



the Binnacle

Newsletter of the Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.

Commodore: Joss Besse

June 2017

Binnacle Editor: Tony Lamb

<http://www.lcyc.info>



Miami to Cuba

Join us Tuesday, June 27, at 7pm to hear the stories and see the photos from LCYC members' trip from Miami to Cuba. You'll hear about the exciting sail there, the welcoming Cuban people and the spectacular countryside. It should be an evening to remember. Don't miss it. The program begins at 7pm.

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Commodores Corner

As I write this, sitting on the clubhouse porch, I'm finally starting to think that it must just about be summer. We've had a bit of a slow start with the weather, but I watched the first session of junior sailors head out a few minutes ago, our stewards are now on summer hours, our summer racing schedule is well under way, and our cruisers have already had two cruises, and two pot luck suppers. A final sign was my first weekend race of the season – our son surprised me by showing up for father's day, and we made a last minute decision to sail in the double handed race. It couldn't have been a more beautiful summer day – 80's, 10-12 kt southerly, and clear skies.

We held our annual cocktail party a couple of weekends ago (thanks to hosts Jean and John White) with a fine time had by all. As part of the evening's events, we held a commissioning celebration for the new that has replaced the old Butler Building. After gathering ideas from members on possible names, the board unanimously settled on the new name of "The Sharpie Building" (why this name? Read the article later in this Binnacle...). My wife did some research on commissioning boats, finding that way back in time (ie, before champagne) the traditions involved mostly either wine or blood. We kept to the wine, and launched the new building into use. I'd note that I was at the clubhouse today because the finish grading was being done, so there is new grass seed and hay around the building. The door handles should be here installed in 2 days, which will mark the completion of the contractors work – we will outfit the interior with shelving and workbenches shortly, and the building will be completely done – a great addition to our facilities!

In the past few weeks we saw the club's first-ever kids playgroup on June 10th. Great turnout, and the kids (along with parents and grandparents) had a fun time. There are several more scheduled over the remainder of the summer. And the new speaker series is under way – about 30 people showed up for Dave Powlison's "Racing Rules Basics" presentation to help those who would like to feel more confident about trying a few races. The next presentation is on June 27, from club members who sailed in the Miami to Cuba race this winter. Both the speaker series and kids playgroup offer new ways for us to enjoy the club, and our fellow boaters. Thanks to those who brought up these great ideas, and volunteered to make them happen!

Joss Besse, Commodore

The Sharpie Building

By Marc Gamble



The Board of Governors is happy to announce that the name of our new building is The Sharpie Building. The Sharpie was a type of sailing oyster boat developed for Long Island Sound. In 1886 several Lake Champlain Sharpie enthusiasts started the “The Sharpie Yacht Club of Burlington” to share their passion for boats and sailing on the lake. A year later they changed the name to the current Lake Champlain Yacht Club. We name this new building The Sharpie Building to thank these sailors for starting the club, but also to honor their enthusiasm. Boats and boat technology have changed dramatically over the past 131 years, but to this day, all LCYC members share these Sharpie sailors’ passions for boats and sailing on Lake Champlain.



A sharp Sharpie .

LCYC's First Family Playgroup!

Some of you may have noticed some new sidewalk chalk art outside of the stewards office this past month, a creation from some of the children at our first LCYC family playgroup on Saturday June 10th. We had a great turnout of around 10 kids (3 months to 5 years) and 13 parents and grandparents who gathered to socialize and enjoy in some fun activities. New friends were made while exploring the special bubble and water play activities. As the morning went along, folks enjoyed a light snack and kids migrated to the play structure for some active play and swinging. Thank you to everyone who came out, I enjoyed meeting everyone and am excited to see you all around the club and at our July Playgroup: Superhero Training on Saturday July 22nd! Come wearing your favorite super hero t-shirt, cape or outfit and enjoy a Superhero Training obstacle course!

Kristin Knight



Water play at the water table!



Children enjoy the play structure



Jump roping in the sun



Sidewalk chalk art

Witness to Skip Echelberger life given on Saturday May 6, 2017
at the Shelburne, United Methodist Church
by Stephen Unsworth



I have known Skip since he joined LCYC in 1991.

