

The GLSS Solo Challenger

Spring 2021



*The Official Newsletter of the Great Lakes Singlehanded Society
Spring 2021 – Ken Verhaeren (verhaerk@aol.com) editor
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FROM THE HELM

Two Things about 2020 — That was Interesting! And, Thanks!!

Rob Burger

It's funny how we compare everything we do now to the "normal" way that we did it in the past. 2020 was a year of endless comparisons in the way we conducted our lives. Work, family and socializing, recreation, grocery shopping, celebrations, church, clubs and organizations, etc., were all done differently as compared to 2019. And the GLSS was no exception. But now that we're almost through it, I look back and think — the First Thing about 2020 was that it was interesting! That's not the only thought I have about 2020, but for some reason that's the predominant one. I'm a science geek, so I'll admit that I have been fascinated by the medicine and that I have read more peer-reviewed medical articles than is healthy for someone who's not a doctor. But just as fascinating was the response to the common threat. There's a family down my street that started making masks and putting them on a table in their driveway for folks to take if they needed one. It's interesting, and cool, that they thought of that. Fledgling food delivery services went from a novelty to a necessity practically overnight. Videoconferencing followed a similar path. People started taking more seriously the idea that their own actions may affect others in a profound way, like never before in our lifetimes. It's interesting that a new sense of connection among fellow humans developed in the context of unnatural and forced isolation ("We're all in this together" signs are ubiquitous). And it was interesting how our GLSS organizers were able to think of, refine and implement changes quickly and successfully so that we could run many of our events this past year.

Which brings me to my Second Thing about 2020 — Thanks!! If you missed the 2021 AGM back in January, or if I didn't express my gratitude enough, we owe a huge THANK YOU to the race chairs who ran the Mac Solos, the Lake Erie Solo and the Fall solo events for adapting to the circumstances and making it possible for us to participate. There were course changes, location changes, meeting changes, finishing changes, NOR changes, SI changes, and other changes made by the race chairs to make the events possible. We were even able to add a new event, the Vermilion 45005, in the Fall, which attracted 18 boats of which 8 of them were sailing in their first singlehanded event. We also added five new members who completed their first challenge in 2020. All told, it was a successful year for the GLSS. Lastly, I need to thank the members, too. You were willing to participate even though we couldn't do things the "normal" way.

We're hoping to get closer to "normal" in 2021, but there probably won't be any Spring seminars except for one that's scheduled on April 14th in Vermilion, Ohio, at Vermilion Boat Club. All five lakes have challenges on the calendar for 2021 and we're expecting another robust Fall series. Now,

Upcoming Events

- 06/19/2021 – Mackinac Solo Challenges
- 07/10/2021 – Lake Ontario Solo Challenge
- 08/07/2021 – Trans-Superior Solo
- 08/14/2021 – Lake Erie Solo Challenge
- 08/20/2021 – Lake Michigan Solo Scramble



2020 the year that

almost wasn't!

Never was I so happy that I was NOT the Solo Mac Challenge Director!! That distinction goes to Elisabeth Reichling and what a job she did. It was a big year with another edition of the Super Mac and Back. Of course planning for the Mac Challenge starts as soon as the last one ended with a commitment with the Mackinac Island Yacht Club on dates for the following year. With that done everything takes a rest until around December. Elisabeth now starts her planning for the actual event. People start with, "What's the date of the Mac?, Do you have it online yet?, Any changes to the required equipment." And on it goes. Of course the holidays are going on with the AGM quickly following them. Now those people have the opportunity to look you in the eyes and ask their questions and of course this is part of the fun. Challenge Directors love talking about the event and getting ideas on how to make it better. Excitement start to build not only with our members but also for the Director. So, the

Putting the plans together and getting the information onto our website. It's particularly done! Sure things will crop up but the nuts and bolts are set! Then comes March and

EVERYTHING CHANGES

From this time on until the Pt Huron and Chicago Macs start nothing is set and everything is in consent change. The big questions for Elisabeth and the Board of Directors was can we even do the Mac Challenge. Chicago shutdown, Mackinac Island shutdown, our great friends from Canada were not allowed to cross the border. The Port Huron Mac could not enter Canadian waters so that had to be changed. Chicago Harbors were closed to everyone until the last minute requiring a new starting line. Where to start was also a question of who would let us into the harbor. Throughout this ordeal, Elisabeth keep her humor and determination to do the best possible job leading us to the finish line. Both Macs were off on the start date and the rest of the story is Elisabeth's to tell

