



the Binnacle

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



Upcoming ... 21/22 Vessel Safety Check ... 22 Rendezvous Converse Bay ... 29 Double Handed Race

The Champagne Race - Past and Present Skip Hoblin

Sixteen eyes squinted into the late day sun. Eight paddles bit the lake in unison driving the long canoe towards its' destination. A treasure believed to be of epic proportions. It is Saturday afternoon 1609 and Samuel de Bubbly Champagne is determined to find the treasure deep in Willsboro Bay. Reliable rumor had told that there was a trove of Barefoot Bubbly to be had if you were the first to finish. Sam was not going down in defeat! Thus started the Champagne Race, and true to legend the Commodores of LCYC deemed this an admiral race to commemorate annually.



Fast forward a century or four and the Race for the bubbly is eagerly looked forward to by the fine folks of LCYC. This year the staggered start began with the fickliest of winds coming from nowhere to occasionally somewhere until exiting Shelburne Bay when it filled from the southwest for a delightful romp across the lake with a brief moistening from the gods of semi dense cumulus. Skip and Mimi aboard La Coulee Douce served as race committee and used not paddles but their ever friendly Iron Yanmar to lead the fleet out Shelburne Bay to catch the summer freshys. After hitting a high of 6.8 knots Skip & Mimi undertook a tacking duel off Willsboro Point with the wind gods clocking and veering through a full 120 degrees. Then on to a five tack beat up Willsboro Bay to anchor off the state boat ramp under summer blue skies.

The LCYC fleet was in hot pursuit and appeared en-mass at the point just north of the ramp. Southern Cross seemed to be fetching the finish when she tacked and then again somehow maintaining headway without a breeze. Tight on her heels was Mame trying to out point her to the finish line. Alas to no avail, Southern Cross took line honors followed closely by Mame. Slightly downwind Edelweiss II was coming on like a paddle wheeler reeling in Antares, Cool Change, and Radiant. It looked like there was potential for a photo finish between four boats, but Edelweiss II and her superior momentum drove through to take third, followed by Antares. By 3:30pm the summer breezes had taken a Pina Colada break and retired for the afternoon. Hannah and Sarah, new members this year, drove their elegant power cruiser across the line within two minutes of their forecast ETA. Meridian, Radiant and Cool Change finished under power, fearful that all the Barefoot Bubbly may have been consumed. It wasn't! At least not until later that afternoon.

After all participants had anchored we met on shore at the state ramp for a gourmet pot luck provided by one and all and the awards ceremony. Well maybe ceremony is a bit formal. Southern Cross started the bubbly flowing with her first place finish, Impetuous continued the bubbly flowing with First in the sail, finished under power category, and Hanna and Sarah were disqualified by the race committee because they finished two whole minutes BEFORE the time they had estimated. The race committee naturally concluded that they had to have been OCS at the start. Upon appeal from Hanna and Sarah claiming the early finish was necessary for safety reasons because of congestion at the finish line the Race Committee withdrew the OCS/Disqualification and awarded them First in the Power only class. Mame claimed a bottle of bubbly for second under sail, Meridian claimed another bottle of bubbly for second in sail/ finished under power category. Edelweiss II and Radiant each took thirds.

The sun gods smiled, the bubbly disappeared, the prizes from West Marine were carefully selected and the food evaporated at an astounding rate. The 400th anniversary of the Samuel de Bubbly Champagne race was enjoyed by all. If you missed it this year we will do it again next year. Be There!



Commodores Corner

The other night I had the pleasure of watching "Morning Light", the documentary of a crew of college age people who were pulled together by Roy Disney and Leslie DeMuese to sail the Transpac on *Morning Light*. It is full of many inspirational and informational bits. What caught my attention was the way the organizers of this adventure left all the details to the leaders that emerged from the youthful group that was chosen to train for 6 months. Learning opportunities were provided, lots of sailing and team building exercises were organized, but the choice of who would sail and what positions were assigned, team management, the course, and the logistical planning was all led by the team of sailors. It was a true case of providing the means for a talented group to excel while keeping out of the way; in other words, leading from behind; a skill most of us as parents find difficult, especially when sitting in the passenger seat for the first time.

