



the Binnacle

Newsletter of the Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.

Commodore: Jill Gagne
May 2024

Director of Club Communications: Doug Merrill
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Workday, All Hands, May 11!!!



*Pre-workday Dock Party
Photo by Doug Merrill*

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Commodore's Corner



By Jill Gagne , Commodore
*E-mail: LCYC.Commodore@gmail.com *
Commodore's Corner

Although the club house was put away for the winter months in October, the LCYC camaraderie carried on with two wonderful events, the Awards Banquet held on November 3rd, and the Change of Watch held on February 3rd. Both events were held at the St. John's Club and were well attended; as usual the Social Committee made the events special with decorations and fantastic food.

The Awards Banquet saw a packed house and included awards for the Junior Sailors as well as the Wednesday night and Weekend Race trophies. A special thanks to Bob Turnau, the 2023 Regatta Chair, for the work that went into preparing the trophies, being the emcee, and in general, making the night a success. 2023 was Bob's last year as Regatta Chair, and I want to thank him for his service to the club for the past three years as well.

At the Change of Watch, the 2024 Board of Governors were introduced: Kevin Hawko - Regatta, Gene Cloutier - Docks, John Stetson - Stewards, Betsey Dempsey - Secretary/Membership,



Yachtperson of the Year, Chris and Jenny Leopold

Ben Durant - House, Paul Boerman - Harbor, Drew Hamilton - Boats, Jill Burley - Jr. Sailing, Jay Heaslip - Treasurer. The Commodore's Cup was awarded to Walt and Aimee Marti for the first half of their Great Loop adventure, and the Yachtperson of the Year was awarded to Chris and Jenny Leopold for their tireless service to the club.

As our thoughts turn towards the 2024 season, the calendar has been updated, the log has gone to press, and work parties have started gathering to get the club ready to open. Club opening day is just around the corner, May 11th. I hope to see you all there.

A reminder that every member family is required to volunteer eight hours per year. Club opening day is a great way to start fulfilling those hours while reconnecting with old friends and making the club a place we can all be proud to spend time at. I would like to thank the membership for taking volunteering seriously and making LCYC such a special organization to be a part of. In 2023, 97% of the member families fulfilled at least a portion of their volunteer hours, while 86% fulfilled their volunteer hours in full. Keep up the good work this coming year!



Kevin Hawko - Regatta, Gene Cloutier - Docks, John Stetson - Stewards, Betsey Dempsey - Secretary/Membership, Ben Durant - House, Paul Boerman - Harbor, Drew Hamilton - Boats, Jill Burley - Jr. Sailing, Jay Heaslip - Treasurer.

In this edition of the Binnacle you will find reminders about moorings, a tip for your dinghy, a review of the 2023 Regatta season, a look towards the 2024 Regatta season, a sneak peak at the new picnic tables, a preview of the Steward’s roster, information on Jr. Sailing, introductions to new members, and a few fun articles about other yacht club interactions. I hope you enjoy reading all the news.

I would be remiss not to mention the passing of several long time club members who have made an impact to the club, Willet (Ben) Foster III - Commodore 1965, David Cain, and Marcel Beaudin. Memories of Willet and Marcel are shared in this Binnacle). Our thoughts go out to their families and we wish them fair winds and following seas.



The Commodore’s Cup was awarded to Walt and Aimee Marti.

Awards Night.

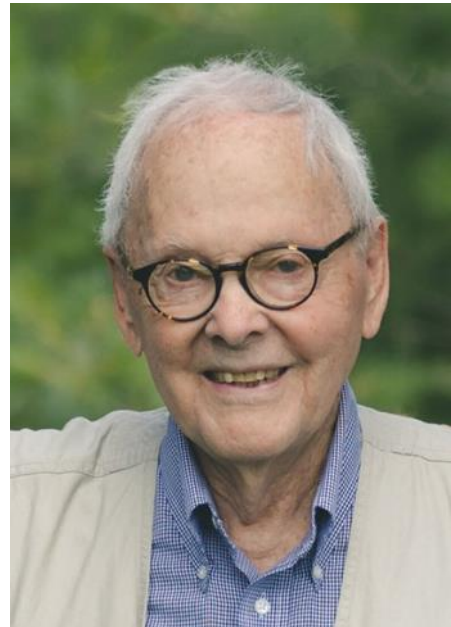


Remembering Marcel Beaudin.

