



# the Binnacle

Newsletter of the Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.

Commodore: Jill Gagne

August 2024

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*Tris Coffin and crew of Lisa J, Winners of 2024 Ladies Cup*

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## **Commodore's Corner**



*By Jill Gagne, Commodore*  
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**Commodore's Corner**

I hope August finds everyone well. The summer has been beautiful, but it has been flying by! The Ladies Cup Race always serves as the mid-way point of the season for me. It was touch and go, but the race committee was able to get a race off and the social committee provided a fantastic post race event. The Lisa J. was the winner of the Ladies Cup this year, see the race committee article for more details from race day.

August also means shorter days, the Jr. Sailing program wrapping up, back to school for many of our stewards, and volunteer stewards helping to provide coverage. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities still available as we move into September. read Betsey Dempsey's column or reach out to her for details regarding how you can help!

I am trying to savor these last few weeks of summer, but fall is just around the corner and an important vote will be brought to our membership at the annual meeting on club closing day. I encourage each of you to be informed by reading the materials sent via email and attend one of the information sessions that are being held at the club. At our Annual Meeting in October the membership will be asked to approve a special assessment of \$125.00 for a period of six years to member dues for the limited purpose of funding the purchase and installation of a new main dock system. This dues assessment will apply to all full members, pro-rated for associate members. This assessment will not apply to senior members.

The docks and the clubhouse are the two major assets of the Club. As our primary assets, it is important for the Club to continually invest in and maintain both for safety, functionality, longevity, and ensuring the overall value of the property. The original sections of the current docks were purchased more than thirty years ago. The current docks are much less stable than they were when new. The framing is deteriorating, the decking screws do not hold, and the metal joints connecting the docks have worn.

When there is a strong wind or chop in the mooring field, the docks can be quite unstable, particularly the finger docks; older members as well as the very young often have difficulty walking on them in these conditions. In addition to safety, replacement of the existing dock sections is becoming more frequent as the newer pressure treated wood does not last as long.

A group of members with Dock experience spearheaded an effort to explore options to replace the current docks; the team consisted of Bob Schumacher, Don Weaver, Dan Donegan, Jill Gagne, and Gene Cloutier. This group evaluated dock options and priced the cost of replacing the current dock layout, using the same materials or different materials. Various vendors were evaluated and one was selected. Once the vendor was selected the team worked to understand options, changes to the existing layout, material, etc. The result is the proposed new dock sys-

tem outlined in the information emailed to the membership. This new dock system includes wider main docks and fingers and is surfaced with composite decking, and is supported by metal frames. It will provide a safer and more stable system that should last the club for 40 years or more.

The total cost of the project is not to exceed \$450,000. The Board of Governors and the Finance Committee have worked together to come up with a proposal for financing. Pending a vote approving the special assessment, a deposit of \$200,000 will be paid this fall using funds from our capital fund. In 2025, the balance of the cost of the docks will be funded by raising additional capital through notes offered to members. At this time, it is estimated that 27, \$10,000 notes will be offered to members, to be paid back to the note holders in annual payments at a better than market rate (currently considering 6%; rates will be finalized closer to issuance). The \$125 annual assessment to member dues for six years, new member initiation fees, and regular funding of the capital fund will be used to pay back the notes and rebuild the capital fund. Although the capital reserve will be lower than it has been recently, our finance committee and BOG has determined that there will continue to be sufficient funds available to cover projected capital expenses for the next six years.

A common question asked regards our waterfront shoreline stabilization; when will that need to be addressed, and will funding the docks hamper or delay our ability to do what is needed there. An independent evaluation of the shoreline was provided by a professional this spring. The assessment indicated that the stability of the waterfront bank is generally in good shape. The section from the Junior Sailing dock to the northern property line may require work in 7-10 years.

There have been many more questions asked and answered at the information sessions. Come to the annual meeting to have your vote counted.



*Dingy Racing - Jack and John at the Weather Mark*



# Family Day



## Attention LCYC History Buffs!!

After his father's recent passing Paul Beaudin gifted the club an anthology of Yachting Magazine articles originally published in the 1880's through the 1910's, which he had given as a gift to Marcel back in 1990. Amazingly, two of the articles are about Lake Champlain and our beloved LCYC!

"The Lake Champlain Yacht Club", published in 1888, gives a very detailed description of the first ever LCYC "Annual Regatta" including the first competition for the famed Ladies Cup. I learned a lot of interesting things from this article, including the fact that Sharpies, for which our Junior Sailing building is named, were 50 feet long!!

