



the Binnacle

Newsletter of the Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.

Commodore: Walt Marti

April 2021

Director of Club Communications: Doug Merrill

Binnacle Editor: Tony Lamb



What A Difference A Month Makes!!



Doug Merrill, Walt Marti, photos.

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Commodore's Corner



By Walt N. Marti, Commodore
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Hope Springs Eternal. This expression was coined by the poet Alexander Pope in "An Essay on Man" back in 1732. It is human nature to keep on **hoping** against all odds – bravo, I say!

I genuinely believe this **hope** (along with vaccines, mask-wearing, social distancing, and all the other State/CDC recommendations) will allow us to enjoy the 2021 season to the best of our ability.

My wife Aimee, our dog Milo, and I visited LCYC on Saturday, March 27th on a beautiful sunny day. Uncharacteristically, the ice was out. Our beloved Club seemed patiently poised, **hoping**, waiting for us all to return.

January marked our virtual Change of Watch, where we thanked outgoing Board/Committee members Tom Glynn (House), James Unsworth (Regatta), Dave Powlison (Communications), and Charlie VanWinkle (Commodore). I want to reiterate my thanks and congratulations to Charlie Van Winkle for doing an outstanding job as Commodore in an unprecedented time of turmoil and change. Thanks also to the outgoing Board members for their leadership and commitment to LCYC. We **hope** to be able to recognize and thank these individuals sometime this summer.

Also, we welcomed new Board/Committee members Ben Durrant (House), Bob Turnau (Regatta), Doug Merrill (Communications), and we named John Stetson (Stewards) our Vice Commodore and Heidi Lessard (Social) Rear Commodore.

In February/March, we reconvened the COVID-19 Task Force (see the Update on page 3), finalized the budgets, and began planning for what we saw as the "most likely" scenario for 2021.

The Board of Governors is **hoping** for and planning on an Opening Day of May 22, 2021. Due to COVID precautions, we will once again skip the traditional LCYC Work Day, replacing it with a series of smaller/safer work efforts:

Grounds - May 1

Docks – May 8 (see article for additional help needed on April 24)

House – May 15

Jr. Sailing – TBD

Boats - TBD

The various Chairs will coordinate these efforts; please reach out to them directly to volunteer to assist. More information on these work efforts and the Chair's contact information can be found in this Binnacle's "Committee Updates." As a reminder, it takes a village to open and maintain our "working club." Having said that, it is essential that these efforts are coordinated in a safe manner – please do not just "show up." Coordinate your assistance with the appropriate Chair – thank you!

Read on in this issue of the Binnacle, and you will learn more about:

The Cupola project

The South boundary renovation (your ideas welcome)

A robust Jr. Sailing season

Cruising and Regatta updates

We will update you in May with the latest news and plans for a **hopeful** 2021 season. Our #1 priority is the health and safety of our members.

Stay hopeful!

New Members

Caroline Weaver and Mike Bazylewicz

Greetings! We are very excited to be new LCYC members. I (Caroline) grew up at LCYC sailing on Fat Cat and spent many a happy summer in the junior sailing program. Mike grew up in

Manchester by the Sea, MA where he also got his fair share of exposure to water sports. Mike and I met in Boston, but moved to Vermont in 2016. We've been successfully mooching off my parents for boat access (LCYC members Betsy and Donald Weaver), but are looking forward to eventually having our own boat.

We share a love for endurance athletics and if we're not at LCYC we're probably out gravel biking, mountain biking, paddle boarding, running, or chasing snow. We're excited to meet other members, take sailing lessons, and enjoy the beautiful property.

COVID derailed our plans to get married, but hopefully by the time we meet you all we will have tied a nice tight matrimonial bowline!



LCYC COVID Task Force Update.

The LCYC COVID Task Force was formed in the Spring of 2020 to address the impact of the virus on operations at LCYC. Rules for safe behaviors were developed based on the Vermont Department of Health guidelines. We learned a lot in 2020 and like to think that the efforts contributed to a lack of any known transmission of the virus at LCYC while still allowing members and their guests to enjoy a summer of boating.

The Task Force has once again begun to meet monthly to provide guidance to the LCYC Board of Governors. It includes six Board members and two medical doctors. Our goal is to recommend protocols that may minimize the opportunity for spreading the virus while operating the Club as normally as possible. We will follow the Vermont Guidelines and apply them to our situation at the Club. We are hopeful that our restrictions will be eased in keeping with any updates by Governor Scott.

