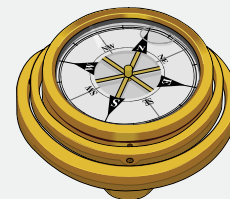




the Binnacle

Newsletter of the Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.
Commodore: Christopher Leopold Vice Commodore: Doug White
May 2012
Binnacle Editor: Tony Lamb
<http://www.lcyc.info>



UPCOMING AT LCYC....

5/25 Wednesday Night Practice Race

5/30 First Wednesday Night Race

6/2 Tea Kettle Race

6/9 125th Anniversary Gala on the *Ticonderoga*.

6/16 Boat Safety Inspections - - Valcour Wildflower Cruise

BEAR SIGHTING AT LCYC EVENING OF May 16!!



Binnacle Exclusive: Commodore Leopold and Vice Commodore White were conferring on Club business at the Club last evening when a black bear appeared out of the woods from the property to the north. At first the thought it must be a member going “bear” but then quickly realized what it was. Respectful, as always, of rank, Vice Commodore White suggested that it was Commodore Leopold’s right to pull a “Schumlin” and chase the bear away. Apparently, while the Commodore was deciding where to hang his clothes, the bear ambled back to the north.

On a serious note, members should remain alert to the presence of our new “neighbor”. One more reason to keep a close watch on kids and pets and keep our property clean of food and debris.



CELEBRATE LCYC’S 125th ANNIVERSARY.

On June 9th at 6:00 PM. We will board the steamship *Ticonderoga* at the Shelburne Museum for a festive evening with great food and lively music to celebrate the 125th on one of Lake Champlain’s maritime treasures.

Event details inside the Binnacle

Reservations DEADLINE is Wednesday, May 23



Commodores Corner

LCYC is open for the season! Our grounds, clubhouse and docks look terrific and are ready for full use by the membership. On behalf of the Board of Governors I extend a big and well-deserved thank you to all of the members and their friends who attended Workday on May 5 or the one of the pre-Workday sessions. We had an extraordinary turnout of our membership which always makes the day go faster and the work more enjoyable. An extra thank you to Sherm White and the kitchen crew for their excellent work in providing hot coffee and refreshments in the morning topped off by warm chili and hearty lunch.

Our three Workday coordinators, Percy Worrall, Martha Turek and Mary Lintermann did an excellent job checking-in and directing members to various projects throughout the morning. For members who were not able to attend Workday, House, Grounds and Docks have additional projects that require member volunteers. If you were unable to join us on Workday, please contact Percy Worrall who can direct you to one of the summer projects that require volunteer assistance from the membership.

Our Workday crew successfully prepped our boats for the season, including the *Milo*, *Nautilus*, the Whaler as well as our fleet of dinghies. Prior to Workday, Bob Schumacher worked on various mechanical repairs to our two launches. Thank you! The *J.Dinse* was thoroughly cleaned and reequipped for another season of service to the LCYC racing program and our membership. A dedicated boats and junior sailing crew worked on our fleet of Optis and FJs. After a thorough cleaning and completion of any necessary repairs, the boats were rigged, launched and paddled to the Junior Sailing docks. While work on the boats progressed, another crew did an amazing job cleaning and reorganizing the Butler Building preparing it for a season of intensive use by our junior sailors.

Speaking of Junior Sailing, we have an exciting and dynamic program planned for this summer! A num-

ber of the sailing sessions are already full and registrations for the remaining sessions are coming in daily. Our instructors and assistant instructors are on board and ready for the season to start in June. The Junior Sailing program does an excellent job introducing young people to sailing and boating and then developing their skills as young sailors. A vital and well-run junior sailing program is critical to the long-term interests of LCYC.

Over the next several months, members will see changes to the LCYC website and other components of our communications systems. A core group from our Communications Committee has planned improvements to our website to improve communications and related aspects of our operations. Planned improvements to the website include: development of a password protected members only section and implementation of a reservation and payment system for major LCYC events. In addition, we are planning to launch LCYC on Facebook to address the interests of members who enjoy this social media. Look for details on these exciting developments over the next several months. Thank you to Jason Hyerstay and Jay Heaslip for their time, energy and talent in helping to maintain our LCYC website and database!

If you did not connect with Bern Collins and Katherine Watts at the 125th Gala reservation table on Workday, time is running out! The Board of Governors and the 125th Anniversary Committee is excited about our June 9th Gala event on the steamship *Ticonderoga* at the Shelburne Museum. Join our LCYC family for a festive evening with great food and music to celebrate the 125th on one of Lake Champlain's maritime treasures. Make that reservation now at reservations@lcy.info. The deadline is Wednesday, May 23!

Looking forward to seeing you on the *Ti*!
Commodore Chris

Reminiscence-Club history:

In anticipation of our June 9 Gala, Betty Sproston Little, LCYC member since 1969, sent Bern Collins, Club Historian, this reminiscence:

“Greeting to you all—and Happy 125 years!! I go back to the days when the ‘Ladies Cup’ was celebrated with a dance and a big band in the Clubhouse. Ladies wore long formal dresses and high-heeled shoes.

