



# the Binnacle

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

Commodore: Walt Marti

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## Aero Regatta

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## **Commodore's Corner**



*By Walt N. Marti, Commodore*

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With August wrapping up, it's fun to look back at all the activities and unique events this Summer at LCYC. There have been some fantastic ones since the last Binnacle:

• Multiple Yoga on the Lawn Sessions (thank you, Heather Main!)

- Commodores' Potluck
- Ye Ol' Fashioned Burger Burn
- Champagne Race (a shout-out to the Rosners for stepping in and coordinating the Cruising events while Gunnar was out of commission)
- Boat Show
- Ladies Cup
- Family Day
- Lasagna Extravaganza
- Corn Roast

In addition:

- The South End Project is coming along
- Junior Sailing wrapped up their season (see article in this issue of The Binnacle)
- Countless "Volunteer Stewards" have stepped up to ensure continuity of our launch service

It truly takes a village to make it all happen—a sincere thank you to all who have volunteered their time and energy to make LCYC the special place it is.

Speaking of volunteering, you must enter your hours for 2022 in the database. If you need assistance, please get in touch with Betsey Dempsey or reach out to me.

If you are looking for a way to fulfill your required eight (8) hours, please reach out to your committee chair or me for ideas.

September is a great month to be out on the water, and there are some significant events coming up (and lots of opportunities to volunteer):

- Burger Burn
- Cruiser Potluck's (2)

- Oktoberfest
- Pizza Night
- Macdonough Breakfast
- Hot Ruddered Bum Social
- Awards Event

Check out the LCYC calendar on the website for more information.

Keep reading to catch up on other great things happening at LCYC.

I look forward to seeing you soon at LCYC or out on the water!





## **Meet Our New Members**

### **George and Lynn Zipf**

We recently moved from Washington, DC to South Burlington, VT, taking advantage of remote work opportunities. While we are not boat owners yet, we were members of a sailing club in Maryland and went out on the Chesapeake Bay frequently. Our club encouraged members to assist with upkeep and maintenance of the boats, and we hope we can help at LCYC.

Sailing highlights for us include a trip around the DelMarVa peninsula, taking the ASA 103/104 in the BVI, and a recent five-day trip on a Catamaran in Buzzards Bay. On the DelMarVa trip we had the 0200-0600 shift while twelve miles offshore – a truly amazing experience! That said, we love being on or in the water anywhere.

We are grateful for the wonderful reception we have received and are glad to have joined



## **Kim and Frans von Boden**

Kim, Cooper (our lab) and I just recently moved back to VT from MA in June. We love to be outside exploring the Greens, Lake Champlain and all the fun things VT has to offer. We decided to join LCYC for the great Lake access it provides, beautiful grounds and friendly atmosphere of the club. We are on the mooring waitlist in the hopes to purchase a small sailboat once we have a mooring. For now, we love coming down to the club to use our kayaks and enjoy the lake views. We look forward to meeting other club members!

Best,

Kim and Frans von Boden



## **Ladies Cup, 2022.**



The Ladies Cup Winner was 'Bertha' crewed by Drew Hamilton, Connor Aswad, and James Unsworth.

Blue skies, light winds, hot and humid. Ah, summertime in Vermont.

It was a grand day for the Ladies Cup, LCYC's premier racing event of the season. The fleet for the race was larger than we've seen in previous years. We had visiting boats from Plattsburgh, Diamond Island and a large contingent of our French Canadian friends at Club De Voile Point Au Fer Sailing Club in Mooney Bay.

A modest southerly breeze greeted the fleet as they headed out to the broad lake. The race committee of Fritz Horton, Berne Collins, Larry Robinson, and Bob DeSorbo envisioned a course showcasing the capabilities of our new MS Bots (automated race marks). The course for this year's Ladies Cup was two windward/leeward legs and then a final leg to the club for the finish. The weather mark was to "hover" (on the water!) over a mile southwest of the Dinse which was anchored near Juniper Ledge. The racecourse displayed the potential of the MS Bots, allowing the Race Committee to set a course in the broad lake free of geographic influences and in any depth.

