



# the Binnacle



*Newsletter of the Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.*  
Commodore: Doug Viehmann Vice Commodore: Steve Walkerman  
January 2009  
Binnacle Editor: Jim Turvey  
<http://www.lcyc.info>

*Upcoming Events ... Change of Watch Dinner 1/31*

## 2009 Social Events

The year will kick off with the Change of Watch dinner now scheduled for Saturday January 31, 2009 at the Sunset Ballroom, the top floor of the Comfort Suites hotel/motel which is located at 1712 Shelburne Road (a/k/a Route 7) South Burlington, VT. The Ballroom is located just south of Allen Road. Nearby landmarks include a Nissan dealership (located on the west side of Shelburne Road) and the Holiday Inn Express (located adjacent to the Ballroom). The telephone number for the Ballroom is 802-658-3663. Overnight reservations at the Comfort Suites are available for out-of-town members or guests.

We have sent a separate mailing notice of the event which will involve:

- Price per person of \$25.00 with reservations required as stated below;
- Full cash bar provided by the Ballroom;
- Menu to consist of buffet including seafood and meat (Prime rib or equivalent and chicken) and vegetarian main course to be served with appetizers, salads, deserts;
- Dress: sport coat with tie optional/men and cocktail attire/women.

Our program for the evening will include some Quebec music by Robert Resnick and a slide presentation by Chuck Finn. For reservations we ask you to make an email reservation if at all possible by January 24 to:

[bmanchester@manchesterlaw.com](mailto:bmanchester@manchesterlaw.com) or [Christina.mccaffrey@vtmednet.org](mailto:Christina.mccaffrey@vtmednet.org).

The Club has been required to guarantee a minimum of 60 meals BUT we can expand that number by an additional 20 – 40 guests for ANY reservations received by MIDNIGHT JANUARY 24. Please note that any reservation made will be billed to you as a Club member even if you find you cannot attend the dinner. After January 24 the price per member for reservations will be \$35. Our caterer has asked the Club to agree to the reservation policy stated above and the Club believes this is a reasonable request due to the current economy and the caterer's need to purchase food products in advance of the dinner. After January 24 we may be able to add some additional guests but cannot guarantee reservations made after that date.

### COMMENTS FOR THE 2009 SEASON

For next season the Club's Social Calendar will follow the calendar of past years, and we will plan in addition to Burger Burns at least one or possibly two catered dinners at the Club. We will follow the reservation policy stated above for the dinners to be planned and will post the dates of those dinners on the Club calendar once the 2009 season calendar is set by the BOG. We will ask new members to assist in at least one Burger Burn, and we will ask all members to help in

other Club events scheduled by the Social Committee. This year to the full extent possible we will attempt to use the Club's webpage to list all social programs (and changes in programs) but will still send out postcard notices functions as before.

Prior to March 15 I would appreciate an email from each member who knows of a special event or program they would like to host at the Club. By that date I would also appreciate an e-mail from Club members which states the events they would like to help organize or help run (including setup and cleanup etc) at the Club.

We expect to provide during 2009 the same level of programs and events as during 2008, and will do our best to keep a tight budget watch. With the exception of the reservation policy stated above, we expect to offer the same events as in past years. Comments/suggestions/help and volunteers will be appreciated.

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## **Commodore's Corner**

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Change of Watch. Bob Manchester has hired that local phenom, Robert Resnick, who will use his boundless talents to flavor our cocktail hour with some French Canadian music for your enjoyment and to pay homage to the 2009 Lake Champlain Quadra-centennial Celebration. Anyone for a little clogging? Chuck Finn will then regale us with tales of his 2008 voyage with friends and family aboard the Mighty Quinn. You may sign up on line under 'my account' if you plan to attend or reply as usual by phone or e-mail.

On more serious matters the world financial crisis has affected us all in various ways. Some of our members may even be considering membership withdrawal. While we all deal with the realities of reduced capital or possible reduced income your Board of Governors continues to wrestle with the clubs financial and future planning issues. As of this writing our tax appeal is still waiting for a date to be set for a hearing before the Superior Court. Our position is that our tax bill should remain unchanged. Our independent appraisal supports that position and an engineer's report of the subsoil conditions on our property states that there is no suitable area for an on-site septic system. Therefore the highest and best use is the current use; no change of use can be permitted under current Shelburne regulations, (not even to a residence) unless they tie into the town sewer which is over 2 miles away.

Capital repairs and possible changes to the Butler building and dinghy storage areas have been carefully considered by the Board this fall. It is our opinion that repair or replacement of the retaining wall south of the Jr. Sailing dock is the most pressing need. Plans and estimates are being developed this winter for various options. The board will publish and distribute a compilation of the process, financial information, and our recommendations to the membership well in advance of any vote to expend funds.

