



# the Binnacle

*Newsletter of the Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.*

Commodore: John Stetson

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Director of Club Communications: Doug Merrill

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*Does it get any better than the fellowship of a Work Day on a cold and rainy spring day?*

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## **Commodore's Corner**



*By John Stetson, Commodore*

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Here on the last day of May, I hear that we have now had 24 consecutive weekends with precipitation! To say that it has upended our plans would be an understatement, but to say that it kept us from doing what we needed to do to open the club would be incorrect! To the contrary, YOU rallied, and did it! Thanks to the many volunteers who spent many hours, often in smaller, focused work parties, we are now fully in operation!

You will find articles from members of the board expressing their gratitude for efforts that went above and beyond. You will also enjoy some photos of the various activities, but certainly not all! In spite of the less than optimal weather, I saw many happy, satisfied faces!

The new docks continue to occupy much of our thoughts. The team persevered through multiple work days, delivery challenges, weather, etc. to deliver a first class product to the membership. Yes, with every construction project there is a punch list of tweaks required, but what I hear are compliments for the outcome. These docks will clearly serve us well into the future!

By the time that you read this, we will have enjoyed the first potluck, gathered for the opening cocktail party, kicked off the racing season, hosted a fundraiser for Emma Hawko, and prepared for the first session of Junior Sailing. The Events calendar is full! Please take a minute to check out the myriad of activities, at <https://lcy.com/events>.

Along with the events comes the reminder that volunteers are needed. There are many opportunities to help. Volunteers get the work done, while meeting other members. Make sure to visit <https://lcy.com/club/volunteer> to help at social events and to log your hours.

As you may have noticed, we have a new guest at the work dock. The Shelburne Fire Department requested permission to use the south side for their Fire Boat. After extensive discussions, an agreement was executed for a one-year trial. They are very happy to reduce their travel time to the Bay as they had previously docked at Safe Harbor Shelburne. This arrangement is consistent with our Lake Encroachment Permit in serving a public good.



*Shelburne Fire Department Fire Boat.*

It is rumored that the Opening Cocktail party was a success! We welcomed two new members/family units: Eric and Gayle von Eckartsberg, and Garry and Alexandra Menk. They were all reminded to get involved, ask questions if unsure, and enjoy this little refuge on the bay!



We also took the opportunity to formally “cut the ribbon” for the new docks. Joining us in the festivities were representatives from StructurMarine, including President Yves Fontaine, who have truly been a good business partner. While there were many people involved, Gene Cloutier, Don Weaver, Bob Shumacher, Steve Walkerman, Dan Donegan, Al Lewis, and members of the finance committee were instrumental and key to success. Other partners include Andrew Connell, of Safe Harbor Shelburne, and Pierre LaRocque, of Champlain Divers.

The Board of Governors has spent many hours coordinating the various work parties and taken on the challenges as they arise. The moorings are assigned, boats are operational, drainage work is done along the west side, the stairs are painted, the club house is clean and has a new hot water tank in the kitchen, Junior Sailing is ready to go, cruising plans and the speaker series are being finalized, the races are properly posted, and the stewards are up and running. Many thanks to all those who made it happen!

With the prep work behind us, please take advantage of this wonderful asset. It is there because of the members, for the members and their guests. Enjoy it as your home away from home! Take care of it and always leave it better than you found it!



## New Member Update

### The Menks

We're excited to join the Lake Champlain Yacht Club and become part of such a welcoming community. Our family splits time between Stowe, Vermont and Jupiter, Florida, and we're happiest when we're outdoors and on the water. Garry and Alexandra are both passionate kiteboarders, wing boarders, surfers, and sailors. Alexandra is also a competitive paddleboard racer, and our 5-year-old daughter Lula brings endless energy and curiosity to every adventure.

We're especially excited to enjoy the lake aboard our spirited 24-foot Corsair trimaran, Galene, and to share this experience as a family. Garry, who has competed in the Kiteboard Racing World Championships, is looking forward to learning more about sailboat racing and participating in club events.

More than anything, we're looking forward to making lasting memories, spending quality time on the lake, and getting to know fellow members who share a love of the water and community.

See you out there!

