



the Binnacle

Newsletter of the Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.

Commodore: Charlie Van Winkle

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Sundance, Tom Glynn's Pearson 37, claimed the Ladies Cup, given to the top LCYC boat on corrected time.

Photo by Doug Merrill

This Friday—Corn Roast and Final Speakers' Series of 2019:
A 3D Look at Lake Champlain Shipwrecks
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Commodore's Corner



By Charlie Van Winkle

I always leave the drafting of this article to the last minute, the thought being to remain current and include something about the latest happenings at the club. The other thought is for inspiration to hit me like a lightning bolt, and I can bang something out on a Pulitzer level. As this is one of the main ways club members get information, I'm hoping for the latter to happen.

Congratulations to S/V *Sundance* for capturing the "Ladies Cup." Always a perennial participant, the captain and crew have added credence to the motto "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." Forty-six years and one hull splitting "T-bone" crash later, you got some hardware! Well done, Team *Sundance*!

If you haven't been to a Wednesday evening burger burn you should. The food has been exceptional this season, and the event staff has pulled these events off flawlessly. Even if you are not racing, come down, eat and socialize. Besides, if you get there early, you are almost guaranteed there will be some "Chesters" ice cream for you. At around \$10 per person it is an inexpensive night out for you and your sweetie. Now that we have some light over the cashier station, the food will stay out until the last boat is in!

I hate to say it, but mid-August is also the time of year that things start winding down, even if it is just a little, at the club. The sun starts to dip below the horizon a little earlier in the evening, the junior sailor program has ended, and hopefully the moon didn't interfere too much with the cruisers viewing the Perseid meteor showers. While the water temperature remains around a pleasant 74 degrees, the air temp has fluctuated a little, and some evenings have been downright brisk. For those with student-athletes, preseason two-a-days for football, soccer, field hockey or cross-country start to compete with boat time, making it harder and harder to get to the club. Pretty soon, the

stewards will head back to campus to start the fall semester. We thank them for a job well done, wish them safe travels if they are going away, and if not, hope they can still squeeze in some time for us until fall workday. Show any appreciation directly or participate in the 'Stewards' Fund' in December.

I got some feedback from last month's Commodore Corner, probably the most since I started my tenure. Surprisingly, it was all positive! Thanks for reading it, but also thanks for understanding the message. In case you missed it or forgot it, the message is that we all come to LCYC to relax; it is a place where we come to unwind. I indicated there were two sides to the club, the physical or facilities side, and then there is the cultural side. The physical side was the buildings, grounds, harbor, docks, etc. The cultural side included the sailboat racing, the potlucks, the cookouts, the burger burns, yoga nights and other things I'm likely forgetting. Yes, we have rules for the safe operation of the club, but the vibe is what keeps us here.

While I was talking with Dale Hyerstay about "Commodore stuff" a couple of days before the Ladies Cup, Dale pointed out that membership turnover at the club is pretty regular, indicating that we get a certain number of new members every year, and after a certain number of years, a large portion of the membership is relatively new. The discussion was more about maintaining traditions, race history and overall institutional knowledge. I say it was about keeping the vibe.

With summer slipping into fall, our time here on the lakeshore is precious, offering fewer and fewer opportunities where weather, wind, sunshine, free time and boating all align. As participation starts to wane and the full-time Stewards who remain start transitioning to part-time, after Labor Day, you may encounter some hiccups. So again, I challenge you, the membership to engage with the newer members. I challenge the newer members to participate, come to an organized event—a burger burn, potluck, corn roast or Oktoberfest. Having a member-run club is part of the culture, so this fall while the club is still in operation, come help drive the launch, manage the recy-

cling, stock the bathrooms with toiletries or sweep up the kitchen. You don't have to do a lot, but if we all do a little, then nobody has to do it all.

To make life a little easier on our volunteers and board members, we are going to try a couple of new things regarding your membership renewal and dues payments. The renewal process is a huge imposition on the membership secretary. We have over 200 members who each get an envelope mailed to them with a questionnaire and dues invoice. This all has to be completed around Thanksgiving, and payments are received by the end of the year. If you are like most families, you might have a couple of other things going on at that time of year, so we are trying to make life simpler.