"A Corinthian Cruise", published in 1897, is an account of 4 young men "cruising" from LCYC all the way to NYC via the Champlain Canal and Hudson River. I know many LCYC members have made this journey and I can promise you, while you will recognize a lot of common landmarks, this cruise was unlike any you have done. For starters, they made the trip in a 16 foot yawl, with oars but no engine!!

For your reading pleasure, below are links to scanned copies of the two articles..

Lake Champlain Yacht Club 1888

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QcV5UwzPuMZpTLjIVdSSpEsDC5N2wBth/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QcV5UwzPuMZpTLjIVdSSpEsDC5N2wBth/view?usp=drive_link)

A Corinthian Cruise 1897

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uTCIVonq45R5sfEwLftNUSFAedn3ZQCx/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uTCIVonq45R5sfEwLftNUSFAedn3ZQCx/view?usp=drive_link)

If you have interest in borrowing the book to read more of these fascinating stories, contact our Historian, Bern Collins ([bernavt75@gmail.com](mailto:bernavt75@gmail.com))

## Remembering Shell Reilly



On Sat. Sept. 7 from 11am to 1pm, there will be a celebration of life and lunch in memory of Shell Rieley at LCYC. All LCYC members are welcome to join family and friends as they remember Shell in one of his favorite places and share in a meal.

## Dinghy sailing at LCYC...Summer 2024 Update

*By John Harris, Fleet Captain*



In summer 2020, as COVID hit and we were staring at the possibility of no racing for the summer, we started the LCYC Singlehanded Series. What better way to socially distance??

We are now into our 5th year and, after some ups and downs in terms of participation, we are finally hitting our stride. This year we have expanded our fleet to include doublehanded as well as singlehanded boats and are now the “Dinghy Series”.

Our singlehanded fleet currently consists of 8 Aeros and a similar number of Lasers. Last year we had a single Melges 15 (doublehander) and, as of this writing, this fleet has grown to 4 boats. We’ve had 3 Aeros change hands over the past 9 months, further strengthening our participation.

Emulating a long time program at MBBC, this year the BOG approved a pilot program to allow a limited number of non members, for a fee, to keep an Aero or Laser at the club for the purpose of participating in our race series. We currently have 2 participants (1 Aero, 1 Laser) in this program.

All of the above has yielded an increased level of participation this season, with typically 8-12 boats on the line (and we’re working to get that number even higher!!). The age and experience level of our fleet ranges from 10 to Medicare eligible and from beginner racers to seasoned veterans.

If you are interested, but not an experienced dinghy sailor, don’t be intimidated. We run lots of short races (typically 10-15 minutes) so you get lots of starting practice and get a chance to do better in the next race. Our casual format allows (and encourages) on the water coaching by the more experienced sailors. We also do occasional on shore “clinics” to share tips regarding rigging and sailing.

If all this sounds like fun and you would like to give it a try, we typically have at least one loaner Laser or Aero available each week. We race every Thurs night through Sept 5th. Contact Doug Merrill or myself for more info.



## Ladies Cup Regatta

On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, LCYC saw 32 boats from 5 clubs gather on a windless morning with little expectation of sailing the 128<sup>th</sup> running of the Ladies Cup Regatta. In our new normal summer weather pattern, the weather forecasters called for a hot day and 3-5 knots of southerly breeze that would die in the afternoon. Truly, the only hope for the day lay in the amazing refreshments organized by the Social Committee led by Jenny and Chris Leopold.

Aboard the Dinse, the intrepid Race Committee summoned their local knowledge and headed out past Rock Dunder in search of any breeze that would allow a race to start. PRO John Harris was determined to find breeze enough to execute a competitive 7<sup>th</sup> race in the ten race Lake Champlain Championship Series and allow the sailors to compete. And then the breeze started to fill. Race Committee took quick advantage of the southerly that developed on the broad lake and initiated a start sequence with confidence that they would be able to run the regatta. A consistent 5-8 knot breeze carried the afternoon and by 3 pm, all sailors returned to LCYC with broad smiles and were greeted by an amazing array of food and beverages. Overall, a fantastic day for the Ladies Cup regatta thanks to the social committee and race committee!

