



the Binnacle

Newsletter of the Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.

Commodore: John Stetson

April 2025

Director of Club Communications: Doug Merrill

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*Shelburne Rescue Performing Ice Rescue Drill at LCYC
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Commodore's Corner



By John Stetson, Commodore
*E-mail: LCYC.Commodore@gmail.com *

The change of seasons in Vermont never disappoints! No sooner do we watch the ice disappear from the Bay; we anxiously await the opening of the Club and getting our membership together again!

Winter has been busy with LCYC activities. All of the committees, chaired by our Board of Governors, have been preparing for the coming season. Each of their reports are included further on in the Binnacle for your reading pleasure.

The Annual Change of Watch in January was well attended. We thanked the outgoing Board members and greeted the new.



Departing Board Members

Departing the Board were Jay Heaslip (Treasurer), Paul Boerman (Harbormaster), Betsey Dempsey (Secretary/Membership), Drew Hamilton (Boats), and Jill Burley (Jr Sailing).



The New Board

Beginning their new terms are Tom Porter (Treasurer), Doug Hamilton (Harbormaster), Amy Caldwell (Secretary/Membership), Bob Finn (Boats) and Erik Filkorn (Stewards).



*Commodore John Stetson and
Past Commodore Jill Gagne.*

This year, we also saw the passing of the ceremonial Commodore's patch from Jill Gagne to me. Many thanks to the outgoing members and incoming chairs, as well!

At the Annual Meeting in October, the membership approved a special dues assessment to fund the purchase of new main docks. After a very trying winter of tariffs, road postings, and numerous other challenges, the last of the dock sections were unloaded at Safe Harbors Marina Shelburne on March 20th. Now, the task of floating the dock sections to LCYC and assembling the new docks can begin. This first year will require many volunteers over a total of 3 to 5 days to complete the work. You will see much more in Gene Cloutier's report further on. What you will not see is any

mention of the tremendous effort that Geno and the members of the docks team have put into this project. There are many steps left to go and our fingers are crossed that all goes together as planned!

As is typical each year, we have turnover on the membership and moorings. Doug Hamilton, our new Harbormaster, Amy Caldwell, our new Membership chair, and Tom Porter, our new Treasurer, are busy updating membership status, reassigning permanent and temporary moorings, and, of course, catching up with the associated paperwork.

Bob Finn, our new Boats chair, is getting his hands around the Club fleet. Repair work that was undertaken over the winter is complete and the boats will be ready to assist with the early docks work.

Erik Filkorn, our new Stewards Chair, is getting his team of stewards organized for another great season. While we are fortunate to have returning stewards, including some long-term favorites, we will have a greater need for volunteer assistance, particularly during the early and late seasons. We are happy to have one candidate in our Steward Apprentice program, with room for one more.

With Jill Burley stepping down as Junior Sailing Director, we transitioned to management of the Junior Sailing program by a Task Force. To our great surprise, Joe Rosen, a relatively new member, volunteered to take on the role of Director. Joe has a passion for the Junior Sailing program and is quickly coming up to speed. The Task Force will continue to support Joe throughout the season as needed. We have hired a very qualified Head Instructor to work with a returning Instructor and three Junior Instructors. Registration is ahead of where we were last year at this time. All is on track for another successful season of Junior Sailing.

Our Vice and Rear Commodores, Ben Durant (House Chair) and Kevin Hawko (Regatta Chair) are busy in their respective areas with preparations for the season. There is no shortage of good ideas and new requirements to share. Matt Fisher (Grounds) is preparing for new plantings and general sprucing up. The Social and Cruising committees have highlighted some new thoughts and plans for the coming year. Meanwhile, the Audit Committee and Finance are doing what they do best: help us to manage our resources wisely.

The Club is a special place; it is much more than a marina. We rely on members to volunteer in the management, maintenance and operation of the Club. Each member or family unit is expected to contribute a minimum of eight hours of their time to the Club activities. Each member is assigned to a committee; the list of members by committee is in the Log. Please reach out to the committee chairs to offer your time.

The easiest way to meet your eight-hour requirement is by attending the work days. The spring work day is on Saturday, May 10th. Activities begin at 0800 and wrap up around noon, or when the work is done! The Social committee will kick off their season with a great lunch! Mark your calendar now!



Commodore Cup Winners Susan and Bill Breese

The Docks Have Arrived!