We have been working out ways to e-mail out the membership registration form and dues invoices. We are also working on ways to collect this information electronically and accept

electronic fund transfers for payments. If you subscribe to the club e-mail communication that comes out at the beginning of each week, you should be all set. If you don't, you should ensure that your e-mail in the log is accurate. We plan on a couple of tests before the "money shot." There are bound to be a couple of bumps as we roll out this process, so we ask for your patience as we optimize. We will still take a check or cash, but no credit cards, PayPal- or Venmo-type transfers as of this writing.

As far as current events, Chris Sabick from the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum will be here as part of our Friday Speakers' Series on August 23, talking about the latest wicked cool stuff they are doing with old photos that help in the management of shipwrecks in the lake. You might remember Chris from his presentation last year about shipwrecks in Shelburne Bay. The program starts at 7pm, right after the LCYC Corn Roast, which begins at 6pm.



Medical team cooking up a storm. At the grill, from left to right: Heidi Lessard, RN, Steve Schreer, Retired General Dentist, Paul Boerman, Oral Surgeon. On Wednesday, August 7, Mother Nature provided a challenge for the sailors and all the volunteers, but the race was completed and great food was served. A fine night for all! *Dianne Schreer photo.*

2019 Ladies Cup

Race photos by Paul O. Boisvert. Awards photos by Doug Merrill.



Three generations of the Beaudin family teamed up to finish first overall on corrected time in their J105.



Junior skipper winner, Parker Downing, who sailed his family's Etchells, Lady Falcon.





LCYC Member Spotlight: The Knight Family

When did you join LCYC, and why did you do so?

We joined LCYC in the summer of 2013. Kristin was about 6 months pregnant with our first son (Calvin). Ben convinced her to join with the promise of clean bathrooms and the stewards driving us and our infant to our boat!

What's your boating background?

Ben started sailing in high school, when his best friend's family bought a family cruiser. After that came the time-honored progression of slightly larger and more expensive sailboats. Kristin came along for the sailing ride when she and Ben began dating. Ben had just bought a 1970s Cal 20. The first time he raised the sails was sailing off the dock at Shelburne Shipyard. Kristin thought she was embarking on an afternoon tour. Instead, she received an 8-hour shakedown cruise to Malletts Bay. The Cal 20 served us well, bumping around the lake, overnighting at Valcour, flying its orange jack-o'lantern spinnaker.

Tell us about your current boat or boats.

We own a 1985 Ericson 32 sailboat. We purchased this from a couple in Maine in the summer of 2011. We knew we wanted a larger boat for the family we wanted to have, and this was a great fit. We've enjoyed many nights aboard and small day cruises.

What's the most interesting/fun/unusual experience you've had while boating?

We chartered a barebones boat out of Tortolo, BVI, with another couple for 10 days. It was an incredible trip. We enjoyed sailing from one island to the other in a quick few hours, seeing the local culture, snorkeling and seeing what it was like to live on a boat for 10 days. We can't wait to do another trip when our kids are a bit older.

What other hobbies, pastimes or interests do you have besides boating?

We have two young children, Calvin (5) and Elliot (3), and they take up the majority of our "free" time. We try to get outside as often as



Kristin, Ben, Calvin and Elliot Knight

possible, hiking, biking, swimming and most recently kayaking and paddle-boarding. Calvin started downhill skiing last winter, and Kristin is looking forward to when the whole family can start skiing in the winters.

Where did you grow up? If not from Vermont, what brought you here?

Ben grew up in St. Albans, Vermont and Kristin grew up in Vergennes, Vermont.

What do you do for a living?

Kristin works at Mi9Retail (previously MyWebGrocer) in Winooski, Vermont. She's a manager and project manager there. The company supplies eCommerce solutions for grocery stores to allow customers to shop online and request pickup or delivery service for their grocery shopping needs. Ben works at BioTek in Winooski, Vermont. He is an engineer in product development, working on automated microscope vision systems.

How does your family participate in LCYC?

