



## *The Sailing Breeze* Newsletter

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### **Sailing History Tidbit**



You enjoy sailing. Have you ever thought about the invention of sailing?

In 1300 B.C., Mesopotamia invented the sailboat. Since they lived between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, they needed water transportation so they could trade, travel, and for deep



### **Captain Dave's Tips**

#### **Night Time Panic or Competent Navigation?**

Most folks can navigate reasonably well in familiar waters during daylight, but how many can claim total confidence and competence after sunset? At the end of a wonderful day on the lake many unprepared boaters often find themselves on the water after dark. Under the cover of darkness a lot of things can go wrong and inexperience as well as poor judgment could cost a life or an expensive repair bill.

The lake can be an intimidating place to be after sunset, but it doesn't have to be. A couple of things happen after sunset. You lose your "depth perception" and "spatial relationship" skills. One can easily become disoriented because you lack a great number of your visual clues. Also unless you're familiar with the night time aids to navigation and other visual clues such as lighted radio and water towers, it's easy to have a trip become memorable for all the wrong reasons!

Always leave the docks with the anticipation and

water fishing.

They have been credited with inventing wheels, chariots, and sailboats. These are just a few of what contributed to the modern world by the Mesopotamians.

Trade and commerce is how civilizations are successful and Mesopotamia was no exception. They set up trade relationships with nearby cities and countries. Roads and routes were not built yet and it made transportation very difficult to trade. Therefore, they had to work on alternative ways of transportation for people and goods to get to their desired locations. They created water transportation and thus the first boats were invented.

These boats were very simple wooden boats. The boats needed people to navigate and guide them through waters but they needed a solution to making these trips more refined. The boats were of a primitive design and the Mesopotamians found that strong wind could easily provide power. They made Papyrus a thin paper-like material made from the pith of the papyrus plant, made sturdy mats and placed them in the middle of pairs of poles, a simple invention, and enabled ancient Mesopotamians to take advantage of the wind.

What is so amazing is how this invention has evolved into today's world of sport and recreation. It makes you

preparation that you may be returning after dark. Buy a red lighted head lamp. REI and some marina stores sell them. At night it takes up to 3 hours to gain or regain full night vision. One-third is gained in the first 3 minutes, two-thirds in 30 minutes but 3 hours to obtain full night vision. A single bright white light from the wrong flashlight could have disastrous consequences. Don't leave the docks without a red lamp or red bulb flashlight.

Keep a current lake chart handy. More importantly practice referencing it during the day light so you're familiar with certain land aids. Keep a compass on your boat and notice the various headings at key points along your route. If you're using the GPS Chart plotter, cross reference it often with a paper chart as well as reality around you. Electronic devices can be inaccurate and are prone to electrical failure. Paper charts can become outdated, wet or fly overboard. Become capable of navigating by sights alone, but never rely upon a single method or means. Keep all your options open and practice each regularly.

If you'd like some actual experience underway after dark, join us Friday night April 17th from 8-10 pm for our annual night time Navigation Clinic or if you just want to see what it's like to sail after sunset, join our Friday April 24th Night Sail Clinic from 8-10 pm. Either two-hour outing is \$75 per person and requires pre-registration in advance.

## Upcoming Events...

It is getting that time of year very soon where we will begin our fabulous Sunset Sails and Great Escapes.

### Sunset Sail

Saturday, April 25  
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.



Enjoy the companionship aboard this relaxing sunset sail! Light snacks and soft drinks provided to complete your special evening on the water. A great way to introduce a non sailor to the joys of sailing.

### Great Escape

wonder if they ever considered that someday this could be something of leisure that we enjoy today.

## APRIL

### GROUND CLASSES

(See Class Links Below)

Basic Sailing Theory  
4/13 & 4/15

Basic Coastal Cruising  
4/21 & 4/23

Bareboat Chartering  
4/28 & 4/30

Celestial Navigation \_a  
4/12 & 4/19

**Prerequisite:**  
Coastal Navigation\_ a

Celestial Navigation \_b  
4/26

Celestial Navigation \_c  
4/26

### ON-THE-WATER

(See Class Links Below)

#### --Recreation Outings--

Sunset Cruise  
4/25

#### --Clinics--

Anchoring I  
4/18

Crew Overboard Rescue at Night  
4/18

Heave to Reefing

Saturday, May 2  
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Great Escapes are Brown Bag recreational adventures where you bring your own dinner and we provide the adventure.



This is an EARLY Mother's Day Celebration!

### Mothers Sail Too!

## What's New?

### Join Our New On-the-Water Clinic!

#### Crew Overboard Rescue at Night

Saturday, April 18

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Losing crew overboard is never desired. Having someone fall overboard at night can be deadly. This on-the-water clinic provides real world experience and practice after dark. Your crew trusts you. Don't let them down.



#### Suggested Pre-Requisites:

Man-Overboard I  
Man-Overboard II

## Tips and Reminders!

We do everything we can to ensure safety. To keep everyone out of harms way Windsong reserves the right to reschedule or cancel outings because of severe weather conditions deemed to be unsafe, extreme or dangerous to the vessels or students; however, we attempt to sail in most all conditions to provide a more complete exposure for students to the drills, procedures, and perils of severe



4/11

Maneuvering I

4/4

Sail Trim

4/11

Night Sail

4/24

Spinnaker

4/25

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**WE OFFER:  
On-the-Water  
Instructional Outings  
Every Weekend!**

**YEAR ROUND!!!**

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## Quick Links

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weather sailing.

In the event of class cancellations by Windsong because of forecasted weather, we notify all participants no later than 9 pm the evening before the class. Be aware that reliable weather related determinations are difficult to make far in advance. For this reason, the possibility always exists for cancellations or delays dockside prior to departure in extreme and unexpected weather cases. Refunds from weather cancellations will be prorated on the basis of time during which instruction was conducted.

A return to the docks does not imply the end of instruction, since stowing of the boats as well as safe viewing and discussion of the various weather systems observed dockside are valuable discussions and instruction.

The safety of our students, staff and boats are primary; however, as weather presents realistic conditions that we must knowledgeably undertake and be prepared to encounter, such instruction is included when practicable in our curriculum on the water.

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**Our Mission:**

[Class Information](#)

[Directions](#)

[Guidelines for Participation](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Gift Certificates](#)

To provide a variety of sailing opportunities to those pursuing Education, Recreation or Corporate Adventures on Lake Lanier.



We value your loyal patronage and strive everyday in every way to continue to earn the opportunity to serve you. You deserve the best that we can offer and are the reason we come to work each day.

See you on the water....

Sincerely,

Dave Crumbley  
President, CEO  
Windsong Sailing Academy

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