By Gene Cloutier, Docks, Chair

The docks have arrived! It has been quite a long road, including tariff threats and shipping challenges, but we have finally received the last batch of docks to the Shipyard! Andrew and his team at the Shipyard have helped us out tremendously and made accommodations on the fly throughout this process. As part of that agreement, I committed to have the docks launched before Shipyard yard activities begin, so we will be launching the docks over April 17, 18 & 19. To make this go smoothly, as part of the contract, we have StructurMarine providing someone to oversee the process and assist with any challenges we may have. We have hired Pierre to also assist with the anchoring, crane boat, installation of these docks. Hoping all goes smoothly and according to plan!

As mentioned in an earlier email blast <https://lcyf.info/files/Docks%20Update%20March%202025.pdf> there have been many fellow club member helpers along the way and I truly appreciate all the help navigating through the on again, off again, tariffs. It was quite a challenge. Luckily we made it through unscathed and avoided any tariff costs.

Our current plan for spring launching of docks is currently scheduled in 3 different blocks. On April 5, Steve Walkerman and team retrofitted our old docks into new work dock and junior sailing docks. The team did an amazing job, thanks to all of the volunteers and Steve for leading this effort (see photo!). The second is the heralded moment of launching our new docks from the shipyard and floating down and installation to the club April 17-19. The final one will be the launching of our junior sailing docks scheduled for the official club opening day May 10.

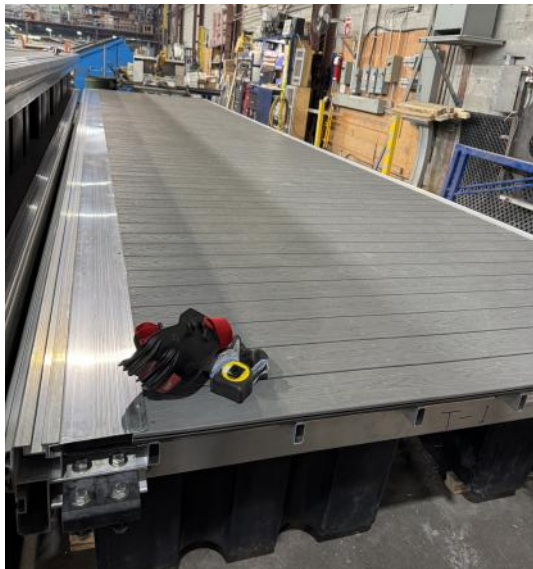
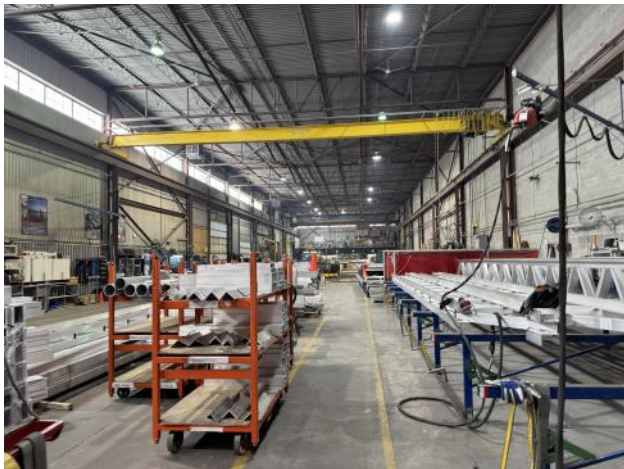
Next on our list is dinghy location assignments. We are working on how this will all work and please note that this will be a transition year as we figure out the layout and how many dinghies will fit per dock. Chris Leopold has generously agreed to continue to manage this so be on the lookout for an email from Chris with a location and if you are interested in having a spot.

Again, a very special thank you to everyone helping out on this significant club project.

Pre-Workday Dock Work Party



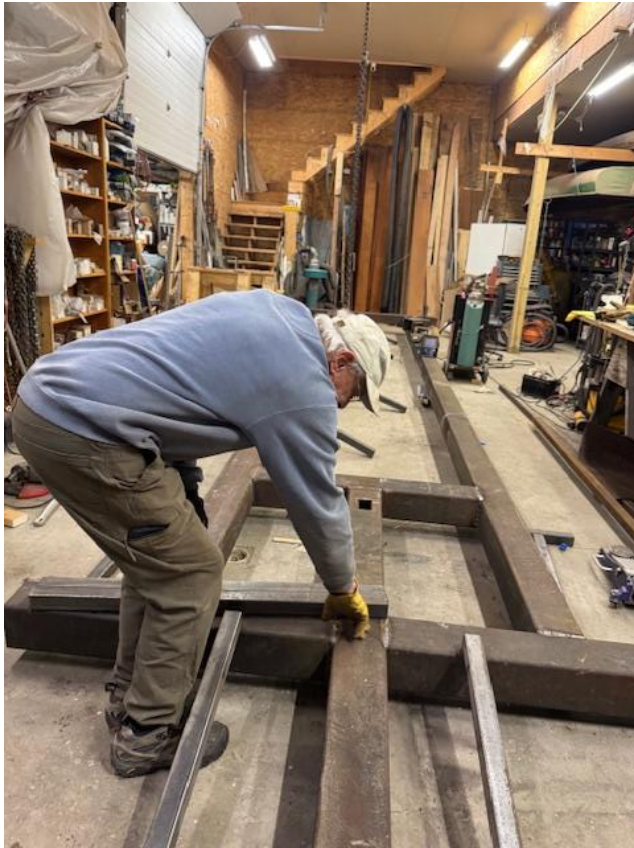
StructurMarine Manufacturing the Docks.