Several opportunities for club activities are being offered this month, first see the enclosed invitation for a free vessel safety check to be offered by Jim Spencer on the weekend of August 22nd. Also this seasons cruising schedule is finishing up with a few favorite spots, including Converse Bay on that same weekend. Plan ahead for safety by signing up for a Friday evening vessel check and cruise off for the weekend knowing your equipment is thoroughly checked.

Our tax saga is finally resolved with an agreement that keeps the club assessment at a level that will increase our taxes only a few hundred dollars above the 2007-08 level. The rebate is retroactive for the past year and therefore will help us keep the club books balanced this year. Balancing the books is becoming more difficult each year. LCYC is dependant on all who volunteer thousands of hours each year to keep us 'afloat'. I would like to thank all of you who are always willing to help. I urge others to contact their committee chairs to learn what opportunities there are to pitch in. Social events, including burger burns, need volunteers to set up, take money, clean up, make phone calls, pick up the beer, etc. Regatta volunteers come from the racing and non-racing crowd to serve on the committee boat or the party table. Jr. Sailing could benefit from a few retired 'advisors' to act as mentors and additional safety watch. House Grounds, Docks, Boats and Harbor each have a list of things to do. If you do not remember what committee you signed up for, our Membership Chair, Jay Heaslip would be glad to remind you.

Boating is a team sport,
Doug Viehmann

*Pages 214-17 in David Hackett Fischer's *Champlain's Dream* provide a description and illustration of the *Ordre de Bon Temps*.

Celebrating the Quadricentennial with French Panache by Bern Collins, LCYC Historian

Champlain College opened its four-day Samuel de Champlain Quadricentennial Symposium on July 2, with a keynote address, "Champlain and Humanism," by David Hackett Fischer, author of *Champlain's Dream*. This was followed by the dedication of a bronze statue of the explorer, commissioned by Trustee Emeritus Dr. John Heisse, Jr., in the IDX Courtyard. As the huge white tarp was removed, it revealed a shirtless, barefoot Samuel de Champlain peering westward through a telescope toward Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks. Since the only known likeness of Champlain is a self-portrait that is barely an inch high, the sculptor, Jim Sardonis, decided to capture the "spirit" of the French explorer as a man of action and vision.

Following the dedication, participants gathered in the IDX dining hall for **Samuel de Champlain's Order of Good Cheer Dinner**. Yes, Champlain, among all his other achievements, is credited with founding, during the winter of 1606-07, the first dining society in North America. He wrote, "We had good fare by means of an *Ordre de Bon Temps*, which I established."* Although Champlain College President David Finney and three of his colleagues did not hunt the game or catch the fish as was required in Champlain's day, they poured wine for everyone as part of the "Good Cheer" ritual. (To see the pictures of the opening day festivities, go to the Symposium link at www.champlainquadricentennial.com)

Professor Will Randall and his wife, Nancy Nahra, were the driving forces behind the symposium. Through their efforts scholars from France, Canada, and the United

States came together to present papers related to Champlain's explorations and lasting influence. These papers will be available in a book, edited by Nancy Nahra, at the end of 2009.



Follow Your Dreams, Part I: Andy Horton Visits the Junior Sailors by Margaret Turvey

For anyone sailing that Friday, July 24, it may not have been the most thrilling morning, as the light and variable wind was more like the lack of any wind whatsoever. But when the Junior Sailor's morning session ended, a guest speaker turned the day around. Andy Horton, who got started sailing at LCYC, came to talk to the campers and other members of the club.

Andy has competed in huge regattas around the world, including the America's Cup and Match Racing World Championship in 2003 and 2004. He talked about his love of sailing, and even pointed out the boat he'd used at the club (for a boat that is not in great condition, it suddenly got a lot more popular!) He shared anecdotes of his travels, telling of superstitious sailors and hectic races. And he spoke about following your dreams, whatever they might be, no matter how crazy they may seem at the time. Andy chose to be a professional sailor at a time when there were none in Vermont, and even today there are less than a handful. But it is dreams that inspire us, and that's what makes our life's journey worthwhile.