We try very hard to participate in as many LCYC events that are the right fit for our family. We try to make many of the Wednesday night burger burns, family day, speaker series and the new yoga evenings this summer. Ben

“owns” the maintenance of the play-set. You will most likely see him and our children (Calvin and Elliot), among other families with young children, staining, replacing boards, or other upkeep on the play-set during work-days. Kristin is the Secretary/Membership Chair on the Board of Governors. She’s really enjoyed the opportunity to serve on the board, and it has provided a lot of insight into how much work it takes to run the club and how many amazing volunteers we have within our LCYC community.

Is there one LCYC event you always make sure you attend?

We always try to make it to Flatbread pizza nights, at least one or two of the speaker series, and family day.

Has LCYC changed at all over the time you’ve been a member?

We’ve seen a lot of members with younger families join the club recently and start to participate in club activities. We love having other

young kids for our children to play with and hope to entice some of these families to cruise together as our kids’ age.

If you could change one thing about LCYC, what would it be?

We would love to see LCYC invest in more non-boating water activities, such as paddle-boards or kayaks. As our kids are getting older, we are working up to more overnights on the boat, but have found that alternate water activities have been another way to continue using the club and getting our kids exposure to the water. We bought kid kayaks for the boys and a paddle-board for ourselves. We’ve love using them at the club to make our way to the swim platform or the small beach (pebble beach, as we call it) near the walking paths on the south side of the mooring field. It would be great to see the south side of the club reorganized to provide better storage for members’ kayaks and paddle-boards and for the club itself to purchase and lend out some of these as well.



Photo John Dupee

Junior Sailing Champ Chase Regatta

Alan Ouellette photos



Family Day a Huge Success



By Ann Clark, Social Chair
Photos by Jenny Leopold

The north lawn of LCYC was transformed into a children’s magical playground for Family Day, as approximately 200 adults and children attended the event. Children from the ages of two weeks old to adolescence came accompanied by parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends to enjoy this special event.

Bubbles were constantly in the air as children enjoyed a twirling ride from Mike of Blue Trunk and happy children could be heard saying, “I’m flying!” as they were on the ride. A bouncy house complete with a climbing wall and slide was also very popular, and the Sidell-Lamb families were very busy throughout the afternoon helping children of all ages make their own sailboats from special kits that Tony Lamb had designed. Junior Sailing instructor Jack Merrill was happily occupied both on land and on water helping adults and children rig Flying Juniors. Jack then followed sailors on the lake in the RIB to make certain everyone was having a fun time.

Children enjoyed face painting, and even adults joined children as our Henna artist created designs on their hands. A highlight of the event was make-your-own sundaes where every conceivable yummy topping was available, ranging from gummy bears, M&Ms, Reese’s Pieces, sprinkles, and chocolate and caramel sauces. Dessert followed with cotton candy from the on-site cotton-candy machine.

It was wonderful to see our young members in attendance with their beautiful children and also grandparents, aunts and uncles, and friends with little ones in tow. My grandchildren cannot wait for Family Day 2020 at LCYC!







LCYC Members Learn about Submarine Life

At one of our best-attended Speakers' Series to date, LCYC members were treated to stories about life aboard a nuclear attack submarine. Retired Captain Mark Lenci talked about a day in the life of a submariner as well as stories about other events in his career in the U.S. Navy, including training, some of his involvement in special ops, going under the ice at the North Pole and submarine life in general. Club members had lots of questions, and it was certainly an evening to remember.

The talk followed on the heels of another well-attended event—a dessert potluck. Many thanks to social chair Ann Clark and her crew for putting that together!



Photos by John Dupee

This Friday—Final Speakers' Series of 2019: A 3D Look at Lake Champlain Shipwrecks

Chris Sabick, from the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, will be showing the latest in imaging technology. Known as Photogrammetry, it's a recording technique that makes 3D models from photographs. The process will aid in long-term management of the collection of shipwrecks in Lake Champlain. It should be a fascinating way to see the amazing collection of shipwrecks under the waters on which we sail. Chris presented last year about shipwrecks in Shelburne Bay, and it was one of the highlights of our Speakers' Series. This one promises to be equally good.

The program starts at 7pm, Friday, August 23, right after the LCYC Corn Roast, which begins at 6pm. The two events should make for a great evening at the club. Don't miss either!