Shipyards Storage.



Trailer For the Docks



Shelburne Fire Department Uses LCYC for Ice Rescue Training

The Lake Encroachment Permit received last fall enabled us to proceed with the dock replacement. The permit included a requirement that we offer our facilities to the Town of Shelburne and City of South Burlington for training and emergency response.

While we thought this would be something that Shelburne or South Burlington might exercise during the summer, we were pleased to have the Shelburne Fire Department request permission to use our facility for ice rescue training. SFD hosted a weekend of training in January. Participants included The Vermont Fire Academy and half a dozen other fire departments. The thin ice was very breakable, but perfect for their purposes! They were so pleased with the venue that they returned in March when the ice was a little thicker!

We are currently in discussion with SFD about other opportunities for partnering. Not only does it help us to meet the requirements of our permit, but it is greatly appreciated by the Town. It is nice to give back! You never know when you might be on the receiving end of a rescue operation!





Boating License Required

Important Boating Law Update for New York State Waters

By Ben Durant

Do you know where your boater's license is? In Vermont, if you were born before 1974, you don't even need a license to operate a vessel. However, as of this 2025 boating season, New York State will enforce a new regulation requiring all boaters, regardless of their birth year, to hold a valid Boater Safety Certificate to operate motorized vessels in its waters. This change marks the final phase of "Brianna's Law," a legislation introduced in 2019 to enhance boating safety and reduce accidents.

Previously, the law implemented a phased approach, gradually requiring boaters of specific age groups to complete a state-approved boater safety course. Now, as of 2025, this requirement applies universally to all motorized vessel operators, including those navigating party barges, jet skis, and other watercraft. The mandatory course covers essential topics such as navigation rules, seamanship, safe loading, fueling, and emergency preparedness.

Failure to comply with this law could result in fines of up to \$250. To ensure compliance, boaters can take the required safety course online or in person through state-approved providers.

As boaters, we stray across the invisible NYS border frequently. It is important to stay informed and prepared for this change. For more information, visit the New York State Parks and Recreation site: <https://parks.ny.gov/boating/safety-courses.aspx>.

LCYC Library: A Book Lover's Haven

By Ben Durant, House Chair

There's no better place to immerse yourself in a great book than at LCYC. The House Committee is seeking a few enthusiastic readers to help breathe new life into our clubhouse library. These volunteers will take charge of transforming the bookshelf into a true lending library—a space filled with captivating reads that inspire members to “take a book, leave a book.”

We're not just looking for nautical books; all genres of great reads are welcome! This is your chance to help create a literary treasure trove for the LCYC community.

We're excited to launch this mini-project during **Spring Workday**, and we'd love for you to join us! If books are your passion, consider joining the House Committee and being part of this meaningful endeavor.

Book donations will also be gratefully accepted during Workday. Please bring along some of your favorite past reads—those you've loved and think other members will enjoy. Together, let's build a library that the LCYC community will cherish for years to come. Please contact Ben Durant at bendurant@gmail.com if you have any questions.

