always on the third Tuesday of the month, except in the hot summer months or December. Be sure to check our [events schedule](#). Aces restaurant (or the Caddyshack as it is also known) at Rolling Hills Golf Course is a little hard to find the first time, so [check the map](#). It’s next to the Phoenix Zoo and almost across Van Buren Avenue from the Hall of Flame Firefighter’s museum. The entrance is in the center of the building, through some iron gates.

Arrive by 6:15 or 6:30 pm in order to check in and grab a beer or something to eat if you like (burgers with fries seem to be popular). As you walk into the room, chances are you'll be greeted by New Member Liaison Deedy Payne. She'll check you in, give you a name tag and some club information, and introduce you to some people who will introduce you to more people and you're on your way.

In theory we have a system to try to make sure every new person is properly greeted and introduced to members. I know it's hard for me to walk into a room of strangers and try to be comfortable; now we're working to make it easy for you. (If you have any trouble, please let us know!)

The venue is a friendly bar and restaurant. Meeting attendance varies a lot, usually about 40 but could be much more depending on the topic

At 7 p.m. we'll start a meeting that lasts an hour to an hour and a half. There are reports from various officers and people planning events followed by a program of some kind, either educational or something cruising related. It's a very relaxed environment.

The Guest Sail



The other best way to make friends is the Guest Sail. Many of our new members have been attracted to the club via the Guest Sail program. From the Guest Sail, many members then make friends with others who have a boat and crew or end up buying or renting/time sharing a boat themselves. Many great friendships in the club simply start with one or two hours on the lake on a boat. It comes rather naturally. We have spent many days with Doug and Deedy Payne on board *Island Time*, not just as part of the Guest Sail program. They literally were our mentors or

sponsors as we got to know more about the club and its members. It is because of them that I became so active and am now Commodore this year.

Loads of Events

People who have been in the club a while know about all the regular, recurring events, so I've found it's a little hard for a newcomer to know everything that's going on. The old timers seem to assume you already know the drill. One way for you to keep up is read our newsletter, *Pleasant Times* in the Member Only Newsletter section or look at our [events calendar](#).

Volunteer

Running a club with many cruising and social events means relying on many volunteers. Everybody pitches in. Sooner or later, someone is going to ask that you help out either here or there. They might even suggest that you become an officer in the club. Try it. It's a good way to get to know how the club works and to meet people. If you've ever tried to run an organization with volunteers, you know what it's like.

A large number of very capable people put in a lot of hours because they want to, not because they have to. They work hard and get little recognition but do it because they care about the club and it can be fun.