By Doug Merrill

I have been involved with the Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center for the past 10 years. Prior to that I'd been to the center at its old location in the Moran plant for the Annual Regatta for Lake Champlain skippers meeting and post race BBQs, and spent time there dropping my two sons off and picking them up for their High School sailing team practices and competitions. I was aware that several of LCYC's members had been instrumental in establishing the Community Sailing Center, but didn't know much more than that.

In 2018 I received a call from Owen Milne, the new Executive Director of the Center. He asked me why I supported the Center and after a discussion about its value in creating a place for our kids to develop their own love of sailing and connection to the community, he asked me to join the board, which I did. Within a year, the board decided that we needed to finish our facility. We finished the building in 2017, but we had not built the waterfront infrastructure. Our programs were growing, but our layout could not support our sailors. In 2019 the board agreed to move forward with a new capital campaign and I (somewhat reluctantly) agreed to chair it.



I knew Marcel Beaudin casually from LCYC. I had served on a race committee or two with him. I watched him make his familiar trek to the awards table after several Ladies Cups flanked by his sons and grandsons to take 'home' the Cup, yet again. Within a few weeks of us kicking off the new campaign, he invited me to sit with him in his office on Shelburne Road. He welcomed me into a cozy 3rd floor office, filled with tubes of plans and a modern PC workstation with an architectural CAD program on it. Over the course of two hours he walked me through dozens of designs, concepts, and engineering studies that he had prepared for the waterfront. I

left amazed at the amount of time, effort, and passion that Marcel had put into creating this vision.



Over the next four years we raised funds, hired an engineering firm, hired Mike Quaid as our owners rep/project manager, and selected a construction company. Throughout this period I don't think a month has gone by without me receiving a few emails from Marcel with refinements to his plans for the waterfront. Marcel became the primary caregiver for his wife Ruth, whose health was failing, and yet he still made time to visit the site, often driven over by his close friend and fre-

quent collaborator on the Sailing Center project, Fritz Horton.

When not making refinements to his waterfront designs, Marcel began to develop plans to create a small boat storage area on the parcel of land just North of the Sailing Center. This land, which belongs to the City of Burlington, is in the 'Urban Reserve' and is a low performing wetland comprised of industrial fill. Marcel created detailed drawings for how the site could be filled, graded, and utilized for boat storage with a minimal site disturbance and at reasonable costs. He began a grassroots campaign to mobilize support within Burlington for this project. This all took place while Marcel was in his mid-90s!

The waterfront project is now weeks from completion. My email file for the project has dozens of emails from Marcel with design files, most of which have been incorporated into the final configuration of the center. The docks are being installed literally as I write this, the UVM sailing team used the new ramp for the first time last week. We have our grand opening scheduled for June 1st. For the past four years, my goal has been to see this project through in time for Marcel to cut the ribbon to officially open it. I am so disappointed that we will not be able to see his face as he walks down the new dock. However, I am consoled that in his last days Marcel knew that his dream was being realized this spring. He visited the site in February and watched the new ramp, pier, and hoist well take shape. And all of us that have worked with Marcel for the past 30 years on this endeavor will always think of him when we are at the site. Marcel was a gifted storyteller. I suspect it informed his success as an architect, his ability to understand people and develop a narrative. On occasion, when working on the sailing center, we would get side tracked. He described how much joy and satisfaction he had earned by teaching his children to sail and continuing to race and sail with them over the years. He was very aware of his racing success in the Ladies Cup and so proud that he had done so with his children and grandchildren. His efforts to secure a permanent home for the sailing center will ensure that many, many other parents and children will enjoy the unique bond that sailing creates between generations.



REMEMBERING MARCEL AND THE COMMUNITY SAILING CENTER

By Dale Hyerstay

Marcel and I got to know each other as new members of LCYC; I (and Alice) in 1971, Marcel (and Ruth) in 1974. Our sailing/racing paths crossed often: Chuck Bowen and I formed the Lake Champlain Class Association of the newly introduced Tanzer 22; Marcel and his son Paul were principals in the also brand new J/24 fleet.

At some point prior to 1993, Marcel was called upon to assess the defunct Moran Plant for a client as a potential hotel or business site. For many reasons, they concluded that the building was not appropriate for the venture. However, for Marcel, the Moran waterfront seemed ideal for a sailing and non-motorized boating center. It could provide a building for its office and inside storage spaces for watercraft. He asked me to join him in conducting an organization meeting on Feb 7, 1994 at the Boathouse. About 20 boaters, mostly racers, attended. Its stated objective was to create “A facility for small sailing and non-motorized boating on the Burlington Waterfront.” The proposed name was ‘Lake Champlain Sailing Association.’ The group was strongly in favor. In consultation with Mark Sperry, Marcel and I began the formal process of incorporation.