### Thad Halsmer

Thad Halsmer moved to Hinesburg, Vermont, in 2018 and is looking forward to becoming more involved in the local sailing community. He retired in 2021 after working as a propulsion engineer at SpaceX, and has since shifted his focus to family life and time on the water.

Thad's early boating experiences were on the quiet streams of Indiana, paddling canoes and getting brief childhood introductions to sailing. His sailing journey truly began in 2021 with a CL16 dinghy, followed by his first keelboat—a 1965 Cape Cod 30—which is now undergoing a refit in his barn. During this time, he also took part in coastal and limited offshore training expeditions out of Rockland, Maine, to further develop his skills. These days, he sails a Legnos Mystic 30.

Thad joined the club to meet fellow sailors and is particularly interested in taking part in the longer races on the lake. He is eager to learn, and contribute to the club's sailing scene. When he's not on the water,

Thad enjoys working on his boats, riding motorcycles and spending time with his two children, Samantha (12) and Coley (almost 6).



*Garry, Alexandra, and Lula Menk*



## Meet the Stewards!!

### Fisher Irwin, Head Steward

Hello LCYC, my name is Fisher Irwin, and I'm excited to return this summer as Head Steward.

I'm a rising sophomore at Williams College, planning to major in chemistry with a concentration in biochemistry and molecular biology.

Outside of school, I enjoy playing on the Williams Ultimate Frisbee team, playing tuba and euphonium in the Berkshire Symphony Orchestra and the Williams Brass Ensemble, and alpine skiing in the winter.

I've been involved with LCYC since age 10, starting in the Junior Sailing Program in Optis and FJs. Since then, I've spent every summer on Lake Champlain, enjoying activities like fishing, waterskiing, wakeboarding, sailing, and scuba diving. I've also crewed for The Green Flash and Preacher in the Etchells series over the past few seasons.



I'm looking forward to another great season at LCYC and seeing everyone on the water!

### Adelaide Durant



My name is Adelaide Durant and I am excited to be back at the club for another season.

I just finished my second year as a business student at Queen's University in Canada.

This will be my third year as a steward, but I have grown up at the club and it has always felt like home. When I am not working, interning, or studying,

I love spending time outdoors and being social with friends.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone again and meeting the new members.

## Charlie Filkorn

My name is Charlie Filkorn, and I am a freshman at the University of Washington studying mechanical engineering.

In my free time, I enjoy sailing with my father, playing tennis, and racing with the Husky Ski Team.

This will be my third year stewarding, and while I will be taking the first few weeks off to get knee surgery,

I look forward to being back on the water for the remainder of the summer!



## Maeve Begin



Hi! I'm Maeve Begin and I'm from Swampscott, Massachusetts where I worked as a launch driver for 3 years before coming to LCYC.

I just graduated from UVM with a degree in Public Health Sciences.

I look forward to another summer on Lake Champlain!

## Ryan Begin

Hi, my name is Ryan, and I will be joining LCYC as a steward this summer.

I am a rising Junior at UVM studying Environmental Engineering, where I am also a member of the sailing team.

In past summers I have worked as a launch operator and sailing instructor at various clubs in Swampscott and Marblehead, Massachusetts.

In my free time I enjoy skiing, running and all forms of boating.

I am looking forward to my first summer working on the lake!



## Parker Main



Ahoy! I am back for a sixth year working at the club!

I finished school in December and have been working at the ferry company in Charlotte since January. I'm currently working towards my 100 ton captains license and hope to have it by the end of August.

In my free time I enjoy running, rock climbing, and racing at the club (go Rogue!).

I look forward to filling in at the club every now and then and seeing you there!



## Jaeger Bowen

Hello, my name is Jaeger Bowen!

I am from Charlotte, Vermont, and attend the University of Denver.

I enjoy hiking, backpacking, skiing, and anything else outdoors.

I've been a member at LCYC since I was born, and my family has raced in Wednesday night races since the 1970s.

I look forward to being your steward!



## Hannah Carlson, Steward Apprentice



My name is Hannah Carlson and I am a sophomore attending Colchester High School.

This will be my first year as a steward in training and I'm very excited since I enjoy the LCYC community so much!

At school, I like my academics and playing Lacrosse, and in my free time I enjoy being with my family & friends and enjoying time outside.

