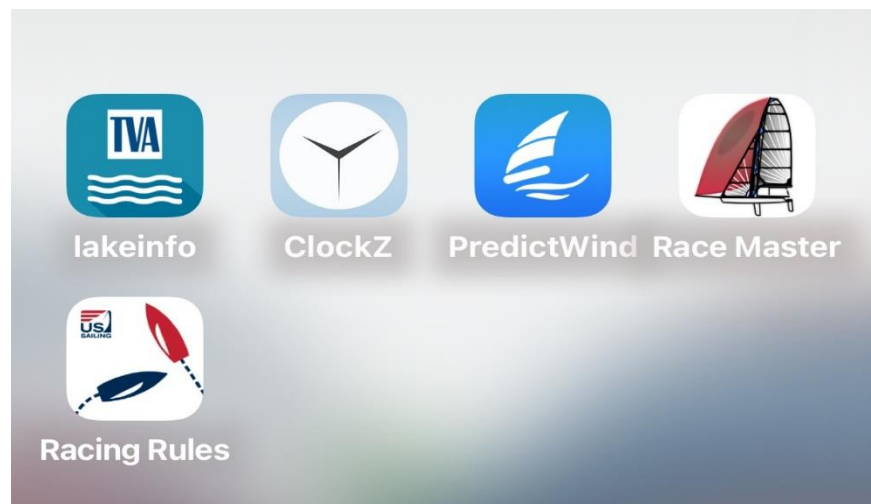# Helpful Apps on the Water!!

Here we are enjoying the wind, the water, and our love for sailing. It could not get any better than that. But then we throw in our racing component as well as safety on the waters, and hence we become faced with technology. Of course, technology has brought us improved sail materials, cuts of sails, and devices in boat design to improve our performance.

On the race course, there are apps which will definitely improve your efficiency in boat performance and your knowledge on the water. An app is simply a software package that allows users to perform specific tasks on a mobile or tablet device. We download these to help with everyday life experiences, so why not consider how these might help your performance on the lake. Let us examine some of these that could aid us in our boat performance.

First, the TVA app – Here you can get current information regarding items such as water release schedules, which can affect your boat speed on certain parts of the lake. It will tell you how many generators are running throughout the 24-hour period. There are hourly elevation levels and average discharge levels. Also included in this app is the local weather. *(As we know,*

prediction of the weather on the lake is practically impossible – so the more sites you can access, the greater the chance of "guessing" what we will see!)

Next, the ClockZ app – ClockZ displays accurate current time. It has features such as Timers, Alarms *(your start time),* and a Stopwatch *(your overall lapsed time of racing).* It has an extremely large font clock. This is a very basic app.

For weather knowledge, the Predict Wind app – This is a favorite Brian uses and he frequently will post this information for all of us on our Facebook page. Here you have access to a comparison of top ranking world forecast models for reliable weather data. So rather than using one model, you have the advantage of a number of forecast models. It has a high resolution map for wind, gusts, CAPE, wave, rain, cloud, pressure, and air temperature. This information can also be viewed in graph or table format, which is what Brian uses when he posts data for us. Checking these forecast several days prior to the race will enable you to choose the correct sail inventory for the weather conditions.

Next is the Race Master Sail Timer & Speed – This is my favorite! This app will show countdown minutes/seconds for the start in very large font numbers. Not only does it give you a countdown for the start, but it also begins your elaspsed time once you reach your start time. At the end of the race, you take your elapsed time and add it to your start time and that gives you your finished time. Or you can just take the clock time from the app. Greg actually put a holder on Hired Gun and the phone fits in the holder so that he or anyone in the cockpit can see the screen at any time. You can rotate it from portrait to landscape view. Chuck introduced this to me and if we all used this app, there would be no adding or subtracting of time to sync with other devices. In addition to the timing functions, it has a compass and a number of other sailing functions.

Lastly, is <u>Racing Rules</u> app – This app is provided by US Sailing and these are the rules that we follow as stated in our sailing instructions for each series. We are currently under *"The Racing Rules of Sailing for 2021-2024."* Here they are at your fingertips! Fortunately, we have not experienced any protests in our racing programs since I have been involved. However, if this should occur these are the rules that would govern how the protest would be decided.

Hopefully, you will find these apps helpful to your experiences on the lake. Whether out for a casual sail or participating in our racing program, the more knowledge we have the more we can enjoy whatever endeavor is chosen for the day!