



# The GLSS Solo Challenger

*The Official Newsletter of the Great Lakes Singlehanded Society  
May 2016 – Ken Verhaeren([verhaerk@aol.com](mailto:verhaerk@aol.com)) editor*

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# From The Helm



Greetings solo sailors,

We all know by now that social media is king. As a non-profit club whose existence depends on members' dues, we must use this to our advantage. That's why we are asking all members to break out their phone or Go-Pro this summer and film their exploits during the Solo Challenges. YouTube is a very popular medium for the 18-30-year-old crowd, many of whom are budding solo sailors. The board discussed this over the winter and due to feedback from our safety seminars, we need an exciting video of our Challenges to show potential members. We think this will be a very effective recruitment tool on our web site and during safety seminars. So get out your cameras and start filming the landscape, weather, sail changes, tacks and gybes. Also, please make sure your membership dues are paid. You can pay here, [http://www.solosailors.org/pay\\_dues.php](http://www.solosailors.org/pay_dues.php).

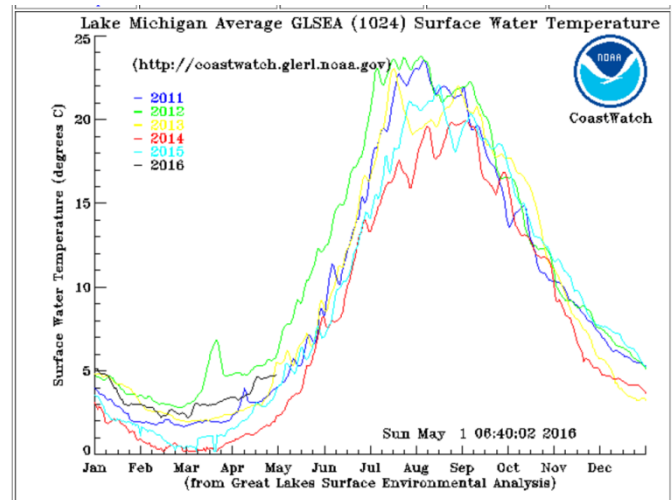
During the winter board meetings, we also discussed safety regulations at length. Please review them here, [http://www.solosailors.org/pdfs/Std\\_GLSSRequiredEquip.pdf](http://www.solosailors.org/pdfs/Std_GLSSRequiredEquip.pdf). There are some major changes regarding tether requirements.

Water levels are up and despite the warmer winter water, temps are slow to rise this spring. See graph below. The water temperature plays a huge role in our early summer Challenges. The good news is we are much warmer than 2014 and a little warmer than 2015 right now. I have been hoping for a quick warm up to lessen wind shear, fog, and COLD. The cold spring has slowed down the warming. Hopefully we get some good warming in May!

I'm already going down my list of equipment I need to satisfy the GLSS requirements for the Solo Challenge to Mackinac June 18. Please review the list and make sure you are well prepared. Preparation is key. The main reasons why sailors drop out of our Challenges are electrical and autopilot issues. Thoroughly test your systems and make sure you know them inside and out.

I hope you have safe and windy Challenges this summer. I look forward to seeing many of you on the island!

John Hoskins GLSS President





### Weekly Great Lakes Water Levels

We do not have the ability to offer email updates at this time. The Weekly Forecast of Great Lakes Water Levels is updated each week on Thursday afternoon.

[Click here for a printer friendly version.](#)

### Weekly Forecast

#### WEEKLY GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL UPDATE

Apr 22, 2016

#### WEATHER CONDITIONS

Temperatures were, on the whole, above average across the basin. Many record high temperatures were broken across the basin last weekend through Monday, with highs ranging from the mid 70s to 80s. Warm temperatures were accompanied by dry conditions. Cooler, wetter conditions returned to the basin as the workweek progressed. 24-hour totals over half an inch were reported in the Chicago and Milwaukee areas on Thursday morning. As of the 20<sup>th</sup>, some snow remains in northern portions of the Lake Superior and Lake Huron basins. The 7-day forecast calls for precipitation amounts ranging from 0.1 inch to 1.75 inches with highest amounts in northern Wisconsin and northern Michigan on Sunday and Monday. Temperatures ranging from the mid 40s in the north and along the lakeshores to the mid 60s across the southern areas of the basin are expected through Wednesday, with some higher temperatures in the southern portion of the basin on Sunday.

#### LAKE LEVEL CONDITIONS

Lake Superior is at the same level it was at one month ago, but Lakes Michigan-Huron, St. Clair, Erie and Ontario are all several inches higher than they were at this time last month. All lakes except Lake Superior are above their average levels of a year ago. Lake Superior is at the same level it was at one year ago. All of the lakes are forecasted to continue their seasonal rise. Over the next 30 days, the lakes will rise 1 to 2 inches. See our [Daily Levels web page](#) for more water level information.

