



the Binnacle

Newsletter of the Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.

Commodore: Jill Gagne

June 2023

Director of Club Communications: Doug Merrill

Binnacle Editor: Tony Lamb



Workday.

In this issue:

Commodore's Corner	Page 2
Announcing 25th Anniversary Celebration	Page 3
Crusing Notes 2023	Page 4
Meet the Stewards	Page 7
Meet the Sailing Instructors	Page 9
Around the Club	
Stewards	Page 11
Social	Page 12
Grounds	Page 13
Junior Sailing	Page 14
Docks	Page 15
House	Page 16
Boats	Page 16
Regatta	Page 17
Membership	Page 17
Harbor	Page 18
Scuttlebutt	Page 19



Commodore's Corner



By Jill Gagne , Commodore

*E-mail: LCYC.Commodore@gmail.com *

It is officially summer and the club is in full swing. The weather has been unpredictable, but that seems to be the new normal. We were fortunate to have a beautiful day for the club opening, which brought out well over one hundred and fifty people! With so much help, work was done quickly and efficiently and the Club is ready for the season! The docks are in and ready, the boats are in working order, the clubhouse has been refreshed, and the grounds are looking beautiful. There are still projects that need attention, so if you were not able to attend opening work day, reach out to your committee chair for opportunities. There will also be emails sent out with work party announcements that anyone can help out with.

The Opening Cocktail Party was a huge success. The weather was chilly but with a fire in the fireplace and the sun popping out, it was a beautiful evening to kick off the summer. The Social Committee did an amazing job at decorating and providing refreshments and delicious food! New members were welcomed prior to the festivities, and a brief orientation was provided. The Change of Watch ceremony was also held as part of the festivities and I want to thank the outgoing board members and committee volunteers for their service to the club: Bill Kallock (Junior Sailing Programs), Michael Kerbaugh (Docks), Gunnar Sievert (Cruising), Wes Daum (Grounds), and Jean Sievert (Social). I also want to thank Walt Marti for his stewardship of the club as Commodore.

The social, cruising, and racing programs have all been busy with pizza night, cruising potlucks, races, and the speaker series kicking off with a "Let's go cruising" event. We are fortunate to have a great group of Stewards this season, with many returning and a few new faces; check out the Stewards article to read their bios. Jr. Sailing has also begun, and we have an experienced group of instructors ready to share their joy of sailing; meet the instructors in the article on Jr. Sailing.

A few reminders to help the season go smoothly for all, please ensure your name is on your mooring ball, your dinghy, and on any watercraft on the beach or on the South side of the club. Remember to only park on the grass if the gravel parking is full, and be conservative with water usage in the clubhouse.

A few things to look out for in the coming month: a new playset will be coming soon, see the grounds article for details. There will also be some guidelines developed and shared for beach usage and small watercraft storage.

I hope everyone finds time to enjoy being on the water and spending time at the club as we roll into July. I encourage you to read the Social Committee article for all of the upcoming events, including a few highlights you won't want to miss: Speaker Series on the 25th anniversary of the clubhouse, the Boat show, and the Commodores' PotLuck. I look forward to seeing you around.

25th Clubhouse Anniversary Celebration & Potluck Dessert

Mark your calendars! In celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Clubhouse, LCYC will be hosting a 25th Clubhouse Anniversary Celebration & Potluck Dessert on Friday, July 14th beginning at 7:00 PM. Have you ever wondered who designed our Clubhouse and how it came to be built? How many and what happened to LCYC's other clubhouses? Are there similar design elements and/or components in the Clubhouse that came from its predecessors? Why and when did the Club move from Burlington's Waterfront to Shelburne Bay? Who are the club members that led the effort to build LCYC's treasure on Shelburne Bay? Join us on July 14th to learn the answers and much more about LCYC as we celebrate this anniversary and gather to recognize our members who devoted their time, talents and energy beginning another era at LCYC with this Clubhouse. Please bring a homemade dessert to share for the Potluck to follow the formal celebration. Liquid refreshments (non alcoholic) provided.



Cruising Notes 2023

The 2023 cruising season got off to a great start. We had a record 44 attending the Friday night pot luck dinner, including 7 new potential cruisers who've expressed an interest in joining the fleet. With many folks still working on their boats or waiting to be launched, only a few boats planned to join us for the long Memorial Day weekend cruise.



