Who's Who

February 2020 Edition



Ahoy fellow sailors,

This month I had the pleasure of interviewing the **VOODOO** man himself, Tony Porterfield!
Tony is not only a guy that I love sailing with, he helps out around the club on the IT side. Tony always has a positive attitude. Full Interview below:

LMSA: Hi Tony Porterfield could you tell us a little about how you got in to sailing:

Tony:
I've always loved being on the water. I learned how to sail Sunfish at summer camp, and my family had a wooden Sunfish when I was in high school. (I still have a bad reputation in my family for flipping sailboats from those days.) Later on, I moved to California and I got into sailing there so that I could get out on SF Bay and Monterey Bay, and that led me to racing

LMSA: Where did you learn to sail?

Tony:
I'm still learning! I took my sailing courses in California, and then kept learning as I got in to racing big boats out there. Since moving to Florida five years ago I've been sailing mostly on dinghies, and had a lot to learn about that (and get used to doing three things at once).

LMSA: Who are some people you've learned from?

Tony:
Something I love about LMSA is that there are so many skilled sailors who are eager to share their knowledge. Tim Grady, Jim and Kim White taught me dinghy sailing on their Lightnings during my first few years in the club, and we still crew for each other. Since I got my Flying Scot, Tom McNally and Scott Marriott have given me countless pointers (sometimes during races!). I've soaked up a lot of knowledge on tactics while racing with Jim Goempel, and Kelly Walden helps me get the sails shaped just right when we race together.

LMSA: What's your most memorable race?

Tony:
The Great Vallejo race stands out. 200 boats starting in San Francisco then going downwind all day to the end of San Pablo Bay. Lots of close-quarters spinnaker sailing around bridges, islands and shoals, then a big raft up party. Locally, I love the Flying Scot regattas in Sarasota. One-design racing in a beautiful setting. This year we saw a sea turtle during one of the races!

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

Tony:
Right here in Lake Monroe and the local Flying Scot fleet races, and keep exploring the many other travel races we have in Florida. I'm also interested in the Great Lakes races that a few of our members take part in, and hopefully will get out to California for some races with my friends out there.

LMSA: Your Boat Name is Voodoo, how did you earn that name?

Tony:
I got that name because I always have some kind of home-made electronic "voodoo" gadget on the boat. I enjoy programming and electronics and I've built a couple of GPS navigation/speedometers and also put together an automated race start timer that blasts an air horn, which we tested in a recent club race. Or maybe it's because of the weird tactical compass headings I'm always calling out instead of using degrees like everyone else?

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

Members that concludes our Who's Who of LMSA for February 2020. LMSA will be reaching out to sailing members and crew for interviews every month over the coming year. Please share your story (S) when LMSA coming 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 and fast sailing,
2020 LMSA Reporter
Jim Goempel

The sailing news you want to read.