The COVID Exposure Prevention Plan developed last summer has been updated to reflect the situation as it is in 2021. As the Vermont Guidelines now allow larger groups, reflect the effects of the vaccine, and reduce the quarantine requirements, so too will the LCYC Plan. The Plan will be issued in early May.

We appreciate the efforts made by the members, their guests, the stewards, and the Junior Sailing instructors in following the Guidelines last Summer. We look forward to the same support this Summer so that we can make LCYC a comfortable place to be for all ages and medical conditions.

Cruising Off The Beaten Path – do you have special spots on the lake?



By Gunnar Sievert, Cruising Chair
gasievert@comcast.net

Just a few hours' sail away and with nine club moorings at the waiting, Converse and Kingsland Bays are understandably popular destinations for members heading out for some time on the lake. Willsboro Bay and Valcour Island are similarly accessible and frequented places to visit. But there is so much more, both in our immediate vicinity and beyond.

During my first year as LCYC's cruising chair, I have had conversations with a number of members about their travels on the lake, and in particular the "hidden gems" they have discovered. A consensus has emerged that it would be fun to share these with LCYC's cruising community and as an enticement for those just now contemplating exploring beyond Shelburne Bay.

Do you have a special spot on the lake, off the beaten track, that many of us may not know about? You are hereby invited to prepare a brief description for inclusion in the Binnacle. Your article could include any tips on navigation into the area, bottom conditions, water depth, and fun activities ashore, such as places to hike, swim or sightsee.

We shall see, but hopefully, the collection of articles may become an informal guide for LCYC cruisers, current and future. If you think there is a bit of a travelogue author in you, please contact me with your idea.

Message From the Communication Director



By Doug Merrill, Communications Director

As I write this, it's a sunny March day with light breezes on Shelburne Bay and temperatures rising into the fifties. It is easy to imagine our harbor full of boats and our clubhouse and docks bustling with activity. I'm sure we will need to make some concessions to the pandemic this summer, but with vaccines rolling out this spring, I'm optimistic that this summer will look more like 2019 than 2020.

For those that do not know me, my name is Doug Merrill. I've been a member since 2009 and sail MOOvin', our J/110 with my wife Lisa and college aged sons Alex and Jack. I'll be serving as the Communications Director at the club this season. In that role, I collect articles for the Binnacle, send out email blasts to members, and am part of the team that manages our website content and Facebook posts.

If you have something that you believe should be shared with some or all of our members, please feel free to contact me, and I'll help distribute it through the appropriate channel. I encourage you to write up any interesting experience you have on the water and send it to me. Did you make a big upgrade to your boat this winter? Write up any lessons that the rest of us might benefit from. Once we can travel again, we'd love to hear stories of cruises or charters in far-off places. And if you have a particularly good (or bad) day on lake Champlain, write a story about it. Don't forget, photos always make them better.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at doug.j.merrill@gmail.com I look forward to reading and sharing your stories!

Community Sailing Center Service Opportunity



By Kay Gallagher, Program Director Community Sailing Center

Ahoy, experienced Sailors! Are you retired or looking for that “Fun Job”? Would you be interested in passing along your love of Lake Champlain and passion for sailing onto the next generation? Consider a role that several LCYC members have found to be fun and fulfilling!

The Community Sailing Center is eager to grow our Sage Staff Program in 2021. The Sage Staff is a special group of sailing instructors that return to teach sailing at the Community Sailing Center each year. As a Sage, you would be fully trained to Level 1 or Keelboat US Sailing teaching certification and paid an instructor salary of \$13/hour. Classes and programs range from children’s sailing camps, adult class instruction, Science Floating Class-

rooms and a variety of other rewarding opportunities. Sages often provide guidance and mentorship to the younger instructors on the Center’s staff.

Becoming a Sage Staff Member is ideal for those seeking the following:

1. Flexible hours, often afternoons, early evenings and some weekends.
2. To be part of a network of fellow Sage Staff Instructors.
3. The fulfillment that comes with supporting families, children, students, individuals with disabilities, teachers, and other people in our community.
4. Continued employment without the hassle of full-time, year-round commitments
5. Perks of the job include access to the boat fleet and courses (when not in use by programs and outside of your work schedule), access to pro-deals and local community business discounts.