Enjoying munchies and drinks before dinner



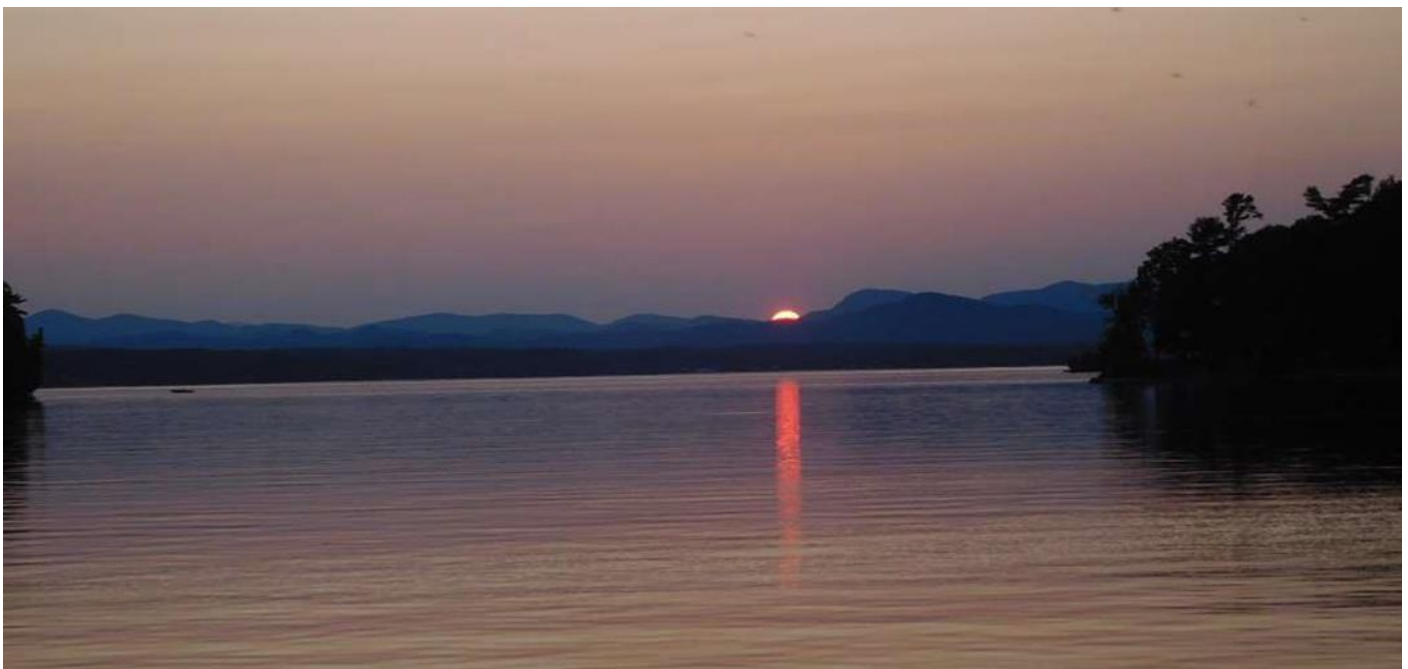
Enjoying dinner and catching up with old and new friends

The glassy water on the bay did little to entice folks to head out in the morning, but to our surprise, we found a steady 10 kt breeze on the broad lake - perfect for the Tea Kettle Race and our cruise. Best of all, the breeze held all day, giving everyone a perfect day for the start of the cruising/racing season. Conditions don't get much better than this - steady wind, a calm sea state, and lots of sunshine.



Tea Kettle participants approaching the line

We were joined at the LCYC moorings in Converse Bay by Borealis and after lunch hiked over to Point Bay Marina where we chatted with the Platts and Schumachers who were busy getting their boats ready for launching. Alas, we were too late to get ice cream at the ship's store where the weekend hours end at 1500. After a bit of a hike, we enjoyed drinks and snacks on board Borealis, before settling in for a quiet night with the wind having died with the sunset.



Sunset behind the Adirondacks

As we ate breakfast, I saw a large black bird circling overhead - an immature bald eagle with a fish in its talons trying to figure out how to land in a tree without dropping it in the process. What must have been frustrating for it gave us time to grab the camera for a few pictures before it headed toward Garden Island. I hope the landing was successful!



Why didn't they explain how to land without losing breakfast when they taught me to fly

With the possibility of others joining us Sunday evening and after discussing possible anchorages, we decided to go a day sail (more perfect weather) and return to Converse for the evening where we were joined by Sophie and the Martis in their new Sabre 38 power boat. The Martis hosted the cocktail hour offering a tour of their new boat - very nice and they plan on starting the Great Loop sometime this summer.

