



Candidates' provided information can be found on the following pages.

CommodorePage 02

You can also find online using link or QR Code below.



<https://www.beaverlakesailclub.com/blsc-elections/>

♣ *Commodore*

Candidate for Commodore: Joe Benson

I am Joe Benson running for Commodore. I have been a club member since 1997 and own a Hunter 380 on dock 5-AHYOKAH. That's a Cherokee name meaning "she brings me pleasure". I live on Timberline Drive on Whitney Mountain with my fiancé Brenda. I have been a lawyer in Fayetteville for 40 years and previously have served as Mayor of Goshen for 9 years and its city council as an alderman for 4 years while living there. I am currently on the board of directors for Lost Bridge Village. I have previously served 2 three year terms as Commodore of the Club and 3 or 4 years on the board as member at large or immediate past commodore.

- Why am I running, what I wish to accomplish and my vision.

Several concerns from members have been voiced recently as to current or rumored policies of the board. Those concerns include our application process which apparently has morphed into a board rating system of all pending applications rather than considering the applications from the date of receipt by the club. I think the applications should be considered on the basis of first come-first considered and that the board should not know who else has applied. The application under consideration should not be in competition with other applicants made later who might be friends with a current board member, club member or be a prominent individual.

A further concern relates to fees/penalties. I have heard rumor of a proposed policy to penalize members whose boat usage is infrequent so that "marina" slip rates would be charged to those who don't sail their boats often enough. If the member is in good standing, meaning paying their dues and keeping the boat insured, I don't see why we should really care. We don't know the events in that member's life that govern the use of their boat but there should be no disparity in dues charged to members based on some board member's view as to what proper usage of a slip is. I see a disparity in the charge to RV users of the parking lots. While I oppose a fee for RV parking, that fee should not be more than the fee for boat or trailer storage. The RVer would use the same amount of electricity if they stayed on their boat instead of the RV. I have also read board minutes discussing raising dues and fees while we have almost \$80,000 in the bank and a new year starting wherein the account will be funded again. This should be more than sufficient to sustain the club and handle any utility rate increases. That we have not had a dues increase in years is not sufficient reason in my view to increase fees. I therefore think that our fee/dues policy should be set forth in our by-laws with any changes to be approved by the membership through a by-law revision. When any future board can present a reasonable basis to increase fees to the membership then the fees can be increased by club vote.

I am a proponent that the by-laws prohibit the assignment of a second slip to members. Currently a member who has a slip assignment can be on a list for a second slip assignment by reason of seniority ahead of a member who awaits a first slip assignment. That policy in my view is unfair to those seeking their first slip assignment and is an inequitable allocation of club resources to members. I would propose a by-law revision to direct the board to phase out second slip assignments within 2 years making those slips available to be assigned to those on the waiting list. If a second slip policy is to exist then the membership should approve such in the by-laws as opposed to being a board set policy wherein some of those board members have second slips.

We also have a membership moratorium of 125 members. I think that moratorium of 125 or different number should be set out in our by-laws as well so as to not being a board set figure. In the past the moratorium has been lifted by the board and conveniently the board member advocating for the moratorium to be lifted sold his boat with a six month slip lease to the newly admitted applicant. To avoid those perceived or actual improprieties the moratorium number should be in the by-laws.

Other by-law revisions suggested to me include expanding the composition of the board to one representative from each dock and 1 from non-slip assigned members. With the Commodore, Vice, Rear, Treasurer and Immediate past commodore the board would number 11. Under normal Roberts Rules of Order, the Commodore would not vote except in case of a tie. I would suggest with this revision that the Commodore be granted a veto over any board

action which could be overruled by a 2/3 vote of the board. The commodore if he wanted to take the matter to the club membership could then petition for a reversal of the board overruling the veto under a procedure presently in our by-laws.

Finally, it is rumored that this board will present a by-law revision in order to be considered at the annual meeting. I urge you to reject such if presented as it has not been prepared with notice and input from the membership. I have seen no notice of a by-law revision committee other than a mention of a retreat in the minutes. If there has been a committee preparing by-law revisions, I question why the process has not been transparent. Transparently is not just a goal it is a requirement. While the club is a private entity, it has and does receive public funds to construct and maintain our waste pump-out system and boat. Any organization that is partially funded by public funds is bound to adhere to the Arkansas Freedom of Information act requiring that business be conducted in an open and public manner at published times so that membership and the public is advised of how the decisions are reached. Secret retreats by a lame duck board to discuss club direction or draft by-laws does not comply with FOIA. For that matter committee meetings to discuss applications or slip assignments can't be done without public notice. Also if club business is being conducted via email discussion and vote without public knowledge, which is occurring, that procedure does not comply with FOIA. Failure to comply with FOIA provisions is a Class C Misdemeanor.

So I am running not only to lead the management of the club in day to day operations, to maintain its current sailing and social programs, to go full ahead on dock and grounds maintenance, to provide transparency to all business but to enact new bylaws which to correct some problems with the current bylaws and to limit the discretion of the board on certain issues and provide more direction and control by the membership to ensure that the value of the club to membership remains as it has been established over these past many years.

