



# the Binnacle



Newsletter of the Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.  
Commodore: Doug Viehmann Vice Commodore: Steve Walkerman  
April 2009  
Binnacle Editor: Jim Turvey  
<http://www.lcyc.info>

Upcoming Events ... Spring Workday 5/9 ... Practice Race 5/20 ... New Member Orientation 5/23

## Winter Cruising on Lake Champlain Dave Powlison

When we think of cruising on Lake Champlain, we usually don't think of it happening after November or before May. But on February 21, a group of iceboaters, including LCYC's Bob Schumacher, Don Brush, Doug Merrill, and myself, along with three other iceboaters, set out from White's Beach, at the south end of South Hero to do just that.

The original plan was to find a good place for the DNs to race. I was in my Nite and was there for more "recreational" sailing. The area between White's Beach, Providence Island and Stave Island was somewhat rough, so we crossed our first pressure ridge, just east of Carlton's Prize. Pressure ridges are long cracks that develop in the ice. Sometimes the pressure ridge results in an actual gap; other times the ice plates on either side crunch up against each other, rising in a v-shape mound of ice that can be several feet high. When the ice cracks, it creates loud, booming noises that are particularly noticeable on a cold, quiet night. This crack had separated just a few inches but had recently frozen over again, so it was easy to cross. On the other side, we found a huge plate of smoother ice than we had seen off White's Beach, and it was all easily over a foot thick. With a puffy west wind, we made a number of runs, north and south, to the west of the two islands. At one point, my GPS showed my speed at 49 knots, and when I got home and downloaded the data, I discovered my speed had, at some point, spiked at 58 knots, which would give me a speeding ticket on most sections of I-89.

As we headed further west, toward Valcour Island, the ice continued to look good, so Bob Schumacher announced, "We're going to go for a cruise", and we set off with the intention of circumnavigating Valcour Island. I had never been out on the broad lake in an iceboat before, and with literally no one else around, it was initially a little unsettling. Other than the seven of us, there was not another person in sight in any direction. Nor was there any evidence of anyone else: no ice shanties, no tracks from ATVs, no frozen-over fishing holes--nothing. But the ice was thick, and with some rather experienced iceboaters along, I quickly overcame my hesitancy. Plus, it was a beautifully clear day, and there was ice as far as we could see.

As we sailed west, we encountered our another pressure ridge, just east of Valcour, one that ran north and south as far as we could see, but we found a good crossing point. From there, it was smooth sailing to the New York shoreline. As we got closer, we began to smell of the dairy barns on the New York shore. It reminded me of some Wednesday nights when the wind direction and the Shelburne farmers' fertilizing schedules coincide. But this was a whole lot faster—and a bit colder. As we headed north, we ran into another pressure ridge, to the west of Valcour, about

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An Ice Day For a Sail at PIYC (Powlison Ice Yacht Club)!  
Doug Merrill

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## **Commodore's Corner**

Spring has landed on us wet and warm. My thoughts are flowing with the melting snow from the mountains to the lake. In preparation for boating season take some time to check out the calendar on LCYC's web site. While you are there note that race registration is now on-line on the LCYC.info site. Our old (pre 2006) web site has finally gone the way of the Dodo. I would like to thank Jason Hyerstay, Ernie Reuter and all those who have put hours of effort into the web-site recently. Also kudo's to the racing committee under Tom Glynn's leadership who have worked hard getting racing registration active on line and finding new ways to equalize club racing among our diverse fleet. I look forward to an exciting racing season.

Put **spring work day** in BIG letters over **May 9<sup>th</sup>**!

A large turn out gives us more time to party when the work is done! Jr. Sailing will start all too soon after that. Jim tells me one week after posting registration forms on-line we have 24 registrants. See the enclosed brochure for more details to get your children and grand children into this fun introduction to boating.

