



the Binnacle

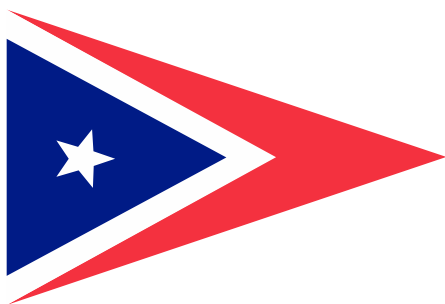
Newsletter of the Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.

Commodore: Doug Merrill

Binnacle Editor: Tony Lamb

<http://www.lcyc.info>

February 2015



LCYC Announcements:

- **LCYC 2015 Calendar Posted On Line.**
- **Gary Jobson will present on Friday, April 10 at Main Street Landing (Details to follow).**
- **Spring Work Day May 9th.**

In this Issue:

- **Commodore's Corner**
- **The View From the Docks-Volunteers needed**
- **Junior Sailing 2015**
- **Change of Watch Dinner Recap**
- **Become a Community Sailing Center Instructor**



Commodore's Corner

Our Change of Watch dinner last month was a warm evening in an otherwise very cold winter. Thanks to all of you who braved the single digit temperatures to join your fellow members for a night of camaraderie, and to honor and thank our retiring board members.

We also awarded Bette and Ernie Reuter with the Commodore's Cup to recognize their meticulous planning and preparation for an extended voyage off of Lake Champlain that began years ago and reached the milestone of physically leaving the lake this past fall. We also presented Keith Kennedy with the Yachtsman of the Year Award for the tremendous work he has done with our race management organization over the past few seasons. Congratulations, Bette and Ernie, and thanks again, Keith!

As far as sailing goes, January provided some excellent conditions for our local iceboaters. I was able to squeeze in four afternoons on Shelburne Bay and Mallets Bay before the snow came and ended the early season. Don Brush has gotten some racing in, and Bob Schumacher, recovering from hand surgery, has run several races.

For traditional boating, I've been limited to watching video and reading articles. To those members lucky enough to head South and get some time in on the water this winter, please share your experiences and photos with us in the Binnacle!

Spring will be here before we know it. Our board has been busy planning the club's activities for the upcoming season. Registration for our junior program opened up last week for members. The club social and regatta calendars have been uploaded to the



**Doug Merrill and Dave Powlison present Keith Kennedy
with the club's Yachtsman of the Year award**



Our Commodore takes his sister Nancy out on Shelburne Bay for her first iceboat ride

website. Make sure to mark your calendars for a pre-season evening event; LCYC will be hosting Gary Jobson on Friday, April 10 at Main Street Landing. Mallets Bay Boat Club has offered to co-host Gary with us, and he is sure to provide an exciting and entertaining multi-media review of the past year in sailing. It will be a fun night to catch up with your crew and get excited about the upcoming season. Stay tuned for more details!

Doug Merrill
Commodore



The view from the Docks

Don Weaver

Last summer is fading from memory while we work our way through the Vermont winter or enjoy southern sojourns. Fortunately, we didn't need to manage the extremely high water we witnessed during the spring of 2013 and we had less water level fluctuation in 2014 easing the weekly adjustment of the docks. A few keels did find the anchor blocks last fall during low water, hopefully with no significant damage. One Dock highlight of the summer was launching the new Tee section at the end of the junior sailing dock just before Family Day. This was an instant success for both junior sailing and the many members and youth heading for the swim raft. Requests to make the Tee longer for FJs, the whaler, and swimming are already registered! As we begin to contemplate another summer of sailing on Shelburne Bay and Lake Champlain its time to also think about the LCYC "to do" list.

The fall Dock Crew did a great job arranging the dock sections in the south lot, strate-

gically ready for spring maintenance. You may have noticed we started replacing the center covers on the main dock sections but discovered a problem. The main docks have slowly developed expanding central waistlines since their original commissioning in 1997. Several sections are in immediate need of under bracing to true up the width allowing the electrical and water covers to firmly seat in their channels. The ingenious members of the dock crew devised a temporary fix last summer; however, we need to install a more permanent cross bracing system this spring.

For those of you who used the Junior Sailing dock, you may have noticed that many of the deck boards have been replaced. During this repair, we determined that the quality of the decking lumber from 1999 is sub par and that the decking screws are corroding which eventually will lead to structural degradation. To protect our investment, we need to remove and replace the decking. While the deck boards are off, we have the opportunity

to add under bracing. These repairs should assure that the docks meet or exceed their projected useful life.

Thanks are due to everyone who keeps a dinghy at LCYC for marking your dinghy with your name and/or mooring number. Whether you keep your dinghy in the water or on shore, proper identification allows the stewards or other members to notify you of any problems in a timely manner. This is a good time to think about refreshing the markings or changing the location of the labeling so they are clearly visible from the dock or walking by if you keep your dinghy on the beach or along the ramp to the work dock.

The dock system at LCYC is one of our major capital assets. Thank you to everyone who helped launch, decommission, and maintain the docks last season. As you can gather from the narrative above, we have significant needs for pre-workday repair work on the docks.

Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers to remove and replace the decking on the junior sailing dock and to install under bracing to the main and junior sail docks.

Please contact

**Chuck Finn (charles@finn.ws) and
Don Weaver
(<mailto:Donald.Weaver@uvmhealth.org>)**

**if you can lend a hand getting the docks ready for
2015.**

Junior Sailing

By Walt Marti

Despite the long cold winter, the junior sailing program is busy gearing up for the 2015 season.

Registration is exclusively open to LCYC families until March 1st. Popular sessions fill up quickly so please reserve your spot before we open up to the general public on 3/1/2015. Go to the Junior Sailing page on the LCYC website for additional information and the link to registration. <http://lcyg.info/junior-sailing/registration>

Also, after March 1st - please let your friends and neighbors know about this great opportunity. Many seem to think our junior sailing program is only open to LCYC members.

Finally, we are in the midst of hiring the staff for this summer. Position descriptions and the application can be found on the website also. <http://lcyg.info/junior-sailing/jobs>
Walt Marti





Change of Watch Dinner

Jean White

LCYC Change of Watch occurs every year in late January or early February, and this year was no exception. On Saturday, January 31, 2015, the Change of Watch was held at Burlington Country Club with 110 LCYC members in attendance. It is the official "changing of the guard" for LCYC's Board of Governors, with some Board members' terms ending and new Board members beginning their terms.

While Change of Watch dinner has the formal purpose of inducting new members onto the Board, it is much more ... a mid-winter way to enjoy the company of fellow club members...to reconnect, to catch up and to dream of spring and good times ahead on the water together. Though the outside temperature was only in the single digits, the Burlington Country Club atmosphere was warm and welcoming and spirits were very high while we enjoyed an excellent buffet dinner and great company! Gathered around the lounge area for cocktail hour, stories could be heard of winter sailing adventures, distant travels and great anticipation of what's ahead...spring "to do" lists for boats, opening work day at the club and most importantly - launch dates!

The formal program was lead by our Commodore Doug Merrill, who recognized and thanked retiring board members Chuck Finn, Doug White, Sherm White, Jill Gagne and Dave Powlison and gave each a commemorative LCYC pewter mug. New BOG members were introduced and



Club Officers for 2015

welcomed: Jean Sievert - Treasurer, Scott Bowen - Membership, Gerry Davis - Regatta, Marc Gamble - Communications and Bob Schumacher - Boats .

A highlight of the evening was awards given to outstanding LCYC members. The Commodore's Cup was awarded to Ernie and Bette Reuter and Yachtsman of the Year was awarded to Keith Kennedy.

But the evening wasn't all business for sure! DJ Bucky Brandt from SuperSounds offered a wide selection of dance choices for all tastes and ages, and we had a great time on the dance floor!

See you all on May 9 for our much anticipated opening work day.

Become a Community Sailing Center Instructor

Are you continually looking for reasons to spend more time on the water in the summer? Do you enjoy sharing your love of sailing with others? The Community Sailing Center (CSC) is reaching out to our local sailing clubs to solicit adult members who may be interested in becoming full or part-time Sailing Instructors at the CSC.

The CSC offers a variety of programs for youth, adult, students, and the visiting sailing and paddling enthusiast. CSC's diverse programs range from recreational to racing, accommodating every sailor. Our fleet is composed of Open Bics, Hartley 10s, Escapes, 420's, Lasers, Sonars, Rhodes 19s, and Stand Up Paddleboards. Our staff is made up of sailors, paddlers and recreation enthusiasts who share a deep passion for Lake Champlain.

As the CSC continues to grow and expand, we seek experienced adult sailors who share our passion for Lake Champlain and helping all members of our community to play on, learn from and ultimately take care of Vermont's greatest natural resource, Lake Champlain. The future of our sport depends on us sharing our enthusiasm with newcomers to the sport. Please consider this opportunity to expose more residents to the wonderful resource we have in our backyard. The job description for a sailing instructor can be found on the CSC's website. Feel free to contact Jen Guimaraes directly if you are interested in learning more (jen@communitysailingcenter.org) or call her at [802-864-2499](tel:802-864-2499)

Scuttlebutt * (another word for Editor's Notes)

If you have not checked out the new layout for the LCYC website you should. It is stunning. Kudos to those who are responsible. It is also a good chance to check out the Club calendar which is now posted.

As we face another bitter cold spell here in Vermont it is not without envy I looked at the Rosner's blog from the south. Always a good read.

I had a brief visit with my crewman Will Colomb, (son of members Ed and Leslie), home for the weekend from the Coast Guard Academy. His description of his sailing schedule beginning this spring is amazing-including (in addition to full weekend racing schedule) a month on the Eagle, a couple of major offshore regattas and a major regatta on the west coast—talk about envy.

It has been a long but good winter, I am blessed to have two grandsons, four and six who live nearby. Joy is navigating the landscape of the computer game Minecraft with them in my lap directing me. Even when they spot a “monster” and begin jumping up and down and screaming between me and the computer it brings a smile to my face, and keeps me warm.

Peace,
Tony Lamb, Editor