



the Binnacle

Newsletter of the Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.

Commodore: Doug Merrill
Binnacle Editors: Tony Lamb
<http://www.lcyt.info>



LAKE CHAMPLAIN YACHT CLUB
Shelburne, Vermont — 1887-2014

Spring has sprung, and the ice is off Shelburne Bay soon.

WorkDay is Saturday May 3, starting at 8am.

Workdays are part of the obligation of membership as a working club. If you can't make it on May 3, there are other projects that will be happening either before then, or after which will fulfill the workday requirement. You should contact Jill Gagne our membership chair at lcycsecretary@gmail.com and she will put you in touch with a committee chair.

Also if you are still planning on signing someone up for our Junior Sailing programs this summer, you need to act fast, as spaces are getting VERY limited.

Finally, make sure you check the LCYC website calendar to make sure you don't miss out on any of our many events.

Upcoming events

May 3 Workday

May 17 New Member Orientation

May 21 Wednesday night practice race

May 28 First Wednesday night race

May 31 Opening Cocktail Party



Commodore's Corner

Spring is here! Standing at the clubhouse, looking two feet of ice covering the lake, you would not know it. However, the calendar does not lie. It's time to get busy; check your to-do lists and prioritize them into what you can get done in the next two months, because the boats will be in the water soon.

This is my first Binnacle entry into the Commodore's Corner. I'm humbled and excited to be taking this role. For those of you who were not at the Change of Watch dinner in February, I want to repeat my heartfelt thanks to Chris and Jenny Leopold. I've had the pleasure of serving on the board under Chris for the past two years. The club is a better place in almost every aspect due to his wise guidance and hard work. The nominating committee has done an outstanding job of convincing a really talented group of members to serve on the board. We have a great team of individuals working hard and working smart to keep LCYC running smoothly. Please don't hesitate to contact any of the board members if you have a question about the club's management or a suggestion on how to improve things. And we don't mind a complement now and then when we get things right.

Over the winter months the board has been busy working on several long term projects to improve the club. Dave Main has taken over the grounds committee. He is working to improve the club's surface water management plan. As part of this effort, a settling pond and sheeting dam were installed on the North side of the property in December to remove sediment and kinetic energy from water runoff before it goes over the bank into the lake. David is also working with a civil engineering firm to establish a detailed survey of our property and structures. This has not been done since the current clubhouse was proposed. This survey will form the baseline for investigations into how to improve our parking area to make it less susceptible to wet weather, and for proposals to replace our Butler Building.

Bob Gurwicz joined the board this year. As house committee chair, he is tackling one of our most troublesome problems of last summer...the toilets! Five new toilets have been ordered and will be installed in May. This should keep our facilities in order for a long time. We will also have three new race marks showing up to replace cracked and sinking marks, and a new FJ will be delivered to the junior program, replacing the last of the 1990's boats "Shoot the Moon."



Lots of other planning work, from docks to moorings, is going on behind the scenes as well.

In the shorter term, your board of governors has been working to generate a long list of tasks to complete in May before the club sees a lot of use. Most of them will take place on May 3, our club's opening work day. Mark your calendar to make sure you are at the club to open it up and get it ready for the season. I promise that the ice will be out of the harbor, and the docks will go in.

One project that I have challenged the board to embrace is to be more direct about engaging our membership for help. When applying for membership, each member 'checked a box' describing the area that they wanted to volunteer to help with. That check mark was entered into the LCYC database, and there it remains. Many of us don't remember what we checked, or have

changed our interests over time. That is OK! I have asked each committee chair to check their 'list' from the database and determine if the people on it have been actively engaged in that activity. There are some people whose preferences we no longer know. Expect an email over the next month either thanking you for working with a particular committee, or an email listing committees that need help and requesting that you select the area that you would like to be involved with. Each committee chair is also preparing a 'job description' that lists the type of tasks that members of that committee are responsible for completing.

Engagement is a two way street. Not only are we going to be asking more directly for help, I've asked the committee chairs to ensure that members know what needs to be done! If you are on a committee, you should be able to know what



work is coming up that the club needs help with. We are looking at some web based solutions to make this communication more effective.

