



The  
**SOLO  
CHALLENGER**



The Official Newsletter of the Great Lakes Singlehanded Society

Officers:

President: Jon Jacobs  
Vice President: Jeff Urbina  
Treasurer: Jim McDonnell  
Corresponding Secretary: Tim Kent  
Recording Secretary: John Lubimir

Directors:

Blair Arden – Mac Race Committee Chair  
John Ayres – Editor, Solo Challenger  
Tom Hughes  
Greg Gorney

Spring 2009

**A NOTE FROM THE  
PRESIDENT**

Hello GLSS Members and Friends,

I want to welcome you to the Spring edition of the Great Lakes Singlehanded Society's Challenger News letter. I am Jon Jacobs, the new President of our Society for 2009. The "Challenger", edited by John Ayres, is our first official mailing of 2009. I hope you enjoy the information and news.

I, like you, am a member of the Society because I have completed a sanctioned solo challenge on one of four Great Lakes Challenges (Huron, Michigan, Superior and Erie). I, like you, dream of the spring days of preparation and the warm summer days of sailing on some of the most incredible and beautiful water in the world. And, we are at the cusp of another wonderful season on the sweet waters of the Great Lakes.

I am privileged to serve on your board of directors with Jeff Urbina (Vice President and Past President), John Lubimir (Recording Secretary), Jim McDonnell (Treasurer), Tim Kent (Corresponding Secretary), John Ayres (Editor of the Challenger), Blair Arden (Mac

Race Committee Chair), Tom Hughes (Co-director of Detroit Safety Seminar) and Greg Gorny (Our Board representative from Lake Erie and liaison with Lake Ontario). These are talented men with incredible sailing experience and skill. We certainly share a common bond in our love for sailing and the adventure of solo sailing.

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Already plans are set for next summer's challenges and the preparations have been made for our safety and information seminars in Detroit and in Chicago. The Challenges include the 31<sup>st</sup> Port Huron to Mackinac Island, the 13<sup>th</sup> Chicago to Mackinac Island, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sault Ste. Marie to Duluth Solo and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Lake Erie Solo Challenge. I hope you have read the announcements on our web site and have

made plans to participate in one or more of these events.

If you are like me you are trying to figure out ways to continue to sail and find that peace of mind that being at sea brings us all - especially in the midst of our county's economic recession. I know that the stress of this recession is hitting many of us and that we all look forward to those moments when all we need to think about, for a few days anyway, is the wind, the water and keeping the boat moving toward our goals. As a board of directors we are excited about the first class challenges and other events sanctioned by our Society. Your challenge is to get you and your boat to the starting line and there we begin the adventures of a new season with the Great Lakes Singlehanded Society!

You will find all of the information that you need to prepare yourself, your boat, obtain the needed entry forms and ways to solicit other information that will help you as you prepare for any of our events - if you travel to our Web Site: <http://www.solosailor.org>.

Your board is very excited and anxious to work in partnership with the sailors on Lake Ontario to add an Ontario Challenge to complete the Great Lake Challenges. Keep your eyes on the web site and look for more news as we organize, with the Lake Ontario 300 people, a solo challenge that will provide the venue for the sailors of Lake Ontario which will: "... encourage the development of suitable techniques, equipment, and gear for shorthanded passage under sail and recognize accomplishments of singlehanded sailors in the Great Lakes region."

2009 is filled with anticipation and excitement as we move forward with first class sailing events geared to solo sailing. We look forward to our events and are most grateful for all of you who share our passion and our dedication to experience a safe solo passage on these Great Lakes. Please read the information in the rest of this newsletter and on our Web Site. We look forward to seeing you on the water!

Jon Jacobs,  
President

## **2008 Notice of Race Postings**

Solo Challenge Entry Forms included with this Challenger mailing:

**2009 Port Huron to Mackinac  
2009 Chicago to Mackinac  
2009 Lake Erie Solo  
Trans-Superior Solo Race Entry Forms  
have been posted:**

<http://www.solosailor.org/transup.php>

**(In Planning Stages – Not Officially Set-Up)**  
- *1<sup>st</sup> Lake Ontario Solo Challenge*; Stay up-to-date on the latest developments by visiting:

<http://www.solosailor.org>

### **2009 GLSS Solo Challenges**

#### **June 20<sup>th</sup>**

**31<sup>st</sup> Port Huron to Mackinac Island Solo Challenge – 230 Nautical Miles  
13<sup>th</sup> Chicago to Mackinac Island Solo Challenge – 287 Nautical Miles**

#### **August 8**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Lake Superior Solo Challenge  
- 338 Nautical Miles**

#### **August 29<sup>th</sup>**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Lake Erie Solo Challenge  
- 271 Nautical Miles**



## **2009 Annual General Membership Meeting and Strictly Sail Chicago**

The last weekend of January brought together many sailors and their friends of the GLSS. First was the Strictly Sail Show - Chicago at

Navy Pier. Many sailing enthusiasts and potential solo sailors visited the GLSS booth at the show. With the organization of Jim McLaren and other volunteers from the Society there was always someone present at the booth to invite, encourage and offer a piece of advice for those looking for a solo sailing adventure on the Great Lakes.

On January 31, 2009 President Jeff Urbina, presided over the Annual General Membership Meeting of the Great lakes Singlehanded Society, held at Maggiano's Restaurant in downtown Chicago.

The Society remembered with fondness a fellow member and past president, Phil Rubright. Phil died at sea off of the coast of New Jersey on October 29, 2008. Dear friend and fellow solo sailor, David Evans, shared proper stories of humor and gratitude as we gave thanks for a fellow solo sailor.

**Your 2009 GLSS Membership Dues can be easily and securely paid online!**

**Visit:**

<http://www.solosailor.org/shipsstore.php>

The Society recognized and honored our new members who had completed a qualifying challenge in 2008. They were Rob Zerban, David Collette, Greg Gills, Jim Turner, Doug Radabough, Brad Enterline, Dave Amatangelo, and Greg Gorny. Congratulations and welcome to the Society gentlemen.

The Society recognized and honored the two sailors who earned the coveted President's award: Rob Zerban (Lake Michigan) and Brad Enterline (Lake Erie). The President's award is a trophy given to the sailor sailing a challenge for the first time and finishing ahead of all other first time sailors of that challenge.

The Society recognized and honored four of our Society members who completed the Inaugural Super Mac and Back Challenge – a challenge

of 1034 nautical miles! Walt Norris, Bill Tucker, Arch Van Meter and Ken Verhaeren all completed this longest, sanctioned solo event on fresh water, anywhere in the world. Congratulations to these fine sailors and their incredible accomplishment on Lakes Huron and Michigan!

Society members Jim McDonnell, John Lubimir and Brian VanWieren were recognized for having completed 5 Solo Challenges. Blair Arden was recognized for having completed twenty five Challenges! Jim, John, Brian and Blair set the bar high for solo sailing on the Great Lakes. Congratulations gentlemen!

Elected to new three year terms to the GLSS Board of directors were: Jon Jacobs, Greg Gorny and Tim Kent. Thank you gentlemen.

After a fine social hour and meal, a wonderful story was shared by our own Eric Thomas. Eric, through slides and narration described and shared his award winning passage in the 2008 edition of the Solo TransPac. Racing from San Francisco to Hawaii and winning his class and 2<sup>nd</sup> over all Eric represented Great Lakes solo sailors with panache and distinction. Two points that are not easily forgotten from Eric's presentation:

1. "Your body eventually gets kind of acclimated to rocking and rolling downwind, day after day, with a kite up...you simply get used to crawling where ever you need to go on deck."
  2. "Not five minutes would pass without seeing a piece of plastic in our polluted seas".
- Eric shared his passion, his preparation and his considerable sailing skills as he told of his solo adventure in the Pacific.

The AGM was a wonderful evening experienced by all. We look forward to the next AGM in Detroit, 2010.

***We need your log-in if your contact information has changed. Please update your information securely online:***

[https://www.solosailor.org/contact\\_updateinfo.php](https://www.solosailor.org/contact_updateinfo.php)

### Future 2009 GLSS Events

- September 11**      **Lake Michigan Solo Scramble**
- September 12**      **Lower Huron Solo**
- October 3**            **St. Clair Solo & Big Al's Steak Roast**

**Be sure to check the website often for details on these events!**

<http://www.solosailor.org/calendar.php>

## **Earning a place in Single-Handed Sailing History Part III**

In the last issue we ended with the only finisher of the first Golden Globe non-stop solo circumnavigation back in 1968. Remember who? If not, or you're looking for a thrilling new experience, you can catch live action and Solo-Sailor interviews from the 1968 Golden Globe Race in the recent (2006) film documentary "DEEP WATER". This captivating film brings you into the hearts of racers families and race organizers, brings you on-board and most importantly brings you on the water! The special features (extra's) included with this documentary need to be a part of your personal Solo Sailing archive.