Summer is my favorite season and I'm thrilled to be on the lake!



## LCYC Harbor Reminders:

Most importantly, check your pendants for wear. If they are around five years old, consider replacing them.

One of the club rules that assists those driving the launches and inspecting the harbor is for each of us to have our mooring number and name clearly marked on our mooring balls.

Let the Harbormaster know, if you haven't already, if you plan not to use your mooring for a significant part of the summer or if your plans have changed and you will not be using it at all.

Enjoy the summer season now that it's June!





## Around the Club

### Stewards Update

*By Erik Filkhorn, Stewards Chair*

Stewarding got off to a rainy start this year, but spirits were high as we hosted a Boats Orientation with the volunteer crew between scattered showers. Bob Schumacher showed us the ins and outs of each vessel in the fleet and even some of the seasoned coxswains learned a few new tricks. We now know how to crank up the Milo like a Model T.



The regular stewards are showing up too, with Adelaide, Maeve and Parker covering some of the early season shifts. As the new stewards chair, I'm grateful to have so many seasoned people on the team.

The new docks will require some new maneuvering tricks to keep us from bumping bow to stern, so don't be surprised if you're directed not to do the kindness of letting-go the stern line while the operator executes a pivot in a south wind.

The first Wednesday night brought winds so enticingly perfect for racing and Parker was kind enough to continue service past the scheduled 8PM to make sure everyone got ashore. We'll always err on the side of enabling the collective fun when possible, but with thunderstorm season approaching, you should also be prepared to sometimes hear a polite "no" on the radio and be prepared to ride out a squall on your mooring.

While individuals can weigh their own appetite for risk and make a run for it in a dinghy, as an institution, we can't be compelling our kids to expose themselves to lightning. It's the same drill as a soccer or baseball game. We also must carefully observe load limits on the club boats. The stewards operate under a Coast Guard license that allows six passengers, no more. So even if you have seven really small people, the limit is the limit and we appreciate your understanding.

If you see anything that seems out of place or broken or otherwise needing attention at the club, the stewards are your best first point of contact. They keep a daily log and are really good about getting information to the right people to get things resolved. At the end of each day, they clear out the trash and recycling and make sure the place is ship shape so if you're throwing a big party, you can offer to help with that, and it never hurts to leave a little plate of something in the stewards office. Many thanks to the crew from Jellyfish for that nice slice of pie the other night.

## From the Weather Mark.

*By Kevin Hawko, Regatta Chair*

Under cloudy skies but with a nice breeze, LCYC held the 2025 racing season's inaugural Tea Kettle Regatta on May 24<sup>th</sup> and thus our racing season has started! We have a full calendar of racing ahead of us and several new LCYC members excited about joining our racing community. Please check out our Crew Match list on the LCYC website and consider reaching out to those looking for a ride as you build your crew lists for the 2025 season!

Congratulations to LCYC's Larry Robinson for completing his official US Sailing Race Official certification. To become a Race Official, Larry completed formal classroom and on-the-water training to demonstrate proficiency with Race Committee roles and responsibilities, the Racing Rules of Sailing, race conduct, scoring and Judging. LCYC is incredibly fortunate to have volunteers like Larry who ensure the highest quality of competition and enable the future of racing on Lake Champlain.

Speaking of the future of racing, I'd like to wish good luck to LCYC's Emma Hawko and John Ring as they travel in June to Voula, Greece for the 2025 Lightning Worlds. As a tune-up regatta, former LCYC Junior Sailor and Sailing Instructor, Nate Hansen will join Emma and John in Greece for European Lightning Championships. As a dad, I'm so proud of Emma as she campaigns in these events but I am also incredibly grateful to our LCYC community for the support to make this adventure a reality. The names and faces of LCYC are well represented in Emma's story, from Walt Marti and the Junior Sailing committee that got Emma started racing Opti's, Don Brush for ALL of his mentorship and sailing wisdom, to Chris and Jenny Leopold and our Social Committee that sponsored the recent Pancake Breakfast fundraiser for this trip. And there are so many others in our LCYC family that volunteered and contributed to Emma's sailing. I am humbled and grateful for the generosity and support that our club offers sailors like Emma and John as they join the legacy of amazing LCYC sailors. Best of luck Emma, Sail Fast!

