



# the Binnacle

*Newsletter of the Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.*

Commodore: Joss Besse

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<http://www.lcyc.info>



## Save the Date:

**Change of Watch Dinner  
January 27.2018**

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## Commodores Corner

The law of averages kicked in at the end of the summer, giving us a great late season to make up for some of the poorer weather earlier in the summer. I've never seen so many boats still in the harbor at the end of September, with many of us pushing back our haul dates as day after day brought summer-like conditions. Our season is so short already, it was nice to see so many of us getting the most of the extended summer.

It always amazes me to see how much work gets done at fall workday – awnings removed, a lot of boats (and a few mowers) cleaned and stored, dozens of dock sections pulled, cleaning, gardens put to bed, and much more. Followed by a great chili lunch afterwards from our incredibly hard-working social group. I stopped by the club a few days later to see what was left to do. The quick answer was pretty much nothing. I ended up emptying the flower pots so the winter freeze wouldn't break them, and did what I could to help Bob Schumacher wrap up his repairs to one of the clubhouse garage doors (the repair looks great!). But that was about it. Thanks to everyone who showed up for workday, and a special thanks to the members who tackled the unenviable task of cutting brush on the bank above the docks - it looks great!

A quick recap of our annual meeting which followed workday:

The proposed bylaw change, recommended by the Nominating Committee and the BOG, was approved. Previously the bylaws had required the BOG to have 14 members. The change will allow the BOG to reduce this size, with a minimum of 9 members. The amendment will provide some flexibility for future boards, though no reductions are planned at this point.

Finances are healthy as we wrap up the year. Operating expenses should come in under budget, and our capital fund remains healthy - even with the completion of construction of the new Sharpie Building completed and paid for.

We had an unusually large number of new board members elected this year. James Kurfis was elected Treasurer, and at our BOG meeting after lunch the following new BOG members were appointed to chair various committees:

Mike Kerbaugh – Docks  
Kristin Knight – Membership/Secretary  
Dave Powlison – Communications  
Tom Glynn – House  
James Unsworth – Regatta

In addition, Mike Clapp, who has been chairing the House committee is making a move to chair the Grounds committee

With the club closed, we see a lot less of each other over the winter. But we do have a great get-together in January with the Change of Watch. Formal notice will be sent as the date approaches, but I hope you all will save the date in your calendar for Saturday, January 27, 2018, at the Burlington Country Club. It is a great way to spend a cold winter night, get more familiar with the new board members, thank our outgoing board members, and see old friends. Hope to see you there!

Joss Besse  
Commodore

# Fall Workday 2017



## Junior Sailing

By Kevin Hawko

The 2017 Junior Sailing season started on a chilly note with lake water temperatures barely reaching 62 degrees for the first day of session # 1 but by the end of day 1, our sailors were all smiles that lasted all summer long! The season officially wrapped up on August 11<sup>th</sup> and through the generous support of our LCYC family, 94 Junior Sailors took advantage of our 6 FJ's and 10 Opti's, filling 153 spots that either began, or furthered, their lifelong passion for sailing. From this year's junior sailors, almost half were returning sailors from previous years in the LCYC program supporting.



Our hardworking staff consisting of Charlie, Noah, Haley, Caroline and Alex formed a very cohesive team that did an amazing job teaching our juniors how to be independent sailors while having fun! Our staff ran the program as well as the Junior Sailing Tag Sale, Parent-Child Sail-Along and Family Day fun regatta. These instructors were role models on and off the water and I was continually impressed with their dedication, professionalism and ability to create an inclusive, fun experience for all of our junior sailors!

This year LCYC hosted 40 Junior Sailors and over 20 coaches/parents from 5 different clubs for the Champ Chase Regatta. Despite light winds on Thursday, John Harris and his race committee were able to get off four races and Friday proved to be perfect sailing conditions for a junior regatta with blue skies and a steady 10 knot wind all day. Julia Shannon-Grillo and Morgan Whitney from MBBC won the FJ class and Matthew Commons from NLGC won the Opti class.



Also, congratulations to LCYC's top finishers Jack Merrill/Santi Vazquez who finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in the FJ class and Owen Deale who finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the Opti class. Thanks to the effort of many volunteers both on and off the water for their role in putting on a world-class event. While many families and individuals gave generously of their time – a big thank you goes to John Harris who once again put together a fantastic on-the water team and ran two days of fabulous racing.