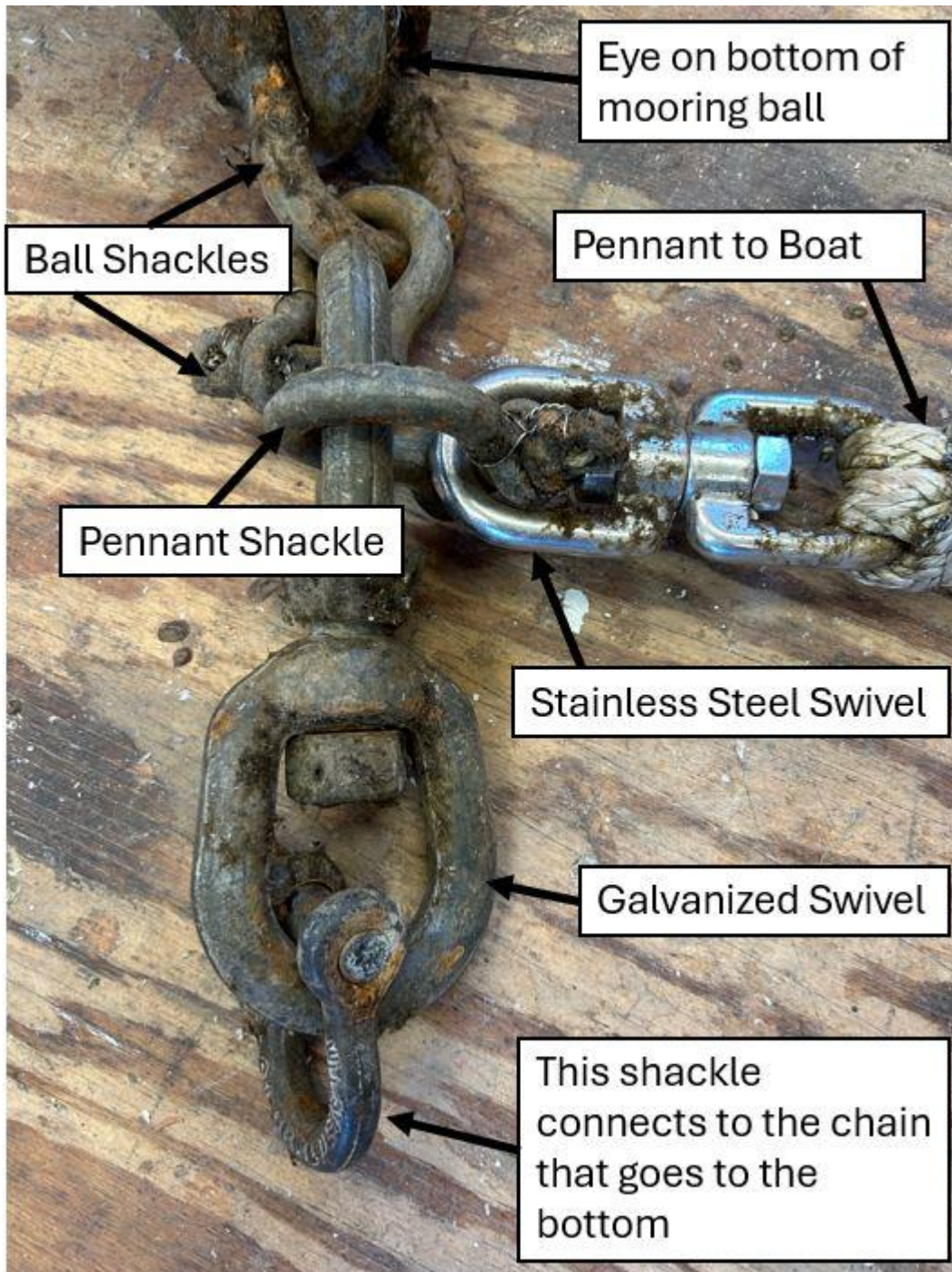


Spring Mooring Checkup

- Ever wonder what lies beneath your mooring ball?

By Doug Hamilton, Harbor Master

This picture illustrates the components of the mooring system at the top of the mooring chain. As members, we are responsible for our mooring ball, stainless steel swivel, and pennant.



Now is an ideal time to check your mooring system rather than worrying about it in June when

the first strong north wind sweeps down Shelburne Bay. The club has a reliable system to replace the chain component of our mooring systems regularly. Therefore, please examine your pennant to ensure the entire system is sturdy. If we all complete the following checklist, it will contribute significantly to a solid mooring field.

Visit the club in April to check your mooring system; the mooring tackle is on the launch ramp's north side.

Verify that your mooring ball is fit to float another season. Ensure your mooring number is painted or stenciled on the ball.

Inspect the pennant. Is it showing signs of wear or is it over five years old? If so, it's best to replace it. Is your mooring pennant older than the chain leading to the lake bottom?

Confirm that the stainless steel swivel is attached to your mooring ball.

What should you do if some of these items need replacing? The suggested approach is to contact Pierre, the club diver, at 802-233-1479.

The Community Sailing Center is looking for you!

Ahoy, experienced Sailors! Are you retired or looking for that “Fun Part-Time Job”? Would you be interested in passing along your love of Lake Champlain and passion for sailing onto the next generation?

