



To the Members of the Star Class Fleet and Participants in the 2026 Western Hemisphere Championship

Dear Star Class Sailors, Friends, and Competitors,

It is with great excitement and pride that I, as Commodore of the Gull Lake Yacht Club, extend a most warm and heartfelt welcome to all of you as we prepare to host the 2026 Western Hemisphere Championship on the beautiful waters of Gull Lake, May 20–24, 2026.

The Star class has enjoyed a storied and enduring relationship with our club and this lake. Since the chartering of the Gull Lake Star Fleet in 1933, making it one of the longstanding fleets in the class, the Star has been the premier one-design racing boat on Gull Lake. Our sailors have competed at the highest levels, hosted numerous significant events over the decades, and built lasting traditions around this iconic class. We are thrilled to once again welcome the Star fleet back to our shores for this prestigious Hemisphere Championship, continuing a legacy of excellence and camaraderie.

This year holds special significance for our club, as 2026 marks the 100th anniversary of the Gull Lake Yacht Club. Founded in 1926 to promote sailing and racing on Gull Lake, we have spent the past century dedicated to the sport we all love, fostering competition, sportsmanship, and community on these clear, spring-fed waters. Hosting the Western Hemisphere Championship during our centennial year is a tremendous honor and a fitting celebration of our history and shared passion for the Star class.

Our club is fully committed to providing an outstanding regatta experience. From well-run races and a welcoming shoreside atmosphere to the natural beauty of Gull Lake, known for its challenging winds, clear waters, and scenic surroundings, we look forward to delivering the conditions and hospitality that Star sailors expect and deserve. Whether this is your first visit to Richland or a return to familiar waters, we are eager to see you on the starting line and to share in the excitement of the competition.

On behalf of the entire membership of the Gull Lake Yacht Club, I extend our sincere welcome. We are honored to host you and look forward to an unforgettable week of world-class racing, great fellowship, and cherished memories.

Fair winds and smooth sailing,

Bill English
Commodore Gull Lake Yacht Club