2021 is shaping up to be the busiest year in the Community Sailing Center’s 27 year history. Summer Camp registrations are nearly full. Early projections show that pent up demand for recreation could fill all spaces in adult programs and boost rentals dramatically. In order for us to continue to support our community of lake lovers, we need your help and hope you’ll consider coming to work at the Community Sailing Center.

If interested, contact Kay Gallagher at 802-864-2499 or email kay@communitysailingcenter.org

South Bound Storage Project

We have begun a project to review how to best use the southern portion of our club’s property. Currently we have 10-11 designated parking places for dry sail boats, the utility shed (which will need to be replaced at some point), the dumpster enclosure, harbor materials, and miscellaneous boats, trailers, and, well stuff. Feeling this area could be better organized and useful, the Commodore has appointed a committee to study the area this spring and come up with recommendations on how we can use it better. Volunteer efforts for this project are being led by Bob Schumacher, Heidi Lessard, and Joss Besse. As we begin this project, we are encouraging members to please reach out with any thoughts or ideas to consider. We look forward to hearing from you!

Regards,

The Southbound Bandits,

Bob, bobschumacher@gmavt.net

Heidi HeidiKLessard@gmail.com

and Joss besse@gmavt.net



Around the Club



House Projects

By Ben Durant, Chair, House
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Club House Cupola Project

The club house's cupola will be replaced this Spring and is expected to be complete prior to activity getting into full swing for the 2021 boating season. Tom Glynn, our previous House Chair, has graciously volunteered to stay on to oversee this project.

According to Tom, the original cupola, with its louvers and skylight, has presented an on-going maintenance problem as wind drives rain into the building through the louvers and the skylight depends on a sealant to keep it water tight but the sealant deteriorates with time. Each year the louvers must be covered in the fall with canvas to keep rain and snow out of the building. These covers then must be removed in the spring.

This project will remove the existing skylight and replace it with a new commercial grade unit that will keep rain and snow out and will no longer require the installation each fall of the canvas covers to close up the building.

LCYC member Jason Bushey who renovated our restrooms last winter is our general contractor on the project and will ensure that all aspects of the job go smoothly. We're very lucky to have Tom and Jason overseeing this complex project.

LCYC Goes Green:

Spring has sprung at LCYC and one can feel the green wave that is about to burst upon our beloved club. In that vein, your faithful Board of Governors has been working to make the club a little greener. Look for our nifty new Rubbermaid waste bin stations around the club this year that now incorporate compost. In an effort to make it easy, we will post clear written guidance on what waste goes where. You will even find compost bins in the bathrooms for paper hand-towels. While paper towels are not recyclable, they are compostable.



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Grounds



By Wes Daum, Grounds Chair
wes.daum@daumjr.biz

The volunteer day for the Grounds committee will be Saturday May 1st at 9:00 AM. Please bring shovels, rakes, trowels, power screwdrivers and any other tools that you think useful. The spring work day is the time when we rake, weed and mulch. Added plans are to rope off the lawn trees to protect them and install hose reels on the house. Adam Dantzcher will again be maintaining the lawns this summer. In an effort to reduce runoff Adam will only be doing selective cutting on the front bank. We all like a view but the bank and the ramp are slowly slipping into the lake. Remember, per grounds rules cars should not be parked on the lawn unless there is no parking available in the parking lots. I Hope to see those of you who have indicated that you will work on grounds for our work day.

Junior Sailing



By Bill Kallock, Junior Sailing Programs Chair
jrsailing.lcyc@gmail.com

The small group lessons we offered last summer were a success. They allowed us to keep kids interested and engaged in sailing through the middle of the pandemic.

This summer we are planning a more normal Junior Sailing program with a few adjustments, such as limiting class sizes to 10 sailors to help us maintain physical distancing and healthy practices. While we will be moving forward with the normal program, as with everything during the pandemic, plans are subject to change. The Junior Sailing program will run for eight weeks; from June 16 – August 6th. Two junior regattas are tentatively scheduled for this summer, but will depend on the State of Vermont COVID-19 guidelines. LCYC is scheduled to host the Champ Chase regatta July 15-16 with sailors expected from LCYC, the Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center, Northern Lake George Yacht Club, The Lake George Club and the Saratoga Yacht Club. The following week, we will travel to the Lake George Club for this year’s Cheeseburger Regatta on July 23-24.

