



the Binnacle

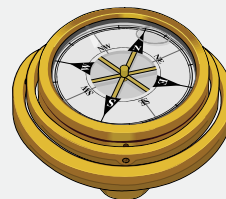
Newsletter of the Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.

Commodore: Jill Burley

Binnacle Editors: Tony Lamb

<http://www.lcyc.info>

December 2011



UPCOMING AT LCYC....

Change of Watch

6 p.m. January 21, 2012
Burlington Country Club

Happy 125th Anniversary! LCYC

Come help begin the celebration with the
Change of Watch
January 21, 2012
6:00 p.m.
at the Burlington Country Club

Cocktails and Hors-d'oeuvres
Dinner
Desert & Awards
COW

Video from the past with celebrity introduction
special prizes and surprises!



Choice of:

Stilton Encrusted Sirloin (Served with a Rich Zinfandel Reduction)

Boursin and Spinach Stuffed Chicken Breast (Prepared with a Creamy Veloute Sauce)

Crispy Herb and Parmesan Risotto Cake (Prepared with a Truffle Scented Tomato Broth & Fried Leek)

Pan Seared Snapper (Topped with a Sage Brown Butter Sauce)

All entrees complemented with a garden salad and warm rolls with butter

Desert will be a Homemade Chocolate Cake with a Raspberry Coulis

\$35 / person - cash bar

Reservation by January 16th (please include your choice of entree)

reservations@lcyc.info



Commodores Corner

December 2011

The time has come for me to write my last Binnacle piece, as your Commodore. I must say "it's a good feeling!" The Board has been very active the past two years (lot's of work!) and we can all be proud of our accomplishments. I am confident (and comforted) that the new leadership will do a great job leading LCYC forward.

Fall Workday and Annual Meeting was another success. Lots of work was done cleaning-up and closing-up the Club. The Membership elected six new members to the Board, a new Treasurer, and a new Commodore. Yeah! Our second try at brief "committee meetings" met with greater success this year! We split into committee groups and Chairs had an opportunity to share their ideas for next year and "recruit". Following lunch the Board gathered and the Commodore elect, Chris Leopold, presented his appointment of Club Officers and assignment of Committee Chairs. We talked briefly to begin the transition period ahead till the Change of Watch.

Transition and continuity of our programs, practices, policies, and procedures has been an underlying concern for the Board. Coincidentally, 2012 is a particular challenge, with all of our 'programs' changing Chairs. In November Chris and I hosted an hour long orientation for the new Board members. As a small group it was a chance to explain the Club's financial structure, talk about some of our current issues and challenges, recent accomplishments, the general path that the Board is on in

terms of reinvigorating the committee system of "a working Club" and basic roles and responsibilities of being on the Board. Similarly over the past few months, outgoing Chairs have been working diligently with the incoming members, to pass on the nuts and bolts of jobs and start planning for the coming year. The Calendar is coming together earlier this year than last and new social and cruising events are being added.

Concurrently - Bern Collins and the 125th committee have been making plans the 2012 Anniversary year of celebration, including helping with the planning of the Change of Watch at the Burlington Country Club, January 21st! Under Bern's watchful eye committee members are working on several exciting concepts for member events and family activities to celebrate our anniversary. The Finance committee, working with the Board, has been hard at work developing a 2012 budget, reviewing our insurance policies, developing the long term capital plan and completing a capital inventory, among other things!

Needless to say, LCYC has a dedicated and hard working Board of Governors. Likewise we have many members who go above and beyond the call of duty for our Club. This is the nature and the gift of LCYC. It has been a privilege and an honor for me to serve as Commodore and to work with such good people - a most memorable, challenging and fun experience. Thank you.

Wishing you a happy and safe Holiday and 2012 New Year!

Jill Burley

Get Ready to Celebrate LCYC's 125 Years!

The 125th Anniversary Celebration Committee, formed in late October, began meeting in early November, to plan special events that will commemorate the founding in 1887 of our club, one of the oldest in the United States. The celebration will “kick-off” at **Change of Watch on January 21, 2012**, at the **Burlington Country Club**.

Only about one-quarter of our current membership was in the club for the Centennial Celebration of 1987. The 125th anniversary will provide an opportunity for newer members to learn about LCYC's early history, 1887-1941, and for all members to look back at the club's more recent history—the people and the changes that have shaped the club as it is today. A variety of media, different venues, activities to appeal to young and old, a collection of reminiscences, and a revival of some LCYC traditions are among the ideas being discussed.

The 125th Anniversary Committee is a wonderful mix of “old”—as in “members for decades”—and new members: Bern Collins, Chair; Scott Bowen, Tris Coffin, Jean Henshaw, Carol Hill, Marselis Parsons, Katherine Watts, Doug White, Persis Worrall; Jill Burley & Chris Leopold, *ex officio*. (Another LCYC member, who wishes to remain anonymous at this time, has provided invaluable assistance to the committee and will be recognized on January 21.)

