



the Binnacle

Monthly Newsletter of the Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.

Commodore: Fritz Horton Vice Commodore: Steve Walkerman

October-November, 2003

Binnacle Editor: Muddy Bilges

<http://www.lcyc-vt.org/>



Fall Workday 2003

Many thanks to Mike Barker for these photos. Go to LCYC's website for more of them!

Announcements

Mooring Field Action by Steve Landau - Harbormaster

Our diver plans to begin decommissioning the field mid-November. Mooring balls and tackle will be cleaned, and lined up on the lawn. I recommend that you take your gear home to prevent "missing in the Spring" syndrome.

Check the lawn next to the Butler building around December 1 for your gear.

Dues for 2004 due next month.





Commodore's Corner

by Fritz Horton

Another sad note since losing Fred Parker. Mary Rathbone has passed away. She was Don's much beloved companion for 52 years. Mary contributed too LCYC in many quiet ways over the years. You can thank her and the Mosers for creating our most popular event, the Wednesday night burger burns. Although increasingly incapacitated for the last few years, Mary was always an enthusiastic supporter of Don and the crew aboard "Maverick". Not many know that "Maverick"'s crew has dinner every Wednesday night at Buono's — burger burn nights excepted, of course — all year long, rain, snow, fog, ice, notwithstanding. Mary was always there and contributed to the goodwill and fellowship around that table. They miss her, and so do we.

Travels: 2003 Canada Cup and RCYC Burgee: We spent a week in Toronto at the Royal Canadian YC watching the Canada Cup events, and I swapped burgees with the Commodore. Burgees from other clubs will be in the awards case until we find a more appropriate way to display them. Ideas, anyone?

Racing: The 2003 Hot Ruddered Bum is usually a test of LCYC sailors and did not disappoint again this year. Cold, rainy and windy is usually the rule for this late-season race, and most of the Wednesday night crowd turned out to test their mettle in these conditions and to enjoy the after-race party. Many thanks to the Caldwelles, who served as Race Committee, and to David and Annie Cain for the refreshments afterwards! As always, everyone was a winner in this race!



Awards Banquet: 140 members and guests were treated to a gourmet dinner and lots of fun at the awards banquet Friday, October 17. A crackling fire in the fireplace, assisted for a while by a few gas heaters, provided warmth until the room heated up.

Nalgene Bottles for Sale: The students in the Junior Sailing Program earned \$1,100 selling "Nalgene" bottles at Workday! If you would like one to give as a gift or keep for yourself, call Barb Robitaille.

Long Range Planning: In what appears to be an unspoken vote of confidence, only eight members responded to the request for input on the Long Range Plan in the previous issue of the "Binnacle". At the November meeting, outgoing and incoming members of the BOG reviewed the suggestions made and incorporated several of them in the first iteration of the updated Plan for projects and expenditures for 2004 and beyond. Though the LRP will go through one or more iterations, it's safe to say that several projects deferred in the past have moved up in priority. The list of projects always exceeds the funds available each year, but the BOG works hard to balance projects to satisfy all interests in the Club. I trust the final version of the LRP for 2004 will engender the same confidence in the Club's direction as last year's LRP did.

Stewards' Gratuities Due

Linda Livingstone, Chair of Steward Committee

These young folks, most of whom are related to our members, worked hard for you last summer. It's not too late to send them a token of your thanks if you haven't done so already!

You have the option of sending a single check to the Steward's Fund, and the amount you give will be divided among all Stewards by days worked or as you designate in a brief note accompanying your payment. Or, if you prefer, you also may send a gratuity directly to each Steward.

Below are the names and addresses of the Stewards. They all will appreciate your acknowledgment of their services to the membership and to you personally.

For the STEWARD'S FUND, send payments to

LCYC Steward's Fund
429 Irish Settlement Road
Underhill, VT 05489

For gifts to individuals use the addresses below.