The fleet of 40 boats was broken into two starts with the spinnaker boats starting first. The start of the Ladies Cup is extremely exciting, filled with boats vying for any advantage at the start line, seeking to start in clear air and head to their preferred side of the course. As the fleet headed out from the start, skippers and crew were faced with the question as to which

side of the course would be more favorable: southeast or more westerly? From my vantage point, it seemed that those who sailed more to the left (south) made out over others. Odinn (Kjell Dahlen), Souvenir, Axiom (Don Weaver) rounded the weather mark first with the wind starting to fade. Not long after boats passed the weather mark, the wind gave out almost completely and spinnakers that were once full and drawing hung limply from their halyards.

While the weather forecast for the Ladies Cup had shown a southerly breeze of 7-8 knots, I don't think anyone was prepared for the wind to shift to the north and come in at around 5-6 knots. Spinnakers were doused, and headsails were hoisted as the breeze filled in. The new breeze substantially mixed up the fleet, as boats that were more northerly picked up the breeze first. Thankfully, the Race Committee mercifully shortened the course to just two legs.

Top finishers by class were:

JAM A (NF Failey Trophy): Anjin San, Leboeuf, CPFC;

JAM B (Dewey Mead Trophy): Dirigo, Dufort, CPFC;

Etchells (Hal Greig Trophy): Bertha, , Unsworth, LCYC;

Sportboats (Sportboat Trophy): That 70 Show, Hill, LCYC;

Spinnaker A (Danielson Trophy): Odinn, Dahlen, LCYC;

Spinnaker B (Edlund Trophy): Unity, Turnau, LCYC;

Spinnaker C (Ingalls Cup): Lil' Bot, Erdos, DIYC;

1<sup>st</sup> to finish, any club (Ted Brooks Trophy): Odinn;

1<sup>st</sup> on corrected time any class, any club (Samuel de Champlain Trophy): Bertha;

1<sup>st</sup> on corrected time non-LCYC member (Challenge Trophy): Lil' Bot;

1<sup>st</sup> on corrected time LCYC member (Ladies Cup)! Bertha

Congratulations to all class winners and to all skippers and crews who made the best of challenging wind conditions. I want to thank the race committee for their work in making the race possible and I'd like to thank Charlie London for his diligence in preparing the race results so quickly for us to be able to announce them that afternoon at the after race party. I would also like to thank Jean Sievert and the social committee for putting together a wonderful spread for the post-race awards.

Bob Turnau

LCYC Regatta Chair



## Family Day Fun



Family Day Organizers!



## **Jr Sailing Cheeseburger Regatta**



LCYC junior instructors Nate Hanson and Brendan Hawko won the FJ class





## **A Ladies Cup Dynasty**

Doug Merrill

As told to me by Marcel and Paul Beaudin



Congratulations to all who sailed in this year's Ladies Cup Race. LCYC considers this annual race our marque event, and with good reason. It has been sailed 92 times in the past 134 years. It has been raced annually every year continuously since 1955. The cup itself is an extravagant large silver chalice, built in the Tiffany style, likely by a craftsman who studied in that workshop. Winners of the Ladies Cup are engraved upon it for all of time, but it is easier to simply read the list on page 9 of our club log.

The names on this list are a who's-who of sailboat racing prowess on Lake Champlain. A few names jump out as having won the cup 3-4 years in a row, demonstrating a skipper that honed their boat and crew to a level that enabled them to dominate the racing scene for a few years. Horatio Hickock took the cup 5 out of six years from 1889 to 1894 on Nautilus. In the 1970's Steele Griswold brought the cup home 4 years in a row with his crew on

Mame. In the early '80's Bruce Hill captured the cup three of four years on Golden Daisy.

Only one member has managed to bring home the Ladies Cup six times. The name may surprise you because this feat was not accomplished by securing a big, fast boat, assembling a large capable crew, and practicing rigorously to dominate for a few years before burning out. No, Marcel Beaudin and his family have managed to win the cup and unprecedented six times over a period of 27 years. That's right, Marcel first won the trophy aboard Adrenalin in 1990. He followed it up with three wins aboard a Sonar later in the nineties, and then returned to victory in 2010 and 2017 on his Blazer 23 Sly.