While others returned to the club Monday, we choose take advantage of the beautiful weather to extend our cruise for another night. We sailed further south, checking out Snake Den (the forecast S wind beginning in the wee hours could make things uncomfortable there), we sailed to North Harbor and went ashore to explore Basin Harbor and get a creemee. Alas, the little store wasn't open yet - while it looked like the resort was gearing up for another season, it wasn't quite ready yet. The hike down to Button Bay was a nice finish to weekend. The S wind, which had indeed come up during the night, gave us a pleasant sail back to the club Tuesday. A terrific start to the 2023 cruising season.

For any club members interested in joining us who aren't yet on Cruising Email List to receive emails announcing cruising events, please email us at lgrosner@att.net to add your name. The Cruising Board is across from the steward's office and is available to those interested in joining other boats. Check the board for any cruising boats out and their destinations. Add your vessel's name, destination and date(s) if you're interested in getting together with other cruisers. Please remember to remove your name when you return to LCYC. Thanks!

Leonard and Lynnea Rosner S/V Antares

Meet the 2023 Stewards.

Adelaide Durant

Hello! My name is Adelaide Durant and this is my second year working at LCYC but first year as a Steward. I graduated from Holderness School this spring and I am going to attend Queens University this fall, majoring in Political Science and Economics. In my free time I enjoy playing tennis, skiing, and spending time on the lake. I am really looking forward to working at the club and meeting everyone this summer!



Charlie Filkorn

My name is Charlie Filkorn, I've been a member at LCYC for years, and I'm excited to join the staff as a steward in training. I'm a junior in high school at MMU, and in my free time I love to ski, sail, play soccer and play tennis. I'm looking forward to spending lots of time at LCYC this summer, as I complete the process to become a steward. See you around!

Ethan Behr

Hi! My name is Ethan Behr, and this will be my fourth summer as a steward at LCYC! I will be a junior at Boston College in the fall, studying math and music -- specifically composition and film scoring. In my free time, I love playing piano and other instruments, hiking, reading, and spending time on and/or in the water! I can't wait to be back at LCYC. See you this summer!



Fisher Irwin

Hello LCYC, my name is Fisher Irwin and I'm looking forward to joining the LCYC stewards crew this summer. I am a rising senior at CVU High School and have been active at LCYC since my first camper experience in Optis and FJ's in the Junior Sailing Program at age 10. I've spent all of my summers on Lake Champlain and enjoy fishing, waterskiing, wakeboarding, sailing and scuba diving regularly. I've also been a crew on The Green Flash and Preacher in the Etchells series for the last few seasons. I'm a certified lifeguard and active Eagle Scout in Troop 602 here in Shelburne. When the lake is frozen, I enjoy alpine skiing, ultimate frisbee and playing euphonium.



Maeve Begin

Hi! My name is Maeve and I am going into my junior year here at UVM studying Public Health Sciences. I have spent the past three summers stewarding back home in Massachusetts at Swampscott Yacht Club, but am excited to join the team at LCYC this year as I will be in Burlington for the summer! I have grown up in a big sailing family and I can't wait to be out on the lake this summer and to meet everyone at LCYC!

Parker Main Bio 2023

Ahoy! I am excited to be starting my fourth season at the club this summer. I am finishing up my Junior year at the University of Hartford studying music management and playing the french horn. When I'm not out on the water I enjoy being outside hiking, playing basketball and going for runs. I am currently training to run my first marathon so you may see me running around the streets of South Burlington frequently this summer. I look forward to seeing you at the club this summer!



Meet the 2023 LCYC Junior Sailing Instructors

Leigh Kerbaugh

Leigh Kerbaugh returns to the Junior Sailing staff as the head instructor. Leigh is from Williston and just finished her Freshman year at the College of the Holy Cross. At Holy Cross, Leigh is a Biology major and in her free time volunteers at the Boys and Girls club in Worcester. Leigh grew up at LCYC, sailing on Magic and most recently on Stella, a full on cruising boat. She loves sailing, and spending summer days around LCYC. She has very fond memories of Junior Sailing camps when she was younger and cannot wait to be back for another summer. Leigh hopes to share her passion of sailing and the lake while having fun with all of the junior sailors this summer!



Nathan Hanson

Nathan Hanson lives in Shelburne and has been part of the Junior Sailing program for 9 years. This is his second year as an instructor. In addition to racing with LCYC, Nathan also sails with the Vermont high school sailing team and crews for the Etchells class at LCYC. He has also participated in the Mayor's Cup regatta and J24 nationals. Nathan enjoys skiing and snowmobiling and playing lacrosse. He will be a Senior at CVU and is excited to spend his summer sailing.

