



2025 Clinton Lake Sailing Association

Member Handbook

Version 2025-08-15

(includes modifications made during the 2025 season)

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I. About Clinton Lake Sailing Association

Website: www.clsasailing.org

Email: clintonlakesailing@gmail.com .

Mission and Vision

Clinton Lake Sailing Association (CLSA) was founded in 1979 to promote affordable sailing in east-central Illinois. We host racing, cruising, social, learning and development events throughout the year. We are a volunteer organization, and, as such, we rely on members to identify and lead activities and events.

By-Laws

Click [here](#) to read the By-Laws. These rules were adopted by the organization for the government of our members and the regulation of our affairs.

Location

Clinton Lake is located roughly 35 miles from Champaign-Urbana and Bloomington-Normal, and 27 miles from Decatur.

History and Background

Clinton Lake was built by Illinois Power Company during the 1970's to cool the Clinton Nuclear Power Station. Now owned by Constellation Energy, the lake is surrounded primarily by land managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

For many years Clinton Lake Sailing Association enjoyed launch access off Sailboat Road until Dewitt County sold the marina in June, 2024 to a private operator. We enjoyed an amazing



several decades with an agreement and exclusive use of the CLSA pavilion, CLSA sailboat ramp, mast up storage area, and beaches adjacent to the land.

In 2025 we are working on an exciting new plan to build out new sailing facilities to continue the tradition of sailing at Clinton Lake, forming new memories and relationships for years to come.

II. Membership

In 2025, as we're working on a new lease with IDNR, members still enjoy CLSA organized sailing activities and social events with some differences from years past. Our CLSA sponsored events happening on the water launch from any of the launches around Clinton Lake and Fleet Captains are in close contact with the fleet sailors about where to launch and park for events.

Members have traditionally had access to CLSA fleet boats (must meet requirements). These include our small sailboats: lasers and sunfish, for example. For anyone wishing to use these boats, please see the [Checkout CLSA Small Boats for Free section](#) below.

Members also can access the [Wild Apricot membership system](#) which includes the directory, forums, fleet pages, full calendar, and more. Members can vote at the annual meeting and any special member meetings.

The membership year begins on May 1 and ends April 30. However, membership fees for *first-time* members who join after August 1 of the current year will cover the entire following year as well.

Membership fees are invoiced to members automatically early in the calendar year. We encourage members to use the automatic renewal feature so it's one less thing for you to worry about. Early payment is also appreciated so CLSA can cover large cash outlays (insurance, etc) before the start of the sailing season. If you no longer wish to be a member of CLSA simply let us know and we will cancel any outstanding invoices.

Membership Levels

Individual membership (\$70) - Any person 18 years of age or older may enjoy all the privileges of CLSA and may cast one vote and hold office.



Family membership (\$95) - Any two individuals living together in the same household and 18 years of age or older and their dependents. Family members of CLSA may enjoy all the privileges of CLSA, except that only two adult members may cast votes or hold office.

Student Membership (\$35) - Any person between the ages of 12 and 24 and a registered student in a recognized elementary, secondary, or post-secondary school shall qualify as a student member of CLSA. A student member may enjoy all the privileges of CLSA except that of holding office.

Group membership is available to nonprofit organizations at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Group membership privileges and rates are determined on a group by group basis.

Wild Apricot

CLSA uses Wild Apricot membership software to help manage our club.

1. Log in to Wild Apricot by going to clsasailing.org and clicking on the blue avatar at the top-right of the screen.
2. Once again, click on the blue avatar at the top-right of the screen and click on My Profile.
3. Edit Profile, Update Privacy, Manage Event Registrations, Pay Invoices.
4. With your profile please update your group preferences which will facilitate club communication about your areas of interest
5. Please log in to your member profile, click on edit your profile, and agree to the terms of this handbook and the waiver and release terms.

Member Area Access (CLSASailing.Org)

Access member-only information by first logging into our website. Log in to Wild Apricot by going to clsasailing.org and clicking on the blue avatar at the top-right of the screen.

Introductory Lessons

CLSA offers learn to sail classes. More information is available at:

<https://www.clsasailing.org/smallboatclass>. Racing fleets at CLSA also offer various intro options; reach out to Fleet Captains for details.