Marcel joined LCYC in 1974 as a young architect. He recalls that he has raced in every Ladies Cup since 1975. From 1990 on, it became pretty much a family affair. Marcel clarifies that Paul Boisvert would handle foredeck duties, but since his mother was a Beaudin, he was considered family. Sons Paul, Adam, and Jeb were all regular crew members. Ten year old Jeb would drive because the loads C&C 35 sheets were too much for him to handle. Marcel recalls that in windy conditions, the forces on the wheel would lift young Jeb off the deck!

In the early 90's Marcel began to race a Sonar extensively on and off the lake and his record from then forward reflects it. His sons became adults and moved away, but they returned to LCYC for the Ladies Cup. This was no small commitment. Adam has lived in Switzerland for 35 years and makes the trip back every year. Adam has supplemented the crew with his own sons, Jonah and Aaron who are now regulars as well. Paul became a successful sailmaker and campaigns racing boats out of City Island, New York.

Marcel sold Sly (a Sonar with a cabin) after the 2018 Ladies Cup so in 2019 Paul brought Lou-Lou, his J/105 up from Long Island for the race. The Beaudin family enjoyed success in this race once again, with an overall fastest corrected time in the race. Since Paul is no longer an LCYC member, LouLou was not awarded the Ladies Cup itself, but won the Ted Brooks Trophy for the win.

Paul Beaudin has raced all over the world on boats big and small and counts the time sailing with his father, brother, and nephews as a highlight of his life. He recounted the 2017 as the 'best' one as follows:

"Dad was 88 and we had all 3 generations of Beaudin boys on the boat. The little Blazer was overloaded with 6 now that my nephews were college age. It was our 6th win, spanning over 40 years. We broke a record that had held for over 100 years, since the 1890s. For me that was very emotional and a holy grail deal for my dad. I have sailed all over and won many world-class events but that was the high point for me in sailing.

It was always funny sailing the Sonars and Blazers because we were the smallest boat, so for most of the race you feel like you are getting you're a\*\* kicked. We usually never knew the results until the awards, but in the 2017 race it was different. We ended the race with a long reach from 4 brothers to Appletree. Off in the distance we could see the A class boats. We thought they had finished and were milling around. As we got closer, Jeb noticed a strange angle on one of the big boats, possibly showing a wind shift. I discarded the idea as that boat just reaching around the finish area. Suddenly that boat tacked and crossed the finish line, getting a horn. We were shocked, only being 10 minutes from finishing ourselves and within sight and sound of the leaders we had thought had finished an hour earlier. We sailed to the finish in shock. Still not knowing for sure but knowing we had finished way up in the fleet. Without



knowing every finish, including boats like Etchells, we had to wait for the awards to be sure, but we knew we had a good shot again. It was a very surreal experience.”

Marcel is now in his 90s and no longer owns a boat. But he still races in the Ladies Cup on a Beaudin owned boat. Adam purchased a share in Edelweiss, Uly Holzinger’s Hunter 37 and starting in 2020, the Beaudin’s have been sailing her in the Cup. Marcel concedes that Edelweiss is an unlikely candidate to win the Ladies Cup. But she will draw the Beaudin boys to eagerly gather in front of LCYC on the first Saturday morning in August for years to come. Based on their track record, I would not bet against an Edelweiss victory.

## **Go bots, go!!**

By John Harris, Race Management Group

By now pretty much everyone knows “the bots”, Bert and Ernie. The latest addition to our racing program, you can’t miss them in their prominent spot on the main dock. After witnessing or hearing about some of our miscues early in the season, many of you may now wonder, “how’s it going?”.

The bots have been, at various times, sources of curiosity, entertainment, frustration and satisfaction. For the first month we struggled with some bad GPS hardware, which generated more than a few humorous moments, a fair bit of frustration and a lot of questions from racers (and some PRO’s) about how exactly this technology was making things better. Fortunately with great support from the MarkSetBot team we resolved the problems and the bots have worked very well since. The entertainment of late has been pretty much all due to “operator error”, as our PRO’s come up the learning curve..