Brendan Hawko

Brendan Hawko joins the Junior Sailing staff for his second year as an instructor. Brendan grew up in Shelburne and has participated in the LCYC Junior Sailing program for the past nine years. He races with the Vermont high school sailing team and is a regular Etchells crew at LCYC. He has traveled the Northeast to participate in One-Design and PHRF racing. Brendan just completed his Junior year at Champlain Valley Union High School and is excited to teach sailing again this summer!



Henry Bushey

Henry Bushey joins the LCYC Junior Sailing staff for his first year instructing. Henry has sailed in the program for eight years, in Optis and FJs. He races 420s in the fall for the Northern Vermont High School Sailing Team, and plays baseball for CVU in the spring. He can be seen racing on Wednesday nights with family and friends on J-Chip, when he doesn't have baseball practice. Henry just finished his Sophomore year at CVU, and looks forward to teaching sailing this summer!



Instructors in Training

This summer, the Junior Sailing staff will be joined by Eloise Durant, Griffin Hanson, and Magnus Nilsson as instructors in training.



Around the Club

Stewards



By John Stetson, Stewards Chair

We are now at our full complement of regular stewards. Training is in full swing and the team is quickly learning the ropes. Please remember to introduce yourself to the stewards so that they begin to put names to faces. We are lucky to have such a great group of individuals! Please see their photos and bios elsewhere in this edition of The Binnacle.

With new stewards comes the challenge of recalling boat names and locations in the mooring field. If requested to provide directions to your mooring, please indicate north or south harbor and any other identifying description.

On the topic of mooring locations, it is a big help (and a requirement) to clearly indicate the mooring number and mooring owner's name on the ball. This is of particular importance if your mooring will be available for guest mooring use.

The likelihood of thunderstorms increases during the summer months. Please be mindful of the weather when contacting the stewards for delivery to or from your boat. The general guideline is that steward service will be suspended once thunder is heard and will resume approximately 20 minutes after the last clap is heard. The club dinghies are usually available.

As a reminder, the designated swim area is between the swim float and the junior sailing dock. Boat traffic is prohibited in this area other than those in use for the junior sailing program.

Congratulations to Adelaide Durant and Bob Finn on the successful completion of the US Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Credential, or Launch Operator license! One regular steward and three more volunteers are waiting for final approval. What was once a 3 to 4 month process is now taking 6 months. Our steward-in-training is beginning the process now for next summer and several more volunteers are in the process of completing the requirements. It continues to be our goal to provide steward service with licensed launch operators.

The long term solution to meeting our steward needs may be to hire one or two senior stewards. These individuals might be retired or otherwise have flexibility in their schedule to fill in as needed during the summer, but primarily work from the end of August through September after the regular stewards have returned to school.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any suggestions to improve our launch service or if you are interested in becoming a steward.

A
R
O
U
N
D

T
H
E

C
L
U
B

Greetings from the Social Deck!

Robin Jeffers, Chris & Jenny Leopold, and Barb Schumacher, Co-chairs

LCYC Social has a new format this year! Last Fall, Commodore Walt Marti established a Task Force to address the leadership and management of the social program. The Task Force came about as it became increasingly difficult to enlist a single person to serve as Social Chair, as the work is extensive, our summer is short, and most of the work occurs during the boating season when time always seems to be at a premium. Compounding this significant hurdle, event volunteer enrollment has also been challenging for these same reasons.

The Task Force met regularly during the fall and winter looking at the issues, talking with former social chairs and borrowing from a 1970s LCYC model coupled with technology to form the basis of the new leadership and management model. The Social program will have several co-chairs working in tandem with a Social Steering Committee to help develop programs, budgets and manage volunteers. The Board of Governors accepted the recommendations and this year Robin Jeffers, Chris & Jenny Leopold, and Barb Schumacher serve as the co-chairs and are joined by Christina Lamb Sidell, and Katie Wight on the Steering Committee. In reviewing the current social program, the Task Force concluded the program should be balanced to serve the full membership and offer more emphasis on events not directly related to the racing program.