Club Rules

1. Any skipper launching a boat during a CLSA sponsored activity or from CLSA dock assets (in the future) should be a member. Exceptions are made for competitors in racing events, event registrants, occasional guests of members, and other reasonable



and temporary activity. It is up to fleet captains, event organizers, and all members to encourage new people to join.

2. CLSA members are responsible for the actions and conduct of their family and guests at all times.
3. All accidents involving injury or property damage must be reported to the Commodore. Please send an email to: clintonlakesailing@gmail.com.
4. Members and their guests are expected to leave areas of any CLSA sponsored activity, in the same or better condition than in which it was found.
5. Members wishing to check out a CLSA sailboat must have a Boater Safety course card on file with CLSA, pass an on-the-water skills assessment, and agree to waiver and release terms.
6. Members wishing to operate a CLSA powerboat (which are for the purposes of administering CLSA sponsored activities) must have a Boater Safety course card on file with CLSA, pass an on-the-water powerboat safety assessment, and agree to waiver and release terms in your member profile.
7. A member operating a powerboat must adhere to the [operating checklist](#) and must always have the kill switch attached to their person whenever the engine is running.
8. Members must update the appropriate log book immediately after checking out a CLSA sailboat or operating a CLSA powerboat.
9. No fishing from dock or beach areas around Clinton Lake.
10. The CLSA committee boat is docked at Clinton Lake Marina. Launching any other motor boats used for CLSA activities or sponsored events can be launched at the Clinton Lake Marina (for a fee) and from public docks operated by IDNR.
11. Sailboats should be equipped with safety equipment that meets the Department of Natural Resources requirements. Go to: www.dnr.illinois.gov/Pages/default.aspx and under the "safety" menu you will find the boating regulations.

Generally speaking, boats should have Coast Guard approved flotation devices for each person on board. Boats 16 feet or longer should also have an additional, throwable flotation device, such as a ring buoy or buoyant cushion. Boat owners are responsible for following these rules.

How to Get Involved

We are a small association and every member is encouraged to volunteer to help support a program, serve on race committee, host a social event, volunteer for site activities, and/or participate in the Spring or Fall Clean-Up days. Race committee volunteers can see what racing entails, learn how to run races and set race courses, and socialize with the other race committee members. **Volunteering is part of the reason we can keep our membership costs low compared to many other sailing organizations.** If you're interested, please visit the Volunteer page on the CLSA website within the members-only area.



Checkout CLSA Small Boats for Free

CLSA owns Lasers and Sunfish. These boats are available for use by members on a first-come-first-served basis, except when they are scheduled to be used for small boat classes.

This equipment is located at a remote part of Clinton Lake for 2025 in an area that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has permitted us to access. Please note that this is a remote area that is much less frequently used. Be aware of your surroundings and never sail alone.

In the equipment trailer north of the parking lot there are spare lifejackets, rudders, sails for the lasers, buoys, an inflator for the race course marks, and extra chairs. If you borrow a lifejacket, it must be returned and hung up at the end of the day.

A list of certified members who have met all the following requirements will be posted online. Requirements (check your wild apricot profile for your status):

1. Must be a club member with an active (paid) membership status or have a board-authorized exemption.
2. Must have a boater safety card on file with the CLSA. [Here is a list of IDNR-approved boater safety courses](#). Please email a copy of your safety card (or certificate) to clsasailing@gmail.com.
3. Must be a proficient small boat sailor and demonstrate basic sailing knowledge. If the candidate does not have recent small boat sailing experience, we offer a [Small Boat Introduction to Sailing Class](#).
4. Successful completion of the on-the-water sailing evaluation with Max Christie or authorized small boat instructor or having successfully completed the CLSA Small Boat Learn to Sail class. To request a sailing evaluation, [please submit a request here](#).
5. Agree to terms of waiver and release. (Click edit in your wild apricot profile and click the checkbox).
6. Agree to the rules in this member handbook. (Click edit in your wild apricot profile and click the checkbox).



CLSA Race Committee Boat and Boston Whaler

CLSA owns a pontoon boat that serves as our race committee signal boat and a Boston Whaler that serves us both in a support and safety capacity for many of our sponsored sailing activities. In 2022, the Boston Whaler was named Craig Rost in honor of the late Craig Rost, past commodore.

We maintain a thorough [powerboat operating checklist](#) that must be adhered to at all times and the kill switch for the engine must be attached to the driver whenever the engine is turned on.