“As an honorary member of some twenty-five years, thank you. I have so many happy memories of the Club through three clubhouses. Even though one time, stepping from the launch to my Pearson 30, I tumbled right into the water, and this was when my late husband was Commodore.”

[Betty’s late husband, Thomas Sproston, was Commodore 1976-77.]

Betty was LCYC Historian for many years and when she was a reporter for the *Burlington Free Press*, she wrote stories about Lake Champlain Yacht Club. Some of these have been preserved in our archives. Betty and George now live at Wake Robin.

From the Chair of the Boats

Monday the 14 of May was a good day for the club boats. As most of you have noticed the R/C Dinse, spends its winter on the hard at the Club. We contract with The Marine Collection to haul and launch her. This is the second year we have done this. Besides keeping her close to home and saving a lot of money, it allows the Race Pros to spend some quality time onboard. Thank you all for the hard work and effort.

We also launched the Whaler and she is in her slip ready for the Jr. Sailing season.

I would like to remind all the members, these boats are for the service of the club and our programs. Each one has its own habits and character. It is important that if you are in a position to use any of the club boats that you be trained and checked out. This can be done by contacting me directly or thru the Race Pro Program.

The use of the FJ Fleet and Optis is as stated in the Log. You must be checked out by the Sailing Instructors or me and your name will be added to the list in the steward’s office. This is where you will pick up the blades and sails, to be returned when you’re finished.

I want to thank the entire boat crew for a fine job on Work Day. The work went quick and the boats look and run great.

Please remember, Boating is a responsibility, please be safe and enjoy the summer!

Douglas J White
Vice Commodore
Chair of Boats



COUNTDOWN TO JUNE 9 GALA ON THE *TICONDEROGA!*

By Bern Collins, LCYC Historian & 125th Committee Chair

How many yacht clubs in the United States are lucky enough to celebrate a 125th Anniversary?! As one of the oldest in the country, Lake Champlain Yacht Club is doing just that in 2012, with two major events. The first is on Saturday, June 9, when LCYC members and guests will step aboard the steamer *Ticonderoga*, now preserved in all its glory at the Shelburne Museum, to celebrate the Club's founding in 1887.

There will be something for everyone—elegant food from Catering by Dale, live music with Pine Street Jazz Band, a slide show of photos from reactivation in 1962 to the present, exhibits throughout the *Ticonderoga* that trace some of LCYC's history 1887-2012, and a few recent surprise discoveries. New members will be introduced and presented with their LCYC burgees.

The 125th Anniversary Celebration Committee has been working for months to prepare for this event with the Shelburne Museum staff, who are as appreciative as we are about the historical tie-in with LCYC's Golden Jubilee in 1937. The *Ticonderoga* curator, Chip Stulen, or a Museum guide will be onboard to answer questions or even give you a tour if you wish.

We will retrace the steps of LCYC members who enjoyed a moonlit cruise on Saturday, July 24, 1937. They were asked to bring their "basket lunch and coffee will be served free," and were encouraged to "bring guests from Burlington as well as out-of-town." As Commodore Chris Leopold said at the May 5 Workday, LCYC members are encouraged to invite past members, older and adult children, and if you have out-of-town guests staying with you that weekend, they are welcome as well.

This is a celebration that occurs only once every 25 years!

If you have not yet made your reservations, send an e-mail to reservations@lcyg.info

You will receive an e-mail confirmation.

NOTE: DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

The members of the 125th Anniversary Celebration Committee look forward to seeing you at the June 9 Gala. Please see the Information Sheet about parking, shuttle service, and special transportation.

JUNE 9 GALA INFORMATION SHEET

PARKING * SHUTTLE SERVICE * SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

PARKING: The Parking Lot is located to the right of the Shelburne Museum's main entrance.

Museum staff will be at the entrance to greet guests and give directions to the *Ticonderoga*.

There will be directional signs on the gravel path for guests who wish to walk to the *Ticonderoga*.

SHUTTLE SERVICE: The Shuttle Service will run continuously. It will be available throughout the evening to take guests to and from the *Ticonderoga*.

SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION NEEDS: Museum staff will be available to give guests with special transportation needs a ride directly from the entrance in a golf cart OR escort their car to the *Ticonderoga's* gangway. They may leave their car on the grounds for easy pickup when they are ready to leave. (If needed, wheelchairs are available.)

For anyone with special access needs: Please contact Bern Collins at bernv@comcast.net or at 863-4841 by May 31.

REMINDER: Reservations DEADLINE is WEDNESDAY, May 23

E-mail

reservations@lcyf.info

You will receive an e-mail confirmation





Vessel Safety Check Comes to LCYC

Mark your calendars now for June 16, 2012. The Coast Guard Vessel Safety Check will be at LCYC.