We will be running Tuesday evening junior race clinics beginning on June 22 and running throughout the summer from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. The first four weeks of this program can be used to fulfill the race clinic prerequisite for sailors to participate in the Champ Chase and Cheeseburger junior regattas. This evening program will focus on developing race crews with an emphasis on building teamwork, boat handling and race tactics. We are also encouraging junior sailors to participate in the single-handed racing on Thursday nights.

In May there will be a Junior Sailing workday with a small group to unpack the Sharpie Building and get our FJ and Opti fleets cleaned up and ready to go for the 2021 season. Please contact Bill Kallock for dates and times at jrsailing.lcyc@gmail.com

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From the Weather Mark



By Bob Turnau, Regatta Chair
bob.turnau@gmail.com

Hi racers! It's spring and sailboat racing is almost here! With the rollout of vaccines, we have high hopes that this season will be as close to normal as practical. We have planned a full schedule of races for the season beginning with the first Wednesday Night race on May 26th and the first weekend race, the Tea Kettle, on May 29th. The Regatta Committee will be continually assessing the situation with COVID and will make decisions on the racing schedule to ensure racers' and race committee members'

safety.

There are several changes in the starting sequence that skippers and crews will need to pay attention to this season: the starting sequence will now include a 1-minute gap between the prior start and the warning for the next start. This is different from prior seasons where the start for a class would be the warning signal for the next. In addition, we will be returning to the normal 5-minute starting sequence this season. The new sequence will be used for both Wednesday night and Weekend races.

Also, racers should be aware that there have been changes to the racing rules. While these changes are numerous, the biggest change impacting our racing and race committee work is the new definition for Finish and Start. They have simplified this rule to specify that all that matters is the hull...not sails or other appendages (e.g. bowsprits).

Some other changes that will affect the racing season:

The Valcour Race appears to be cancelled. The race has been typically conducted the day after Mayor's Cup race in Plattsburgh.

The Royal Savage Yacht Club has changed its name to the Diamond Island Yacht Club (DIYC).

There are preliminary discussions about an additional race to be run the day after the Diamond Island regatta.

Sign-ups for race committee are well under-way. If you haven't signed up yet, please do, as the responsibility for running races is a mutual one, shared by all racers for the benefit of all fleet members.

Best regards and looking forward to seeing familiar and new faces and boats out on the Lake.

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Social Update



By Heidi K. Lessard, Social Chair
HeidiKLessard@gmail.com

After a long Winter in hibernation, the spectacular waters of Lake Champlain once again call us back to delight in its abundant offerings. The Social Committee is looking forward to offering events that conform to our evolving guidelines. We are excited to entertain options with an adventurous spirit of 'why not!?' exploring valuable shifts of perspectives with an open mind. Quality food cart venues will continue to be offered as well as outdoor movies nights. Opportunities to volunteer will unfold when the need arises. We are looking forward to a fruitful boating season ahead.

Harbor Update



By Bob Finn, Harbormaster
rmfinn2@icloud.com

A few weeks from now, after launching the work dock, Pierre will begin commissioning our 155 moorings with their float balls and pennants.

To date this spring we have provided moorings for fifteen new members. We still have five on our waiting list without a club accommodation this summer. Therefore, if your plans change and you won't be using your mooring this season, please let me know - it will be loaned out for the season and make another member very happy.

Later this season Pierre will finish our mooring replacement program by removing the last 30 chains and hardware to swap in all new 1/2" chain and hardware. Once this five year upgrade cycle is complete we will temporarily remove a sample of moorings that were installed new in 2017 to assess their durability and decide when to begin a new replacement cycle.

With opening day less than two months from now, we all look forward to getting back out on the lake.



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Membership Update:



By Betty Dempsey, Membership/Secretary
lcycsecretary@gmail.com

New member welcome:

The club would like to extend an extra warm welcome to all the new members over the last year. In normal years, we would have had an opening cocktail party and make a fuss over you! You didn't get that last year, but please know we haven't forgotten about you and will not only introduce you to other members when we are able to get together again, but

also give you a little orientation regarding all the club has to offer on-site. Welcome!

Website update:

If you know someone interested in the club, you can point them in the direction of our newly updated Membership page on the website. Under the link "Join", you will see a much improved page with information including our new Mooring Wait List and Associate Membership. As always, the Membership/Secretary chair will always be happy to chat with anyone and answer questions.