I've been asked the question 'how much time do we expect members to volunteer?' I have bounced this question off of many members recently and come to the conclusion that we expect about 16 hours of volunteer service a year. This breaks down into 4 hours at spring workday, 4 hours at fall workday, and two other $\frac{1}{2}$ day sessions. Those $\frac{1}{2}$ day sessions could be working as part of a race committee, hosting a burger burn, taking care of maintenance tasks outside of workday, building new docks, or any of the multitudes of activities that our members do to keep our club running throughout the year.

Enough about the work of running a club. Events will begin kicking off very shortly after the spring work day. Our new member orientation will be held on May 17. Interest in membership has been very strong, with five applications received so far this year. The LCYC opening cocktail party will be taking place on May 31. Steve and Charlotte Adams will be hosting it. They have graciously hosted it many times in the past, so I'm sure it will be a wonderful kickoff to the boating season. The club's calendar has been filled with a summer full of events, and is posted on the club website. I have one piece of advice for everyone before work day. Get these events onto your laptop/ipad/smartphone/refrigerator... whatever your family uses to keep track of who is doing what. Summer is short and sweet. Enter the important stuff onto the calendar now, before it fills up with everything else!



Doug Merrill
Commodore



From the Weather Mark

We have booked our usual full schedule of racing for 2014, which means races every Wednesday night for all boats, 6 Monday nights and 2 weekend days of racing for the Etchells/Sportboat fleets, and of course, our centerpiece races on the weekend. And if that's not enough there are also the lake-wide conference races, taking boats to MBBC, Plattsburgh, and the Royal Savage YC. On top of that, we'll be hosting our first Viper regatta on September 27-28. We fit a lot of racing in a relatively short summer!

Clearly, it takes a lot of volunteers to make all of this happen. We have a dedicated group of PROs, led by Keith Kennedy, who train for their work and then run multiple races over the course of the season. We owe these folks a big thank-you for their commitment to our program.

But that's just part of our formula for success. Race management also requires volunteers to help out the PROs, and that's where we need your help. In the past, we've required each boat to provide RC help for at least one race event every two years. With the growing number of races, we've been a thin on coverage, even if everyone fulfills their every-two-year commitment. To beef up our pool a bit, we are now requiring each owner to provide RC help at least once every two years. This should help us cover all the races we host. So if you haven't signed up for RC yet, es-

pecially if you didn't serve last year, go to our website, log in, and then pick a date from the bottom right-hand corner of our front page. Even if you did serve last year, we welcome your help.

As of this writing, we need RC for C2, C4, D1 and Etchells/Sportboat 8. If you can help us out by volunteering, we'd appreciate it. It's a great way to watch the racing, and it's amazing how much you can learn by stepping off your boat for a race and watching your fleet.

Speaking of sign-ups, don't forget to register to race. Again, it's very easy—just go to the club website, log on, and go to the "racing" section. It's just like last year.

Speaking of last year, the new orange permanent marks we added in 2013 on the broad lake received great reviews for their added visibility. You'll be pleased to know we've purchased identical new orange marks to replace the aging "C", "E" and "S" marks in the bay. The "W" mark was replaced recently, so that will be receiving a facelift from yellow to orange. So, for 2014, all of our race marks will be high-visibility orange. A big shout out goes to the Etchells fleet, which contributed funds for the "E" mark. Their only stipulation was that we "rebrand" the mark—it will still be the "E" mark, but the "E" you'll see on the mark will be an Etchells logo.

Again, don't forget to register to race and sign up for race committee. It should be a great season!

--Dave Powlison

Junior Sailing

By Walt Marti

Despite the long cold winter, the LCYC junior program has been busy gearing up for the 2014 season. Our focus remains on safety, fun and developing a lifelong appreciation for sailing and seamanship. The results from our winter survey and the early sign-up numbers show that Doug Merrill and the 2013 staff did an outstanding job of building on an already strong program.

Registration is currently underway and as mentioned, is off to another record start. While there are still openings available in many of the sessions for both the Opti and FJ fleets, classes are filling up fast. If interested, go to the "Youth" section of our website and register today. Also, please let your friends and neighbors know about these great summer camps for local kids.