Unique in the Club's history is the Ladies Cup, presented to the Regatta Committee in 1888, as "a perpetual challenge trophy for the ships of the Lake Champlain Yacht Club fleet." On the front of this sterling silver punch bowl, known as one of the oldest challenge cups in New England, is a hand engraved inscription: Presented by the Ladies Yacht Club – Burlington, Vermont.

The Ladies Cup represents more than just a competition; it embodies the club's enduring values and the evolving role of women in yachting. By incorporating such a historical trophy into their regatta, the Lake Champlain Yacht Club has honored its past while celebrating the ongoing contributions of its members. The fact that the cup was created by the Ladies' Society highlights a unique aspect of the regatta's history. It wasn't just a trophy; it was a symbol of the active involvement and contribution of women to the yachting community. This gesture from the Yacht Club underscored their commitment and participation in the sport, adding a layer of tradition and prestige to the regatta that continues to be celebrated. Congratulations to this year's recipient of the Ladies Cup Trophy is Tristram Coffin, and his crew aboard the yacht Lisa J.







*Danielson Trophy  
Polar Express  
Chris Duley*

*1st Sport Boat  
Streetwise  
Nye/Hyerstay*



*Edlund Trophy  
Lift Ticket  
Sam Pratt*



*Ingalls Trophy  
L'll Bot  
Benedek Erdos*



<b>Award</b>	<b>Category/Class</b>	<b>Boat</b>	<b>Skipper</b>	<b>Club</b>
Ladies Cup	Overall	Lisa J	Tris Coffin	LCYC
Samuel de Champlain Trophy	Best Corrected Time	Lisa J	Tris Coffin	LCYC
Ted Brooks Trophy	1 <sup>st</sup> to Finish	Shoshin	Tim McKegey	LCYC
Danielson Trophy	1 <sup>st</sup> Spin A	Polar Express	Chris Duley	VSC
Edlund Trophy	1 <sup>st</sup> Spin B	Lift Ticket	Sam Pratt	MBBC
Ingalls Trophy	1 <sup>st</sup> Spin C	L'il Bot	Benedek Erdos	DIYC
NF Failey Trophy	1 <sup>st</sup> JAM A	Anjin San	Richard LeBoeuf	CPFC
Dewey Mead Trophy	1 <sup>st</sup> JAM B	Meridian	Julie Trottier	MBBC
Challenge Trophy	1 <sup>st</sup> non-LCYC on corrected time	Polar Express	Chris Duley	VSC
	1 <sup>st</sup> Sportboat	Streetwise	Hyerstay/Nye	LCYC
Hal Grieg Trophy	1 <sup>st</sup> Etchells	Bertha	James Unsworth	LCYC





# Around the Club



## Membership

*Betsey Dempsey, Membership/Secretary*

Membership has been busy so far in 2024 with the many applications we've received this year. Five families have joined, another will become active shortly, and several families decided to go on the \$500 mooring wait list. Here are a few new members to become acquainted with:

Please welcome Peter Heissenbuttel, his wife, Elizabeth Pockock, and their two (mostly grown) children. They recently moved here from Portland, ME. Both Elizabeth and Peter are lifelong sailors, yet from opposite coasts. They are looking forward to having their own boat at some point on our beautiful lake. No whales or dolphins here though!

John and Amanda Ring also recently became members. John enjoys racing his RS Aero on Thursday nights and is sharing his enthusiasm with Amanda. I hope Amanda can ignore the weather this summer and catch the sailing bug. Fingers crossed for a perfect fall.

Also joining us this year are Eric Schulz and Cathy Tilley. They have an Etchells that "really wants to play with her siblings." Eric has diagnosed himself with a serious water addiction, so you'll see him out racing often.

Please make it a point to say hello and introduce yourself to someone you haven't seen before. Who knows, you might just make a wonderful connection.



Our wall of burgees continues to grow. Recently, we were visited by Mac Deturo and his son who are members of Lake Norman Yacht Club, in Mooresville, North Carolina. LNYC is situated on Lake Norman, which is North Carolina's largest, man-made, freshwater lake in the state, at about 50 square miles. The Deturo family was impressed with our club and Lake Champlain, though I think they were surprised to find it so hot and muggy in Vermont!



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Remember, if you think you'd like to swap a burgee with another club when you are out-of-town, let me know ahead of time. I'll make sure we don't already have one from that club, then give you one to swap. If you haven't noticed the new burgee rails (thanks to Marc Gamble) that have been installed to hang all our new burgees, take a look. The list of origins is next to the north door in the clubhouse. I think all the burgees not only make our clubhouse festive, but each have a story!

