

BURGEE – Luffing Lassies, February 2011

Luffing Lassies Speak Out

Ellen McKeefe

“There is nothing, absolutely nothing, half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.”

Ratty said to Mole, Kenneth Grahame’s “The Wind in the Willows.”

Herewith, some quotes from LL’s explaining why they are “messing about in boats.” I asked them why they are LL sailor babes.

“Why am I a sailor babe? Because I am not a biker babe. Where else could I sit on or in the water and have a blast?”
Jane Owens



“I love the water, the dolphins, the exercise, the sweating and freezing, lunch afterwards and the occasional adult beverage. And the fashion statements.”
Elaine DeVito

“You know you’re a sailor babe when your family gives you hot pink duct tape in your Christmas stocking and you think it’s a great gift.”
Michelle Lee



"Oh, I am a proud Luffing Lassie.
I'm bold and I'm brave and I'm sassy.
My husband thinks I'm hot.
A savvy sailor I am not."

Kimberly Duplissey

"Why have I loved being a sailor babe since 1981? After a few hours of sailing on the bay I feel as if I've been on a wonderful short vacation. Also, I love the outdoors, the camaraderie...the longtime friendships mean a lot."

Jane Lyons

"I sail with the LL's because I love women who choose to spend a portion of their lives learning about the wind and the water."

Rita Steele



"Back in 1965, I became a Sunfish sailor babe when I won my first Powder Puff Regatta. I'm still sailing and I can still dream."

Carol McDowell



"I became a sailor babe to learn how to sail by myself. In the process I have had the privilege of knowing some wonderful people. I've stayed because of them and the joy of being on the water."
Loretta Garber

"I'm not a sailor babe because I'm a competitive or flashy racer, it's just being on the water in a steady wind with friends who feel the same way that makes me love the sport. And being a Luffing Lassie."
Linda Tiffan

"I look forward to freezing in the cold or baking in the heat, ripping the skin off my fingers where the gloves don't extend, getting bruised, straining my back from lifting and pulling the boat. And getting to yell on the course things like ready about, hard a lee, prepare to jibe, jibe ho, hike, come up and mark room. But mostly I like it because this is what I did growing up and it is fondly familiar and comforting when I miss my parents who have passed on."
Jib Browning



"I love that the LL's are willing to go out in all kinds of weather for the sake of sailing and that rogue wind that capsizes me in the frigid bay waters in January. It gives me practice for "righting and bailing" on that summer day when there is no wind and a cool dip in the water would feel really, really good."
Dotti Sechrist

"Since a wee child I've loved the water; rain filled ditches, puddles, streams, lakes, seas. At 13, I learned to sail. And 13 I'll stay."
Suzanna Young



“Being new to Florida, joining LL lets me enjoy the great weather and meet new friends. Doesn’t hurt that my husband thinks I’m cool.”
Diane Banyard



“I was a fish out of water
Until the wind swept me in.
Now I sail with the Lassies
And I’m planning to win!”
Sally Miller

All I can add to this are some quotes I found in my notes from a chalk board coaching session with Dave Bridges back in 1999, when I first sailed with the LL’s. At the time I thought these were as much life lessons as they are sailing wisdom. And I still think so.

- “You need a goal that you can attain.”
- “Racing is just a way to learn how to sail.”
- “Where do you want to be when you finish?”
- “A lot of people who need help are not here.”
- “Don’t dwell on all this stuff; get it over with.”
- “It was her day. Every day is someone’s day.”