



# The GLSS Solo Challenger

*The Official Newsletter of the Great Lakes Singlehanded Society  
Dec. 2015 – Ken Verhaeren([verhaerk@aol.com](mailto:verhaerk@aol.com)) editor*

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# *From The Helm*

*Jeff Neuhalfen GLSS President*

Happy Holidays

Cathy and I wish our GLSS family the best of holiday wishes. May the spirit of the season fill your homes.

As we prepare for family gatherings filled with traditions, generosity, and emotion. I think of the family we enjoy as members of the Great Lakes Singlehanded Society. Just as we appreciate these special holiday times we spend together with loved ones, we cherish the times throughout the year when we have the opportunity to gather with our fellow GLSS members. Whether at a spring safety seminar, one of our solo challenges, or a quick race during the fall series, I look forward with anticipation to seeing the folks that have helped shape my sailing experiences.

The GLSS has been fortunate to have been led by many individuals that have developed and built upon those relationships. The GLSS continues to grow and prosper because of these individuals. As with many volunteer organizations, the GLSS often struggles to man all the necessary posts needed to fulfill its mission. Personally, I have been honored to help out along the way. I ask you to consider assisting the GLSS, as volunteer on a race committee, a race chair, seminar presenter, or on the board of directors. I ask you to consider a role helping the GLSS continue to build on its family traditions.

One of those special opportunities to get together is coming up again very soon, the AGM in Detroit. I hope that you are planning to attend. The Board of Directors has been polishing off the final details of this year's meeting. An entertaining Guest Speaker, Chris Stanmore-Major("CSM"). An energetic young man, Chris has a long list of sailing accomplishments. See more about him later in this Solo Challenger. Awards, Medallions, and storytelling will of course highlight the evening. If you haven't yet make your reservation on the website: <http://solosailors.org/agm16.php>.

For those GLSS family members that volunteer to organize and conduct our many events, we offer a sincere THANK YOU, THANK YOU, and THANK YOU! Without those folks, the GLSS would just be 4 letters mixed together. Personally, I have been honored to help out along the way. I ask you to consider assisting the GLSS, as volunteer on a race committee, a race chair, a seminar presenter, or on the board of directors. Consider your role to help the GLSS continue to build on its family traditions.

Happy Holidays!! See you in Detroit!!

Jeff Neuhalfen

# 2016 Annual Membership Meeting February 1, 2014

Bayview Yacht Club Mackinac Room 100 Clair  
Pointe Street Detroit, MI 48215

Dinner - \$65.00 per person with cash bar

Guest Speaker: Chris Stanmore-Major



# **CSM** is in the **HOUSE!**

**Chris Stanmore-Major is an extremely experienced sailor and sail training instructor. As of 2015 he has sailed approximately 240,000 Nm (the distance to the moon) in yachts ranging from 45' - 150'. This milage includes two races around the world - once as the skipper of 'Qingdao' the Chinese entry in the 2009/10 Clipper Round the World Yacht Race and once solo in 2010/11 in the Velux 5 Oceans Race sailing 'Spartan' an IMOCA Open 60.**

**The 'Velux 5 Oceans' formally known as the 'BOC Around Alone' is the oldest solo around the world race having had its first edition in 1982. The**



**2010-11 edition was competed for by a small fleet of Open 60's representing, America, Poland, Canada, Belgium and Great Britain. CSM piloted Sir Robin Knox-Johnston's Open 60 'Grey Power' renamed and branded as 'Spartan' for this race. Although new to solo sailing and only having a very small budget CSM managed to not only complete the race but steadily improve throughout it racking up 4th, 4th,**

**3rd, 3rd and then 2nd in the five separate legs. He also achieved the longest day's run for that edition of the race and whilst rounding Cape Horn fought back up the fleet (having dropped 500Nm behind after damaging his mainsail) to finish just off 2nd place in the closest finishing margin in solo racing history- 40 secs after 6500Nm!**

## **2016 AGM Meeting January 30, 2016**

The boats are on the hard and the flakes will likely be flying - **a perfect time for getting together with old friends at the 2016 AGM in Detroit.** The venue for the 2016 AGM will be none other than the **Bayview YC**, in Detroit. Dinner tickets for the AGM are priced at \$65 per person and there will be a cash bar available as well. You may use PayPal to securely and easily pay for your dinners (and Member dues). The Bayview Yacht Club is located at 100 Clairpointe Street, Detroit, MI 48215. The phone number is 313-822-1853.

GLSS has arranged a group rate at the Antheneum Hotel for any nights of January 29 and January 30 of \$149 per night. The address is 1000 Brush St Detroit, MI 48226. Phone is (800) 772-2323. You can check the hotel out at: **[Antheneum Hotel](#) Please make your reservations early**

### **Agenda**

**4:00 - 5:00** ~ Check-in, Cash Bar will be ready for you...

**5:00 - 6:00** ~ AGM Business Meeting

**6:00 - 7:00** ~ Single Handed Social Hour

**7:00 - 9:00** ~ Dinner, and **Guest Speakers**

**9:00 - ?** ~ Can never be social enough...time to tell those really tall sailing stories...

## Online RSVP

**Be sure to fill out the entire form and click submit when you have completed entry!**

<http://solosailors.org/agm16.php> .