On the volunteer front, the Social Committee is using a new software program, SignUpGenius, to support the recruitment and enrollment of volunteers for our many events. The program will help to eliminate the time consuming task and countless hours past Social chairs have spent on the telephone or emailing members in an effort to recruit volunteers. SignUpGenius helps us organize our work and identify our volunteer needs, recruit volunteers and send event reminders to scheduled volunteers. Although SignUpGenius will provide significant assistance to us, our entire social program is dependent upon LCYC members volunteering to work our events. Remember, your hours working as a volunteer for a social event count towards your LCYC volunteer requirements. As of July 1, we still need volunteers for many of our remaining events. Signing up is easy! To volunteer for an event, click on the following link, then click on the LCYC events at the top of the page: www.signupgenius.com/tabs/33776D902A7CBE8C71-lcyc.

In June we kicked off the 2023 season on a beautiful evening with a celebratory Opening Cocktail Party, including recognition of new members and a Change of Watch Ceremony. July brings an exciting array of Social events and activities beginning with the Ye Olde Fashioned Burger Burn on July 12th, followed on July 14th with the 25th Clubhouse Anniversary Celebration & Potluck Dessert. LCYC's annual Family Day on July 16th is for all LCYC members and their guests (including grandchildren) with an afternoon filled with face painting, Bouncy House, Big Blue Trunk, Flying Juniors, make your own sailboats, snacks and ice cream sundaes. On Friday, July 21st, board and visit a diverse selection of LCYC's new and classic boats at the Club's annual Boat Tour. Enjoy refreshments as you tour each of the boats. This year, we've added a new twist, enjoy dinner at the Club! Open Hearth Pizza will be on shore selling their fresh homemade pizza fresh out of their open hearth oven. Round out July as LCYC's Commodore and Past Commodores host the Commodore's Pot Luck on July 28th. The Commodores will grill chicken, salmon burgers, veggie burgers, and hot dogs complimented by your homemade potluck salads, sides, desserts and an LCYC cake.

Looking forward to having you join us for some or all of these events!

A
R
O
U
N
D

T
H
E

C
L
U
B

Hello from Grounds!



Jim Kurfis, Grounds Chair

Thank you to all that have been able to lend a hand in getting the club grounds looking great for the 2023 summer season.

As some of you may have noticed, the old playset is no longer in place, having been dismantled at our Spring Work Day.. Sadly, upon inspection at Fall Work Day it came to our attention that the playset had age damage and rot on key structural pieces which made it unsafe for future play; it needed to be taken down. We are excited to announce the club has purchased a new playset that we are sure will bring the same joy and fun to all LCYC families for many years to come. The new structure will be placed in the same spot as the prior structure. Installation is expected to occur in late July. We know this

may be a disappointment for our younger members looking for some immediate swing and slide time but rest assured the new playset will more than make up for this small delay in fun.



A
R
O
U
N
D

T
H
E

C
L
U
B

Junior Sailors are Off ... and Sailing!



By Jill Burley, Junior Sailing Program

The Junior Sailing program is off to a flying start with instructors and junior sailors hitting the water this past week!

We hosted a “Meet and Greet” on June 18, for sailors and families and instructors to all meet, learn more about the program, and to see the boats and facilities. There was good turn-out and lots of great questions about the program logistics got answered.

Our first week of lessons started on June 19 with both a beginner class and an advanced-intermediate class. Classes will continue through mid-August, with a combination of those two levels as well as special racing clinics and regattas. The full schedule is on the LCYC website. Please pass along to anyone you know who might know a sailor-to-be that we still have some class openings. They can find the schedule on the LCYC website.

Our 2023 instructional staff is top notch, led by Leigh Kerbaugh as Head Instructor. Junior instructors include Henry Bushey, Nathan Hanson, and Brandon Hawko. All have been through our program, as well as Red Cross CPR certification, Red Cross First Aid certification, and Vermont boater safety and have recently completed U.S. Sailing Level 1 certification. Instruction staff are supported, when needed, by our Instructors in Training: Eloise Durant, Griffin Hanson, and Magnus Nilsson. They are all familiar faces around the Club. When you see them, please let them know how much you appreciate them helping to develop the next generation of our sport.

As usual, we have a mix of eager young sailors this year from LCYC, Shelburne and surrounding areas, with a range of skill levels, first time beginners to racer-ready to improve their skills. Some of our more experienced sailors will be participating as racers in the Champ Chase Regatta, which LCYC will host July 13 and 14, and the Cheeseburger Regatta on Lake George July 27 and 28. Other upcoming events include two “Sail-Alongs” July 18 and August 1, when junior sailors may show off their new skills with family members along.

We are always looking for volunteer help, especially with our special events. The last two weeks (session 7 and 8, starting July 31 and August 7) are all-day sessions designed to suit all levels. We are hoping to give junior sailors some experience sailing on bigger boats. If you want to team up with a few junior sailors on a day during that week and take them out on your boat, please contact me at jrsailing.lcyc@gmail.com.