Looking for ways to put in some volunteer hours and can't get to Work Day? Here are a couple of things that we'll need help with:

- After the red and green markers at the end of the fairway are pulled out in October, they'll need to be repainted. Please contact Paul Boerman.
- After Labor Day, we will need help with bailing dinghies, cleaning pedestals, cleaning the Dinse, and bringing trash to the dumpster. Please talk with John Stetson about this.
- Light carpentry and paint work: We have a piece of trim next to the accessible bathroom that has damage and needs to be replaced and painted. Other paint work consists of a general touch up around the house. Contact Ben Durant.
- Window cleaning
- The area around the dumpsters needs to be raked and cleaned up.
- Pressure washing the clubhouse exterior would be great for taking care of the cobwebs.
- Weekly cleaning of the Dinse on Wednesday mornings. (Contact John Stetson)

Do you see something that needs attention? If it's of significance, let me or another board member know. Otherwise, go ahead and take care of it. Volunteer hours don't need to be just for jobs requested by the club. Don't forget you can always sign up for helping out at social events. See the button on the Volunteer tab on the website. If you do something that benefits the club, put in your hours! Again, go to the Volunteer tab on the website or use this link: <https://lcyf.info/club/volunteer>.

One last reminder: Wear your buttons at club events. (I forget names all the time...)

Betsey Dempsey  
LCYC - Membership/Secretary

## Docks



*Gene Cloutier, Dockmaster*

The dock repairs done by the dock team earlier this spring before launch have fared pretty well this year. Luckily our storms and high winds this year have been primarily from the South where the docks are better protected but unfortunately, we are still needing to be vigilant about replacing pins that work their way out.

New Docks update:

So far there have been 2 information sessions on the proposal for new docks this year, the second session had great participation and active discussions. . This is a big project for the club, so I encourage everyone to attend our workday vote!

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## Greetings from the Social Deck!

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

A BIG SHOUTOUT to all the volunteers who have helped to make LCYC's Pizza Night, Old Fashioned Burger Burn, Boat Tour, Commodores' Potluck, Ladies Cup Awards Reception, Family Day, Taco Night, and Corn Roast such a huge success this year! Our dedicated volunteers served meals to approximately 900 members and guests for these events. Without your work, prepping food, setting tables, icing drinks, cooking and grilling food, serving food, working as a cashier, washing dishes and cleaning up the clubhouse and grounds, each of these wonderful events would only be an idea in someone's mind. LCYC member volunteers make these events happen with a smile and a warm hello for every event throughout the season. Thank you!

Speaking of volunteers, we need volunteers for our last several scheduled events for 2024. Signing up is easy, quick and you receive an email confirming your event. Several days before the event you also will receive an email reminder about your event and volunteer role. Visit our volunteer page: <https://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/33776D902A7CBE8C71-lcycsign#/> to sign up as a volunteer for one of our events.

Celebrate the onset of cooler weather in September with our traditional Oktoberfest dinner on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. Our Oktoberfest fare features beer-cooked grilled sausage, sauerkraut, German potato salad, and traditional Black Forest cake. Enjoy this special event annually hosted by Ulie Holzinger and his crew of volunteers for only \$10/person. On Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> please join us at the Clubhouse for the annual Macdonough Breakfast. Our experienced breakfast hosts Chris & Jenny Leopold and Amy Caldwell & Eric Carlson will start serving homemade pancakes, French toast, sausage, fruit, juice, and coffee/tea between 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. 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.

We look forward to seeing you at our September events! Join us! Volunteer with us!



