



# the Binnacle

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

Commodore: Charlie Van Winkle

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Director of Club Communications: Dave Powlison

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*Andrea O'Hearne photo.*

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## Commodore's Corner



*By Charlie Van Winkle,  
Commodore*

On Friday, August 21, we had a very well-received ice cream social—maybe I should call it an “anti-social”—organized by Social Chair Heidi Lessard. I say “anti-social” because folks observed appropriate

social distancing while enjoying the delights. The goods were provided by Sisters of Anarchy Ice Cream, offering a true “farm-to-cone” experience. I tried the “Crystal Blue Persuasion” (who’s old enough to remember the band that had a hit song with this title?) and was not disappointed by the blueberry and vanilla concoction.

It has been a long, hot, weird summer. I was hoping to spur some kind of LCYC community-building event ever since we had to cancel Family Day and thought giving away ice cream for two hours on a Friday night outdoors might be the ticket. The Board approved, and Heidi made it happen, so thanks, Heidi!

The Board recently also recently approved a membership application for a third-generation family member—John Hill, son of members Jeff and Dorothy, grandson of recently awarded honorary member Bruce Hill. However, John is not the first third-gen member to join the club. Our current Regatta Chair, James Unsworth, is also following the membership lead of father and grandfather. With the club being around for 133 years, there may be other third-gen members out there whom I am missing, so my apologies in advance. As an interesting side note, the rescheduled Ladies Cup was run on August 22, and the overall winner was *That 70's Show*, skippered by none other than our newest member, John Hill. Way to make an entrance, my friend!

So here we are, May, June, July and, by the time you read this, August will probably be in the books. The days are getting shorter, and the winds are starting to have a distinct coolness to them, signaling the oncoming fall and end of the season. I started my first column of the year

with Whiskey Tango Foxtrot (WTF?), not knowing what to expect or how the club would operate. To my surprise, I think we offered a positive LCYC experience this summer. Definitely different, but still positive. Many of us got to enjoy a less-crowded lake and explore anchorages we formerly could only get into on a weekday morning. I hope you came to the club, got out on the lake or otherwise enjoyed the summer. COVID stuff aside, it’s still been a great one.

We do have some club business to attend to, which occurs at the annual meeting. If you weren’t aware of it, the bylaws require a fall annual meeting, and the meeting usually happens at the conclusion of fall workday, just before lunch. The nominating committee is meeting to solicit volunteers for opening Board positions, and once nominated, the membership votes on the slate of candidates at the annual meeting. So the question is, how or when do we hold the annual meeting?

Closing workday will likely be the reverse of how the club opened. The docks will come out on the October 17 because Mike had to reserve the forklift early, facing competition from the hemp harvesters. But that is about it. It is likely we will segregate the tasks into smaller groups, perhaps completing some, if not all of them in advance of October 17. I’ve asked the task force to develop a strategy for closing up the club, and working with the Board Chairs, we will develop a plan and get it ironed out in the upcoming weeks. The closing workday strategy will be communicated via the web page and e-mail. Depending on which committee you are on, you will likely get a phone call or e-mail directly from a Board Chair to assist in completing some of the tasks. As a member, you may see some of the club equipment being put away early, such as the junior sailing boats and perhaps one of the launches. Our intent is to allow you the full season you expected.

So back to the annual meeting—the good news is that we have no controversial bylaw jazz to talk about this year. In fact, we currently don’t have anything other than the need to

vote on new Board members and give the membership the opportunity to bitch at the Commodore. It might be one of your last chances, as my term ends in January. I know it will be hard to get folks to come to the club just for a meeting so perhaps as an incentive, we call the Sisters of Anarchy back for another ice cream “anti-social”? The farm-to-cone experience is not to be missed. Stay tuned.

Remember, play smart and stay safe.

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## 2020 Yachtspersons of the Year Award

Former Commodore Bob Schumacher recently presented the Yachtsperson of the Year award to Wes Daum and Beth Thorpe. Congratulations to Wes and Beth for their great contributions to LCYC!

The Yachtsperson of the Year Award was created in 1973 by the Board of Governors to give special recognition to a club member, not then an officer or board member, who has shown outstanding participation in and service to the club. It is awarded each year by vote of the Board of Governors. It is normally awarded at a club social event.