Some updates are in order from the Board. Our tax appeal is progressing slowly. The town has asked for more information about our experts, so we seem to be heading toward the next legal step. Mark Sperry has donated much of his time and expertise but the fight goes on. Concerning the board's pursuit of a solution for repair or replacement of the retaining walls we were disappointed to receive only two bids, and neither is affordable. The board is considering alternate designs and materials. Meanwhile the Dinse is in Chris Morgan's hands with repairs under way, the new whaler outboard is installed and we are all plotting some exciting spring chores to dig our teeth into on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

I have challenged the Board to each save 10% over last year's budget. Some gains have been made toward that goal. Bob Manchester started out by substantially reducing costs of the Change of Watch, the request from almost 40 members to receive the Binnacle on line will knock about \$120 off Communications meager budget, now the Commodore has to get his act together and find a way to reduce all those intangibles, like insurance, mortgage and legal fees!

I look forward to catching up with all of you as we scrub and paint our hulls.

Good Harbors and Safe Passage, Doug Viehmann

## **Calling all Dockmeisters** Bob DeSorbo

Proper docks are key to our club's well being and do require some extra attention at workdays. This year there is quite a bit of work which needs to be done and we are planning 2 'pre-workday workdays' scheduled for Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>. We need many volunteers for the following tasks: replacing the carpeting on the junior sailing docks, replacing damaged boards, adding new cleats and end rollers, cleaning the kiosks and of course, applying sealer! Work starts at the club at 09:00 both days. Lunches along with appropriate beverages will be provided. This is a chance to get workday credit if you are unable to attend this May 9<sup>th</sup> or missed your chance last year. If

## **Newly Elected Board Members** Bern Collins

At the Annual Meeting on October 18, 2008, the following members were elected to serve three-year terms on the Board of Governors: Tom Glynn, Skip Hoblin, Rob Rothman, Bob Schumacher, and Jim Turvey. Steve Walkerman was re-elected to a one-year term as Treasurer, and Susan Lamb was elected, along with Scott Carpenter and Don O'Brien, to serve as an auditor for 2009. The newly elected Board members assumed office and were introduced at the January 31, 2009 Change of Watch.

**Tom Glynn** and his wife, Arlene, joined LCYC in 1973, and sail a Pearson 37, *Sundance*. They recently moved from Troy, New York to Jeffersonville, where Tom continues to work as an architect and a ski instructor at Smugglers. He is a former Board member who served as chair of House & Grounds from 1988-91.

**Skip Hoblin** has been a LCYC member since 2001 and has been a Race Committee Principal Racing Officer (PRO) for the past two years. He and Mimi Benedict sail a Santana 28, *La Coulee Douce*. Skip is the owner of Snowfire Auto in Waterbury.

**Rob Rothman** joined LCYC in 1999. He and his wife, Lorrie, own PinSource in Williston, which is also LCYC's "source" for the LCYC tankards that are now given to outgoing officers and board members in recognition of their service. They sail a Tartan 3500, *Moondancer*.

**Bob Schumacher** and his wife, Barbara, have been members since 1973; Bob is also a former Board member who chaired Harbor & Docks from 1975-77. Barbara was one of the first women to serve on the Board of Governors. They have owned Canoe Imports for thirty-three years. Bob sails and races with Don Brush on an Etchells, *Senior Moment*. He also owns a C & C 30 Custom sailboat that has the distinction of never having been moored at LCYC—but may be some time in the future? They recently moved to Hinesburg.

**Jim Turvey** and his wife, Renee, joined LCYC in 2005. They have three children who enjoy sailing and racing their Etchells, *Band on the Run*. Jim works at IBM and has been the editor of the *Binnacle* for the past three years.

**Susan Lamb** joins Scott Carpenter and Don O'Brien as a member of the auditing team. She has performed this task for LCYC in the 1980's, and, as the wife of Past Commodore Tony Lamb, is also a "former first lady." Her outstanding qualifications for the auditing job include a degree in economics from Mt. Holyoke; she is a past president of the Vermont Government Finance Officers Association; and she is presently the Finance Director for the Town of Williston.