*Taco Wednesday*





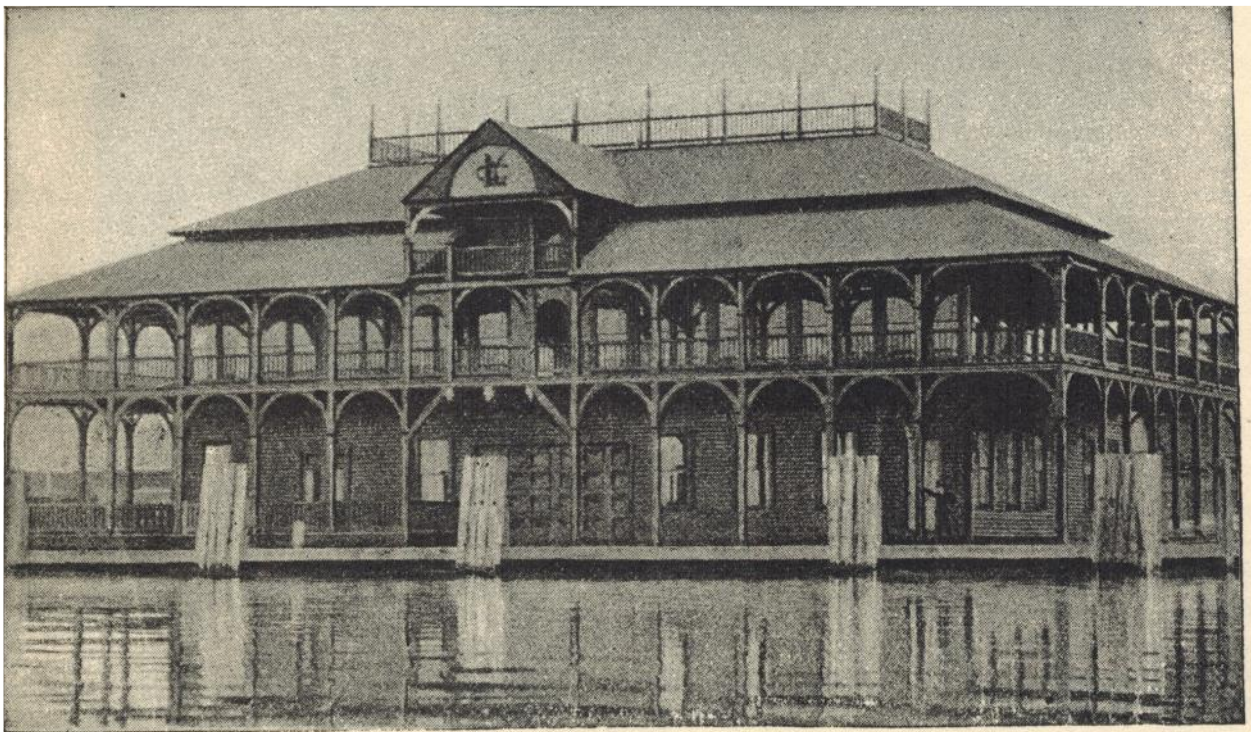
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### Scuttlebutt (Editor's notes)



The new historical documents about the Club set out in the article above "Attention LCYC History Buffs!" was exciting for me to see. Over the years I have dipped my toe into Club history and have always been fascinated by what was there and yet to be discovered (at least to my eyes.)

The photo of the First Club House in the article about the First Ladies Cup was the first I have seen showing much detail of the upper floor of the Club. I have always wondered what it was like in real life. Most of the photos of the early club houses were taken from a low angle in front of the Club or from a height, like from Battery Park. That seems strange until you realize that the Burlington Water Front was a working waterfront. Stacks of lumber and other goods to be shipped out lined the shore with warehouses and factories behind them. Not a pretty sight. In fact it may have been worse than we can imagine. One of the pollutants of the "Barge Canal" were coal tar sludge (left over from converting coal to gas) and the remains of cyanide that they used to occasionally use in the buildings to fumigate for rats and other varmints.



THE BURLINGTON Y. C HOUSE.

In this new to me photo you can see the wide veranda around the top and the glass allowing panoramic views from inside the building - probably from a bar for which there seem to be a lot of references to in other histories.

Another interesting set of photographs include many of the early sailboats of the Club. I was particularly taken with the one of "Flyaway".

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50 feet in length, main mast 47 feet high, 12 foot beam, and a 16 foot center board (5 feet wide).

These boats had cabins and a head and other amenities for cruising. Can you imagine what it was like to set these different sails and “race” and cruise these boats?

All of this reminded me of the “Sandolphin”. She was a boat built in the 1890’s by Alavro Ad-sit an early Commodore of the Club. I was researching in the UVM archives when I came across a log of a cruise similar to the one in the documents shown above by John Harris . It was interesting to see how the places they visited that were ruins then are now restored (Fort Ticonderoga) and other places that were large hotels on the lake are now gone.

One of the things that has come from the receipt of these new documents is the desire of folks, like John Harris, Bern Collins and Dale Hyerstay to find a way to store these documents on line and to display them in a way to make them accessible to not just the history buffs but also to jus the curious. If you have any ideas or suggestions please make them to one of the three of them or myself. Ideas welcome. If you would like to work on helping transition the documents please make yourself known.

Peace,  
Tony Lamb