A
R
O
U
N
D

T
H
E

C
L
U
B

Docks



Gene Cloutier, Docks Chair

Docks update for June is pretty uneventful. I have to start with this club is very lucky to have such a dedicated and knowledgeable docks team. The workday went extremely smoothly and safely with the addition of a safety ribbon area and a couple safety officers to monitor the area added due to concerns for moving this back to workday. For me personally, it was nice to see the vibrance of club workday with all members there made it feel like a true beginning of the boating season.

The success of workday started with a well organized fall plan of dock storage and again a great team that I am grateful for. The orchestration of the forklift, and sequence communication and collaboration from the top to the ramp side verification launching and communication to the dinghy team that then worked very well with the team putting the docks together in the right order and right place. Thank you.

Of course, inevitably even the fall review of dock health missed a few repairs that were noticed after the docks were in, which allowed for team members unable to attend workday to come to the rescue and finish our spring maintenance. Thank you to Tony Lamb and his band of merry men/women that replaced 13 boards in the junior sailing docks on June 19. We also must thank Head Steward Parker Main for taking care of a couple boards as well,

This is also my opportunity to thank the dedicated and observant Steward team who not only noticed the boards on the junior docks but also replaced 3 pins during one of their morning inspections. They also rescued a dinghy that had come loose from its tie up on the dock and washed up on shore.

This leads me up to some mandatory requirements of anyone who has a dinghy on the docks. Again, I am lucky to have Chris Leopold managing the dinghy requests and assignment of dinghy spots. Please know that is a privilege and not a right to have your dinghy on the dock and there is a constant list of requests that come in for people looking for a spot. As of now the dinghy spots are full and there is a waiting list. ALL dinghies are REQUIRED to have the owner name and cell phone number in the transom area. This allows for owners to be notified if there is an issue. Additionally, certain spots are also required to have a stern anchor to allow for flow of dinghies into spots as well as prevent damage during storms or rough weather and prevent motors from damaging other boats. Non compliance may be grounds for losing your spot for the year and it will be assigned to others on the waiting list.

Finally, again thank you to our stewards and also members that work on ensuring the power and water pedestals are clean of bugs and dirt and working properly. I have spoken with our expert electrician club member Dan Donegan who has again ensured that the electrical system is completely up to code and date with multiple redundancies in the electrical system for the club docks. Again the steward team is trained in some basic problem solving of the club system but always please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

A
R
O
U
N
D

T
H
E

C
L
U
B

House: Clubhouse 25th Anniversary – Your help is needed.



By Ben Durant, House Chair

We hope to see you at the Anniversary Celebration coming up on July 14th. In anticipation of this milestone, your House committee and others have been working countless hours to ready the Clubhouse. The entire clubhouse has been painted inside and out with fresh colors that match our burgee colors. In addition, the flooring in the kitchen and foyer were updated, a new sink and lighting were installed, and new teak furniture were assembled and put in place all with volunteer hours. A big thank you goes

out to all those good members who have volunteered their time to get this work done.

On another matter, let's talk about water conservation. Did you know that LCYC spent approximately \$7,000 last year on septic pumpouts? That's because we don't have a septic system and our tanks need to be pumped, just like on many of our boats. For each flush, and each minute of a faucet running, the club will need to spend about one dollar to P&P Septic to haul that water away. Please do your part to go light on water that goes down the drain.

Boats



Drew Hamilton, Chair, Boats Committee

I hope everyone's spring commissioning went well and you are enjoying your boats this season. The boats committee had a busy spring getting the LCYC 'fleet' ready for the season.

Our main project was to rebuild the mooring puller. The previous version had given us more than its expected useful life and a rebuild was past due. The scheduled rebuild window was tightened up for us by mother nature and her April snowstorms, with completion required by the end of April so it could be used to commission the mooring field. A work team was gathered on April 15 and a big chunk of the project was completed. Thank you to members Michael Kerbaugh, Bob Finn, Charles London, Brian Irwin, Fischer Irwin, and Matt Ringler for the help. The project received a lot of support and was finished up by Pierre and his team at Champlain Divers to ensure it was ready for the season, so thank you to them as well.

Another spring project included freshening up some of the brightwork on the launches. This project also had to wait for mother nature to provide reasonable varnishing temperatures but allowed us to get the Bern and Nautilus refreshed before the boats had to come out of the clubhouse. Thank you to member Larry Robinson for his help with this project.

