

Jerry Simon

Remarks

4LIYC Spring Gathering

April 25, 2026

In amongst friends and the sport that I've spent a lifetime involved with, and to see people enjoying the sport as I have, there is nothing better.

I built six Renegades, and to see the boats that I built out sailing today is probably the best possible thing. I always worry that when people buy boats, they end up in the garage or under the porch, but fortunately the boats that I have made and sold to local sailors and a few out-of-towners have remained active in the Renegade fleet.

All right, enough on that.

There is one other thing I would like to leave you with, and that is these red jackets have a lot of tradition. There should be more of them around, and I know there are still some out there in closets from dads, friends, and others.

Back in the 1970s we were very active, traveling to regattas, and when you go to a regatta you want to be identified rather than just one of the crowd. So we purchased these red blazers. The first edition was a felt blazer with a patch on the side, and we stood out when we went to regattas, which was a big deal.

This is the second edition, as the felt ones did not hold up. Most of the competitive sailors had these jackets. At the time they were inexpensive, maybe twenty or thirty dollars, though it is hard to imagine what they would cost today.

There was a member who passed away who was a strong advocate for bringing the jackets back, Tim McCormick. He worked hard to revive that tradition, so someone needs to pick up the mantle and carry it forward, because my days of pushing are over.

It is a pleasure to be here.

Thank you.