What is a Vessel Safety Check or VSC? This is a free service to review your boat's safety equipment to ensure that you meet both federal and state requirements for the upcoming boating season. The certified examiner will review with you a simple checklist for safety equipment, such as personal flotation devices, navigation lights, vessel documentation/registration, engine elements as required, distress signals, sanitation systems, and other related equipment etc.

The review takes 30 to 40 minutes (or longer if examiner and boater talk about other boating related experiences...as boaters are want to do). Because this is voluntary, it can be stopped at any time the boater desires, with the checklist destroyed. No records are reported to the authorities, other than a composite of the number of examinations done and how many boats are awarded the decal.

Successful completion of the exam results in the award of a VSC decal, like the one shown which is affixed to the boat in a conspicuous position on the vessel's port side.

Should the vessel not meet the requirements for the decal, no information about this will be forwarded to any authority. If the owner updates that area, another examination can be conducted later.

We would like signups ahead of time to gauge the number of boats and consequently the number of examiners we might need. Please contact me by email at vtspencers@comcast.net, or call me at home 802 893-8589, on or before June 4th. I will also post a signup sheet on the bulletin board. In addition, I am available for other dates by appointment.

Please plan to participate.

Regards,
Jim Spencer
Vessel Examiner

From the Weather Mark

By the time you read this, the racing season will be upon us! I hope you had a chance to attend Andy Horton's seminar on rules and strategies when dealing with offset marks and gate marks. Andy's done at least two other seminars for us in the past, and they've always been great learning experiences. This one was no exception. Over 65 people attended from not only LCYC but MBBC and elsewhere, including some of our Canadian friends. A big shout out to the Etchells class for hosting this event.

PHRF class A is showing a lot of growth this year, and we hope the other fleets will follow suit over the next year or so. To try to make that happen, each fleet now has a fleet captain who will be spearheading an effort to keep the momentum going and try to bring more boats yet to the starting line. The fleet captains are: Class A—Walt Marti, Class B—Gene Cloutier, Class C—John O'Rourke, JAM—Mike Dunphy, Etchells—Ted Castle. If you have questions about what's going on, especially as it pertains to your fleet, or if you have ideas to help improve our racing, start by contacting them.

A few reminders and updates:

- Once the starting sequences have begun, be sure to stay out of the "starting box" until your sequence begins. The box is an area 150' to leeward of the line and 150' beyond each of the extensions of the starting line. The RC may disqualify boats that habitually venture into the box when their sequence is not underway. If there are boats not in your fleet who in the box and obstructing you while your sequence is underway, please notify the RC of the specifics upon finishing the race.
- Be sure to check the course board for signals indicating an windward "offset" mark and/or a leeward "gate mark." These will be signaled with an "O" for offset and a "G" for gate. At some point early in the season, we'll have a permanent "W" mark on the west side of the bay. We had one of these years ago but put it to other uses when broad lake marks disappeared during storms.

--Dave Powlison
Regatta Chair



Cruising News:

We certainly are getting to an early start this year and it is great to see the mooring field slowly filling! This is especially welcome given most of us were not able to get in the water until June. Cruising this early in the year has its own challenges mostly having to do with water temperatures and debris. We tend to be a bit casual regarding safety as most of us know the lake so well. But this is the time of year when a miss-step or slip can be life threatening given how cold the water is. Please keep this in mind and take a few extra precautions such as life jackets and maybe even a tether! Given the recent sailing tragedies in the Pacific where 5 people were swept off their boat and died....

Another issue for early cruisers is the amount of debris in the lake. There is a lot of stuff in the water and I suspect some of it is remnants from last year's big storms. As I was heading South around Diamond Island a couple weeks back, I saw a complete deck with stairs and handrails floating by! We also should be aware that not all the navigational markers are out. As I was heading north past Quaker Reef (and not paying a lot of attention), it suddenly occurred to me that I was somewhere near Saxton Reef.... A hurried scan of the waters revealed no buoy and a decision to go "hard to port!" Like I said, we often get a bit too casual!

Now to the good times. While you cannot go swimming this time of year, you also don't have to worry about full anchorages! In fact, most nights will result in a rendezvous of "one" and I do mean one! Nobody's out there! Nights are incredibly quiet and peaceful. Yes, you need an extra cover and I really appreciate my cabin heater. But sunset is already quite late and the lake shows us a whole other perspective when you have her all to yourself.

As we prepare for the upcoming season, we want to encourage all folks whether they are dedicated cruisers or one-timers to get engaged! Sign up for our listserve and get the latest information regarding cruising rendezvous and events around the lake. Look to the calendars on the website for the many, many rendezvous opportunities throughout the summer. And KNOW you are welcome one and all; young and old; power and sail (even cars sometimes!). This really looks like it will be a great year and we sure hope to see you on the lake!

Chuck Finn