Early on, when my son, James, was in middle school, Skip was his mentor for confirmation in this church. This is not something many teenagers like, and yet Skip and James bonded and did well together.

The best way I can describe Skip is through our trips and sailing experiences. In his 60s and 70s, Skip joined me and some mutual friends for sailing trips in the Caribbean on charter boats. Here are a few memories ...

2002, British Virgin Islands:

Skip and his brother, Don, were on this trip, and it was probably the best sailing trip we ever had. There were six of us, and the charter company put us on the wrong boat, one that had only two cabins, each with a double bed. The boat was named *Fruitcake*, and with Skip's pink hat the talk in the marina was we were all gay. This did not bother Skip.

2004, St. Vincent and the Grenadines:

We had two boats this time, and were heading to the next island. First the wind died, and then the engine died on Skip's boat. They had to wait until a repair boat came. This did not bother Skip. He just enjoyed the sunshine.

2006, Baja Mexico:

It was cold and rough. This didn't bother Skip, who was always happy.

2007, Spanish Virgin Islands:

Vieques is off the coast of Puerto Rico. As we were approaching the island, a police boat came after us. We thought we were in trouble. They told us to say away because bombs would be going off. Then there was a huge boom! Vieques was a bomb-test island, where the US Air Force had dropped bombs. They were cleaning up the island and detonating the old unexploded ordinance. Not even this bothered Skip!

We moored the boat and went in to town. Skip went to a restaurant ahead of us, and when we got there he was surrounded by people, telling stories.

2008, Martinique and Dominica:

These are French islands. We had a big Catamaran sail boat, which didn't track well. We would sail on one tack, come about, and then end up just about where we started. This would have bothered many people... didn't bother Skip.

2008, Mississippi Katrina Relief:

This church went to Mississippi to build houses for Katrina victims. There were some teenage girls in the group, and they were bored. Skip kept them happy, telling jokes, and making faces. He was like their favorite grandfather.

2016, Bahamas:

By this time, Skip was 78, and it was our last sail together. It was windy and cold. When Skip arrived on the boat he had a smile on his face, and it stayed there for the whole trip.

What did I learn from Skip? What can we all learn from Skip?

He enjoyed life and lived it to its fullest.

Although Skip's racing results were not great he *was* a good sailor with good instincts. Skip didn't win a lot of awards, and often finished last on the race course. This didn't bother him. He believed in enjoying the trip, not just the destination. He would be so happy sailing on the lake, enjoying the sun, the wind, and the view, with his crew. The crew was his daughter Julia, and his son Bradley, his friends Mike Soulia and Greg Smith, the pastor here. He had a wonderful time with his crew. The crew has a wonderful time with him ...even if they were forced to wear pink hats.

Henry Ford said:

"If you think you can do a thing or think you can't do a thing, you're right!"

Skip decided he wanted to be happy.

Skip believed in the glass being half full, not half empty. Skip knew that being an optimist is more fun than being a pessimist. And because he was an optimist he made good things happen to him, and to the people around him.

As we sailed in the Caribbean our crew would refer to him as a People Magnet. People were attracted to Skip because he loved people. He was not afraid of them. To Skip, new people were just friends he hadn't met before.

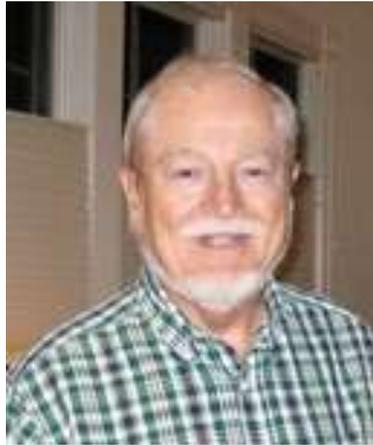
Skip was a gentle soul.

Our lives were, and still are, better because we knew Skip.

We will greatly miss him.

Remembering Peter Collins

By Tony Lamb



I first came to know Peter Collins when I joined the law firm of Paul Frank & Collins in 1973. He was a partner and I was an associate. Peter was an excellent lawyer and a really good mentor for a young lawyer. I believe his love of teaching and storytelling is why he enjoyed teaching part time at Champlain College. He taught me a good deal about real estate law and about relationships with others in the legal community. Those you were advisories with today would be colleagues tomorrow.