Website changes are occurring that will allow us to sign up for social and racing events on line. It is our hope that volunteers will also sign up for duties as social event coordinators (ticket takers and decorators needed!) and race committee. The more that the web based system can be used the more effective we can be at communications and the lower our mailing expenses can be. We are looking for ways to reduce expenses across the *Board*. Bob Manchester has put us all on our toes by dramatically cutting the Change of Watch budget with a change in venue.

Lastly, the web based Binnacle is in full color! For those of you who would like to receive the Binnacle on line instead of through snail mail you will be able to sign up on the web site membership page. More information will be coming from Jay Heaslip when that system is in place. Until then, enjoy the feel of the paper between your fingertips, and watch out for paper cuts.

Good Harbors and Safe Passage

Doug Viehmann

## **Stewards Report**

First, a thank you to everyone that recognized the stewards individually, sending gratuities directly, and those that contributed to the stewards fund.

Second, there are steward positions open this season. Anyone interested must be over 17 years old, and be available to work weekends, holidays, evenings May through September. The position requires a USCG Launch drivers license. Anyone interested, should contact Jill Burley for more information. If you know of anyone outside the Club that might be interested, please pass the word.

Typically we have had four stewards (usually students) that work with hours varying from 25 - 35 hours a week each and managing steward that works 40 hours a week. While generally members feel that Stewards do a good job taking care of the Clubhouse and grounds, there is some feeling that a (more experienced) part-time person to manage the stewards and other personnel would benefit the day to day operation of the Club. If you or someone you know has an interest in a position like this, please contact Jill Burley.

## **Dock Report: Please Pick Up Your Dinghys!**

At the end of last season we asked that all members' dinghies be removed from the south side hill by the boat launch ramp so that the area could be cleaned up in preparation for new dinghy storage digs.

Although most were removed, several still linger... These have been moved to the dock storage area in the south parking lot. We would certainly appreciate it if those remaining could be picked up soon! Obviously conditions are not the best, but the road is clear up to the entrance gate and it's not far from there to the parking lot.

Please, if your dinghy is one of these, make an effort to retrieve it. Thank you.  
Bob DeSorbo

## **Mariners Urged to Buy Digital Beacons**

At the end of this month, the satellites that scan coastal regions for emergency distress beacons will stop listening for older analog devices.

The old emergency position indicating radio beacons, or EPIRBs, a staple of the emergency equipment carried by oceangoing fishing boats and other commercial vessels, have been replaced by newer digital models that give Coast Guard rescue workers a more precise location and specific information about the boat and its owner. The changeover has been in the works for years, and mariners were supposed to have already replaced analog systems with digital models. But Coast Guard officials worry that there may be some fishermen and others who have put off the expense until the last minute.

The last minute comes at 12:01 a.m. Feb. 1. "The real issue is those old salty mariners stuck in their ways," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Connie Terrell. Does this description sound familiar to you? So the real question is, are you an old salty mariner? Or a mariner worth his salt? Be sure you are the latter and update your beacon!

## The Quadricentennial Celebration Begins *Bern Collins, LCYC Historian*

**Burlington's First Night New Year's Eve** festivities marked the beginning of Vermont's year-long Quadricentennial Celebration of the "discovery" by the French sailor and soldier who gave his name to the Lake we know and love. Over four hundred years ago, Samuel de Champlain went to sea as a boy and during his life made twenty-seven Atlantic crossings without losing a ship. He is remembered primarily as a "great explorer," who traveled through what are now six Canadian provinces and five American states.

Quadricentennial events sponsored by the State of Vermont, Champlain College, and the Vermont Humanities Council (among other organizations) will be held throughout 2009 to commemorate his remarkable achievements. Their Web sites provide links to further information; in addition, a new biography by distinguished historian David Hackett Fischer has just been published.

### The Web Sites

#### **Vermont Celebrates Champlain**

**[www.celebratechamplain.org](http://www.celebratechamplain.org)**

In October 2003, the Lake Champlain Quadricentennial Commission (LCQC) was formed to coordinate with the State of New York and the Province of Quebec "to commemorate the arrival of Champlain in 1609 and to celebrate the natural and cultural history of the Lake." This Web site has links to History, the Land, the Lake, the People, and lists all the scheduled activities that will take place throughout the State.

#### **Vermont Humanities Council 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays Lecture Series [www.vermonthumanities.org](http://www.vermonthumanities.org)**

Originally scheduled for January 7, 2009, this First Wednesday lecture by Professor Sylvie Beaudreau, "Remembering Samuel de Champlain: His Legacy after 400 Years," has been rescheduled (due to weather conditions) for **Wednesday, June 3, 2009, 7:00 p.m., Fletcher Free Library, Burlington**. Dr. Beaudreau is an associate professor of Canadian History at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh. She teaches a wide range of courses, including Twentieth Century Canada, and a history of Vermont/New York borderlands. She is currently working on a history of the 1909 celebration of the tercentenary of the discovery of Lake Champlain.