Candidate for Commodore: Stan Collins

I've been involved with sailing clubs in Texas and in Arkansas since my college days (I won't admit how long that's been). I've been a member of sailing clubs on Lake Waco, Lake Tyler & Beaver Lake. At Tyler Yacht Club I served as *Chairman of both Social & Racing Committees* & held offices as *Vice Commodore and Commodore*. I am currently Rear Commodore of Beaver Lake Sailing Club & Chairman of the Social Committee. My sailing inventory has included: Cyclone 13, Gloucester 16, South Coast 22, Chrysler 22, ODay 240 and currently a Hunter 306 ('Genuine Draft'). I've completed offshore sailing training courses in Corpus Christi, Texas and Tampa, Florida. Tanya and I have enjoyed bare boating in the BVI on multiple occasions and hope to do much more! We love sailing & relaxing on Dock One aboard 'Genuine Draft'. "You're welcome to stop by for a visit & cocktails or beer (Genuine Draft of course) while bar supplies last".

At Beaver Lake Sailing Club...

I am currently serving on the board of directors as Rear Commodore and Chairman of the Social Committee. With the Social Committee we planned and revived many successful social events throughout the year (Work Days, Dock Walks, post-race meals & dances and holiday events). I initiated the Club's first Member Satisfaction Survey (now available at our website online). I also serve as the club's 'webmaster' where I successfully rebuilt the club website and automated our Trailer, Truck and RV Pad reservation system and created an online Ship's Store for BLSC merchandise as well as the 'Video Vault' containing BLSC videos of interest for members and visitors alike.

Strengths I bring to the position from my club experiences & almost 30 years with Procter & Gamble: Organization, understanding systems & processes, excellence in working with varieties of people, countries & cultures, communication, good listener, "Seeks first to understand", good facilitator, encourages the positive, finds common ground to gain alignment. *Honest errors will be made, but in my world errors are forgivable, not punishable.*

Why I am running... *

- To facilitate day to day running of the club in support of currently successful programs.
- Do whatever a Commodore can to maintain the happy 'getaway' it has become for so many.
- To help build pride in our club for new members and re-ignite pride for all members.

What I hope to accomplish while serving...

- Grow a healthy racing program while expanding more social sailing programs. **
- Help appropriate committees instill club pride among new members via active mentoring, training and onboarding programs plus reignite pride for tenured members by encouraging an ongoing culture of openness and transparency and respect for our club, our policies & rules and ALL our members.

My Vision for BLSC...

- **NOTHING DIFFERENT** for members who like it the way it is, there is no reason to change a lot. We have resources enough to serve all our diverse needs.
- A continuing healthy racing program (it ain't broke, don't fix it).
- A growing 'social' sailing program (include training & learning programs for youth & 'experienced' sailors also).
- A club where 'rumor' and scuttlebutt don't drive wedges between diverse members. ***
- Near Term: Repair, update and maintain waterfront and docks (get back to a pre-covid/supply chain plan of action), includes wifi reliability, decking, etc. Keeping our facilities first rate.
- A specific vision (pending right cost & approval of course) is a boom of some type to facilitate raising & lowering of masts. We had one at a marina I belonged to in Dallas that was elegantly simple and worked beautifully!
- Longer term: Level, better and plenty of parking for boats, autos and big events (includes exploration of additional property to support future needs). Charlton house updates as needed.

Referenced above:

* At this time we need someone dedicated to our members' experience, club values & strengths. I support perpetuating the stability, enjoyment and enrichment of our club thru policies and bylaws. Bylaws should support our diverse membership, but our culture should not be defined by our bylaws. We have a few bylaws that need to be evaluated based on changing times and situations. I believe we should update those so that we do not "keep kicking the can down the road." Previous committees and the current board have done some excellent ground work for us. Wiser founding members before us had reasons for what they did and it would help us to understand that while intelligently adapting to change.

** Re: Social sailing programs - I'm not referring to the successful social *events* we have. I'm thinking of events that involve actual sailing. Let's face it, you don't need to sail to eat BBQ & dance to Earl & Them. We can develop more participation in 'social' sailing so that the pool of experienced sailors will grow for ALL sailing programs. I'll support people & ideas who want to make it happen.

On the whole, I agree with other candidates in more instances than not. It may not be that our policy differences are so great. The question is who would be better at managing and leading the board in a most positive way. I believe I am the candidate for that.

Thank you for your support.

Stan Collins

479-871-8444

stancollins@earthlink.net

*** **Finally...**

A lot of 'rumor' is being tossed about, and in the absence of facts people feel free to make up their own. Here's a link to some 'hot button' issues being 'rumored'.

<https://www.stancollinsonline.com/blscpolicy>

Should you have questions about anything, let me know. We may disagree on some things but reasonable people do so without vitriol and I love to hear from those with more knowledge or different perspectives.

A possible solution to issues some have with interpretation of our bylaws & rules could be to appoint a board member as parliamentarian, an expert on bylaws who keeps the board on track when we miss the mark. I support that proposition.