To answer the “how’s it going?” question let’s look at the goals we set and each of the 4 race series the club runs: Etchells, Singlehanded, Weekends and Wednesday Night. The primary goal for the bots was to improve the quality of our race management while reducing the cost and amount of volunteer effort required. Specifically we sought to:

- more reliably and easily set good start lines and courses in any wind
- eliminate the need for most of our permanent race marks
- make the PRO’s job easier
- be able to run Etchells and Singlehanded races with one person on RC
- eliminate the need for a mark boat for E Series, Wednesday Night and Singlehanded races
- be able to set “drop mark” WL courses in the broad lake as needed
- start south wind weekend races south of Rock Dunder rather than at P Mark

Let’s start with the easy ones, Etchells and Singlehanded. These two series typically use only drop marks and run multiple races per event. It took some learning to get there, but we have definitely achieved these goals for both Etchells and Singlehanded series.

For weekend races, whose courses rely on government and permanent race marks, we have successfully run races using a bot for the starting pin, started races south of Dunder and set windward marks in over 200’ of water, not without a few minor operator miscues. Mission accomplished.

With regard to Wednesday night races the results are a bit mixed. Due to the GPS issues, we had some bot issues with early races, including a windward mark that decided to “go rogue” in the middle of a race. As a result, we ended up putting the C and S marks in the water as back-up. We’ve also had some operator error issues, primarily getting the bots to and from the race course, providing some entertainment in the mooring field, with no impact on the racing. Since the end of June the bots themselves have performed very well and our race management has improved accordingly.

In summary, despite our start up problems, we have achieved most all of our goals while providing some entertainment along the way. Going forward, as our PRO team becomes more



### Ladies Cup cookies racing with “bots”

proficient with operating the bots, I am confident their benefit to the PRO's and to our race management will become even more evident.

This has been a real team effort and I would especially would like to recognize Steve Walkerman, who has helped immensely with PRO training, optimizing the operational logistics and problem solving, not to mention getting the bot dock built. Many thanks to all the PRO's for taking on the new challenge of operating the bots and finally, a big shout out to our “bot caretaker” team of Monica and Chris Morgan and the stewards, in particular Andrew and Parker, who have made sure the bots were charged up, launched and retrieved throughout the summer.

As always, if you have thoughts about how to improve our race management, bot related or otherwise, please let us know.





## Around the Club

### Stewards

*By John Stetson, Stewards Chair*

This summer we were fortunate to have six of our stewards returning from 2021. Two of the team left part way through the season to pursue career opportunities or higher wages. Parker Main and Ethan Behr return to college this week; Grace Slauterbeck will be with us through Labor Day; and Andrew Slauterbeck will be with us through September.

Andrew, our head steward, did a great job of scheduling and making sure that routine tasks were accomplished. Thanks to his leadership, we worked through a challenging schedule with fewer staff. His four years of experience will be missed next year!

Mark boat duties were eliminated with the addition of the BOTS. However, our stewards have been involved with charging, launching and retrieving the BOTS. It has been an interesting learning process for all!

Through August 17th, 16 volunteer stewards have covered 46 shifts or about 80 hours of launch service. About 35 volunteers are subjected to my regular solicitation for assistance. Volunteerism is alive and well at LCYC! Most of these volunteers will admit that they have enjoyed operating the launches and the opportunity to meet members that they might not have otherwise. Many thanks to all!

Regular launch service will continue through Labor Day. After Labor Day, launch service will be reduced to 0900 to 2000 on weekends and 1300 to 2000 on weekdays. Service will be a combination of Andrew and our volunteers. For the benefit of the volunteers, please clearly identify your boat, location in the mooring field, and keep your radio and lights on until picked up.

Two of the current stewards plan to return next summer. We are currently working with one candidate to complete the USCG licensing process and will be looking for one or two more to fill the ranks. Please pass the word to potential candidates who will be at least 17 years of age by mid-May 2023 and have considerable boating experience. It is not too soon to begin the Coast Guard licensing process. Members and non-members are encouraged to apply.

## Trying To Reason With Hurricane Season

By Paul Boerman Harbormaster.

I am happy to report that other than a few minor mishaps our Harbor at LCYC has been safe and secure so far this season. 45 out of the 155 moorings have brand new chains and tackle installed keeping us on a schedule of replacing chain on a four year cycle. The chains that were removed this year showed very little wear as compared to the previously inspected 5 year cycle chains.