Spring workday was successful for the boats committee with lots of hands to help clean, wax, install batteries and make sure boats were ready to launch. I hope everyone has a problem-free summer and enjoys as much time as they can on their boats.



New Mooring Puller.

A
R
O
U
N
D

T
H
E

C
L
U
B

Regatta



Bob Turnau, Regatta Committee Chair

The racing season is finally here and there are plenty of opportunities to sail this summer at LCYC, whether on Etchells on Monday nights, the PHRF fleet on Wednesday nights and Weekends, or single-handed boats on Thursday nights. We're seeing numerous new boats participating which is a great sign of the vibrancy of sailboat racing at LCYC. So grab some friends and join the fun. If you're new to racing and have any questions about how to get started, please give me a call. We are fortunate to have some outstanding new candidates on our Crew List. If you are looking to add to your regular crew or just need the occasional sub, check the list out at: [Crew List Details | Lake Champlain Yacht Club \(lcyk.info\)](#)

I would be remiss in not mentioning the "passing of the torch" of one of the club's stalwart and integral members, Dale Hyerstay. Dale is stepping back from his role with the club's Race Management group and Doug Viehmann will join the RMG team in his place. Dale's contributions to LCYC's Race Management Group and the racing program are extensive. Dale's initiative, vision, and leadership were responsible for creating much of the infrastructure that supports racing at the club. He has selflessly volunteered his time to manage regattas on the lake as well as club races for many years. Thank you Dale and I wish you fair winds and a following sea!

Membership



Betsey Dempsey, Membership/Secretary

Please welcome new members and their families, Claudio and Maria Crivici from Warren, Joshua and Amanda Kallen of Essex Jct., Scott and Kimberly Crampton of Burlington, and Joe and Marcia Rosen of Shelburne! Try to make it a point to introduce yourselves to someone you don't know at the club. We've had many new members in the last year and I hope we appear warm and welcoming.

Do you need another name tag button so you have one in each car? I find that's the easiest way to remember my button. I can make another set for you. As always, I have boat, and car stickers, as well as burgees. Buttons are free, boat and car stickers are \$1, and burgees are \$20 each. Please remember to wear your buttons at all LCYC events for those of us that have difficulty with remembering names (myself included!)

Speaking of burgees, did you know the burgees hanging in the clubhouse are from other yacht clubs around the world and were acquired by swapping them? If you are planning on visiting another yacht club and we don't already have one of their burgees, let me know and I'll give you a burgee for free, provided we get a burgee in return. Let me know the name of the yacht club and location, we'll hang it up, and add it to the list. You'll see the list on the clubhouse wall with all of the information about them, in order. Personally, I enjoy looking them up. During our clubhouse renovation, the burgees were taken down, washed, and rehung. We made many spiders angry, but they look great!

Finally, I received an invitation in the mail from the Poughkeepsie Yacht Club offering a complimentary night of docking and mooring for this season. It is available for anyone in our club to use, if your travels will take you down the Hudson this season, please reach out to me and I'll pass it along to you.

Harbor



By Paul Boerman Harbormaster

The boating season at Lake Champlain Yacht Club for 2023 is off to a fantastic start. Kudos to our diver Pierre LaRocque for getting the field commissioned and completing the many updates to Mooring assignments by the middle of May. There were 13 new permanent mooring assignments this year and there were three members that were given temporary moorings for the season.

Our mooring field is the club’s most valued asset and my goal as Harbormaster is to make it safe and accessible to all members. The total number of Moorings at the club is permitted for 155 and it may not be expanded. This means that there are some members of the club that do not yet have access to a mooring. There are currently 24 members on the waitlist. The average wait time after joining the club to obtain a mooring is two years. If for any reason, you are not able to use your mooring during this 2023 season, please let me know so that we can utilize it as a temporary assignment to a member on the wait list.

As most of you are aware the club has a four year cycle of replacing the mooring chains. The chains that will be replaced during this season include numbers, 1,2,7,9,12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 24, 27, 31, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 46, 47, 53, 76, 77, 78, 79, 86, 92, 93, 95, 103, 117, 124, 126. This should give everyone great confidence that your boat is secure. The portion of the mooring that belongs to each club member is the stainless steel shackle, mooring ball, pennant (lines),and pick up buoy. A strong argument can be made that this is now the weakest portion of the mooring system and it is the members’ responsibility to maintain this in seamanlike condition. Please inspect your pennants regularly and have them replaced if you see any evidence of wear. If your lines are more than five years old, you should certainly consider replacing them. The club diver Pierre LaRocque will assist in replacing them at your expense if you desire.