When I mentioned that he and his clients were not in the papers frequently, like many others, he reminded me the goal was to get the client approval of their project not to generate press. He did not lose sight of the goal. He was recognized as one of the leading lawyers for real estate developers in the state.

As both of us were Navy veterans, it was not uncommon for us to spend down time swapping sea stories. He had been an officer on a destroyer in the Caribbean and made a cruise around South America.

Not long after I joined the firm Peter persuaded me to crew on his Saber 28, Bear. Almost all of his boats were named Bear. I learned a lot about crewing and sailing from Peter. It was through racing with him that I developed my love of racing boats.

We did every Wednesday night together. In those days the committee would yell the course from the back of the Committee Boat (i.e. their own boat at anchor). More often than not the course was Procter Shoal and back-the-can, not some drop mark. (The bigger boats just had to swing wider.)

The overnight races were the most fun. My contribution was a bucket of Kentucky Fried Chicken. Peter kept his boats immaculate, so it did not go over well when I suggested the best time to eat KFC was when the grease had started to soak through the cardboard box. I learned to do the foredeck, run the spinnaker and navigate from Peter. Bern and Philip were always along and the meals were really good. I also learned about safety and keeping an eye on the health of the crew. On one long race a crew member became chilled and began to go into hypothermia. At first it did not appear critical, but thankfully Peter put safety first and we dropped out to attend to the crewman. As it developed it was a good thing we had not waited, because he contin-

ued to go downhill before we were able to stabilize and warm him back up. If we had waited until it was critical we would not have had the essential margin.

Peter and Bern were amazing hosts. They taught me what a little class might look like on a boat. Once, I asked them to entertain a visitor from the Department of State one evening. The perfect hosts Peter encourage him to steer out of the Bay. As we left the mouth of the bay an amazing sunset began. We headed back for the mooring just as a full moon began to rise over Camels Hump. We tied up at the mooring Peter regaled the guest with sailing stories including from his navy days. Some of them were even true. After a delightful meal, we went swimming by a moon light so bright you could have read a paper. As the launch driver took us in, a full eclipse of the moon began. Peter suggested that it was "just another night on Lake Champlain".

Peter will be remembered as having served on the Board of Governors in many positions and for having been Commodore. I will remember him standing in the water in his waders, waiting for a dock to come or go every work day.

He should also be remembered for his volunteer legal assistance to the Club during the 1980's when it came into vogue to try and strictly regulate the use of the shoreline and waters of Lake Champlain. Many members wanted to march on Town Hall with pitchforks and torches.

Peter understood that you needed to try and work with the State and the Town so that legitimate concerns could be met, and yet we could still have a yacht club. That we are still operating is a monument to Peter's skills as a lawyer and a negotiator, not to mention his skill in dealing with people. He knew that we would have to have a relationship these people over the long term.

Peter will be missed.



LCYC Class of 2017 Stewards

It's my pleasure to introduce the 2017 Stewards. We have a great group of young adults who have attended classes, passed tests, ticked and tied every box on every form from the Coast Guard, visited health-testing labs, taken First Aid, and on and on. They each climbed a mountain to qualify as an LCYC steward, and we now have 6 returning rock stars and 3 rookies. We are up and running with a full schedule for the summer. So, introduce yourself and get to know them. Based on what I've seen we'll all be working for them some day.

Fair winds and following seas,
Bill Bresee



Colby Jordan – Head Steward

I'm Colby Jordan, and this is my third summer stewarding at LCYC. I grew up sailing with my family on my grandparents' boat out of Marion Massachusetts. I've grown up in Charlotte, Vermont and am now studying at Saint Michaels College where I am an economics major. In my spare time I enjoy skiing, spending time on the lake and hiking.



Dave Boerman – Returning Steward

Hi! My name is Dave and I am back for my second summer at the club. My family has been at LCYC for over 20 years and we currently have a blue Mastercraft called Life is Good. I just finished my first year at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA where I major in biology. I enjoy fly-fishing and hiking in my free time, and I love hockey, lacrosse, skiing, ice cream, and dogs.