## **Calling all Dockmeisters continued**

you can't make either day, there is also the possibility of working on your own during the week.

Please contact Bob DeSorbo at 802 496-4118 evenings or email fire4deck@aol.com if you can make it.

Thanks for your support!

## Regatta Committee Updates *Tom Glynn*

The regatta Committee has spent the cold winter months looking at the overall regatta program with the goal of identifying changes we might institute to improve the program and ultimately attract more boats to the line. As we get closer to spring, several changes have been instituted that participants should be aware of.

**Registration and Waiver**: In the past, we have not required "guest" boats from Malletts Bay Boat Club or Valcour Sailing Club to register to participate in the LCYC Regatta program. This created a liability exposure since registration also included signing a waiver, to the effect that the participant assumed all liability arising out of participating in the program. To address this, beginning this year all participants including those from MBBC, RSYC and VSC must register. As in the past there will be no fee for members of Lake Champlain based clubs. There will be a \$200 fee for participation in the Wednesday night series and Etchells series by boats not affiliated with a Lake Champlain based club.

**Junior Sailor Participation**: This year, the registration form contains a place to indicate the boat owner's willingness to take on board a participant from the LCYC Junior Sailing Program for any or all series A,B, or C. The Regatta Committee will coordinate with Junior Sailing to match kids with boats.

**Spinnaker Fleet Class Configuration**: Building on the success of the reorganization of the spinnaker fleets for Wednesday night races last year, the committee has created class splits for Wednesday nights and weekend races that are based not on PHRF ratings but on boat characteristics, such as sail area to displacement ratios, in an effort to get similar boats racing against each other. The committee did not concern itself with ratings or changes to ratings. Boats will continue to race with their current Lake Champlain PHRF rating. There will be 4 classes for the Wednesday night series and 3 classes for the weekend series. Note, the Commodore Macdonough Race as an exception will be run with the same class configurations as last year.

**Etchells One Design Racing**: The Etchells fleet will be given a separate class for the Ladies Cup. They will also be scored per their PHRF handicap for the Ladies Cup itself.

**Race Committee Service**: It has long been the policy of the club that service as voluntary race committee was a part of participation in the Regatta program. Given the number of events and the number of member participants, this has usually required service every other year (though some volunteered more often). With the growing number of events in the season, coordinating volunteers has become a major job. Therefore, beginning this year, members who register for the regatta program will be assigned an event for which they will be required to serve as committee. Assignment as committee involves providing 3 people to assist the LCYC PRO's in the conduct of the race. Members seeking to change their assignment may make arrangements for someone else to cover the race and notify the regatta chair in writing of such a change. Assignments will be made beginning with those boats that did not serve as committee last year. Efforts will be made to assign boats to events in which they do not participate but this will not always be possible. Ladies Cup and The Macdonough will not be assigned. We will be seeking volunteers for these races. Assignments will be posted on the club website and individuals will be notified by e-mail or post card.

**Hospitality for Visiting Racers**: Members are reminded that on weekends when races are scheduled, the docks should be kept open for the use of visiting boats that are racing. The Regatta Committee will have a host present at the club on Fridays prior to races to greet arriving guest boats and a reminder sign will be posted the Wednesday before the race.

**Trophies**: All racers who won one or more of the perpetual trophies are reminded to bring them to workday on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Winter Cruising on Lake Champlain**

*Continued from page 1....* halfway up the island. This one had opened up about a foot, and you could look right down between the vertical sides of the ice, which framed the water in between like big ice cubes. Since our runners are over twice the length of the opening in the ice, we were able to push the boats over it, carefully bridging the water.