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### Payment Details

It is a real bargain at just \$65.00 per person. Admission at the door is going to be more expensive, but given the expected numbers of attendees, at the door dinner reservations cannot be guaranteed. Note this does **not** include Membership dues.

Simplify things on both ends and help our volunteers, if possible, please **use PayPal to submit your Membership dues and pay for your Dinner Reservations** - to do so, simply add the items to your cart, use the 'Continue Shopping' button as needed to return to the GLSS web page to add items to your cart, and check out!

**2016 AGM Dinner** Please select number of dinners on checkout page.

**2016 Membership Dues** Pay your 2016 Membership dues of \$30 and get the Society discount on the 2016 Solo Challenges as well as the right to vote at the 2016 AGM!

If you are unable to use PayPal, you may make your check payable to **GLSS** and send to:

### **Rick Stage**

321 S. Sangamon #810  
Chicago, IL 60607

### **Questions?**

If you have any questions or need any further information concerning the AGM, Please contact **Dan Pavlat** via email at [jdavlat@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jdavlat@sbcglobal.net)

# GLSS Board of Directors 2016 Nominees



## Joey Baker

Boat Manufacturer, Model & Year:

1996 Carroll Marine, Farr30

Boat Name: Peace

How did you name your boat:

For me, sailing is an emotional experience so I like to name my boats after emotions.

How did you learn to sail:

I started sailing on a Nacra 4.5 beach cat and did some windsurfing for a while. I didn't get serious about sailing until I bought my first keel boat (Catalina 38) in 2009.

Where is your home port: St Clair Shores, Michigan



How did you get into single handed sailing:

I started sailing as a single handed sailor. After buying my first keel boat, I recruited and trained a rookie crew to sail the weekly beer can races on Lake St Clair and some of the local distance races such as the Bayview Mackinac Race and Mill's Trophy Race in Lake Erie.

Which challenge did you do as your first and what year: My first solo challenge was the Port Huron to Mackinac in 2013

How many GLSS Single Handed Challenges Have you completed and in which lakes:

2013 Mac Solo - Huron

2014 Super Mac and Back Solo

2015 Mac Solo - Michigan

2015 Erie Solo

What other GLSS awards have you received and in what year: none

What GLSS jobs have you undertaken (race committee, etc.): none

As a Board Member what are your primary areas of interest:

Encouraging others to participate in single handed sailing events and helping newcomers to prepare for their first event.

Any other comments of information about your sailing experience you wish to pass on:

Advice: Buy the best autopilot you can afford and prioritize it above any other performance option you may be considering for your boat. Then learn how to calibrate and trim it for different conditions. Having a poorly performing autopilot is not only unsafe but could also take what could be one of the most enjoyable experiences of your life and turn it into one of the worst.

Personal Goals: I absolutely love single handed sailing and have a plan to have competed in solo challenges on all five of the great lakes by the end of 2017. From there I intend to compete in the Bermuda 1-2, Transpac Solo, and OSTAR. My dream is to sail solo around the world. I can only hope that one day I will have the support to attempt that challenge.

## Allan Belovarac



Boat Manufacturer, Model & Year: Catalina 34, 1993

Boat Name: *Moonbeam*

How did you name your boat: While sailing in the Caribbean while in college, I witnessed a sunrise that shown directly into the setting moon, creating such a bright moon that it actually had rays, or moonbeams, radiating from it. When I purchased my first sailboat, consequently named it Moonbeam, and each successive boat was given the same name.

How did you learn to sail: I took a sailing and seamanship course in college, took adult sailing lessons at the Erie Yacht Club, and purchased a Rhodes

Bantam that I banged around in for several years, and have been learning ever since.

Where is your home port: Erie, PA

How did you get into single handed sailing: My wife enjoys the day sails but is not comfortable with long distance cruising. When I suggested cruising solo, she encouraged me to give it a try. As I made successively longer voyages and read up on solo sailing, my skills and confidence grew. I enjoy the challenge of dealing with the elements as well as solving issues and problems that inevitably arise during a voyage, exploring new destinations, and particularly the serenity and sheer enjoyment of sailing when conditions are ideal.

Which challenge did you do as your first and what year: I completed the Lake Erie Challenge in 2010.

How many GLSS Single Handed Challenges Have you completed and in which lakes: So far I have completed seven challenges – five on Lake Erie, and two on Lake Ontario

What other GLSS awards have you received and in what year: I received a plaque acknowledging the completion of 5 solo challenges in January, 2015.