Bridgette Charlebois - Returning Steward

This is my second summer stewarding at LCYC. My family are members of Malletts Bay Boat Club, in Colchester. I have been sailing on Lake Champlain since I was 3 years old. I will be a Junior at University of Massachusetts Amherst in the fall, where I am studying Environmental Engineering. In my free time I enjoy sailing, hiking, and skiing, pretty much anything outdoors.





Charlotte Bresee - Returning Steward

This is my second summer as a steward at LCYC and I am glad to be back. I've been sailing with my family for about 8 years now. I just finished my sophomore year at Clark University in Worcester, MA, where I am studying biology, nutrition, and French. I love cooking, sailing, and running. I am excited for another season at the club, both working as a steward and sailing!

Maddie Turnau – Returning Steward

My name is Maddie Turnau and I am from Charlotte, Vermont. I'm a junior at Elon University, where I study biology with a minor in physics. This will be my fourth summer working at LCYC, although my family has been a part of the club for a long time and owns the boat Buffalo Theory. In my free time, I enjoy sailing and yoga.





Teddy Turnau – Returning Steward

I have been sailing at LCYC almost all my life and was a steward here last year as well. In the fall, I will be attending Elon University in Burlington, North Carolina and plan on majoring in accounting. I'm an avid sailor and enjoy racing on my family's boat: Buffalo Theory.

Gabrielle Booth – New Steward

My name is Gabrielle Booth, and I've been sailing at LCYC with my dad, Steve, for many years. We live just across the bay, and you may see me paddle boarding or kayaking across. I love to be on the water and my favorite activities include water skiing, swimming, and of course boating. I hope to start rowing in August at the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver where I'll be a freshman majoring in Bio-medical Engineering. I look forward to a great summer, thanks for having me aboard!





Bo Hopwood – New Steward

This is my first year as a steward at LCYC. I have always had a passion for the water. Whether it be swimming, diving, snorkeling, tubing, or boating, they are all passions of mine. I was born in Los Altos California and moved to Vermont when I was 4. I now live in Jericho but spend my summers in South Hero on the lake, often in our Whaler. I attended Rice High School and graduated this year. I will be attending Furman University this fall. I love football, basketball, lacrosse, being with friends, camping, hiking, and traveling. I am excited to get to do something I love and to meet new people.

Jackson Main – New Steward

My name is Jack Main and I am heading into my Senior year at South Burlington High School. Being a member of the club for over 10 years has been a great experience and I am super happy to give back to the club and members these next couple summers. I am an avid baseball fan, and I run Cross Country, Indoor Track, and play Baseball at SBHS.





14th Annual Regatta for Lake Champlain set for July 15, 2017

BURLINGTON, VT— If you love the Lake and it's adjoining rivers and streams and want to have fun sailing with family and friends, join the Regatta for Lake Champlain – a *Clean Regatta* on Lake Champlain. This year's 14th annual event, takes place on Burlington's Waterfront July 15th. The Regatta for Lake Champlain is not your ordinary day out on the Lake; it is a family-friendly benefit sailboat race to promote the health, well-being, sustainable use and stewardship of Lake Champlain.

The Regatta for Lake Champlain, is the most unique race in the region. It is the only race hosted on Burlington's Waterfront, giving spectators a beautiful view of almost 50 sailboats, usually arriving flying spinnakers (the colorful kite-like sail) into the harbor silhouetted against the Adirondack Mountains. As one of only a few certified *Clean Regattas* on Lake Champlain, all of the event's organizers and participants commit to a list of environmental best practices to keep our waterways healthy and vital including use of non-toxic cleaning products, recycling, composting, and reducing single-use, disposable containers.

The Regatta for Lake Champlain also is about individual participation. Anyone with a sailboat no matter how old or new can put together a crew to raise money in support of organizations that work to inspire and enrich relationships with our Lake.

The Regatta will start just outside Burlington Harbor on Saturday, July 15th at 11:30 AM. The *pursuit* format race features a handicapped start so sailors and crews of all levels, from cruising to competitive racers, can participate. Registration fees start at \$150. For more information or to register, please visit RegattaForLakeChamplain.org. There are a limited number of spaces so we encourage folks to sign-up quickly.

Since 2004, the Regatta for Lake Champlain has donated a total of \$126,369 to ECHO Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, the Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center, the Lake Champlain Committee, and the Lake Champlain Land Trust, the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, the Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, and a few other non profits.