We still have 11 races that need volunteers for Race Committee. Please review available opportunities on the right-hand side of the LCYC home page and sign up. Our racing program depends on volunteers and being on a Race Committee is a great way to learn more about race management, rules, tactics and to meet other club members. No experience necessary, just bring a positive attitude and spend some quality time on the water helping to make our LCYC regatta program best in class!

I hope everyone has a great 2025 racing season!





## Summer Outlook and Celebrations

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

The Social Committee is still absorbing the afterglow of yet another wonderful celebration of our LCYC community at the Opening Cocktail Party on May 31st. As they say, “the weather can be frightful, but the fire is so delightful”. This rings true not only for a cold winter evening but also on a very rainy, cool, and blustery May 31 evening on the shores of Lake Champlain. Approximately 85 to 100 LCYC members braved the rain and cold evening to share the warmth of our fireplace and the glow of friendship and celebration that comes with the opening of our “summer season” at LCYC. The event was graced by beautiful flower arrangements prepared by Jean Henshaw and Dot Hill, wonderful appetizers, hors d'oeuvres, sweet desserts, lots of great friends and celebrations. Commodore John Stetson recognized several of the many members who played a role in the acquisition and installation of our new docks, including the crew from our Montreal partners at Structure Marine. With Bob Schumacher and Don Weaver each holding one end of a ceremonial ribbon, Past Commodore Jill Gagne, Gene Cloutier, Yves Fountaine (Structure Marine), and Commodore Stetson cut the ceremonial ribbon commemorating our new dock system.

Our social events are an integral part of our club community. Our entire social program is dependent upon members volunteering to work our events. For all of the events in our exciting line up this year, we are depending on all of you, our members, to serve as volunteers. We need volunteers! The Social Committee manages our volunteer needs through the software program SignUpGenius which helps us identify our volunteer needs, recruit volunteers and send event reminders to scheduled volunteers. We have over 100 volunteer slots to fill for our LCYC community events. Volunteering is simple! Click on the link to SignUpGenius: [https://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/33776D902A7CBE8C71-lcyc2025#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/33776D902A7CBE8C71-lcyc2025#/)  Check out the thirteen different LCYC event tabs, review the listing of volunteer openings and select and sign up for one of our many volunteer job openings. Your hours as a volunteer for a social event counts towards your LCYC volunteer requirements. It is a terrific way to meet a broad spectrum of members. Best of all, we have FUN!!

We have an exciting lineup of LCYC Social events for 2025. June and July offer members of all ages a wonderful variety of fun events. Mark your calendars for a very special event on Saturday, June 7th! LCYC is hosting a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser to help send LCYC's very own Emma Hawko to the International Lightning Class World Championships in Greece. Emma, a graduate of our Junior Sailing Program and who worked as an instructor for two years, leaves for Europe a day after the Fundraiser. This fun event will feature homemade pancakes and French Toast with all the breakfast accompaniments. The event will feature a Silent Auction to help to fund Emma's campaign for this prestigious class world championship. On June 18th we launch our first Wednesday night dinner of the season with the return of Pizza Night. Farmer's Market Pizza returns to LCYC serving a variety of freshly made pizzas baked in their woodfired hearth.

July brings back several events that are member favorites. On Friday, July 11th, the annual Boat Tour offers members the opportunity to board and visit a diverse selection of the Club's new and classic boats. Enjoy refreshments and conversation with the owners as you tour each of the boats. Onshore, Farmer's Market Pizza will be selling their fresh homemade pizza. Join hosts Betsey and Don Dempsey as they serve as first-time hosts for another LCYC tradition, Ye



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Olde Fashioned Burger Burn, on Wednesday, July 16th. Our experienced team will serve an array of burgers – beef, salmon, veggie, hot dogs, salad, chips, and dessert. Imagine a July afternoon filled with face painting, Bouncy House, Big Blue Trunk, Flying Juniors, make your own boats, snacks and ice cream sundaes, add lots of kids and you have LCYC's annual Family Day. This special event on Sunday, July 20th, is for all LCYC members and their guests (including grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins). Round out July with our Commodore and Past Commodores hosting the Commodores' Potluck Dinner on Friday, July 25th. Past Commodores will grill chicken, salmon burgers, veggie burgers, and hot dogs complimented by your homemade potluck salads, sides, desserts and a special LCYC cake.