Docks Update



By Mike Kerbaugh
mikerbaugh@gmail.com

We are currently making plans to get the docks ready to go in the water. As of this writing, we could still use more assistance. Please send an email to mikerbaugh@gmail.com if you can help.

All dock work will be outside, but mask protocols and safe distancing will still apply. Dates may change slightly based on weather, so it is important that Michael Kerbaugh communicates with you by email. Our tentative schedule is:

April 24: Redecking several docks and replacing floats. Tools needed: Chop saws, Routers and an Impact Driver, proper bits for the variety of screws used is critical (Phillips, square drive and Torx), Vise Grips and a pry bar. You do not need these tools to volunteer, but if you have them and are willing to bring them, it is appreciated! I recommend writing your name on your tool, battery, and charger with a Sharpie or label maker to ensure it comes home with you.

May 8: Docks Go In. As we did last year, we will use a small team (12), so please work with Michael Kerbaugh if you are available or have helped recently. We have had some folks drop from the team, so we could use a few more. Additionally, LCYC will be closed the morning of while we launch the docks. Again, we will coordinate via email prior to the actual date..

Dinghy assignments will be the same as last year. Remember, dinghies may not be more than 12 feet in length and have no more than 15 HP motors.

Please let Michael Kerbaugh know if you will not be putting your dinghy on the dock this year.

There are always Dock Jobs that must happen after the docks go in. Please reach out to Michael Kerbaugh if you can help.

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Stewards



By John Stetson, Stewards' Chair
jbstetson721@gmail.com

The 2021 roster of Stewards is shaping up well. What a difference a year can make! I am pleased to report that seven of our veteran stewards are returning from last summer. They are all in the process of securing their drug tests and updating medical certificates as required by the US Coast Guard. Jack Main will be the head steward, assisted by Andrew Slauterbeck and Will Moody. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated crew to handle the launches this summer.

Although we can see the light at the end of COVID tunnel, we expect to generally be following the same protocol as was in place in September. Masks, sanitizing launches between runs, limiting the number of passengers to four, signing-in for contact tracing, etc. will be necessary as we begin the season. We look forward to the restrictions being eased during the summer as the Governor updates the Vermont Guidelines.

Scuttlebutt (Editor's notes)



Spring always seems like the beginning of the new year to me. It is about Passover, Easter, the coming out of the dark into the light and the beginning of new seasons for gardening, sailing and travel. This year the

season seems more renewing than usual.

Having the first read of the articles for the Binnacle, gives a feeling of the Club feeling its way forward into reopening and you can almost feel the appropriate caution of the leadership as they try to navigate the rules and guidelines to keep us safe and still have a good time. We need to find ways to thank, encourage, and support them as we move forward.

Speaking of new beginnings, for Christmas I gave each of my two grandsons a Cheseapeak Light Craft kit of a Jimmy Skiff II. It is a 13 1/2 foot sailing skiff that also rows well. The local grandson and I are building it in the basement together. Yes, I have a way of getting it out that does not involve a chain saw.

Grandchildren are great-as the bumper

sticker says "If I had known how much fun they were, I would have had them first." After all who can complain about another boat when "it's for the grandson". I really look forward to messing around in it with him this summer.



I am also looking forward to getting back on the race course. I do not know how many of you saw the just concluded America's Cup racing. I recommend watching the races, which were only about 25 minutes long, on

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replay on Youtube. At first I was put off by the alien looking craft. I knew they weren't in Kansas anymore when the first time I tuned in and they were taking about a serious violation of the rules by the Italians. Seems like they ran a 5/8 inch line through a 3/4 inch hole in the main sail. Apparently unsealed holes in the main were not allowed. The penalty was a yellow card (a couple of more and they would be disqualified) and a five thousand dollar donation to a charity. A penalty like that would cut down on the rules breaches at LCYC (and probably the number of racers).

I had a hard time relating to them doing

thirty five knots down wind in eight knots of breeze, but then I saw them late at the start, fail to cover, screw up a mark rounding and get whipped and I knew I would have fit right in.

The Binnacle really needs your support with articles and stories (and above all- PHOTOS). If you have an idea I would be happy to help make it come to fruition or simply let Doug Merrill know.

See you around the club or on the lake.

Peace,
Tony Lamb
stolat36@gmail.com