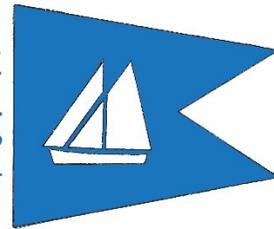


The Scuttlebutt

Scuttlebutt means rumor or gossip, deriving from the nautical term for the cask used to serve water

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‘Welcome back my friends, to the show that never ends. We’re so glad you could attend, come inside, come inside.’ And so we begin another year, replete with potential and rife with plans for remorseless misbehavior while roving about in boats this summer. (Your reporter only got as far as ‘chapter R’ when reading the dictionary over the winter. The plot was a bit thin, but that Webster dude certainly had an impressively expansive vocabulary.) Thank you to everyone attending the annual LMSA business meeting. You are a member who cares about the success of your club.

Have you been lethargic, all antsy for something to do, but you don’t know what? ‘It’s nature’s way of telling you something’s wrong!’ Are you pondering what you’re gonna do with your boat this spring? Well, like a walleye, ‘I got a line on you.’ There are a couple fleets that would love to have you participate with them. Weeknights, weekends, you take your pick. As always, we will have LOTS of work to do on Dock-In Day – listen closely for the date at the business meeting. Surely your favorite gang of motley incorrigibles will think of a way to reward your hard work. Do you have an idea for something fun to do in our boats this year? Speak up now, while there is still time to run the concept past our legal advisors.

The OSSS medical staff reminds you that May 2nd is International Scurvy Awareness Day. You have plenty of time to practice avoiding being ravaged by this rampant, yet preventable, disease. You’ll find we don’t ‘put the lime in the coconut,’ but if you’d like to learn what we *do* find to be most effective, we’d be glad to expound upon the subject. ...If you buy the round.

You will, of course, want to put a sticky note on your July calendar for that most anticipated event – the annual Ha’ Pint of Rum Regatta. The exact date TBA, but everyone is welcome, whether you come from near or ‘all the way from Memphis.’

The LMSA Sailing School is again threatening to lead another group of ‘all the young dudes’ into a life wasted upon the pursuit of distant horizons filled with ‘bizarre & fierce sea creatures as seen through the eyes of imagination’ – seeking far-off magical lands like Sugar Island, where Calypso, the Sea Nymph, roams the islands, ever in a vain search of her lover. ...Wait, do they offer a class for elderly kids? But I digress....

Did you know January had that hens-tooth of an occasion – that rarified combination of perfect ice, little snow, and almost warm temps that cause some brave souls to take iceboats out ‘skating away upon the thin ice of a new day.’ We may’ve used up our fun for another couple years, but there were smiles all-round and stories of speed to tell afterward.

Don’t suffer the ‘bell bottom blues,’ get out and participate! ‘If you want to hang out, you’ve got to take ‘er out’ - sailboat! Fair that hull! Buff up that shine! Admire her cove stripe all ‘dressed in blue, see the sky in front of you, her face is like a sail, speck of white so fair and pale, she’s like a rainbow.’

‘Here comes the sun.’

Now get out and sail!!