The few mishaps that we have encountered this year have been related to the pennant. This component of the mooring belongs to the member and not to the club. The club standard for pennants is a 5/8ths inch line with either a double line set up or a bridal allowing two connections to the boat cleats. The pennant lines have a stainless steel swivel attached to the chain with a shackle and seizing wire.



The most common reasons for pennants to fail include insufficient chafing gear at the chock, an anchor on the front of the boat that has not been flipped or stowed resulting in a severed line, and weak or rotting lines that have been used for too many seasons. Another possible concern is failure of the shackle that connects the pennant to the chain.

I strongly encourage every member to take a close look at your pennant on your next trip out to

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your boat. Try to pull up your mooring ball and confirm that every shackle has a seizing wire in place and that the lines show no evidence of chaffing wear.

As we move toward fall the winds will increase and often come from the north leaving most boats less protected. It's imperative that club members do everything in their power to secure their boat with a solid pennant.

If you are unsure of the age of your lines please alert the Harbormaster or Pierre (the club diver) so that an inspection can be done when moorings are decommissioned this fall. If you had a new pennant placed this year please let me know so I can start keeping a master file. Replacing your pennant is preferably a job for the club member or Pierre to complete over the winter months than in the spring. It is best to plan ahead so that your 2023 season starts on time and is as safe as possible.

If you have questions please reach out to Paul Boerman LCYC Harbormaster.



Boat Show Buffett



## **Jr Sailing Program Report**

By Bill Kallock, Junior Sailing Programs Chair

The 2022 Junior Sailing season was back to normal this year and a huge success. We kept the session to 10 sailors per session with our 4 great instructors. I'm happy to report that we ended up with an excellent team of instructors and had 8 successful weeks of sailing with no COVID cases at camp.

Our instructors, again led by Emma Hawko, did a fantastic job engaging the junior sailors, making sailing fun when there was wind and playing creative games onshore when there was not. Emma was joined by new instructor Leigh Kerbaugh and junior instructors Brendan Hawko and Nate Hanson. Leigh's family has been a member of the club for years and she was great with the kids. Brendan and Nate have risen through LCYC Junior Sailing program and were great role models for the kids. Henry Bushey and Magnus Nilsson joined as instructor-in-training for a couple of weeks. This was Emma's last year and she will be missed. We hope to see many of the other instructors back next year.

During the 8 weeks of the program, we had 107 registrations, down slightly from last year. We split most of the weeks into morning beginner sessions and afternoon advanced sessions. Demand for the beginner session was so high that we had full waitlists all summer. Highlights of the program included weekly pirate days, capture the flag on the water, paper plate awards and, of course, ultimate frisbee games in the field.

This summer we also participated in the Champ Chase regatta at MBBC and the Cheeseburger in Paradise regatta at the Lake George Club. We had 4 FJs compete at the Champ Chase regatta and 2 FJs compete at the Cheeseburger regatta. The sailors had a fantastic time at these regattas. LCYC junior instructors Nate Hanson and Brendan Hawko won the FJ class at both the Champ Chase and the Cheeseburger regattas. Congratulations, Nate and Brendan!

We also hosted 2 fun Parent/Child Sail Along nights. These evenings were a huge success with over 14 families participating across the two nights. It was great to see the excitement of the junior sailors showing their parents their new sailing skills.

It was another great Junior Sailing season with lots of new junior sailors excited about sailing next summer!



## Parent Jr. Sailor Sail-a-long



Sailing an Opti!



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## Who Are All These People?

Do you remember when you were a new member and didn't know but a few others? It can be a bit intimidating to walk up to members and introduce yourself. I remember that well. I also remember only being approached by a few people that first year.

I bet you walk by members every time you're at the club and don't know who they are. I know I do and also know I need to do a better job of introducing myself. We have had many new members over the last few years. Please make it a point to say hello to someone you don't know. I also strongly encourage, even beg(!) everyone to wear their name tag buttons at LCYC events. It makes you much more approachable. I leave them in my car so I don't forget them. If you need a button, please let me know. Now if I can just get better at remembering names...

Betsey Dempsey  
Membership/Secretary Chair