The Chicago Super Mac

			Finish time	Corrected time
1st	Kris Kimmons	Shadow	20:45:00	9:08:15:50

The Chicago Mac

Michigan Div

			Finish time	Corrected time
1st	Brian Cobb	Sea-U	06:34:00	1:15:40:30
2nd	David Pierce	Caught in Traffic	08:35:00	1:17:41:30
3rd	Ralph Krauss	Yukon	20:50:14	03:05:56:44
	Michael Hettel	Global Nomad	DNF	

Ontario Div

			Finish time	Corrected time
1st	John Mahowald	Last Chance	13:36:00	1:18:17:22
2nd	George Petritz	TFWB Relentless	14:02:00	1:20:24:23
3rd	Mike Kenny	Debbia	14:40:00	1:21:02:22
	Paul Schloop	Blue Max	DNF	

Erie Div

			Finish time	Corrected time
1st	Kris Kimmons	Shadow	04:04:00)4:04:32:52
	Ken Verhaeren	Kismet	DNF	
	Frank Cobb	Sundog	DNF	

Superior Div

			Finish time	Corrected time
1st	Joe Turns	Renaissance	07:26:00	1:16:57:45
2nd	Don Condit	Roxy	12:40:00	1:21:59:07
3rd	Brian VanWieren	Tsuru	11:33:00	1:22:20:30
	Micheal Tuman	Nemo	DNF	
	Jeff Stack	Gabriel	DNF	

The Port Huron Super Mac & Back

			Finish time	Corrected time
1st	Joey Baker	Peace	20:47:00	8:18:36:06

The Port Huron Mac

Superior Div

			Finish time	Corrected time
1st	Joey Baker	Peace	16:55:10	02:03:20:22
2nd	Dan Pavlat	Coconut Telegraph	03:50:10	02:17:50:10
3rd	Bob VanEck	Tango	08:46:32	02:18:15:13
4th	Russell Krock	Schock & All	13:50:00	02:23:18:41
	Luke Brockman	Wall-E	DNF	

Michigan Div

			Finish time	Corrected time
1st	James Otton	Paradise	02:23:40	02:09:14:05
2nd	Rob Burger	Storm's Harbor	19:06:00	03:02:41:38
	Jeff Neuhalfen	Quattuor	DNF	
	Lease Schock	Avatar	DNF	
	Jeff Golding	Eyem Electric	DNF	

Ontario Div

			Finish time	Corrected time
1st	Kris Tonn	Nomad	10:04:00	03:15:54:07
2nd	Duke Mueller	Zeida	06:04:00	04:11:46:35
	Christopher Lentz	Ventura	DNF	
	John Walton	Riptide	DNF	

Erie Div

			Finish time	Corrected time
1st	Blair Arden	Otis B Driftwood	14:19:00	03:14:11:08
	Richard Lappin	Ginger Kay	DNF	
	John Ollia	Finnair	DNF	
	William Tucker	GL3	Dnf	

We have lost one of our giants!

Tom Munson

As an organization, the GLSS has had remarkable members whose achievements go well beyond solo sailing. Tom certainly was a leader in that department. His interests were varied and covered about every type of outdoor activity that you could think of, skiing, motor cross, jogging, stair climbing (Town Center building), sports car racing, and RVing. And he did not just do these things, they became part of him as he devoted himself to being the best in every effort he made, such as coaching Little League and volunteering as a ski instructor to help sight impaired people expand their life and enjoyment. After 30 years of piloting a plane, Tom gave it up to move on to sailing. Buying his one and only sailboat, an Erickson 39", Black Diamond started him on to his journey to the GLSS.

After his first Solo Port Huron to Mackinac Island Challenge, Tom like many of us swore he would never do it again. Yet he could not get it out of his system and returned for the next and the next until after finishing his 13th and final Port Huron to Mackinac Island Solo Challenge. Tom was not just a participant with the GLSS, he was a leader. I first met Tom at the Strictly Sail show in Chicago where he was encouraging sailors to get involved in Solo sailing. He presented at many Safety Seminars covering a variety of topics and along with Wally McMinn helped inaugurate the Lake Erie Solo Challenge adding a 4th Great Lake to the GLSS schedule.

