Who's Who

January 2020 Edition



Ahoy fellow sailors,

Going in to 2020 LMSA has some exciting things in the works. One item being a monthly Who's Who of LMSA. This month's interview features none other than the new Club Reporter himself Jim Goempel.

LMSA: Hi Jim Goempel could you tell us a little about how you got in to sailing:

Jim: I started surfing when I was in my teens and would see the sailboats coming and going in and out of Ponce Inlet New Smyrna Bch. Fl. The surfing magazines of the day would always picture an exotic port of call with surfers jumping off sailboats, paddling out to near perfect waves. So I guess it was a natural progression for me to want a boat and learn how to sail it.

LMSA: Who taught you how to sail?

Jim: LOL well I'm still learning, but I don't remember sailing prior to buying a 30 ft. glassed-over plywood trimaran in 1979. Other than having a crew person that knew the basics, we somehow managed to sail the boat from Tampa Bay to the East Coast. I guess I just figured it out on my own. I have to admit, my skills have reached another level since becoming involved with LMSA.

LMSA: Who are some of your mentors?

Jim: First off I'd like to thank Willie Blevins for introducing me to LMSA and the opportunity to sail onboard Loose Cannon. A lot of doors have opened up for me because of our friendship and sailing relationship.
Our past Fleet Captain Tom McNally for pushing me hard in Flying Scot racing. Our outgoing Commodore Steve Hayden and boat owner Randy Pawlowski for having me on the J 24 in Melbourne. Incoming Commodore Scott Marriott for sailing tips and MOB practice drills. Fisk Hayden is always a wealth of wisdom and inspiration. Captain DJ for her endless sailing knowledge. Jim and Deb Schaefer for introducing me to Great Lakes sailing. David Shneider for the Mac adventures. Andy Forrest for coming on as a Mac racer. And last but not least all the boats that invite me on and the crews that sail with me, a big thank you!

LMSA: What's your most memorable race?

Jim: Although it was not the toughest race I've been in, I'd say this past years 2019 Chicago Mac Race. No doubt everyone has heard my capsize story from the 2017 Chicago Mac but coming back from capsizing and destroying everything, but the boats super structure, is something I'm proud to have been a part of. For a good portion of the 2019 race we were leading the multi-hull fleet, in the end a 3rd place finish on a boat that was in shambles a couple years prior. For me personally, not only another chance at sailing Lake Michigan bottom to top, it was also making it on the podium at Mackinac Island which was truly a highlight in my sailing career.

LMSA: What are your future sailing goals?

Jim: I would like to do more deliveries, especially offshore. Open Ocean offshore sailing is where I'm in my element. Racing goals; I want to finish what we started in 2017 and that's back to back Mackinac races. This year the Bayview Mac on Lake Huron (July 11, 2020) and the following weekend the Chicago Mac on Lake Michigan. In two weekends we race around 800 statute miles. The goal; finish both races, being on the podium in one or both would be a bonus.

LMSA: Where do you see yourself sailing in the next 5 years?

Jim: It's hard to say as life is short and everyday there is a new adventure around me. I often think of selling out and retiring on a large sailboat maybe somewhere in the Virgin Islands. As far as sailboat racing goes, so far I have no desire to do anything but sail hard and fast. I'd defiantly like to do more open ocean racing before it's all over. I will continue to race with my home club LMSA as I've learned a lot here and the sailors constantly push me to be a better sailor. Thanks guys!

LMSA: Thank you Jim for your time and comments. Good luck and safe travels!

Members that concludes our 1st edition, Who's Who of LMSA for January 2020. LMSA will be reaching out to our sailing members and crews for interviews every month over the coming year. Please share your stories when LMSA comes tapping on your hull. Sharing knowledge and sailing information has been a long standing tradition here at LMSA. Let us know how you got here and where your sailing is going!

Cheers to a new and exciting year here at LMSA 2020!

LMSA Reporter 2020
Jim Goempel

The sailing news you want to read.