## New Members

### *John Hill*

I'm excited to continue the Hill family legacy at LCYC. I grew up at the club sailing with my parents, Jeff and Dorothy, and my grandfather, Bruce. My fondest memories are of my grandfather's iconic sailboat, *Golden Dazy*. I joined the junior sailing program when I was eight years old and then went on to become the head instructor of the program before moving to California for school.

In California, I coached sailing at the Long Beach Yacht Club and San Francisco Yacht Club. From my time in California, I'm most proud of rejuvenating the Club Collegiate Sailing Team at California State University of Long Beach and leading the team to a College Sailing National Championship appearance. After spending seven years in California, I'm back home in Vermont and living in South Burlington with my girlfriend, Aleksey.

I currently own a Laser, but have aspirations of owning a keelboat in the near future. Keep an eye out on the racecourse for me because I can't wait to get back to racing on beautiful Lake Champlain!



### *Tom Lynch, Aika Inoue and Ken Lynch*

Tom grew up sailing on Lake George. He learned to sail at the Lake George Club in Diamond Point, first sailing Optimists, then Lasers in competitive youth races on Lake George and Lake Champlain. Together with his father and mother (Chris and Pat Lynch), Tom would skipper the family-owned J/22 in club races at the Lake George Club, beginning in middle school all the way through high school. The Lynch family was part of the founding fleet of J/22s at the Lake George Club. Aika and Tom met in Japan almost 20 years ago. She learned to sail over the years on Lake George with Tom's parents and at LCYC with Tom's aunt and uncle (Mike and Lois Lynch). Likewise, Ken (age 11) has sharpened his sailing skills with Mike and Lois on Calypso. Ken has also participated in several youth programs at the Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center over the years. In addition, Ken has grown up spending a lot of time around the water at Lake George – swimming, sailing, tubing and, lately, waterskiing!



Tom and Aika recently purchased *Tuition*, the Hunter 28.5 that has been kept at LCYC for many years. With Ken now ready and willing to help out on the boat, the time was right for the family to hit the water together.

We look forward to meeting other sailing families at LCYC and using the club as a base for both daysailing and some weekend cruising!

# Sweet Summertime Nostalgia



By Heidi K. Lessard, Social Chair

August days at LCYC can often bring back sweet childhood memories of simple pleasures, whether jumping off your boat into the lake, waving to summer friends and familiar faces out on the water, or swimming off the swim platform. For many, these simple pleasures reconnect and remind us of what really matters and rejuvenate us. It is no wonder so many are passionate about continuing these traditions as adults with our children and grandchildren along with fellow members—or as one might say, our “boating family.” However you have enjoyed this summer, within its restrictions, spending time with people who share a similar passion for boating feels like being home. LCYC's members have grown stronger socially in many ways, awakening opportunities and goals both on and off the water. A sweet gift! The kindness we extend toward one another each summer makes it a true privilege to be a part of.

The Social Committee was pleased to give away ice cream on a Friday in late August that shared with us a bit of rain, fog and then finally sunshine right in time for the first scoop of ice cream served by our friends from Sisters of Anarchy Ice Cream Company. What an absolute delight to see families grab a cone before heading out on their boats for an evening sail, cruisers stopping by to catch a round of treats before a meeting of the minds to discuss cruising excursions as well



as a couple dedicated racers wandering up from the lake to take a break and cool off from practice before calling it a day. Our wonderful and hardworking stewards also made an appearance, joining in on the ice cream sugar high.

As summer's sunsets begin to turn into September's glow, we look forward to the change of season ahead and continuing ways to stay creatively connected.



# Ladies Cup— Second Time's a Charm



After the first try was abandoned due to lack of wind, LCYC tried again on August 22, and although the day presented some challenging and quite varied conditions, the race was completed. Congratulations to new member John Hill for winning the historic trophy with the J70, *THAT 70 SHOW*. Also, a big shout out to PRO Keith Kennedy and his assistant, Kathy Manning, for persevering and making this event happen! Photography by Gerry Davis and Kathy



John Hill



PRO Keith Kennedy and Kathy Manning







# Ah, Thursday Night Racing

## LCYC Singlehanded Sailors in Shelburne Bay

Andrea O’Hearne and Doug Merrill photos.