The Community Sailing Center is looking for you! We are hiring and eager to grow our Sage Staff Program in 2025. 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 in US Sailing Keelboat or Level 1 Small boat teaching certification and paid an instructor salary of \$17/hour. Classes and programs range from STEM Floating Classrooms to Group Sailing, Adult Class instruction, Adaptive Sailing, and a variety of other rewarding opportunities. Becoming a Sage Staff Member is ideal for those seeking the following:

1. Flexible hours, mostly mornings and early afternoons, some evenings and some weekends.
2. To be part of a new social 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 seasonal employment without the hassle of full-time, year-round commitments. Perks of the job include: ● Access to the boat fleet for personal sailing and paddling ● Advanced Clinics and courses ● Pro-deals and local community business discounts.

2025 is shaping up to a busy year. Summer Youth Camp registrations are nearly full. Demand for adult programs has grown tremendously. We are expecting a completely full Spring and Fall Floating Classroom calendar with every day reserved by a different school. 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 John Nagle at 802-864-2499 or email john@communitysailingcenter.org



Around the Club

Exciting 2025 Program of Social Events

Robin Jeffers, Chris & Jenny Leopold, & Christina Lamb Sidell, Co-Chairs

The Social Committee designs and implements an LCYC social program intended to build and reinforce relationships and a sense of community among LCYC members and to offer hospitality to our nonmember guests. Our members' collective sense of LCYC as a special community of boating enthusiasts is part of what distinguishes our Club from being just another marina or mooring area on Lake Champlain. Our social events are an integral part of our club community. Our entire social program is dependent upon members volunteering to work our events. For all of the events in our exciting line up this year, we are depending on all of you, our members, to serve as volunteers. Remember, not only do your hours working as a volunteer for social events count towards your LCYC volunteer requirements, it is a terrific way to meet a broad spectrum of members. Best of all, we have FUN!!

We have an exciting lineup of LCYC Social events for 2025 with the return of several old time favorites and scheduled inclusion of several new events from 2025. The season for the Social Committee kicks off with Spring Workday on Saturday, May 10th. We will be offering our customary fare, bagels, donuts, fruit, juice, and coffee and tea for breakfast. We will serve a chili lunch with all the fix ins, including homemade cornbread, cookies, brownies, and other desserts. On Saturday, May 31st, we kick off the 2025 evening events LCYC's celebratory Opening Cocktail Party, including recognition of new LCYC members. As always, the best parts of this event are the renewed interactions between our members, meeting new faces and the delicious array of homemade member contributions to the appetizer and dessert tables. This year, kick it up a notch with the best or new homemade appetizer/dessert to share with everyone!

Mark your calendars for a very special event on Saturday, June 8th! LCYC is hosting a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser to help send LCYC's very own Emma Hawko to the International Lightning Class World Championships in Greece. Emma, a graduate of our Junior Sailing Program and who worked as an instructor for two years, leaves for Europe a day after the Fundraiser. This fun event will feature homemade pancakes and French Toast with all the breakfast ac-

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companiments. The event will feature a Silent Auction to help to fund Emma’s campaign for this prestigious class championship. Look for future email blasts with more details about the event and the Silent Auction. On June 18th we launch our first Wednesday night dinner of the season with the return of Pizza Night. Farmer’s Market Pizza returns to LCYC serving a variety of freshly made pizzas baked in their woodfired hearth.

July brings an exciting array of member favorite events and activities beginning on Friday, July 11th. The annual Boat Tour offers members the opportunity to board and visit a diverse selection of the Club’s new and classic boats. Enjoy refreshments and conversation with the owners as you tour each of the boats. Onshore, Farmer’s Market will be on shore selling their fresh homemade pizza. Join us for another LCYC tradition, Ye Olde Fashioned Burger Burn, on Wednesday, July 16th. Our experienced team will serve a complement of burgers – beef, salmon, veggie, hot dogs, salad, chips, and dessert. Imagine an afternoon filled with face painting, Bouncy House, Big Blue Trunk, Flying Juniors, make your own boats, snacks and ice cream sundaes, add lots of kids and you have LYCY’s annual Family Day. This special event on Sunday, July 20th, is for all LCYC members and their guests (including grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins). Round out July with LCYC’s Commodore and Past Commodores hosting the Commodores’ Potluck Dinner on July 25th. Past Commodores will grill chicken, salmon burgers, veggie burgers, and hot dogs complimented by your homemade potluck salads, sides, desserts and a special LCYC cake.