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Dunder, a J-122 owned and sailed by Rupert Thouron, and his crew competing in the 2016 Regatta for Lake Champlain.

For more Information Contact:

Jamie Leopold Info@RegattaforLakeChamplain.org or [\(802\) 373-2332](tel:8023732332)

The Regatta for Lake Champlain is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to raise funds to promote the health, well-being, stewardship and sustainable use of Lake Champlain.

Tuesday Night Speakers' Series

Tuesday, June 27, at 7pm — Miami to Cuba

Join us Tuesday, June 27, at 7pm to hear the stories and see the photos from LCYC members' trip from Miami to Cuba. You'll hear about the exciting sail there, the welcoming Cuban people and the spectacular countryside. It should be an evening to remember. Don't miss it. The program begins at 7pm.

Tuesday, August 29 at 7pm — Rozalia Project

Learn about a project that's helping keep our waterways clean.

Start of the LCYC 2017 Cruising Season

The first Cruising Pot Luck was May 26 and in spite of a cold, rainy evening was well attended. We went south for our Memorial Day Cruise and included hikes at Kingsland Bay State Park, The Maritime Museum and Basin Harbor.

Any club members interested in joining the cruisers should sign up at: <http://lists.lcyc.info/listinfo.cgi/cruisers-lcyc.info> to be included in notices for upcoming cruising events.

Lynnea Rosner LCYC Cruising Director!



Harbor Soundings



May 26, 2017

Mooring Pennants are the Harbor topic for this Binnacle. The visible link in each boat's mooring tackle, the pennant is critical to keeping your boat securely anchored. Things to be aware of:

Chafe is the most frequent cause of mooring failure. Make sure chafe sleeve covers your mooring line where it leads through the chocks and over the chainplate on the stem of your sailboat. Observe anywhere else your line might wear against metal – anchor hardware, pulpit, stanchion, etc, and lead the line fair, so it doesn't contact any source of chafe. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask Pierre, me or anyone else.

While many motorboats have a single line clipped to a ring bolted to the bow, sailboats and larger powerboats usually have a mooring bridle – two lines leading through chocks on both sides of the bow. Often both lines have eye splices which are secured to the deck cleat. Be sure they are lashed to the cleat with a light line or they can be led through the eye of the cleat and back over both horns. But just hanging the eye(s) over the cleat is disaster waiting to happen. Again – any questions are welcome

Some bridles have an eye splice in one line and a much longer line with no eye splice. In such cases, the eye can be secured to the deck cleat and the long line tied around the mast with a secure knot. This offers an added measure of safety in case the eye comes loose from the cleat, or the cleat fails or breaks loose from the deck (it has happened)

Whenever you pick up or let go your mooring lines, inspect them for signs of chafe. If compromised, fix the problem right away. Occasionally the chafe sleeve has moved or is not placed correctly to prevent wear. If so, it needs to be re-positioned correctly, either by you or professionally

Another cause of chafe happens out of sight, below the mooring float. In fluky air, your boat can wander and wrap the pennant line(s) around the chain under the float. If the chain is corroded, it will cut into the line. Attached picture shows the damage that can occur.

Finally, thank you for constantly checking your mooring pennant – making sure the lines lead fair, that their chafe gear is positioned effectively, they are lashed securely to your boat, and not wrapped under the mooring ball.

Best regards,
Bob Finn

Etchells Fleet 25 News – Spring 2017

By John Harris, Fleet Captain

Amazingly 2017 marks the 15th anniversary of Etchells Fleet 25. It seems like just yesterday that we were celebrating our 10th anniversary. The good news is our fleet, while aging, is still growing and is at the strongest point in our history with 13 very competitive boats racing on Wednesday nights, in the E Series and in a number of the other club races. This year sees the official addition of the Father/Daughter combo of Bill and Katie Wight, sailing Ted Castle's old boat USA 1070, to the fleet. I should mention that Katie is showing the way for women sailors in the club as the regular skipper.

Aside from more great racing and another clinic with former Etchells World Champion Jud Smith, there is nothing dramatically new planned for the season. Our switch several years back from weekends to Monday night for our E Series has proven to be one of the best decisions we have made in terms of boosting participation. And the year before last we added post race Pizza, together with the Sportboats, to our Monday night regimen, which brought in a nice off the water social element. At this point we feel like we have a program that is really working well for the fleet. As the saying goes, "don't fix what ain't broke".