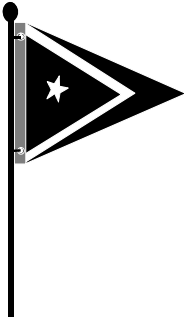
A rough section of pack ice followed, which we had to slow way down for, and then we were at the north end of Valcour. Two more large pressure cracks later, and we were headed back for the Vermont side, south to Providence Island and then east to White's Beach.

With our stops for the pressure cracks, plus keeping the speed down because we were on unfamiliar ice, the trip took a couple of hours. It was truly unique to see the lake from this perspective, as it doesn't often freeze from shore to shore anymore, and often, when it does, the pressure cracks are too large or dangerous to be crossed. But the biggest thrill was just being able to "cruise" the lake in winter.

### **A Quadricentennial Update** Bern Collins

Professor Will Randall has forwarded some additional information about the Int'l Symposium that will be held at Champlain College, July 2-5. The speakers will include David Hackett Fischer, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian from Brandeis University; Eric Thierry, expert in travel literature at the University of Paris (Sorbonne); and Raymonde Litalien, honorary archivist of Canada. For additional information or to receive a registration form, call 651-5996. The registration fee is \$200.00/person. This includes admission to all sessions, all conference materials, opening reception, most meals, Friday night fireworks cruise, Saturday night formal banquet, and chamber music recital. To register online go to [www.champlainquadricentennial.com](http://www.champlainquadricentennial.com).

In addition, there will be several presentations of papers by scholars from Vermont and New York. These will be collected into a soft cover book which will be edited by Dr. Nancy Nahra and published by Queen City Press. Another highlight of the Quadricentennial will be the Ceremonial Dedication at Champlain College, Aiken Green, of Jim Sardonis' Bronze Statue of Samuel de Champlain commissioned by the college.



***the Binnacle***  
*Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.*  
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**Calling All Moorings** Bob Schumaker

The ice is out and our club diver is getting organized to start on our mooring field. For those who took their mooring floats and pennants home for the winter - it's time to cart them back. Please be sure your name and mooring # are permanently painted on the float.

When placing gear back on the lawn try to spot your relative position in the line up. It is organized by mooring field row - if you can't spot you place just leave it by the shed. The sooner gear is back the sooner the diver can begin work. All gear must be back by May 1st to avoid incurring extra cost to the club or yourself..

Any gear requiring repairs will be corrected and billed to the owner. Members will be notified if anything significant is required. Worn pennants will not be installed. Our diver Pierre LaRocque is expert on LCYC mooring standards and he will supply first quality Chicago (US made) hardware and handmade pennants at better than competitive prices. You may contact him at 233-1479 or pierr@champlaindivers.com.

We are looking forward to a great 2009 sailing season and hope our efforts to have safe moorings will pay off as the season unfolds.

Thanks  
 Bob

**2009 Board of Governors**

- Commodore..... Doug Viehmann
- Vice Commodore & Treasurer .....Steve Walkerman
- Rear Commodore.....Ted Lattrell
- Secretary, Membership & Log.....Jay Heaslip
- Grounds .....Rob Rothman
- Boats .....Bill Aldrich
- Communications .....Tina McCaffrey
- Docks ..... Bob DeSorbo
- Harbormaster .....Bob Schumacher
- House .....Wes Daum
- Regatta .....Tom Glynn
- Sailing Programs .....Jim Turvey
- Social Committee .....Bob Manchester
- Stewards & Personnel .....Jill Burley
- Cruising /Rendezvous .....Skip Hoblin

**Appointed Officers**

- Fleet Chaplain .....Chuck Bowen
- One-Design Coordinator .....Rick Stevens
- Club Historian .....Bern Collins
- Fleet Surgeons .....Drs. Larry & Roberta Coffin
- Club Liaison .....Bruce Hill
- Auditors .. O'Brien, Carpenter & Phillips
- PHRF Handicappers ..... Tony Lamb, John O'Rourke

**Stewards**

Managing Steward: Andrew Boerman