The following week we took 2 FJ's and 3 Opti's to the Cheeseburger Regatta in Lake George. Our top FJ finish was the team of Emma Hawko/Morgan Whitney took 5<sup>th</sup> place overall and won the last race of the regatta.



From work day through the Junior Sailing Tag Sale, Champ Chase Regatta and all the generous donations from the Ladies Cup breakfast, the LCYC community showed amazing generosity and support of the Junior Sailing program. To all the volunteers and the LCYC Commodore and Board of Governors – thank you!

Finally, I'd like to offer a special thank you to Walt Marti for his role as the Director of Junior Sailing from 2014-16. His legacy was a highly successful, well organized program with a core staff of returning instructors and enthusiastic sailors eager to get back on the water. Thank you, Walt for all that you did to make my transition into this role so much easier!

## **Etchells Season Recap**

By John Harris, Fleet 25 Captain

While Mother Nature didn't provide us with the greatest weather for our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, the Etchells Fleet did manage to get in a total of 25 races this season. Which somewhat surprisingly is the same number of races as 2016 and 2 more than 2015, but far fewer than the 33 we got in in 2014. Unfortunately, my recollection is that a whole lot more races were sailed in 3-5 knots than over 12, but I suspect those numbers are fairly typical as well. All in all, I guess it was another fairly typical Lake Champlain sailing season when you look at all the data.

Maybe the weather wasn't so hot, but the level of competitiveness was hotter than ever. With 13 boats in the fleet we typically had at least 10 to 12 boats on the line. The racing was very close and we found ourselves with a number of situations which really stretched folks' knowledge of the rules, ability to translate book knowledge to what was happening on the race course and ultimately decision making about what to do. Getting a good start was always challenging (and important) and there were numerous mark roundings where good or bad decision making could easily result in the gain or loss of 3 to 5 positions. And of course the typically light winds made for some very challenging tactical decision making, once again with large gains or losses often being the outcome.

In the end USA 1300, with Ernie Pomerleau and Chris and Monica Morgan, set the pace for the rest of the fleet, winning the Kelemen Cup with a 30 point margin over the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers. The battle for 2<sup>nd</sup> place was very hard fought between USA 1212 (Ted Castle) and Pied Piper (Powlison/Harris) with Ted picking up 2<sup>nd</sup> on a tie breaker. A similarly close battle was fought for 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> place with USA 466 (Booth/Besse), Rascal (Rick Stevens) and Senior Moment (Brush/Schumacher) finishing within 3 points of each other.

We also continued our focus on fleet development by bringing Jud Smith in for yet another on the water clinic (the wind gods didn't cooperate very well for this either) which, as always, provided the latest insight into how to make the Etchells go fast.

I would be remiss to not thank Dale Hyerstay, Keith Kennedy, Bob Desorbo and the other RC volunteers who make our E Series racing possible. Thanks !!!!

As the leaves start to fall and the weather finally turns cooler, with the exception of USA 1300 which is headed to Annapolis and then her winter home at Coral Reef YC for the Etchells Winter Series, our boats are put away, the skis are starting to come out and our discussions of how to go fast will move from the cockpit to the chairlift.

As always, if you are interested in getting in on the fun, as either crew or boat owner, feel free to contact me or any other fleet member to learn more.



## **REGATTA REPORT**

The 2017 sailboat-racing season is finished at LCYC, with strong final events on Wednesday September 27 and the Hot Ruddered Bum Race on September 30. Over the season there were 34 races scheduled, 27 races were held among Monday, Wednesday, and weekend events, and 7 were canceled due to light wind. Approximately 100 boats participated in one or more races, and 55 boats placed in at least one weekend event or series during the 2017 season. Participation was excellent by LCYC members, racers from other local clubs, and sailors who were not members of any club.

The fourth annual Lake Champlain Viper 640 Regatta was held on September 23-24 at LCYC, and served as the New England Championship for the fleet. The weekend was an unqualified success, with 22 boats from all over the east coast and Canada. Despite light air, 6 races were completed over the 2 days of racing. Dale, Jason, and Alice Hyerstay worked tirelessly to make this event a great success, and were helped by volunteers too numerous to list. This has become a premier event for both the Viper fleet nationally and for our Club.



