



### Commodore's Message on BLSC Founders Day 2022

If you read the history of the Beaver Lake Sailing Club on our website, you see from its beginnings in 1965 that members sailed and raced a variety of small boats. Read on and you learn that those small boats were not their only passions.

I constantly encourage members to read the history of this club. *Especially on this Founders weekend, please take time to read Tom Jones' written history.* You'll appreciate the efforts of our charter members: Tom Jones, Jim Dunn, Bob Ellis, Gordon McNeil, Cecil England, Jerry Havens, Dave Pelphrey and Bill Guest.

The pictures are interesting and the stories of early members' adventures are equally entertaining. You'll read about many regattas hosted on Beaver Lake and the races that members attended elsewhere. You'll read that shortly after five years of BLSC beginnings, members expanded their experiences; members who took a South Coast 23 down the Mississippi River to sail in a regatta in New Orleans, members who chartered large boats in the British Virgin Islands, sailed from Europe across the Atlantic, crossed the English Channel, motored up the Seine River with mast down to Paris France, sailed other locations such as Gibraltar, the Mediterranean, the Canary Islands, New Zealand & other ports of call.

Why do I mention this? Because at least to me it demonstrates that while their sailing experiences began in small club racing, it quickly grew to a passion for **SAILING**. Not just cruising, not just racing but **SAILING** (racing, coastal, blue water, sightseeing, relaxing in a cockpit with a glass of wine & a bottle of rum or any other form of being on the water). It gets in your blood. I mention this because I remembered my own experiences while reading about theirs... maybe you will too. Newer members & beginning sailors, maybe you will be inspired to learn more about racing or cruising or... in a word, **SAILING**.

I've heard it said, "We participate in an outmoded form of transportation that goes around in circles at a very slow rate of speed." And I ask, "Where else can you have **EVERY ONE OF YOUR SENSES** so wonderfully stimulated in a slow, circular journey?" Our founders & those who served afterward worked hard to create a treasure on Beaver Lake for us to journey from. We all own making it what we enjoy today. Let's not take their work or what we have for granted. Treasure it. Appreciate what we have. Respect our founders and fellow **Sailors**. Thank all those who built and have served your club for so long. Race if you can; Float if you must; but always... **SAIL.**"