August brings two Ladies Cup events on August 1st & 2nd with a Friday night Speakers’ Series event featuring potluck desserts followed the next day by the Ladies Cup Reception & Awards on Saturday afternoon immediately after the running of one of the oldest racing events in North America. August 8 marks the return of LCYC’s signature Corn Roast & Potluck Dinner on Friday, August 8th. Our experienced team of volunteers will grill Italian sausage, beef, salmon, veggie burgers, and hot dogs complimented by member homemade potluck salads, sides, desserts and an LCYC cake. Our August Wednesday night dinner brings back our very popular Taco Night on August 13th. Join us as volunteers, cook and serve soft tacos with all the fix ins that you love and appreciate in Mexican style street tacos.

Celebrate the onset of cooler weather in September with our traditional Oktoberfest dinner on Wednesday, September 10th. Our Oktoberfest fare features beer-cooked grilled sausage, sauerkraut, German potato salad, and traditional black forest cake. Join us on Saturday, September 13th for LCYC’s annual Macdonough Breakfast. Our breakfast team will serve pancakes, French toast, sausage, fruit, juice, and coffee/tea. All LCYC members and Macdonough race competitors are welcome. There is no charge for this event, however donations to LCYC’s Junior Sailing Program are graciously accepted. Our 2025 Social calendar concludes with the Fall

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Cocktail Party on Saturday, October 4th,, followed by Fall Work Day on Saturday, October 18th, and the annual Awards Night for the Club's Racing Program. Watch for details to follow in future articles.

The Social Committee manages our volunteer needs through the software program assistance to us, our entire social program is dependent upon LCYC members volunteering to work our events. Watch for an email blast providing the link to SignUpGenius and our 2025 events and volunteer needs. In addition, we will have a volunteer table at Work Day to facilitate in person volunteer signups. Look forward to seeing you at our events!

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From the Weather Mark.

By Kevin Hawko , Regatta Chair

My son was home in mid-march for his Spring Break and was able to ski 8 of his 10 days of vacation. Two days after returning to school on Chesapeake Bay, he texted me: “I got to sail today. I’m winning!” And just like that, it’s time to turn our focus to sailboat racing.

There are several items of interest for the 2025 racing season:

There are new Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) for 2025-28 that introduce rule changes that all racers need to be familiar with prior to heading out to the race course. Updates include new language on Avoiding Contact (Rule 14), On The Same Tack; Proper Course (Rule 17), Giving Mark Room (Rule 18.2) and Tacking in the Zone (Rule 18.3). US Sailing has a great summary of all the changes, including Dave Perry’s overview of changes - <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/rules-officiating/the-racing-rules-of-sailing-2025-2028> . You can also download the US Sailing RRS App with some great products, guides and access to an online rule book for your mobile device.

1. The LCYC Race Management Group has been working through the off-season to review our 2024 racing program, documenting process improvements and making updates to the club’s NOR’s and SI’s. Please make sure that you read the changes to time limits, start sequence timing and other updates that will make our racing fair and consistent with race management best practices. LCYC does offer a variety of racing programs and formats, so each set of race documents is tailored to the specific event. Remember, it is the responsibility of every skipper to read and understand the race documents before heading out to the race course!

2. The 2025 Regatta schedule has been updated on the LCYC Calendar. Please note that Valcour Sailing Club’s 2025 Mayor’s Cup will be held on 12 July, a week later than usual due to the timing of this year’s 4th of July holiday. Also note that the Hot Ruddered Bum race is once again the final racing event of the 2025 season.

Race Committee signups are available on the LCYC website. Being a member of a Race Committee is a great way to learn more about race management, rules, tactics and to meet other club members. No experience necessary, just bring a positive attitude and spend some quality time on the water helping to make our LCYC regatta program best in class!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at Spring Work Day and out on the water!

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Membership

Amy Caldwell, Membership Chair

The yearnings for the waters of our beloved Lake Champlain hold promise. Unfolding are the last shouts of winter and the prospects of new adventures and friendships. After months of silent shores, we welcome the slapping of halyards on the masts and water lapping at the hulls. Symphony to our ears.

As we await those perfect days when the wind and warmth align in harmony, we prepare not only our boats but our shared special spot on the lake. What a luxury and privilege to come together as members to enjoy the timeless pleasures of our dreams at this wonderful place - Lake Champlain Yacht Club.

As Membership Chair and a fellow boater, I look ahead to greeting you, learning from the veteran members with their vast experience, and standing by for the months to be. May your upcoming season be filled with many moments of joy, fair winds, and friendly hellos.