# Perseid Meteor Cruise 2020

Gunnar Sievert photos





# Monday Night Etchells Series

Mark Gardner photos





# Around the Club

## Grounds



*By Wes Daum, Grounds Chair*

After several weeks of dotting I's and crossing T's, the parking lot lights went up in a half an hour with the help of Adam Dantzcher. They are being tweaked so that they will only be on a short while so that club members can get to their cars safely in the dark.

Fall workday is coming up, and there are a number of chores that need to be accomplished. There are dead and dying bushes that need to be tended, and in general a lot of trimming needs to be done. Poison ivy is less potent in the fall, so if anyone isn't allergic please let me know. The front bank needs some selective pruning.

There are plans afoot to spruce up the tool shed when the weather gets cooler. That should be done before fall workday.

As always DON'T park on the lawn unless there are no spots in the graveled areas and NEVER park under the trees. Apparently I can't say that often enough.

## Junior Sailing



*By Bill Kallcock, Junior Sailing Chair*

The Junior Sailing program finished up the small group lessons on August 13th. Our instructors, Jack Merrill and Emma Hawko, taught 90 lessons to 30 different family units. Since these were "family units," we probably served about 40 different families this summer. We had lots of families return for multiple lessons, which speaks highly of the instructors and the program. Given the number of lessons and no COVID-19 cases, it was a definitely a successful season.



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## From the Weather Mark



*By James Unsworth, Regatta Chair*

In what can only be described as “making lemonade,” we have had a pretty successful sailing season so far! The main focus this summer has been the Wednesday night series and the Etchells series.

In an effort to make sure folks play it safe and “run what they brung,” we have allowed boats to swap between JAM and SPIN for this season. Some have been taking us up on it, depending on how many crew they have on a given night. We are also not scoring the Wednesday night races as a series, but rather individual races so as to make sure racers do not feel the need to sail each and every race. We thought this general “keep-it-mellow” mentality would encourage teams to head out and enjoy the evenings. On average, we have been seeing about 30 boats on the line on Wednesdays, which is terrific!

On the Etchells front, the racing has been topnotch! With a mix of traditionally crewed boats and some shorthanded sailing (not as easy as some make it look!), many races have had the entire fleet rounding marks within a minute of one another and many times, within seconds! The Etchells fleet has decided to casually score its races in a series for the “Corona Cup.” They are racing for the Mexican lager, not the novel virus. The spread from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> is only eight points, so look for continued hot racing!

Weekend races have been tough! The Doublehanded Race was rescheduled, then started and subsequently abandoned due to lack of wind on July 25. The Ladies Cup was originally scheduled for August 1, but was also cancelled due to no wind. The Ladies Cup was then rescheduled for August 22 and, despite a light-wind start, was completed. Many congratulations to John Hill, one of LCYC “newest” members (although John is a third-generation club member) on taking home the glory in the Hill’s J/70, *That 70’s Show*. Ladies Cup results as well as all other 2020 results are posted on the LCYC website.

Singlehanded dinghy sailing on Thursday evenings was a new addition to the LCYC racing lineup for this COVID-impacted season. What better way to social distance and participate in the sport we love? It has been an overwhelming success with about 20 different boats participating over the course of the summer and an average of more than a dozen boats each night. Our fleet consists of three RS Aeros (a 21<sup>st</sup>-century successor to the Laser) and Lasers, but any singlehanded dinghy is welcome.

Participants range in from age 14 to 70 and from beginners to decades-long Laser racers to folks getting back into Lasers for the first time in decades. For this inaugural season, we kept things fun with no SIs, no scoring and plenty of on-the-water coaching. We have had phenomenal support from the club in terms of allowing non-member participation, members providing loaner boats and members being willing to serve as race committee. Special thanks to Bill Wight, Bob Finn, Tris Coffin, Fritz Horton, and Steve and Michelle Walkerman, all of whom served as race committee, as well as steward Will Moody, who ran the mark boat all season. The fleet wraps things up on September 3, but is looking forward to an even better season in 2021!

We still have a handful of Wednesday nights on the calendar. There are also Etchells races on September 5 and September 19. The weekend races still left are the Commodore Macdonough on September 12 and the Hot Ruddered Bum on September 26. Late summer racing at it’s finest!

Lastly, due to the pandemic, I have been a little delayed in working to get last year’s perpetual trophies returned. I will be reaching out to folks directly, but in the meantime, please track down your trophies from last year and get them back to me when you can.