He then revealed a tub, full of products that he'd been given as a sailor, world class gear that he'd received for free. He shocked everyone by offering the goods to us, everybody getting an article of clothing that top-notch sailors wore! While everyone tried on their new shirts, vests, hats, or jackets, one fan asked Andy to sign his shirt. Of course, then a huge line formed to have Andy Horton's signature on apparel from Andy Horton!

This was first-rate equipment. Many top fashion conglomerates sponsor sailing, loving the image it provides. So these shirts had famous brands on them: Prada, Sperry, and Audi are just a few of the huge brands shown on the clothes.

In the following week, anyone who observed the Junior Sailing class would notice an abundance of Prada shirts and Audi vests. With the new threads, all of the novice sailors could now picture themselves in international regattas, competing against the best. I suppose that adds a little spark to the Junior Sailing Olympics!



Follow Your Dreams, Part II: Junior Sailors in Action by Dot Hill

Jr Sailing racing comprised the month of July with events every week for the sailors beginning with an in house competition and then national Junior level ladder event in the Bemis double handed division held July 10, 2009 at Northern Lake George Yacht Club. LCYC sent two teams to this event and had our own sailors Laura Dunphy and Ming Fen Congdon qualify for the next level which was held at Boothbay yacht Club in Maine. Sam Coffin filled in as crew for Laura on July 17 as Ming was unable to attend, and the team competed in light air conditions.

Next up was our club hosting this years jr regatta, the "Champlain 400" held July 15-16. Sailors from Mallett's Bay Boat Club and NLGYC attended and we had fleets of 12 FJ and 10 Optis on the starting line. We enjoyed some unusually great weather for this, despite light air on the second day and generally had a great time getting in 6 races total. LCYC sailors Charlie Maitland won first place in the Opti division and Cat Hill and Meg Wallace placed 3rd in the FJ's. Special thanks go out to all the folks that helped with their time, boats, and enthusiasm make this a successful event including Doug White, Chris Johnson, Mike & Betsy Dunphy, Jack Wallace, Jeff & Bruce Hill, Luis Gonzalez, John Hill & Tyler Colvin-the staff of Jr sailing, and many others.

Our sailors then traveled to MBBC for an interclub day of racing on 7/23 with another nice but light air day. Great fun there and lunch brought out to the sailors on the water. LCYC sailors David Johnson won first place and Hank Hughes 3rd place in the Optis at this event.

The much anticipated finale event was the Cheeseburger in Paradise regatta hosted by the Lake George Club July 29-31. Torrential rains accompanied the traveling sailors both to and from this event, but a nice window of great weather opened up for the day and a half of sailing. LCYC sent 4 FJ and 3 Optis to compete in a fleet of 24 FJ and 23 Optis on the starting line. Ben Langdon from LCYC placed 4th in Opti and winning the FJ division, Laura Dunphy and Ming Congdon out did their second place finish of last year and are the reigning champs. Congratulations to Laura and Ming!



Etchells News by John Harris

There were 2 events hosted by the fleet during July. Both were, go figure, held on rain dates. The first was "guest night" in which we had 4 Etchells out sailing with guest crews aboard. Despite the light and variable easterly winds, we were able to get out and sail for almost 2 hours, including a short fun race. The highlight of the event was giving Mike Barker the opportunity to step down from his JAM throne and sail a real boat. The evening concluded with a few beers and some refreshments. All the guests appeared to enjoy their introduction to the Etchells, in spite of the less than exhilarating sailing conditions.

The second event was our (almost) annual "Jud Smith Clinic". Jud is one of the premier Etchells sailors and sailmakers in the world, having won both NA and World Championships and is a fountain of knowledge for all things Etchells. The clinic was held on what was arguably the finest evening of sailing we have had yet this summer. Nine boats got out to enjoy the wondrous 10-12 kt winds, clear skies and cool but comfortable temps. John Hill did yeoman's duty driving the LCYC RIB shuttling Jud to and fro between boats (Thanks John!!!!). Over a 3 hour period Jud was able to spend about 15-20 minutes per boat providing detailed suggestions regarding tuning and sail trim tailored to the varying skill level of each boat. Once again the evening concluded with beer and munchies, along with some more discussions with Jud. This event is one of the highlights of the season as Jud so generously shares his vast knowledge and love for the Etchells with our fleet.