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Junior Sailing Program Gets Ready For Summer 2025

By Joe Rosen, Junior Sailing director

The LCYC Junior Sailing Program is planning for another summer of getting kids on the water. Joe Rosen is the new director, working hard to fill the shoes of outgoing director Jill Burrely. Although still green and learning the ropes, with the terrific help of a very active, hard working Junior Sailing Task Force and Committee, the program is in good shape to provide a summer of fun and instruction for junior sailors ages 8-17.

We are fortunate to have hired a new, well qualified Head Instructor, Ryan Potter. Returning to assist Ryan is Instructor Eloise Durant. Rounding out the instructing staff are Junior Instructors Magnus Nilsson, Griffin Hanson and Freyea Heinzer, all graduates of our Junior Sailing Program. We are hoping to hire one additional instructor. We also presently have five volunteer Instructors in Training.

There will be a “Meet and Greet” June 15th to launch the season, which begins the following day, June 16, and runs through August 8. For participants interested in racing, LCYC will be hosting the Champ Chase Regatta, July 17 & 18. There will also be the opportunity to participate in the Horse Race Regatta at Saratoga Lake July 24 & 25, as well as the Cheeseburger Regatta at Northern Lake George Yacht Club July 31 & August 1.

Sessions are filling up nicely, but there are still plenty of open slots. A link to enroll can be found in the Junior Sailing section of the LCYC web site. <https://lcyg.info/junior-sailing/registration> As in the past, we are offering discounts for the children and grandchildren of LCYC club members. New this year, discounted enrollment fees are being offered to the residents of Shelburne and South Burlington through their town recreation departments, so be sure to tell your friends and neighbors about the program. A limited number of scholarships are also available through the Landau Scholarship fund, for which donations are always welcome.

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Cruising Update

By Dave Main, Joss Besse, Bill Bresee, and Susan Bresee, Cruising Co-Chairs

With our long and wonderfully snowy winter drawing to a close, plans for the summer 2025 cruises are coming together. This season our plans include some changes that we want to pass on to LCYC members.

First, cruising activities are being coordinated by the Cruising Committee –Dave Main, Joss Besse, Bill Bresee, and Susan Bresee – rather than a cruising Chair, in order to spread out and share the responsibilities. We hope to emulate what has worked so well for the LCYC Social Committee over the past few years. Many, many thanks to Lynnea and Len Rosner who have led our cruising activities well beyond their stints as cruising chair(s), filling in when needed. We couldn't have managed without all their time and energy!

Second, we are planning to try doing things a bit differently, specifically:

As part of sharing responsibilities, we will be looking for a few friends in the LCYC cruising community to step forward and volunteer to coordinate one of the potlucks or other planned gatherings. Or to lead one of the cruises. We will be asking for signups as we approach spring workday.

One day Rendezvous - Along with the overnight cruises, we are going to try doing a one day cruise to a nearby destination – like a Schuyler Island anchor and walk, or a dinghy trip up the Boquet or Ausable Rivers. Maybe you have other ideas? The goal is to encourage more people to join the cruising group for a day cruise, but who are not ready or interested in an overnight outing.

Captains' Hour – rather than doing a potluck dinner every time, the Captain's Hour is a before-dinner gathering, with shared appetizers and BYOB, and people may choose to extend the evening by bringing a picnic dinner. The goal is to make it easier to socialize with less work for volunteers, using a time-honored maritime tradition.

Champagne Cup – The past number of years we have finished this fun pursuit race, and held the awards ceremony and potluck dinner, at Kingsland Bay. This has entailed a substantial logistical effort to recruit drivers to move grills from LCYC and back, plus equipment to boil corn on the cob. And of course all the racers have had to ferry ashore their potluck contributions and chairs. Instead this summer we will do the start and finish in Shelburne Bay near LCYC, with post-race awards and potluck dinner at the club. We hope this will encourage more members to try the race, as well as enjoy the post-race activities.

Shorter cruises – The longer cruises in July will be replaced with shorter ones, which should be more accessible to busy members.

Overall, we will be trying to encourage more members to join some of our cruising events – check out the LCYC calendar, or go to the Cruisers tab on the LCYC website homepage for the most up to date schedule of events. If you are interested and have thoughts on what would help you participate, we would love to hear them – you can contact any of us. And if you would like to be added to the cruising listserv so you get information on each of these events as they approach, email us at cruisingLCYC@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you on the lake!

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Stewards

Stewards

By Erik Filkorn, Stewards Chair

There was a crisp breeze off the dockless cove this morning. The boats were still in the clubhouse and the new docks were still up at the shipyard, but the email traffic is already buzzing between the present and future stewards.

Adelaide Durant has one foot on sea and one in high finance this summer so she will be stepping aside to yield to the well-qualified Fisher Irwin as Head Steward, but you'll still get to enjoy her repartee as she continues to pick up shifts through the season.