#### FORECASTED MONTHLY OUTFLOWS/CHANNEL CONDITIONS

Lake Superior's outflow through the St. Mary's River is projected to be above average for the month of April. Lake Michigan-Huron's outflow into the St. Clair River and Lake St. Clair's outflow into the Detroit River are expected to be above average in April. Moreover, the April outflow of Lake Erie into the Niagara River is forecasted to be above average, and outflow of Lake Ontario into the St. Lawrence River is predicted to be above average in April.

#### ALERTS

Official records are based on monthly average water levels and not daily water levels. Users of the Great Lakes, connecting channels and St. Lawrence River should keep informed of current conditions before undertaking any activities that could be affected by changing water levels. Mariners should utilize navigation charts and refer to current water level readings.

	SUPERIOR	MICH-HURON	ST. CLAIR	ERIE	ONTARIO
Forecasted Water Level for Apr 22, 2016 (feet)	601.94	579.99	575.75	573.00	246.49
Chart Datum (feet)	601.10	577.50	572.30	569.20	243.30
Difference from chart datum (inches)	+10	+30	+41	+46	+38
Difference from average water level for Mar 22, 2016 (inches*)	0	+6	+7	+8	+5
Difference from average water level for Apr 22, 2015 (inches*)	0	+9	+13	+17	+16
Difference from long-term monthly average of Apr (inches)	+9	+16	+18	+17	+10
Difference from highest monthly average of record for Apr (inches)	-8	-18	-13	-13	-20
Year of highest recorded					

# GLSS 2016 Calendar

## **June 18, 2016**

### **Chicago to Mackinac and Port Huron to Mackinac Solo Challenges and Solo Mac and Back Challenges**

The [Mac Solo Challenge Documents](#) are available for review .

Both the Port Huron and Chicago starts are on the same day. This years event includes a mac and back option on each lake for sailors who wish to round Mackinac Island and return to the starting area non-stop.

Non-member skippers who successfully complete either of the Mackinac Solo Challenges, and have their finish approved by the Board of Directors will be granted membership in the GLSS.

## **July 16, 2016**

### **Lake Ontario 300 and 600 Solo Challenges**

The Lake Ontario 300 Solo Challenge [details are posted for your review](#)

This race involves completing a circular course of 300 NM around lake Ontario.

Non-member skippers who successfully complete the LO 300 Solo Challenge and have their finish approved by the Board of Directors will be granted membership in the GLSS.

## **August 2016**

### **The [Lake Michigan Singlehanded Society Solo Challenge.](#)**

This fun race is 135 miles and starts and finishes in Racine Wisconsin. It is a good event for Lake Michigan sailors to enter to get your GLSS qualifier sail in, or enjoy a great overnight solo race.

## **August 20, 2016**

### **Lake Erie Solo Challenge**

The [Lake Erie Solo Challenge Documents](#) are **available online for review.**

This race extends from the western end of Lake Erie to the eastern end and back about 1/3 of the distance.

Non-member skippers who successfully complete the Lake Erie Solo Challenge, and have their finish approved by the Board of Directors will be granted membership in the GLSS.

## **September 9, 2016**

### **Lake Michigan Solo Scramble**

The [Lake Michigan Solo Scramble information can be found here.](#) This is a fantastic event, and is steeped in tradition - get your entry in today!

Concurrent starts Friday afternoon from Holland and Racine with the fleets proceeding to the mid-lake weather buoy 45007, and thence to a finish at Michigan City. A BBQ will follow Saturday evening at the Michigan City Yacht Club for racers and guests.

## **September 10, 2016**

### **Lower Lake Huron Solo**

The [Lower Lake Huron Solo Information can be found here.](#) You may use PayPal to submit the entry fee for the event (does **not** include dinner/beverages at the Sarnia Yacht Club). Make plans to enter and be a part of some great fall sailing!

This is a 42nm race with a Canadian flair, as the start/finish are just off of Sarnia, Ontario. Following the race, there will be a BBQ and Awards Ceremony.

## **October 1, 2016**

### **St. Clair Solo and Big Al's Race Steak Roast**

[The St. Clair Solo details can be found at this link.](#) It is a fun event, and we look forward to seeing you on the starting line!

## **August 2017**

### **The Trans-Superior Solo Challenge**

[The Trans-Superior Solo Challenge Documents](#) are available here.

This event takes place every other year (odd years only).

Non-member skippers who successfully complete the Sault Ste. Marie to Duluth Solo Challenge, and have their finish approved by the Board of Directors will be granted membership in the GLSS.



## Were you there? If not, you missed a GREAT time! 2016 AGM

The 2016 annual meeting was an outstanding event held at one of the great yacht clubs in the Great Lakes, the Bayview Yacht Club. The evening opened, as usual, with members and guests signing in and then finding their friends. Not the official Social Hour, this time certainly is social. Everyone found refreshments, renewed friendships, starting telling their stories of last season's sails and found their tables for the evening. Finding the tables for dinner is always fun as people often move from one table to another as they find old friends at a different table and then move to it. It is sort of like the old games of musical chairs.