#### **Champlain College's "When the French Were Here"**

**[www.champlainquadricentennial.com](http://www.champlainquadricentennial.com)**

On October 15, 2008, a packed audience at Champlain College heard Professor Willard Sterne Randall's talk, "Champlain Names His Lake," which was based on three years of research and travel with his wife, Dr. Nancy Nahra, as they "tracked down Samuel de Champlain's hometown in France and the many ports of call he visited during his explorations." Their Web site includes: History, Symposium, For Educators, Resources, About Us, and a Galley (pictures based on their research and travels).

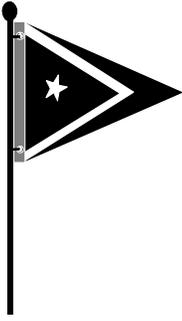
**On July 2-5, 2009**, Champlain College will host the only international academic symposium to be offered as part of Vermont's Quadricentennial, with scholars from France, Canada, and the United States. Details about this symposium will be available in the next few weeks. David Hackett Fischer, whose biography of Samuel de Champlain, *Champlain's Dream*, was published in October 2008, will participate as one of the scholars.

### Champlain's Dream

This new biography will tell you all you ever wanted to know about Samuel de Champlain and more! David Hackett Fischer (winner of the Pulitzer Prize for *Washington's Crossing*) has written what one editorial review described as a "comprehensive, exhaustively researched, yet always lively biography." Fischer is an acclaimed historian known for his meticulous research and interesting narratives. He points out that Champlain's treatment and relationship with Native Americans differed markedly from that of the Spanish explorers. Included in the many appendices are descriptions of Champlain's ships and boats.

In his introduction, Fischer notes that during the last (20<sup>th</sup>) century, Champlain "began to fade from the historical literature. He all but disappeared from school curricula in France, Canada, and the United States... in France, we heard people say, '*Connais pas*, never heard of him. In the United States, one person asked, 'Champlain? Why are you writing a book about a lake?'" He writes that, "The literature about Champlain is like a century plant. It blooms every hundred years, then fades and blooms again."

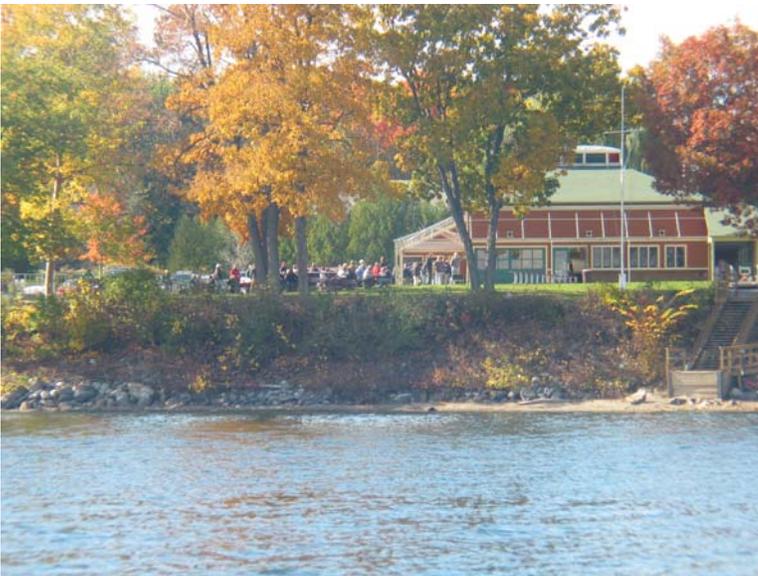
Fortunately, as members of one of the oldest yacht clubs in the United States which bears the name, "Champlain," we all have the opportunity to enjoy this "one hundred bloom." And, as further details become available, these will be added to the Web sites listed above, in future *Binnacles*, and on the LCYC Web site.



***the Binnacle***  
*Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.*  
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**A Look Back at Fall 2008 Workday**



**2008 Board of Governors**

- Commodore..... Doug Viehmann
- Vice Commodore & Treasurer .....Steve Walkerman
- Rear Commodore.....Ted Lattrell
- Secretary, Membership & Log.....Jay Heaslip
- Grounds .....Ulrie Holzinger
- Boats .....Bill Aldrich
- Communications .....Tina McCaffrey
- Docks ..... Bob DeSorbo
- Harbormaster .....Steve Booth
- House .....Wes Daum
- Regatta .....John O'Rourke
- Sailing Programs .....Dorothy Hill
- Social Committee .....Bob Manchester
- Stewards & Personnel .....Jill Burley
- Cruising /Rendezvous .....Ted Lattrell

**Appointed Officers**

- Fleet Chaplain .....Chuck Bowen
- One-Design Coordinator .....Rick Stevens
- Club Historian .....Bern Collins
- Fleet Surgeons .....Drs. Larry & Roberta Coffin
- Club Liaison .....Bruce Hill
- Auditors .. O'Brien, Carpenter & Phillips
- PHRF Handicappers ..... Tony Lamb, John O'Rourke

**Stewards**

Managing Steward: Andrew Boerman