Because it's hard to let go, Parker Main will be dropping in occasionally as he continues to pursue his 100-ton license as an employee of the Lake Champlain Ferry Company. We were sorry to see Maeve Begin leave us, but pleased to learn that she has a highly competent brother, Ryan, who will be joining us mid-summer. Charles Filkorn (yes, related) will be returning to give us all lessons on driving the Milo, and Jaeger Bowen is in the final throes of completing the USCG paperwork to become a full-fledged Steward.

Hannah Carlson will be joining the team as a Steward Apprentice. Amongst her sporting activities is boxing so she should be able to comport herself well on race nights. We still have room on the team for one more Apprentice. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age and willing to commit the time to pursue USCG licensure while working at LCYC, and a commitment to continuing to work for the club to make our investment reasonable.

College schedules being what they are, we'll probably be a bit thin on the ground at the beginning of the season, so volunteer stewards will be an essential part of our early deployment and at key moments throughout the season.

Getting to know the boats is rewarding and doing shifts as a volunteer steward is hands down the most fun way to log your volunteer hours. Ideally, all our volunteers will be Coast Guard licensed and we are covering the cost of classes and certification for those who are willing to put in the time. Learning your day shapes and how to navigate a train of barges could come in handy if you ever attempt the Great Loop, and it will make you a smarter boater here at home.

The stewards are the front line of customer service and safety at LCYC and we don't take that responsibility lightly. If you see something that needs fixing or something that could be better, the stewards office is the front desk and we will make sure the information gets to the right place.

Launch service begins May 17th on new and improved docks with a fresh set of batteries in Nautilus.

Boats.

Bob Finn, Boats Chair

LCYC features an extensive assortment of watercraft supporting a variety of activities. For the use of Members and the club Diver to maintain moorings, we have an outboard powered raft tied to the work dock, known affectionately as “the mooring puller”.

On the main dock, Members have 3 rowing dinghies to access their boats as needed. Operating out of the middle dock and Sharpie Bldg, our Junior Sailing program has 11 Optimist dinghies (Optis) and 7 Flying Juniors (FJs). An outboard powered RIB and a 17’ Boston Whaler support Jr Sailing instruction and Race Committee operations.

Just off the main dock are two orange self-propelled and “self-anchoring” inflatable catamarans made by Marksetbot. We refer to them as ‘bots’ and serve the Race Committee (RC) as Starting and Windward marks. These enable RC PROs to remotely set and alter race courses depending on wind conditions all directed from a dedicated tablet on the signal boat. Moored next to the bots you will find the ‘J.M. Dinse’, the Race Committee’s 1989 Albin 27’ diesel to manage races on Shelburne Bay and the broad Lake.

Finally, LCYC Stewards use three launches to bring boat owners and crew to and from their moorings: Nautilus, a 1983 Quahog launch recently converted from diesel to electric propulsion; Bern C, a 1986 Quahog diesel; and Milo, a 1971 diesel powered double ended launch beloved by purists.

The Boats team is responsible for keeping all our motorized craft in safe, reliable condition throughout the season. While Drew Hamilton, the omnipotent Bob Schumacher, and James Unsworth have admirably shouldered this responsibility, we recently added more members to serve as a team of experts. With their combined institutional knowledge we can respond readily to situations as they arise and keep our ageing fleet up and running. These volunteers deserve our appreciation.

We look forward to a good turnout on workday to spruce up and commission all our facilities for the season

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From the grounds of LCYC.

By Matt Fisher, Grounds chair

The big plans for this spring include some love for the long neglected “no man’s land” of the bank. Resident arborist and member John Bakewell has procured a variety of plantings including alder, dogwood, viburnum, winterberry, ninebark, and hazelnut at low cost which were planted prior to workday. These species will help decrease erosion, reduce invasives, improve the view-scape, and provide a much needed facelift to an area of the club that is highly visible.

Opening workday is on May 10th and special projects will include trimming reeds and other plant material in the ditches on the north, west, and south borders of the club grounds. These have become overgrown, which creates an impediment to drainage as evidenced during the heavy rains of last year. The main stairs need repainting, the timing of which will depend on the status of the new docks.

If you are planning on storing a dinghy at the club, please refer to the new watercraft storage rules which will be published in the log. All craft (dinghy, kayak, rowing shell, canoe, or SUP) must have the owners name and number affixed and be stored in the appropriate area. There will be no storage on the beach or in the area between the sea walls without permission from the grounds chair. I look forward to seeing everyone on workday!