As always, a ton of thanks to our RC volunteers, and I hope to see everyone on the water for some more racing!

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# Stewards



*By John Stetson, Stewards' Chair*

We have been very fortunate to have a terrific core of returning stewards and an enthusiastic team of first-year stewards. To a person, they have rolled up their sleeves and done what was needed to help open the club and keep us safe during the summer. The crew, led by Head Steward Jack Main, has quietly disinfected boats, bathrooms and contact-tracing pens, as well as their normal tasks of delivering members and guests to their boats, taking out trash, etc., all while donning a fine collection of facemasks. You may not have been able to see when they were smiling, but it is likely that they were enjoying conversation with their passengers. Bo and Andrew, our other returning stewards,

have provided invaluable training and mentoring to the new stewards, Will, Parker, Grace, Ethan and Gabby. From a Chair's perspective, this has been a wonderful group to work with.

The US Coast Guard licensing process for the stewards continues to be a challenge. Courses have been cancelled and then offered on Zoom, testing periods have been delayed, and review periods for applications have been anything but prompt. Clearly, the Coast Guard has been as affected by COVID as the rest of the world.

August is when the stewards begin to think about returning to school. This year is no different, except that they really do not know quite what to expect. Some are going back to in-person experiences while others are destined for a virtual classroom, or a hybrid of both; one is delaying to January and another is taking a virtual gap year. While this is tough news for the stewards, it means that we may have better coverage during September than was anticipated. That said, the landscape continues to shift, and change is what we have become accustomed to this summer. Please stay tuned.

Bo has taken over as the Head Steward. He will work closely with Andrew to schedule the gang for September. We will be planning reduced hours after Labor Day, particularly weekday mornings, and will begin to button up the Club a little earlier in the evening as the daylight wanes. While we may not need as many volunteers as in the past, we will weave them into the schedule to assure coverage during the planned hours of operation.

We currently have 12 volunteer stewards on the roster! Many thanks! As the schedule is refined, we will let folks know what is needed. Please make sure to visit with the stewards prior to your shift to review any changes to the boats and COVID requirements, and to brush up on your skills.



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### Scuttlebutt (Editor's notes)



The Commodore mentions multi-generational member families in his "corner" in this issue.

Older members will remember Bill and Pat Brown, who were members for many years.

Their daughter Chris and her husband Jack Chase, (designed and made the Adventure Trophy for the club) and their son Bill and his wife Jill were members as well .

In addition to these two Bill Browns, there was another unrelated member who was also named Bill Brown. In order to keep them apart they were referred to informally as Bill Brown, Sr., Bill Brown, Jr., and Bill Brown, The Other.

When the club nominating committee (which is made up of the Commodore and all of the past Commodores of the Club) meets to consider who to nominate to fill empty slots on the Board of Governors, the first item on the agenda is a report by the current Commodore on "the state of the club." The goal is to alert the committee of the challenges the Board has faced and is expected to face going forward. The hope is that this will insure that the nominees will have any special skills needed to address what is to come. It is really an informal discussion but one could not listen to Commodore Charlie Van Winkle's report and not be impressed with how the leadership and membership of the club has responded to the unprecedented challenge presented by

### COVID-19.

I am sure he will acknowledge elsewhere some of the many individuals who stepped up and offered their expertise and those Board members who made up the "COVID response committee", but as one of the benefactors of those efforts I could not let this opportunity go by without saying my thanks to all those who obviously gave great thought to the Club's response.

Another thanks to the stewards who really had to navigate handling the members. I am reminded of the Facebook post that said, "Seeing how people wear their masks I now understand why birth control does not work."

I bought a new boat a couple of years ago. A J 105, which some think of as one of the first sportboats (until all of the real sportboats came on the scene). Asym spinnaker, sparse down below, light, fast, easy to board. Almost thought of it as the equivalent to the stereo type sports car older guys buy to preserve that feeling of being young. (I already have the cute blond.)

So then Sherm White starts crewing for me. He is used to sailing on a big heavy boat with a symmetrical spinnaker. It was hard to climb up on.

Next thing I know, he starts hollering at anyone who will listen, "This is an old person's boat".

There goes my youthful image of myself. (At least now I won't be tempted to paint it red.)

Peace,  
Tony Lamb