The Awards Event was held at the Burlington Country Club on Friday October 20, 2017. The event featured happy sailors, a cash bar, “heavy” hors d’oeuvres, a slide show of many racing photographs from the summer season, and many handsome awards. A record number of 129 sailors turned out. Many racers who were not Club members and many crew swelled the ranks of the LCYC skippers. A total of 23 LCYC racing trophies, 2 Junior Sailing Awards, and 8 Lake-wide series trophies were awarded to the first



place boats in weekend races and series. In addition, each skipper who placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> in any weekend race or weekday series claimed an annual gift award. Great thanks to Ann Clark and her staunch Social Committee, to the sailors who contributed photographs for the slide show, to the Regatta Committee for help with the awards, and to the staff of the Burlington Country Club who all made this event a big success.

The Lake Champlain Yacht Club features an excellent and robust racing program, and we can all be thankful for the many years of hard work and thought that have developed it. When one has the opportunity to visit other clubs and locations, our good fortune is abundantly clear. We have excellent race management under the leadership of Keith Kennedy, Dale Hyerstay, John Harris, and others. The experienced Principal Race Officers that lead each race have been trained in the courses of US Sailing, know the rules, and know how to run a race. Our equipment is abundant and excellent. Our dedicated Committee Boat, the *Dinse*, is well suited and well equipped for racing under all conditions on the broad Lake and in the Bay. Our portable marks, flags, signals, and other materials are in top shape. A wide variety of courses has been planned carefully, and published for all to follow. We have fixed geographic race marks placed throughout the mid-portion of the Lake and the Bay that offer safe easily found marks for rounding. We have a large pool of volunteers that serve as Race Committee, maintain boats and equipment, and offer many hours of support for our racing program. Best of all we have location; Lake Champlain with the backdrops of the Green Mountains on one side and the Adirondacks on the other is one of the most beautiful and productive racing venues in the nation. These are blessings we can count ... and we can count on!

Several issues related to sailboat racing at LCYC deserve the thoughts and conversation of sailors as they sip a warming winter beverage from the 2017 “Old Fashion” tumblers they received as their season award for placing in one or more events this past summer.

- *Should the divisions among the spinnaker racing fleet be changed to create larger groups?*



- *What can we do to bring more boats out racing, particularly younger families with smaller boats or cruising boats, who may or not be LCYC members?*
- *Would evening seminars and/or on-the-water instructional events help club racers and bring new boats to the starting line?*
- *Are there weekend races that should be discontinued for lack of participation, or consolidated to improve competition?*
- *Should Wednesday night racing use windward-leeward courses almost exclusively, or should triangles and other patterns be used more often?*
- *Do we need a fixed geographic race mark (W) on the west side of Shelburne Bay, or are drop marks a better option?*

