

the Binnacle

Monthly Newsletter of the Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.

Commodore: Charlie Lord Vice Commodore: Steve Walkerman

August 2006

Binnacle Editor: Jim Turvey

<http://www.lcyc.info>



UPCOMING...Lady Skippers 8/26...Converse Bay Rendezvous 8/27...Macdonough 9/9... Pig Roast 9/16

Summer 2006 in Full Swing

At times its been frustrating, but more often its been exhilarating. In addition to the regular Wednesday night and weekend racing, there have been social gatherings and even a spectacular air show put on by the Vermont Air National Guard. Many club members viewed the air show festivities by land, others by sea. Either way it was awesome! Here are some of the many views on a wonderful summer.



Action from the 2006 Finn Regatta



Action from the 2006 Odziozo Race



A Supersonic Fly-By As Seen from the BTV Waterfront



Ladies Cup winners Geno Cloutier and crew

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Commodore's Corner

Finally, the weather we all had been hoping for arrived in July and continues, with events at LCYC in full swing and I want to be sure that we all give ongoing recognition to the great group of folks who are running things at our club ----what a dedicated and talented group they are!

Here are a few of the many events and issues to be aware of:

- New dinghy docks – construction is now complete and they should be in place by the time this **Binnacle** reaches you. You'll remember that this completes our permitted dock system.
- Junior sailing boat show and tag sale was a great success. My thanks to Steve Landau who single-handedly ran this event.
- Old Fashioned Burger Burn (Shel Rieley's crew) fed 250 people and again produced a nice profit. A disturbing and unpleasant end to this event was the **theft of several boxes of hot-dogs, hamburgers, and rolls** from the Club-house **after** we closed it at 10:00. Those were intended to be donated to the Burlington Food Shelf the next morning by Lynnea Rosner, who discovered the theft when she arrived to pick up the food. **Certainly something to ponder!**
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- Ladies Cup dinner and race had great weather and, as always, was a significant event on our calendar. 39 boats started the race.
- Ice machine was installed and will provide, we hope, a convenience for our members. It has been suggested that we establish a season fee of perhaps \$25.00 for members desiring that option, for as much ice as they need. Comments from the membership have expressed some concern about the per bag price and we will address that question when we have our costs nailed down.
- Our 3 remote moorings are now in place in Converse and Kingsland Bays. Please try them out!
- The Regatta Committee still needs volunteers for the balance of the season. Please pitch in - it is great fun.
- Dale Hyerstay has just produced a new and updated PRO Race Manual – a huge task, well done, as always, by him.
- Budget issues have concerned the Board. These have been created by a shortfall in income from membership fees and a significant reduction in the Junior Sailing Program participation. We are addressing those issues and have put in place the necessary corrections in insure that we will end the year in the black.

Enjoy the remainder of the season, we have, by far, the best venue on the lake as we all are well aware!

Junior Sailing Program Update

The LCYC 8 week Junior Sailing program concluded Friday 8/18 with beautiful summer weather and excellent sailing conditions. A total of 81 youths participated this year, including 11 sailors from the South Burlington Rec program.

Northern Lake George Yacht Club hosted the perennial favorite "Cheese Burger in Paradise" regatta from July 26-28. LCYC sailors participating in Optimist were Sam Coffin and Silas Hill. The FJ team consisted of Meg Wallace and Cat Hill. In addition to LCYC, the fleet of 25 Optis & 21 FJ's represented sailors from NLGYC, MBBC, Lake Sunapee YC, Southern LGYC, and other sailors from Lake George.

Next year 2007 will be our turn for hosting an invitational Junior Sailing regatta as this responsibility rotates from club to club. I was impressed with the level of participation by club members at NLGYC in presenting a very fun and well coordinated event, especially given the number of sailors and boats that were accommodated. Let's make sure LCYC is up to the task and has a memorable event in 2007; I welcome any interested members to join me in planning for this over the next year. Dorothy Hill



Junior Sailors Getting a Start in Optis

Welcome Back Ketter Felis

Ken Felis is joining our club once again. Some folks may remember Ken from sailing JY 15s in the 90s. Back in the day, he was presented with an award for sailing in the most races in a season. He is now bringing that enthusiasm to our Etchells Fleet. He recently purchased Etchells 478, Intermittent Bliss, from Bill Wight. We welcome Ken and all that he will contribute.

Andy Horton and Brad Nichol Chase Olympic Gold

Andy Horton, son of club members Fritz and Maryann Horton, got his start sailing on Lake Champlain; Brad Nichol got his on Lake Sunapee. Now the pair is sailing in premier Star class regattas around the globe in pursuit of their Olympic dreams. They have won US Sailing's top ranking in the Star boat for the second consecutive year and have their endorsement as the #1 team to support! In their most recent regatta, they finished third (out of 82!) in the European Championships held in Germany, winning the fifth and final race. They will sail in the Star Worlds in October in San Francisco. Currently they are in China for some training and the Pre-Olympics in their new boat. When he's not sailing Stars, Andy works for the Italian America's Cup Challenger "Luna Rossa" as a tactician and strategist and is a highly sought after coach and tactician for top offshore teams. You can follow Andy and Brad's progress at www.hortonnichol2008.com



PYC Spinnaker Fleet Championship Still Undecided

From the sublime (Andy and Brad), it is only natural to move on to the ridiculous. Here is the tale of sister club PYC's Spinnaker Fleet Championship.

In an unfortunate turn of events, formal protests on the outcome of the Pultneyville Yacht Club Spinnaker Fleet Championship have been lodged. The protests have originated from several different skippers citing a number of discrepancies in the scoring of the races.

Earl Chapman, skipper of Comic Relief, contends that the mechanical timing device on the committee boat may not have accurately recorded the times of the races. Mr. Chapman contends that he had a crew member count "one-one thousand, two-one thousand ..." from the start of the race until he crossed the finish line. The crew member's count does not match that of the stopwatch. Mr. Chapman states that every second should be counted fairly and equitably, and the only way to do so is by his method.

Jim Ely of Moonrise feels that because his boat covered the course faster than any other boat, then the crown should rightfully be his. He states that elapsed time should determine the champion, not some outdated handicap system.

Cindy Kukuvka of Puff has protested select portions of some races, stating that she had sailed faster than any other boat during those specific times, and given equitable conditions throughout the rest of the races, she would have triumphed. She further contends that God overstepped his authority by arbitrarily enforcing wind conditions on the race course.

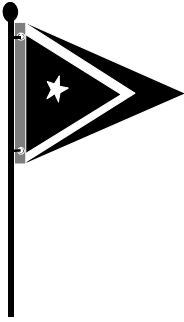
Dave and Michelle Keller aboard Bluepeace stated that the championship was denied them due to mechanical breakdowns. They insist it was their intention to sail faster than the other boats. Therefore, the intent of the skipper should be of paramount importance, not the mere time aspect.

Keith Watson, skipper of Sterling maintains that he had some chads hanging from his keel, which may have effected the outcome. He further states that he has dimples, and they should count for something.

Larry Fedick aboard Cebare said the course was much too confusing, and that he thought he could round ANY three marks.

Highlifes's Harry Miller complains that he mailed in his absentee race results, and they were unfairly rejected on the technicality of his not actually having competed.

Tom Foley of Talledega Nights has quietly accepted the Championship cup, and is moving forward with his plan for pizza for all crews across the board rather than a targeted few. The court will convene at the beer keg immediately following the keelhauling of all lawyers in the club.



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Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 411
Shelburne, VT 05482

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