CLSA Volunteers operating our powered boats must meet the following requirements to operate a club powerboat (check your wild apricot profile for your status):

1. Must be a club member with an active (paid) membership status or have a board-authorized exemption.
2. Must have a boater safety card on file with the CLSA. [Here is a list of IDNR-approved boater safety courses](#). Please email a copy of your safety card (or certificate) to clsasailing@gmail.com.
3. Successful completion of the on-the-water safety assessment with a designed powerboat trainer. [Click here to request a safety assessment](#).
4. Agree to terms of waiver and release. (Click edit in your wild apricot profile and click the checkbox).
5. Agree to rules in this member handbook. (Click edit in your wild apricot profile and click the checkbox).

Equipment & Club Asset Loans

CLSA equipment or assets may be loaned periodically at the discretion of the CLSA Board. CLSA power boats are not loaned to individual members for personal use.

Sailing events are organized from time to time at Clinton Lake that are not sponsored by CLSA. Requests for equipment loans should be made in writing to (e-mail address). A determination will be made within 30 days of the request.

Proof of insurance that names CLSA as additional insured is required for the use of CLSA power boats. Equipment must be returned in the original working order. The sponsoring agent is responsible for the safe use and ensuring equipment during non-sponsored CLSA events.



CLSA is not responsible for equipment failures during non-sponsored activities.

Borrowed Boat Insurance

WARNING: Your private boat insurance may not cover incidents where a sailor on your privately-owned boat paid for the privilege of sailing on your boat. We recommend you do not give lessons or offer coaching on your own boat unless you are doing so for free.

The CLSA insurance policy covers boats loaned to CLSA in support of club sailing activities so long as the owner is not on the boat. Examples include boats on loan from other sailing clubs, privately-owned fleet development boats, and privately-owned boats loaned to other sailors in support of CLSA education and development programs and regattas. CLSA will assist in the timely processing of a claim. Our insurance policy does not cover privately-owned boats under any circumstances if the owner of the boat is sailing on the boat at the time of an incident.

To participate in this program, a boat owner must have provided permission to CLSA for the use of their boat during a CLSA sponsored activity. This permission must be given in writing, email, or text, for CLSA use of their boat. It is recommended that the owner email CLSA (clsasailing@gmail.com) and request borrowed boat coverage for a specific activity.

V. Education

CLSA education offerings are coordinated by the Education Committee Chair and include:

- [Small Boat Introduction to Sailing Class](#)
- [Youth Sailing Classes](#)
- Other ad-hoc clinics offered throughout the year

Visit the CLSA for program descriptions and dates.

VII. Club Communications

Windword Newsletter

CLSA publishes the Windword Newsletter. You can find past editions of the Windword by visiting clsasailing.org/windword. We are always looking for articles for The Windword! If you would like to submit an article, please email it to Mohammed at m.elkebir@gmail.com.



Emails Sent from Wild Apricot

The CLSA Publicity Chair will generally provide 1 email per month with a list of all the upcoming events for the month. Members will also receive event invites based on group participation in your member profile. For example, you will only receive cabin boat event invites if you are a member of the cabin boat group within Wild Apricot.

Please add clsa@wildapricot.org to your safe senders list so club emails are not sent to your spam folder.

Forums

Sign in to Wild Apricot and access the Forum page within the member area. You can subscribe to the forum and get email notifications based on your preferences whenever someone posts or replies. You can also subscribe to specific forum topics and get notified whenever someone responds to a topic. Each fleet also has its own forum on their fleet page. Anyone can subscribe to a fleet forum the same as the general forum and anyone can sign up to a specific topic within a forum.

VIII. Social Events

Social event dates, times, and details will be announced on the CLSA website: www.clsasailing.org. Please visit the club calendar for a full list of social events with descriptions and registration links.

Guests are always welcome, but members must register and pay any applicable charges for their guests.

IX. Racing Program

Racing event dates, times and details will be announced on the CLSA website: www.clsasailing.org. To register and view sailing instructions and other details, click on the link provided on the calendar.

X. Operating Calendar

January - pay slip rental for race committee boat, insurance, state fees and registrations; review draft of racing and social calendar;



February - pay bills; modify racing calendar; begin planning Spring Banquet; begin to plan Spring workday; Valley Forge Forage

March - pay bills; approve racing and social calendar;

April - pay bills; hold Spring banquet;

May - pay bills; Spring workday; open house; Captain Morgan regatta

June - pay bills; Thistle Hike Out Regatta

July - pay bills;

August - pay bills; Venetian night; begin planning Fall Banquet; begin recruiting slate of officer and committee members for next year

September - pay bills; Thistle Painkiller Regatta; plan commodore's feast; form the nomination committee

October - pay bills; notify membership of officer nominees;

November - pay bills, hold Fall banquet; elect new officers

December - update handbook and website with new officer information;

XI. Organization and Affiliations

CLSA is a registered Illinois non-profit corporation.