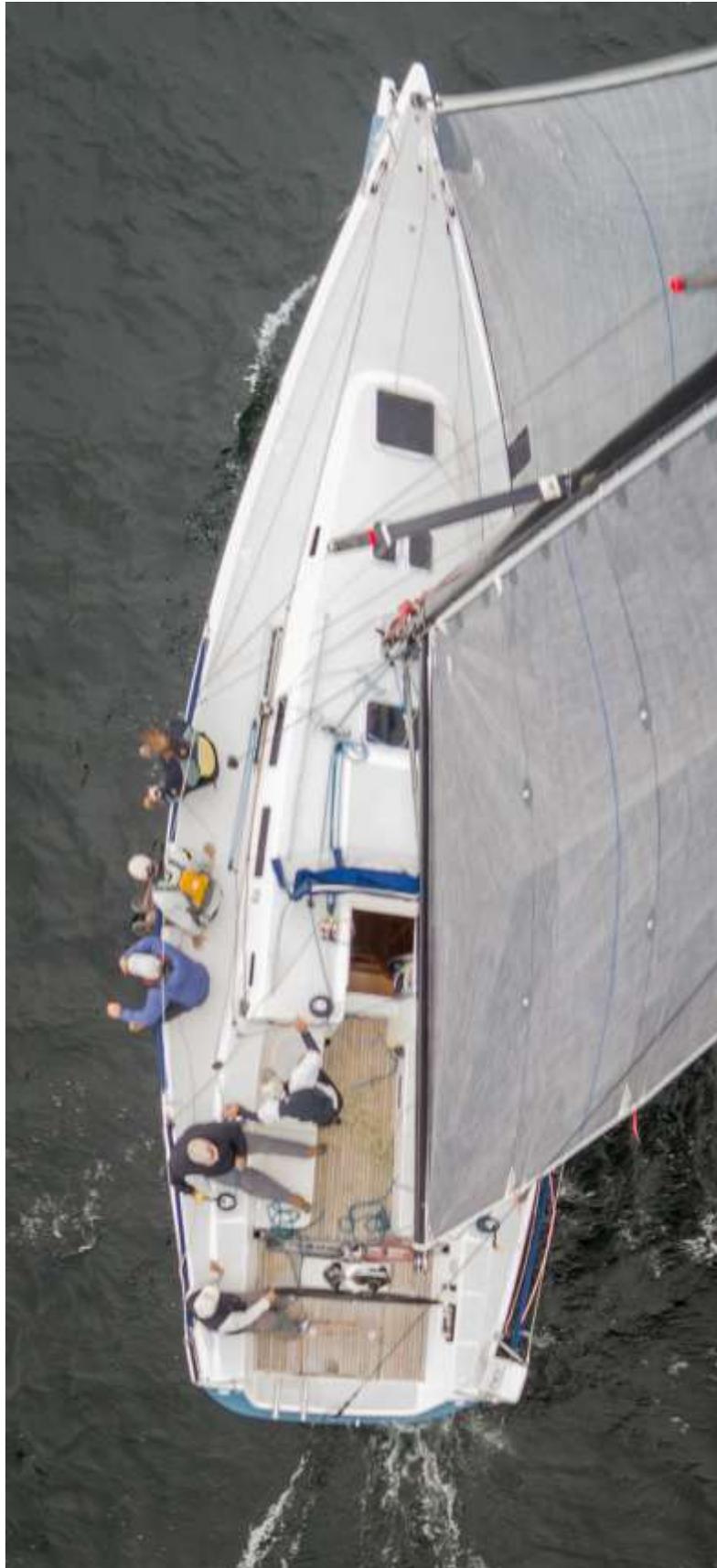
When you and your fireside companions have developed creative solutions for these challenging issues please share them with the Regatta Chair or other involved members.

It has been a great pleasure and a privilege to serve as the Chair of the Regatta Committee for the past 3 years, and I thank the members LCYC for their support and encouragement. James Unsworth will be shouldering the duties (and carrying around the trophies!) for next 3 years, and I look forward to the leadership and new ideas he will bring.

Thank you for chance to serve,

Gerald S. Davis, MD  
Regatta Chair, LCYC, 2015-2017





## **Fall Cruising Notes 2017**

For those who aren't familiar with our concept of cruising – we enjoy anchoring in a variety of anchorages and, when possible, exploring the area ashore, frequently hiking several miles in the process checking out the flora and fauna.

### **September 15 - 18**

With Labor Day a memory and folks busy with other activities, numbers of participating boats were down for the fall cruises, but those who joined us enjoyed some great cruising weather and less crowded anchorages. We started the September Foliage Cruise Friday afternoon, spending the night at Quaker Smith. We awoke to a novel experience – a little green frog perched on the dodger, and 2 more on the bow. How they got on board remains a mystery



With a foggy start Saturday morning, we slowly made our way toward Westport to check out the Fall Farm Festival at the Fair Grounds – a nice mix of Farmer's Market, food tents, music and a variety of displays - a step back in time to a less hectic era of small town life at its best (and a good lunch).

Our destination for the night was Cole Bay where we've had permission in the past to go ashore after Camp Dudley closes for the season. It's a nice hike on the back roads to Barber Point Lighthouse, with a stop at the camp ground for ice cream along the way.

Sunday we headed to Barn Rock, one of our favorite anchorages, with access to a number of hiking trails. We hiked to the Snake Den overlook Sunday afternoon and up to the top of Barn Rock overlooking the anchorage Monday morning before returning to LCYC. All in all, a great extended weekend complete with a variety of activities, hikes, sailing and rounds of Mexican Train dominoes.



**September 22 - 25**

The next Friday we headed to White's Beach to enjoy the anchorage we skipped on the Northern Cruise when we had strong southerly winds. The concert series at Snow Farm Winery were over for the season, but we'll try again next summer. Instead, we went for a 'short' hike on the causeway in the morning. What had been intended as short got lengthened when we realized the bike ferry was running and the guys wanted to check out.



