Who's Who

June 2020 Edition: Who's Who of LMSA



LMSA: Hi, Patti Miller. Could you tell us a little bit about how you got in to sailing?



Patti: My dad's been a big influence in sailing in Orlando for over 50 years. He learned to sail in Trinidad on a Snipe and a Star. He and my mom moved here from Trinidad in 1956, and my dad brought his love of sailing with him. I would say I didn't have much of a choice! It's in my blood! He built his first boat out of wood and called it the PB Craft (12') after me and my brother Barry. He was an outboard mechanic by trade and did that to earn a living, but his dream was to open his own business. He started Barrett's Mobile Marine with a Volkswagen Bus that had a big sailfish for a sign...that grew to selling sailboats, including building and selling the PB Craft along with outboard repairs at the corner of Fairbanks and Formosa. He finally moved all of that to Lake Fairview, home of Barrett's Marine for 40 years and my home till I was about 15!

LMSA: Where did you learn to sail?

Patti: On Lake Killarney on my dad's homebuilt PB Craft. I was probably about four years old!!

LMSA: Who are some of your mentors?



Patti: My dad, in my younger days, taught me about small boat sailing, although I never took an actual sailing class that I remember. My dad would stand on shore and talk to me while I sailed back and forth in the harbor he dug out at the marina!

I started racing big boats in the 90's and my education was expanded. My brother Barry was a big influence and support along with racing skippers Rene Arriens, Dave Andrews, John Libre, Gary Smith and Dave Silverman! A big thank you to John Harrison who taught me the art of foredeck in one day, while racing offshore! He plum wore me out!! On the way in that day from racing, he made me gybe that darn pole more than 30 times, as we sailed into Port Canaveral! My sailing knowledge has expanded yet again doing more class racing at LMSA! Mentors Bill Holstein, Jim Goempel, Steve Hayden, Fisk Hayden, and Jeff Hayden, just to name a few, are all great sailors and have been great mentors to me.

LMSA: What was your most memorable race?

Patti: That's tough! I've had so many amazing experiences racing, but I would have to say as a kid racing a two-person Cal Cat on Lake Dora. All I really remember was it was cold, we were in shorts and t-shirts. It was so windy that my brother Barry and his crew couldn't keep the boat upright, but my crew and I raced, finished, and won! They had to pry my fingers off the tiller after the race I was soooo cold. Also, the 2007 Melbourne Mermaid Regatta—when I skippered Gary Smith's Lindenberg 28 (Five Speed) and we won the regatta!!

LMSA: What's your coolest sailing story?

Patti: My dad owned a 30' Westphal One Design that he named The Impossible Dream! He launched it in the Indian River for the Apollo 11 Launch, June 16, 1969; The Impossible Dream turned possible! He piled all of us kids on board for the launch! It was epic and exciting being so close and on the water with all the other boats...and the bioluminescence was a pretty cool first for me as well! Oh, and they did a write up in the paper about my dad and the sweet vessel The Impossible Dream!

LMSA: What are your future sailing goals?
Patti: To keep sailing as long as I am physically able! I hope that's until my dying day! Keep learning! Keep training more young'uns on foredeck! Learning more about tactics and calling the wind.

LMSA: Where do you see yourself sailing in the next 5 years?
Patti: Sanford and Cocoa

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



Footnote from the reporter: Patti Miller is a solid as a sailboat racer can be. I'd personally welcome her on any race any day. Her bow woman skills are among the best in the business. Not only on the bow she can drive as well. An all-around accomplished sailor! Patti makes a mean batch of brownies too!

Members, this concludes our "Who's Who of LMSA" for June 2020. LMSA will be reaching out to sailing members and crew for interviews every month throughout the coming year. Please share your story 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!

2020 LMSA Reporter
Jim Goempel

The sailing news you want to read.