Who's Who

April 2020 Edition



Who's Who of LMSA

This month I had the pleasure of Interviewing non-other than "Magellan" himself Mike Loughlin!

LMSA: Hi, Mike Loughlin could you tell us a little about how you got in to sailing:

Mike: My father told me that he used to sail on the East River in New York. So, when I heard that, I thought what a great way for my father and I to spend some time together. I bought a McGregor 21 from a work colleague, brought it home, fixed it and placed it in the Sanford Boat Works Marina. I called my dad and said when do you want to go sailing, I got, "I don't know how to sail"!

After that I was a guy with a boat and did not know how to sail….

LMSA: Where did you learn to sail?

Mike: At the Fun Maritime Sailing Academy, with Willie, Denise and DJ.

LMSA: Who are some of your mentors?

Mike: So many. First off Willie, he pushed me beyond belief to become a better sailor. He even failed me out of my 101 courses. I was devastated beyond belief, but I went back and passed. The best thing he did was introduce me to the world of sailboat racing.

Capt. DJ. She gave the chance to have a full ride for a year or two on old Hard Hat or Dream Chaser now. It was a good time being crew for her and learning the ropes of close quarter racing. She helped me develop my foredeck skills on the P-23.

The Hayden Family. From Fisk to Jeffrey, I have learned a lot from them on how to look for pressure, how to sail downwind after many failed attempts. Where to be and how to take advantage of a good situation in the course. That family is amazing and good stewards of the sport.

You know the one guy I would like to say is a mentor but just someone I can sail with and really get into a groove on a boat is Andy Forrest. He has stuck with my ass through many of challenging races and situations that I thought we would never make it though. And we met because he tacked right into a boat I was crewing on. Almost took my head off… You can ask him about that day.

I always say that if you can beat any of those guys on race day, you are good sailor. I am glad that they are my friends, mentors and competitors.

LMSA: What's your most memorable race?

Mike: There are so many to go to.

The one that always sticks in my mind is the first race I ever competed in with Willie on a C-22. That was the day that I got hooked into this lifestyle of sailing and racing. We captured second in the silver fleet and Willie gave me the trophy. It was a great gesture from Willie and the trophy hangs in my office today. He knew he grabbed another sucker, I mean sailor.

LMSA: What are your future sailing goals?

Mike: Right now, to get back to sailing. As we all are experiencing an interruption in our season, our team planned for 2020 and we were coming back strong for the Club Championship and the SJ21 trophies. But those are on hold for now as I recover from my knee surgery and Covid-19 is taken care of.

To be truthful, I would like to see LMSA flourish as the capital of inner lake sailing in Florida. We have a great town, a beautiful lake and almost perfect sailing year-round, we should have more events around sailing. Regional, Nationals and just go old school sailing. Believe me, I love the Rum Racing but to get some great sailors to show up and sail in as many regattas as we can produce. That's the ticket. I understand the commitment that it would take but we could one day do it. It is a shame that not all members share the same enthusiasm because we could become the capital of inner lake sailing in Florida.

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

Mike: I hope that my body will let me keep sailing. I would like to compete for some regional's and maybe a national championship in one of the platforms. If not, I hope to casually sail around the BVI's or Florida.

LMSA: Your Boat Name is Magellan; how did you earn that name?

Mike: I have been called a lot worst. I have heard A$$h0!e, Fat A$$, Richard Head, Behind the Scenes Guy, that Guy that sails on Show Me and a slew of other things. But Magellan is a special boat name given to me by my sailing buddy Andy Forrest.

We were racing Show Me with the DAMP gang, (Diane, Andy, Mike, Pam) at Crescent Lake. This was an around the lake race and I oversaw the sailing instructions. We got out on the course and I told the skipper, Andy, the wrong way. Everyone else was traveling a different direction but I insisted that I was correct. I believe it was my lovely wife Pam who pulled out the SI's and just started laughing at me then explaining in a nice calm voice that I was an idiot. Love that woman. I believe Andy said, "Nice going Magellan!" and it stuck. As I recall, I worked super hard on trim and pressure sightings that race and we ended up in the top three. Every now and then you hear one of the DAMP members call out Magellan on any of our boats, that's me they are referring to.

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

Mike: Thanks for having me it was a pleasure. You should think we should look in recording these on Zoom and placing them on our Face Book Page. It could be a blast. Be Strong! Be Safe!

LMSA: I like the idea, lets' discuses this at our next board meeting.

Footnote from the Reporter: Mike is an outstanding sailor even if he failed ASA 101 a time or well maybe 2, but none the less those days are long behind him. He is an experienced sailboat racer and hard to beat on the race course. Believe me one-design SJ 21 racing he is one of the boats I'm trying to get a jump on every chance I get. Mike also has done a great deal for the LMSA Club and is the driving force/supplier for the popular Gosling Rum & Jameson Whiskey drawings. The club is a better place with him onboard.
Thank you for all you have done and to the future Mike, cheers!

Members that concludes our Who's Who of LMSA for April 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 to a new and exciting year here at LMSA 2020

LMSA 2020 Reporter
Jim Goempel

The sailing news you want to read.