Managing Steward

Stewards

New Members of B.O.G. Elected

At the Annual Meeting held on Fall Workday, October 18, the Membership elected the following to serve on the Board of Governors for three years, beginning in 2004:

Commodore: John Harris
Docks: Mike Barker (replacing John Harris)
Communications: Ernie Reuter (replacing Dave Kelton)
Stewards: Kate Heath (replacing Linda Livingstone)

Steve Walkerman offered to continue in his post as Treasurer / Vice Commodore, and Steve Landau also offered to continue for a second term as Harbormaster. Both offers were accepted with gratitude by the Membership.

Instruction Program a Big Success

By Beth Robitaille, Instructional Programs Chair

Last year, as a new Board member, I hesitantly accepted this position, not having the slightest clue about the level of involvement needed. My only qualifications were that I am a teacher and had enrolled my three daughters in the program the previous summer. During last winter's board meetings, I sat as somewhat overwhelmed listening to lengthy discussions about the mission of the Program and any major expenditures to support it. I realized then that establishing an efficient operation that engaged a large number of students in my first season would be crucial in order for the Program to be fully successful. I attacked that goal with great vigor, and the numbers below are evidence of success so far. With a 41% increase in revenue, we were about \$500 short of paying for the new Opti's in their first year! The real payback for me, however, was seeing greater numbers of enthusiastic students and their families in the Program than we have had in several years.

The Optimist Dinghies created more sailing opportunities for less-confident young sailors, encouraging those who would otherwise be crews in FJ's to take the helm on their own without peer criticism in "Opti's". We found they soon became more self-assured of their skills. In all cases, when parents began to realize their son's or daughter's accomplishments, they tended to take a more active interest in the Program and the Club.

The Instructional Program's mission is to offer the opportunity to all — young and old — to be introduced to the experience of sailing and to teach them its skills, thereby increasing the interest in the sport and maybe, if we're lucky, interest in membership in our club. Our Program has concentrated on youth instruction because young people have time on weekdays during the summer to be both students and instructors, and those who learn the sport early tend to stay with it later in life. Last year, with Bob Goodwin's help, we expanded the Program to provide adult instruction on Tuesday evenings, and it shows promise for 2004 and beyond.

The BOG supports the Program and takes the position that it does not have to be self-sustaining because it is fundamental to satisfying the Club's overall mission.

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Totals
Revenue	\$6,187	\$5,175	\$7,884	\$10,100	\$ 8,550	\$11,342 \$4,900 for JY-15	\$13,575	\$19,160	\$86,873
Salaries	\$3,874	\$4,950	\$6,461	\$6,007	\$7,979	\$7,972	\$11,601	\$11,318	\$56,288
Capital Expenses	\$2,000 new FJ	\$5,000 dock upgrade				\$6,000 RIB (not including \$4,900 "wash sale" for FJ)		\$675 + \$7,665 for Opti's	\$25,565
Profit	\$313	-\$4,775	\$1,423	\$4,093	\$571	-\$2,630	\$1,974	-\$498	\$471

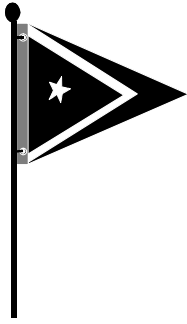
However, to address the issue of "profitability" of the Program, Steve Walkerman researched the club's financial records and provided the information for the table at left. Clearly, the Instructional Program has consistently proven itself a revenue-producing program that has more than supported directly related expenditures. A close look at our boats, however, reveals that those expenditures could be considered barely sufficient, at best.

LCYC's instruction fleet consists of seven FJs (Flying Juniors) and four new Opti's. Most of our FJs are old: one is vintage 1975, another 1978, and four date from 1990. Our newest FJ was purchased in 2000 with funds from the sale of two JY-15's. The only new sailboats bought in the past seven years were the new Opti's. Other program-related capital expenses have been made to support the Program — the instructors' RIB and upgrade of the docks — but incremental renewal of our fleet of instructional sailboats, though periodically endorsed by the BOG, clearly has been at the bottom of our list of expenditures over the years.