Again this season 2016 Kelemen Cup winner USA 1300 (Ernie Pomerleau with Chris and Monica Morgan) is fresh back from sailing the Etchells winter series in Miami very competitively against many of the best sailors in the world and will be the pacesetter for our fleet. Don Brush also participated in some of the winter series events. And, in late breaking, but not exactly Etchells news, Chris and Monica Morgan were crew on the boat which just won the J-24 NA's in Seattle.

If you are interested in crewing or joining the fleet as a boat owner, feel free to contact me or any other fleet member. Let's go sailing!!!

Scuttlebutt (Editor's notes)

I created Scuttlebutt to offer a somewhat different view of the Club with the goal of adding a little whimsy and editorial comment. The remembrances of members who have left us in the last issue and this have made it a little hard for me in the whimsy department.

Peter Collins, however, would be disappointed in me if I did not include some whimsy about him. After all who can forget my article in the Bilge-headlined "Commodore admits to club lovechild" complete with a picture of him and Bern dancing and the caption (Commodore and Mrs. Collins in happier times.) The fact the article was about the Mallets Bay Boat Club being a spin off of LCYC seemed to go unnoticed at the time.-but then who ever thought of MBBC as a "Love child".

One year during the Commodore McDonough race we were becalmed in Plattsburgh Bay, the course was Crab Island to port and back. When I say becalmed, the fog was condensing on the main, running down and dripping on us. I don't think the sails even slapped. Peter, being skipper, had had it, and he and Bern went to sleep in the focsle. He left Greg Sinner and myself "on watch". However, ever so often he would hear a swooshing sound on the boat he could not place. Finally, he got up and went to the cockpit, where he found myself and Greg Sinner, feeling no pain. He discovered that we had been making Coffee to help us "stand watch" -Irish Coffee that is-and the swooshing was the can of whipped cream topping off the coffee. He just shook his head.

With the opening of the new Sharpie building I have thinking about all of the changes at the club since I have been a member (1978). I mentioned before how we built the little sheds to house all of the Club gear so that the Butler Building could serve the Junior Sailing program and free up the Club house. Now both the Butler Building and the Club house are both gone.

The last Binnacle remembered the passing of Denny Bowen and Skip Echelberger. This month we remember Past Commodore Peter Collins. All real losses for the club and those who knew them.

Yet there is something to the cliché about the "circle of life." I was on the deck of the club-house on workday when a newer member with a small child in his arms came out to show the child the harbor. Beyond them was a new play structure of the kids of the Club. In this Binnacle there is an article about a club "Play date, for children and grandchildren." (What a wonderful idea and event.) And then I left work day to attend Skip's memorial service.

As I sat listening to all of the wonderful stories about Skip and humor and way with people, I thought about all of those wonderful club members that I have known who passed before

him. Many remembered at the Club only by a name on a trophy-Bill Archie, Tom Sproston, Dewey Mead-if at all. And I thought about how quickly the space for their boat in the mooring field was filled as if they were never there.

Then I read a poem in Skip's program that suggested that maybe this is the way it is supposed to be, especially for sailors.

The Unknown Shore - Elizabeth Clark Hardy

Sometime at Eve when the tide is low
I shall slip my moorings and sail away
With no response to a friendly hail
In the silent hush of the twilight pale
When the night stoops down to embrace the day
And the voices call in the water's flow
Sometime at Eve When the water is low
I shall slip my moorings and sail away.
Through purple shadows
That darkly trail o'er the ebbing tide
And the Unknown Sea,
And a ripple of waters' to tell the tale
Of a lonely voyager sailing away
To mystic isles
Where at anchor lay
The craft of those who had sailed before
O'er the Unknown Sea
To the Unknown Shore
A few who watched me sail away
Will miss my craft from the busy bay
Some friendly barques were anchored near
Some loving souls my heart held dear
In silent sorrow will drop a tear
But I shall have peacefully furled my sail
In mooring sheltered from the storm and gale
And greeted friends who had sailed before
O'er the Unknown Sea
To the Unknown Shore

Peace
Tony Lamb