Many seem to think our junior sailing program is only open to LCYC members.

I am thrilled to announce our almost all veteran staff for this summer; Erika Merrell is returning for her third year head instructor. Also returning are Gabe Mantegna and Stephanie Benoit. Past program participants and 2013 instructors-in-training; Noah Allen and Charlie Maitland will be full-time junior instructors this summer. Lastly, Vermont native Kevin Wilkinson will round out the 2014 staff. Kevin sailed spring/fall all four years of high school on the Northern Vermont sailing team and spent two summers as an instructor-in-training at the Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center.

We have an amazing summer planned for 2014:

June 16 – Season Begins

June 19 - Dessert Potluck - Staff Meet & Greet

June 26 - Parent Sail Along I & Family BBQ

July 16 & 17 – Champ Chase Regatta (MBBC)

July 18 - Boat Show & Tag Sale

July 23-25 – Cheeseburger Regatta (NLGYC)

July 31 - Parent Sail Along II & Family BBQ

August 8 - Jr. Sailing Awards Banquet (New
for 2014)

This all happens as a result of the efforts of LCYC member volunteers. Please consider joining the Jr. Sailing Committee and help us; prep the boats for the 2014 season, help coordinate and staff the many events, transport boats and sailors to the regatta, etc. It is incredibly fun and rewarding to be around the energy of these young sailors. For more information on the program or how you can get involved - please contact me.

Walt Marti



Sailing on Lake Champlain, Winter 2014

It's unusual to get a Binnacle article about racing or cruising on Lake Champlain in the April issue, as our boats are still tucked under their covers in the yard. However, one look at the lake as March winds down will tell you that 2014 has been an unusual year. Shelburne Bay froze over very early this season, in mid-January. By Mid-February, the entire surface of Lake Champlain was ice covered, save the two ferry routes.

While this may seem to most (sane) members a clear indication to head to the mountains or to stay indoors, a few of us took this opportunity to indulge in some wintertime racing and 'cruising' on the lake. The cold temperatures and lack of snow in January produced beautiful ice conditions at the ends of the lake. In fact, it was one of the best sheets of ice in North America, so the DN iceboat class announced that the North American Championships would be held in Plattsburgh. 48 boats from all over the US (and a couple from Europe) converged on January 23rd and 24th to get in four races in two fleets (Silver and Gold). Don Brush came home with an impressive 8th place in the gold fleet. Doug Merrill finished 8th in the Silver Fleet. Local sailor Jack Millbank ended up 3rd in the Silver Fleet. Bob Schumacher served as PRO for the event, and did a great job getting in 8 races under challenging weather conditions! Winds on the 23rd were very light, while winds on the 24th built quickly during the day, progressing from good to exciting to marginally unsafe, at which point the racing was cancelled for the day. Temperatures stayed in the single digits for the entire regatta.

The following weekend two fleets of boats organized races on the ice near Chazy, NY. The DN class held the east Coast Championships, with 25

boats competing in seven races on February 1 & 2. Bob Schumacher took 3rd place, with Don Brush right behind him in 4th. Two miles South of the DN's the International Skeeter Association held their Eastern Championships. Skeeters are larger and faster iceboats than the DN's. Doug Merrill sailed his Nite class iceboat with son Jack, finishing 5th of 7 boats racing in the "C" division. Doug's son Jack was treated to a tour of one of the high-tech A class skeeters. Imagine a fighter jet fuselage with skates on the bottom and a wing-sail on top. All of the sudden our Nite and DN looked very old-school to him!

Snow came and went in early February, and by March 1, the entire lake was solidly frozen with very little snow on its surface. Sailors converged on Shelburne Beach as a good launching point with easy access to the broad portion of the lake. During the first and second weekends in March, 'cruises' were organized to explore the lake running as far South as the Charlotte-Essex ferry line, and as far North as the Burlington Breakwater. Bob Schumacher, Jeff Hill, Don Brush, and Doug Merrill from LCYC sailed with Al Russell from MBBC and local sailors Jack Milbank and Paul Gervais on these explorations, typically covering 30 to 40 miles in an afternoon. The ice was not mirror smooth, but it extended as far as a sailor could see, and the formations were beautiful. The weather was fair, with temperatures in the high 20s and winds around 10 mph. No one who toured the ice on the broad lake this winter will ever forget these days.