But the event that I wish I had shared with Tom occurred in 1996. Tom helped Phil Rubright sail his boat across the Atlantic to Europe for the start of the Singlehanded Trans Atlantic Race (STAR) to Newport. What a remarkable voyage Five GLSS member telling stories of previous sails and anticipating another adventure for Phil. If you have a chance, talk to Bob VanEck (Greg Doty and Hans Anderson were also aboard) about that voyage.

These are but a few of the highlights of this remarkable man and give some indication of the quality of this man. However, to have known Tom was to enrich your life. For those lucky enough to be his friend, Tom will never be forgotten, and their lives are better for knowing him. To Barbara, his loving wife, and children we thank you for sharing him with us.

Lake Erie Solo Challenge!

Unlike some of our recent Challenges on this lake the 2020 Lake Erie Challenge was a male event. 18 Captains made the start and 16 made the finish line. In a year when starting was the real challenge, these sailors had a great race. Five classes with at least three finishers in them. Very competitive with close racing on an interesting course that worked around the Covid problems. Certainly solo sailing is the height of social distancing but these sailors still keep it close.

Don't miss your opportunity for one of the most CHALLENGING of our Solo Challenges!

August 14, 2021

Sail Number	Yacht Name	Yacht Design	Owner/Skipper	Status	Rating	Finish Time	Elapsed Time	Don't just sit there
Lake Erie Solo Challenge Racing								
PHRF Division								
Superior								
1	USA 100	Well-E	Olson 30	Luke Brockman	105.0	17/Aug/20 - 09:09:45	1:23:09:45	1:15:15:30
2	USA 16	Peace	Mumm30	Joey Baker	57.0	17/Aug/20 - 06:42:00	1:20:42:00	1:16:24:33
3	USA 42058	Schock & All	Schock 35	Russell Krock	72.0	17/Aug/20 - 08:21:58	1:22:21:58	1:16:56:46
4	41	Storm's Harbor	Beneteau Oceanis	Rob Burger	102.0	17/Aug/20 - 13:19:04	2:03:19:04	1:19:38:22
Michigan								
1	4	Quattuor	Hunter Legend 40	Jeff Neuhaufen	108.0	17/Aug/20 - 15:07:52	2:05:07:52	1:21:00:04
2	4014	Jack Tar	Tartan 40	Jeff Marshall	105.0	17/Aug/20 - 18:11:50	2:08:11:50	2:00:17:35
3	USA 140	Avatar	T-10	Lease Schock	126.0	17/Aug/20 - 19:47:40	2:09:47:40	2:00:18:34
4	67	Odyssey	Catalina 400	Wallin McMinn	DNF	117.0		
Ontario								
1	60480	Nomad	Pearson 39-2	Kris Tonn	130.0	17/Aug/20 - 15:16:39	2:05:16:39	1:19:29:29
2	USA 1263	Moonbeam	Catalina 34	Allan Belovarac	153.0	17/Aug/20 - 21:59:43	2:11:59:43	2:00:28:40
3	614	Ventura	Beneteau Oceanis 381	Christopher Lentz	147.0	18/Aug/20 - 12:32:00	3:02:32:00	2:15:28:03
4	138	Nebesa	Olson 911SE	Jack Jamison	DNF	141.0		
Erie								
1	USA 42659	Finnair	Tartan 28	John Oilla	177.0	17/Aug/20 - 19:44:20	2:09:44:20	1:20:24:53
2	25034	Erewbon	Tartan	John McCallum	135.0	17/Aug/20 - 19:52:00	2:09:52:00	1:23:42:15
3	37080	Arch Angel	Hunter 37c	Noel Gingerich	177.0	18/Aug/20 - 03:03:32	2:17:03:32	2:03:44:05
4	33337	Nicknack	Tartan 37c	Paul Nickerson	DNS	135.0		
Huron								
1	1	GL2	Beneteau First 30	William Tucker	183.0	17/Aug/20 - 21:03:30	2:11:03:30	1:21:16:57
2	USA 570	Otis B. Driftwood	Columbia 26 MkII	Blair Arden	225.0	18/Aug/20 - 02:54:00	2:16:54:00	1:23:57:45
3	USA 25632	Dulcibella	Tartan 27	John Garhart	231.0	18/Aug/20 - 13:01:40	3:03:01:40	2:09:38:19