The committee looks forward to sharing plans at **Change of Watch!**

Hello and plea for input from your incoming Social Chair, Sherm White

Hi Everyone. I hope everyone has been taking advantage of the warm weather Mother Nature has provided this fall (to make up for last spring?) I will be taking over as Social Chair after Change of the Watch in January. Your Board of Governors is working on the summer schedule now, as well as the budget. Part of the budget process is to figure out how to spend your money in a way that benefits you the member the most. The social budget is a big part of that process. I would like to hear your thoughts on how the social budget serves your needs and interests.

Last year, we began the move back to member run burger burns on Wed. nights. Catering, while convenient, is just getting too expensive. Since we are a member run club, events like these have to be staffed and run by you the members if they are going to happen. The same goes for our cocktail party and workday schedules. When the schedule goes up on the website, take the time to look at it, and if you have signed up for social as your committee, or are interested in getting involved, let me know. Remember, if no one steps forth to help run events, they may not happen.

The other big items on the social calendar are the Awards Banquet and Change of the Watch. The Board is concerned about the amount it subsidizes the cost of these events, as well as the attendance figures. I would really like to hear from you on these events. Do you go? If not, why not? What ideas do you have to change them so more of you would attend? Is the cost prohibitive? Are venues an issue? Could we combine the two? Since your money goes into these events, you should have some voice in how we plan them, so here is your chance. The best way to contact me is by email at swhite@pshift.com.

That's my word for now. Now I'll get back on my knees and start hoping for some cold weather and snow to make my life easier working in the ski industry

From the Weather Mark

Although the winter sailing season is just underway, here are some highlights, in no particular order:

Ernie Pomerleau, Mike Dressell and **Chris Morgan** finished 3rd out of 26 boats at the first event of the Etchells Jaguar Series, the Piana Cup, on Biscayne Bay, Fla. This is the first of four events that occur over the next two months, culminating with the Etchells Midwinter Championship at the end of February. You can follow their progress in the rest of the series at: www.etchellsfleet20.org

Club member **Andy Horton** recently participated in the Star World Championship held in Perth, Australia. On his way to Australia, he stopped off in Puerto Calero, in the Canary Islands, where he served as tactician aboard an RC44 at their World Championship regatta. It's fantastic to have one of our own racing on the world-level stage. If you haven't seen an RC44 before, check out their website: www.rc44.com

Meredith Powlison, who came up through the LCYC ranks, first as a junior sailing and then as an instructor, was chosen this fall as one of a select group of collegiate sailors nationwide to be named to the Academic All-American team. The award recognizes her academic and sailing achievements from the spring of 2011. Meredith graduated from St. Mary's College of Maryland last May. She's now the web editor for *Sailing World*, *Cruising World* and *Yachting* magazines.

Jeff Hill and **Gene Cloutier**, along with several regular crew members who race on LCYC boats, sailed aboard Rupert Ghouron's J-122, *Dunder*, in an IRC championship regatta, held in Annapolis, Md., this past October. The event, which is part of the Storm Trysail Club, was a three-day event and included a distance race along with a series of windward-leeward races.

If you know of other racing or racing-related activities of club members, drop me an email, and we'll include the news in an upcoming *Binnacle*.

--Dave Powlison

Regatta Committee Chair

Photos from the McDonough



Champagne Race Gala Announcement!

By Chuck Finn and Doug White



(Photos from last year's race)

We have made some **BIG** changes this year! The club has tables, grills, beer, lobster, crab, filet mignon (that's the third course after truffles and 15 year old single malt scotch) and... of course **CHAMPAGNE!** We will be setting up for a fine end-of-race celebration in Willsboro Bay at the boat launch after the Champagne Race on July 14th! After a short concert featuring Elton John and Billy Joel, there will of course be fireworks!

The Dinse will be the race boat and part of the race may include a bit of geo caching for the power boaters. But seriously, this is a time for cruisers, racers, power boaters, and any other club member who wants to have a great time on the lake!

And, there will be fun and prizes for young and old! So, if you don't mark your calendars for July 14th... well, just remember how it felt when you "passed" on Woodstock!

*Note: Our editors have insisted we say that maybe not all of the above is really scheduled, but we do **GUARANTEE** a great time regardless !*



Setting out

By Doug Merrill

What did I get myself into? Snap, Crackle, Pop. From under the floorboards came a distinct chorus of sound identical to rice crispies settling into a bowl of milk. This was not what I had expected. I had flown into Charleston, SC that day to pick up our new (to us) J/110 and deliver her to our new home port on Lake Champlain. I had spent the previous nine hours provisioning the boat throughout the hot and humid low country August afternoon. At 10:30, I made my way across the docks to take a much needed cool shower in the Charleston Harbor Marina facilities. By 11:00 I was lying in my bunk, my mind still reeling down the checklists of things to do prior to our departure 32 hours in the future.

I've sailed for 34 of my 44 years. I grew up on the Chesapeake Bay, my parents had a cruising sailboat since I was eight. I began racing dinghies in middle school and continued through college. I've owned Lasers, Whalers, and catamarans. But I had never owned a boat that I couldn't car-top or tow until now. This was my first night in my first real boat, a night that I had dreamt of for decades. The rest of the family was due to fly in tomorrow night. I had another 24 hours to prepare for the ten day voyage to Annapolis.