I am also imploring all members to comply with Harbor rule number 8 that says it is the members responsibility to have their mooring ball marked with their mooring number and name. This is of great assistance to the stewards who are trying to keep your boats under observation and safe while you are not at the club. If your ball is not currently marked, please purchase lettering for your ball or use a black sharpie marker to complete this task.



If you have any questions regarding Harbor concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me. The 2023 log has an incorrect email listed for me. Unfortunately, Google did not cooperate with granting us an email for LCYCHarborchair@gmail.com. For now you will have to use my personal email which is Boerman802@gmail.com.

Best wishes to all for a safe and enjoyable Vermont summer.

Scuttlebutt (Editor's notes)



Seeing the “new mooring puller” made me wonder how many members remember using it to pull and set their own moorings.

Back in the day, Club members set their own moorings using the “mooring puller”. Typically the mooring was a “mushroom anchor”. An example of a typical setup is shown in the photo.

One problem was how to maintain it over the winter. Most folks chose to simply pull the mushroom and reset it in the spring. Others tried different system to winter over. Ice would grab wood beams and other float devices and drag the mooring out into the bay. The goal was to have it float upright so that it would pull through the ice in the spring and remain in place.



Mushroom mooring system.

I remember trying this one year. I very carefully put “just enough wood” on my pennant so it would remain vertical. As I put it back in the water, the chain pulled it completely under the water. Used a grappling hook to find it in the spring.

Other folks used a Hazelett Mooring year around. Designed by avid yachtsman and MBBC member Bill Hazelett, it was a weighted sealed aluminum tube that floated vertically, but far enough below the water to avoid being caught in the ice. Bill owned Hazelett Strip Casting in Colchester which specialized in working with aluminum.

Mooring density was limited, in part, because members set their moorings by using a rough estimate of where they were the previous year.

The Mushrooms weighed in excess of 150 pounds. You can image the sound and fury when you rolled the mushroom off the puller and as it dropped to the bottom, the chain rattling over the side. It was one of those things where no one had to tell you to keep clear-it was just plain scary.

One of my favorite memories was of being at the club when two “older” members (they must have been at least 60!) backed down to the beach and rolled a large mushroom off the back of their truck.



Hazelett Mooring system, still in use toay

A
R
O
U
N
D

T
H
E

C
L
U
B

I was one of several “younger” members (40 maybe) there at the time. You could sense that we all felt we were going to have to help them manhandle the mushroom onto the puller and help launch it. After all we were “young muscle.”

Shortly they returned on their sailboat and drove it up on the beach next to the mushroom and its rig. Apparently it was flat bottomed and had a swing keel, even though it looked to be about 30 feet long. They turned the mushroom upright, snugged the mooring line snug to a forward cleat, rocked the boat gently as they backed down off the beach. They then motored to their mooring location, uncleated the mushroom in its proper location, moored, called for the launch and went home. We would all have still been trying to muscle the mushroom onto the mooring puller.

During those years there was always a tension between one side of the mooring field and the other. On one side there was good bottom for the mushrooms to sink in and hold. On the other there was clay which did not hold very well. Occasionally, a boat would drag their mushroom and a debate would rage as to putting in something more permanent. The members on the “good” side would not want to pay for the mooring on the “bad” side.

Finally, the Board of Governors was ready to recommend that the “bad side” of the field be rebuilt with more permanent moorings. Then on August 8, 1988 a violent storm hit. I was at the club when it hit, somewhat unexpectedly. You could not see from the club house to the edge of the lake. The wind howled and the rain poured. Every so often you would hear a roller furler come unfurled. There would be a few moments of violent fluttering and then you could hear the sail shred.

Then the front passed, the wind abated and the rain lifted. At least a half dozen boats were missing. One or two were hung up on other boats in the field. One was on the beach beyond the club. One was across the bay and a couple were aground at the end of the bay around the corner.

At the fall meeting the membership rejected the “fix one side proposal” and voted to replace the entire field.

Speaking of workday, how many remember the old days when the club safety committee required, in keeping with maritime tradition, that there be a bottle of medicinal rum next to the coffee pot on work day to deal with the exposure to cold and damp weather. Who knew that moving workday forward and back a week could reduce the need for medication?

There are content warnings now before movies, particularly on streaming channels. My favorite type is one that reads “Depictions of explicit sex, violence, profanity and . . . smoking.” After I heard that there would be no doughnuts at workday I have to admit that an image of such a warning flash through my brain that ended with “and . . . doughnut eating.”

Peace,
Tony Lamb