CLSA is a member of the US Sailing Association.

CLSA is the sailing association of recognition by Thistle Fleet #66. Thistle Fleets in the US must be organized under a sailing association.

Many CLSA members sail as part of the Flying Scot Fleet #135 at Clinton Lake which was historically affiliated with CLSA. In 2025, Fleet #135 boat owners voted to organize under Commodore Decatur Yacht Club, DBA the Clinton Lake Marina Sailing Club. The Clinton Lake Marina Sailing Club organizes weeknight Flying Scot sailing and the regional annual Glow Regatta.

At present, CLSA does not sponsor activities hosted by Clinton Lake Marina Sailing Club or other sailing clubs unless co-sponsorship is requested and approved.

The Clinton Lake Sailing Association Board of Directors

This section is a more plainly written version of our [Bylaws](#), but if anything in this section accidentally conflicts with something in the Bylaws, the Bylaws should be considered correct.



2025 Officers: (voting positions & elected positions)

Commodore: Patrick Weiler

Vice Commodore:

Secretary: Tom Johnson

Treasurer: Stacy Gloss

2025 Executive Committee: (voting positions, Committee chairs are appointed and approved by the Officers with the exception of the Rear Commodore)

Includes the Commodore, Vice Commodore, Secretary, and Treasurer in addition to:

Race Committee Chair: Rick Wojnar (acting until filled as of January 1, 2025)

Harbormaster: Dick Hanson

Rear Commodore: Charles Suggs

Standing Committee Chairs: (voting positions, Committee chairs are appointed and approved by the Officers and Rear Commodore)

Social/Day Sailing Committee Chair: (position open as of January 2, 2025)

Education Committee Chair: Gerry Christman

Membership Committee Chair: Phil Christman

Publicity Committee Chair: Mohammed El-Kebir

Additional, ongoing volunteer positions

Powerboat Certifications - Kevin Rasmus

Small Boat Manager - Max Christie / Gerry Christman

CLSA officers are Commodore, Vice Commodore, Secretary, and Treasurer. Each officer must be a qualified member of the association for at least one calendar year. The term of office for each position is one year and until the successor for that position takes office.

These officers, together with Race Committee Chair, Harbormaster, and Rear Commodore comprise the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. Four of these members constitute a quorum at a Board meeting.

The Board of Directors comprises the six positions listed above plus the retiring Commodore, or Rear Commodore, and all standing committees chairs which are appointed by the Commodore.

The term of office for all officers is December 1 through November 30 of the following year. New officers and directors should attend board meetings immediately upon being elected but cannot vote until their term begins.

Standing committees are:



Harbor Facilities: Chaired by the harbormaster. Takes care of mowing grass, maintaining the pavilion, included in the committee is the small boat fleet manager, who takes care of CLSA-owned boats and notifies the board when said boats need repair.

Race Committee: Finds volunteers to run CLSA races, keeps track of and posts race results on the CLSA website, maintains club racing equipment, updates club-level Notices of Race and Sailing Instructions as appropriate, and awards trophies at the Fall banquet.

Membership Committee: The first contact most new members have with CLSA. Membership committee members, led by the membership chair, contact each new member as they join to welcome them to CLSA. Membership committee members give new CLSA members a handbook, answer questions, and maintain membership records, and member contact information. The membership chair supervises member outreach efforts, both on the water and on shore.

Social Committee: Plans, coordinates, and supervises each of the social events scheduled during the year.

Education Committee: Supervises education efforts.

Publicity Committee: Generally works to get the word out that CLSA exists, we're open to new members, and have lots of fun activities. This is done by publishing the Windword monthly between March and November. The Publicity Committee is also responsible for maintaining a website for CLSA, social media posts, advertising events, and other matters designated by the Board of Directors.

The Commodore is the chief executive officer. The Commodore presides over all meetings of CLSA and the Board of Directors.