Volunteer and become a member of our team! Look forward to seeing you at our events!



## Docks

*Gene Cloutier, Docks Chair*

Finally! This has been an exciting spring for docks and the dock team and I am very happy to report that all docks are in and functioning well. I have to say that they look amazing and perform even better; they are a tremendous improvement to the club. There are so many people to thank for all their efforts that have made this even more special, including some that have worked many hours to help make it all happen. I hesitate to mention names because so many of you have played a part, but I do want to recognize Bob Schumacher, Chris Leopold, Steve Walkerman, Don Weaver and Pierre Laroque that have been integral resources for me. Thank you to them and everyone that played a role!

Although we started launching docks on April 17 there have been some tweaks that continue to this day, and I expect that they will continue to occur throughout the season and into the fall so please feel free to reach out to me if you notice anything. The weather has not been our friend this year. Getting everything done on time has been a challenge, but again the dock team has sprung into action to make it all happen even on the crappy days. On workday May 10, the dock team launched the junior sailing docks to complete the dock installation for the summer. The final project of water installation was done on May 20 by Dan Donegan, Don Holly and Mark Behr.

Now if we can get the weather to cooperate, we can finally get to enjoy the club and our new docks.

Thank you everyone





## House

*Ben Durant, House Chair*

A huge thank you to everyone who helped get the clubhouse open! Our crew may be small, but their dedication is unmatched. This year, we managed to open with a skeleton crew on an abbreviated workday—a testament to their hard work and perseverance. Special thanks to those who pitched in that day, as well as in the days before and after, ensuring a smooth Spring Launch.

For those still looking to fulfill their clubhouse volunteer hours, there are ongoing opportunities to contribute—your help is always appreciated!

### **Private Use of Club Facilities: Important Reminder About Liability Insurance**

To protect our club and its members, liability insurance is required for all private events hosting 10 or more non-members. Moving forward, this policy will be strictly enforced, as exceptions could create unnecessary risk.

If you're planning an event, please reach out to Ben Durant, House Chair, for approval. Additional details can be found on our website: [:https://lcyg.info/node/1542](https://lcyg.info/node/1542)



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## Grounds

*Matt Fisher, Grounds Chair*

The big news this spring was the cancellation of workday. The weather was uncooperative in the extreme and it was definitely the right call.

In spite of mother nature, we still got the work done! The club looks great thanks to hard working members who completed tasks on their own time. 75 bare root plants and many more seedlings were planted on the main bank in April in order to outcompete the poison ivy and beautify and stabilize the bank. A team led by John Bakewell braved the cold and (poison ivy) to get this done. Thanks to Paul Boerman, Dot Hill, Paul Brana, Gunnar Sievert, Robbin Larue, Vivianne Farmer, Hillary Besse, Susannah Kerest, and Nancy Boldt.

Many thanks are due for a number of other projects:

- Stair painting: Sue Cloutier, Paul Brana, Robbin Larue, and Bette Reuter.
- Culvert cleanout: Adam Dantzsch
- Brush clearing: Alex Bryan, and Scott Carpenter, and Adam Dantzsch
- Trash enclosure cleanup: Betsey Weaver
- Trimming/ leaf blowing: Charlie Maclean, Gunnar Sievert, and Brett Maxwell
- Playground inspection and set up: Paul Brana, Wes Daum, and Len Rosner
- Perennials: Beth Thorpe, Wes Daum, and the Rosners
- Picnic table inspection: Scott Giles
- Flower pot plantings: Susannah Kerest

I am certain I left out a few names and for that I apologize. As always, a few tasks remain so if you are looking to get some hours, please contact Amy Caldwell or myself for a list of things to do.

Future projects in the offseason include drainage pipe to prevent/mitigate the recurring spring in the south lot, and additional culvert work.

Thanks again to everyone who helped get all this done. We have a beautiful club because of you



## Scuttlebutt (Editor's notes)

*By Tony Lamb*



If you wonder why sailors tell “sea stories” the way we do, just look at the faces of those who haven’t been there, when you tell them about kicking flying fish off the deck early in the morning in the South China Sea or describe how, before GPS, you navigated at night in a race using dead reckoning and the barge navigational lights on Lake Champlain, or how it was to find yourself under sail in an electrical storm.