What GLSS jobs have you undertaken (race committee, etc.): None so far – haven't had the opportunity

As a Board Member what are your primary areas of interest: Education – helping develop learning resources to make available to members to hone their sailing and seamanship skills. In addition, I would like to help develop strategies to encourage other sailors to try single-handed sailing. I would also like to see the Society encourage the development of additional solo races (shorter events that could be completed in one day or less) on each of the lakes, similar to what is done on Lake Ontario with their single-handed series.

Any other comments of information about your sailing experience you wish to pass on: I grew up on Lake Erie and have been involved in water sports throughout my life. I am a Navy veteran, retiring as Commander in the Reserves after 28 years. I crew on the tall ship *U.S. Brig Niagara* and will be active in supporting the 2016 Tall Ships festival here in Erie (having dropped 500Nm behind after damaging his mainsail) to finish just off

# Elisabeth Reichling

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Boat Manufacturer, Model & Year: C&C 35, Mark II

Boat Name: Night Hawk 3

How did you name your boat: I was working a permanent 12 hour night shift. It just seemed to fit. And, this is my third boat

How did you learn to sail: Sitting on the beach at South Haven, MI, one Tuesday afternoon in August, 1992, I realized I didn't want to be AT the lake, I wanted to be ON the lake. I spent the rest of the day reviewing multiple options and came to the only conclusion at which a reasonably intelligent woman could arrive. I would buy a boat. That winter I looked at a lot of powerboats because they were the only kind of boats on which I had ever been. Talk about sticker shock. However, I noticed sailboats of comparable age and condition were more in my price range. So, what did I know about sailing? Not much (if you want a good laugh, ask me about my 3 experiences). The following summer I found a daysail course on Gull Lake near my home in Richland, MI. By the end of the second lesson, I knew I was hooked.

Where is your home port: Harbour Towne Marina Slip D-28 Muskegon, Michigan

How did you get into single handed sailing: By necessity. I was working a permanent 12 hr. night shift with every other week-end and half the holidays mandatory. My best day/night to sail was Monday. Since I didn't want to sit and wait for people, it was go solo or stay on shore.

Which challenge did you do as your first and what year: Chicago to Mackinac, 2005

How many GLSS Single Handed Challenges have you completed and in which lakes:

Chicago, 2005   Chicago, 2006   Port Huron, 2008   Chicago, 2013

Chicago, 2014 DNF   Chicago, 2015   DNF

What other GLSS awards have you received and in what year: Pickle boat Chicago course 2013

What GLSS jobs have you undertaken (race committee, etc.):

Safety Seminar speaker at Torresen Marine, Muskegon, MI

GLSS Safety Seminar speaker at Chicago Yacht Club x 2

Volunteer at Strictly Sail Chicago booth multiple years

As a Board Member what are your primary areas of interest:

The GLSS membership is tremendously diverse. Each member brings a wealth of sailing knowledge and experience from many backgrounds. I would like to see the GLSS support a more active sharing of this information in a variety of formats available to members and yet-to-be-members.

Any other comments or information about your sailing experience you wish to pass on:

Two things I observed in my first year of sailing still hold true, no two days on the water are ever the same and sailors are some of the most welcoming, sharing people I have ever had the pleasure to meet.

## **So what do you think?**

Throughout the GLSS there are many ideas about where we sail, how we sail and what events we sail. When the skippers get together many topics come up that are lost at the end of the evening. The purpose for this section of the Challenger would be to bring those ideas to the forefront. Present an idea and open up a discussion across all of the GLSS. Your ideas could evolve into a BoD discussion and possible action. We are always looking to increase communications with our membership. This is another way of doing that.

# Safety Equipment Survey

Please check off the equipment you have on your boat! Please take a copy to the AGM in Detroit or send a copy to Ken Verhaeren at [verhaerk@AOL.com](mailto:verhaerk@AOL.com) prior to the AGM.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I own my own raft                        | <input type="checkbox"/> I rent my raft                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have a Survival suit                   | <input type="checkbox"/> I carry an EPIRB               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have a DSC enabled VHF radio           | <input type="checkbox"/> I have Radar                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have Jacklines outside the lifelines   | <input type="checkbox"/> I have centerline Jacklines    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My DSC radio is connected to a GPS       | <input type="checkbox"/> I have a AIS receiver          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I wear a DSC / GPS waterproof radio      | <input type="checkbox"/> I have a AIS transmitter       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have Sirius / XM Satellite Weather     | <input type="checkbox"/> I have a PLB / EPIRB           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have a masthead Tri-color Nav Light    | <input type="checkbox"/> I own a SPOT / DeLorme         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I wear a quick release shackle on tether | <input type="checkbox"/> I have a Satellite phone       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I carry in date SOLAS flares             | <input type="checkbox"/> I have netting on my Lifelines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I use a Chartplotter for navigation      | <input type="checkbox"/> I have a backup chartplotter   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have computer based Nav software       | <input type="checkbox"/> I have an Electronic Flare     |

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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