Transitions

Former LCYC member Trent Toensing passed away on August 4, 2019. He joined LCYC in 2002 after purchasing *Mame*, Steele Griswold's Tartan 41, a boat he'd long coveted. He had a great story about his lengthy interview with Steele to pass the litmus test to be deemed a 'worthy owner' when she was put up for sale. He loved participating in the Champagne Race, doing battle with *Southern Cross*—owned and skippered by his son Todd—to see who would cross the line first.

Trent was also an avid birder, and one of our favorite stories was convincing him that there was an eagle frequently seen on Sloop Island. He was thrilled to report he'd seen it. We all had a good laugh when he realized the oversized bird was fake, and it still reminds us of Trent every time we sail past the island.

His friendly smile and cheerful banter will be missed by all who knew him at LCYC.

There will be a celebration of Trent's life later this year. In lieu of flowers, please send a donation to the Upper Valley Aquatic Club (<https://uvacswim.org/about/support-uvac/>).

--Lynnea and Leonard Rosner





Around the Club

August Cruising News

By Lynnea Rosner, Cruising Chair



The 2019 Champagne Race took place under ideal conditions, a steady 10-12 knot south breeze that didn't fade with the usual 2:00 o'clock flats. Seven boats raced to Kingsland Bay, with MOOvin' taking the honors of crossing the line first (we obviously need to change Doug's

start time next year!). Decoy came in second, and Malaga rounded out winners finishing third. Everyone had a great sail.

Special thanks go to Penny and Shell Rieley for setting the finish line and serving as committee boat, and Barb and Bob Schumacher for transporting the grills and food. Thankfully the weather god provided good weather—although a number of dark clouds with lots of rumbles and rain appeared during the shore party, they parted, with threatening cells going either side of us, avoiding a repeat of the mayhem of the 2016 race.

On August 1st, we finally had a forecast for N wind, making an impromptu weekend cruise possible, starting with the concert at Snow Farm on South Hero on Thursday evening.



The crowd at Snow Farm Winery concert.

A number of us sailed to White's Beach where we were joined by others who believed the L&V portion of the forecast—it turned out to be great sail. With Burlington so close to LCYC, spending a night in the harbor was something we'd never done and was on others 'bucket lists too. So, Friday we sailed to Burlington and picked up moorings to take in some of the Festival of Fools performances on Church Street. The world-class buskers treated a packed Church St. to some great acts.



Dark Star sailing in the Champagne Race.

Those that arrived by car boosted the number to 40 attending the awards/potluck celebration.



The party at Kingsland Bay State Park after the Champagne Race.



Festival of Fools performer.

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After walking to the Burlington Farmer’s Market on Pine St. Saturday morning, we had front row seats for the start of the Ladies Cup, and several practice heats of the Dragon Boats starting right off our sterns.



Dragon boat practice

While the wind was light for some of the Ladies Cup fleet, it was sufficient for our group to sail over to Willsboro for the night. Sunday was a fast sail to Converse Bay riding the fresh north breeze before returning to LCYC Monday, rounding out a great impromptu cruise. Cruising doesn’t get much better than this!

The five LCYC moorings in Converse Bay have been switched to all ½” chain. The four LCYC moorings in Kingsland Bay will be changed to ½” chain next year, which will bring the cruising moorings up to LCYC harbor standards.



A steam power launch on Kingsland Bay.

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House Report



By Tom Glynn, House Chair

Our custodian, Randy Mushtare, had hip replacement surgery in late July. I'm happy to report that he is recuperating well and should be back at work keeping the clubhouse looking great by September 1. In the meantime, the stewards, coordinated by Lead Steward Gabrielle Booth, have stepped into the breach and assumed additional responsibilities to take care of the building. If you should see one of them cleaning or refilling paper towel dispensers, please say "Thank you." We are fortunate to have them take this on. It would have been very difficult to find outside help to fill in for Randy.

Looking to the immediate future, we have entered into an agreement with JRB Enterprises to renovate the three restrooms. JRB is headed up by Jason Bushey whom many of you may know from time he has spent crewing in LCYC races or projects he may have done in your own homes. Jason and his work come highly recommended, and I am certain he will be a pleasure to work with. Work is expected to begin in late September. While this will involve some impact on ongoing club functions, every effort will be made to minimize the inconvenience. The membership's flexibility

and cooperation will help get the work completed sooner rather than later. We will keep you posted of progress via club e-mail.

