

## Back Cove sailor of the week (3/23/20) - Michael Mayfield

I joined CSC in 2008 when I retired from a career of teaching high school chemistry/physics in suburban Chicago and moved to SC to enjoy year-round sailing and no more snow. My sailing experience started in 1972 when I started sailing a sunfish. In 1976 I purchased a Hobie 14 and trailered both boats to many inland lakes. When my daughters went to college, I sold the small boats and in 1999 I took keel-boat lessons on Lake Michigan and am certified for cruiser sailing. I sailed on Lake Michigan until I moved to SC. I currently own a Hunter 27, slip N08. My wife Mary and I sail as often as we can and enjoy the peaceful weekday solitude of Lake Murray.

My Hunter 27 (Infinity) is a perfect boat for cruising. It has sleek lines and looks great in the water and in pictures. It has a spacious cabin below deck complete with sleeping for six, a head, hot/cold pressurized water, stove, microwave and a cooler. At 8600 pounds it is a bit heavy for competitive racing. I like the boat because it has a roller-furling jib, an in-mast furling main, excellent headroom below deck and a rigging system that elevates the boom over my 6'5" head!!!! Everything is controlled from the cockpit and can be sailed single-handed. The cockpit is comfortable for up to six adults. The inboard diesel makes it easy to get in/out of the back cove and provides the security of being able to get back into our slip if a storm moves in. We love to have guests aboard for a cruise on the lake...just let us know if you want to join us.

I joined CSC to meet like-minded people who enjoy sailing. I tried LYMRA racing a couple of years but discovered that my boat was not fast enough and am satisfied with a cruising lifestyle. In 2015 I moved closer to the club and decided to get more involved with the social aspects of the club as well as devoting some of my retired time to serve as the Back Cove chair. Being in that position has enabled me to meet many club members and to work with great volunteers as we continue to maintain and enhance the back cove. Like many of you, whenever I go on trips, I always find a marina...walk the docks.... admire the boats and look for ways to make our back cove even better.