### ***Not the French....***

Meanwhile, the success of the Plymouth England to Newport Rhode Island Observer Single-Handed-Trans-Atlantic-Race (OSTAR) continued to build. In 1964, the French started to dominate the OSTAR Race when Eric Tabarly shaved 13 days off of Sir Francis Chichester's 1960 record setting crossing. The French Naval Officer became an over-night national hero and was awarded the Legion d'Honneur. Eric continued racing a series of experimental boats all named Pen Duick I-VI and included race boats with ballast of spent uranium, aluminum multi-hulls and developed a water foil trimaran. After Tabarly's second OSTAR Win in 1976, race organizers started setting new rules for boats entering the race. Immediately there-after,

nearly all of the French abandoned the next OSTAR Race. In 1978 the French started their own 3500 mile Single-Handed Trans-Atlantic Race from St. Malo France ending in Guadeloupe (Caribbean). During the first "Route du Rhum" Trans-Atlantic Race, the French allowed everything to race at first and ironically made their own rules for boats entering future races. Eric Tabarly was lost at sea when he was struck by a gaff during a heavy swell and knocked overboard from his yacht near Wales while on his way to a Regatta in Scotland in 1998.



## **2009 Safety Seminars**

**Detroit Area Open House  
North Star Sail Club  
Harrison Township, MI  
March 25, 2009 at 1900-2200 EDT**

The Detroit Open House affords an excellent opportunity for "right coast" skippers who would like more information on the sport of solo sailing. GLSS members cover the aspects and techniques used in singlehanded sailing, and whether you're brand new to the sport, or an old salt, you'll walk away with some new information. For further information, check out the online flyer at:

<http://www.solosailor.org/pdfs/detroit09flyer.pdf>

or please email:

Tom Hughes at [hughes@ebtech.net](mailto:hughes@ebtech.net)  
Steve Stoll at [swstoll@comcast.net](mailto:swstoll@comcast.net)

**Chicago Open House  
Chicago Yacht Club  
March 26, 2009 at 1800-2100 CDT**

The Chicago Open House, hosted by the Chicago Yacht Club and our sponsor, Arch Van Meter, features presentations conducted by GLSS members on many aspects of singlehanded sailing. There will be a cash bar and light appetizers will be served. Come on down for an evening of solo sailing fun, see old friends, and meet some new ones!

For Further information, please email:

Tim Kent [timk@harken.com](mailto:timk@harken.com) or  
Arch Van Meter [arch@megacorporation.com](mailto:arch@megacorporation.com)

**US Sailing Safety at Sea Seminar  
April 25, 2009**

The Sailing School at North Cape Yacht Club will be sponsoring a US Sailing Safety at Sea Seminar dockside of the Maumee River in downtown Toledo, Ohio. This renowned program is moderated by John Rousmaniere and John Bonds – it is an interesting day of training, and is sure to fill up fast. For the details and an application, please download the online PDF file:

[http://www.solosailor.org/pdfs/sas\\_ncyc.pdf](http://www.solosailor.org/pdfs/sas_ncyc.pdf)



**20th Running of the  
Lake Ontario 300  
July 18, 2009**

The race was first organized in 1990 by a group of sailors from the Port Credit Yacht Club and the Oakville Harbour Yacht Club (now merged with the Oakville Yacht Squadron). Originally known as the Fujinon 300, the race was exclusively a double handed event and 59 yachts were on the start line for the inaugural race in 1990. In 1997, fully crewed yachts were eventually included and were racing in a separate Class. There has recently been an increased interest in the Lake Ontario 300 as demonstrated by nearly 130 yachts participating in the 2008 event. For more information on the Lake Ontario 300 visit:

<http://www.LO300.org>



***Solo Challenger*  
Articles and Photographs**

Articles and photographs are needed for the upcoming Summer edition of the ***Solo Challenger***. If you would like to contribute an article or photograph, please send it to:

John Ayres – [john.ayres@navistar.com](mailto:john.ayres@navistar.com)

Thanks in advance for your submissions!