With the restroom project scheduled, we are beginning to plan for next year. The biggest project being contemplated is replacing the clubhouse roof. At workday last fall, the membership was surveyed regarding how to address the clubhouse cupola as we undertake this project. By a substantial margin, the membership voted to retain the cupola and skylight with steps taken to stop the leaks. We will be soliciting proposals from contractors for this project over the winter. If you know of a roofing contractor you would recommend for this project, please forward contact information to the House Chair.

There are still a few weeks of good boating weather ahead, so get out and enjoy them before we put the club to bed for its long winter's nap.

Reminder about Private Events at LCYC: All private events expecting ten or more attendees require submission of an application to the House Chair. The application forms are available on the LCYC website. Please remember that private events of ten or more attendees are only allowed on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and require a fee of \$3.00 per person as well as an insurance policy naming the Club as an insured party.



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From the Weather Mark



By James Unsworth,
Regatta Chair

As is tradition, as soon as the season ramps us, it's late August and fall sailing is right around the corner. This year, we racers are anxious to see if it brings any breeze! It has been a tough sailing season, especially on Wednesdays. Hopefully, between the time I am drafting this article and its publication, we have had a honker around "P-Mark" and back . . . always a crowd pleaser!

Dale Hyerstay had a trial run of a new event following the news that the Regatta for Lake Champlain would not be held this year called the "Mid-Lake Race." There was a very strong showing in the Spin C Fleet with eight boats competing. Four of them were J/105's in various configurations. It is exciting to see the beginnings of a large "one-design-ish" fleet!

Our flagship race, The Ladies Cup, was sailed in mixed conditions on Saturday, August 3. There was adequate breeze for most of the 12.6 NM course; however, the very end of

the race saw dead-calm conditions, and many boats consolidated for a drift to the finish. The end of the race was celebrated with cold libations back at the club before, during and after the awards. All results are posted on the website. Congrats to the Beaudin's *Loulou* for the corrected overall win. Team Beaudin included patriarch Marcel onboard along with three generations of Beaudins. The first place LCYC boat and winner of the Ladies Cup was *Sundance*, with Tom Glynn and crew edging out *Rogue* (Marti/Cloutier/Fisher) by just 12 seconds corrected time. Tight racing to say the least.

September is one of the finest sailing months on the lake, so make sure your bottom is clean and the boat is race ready. We still have Wednesday night races through September 25 (please note the time change for D-Series), two Etchells/Sportboat weekend races, the Commodore Macdonough and the Hot Ruddered Bum to wrap up the LCYC sailing season.

And mark your calendars for October 5 at 6pm, which is the awards night. We are bringing it back to the club this year. Fare will include American Flatbread Pizza. Drinks will be BYOB. See you there!

Scuttlebutt (Editor's notes)



Good news on the crew training front. We have begun to overcome one deficit in the American education system and they have begun to learn how to tie bowlines. However there is still work to be done. After one of the

crew asked if he could mark the corners of a new spinnaker-head, tack, and clew, I noticed that he had spelled clew, clue. No wonder Mrs. Dingman, my sixth grade teacher wept.

There was another report of two kayakers drowning on Malletts Bay when they were hit by a sudden squall. It was reported that they were not wearing life jackets.

I knew one of them, John Duncan. He taught both of my children social studies in middle school. He and his teaching partner were famous for their school field trips. An

annual trip to Washington, D.C., involved loading sixty kids onto regular school buses, filling a U-Haul truck up with camping gear and driving first to Gettysburg battlefield where everyone camped out. Next day they drove to a county park in Maryland, just outside of DC where, for three more nights, they would camp. Each morning the busses would deliver the kids and chaperones into the city. What an experience! Can you imagine trying to do that these days.

John was a very good athlete and generally a careful man. The circumstances of his death suggest that the blowing spray caused by the squall played a factor.

I have not been able to find much information on the sea spray effect except that spray hoods are sold on line. In any case, it is clear that a life jacket can only help. Wear them.

Peace, Tony