One Wednesday night race in light air on a course from Allenwood on the Shelburne shore due west to the small bay on the point and back, a small violent front came over the point and across the fleet. I was in the D fleet and watched as it lay over the boats ahead one by one as if in slow motion. I quickly had the crew stow the main before it hit us. With it came heavy rain which only added to the sense of violence. The crew scurried below leaving me at the tiller.

Once it passed, you could see it had scattered some of the fleet all over the Bay. Fortunately, we had been able to hove to and stay put while it passed. Since no boats needed assistance we did the reasonable thing and raised the main and continued the race.

Once we rounded the weather mark and headed towards Allenwood, I realized the in sailing for the finish line we had to sail into the back end of the squall which had stalled as it made land-fall.

After the race, my Pastor, who joined us for the first and last time, said, “I know what to do about my shorts, but what do you do with all of the promises you made while you were in the thick of it?”

The “overnight” races on the Lake generate all sorts of stories. I remember one Lake Champlain Race we were preparing to leave the dock to motor up to the start line off the entrance to Mallets Bay. I had enough crew but the weather felt unsettled and I was worried that I did not have that one more really experience hand to rely on if things went south. Jeff Hill was there prepping Golden Dazy, a 41 foot boat with massive freeboard. He was planning to double hand the race but was perhaps thinking he might welcome more crew. I asked if we could go on his boat instead of mine and he generously said yes. I thought my crew would be disappointed but they were thrilled to sail the legendary Dazy.

Things were fine on the first leg while we reached across the Lake to the first mark, Garden Ledge buoy. We set the spinnaker and headed north. As we did so, the wind began to build. Shortly thereafter we broached big time. We laid her right over on her side. Dazy had two companionways to go below. One on each side. Water was pouring into the one to leeward. One of my crew who had been sitting on that rail remembers reaching up and shutting the hatch. I was very proud of my crew. Especially the two 15 year olds. They did not panic and wildly release the sheet or the guy. (Isn’t it fun when the crew releases them both the same amount, not righting the boat but running out of options.) Finally the orders came and we successfully doused the chute. (I admit I had visions of it streaming freely from the mast top out of control

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in heavy wind-always a vocabulary enhancing situation.)

We settled down and continued north as the wind slackened. Most of the crew went below to avoid the rain, which was now just a tropical downpour. They say they bailed 80 gallons of water. Bruce Hill later commented he had never seen the boat so wet below.

But our adventure was not over. Most real downpours don't last long because it seems as though the clouds can't hold that much water. This continued for the rest of the race. In addition, it started to thunder and lightning on the New York shore. And the rain. Then it started to thunder and lightning on the Vermont shore. And the rain. Then we had thunder and lightning on the New York shore, the Vermont shore and overhead. And the rain.

And then the weather got bad.

Going south, as we started to pass Shelburne Bay on our way to Diamond Island, Jeff asked me, "Do you think anyone would be disappointed if we turned left into the Bay and went home?" I told him it sounded like a good idea.

You could tell my two 15-year-old crewmen did not quite know what to do with the experience. However, once they heard us tell the story ashore and saw the awed reaction of other sailors- "You rolled Dazy?!" you could see their chest push out a little bit and a little roll in the step. One still races with me 30 years later and the other is avid crew in Boston.

Not all stories are about being in storms. My practice has been to stay awake all night and then when things are light and settled to go below and catch a nap.

And so one race, after rounding Diamond Island and heading north in a nice breeze I went below and lay down. When I do that I usually keep one ear open. For a while the crew engaged in normal chatter until suddenly one of them said, "look over there is that a moose?"

Now I knew we were supposed to be a little north of the Charlotte Essex ferry, so my first thought was they are either smoking something they are not supposed to, or we have sailed to somewhere we are not supposed to be.

I bolted topside in a flash. And there on the port side midway across the lake was a bull moose with a full rack swimming across the lake.

The kicker to this story is that the following week end, we were in a race in Malletts Bay and there was a new boat in the fleet named "Moose Abeam."

Sail safe,

Peace