Bob and Barb Schumacher surveyed the FJ's on Fall Workday, and in the Spring, Dave Powlison will spend his spring vacation giving the boats much-needed repairs. He will need some volunteer help. If you are interested, please contact him to arrange details.

The water bottle fundraiser, which had a very successful kick-off on Fall Workday, will provide additional funds to support Program activities and should be very profitable for us next summer. Nevertheless, I suggest further investments to our program for 2004 as well as encouragement to students' parents to buy Opti's on their own for their children and passing them on as their children grow out of them. Our junior sailing dock has four ramps with empty cradles for more FJ's. Over a period of years, we should fill those cradles and incrementally replace our old boats with new, safe equipment for our students.

Our sailing instructors, Kate Brush and Luke Wight, are onboard for 2004 and plan to enhance the involvement of our young students and to reward them for their accomplishments. They are particularly challenged with providing sailing-related activities when the weather conditions prohibit on-the-water instruction. Please contact me with your ideas and suggestions, and don't hesitate to donate your sailing videos and books to the Club to provide more materials for some of those activities.



the Binnacle

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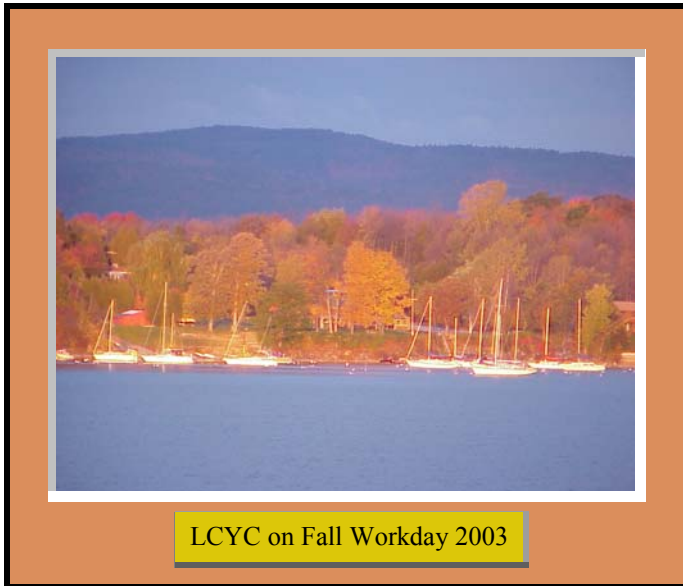
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LCYC Classifieds

Wanted for Junior Program & Clubhouse:
Sailing Books & Magazines, Old sailing tapes
and DVD's! Contact Barb Robitaille,
Instructional Programs Chair.



Last Seen on Workday! My green
Helly-Hansen Sweater! If found, please
call the Commodore!



LCYC on Fall Workday 2003

2003 Board of Governors

- Commodore..... Fritz Horton
- Vice Commodore & TreasurerSteve Walkerman
- Rear Commodore.....Steve Landau
- Secretary, Membership & Log..... Beth Thorpe
- GroundsCharlie Van Winkle
- Boats Bill Aldrich
- Communications Dave Kelton
- DocksJohn Harris
- HarbormasterSteve Landau
- HouseBob Platt
- RegattaTris Coffin
- Sailing ProgramsBeth Robitaille
- Social CommitteeSteve Adams
- Stewards & PersonnelLinda Livingstone
- Communications, Cruising /RendezvousDave Kelton

Appointed Officers

- Fleet ChaplainChuck Bowen
- One-Design CoordinatorRick Stevens
- Club HistorianBerne Collins
- Fleet SurgeonsDrs. Larry & Roberta Coffin
- Club LiaisonBruce Hill
- Auditors .. O'Brien, Doremus & Phillips
- PHRF HandicappersBarbara Francis, Gene Cloutier

Stewards

- Managing Steward:Chris Leopold
- Stewards: Ryan Heaslip, David Loepold, Alec Antell,
Kate Rabideau, Patrick Haley, Andy Dunn