The Business meeting was the next item on the agenda and our now former president, Jeff Neuhalfen ran it perfectly. Short and sweet!

Starting with the Treasurer's Report, which confirmed that the GLSS is in good financial order, we moved to the election of the new Board of Directors. Joey Baker, Allan Belovarac and Elisabeth Reichling were elected to the Board. We finished the meeting with "for the Good of the Order" and found that the order was in pretty good shape. Jeff then adjourned the meeting and we moved to the official social hour for cocktails. This is considered by many as the best part of the AGM where everyone is now present and we can enjoy gathering with all of our friends. Most of the members bring



their significant other with them so it is not just sailor talk! We are all very appreciative of the support that these ladies, and some men, give to us. Stories of how things always go wrong while we

are doing the Challenges could be heard all over the room, to a lot of laughter. There were also the stories of how hard the Challenge was which immediately was followed by the story of the BIG storm from years past. Soon the cocktail hour



was over and the bell rang for dinner. As always, the Bayview YC provided an excellent meal with plenty to eat. Some people took great advantage of the buffet table, particularly the desserts. As dinner was completed the awards presentation was started. This always takes some time as we have had great participation in our events. This years presentations included all of the Challenges and for the first time in many years all of our major trophies including

The new **FOUNDERS AWARD.** The Founders' Award goes to those who



**give of themselves for the betterment of the GLSS through their efforts in any of the following areas: Education and Development of solo sailing skills, promotion of the society, serving on race committees, organization of challenges and events.** Ken Verhearen led the effort to create this award and Brent Hughes is the first recipient. Brent has done an outstanding job of

promoting our society on Lake Ontario.

## Ralph Eilberg Award

Ralph Eilberg was one of the Founding Fathers, Charter Member, and past President of the



GLSS.. In addition to being one of the Founding Fathers of the Society, Ralph established the Port Huron to Chicago Solo Challenge in 1981. **The trophy is awarded only to those skippers who have demonstrated remarkable feats of seamanship upon the high seas world wide.** This year we had Co-recipients, Wally and Ann McMinn, for their heroic efforts to save a kayaker in distress on Lake Erie.



## Mike Silverthorne Memorial Trophy

Lake Michigan solo sailors are fond of saying that "It takes a pair to do it alone." More often than not, Mike, known to his close friends as "Laughing Gull" found himself half of the pair; he was constantly assisting his fellow singlehanders whenever and wherever it was needed. **It is awarded to the skipper who best embodies the exemplary spirit of Mike Silverthorne and Solo Sailing.** As such, it is only presented upon committee recommendation after consideration of their significant contribution and merits. Dan Pavlat is this years recipient because of years of being more concerned about helping others than taking care of himself. Dan is a positive influence on everyone that he meets.



## Commodore Perry Award

The Commodore Perry Award is awarded to an individual(s), a group, an organization, etc. who has made a substantial contribution to the Lake Erie Solo Challenge (LESC).

Bill Tucker has made many contributions to the GLSS and the Lake Erie solo and is one of the GLSS members who has sailed all five lake challenges.



Presentation of Challenge Medallions were made to all entrants who completed one of the Challenges this year.





years of service by 2016 President John Hoskins

Other awards covered those who finished multiple Challenges as prescribed by GLSS rules and the special "Five Lakes" Challenges.

And the presentations ended with a special presentation to our outgoing president for his



**CSM in the House** and keeping us all thrilled by his stories of past adventures and current plans for the future. Chris Stanmore-Major is quite the story teller. He continues a line of great speakers we have been fortunate to have at our AGM's. Chris has accumulated an impressive resume and his future is bright!



*It is time to sign up for the Mac Challenges. Port Huron or Chicago,*

***YOU PICK IT***

A late entry fee of \$100.00 in U.S. funds shall be required for an entry received after May 22, 2016. **Non-GLSS member applications shall not be accepted after May 30, 2016.** Entries for current GLSS members shall be accepted until June 4, 2016, however any entry after May 30, 2016 shall have a late entry fee of \$150.00.

***Mac Solo Challenge Documents***

**[2016 GLSS Mac Solo Challenge Notice of Race](#)**

**[2016 GLSS Mac Solo Challenge On-Line Entry form](#)**

**[2016 GLSS Solo Challenge Required Equipment List](#)**

**[2016 GLSS Mac Solo Challenge Waiver](#)**

**[2016 Physical Condition of Skippers](#)**

**[2016 Mac Solo Anti-Exposure Suit for Multihulls & Optional for Monohulls](#)**

**[2016 GLSS Mac Solo Sailing Instructions.](#)**

**[GLSS Mac Challenge Spot and Tracking FAQ](#)**

**[GLSS Mac Solo Entry Checklist](#)**

**[Mackinac - Chicago and Port Huron solo challenge docking instructions](#)**

Get your entry in today and join the fun, both on the lakes and at the Island