Sunset and New Moon at white's Beach



White's Beach dinosaur and bird houses

Back on board, we headed to Plattsburgh, too late for the Farmer's Market, but with plenty of time to explore the city. The city has added to their dock space and filled what was the anchorage with moorings, but we found enough space behind them to drop a hook. We hiked past the Champlain Monument to the fishing access north of town where work boats from the power cable being laid between Vermont and New York are based. We had just enough of a south wind to make for a less than peaceful night – the waves wrap around the breakwater exposing the new moorings as well as the anchorage.

We explored the bike path that heads south along the lake Sunday morning, returning through the old Air Force base on the way back. Noted for future reference was the shopping center with a decent market and hardware store for provisioning within reasonable walking distance of the harbor.

We sailed to Valcour after lunch to spend a night in Butterfly Bay. We hiked up to the light house which is open to visitors weekends during the summer – but was closed in September - it is worth a visit when it is open. We hiked to the park dock and lodge on the SW side of the island Monday morning before returning to LCYC.



Valcour Lighthouse

Lynnea



LAKE CHAMPLAIN YACHT CLUB  
P.O. BOX 411 / 2790 HARBOR ROAD  
SHELBURNE, VERMONT 05482

## 2017 Gratuity

10/27/2017

Dear LCYC Members:

Thank you all for another great season. While it may have been a wet start we finished with some glorious boating. This, of course was complemented with a healthy dose of dinghy pumping through the wet days. Our team continued the tradition of mixing experience with inexperience. I like to think that while meeting our needs we are helping to train and certify a new generation of competent boaters. Once again, I appreciate those of you who reached out to get to know our team and help them learn the boats.

It has been an LCYC custom to reward the Stewards with a gratuity for the work they have done during the season, and for any services they have performed for you. In addition to providing timely launch service, the stewards are responsible for supporting the safety of the boats in the mooring area, supporting safe dock and dinghy use, morning open and nightly cleaning and close of the clubhouse. They also assist with Wednesday night and Etchell races, Burger Burns and other social events.

This year we will be operating a single fund for the Stewards to be distributed based on the amount worked during the season. In addition, this year we had the help from Randy Mushtare, who kept our grounds trimmed and delivered the weekly deep cleaning of the house. As a thanks we will be including Randy in the distribution of gratuities for his help with the grounds and house.

Your contributions will be greatly appreciated.

**For the Stewards' Fund, please make your check payable to "LCYC Stewards' Fund" and mail to: Treasurer, PO Box 411, Shelburne, VT 05482.**

**Reminder: In order that tips are received in the same year as payroll, the tip date is 12/1/2017.** While your generosity is appreciated by all, your timeliness is appreciated by the BOG members who will be working to make sure that these good folks get paid this year.

The Steward class of 2017 included: Colby Jordan, Maddie Turnau, Dave Boerman, Bridgette Charlebois, Charlotte Bresee, Teddie Turnau, Bo Hopwood, Gabrielle Booth, and Jackson Main.

We are beginning the recruiting process for 2018. If you know someone that you think would make a great steward, please forward their information to me.

Thanks,

Bill Bresee  
Stewards' Committee Chairperson



## Harbor Activities

As of today, there remain only one sailboat on its mooring and a dinghy on the shingle. Soon Champlain Divers will bring all 155 float balls ashore and, strung together, the tackle will rest on the lakebed for the winter.

Of our 155 moorings, Pierre completely replaced 31 this fall. Bringing the old tackle ashore, we observed several in critical condition, validating our decision to replace all over a five year cycle.

As of today the mooring wait list stands at sixteen. The number and order of preference fluctuate unpredictably as long standing members relinquish or renew mooring applications. Our ability to accommodate new member boats depends entirely on turnover and individual decisions to relinquish moorings. Members choosing to relinquish their moorings should be assured that when they again need to use a mooring, they go back on the list based on their original date of membership which, in most cases, puts them close to the top.

Members who won't be using their moorings next season are urged to let me know as soon as possible, so we can accommodate other members before they must commit to moor/dock their boats elsewhere.

Finally, having seen the havoc caused by a record number of tropical storms, we can breathe a sigh of relief that our mooring season has ended without event. Thanks to Champlain Divers for their diligence and all members for their vigilance in maintaining LCYC as a safe harbor.

Best regards,

Bob Finn

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