If all this sounds like a lot of fun, come join us. There are some limited crewing opportunities available and there is at least one Etchells for sale locally if you are ready to take the plunge. Contact one of our Fleet co-captains, Dave Powlison or Rick Stevens, or any other fleet member for more information.

Attack of the Killer C's (Tartan 34 C's, That Is)

by Mike Barker

On August 8th seven of the ten Tartan 34 Cs on Lake Champlain gathered at LCYC for the group's annual rendezvous. Two Tartan 34 Cs reside at LCYC - the infamous WINGDAM and Pete and Kerri's AQUARIUS. Olin Stephens designed the boat in 1965 at the same time he drew the lines for INTREPID the last wood 12 and the only three time winner of the America's Cup. Earlier Stephens designed the famous racing sloop FINIS-TERRE, also a keel/centerboard very much like the Tartan 34, only in wood. The oldest boat at the gathering was a 1970 called INDIAN SUMMER. The newest, and among the last built, was ISLAND GYPSY launched in 1978. Altogether 550 were built from 1968 to 1978. Puny by today's standards, when it was built the Tartan 34, was considered a good sized racer/cruiser capable of ocean crossing. It is still a very nice cruiser and being sailed and restored all over the world. I have owned WINGDAM, a 1977 model, for 30 years and have had some success on the racecourse. To me it's great to see pretty old boats improved, maintained, and still in the hunt.



Tartan 34 C's Take Over the LCYC Docks



Close to the Action Part I: Ladies Cup



Close to the Action Part II: Burger Burn

SIGN UP NOW!

FREE!



Club member Jim Spencer (vtspercens@comcast.net)
a **Certified Vessel Examiner**
will conduct vessel safety checks at the LCYC Dock
for all who schedule a time on

the weekend of
August 22nd

Friday and Saturday times available

Call or e-mail to schedule a time with
Commodore Doug Viehmann
862-9631 daytime or 864-0794 evenings
dv@gvvarchitects.com

This 45 minute inspection will net you a list of safety deficiencies
(unless of course you are perfect)
and a sticker to display on your mast.

More Upcoming Events at LCYC

August

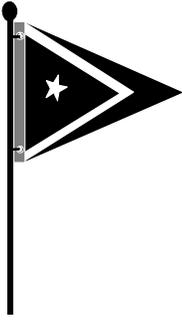
22nd Rendezvous Converse Bay
29th Double Handed Race

September

5th Labor Day Cruise to Deep Bay
MBBC Knotta Regatta
11th Annual Pig Roast
11-18th MBBC Lightning Worlds
12-13th Macdonough Race
19th Rendezvous Converse Bay
19-20th MBBC J24 Districts
26th Hot Ruddered Bum Race
26-27th Fall Etchells Regatta/MBBC
26th VSC Soling NAs

October

16th Awards Party
17th Closing Work Day



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fold here

Interested in Being a Steward Next Summer?

Contact Jill Burley.496-6171 or email jillb@burleypartnership.com. Need to be 17+ , have 90 days "sea time", get CPR and 1st aid certification and take USCG class for license to carry six passengers. Great experience, good connections, money. Need to be available weekends, holidays, evenings, spring and fall.

Please Update Your Contact Information In the Log

Please check your contact and boat information in the club log. If there is incorrect or missing information please let us know. It is important to have this information so that if there is a problem with a boat we can identify the owner and have the ability to contact the owner. Bob Schumacher - Harbor-master; 802-238-8099; bobschumacher@gmavt.net

Lake Champlain from a Different Perspective

By Bern Collins

Many LCYC members will recall the Change of Watch program a few years ago when Cathy Frank and Margy Holden narrated slides of their kayaking adventures. Many paddles later, their book, *A Kayaker's Guide to Lake Champlain*, is now available. Candace Page wrote a glowing article based on her interviews and review of the book in the *Burlington Free Press*, August 2, 2009. Cathy reports that you can purchase signed copies at The Flying Pig Bookstore in Shelburne, and it is also available at EMS, Barnes & Noble, Borders, and Canoe Imports. This is a wonderful guide for both novice and experienced kayakers—and for those of us of all ages who love Lake Champlain and want to learn more.

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