Snap, Crackle, Pop. As I lay in my bunk I heard sounds coming from the bilge. I turned on the lights and pulled up the floorboards in the main cabin. The bilge was spotless. I recalled the advice of my surveyor, who recommended fumigating the interior to ensure it was free of cockroaches, or "Palmetto Bugs" as they are more delicately called. He had seen no evidence of insects, but cautioned me that they are omnipresent in the South, and that most spouses will never sleep soundly once they wake to a Palmetto bug walking across their forehead. His advice made sense, but since I was planning to live aboard for the next two weeks, I had resisted filling it with toxic fumes. Besides, I'd asked Mark, the previous owner, about it and he swore he had never had a problem with bugs on the boat.

I lay back down. The popping continued. I got

back up, convinced that it was coming from behind the cabinetry. I opened doors and pulled out drawers. In my mind it began to sound more like mice chewing on wiring. It was now 11:30. I peered under bunks and into the bottom of lockers, expecting to see something scurrying, or telltale droppings, but found nothing. I went to the electrical panel and shut down everything to be certain that no pump or fan was running. The crackling continued.



Remembering that Charleston harbor has a strong current, I grabbed a flashlight and headed up on deck, hoping to find a branch dragging against the hull, or see clumps of seaweed dragging down the side. The current was ripping along, but the water was clear and clean. Everything was silent topsides.

By midnight I was back in my bunk, filled with dread and self doubt. What was I thinking? What did I know about buying a boat? Lisa and the kids were due in tomorrow night, and I was on a boat infested with something invisible and noisy. Could we trust her? Is this why Mark sold her? It didn't seem possible. Was my dream destined to be a nightmare?

Sleep came eventually, and thankfully it came deeply. I woke at 6:00 and had a quick breakfast. By 7:00 I was on the foredeck working through my



checklist when a man walked up the dock and introduced himself with a pronounced Southern drawl as Charlie. He explained that he lived on his boat several slips over and had been a regular crew for Mark and his family on my boat. Mark was out of town and had asked him to drop by and see if I needed anything as I was preparing to leave. Charlie encouraged me to flag him down for tools, an extra hand, local knowledge, snacks, a cold beer, anything at all. Southern hospitality is no myth. He raved about my boat and the condition Mark had kept it in. This bolstered my spirits.

As he turned to leave he offered once again “If I can be of any help at all, please don’t hesitate to shout.” I broke down and asked him the question that had been haunting me for the past 8 hours. “Charlie, there is *one* question you might be able to help me with. Last night, before I went to bed, I heard what sounded like rice crispies crackling away in my bilge.” His eyes opened wider, and

Charleston Harbot

he began to smile. I backpedaled. “I’m sure it’s nothing, must have just been the current or something.” He could see the anxiety in my face and was beginning to laugh out loud. He finally slapped my shoulder and belted out “Its Shrimp!! Schreeeampp! Silly!” Charlie was obviously amused at naiveté. He continued “when you anchor out in the cricks, it’ll sound like ball-peen hammers on the hull!” Charlie continued down the dock to get his morning coffee, and I resumed my day of chores, much relieved. As we sailed up the East Coast, we heard the clicking and popping of shrimp most nights until we reached the Southern Chesapeake Bay. Each time I smiled and thought of Charlie.

“In the nick of time:

In 2009 the Board looked at replacing the retaining walls. The two estimates provided made a decision not to go ahead with the project an easy one to make.

Given the state of the economy in early 2010 it seemed prudent to once again investigate the project. A team was formed to develop a proposal and a package of architectural drawings and specifications was created. Six companies were chosen and bid packages were sent to each.

Three companies responded with quotes. All quotes were significantly lower than the initial input in 2009. ECI responded on time and with the most favorable price. An agreement was concluded with ECI and work began near the club close at Fall Workday 2010.

Demolition of the old walls and revetment proceeded at a fair pace. The footing and build up for the revetment went fairly quickly with a concrete pour and timbers built up, making a very sound structure. The lower wall had an additional challenge as can be seen from the pictures. The lake level rose enough to make it necessary to create a coffer dam with pumps for water, to allow the first course of block to be placed.

During construction of the upper wall, ECI pointed out that a four block tall wall would mean digging back into the bank, far enough to require removal of the large tree above the wall. An on site meeting with the ECI project coordinator, Doug Viehmann and I resolved the question. By going three blocks high we would be able to save the tree. The remaining blocks would be used to build a connecting wall running between the upper and lower structures. This new wall provides additional area for flowers and a future convenient step between the stairs to the Jr Sailing dock and the area between the two walls.

Most of the work was completed on this project in early November 2010, with some follow up and close out with ECI just prior to Spring Workday.

Given the historic nature of the lake flooding last spring, I think we can all agree, the old walls of the lower wall would have been hard pressed to withstand the rigors of waters that high.

As viewed from the water, these new structures provide a more pleasant, updated view of LCYC.

I'd like to offer my thanks to the project team and ECI for this improvement to our club.

Jim Spenser