If you want to extend your time on the lake next winter, find one of the sailors listed above and ask him about coming out to try your hand at iceboating next winter. Be prepared to be thrilled!

Pursuing the Dream

For as long as we can remember we have dreamed of living aboard our boat, S/V *Imagine* a Beneteau First 47.7, becoming full time cruisers and sailing wherever the wind takes us. Knowing that both our children will be in graduate school in Boston, we set June 2014 as our target date for moving to our boat. At first we thought we would sail around the Canadian Maritimes down the east coast and to the Caribbean. From there we thought we could either go across the Atlantic to Europe or through the Panama Canal up the west coast and than Hawaii.

However as we were making final preparations, we discovered Blue Planet Odyssey (BPO). Blue Planet Odyssey is a round the world sailing event aimed at raising awareness of the global effects of climate change by calling at some of the most endangered islands in the world: San Blas Islands in the Atlantic; Tuvalu, Tokelau, Tuamotus, Micronesia, Kiribati, and the Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean; the Maldives and Andaman Islands in the Indian Ocean. It will also endeavor to highlight the effects of climate change on the Arctic ice cap, the Great Barrier Reef, and the Galapagos Islands.

Over twenty-five participants will be starting from Europe, North America, South America, South Africa, Asia, and Australia merging along the way. We will be starting in New York City on October 2014. From there we will go down the east coast to Miami, then Havana, San Blas Islands, Panama Ca-



nal, Galapagos Islands, Easter Islands, most Polynesian Islands, Great Barrier Reef, Australia, Bali, Singapore, Phuket, India, Oman, Suez Canal, Port Said, Turkey, Greece, Malta, Tunisia, Spain, Gibraltar, Canary Islands, Eastern Caribbean, and back to New York three to four years later.

We will be involved in three types of projects through the BPO: educational, scientific, and community. Our first step was to talk with our local schools to explore ways to involve students in various aspects of our voyage. They will be able to follow our progress by satellite and through some sort of blog. There will also be virtual classes held in places along our route. A number of universities in this country and abroad plus NOAA and other scientific groups are working with BPO so that sailors will be taking water samples plus temperature, barometric pressure, and bird sightings along the way. And lastly there will be a number of community projects on those islands, for instance building desal-

fication plants.

In June 2014, we will sail from Lake Champlain through the Champlain Canals down the Hudson River to New York. After reaching New York we will sail through the Long Island Sound (on the Connecticut side) up to Block Island, Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, Rhode Island, and Boston. After visiting friends and family in Boston we will sail back to New York through the Long Island Sound (on the New York side) where the adventure begins on October 3, 2014.

We are both extremely excited by this adventure, yet sad to leave Vermont. We have lived here for close to thirty years, sailing with our daughters, and enjoying all that Vermont offers. It is a very special place.

Dick Lednicky and Andrea Van Hoven



Scuttlebutt * (another word for Editor's Notes)
A new season for the Binnacle begins.



I will miss working with Commodore Chris. We have been friends for a long time. He always provided cover for me by holding back his Commodore's Corner until well after the due date giving me the excuse I always need for being late. I am not sure how I am going to deal with a Commodore who has his in early.

We are always looking for stories to print or write. I was asked what are the limits or rules. Basically we are looking for stories about members and their activities around sailing or boating or that might be of interest to sailors and boaters. We have lots of options on how to present the material and I would like to work with anyone to help present the material in the best way. I would warn you that I sometimes lose stuff so if you have not heard from me or seen something you submitted, contact me.

My crew, Will, who set up Yacht Bot last year was not lured astray by the Merchant Marine Academy's Transpac 52, instead he will be attending the Coast Guard Academy. A couple years from now if you are being rescued by the Coast Guard some place, just remember that the Officer in Charge received his introduction to seaman ship at LCYC.

Peace, Tony Lamb, Editor