Cabin Boat Fleet

Fleet Captains: (Open)

Thistle Fleet 66

Fleet Captain: Gerry Christman

The objective of Fleet 66 is to encourage on and off the water activities for Thistle owners. Fleet 66 organizes Thistle Thursdays, Hike Out on Route 66 Regatta, and the Painkiller Regatta.

Boards and Kites

Event Organizer: Rick Wojner



Small Boat Fleet

Event Organizer: (open)

XII. Past Commodores

2024 Chares Suggs
 2023 Tom Johnson
 2022 Paul Bliss
 2021 Nooreen Meghani
 2020 Craig Rost
 2019 Craig Rost
 2018 Phil Christman
 2017 Angie Hunt
 2016 Rick Langlois
 2015 Bryan Hunt
 2014 Tom Yeagle
 2013 Chris Tesdal
 2012 Deb Aronson
 2011 Joe Karbarz
 2010 Joe Budden
 2009 Don Johnson

2008 Frank Scotello
 2007 Bill Vokac
 2006 Craig Rost
 2005 George Sodemann
 2004 Rick Atterberry
 2003 Rod Moseley
 2002 Bill Freyman
 2001 Bob Miller
 2000 Bob Miller
 2000 Claudia Smiley
 1999 Gerry Christman
 1998 Dave Toland
 1997 Rick Atterberry
 1996 Mike Trautman
 1995 Bill Freyman
 1994 Bill Vogler

1993 Dan Arendel
 1992 Tom Riley
 1991 Judy Boyer
 1990 Larry Bethard
 1989 Richard Wool
 1988 Dave Boyer
 1987 Doris Trent
 1986 Nancy Saint
 1985 Doug Abbott
 1984 R.K. O'Daniel
 1983 Chuck Tucker
 1982 Roger Schnaitter
 1981 Larry Colter
 1980 Gale Saint
 1979 Jerry Hartman

Appendix A

This list will be updated when CLSA is in our new home.

- A. Sample CLSA Harbor Spring Work Day Task List
 - a. Rake leaves in and around pavilion
 - b. Remove weeds and debris from the beach
 - c. Move CLSA-owned boats from under the pavilion and to the boat rack
 - d. Clean the CLSA-owned boats and make them sail-ready
 - e. Remove bolts from the top of the dock poles
 - f. Launch the Committee Boat
 - g. Set the solar panel and connect to battery
 - h. Straighten wood pile
 - i. Mow the grounds
 - j. Rope off the mast rigging area
 - k. Straighten and organize the pavilion office
 - l. Straighten and organize the storage shed
 - m. Remove PFDs from storage and hang



- n. Place the SeaTow tree at the marina boat launch

Appendix B

This list will be updated when CLSA is in our new home.

A. Sample CLSA Fall Clean-Up

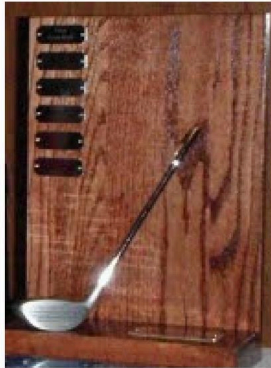
- a. Schedule the committee boat to be winterized and stored for the winter
- b. Winterize the shower in the shed
- c. Stack picnic tables
- d. Move CLSA-owned boats under the pavilion
- e. Schedule the porta potty to be picked up
- f. Store the PFDs in mouse-proof cans in the shed
- g. Drain and winterize the water line
- h. Put the bolts in the top of the dock poles
- i. Remove and store solar panel and battery
- j. Remove and store the motor on the jon boat
- k. Straighten and organize the pavilion office
- l. Straighten and organize the storage shed
- m. Retrieve the SeaTow tree from the marina and store

Appendix C

Race Trophies



Clinton Lake Sailing Association



GOLF CUP



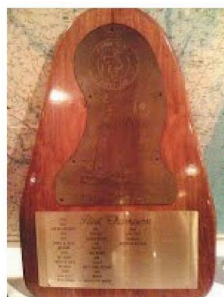
COMMODORE'S CUP



US SAILING
SPORTSMANSHIP



SPIGOT AWARD



FLYING SCOT
CHAMPIONSHIP



Clinton Lake Sailing Association



CAPTAIN MORGAN



VICKI CUP TRIANGLE



VICKI CUP DISTANCE



CABIN BOAT TRIANGLE
SERIES



CABIN BOAT DISTANCE
SERIES