I grew up poor, but never knew it. My father, a commercial real estate executive, was an alcoholic and was kicked out of the house when I was 10. My mother had never worked, but became a residential realtor and managed to raise us three kids – an older and younger sister and me.

With that experience in mind, at the above Boat-house meeting I noted that my interest was not in serving boaters and racers of relative wealth, but rather for the poor kids of the Lake Champlain basin, some of whom wandered the summer streets of Burlington dirty and foul mouthed and hopeless. I felt a more perfect use of the Moran waterfront and building would be as a community sailing center focused on the youth of the Lake Champlain basin, not just of Burlington. Marcel readily concurred.

Reflective of that objective, the formal name was established as Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center, Inc, with recognition that the colloquial name would nicely shorten to a welcoming ‘Community Sailing Center.’

At a subsequent meeting at the Boat House on April 20, 1994 (Ed note: 30 years ago THIS WEEK) the newly incorporated organization was introduced to attending supporters, thus beginning the arduous effort of establishment. Marcel took the role of President and I was the full-time VP. Marcel was in charge of all things infrastructure and I tended to organizational and management matters. At one of our standard post-board-meeting chicken dinners at Burger King, after two years of continuous effort with seemingly little program growth, we discussed ending our endeavor. Fortunately neither of us made any effort to follow through on that thought. Shortly thereafter, I got a call from an anonymous couple who had learned of and be-



Marcel and Grandsons. post race,

lieved in the Center's objectives. They provided a challenge grant and loan to buy six new Hobie 14s so the Center could run programs, especially for kids, the following summer. In June of 1996, following three years of hard work by a team of many people, the Center opened for business.

Twenty years after its founding the Center moved out of the Moran Plant into its brand-new Marcel-designed purpose-built building, leaving behind the two faithful Porta-Potties. Many LCYC members helped with the early development of the organization and the Moran and waterfront facility: Mark Sperry tended to the legal aspects of incorporation; Steve Walkerman was the Treasurer; Hal Greig, a UVM Phys Ed faculty member and Tennis Coach, got 'Sailing' added to the Phys Ed Recreation Class options, and formally established the Sailing Center as the home base of the UVM Sailing Team; Doug Viehmann rode at the helm of a fully rigged Sailing Center Hobie 14 on a trailer in a Burlington holiday parade.



Remembering Bill Foster

By Bern Collins

With the passing of Willett “Bill” Foster, LCYC marks the last of the “Old-School Gentlemen” who reactivated LCYC in 1962 and who served as commodores during the 1960s (Bill served in 1965).



*Bill Foster (right) with John Dinse at
The 125th Anniversary Gala
Photo curtesy of Gerry Davis*

Five men—Bill, Oscar Drumheller, John Dinse, John Dobson, and Fred Koerner—put together \$20,000 (\$10,000 from Bill representing his company, Edlund Properties) to buy the Shelburne Bay property from Robert Patrick. In a March 15, 1962 letter addressed to Bill at Bluebeard’s Castle, St. Thomas, British West Indies, Oscar Drumheller describes the tense negotiations with Robert Patrick who demanded that the \$20,000 be delivered by midnight of the 14th and would transfer the property to Bill and John Dinse only. It took until the morning of March 15th, to finalize the deal at John Dinse’s office, where Patrick’s lawyer, Perley Feen, delivered the deed to the property which Patrick had finally agreed to after midnight. Oscar’s final words to Bill in the letter were, “I can only say that I wish you had been here yesterday because it was a pisser.”

In the Commodore’s Logbook, which I finished in 2007, in the section “Evolution of LCYC Events and Traditions,” I noted “A constant LCYC Tradition has been its volunteer spirit—members’ willingness to do the necessary jobs themselves to maintain the Club. To illustrate how important this is in keeping dues affordable, this section will conclude with an email received on March 20, 2006, from Bill Foster. His email was in response to a mailing to all past commodores where I asked them to contribute their memories and suggestions.

“Hi Bern, Many thanks for the mailing I received forwarded to me here in Naples. It brought back many fond (and some not so fond) memories of the times past: Trying to negotiate Bob Patrick down on his price and terms, [and] working with John Dobson to try and design a clubhouse we could afford. And, eventually trying to figure out where in the whole empty bay we wanted to put the mooring for our Chris Craft, Water Wagon, before we moved it to King Street.”



*Bill Foster and 13 other Past Commodores
At the 125th Anniversary Gala
Photo curtesy of Gerry Davis*

In June of 2012, Bill attended his final LCYC event. Fittingly the Club celebrated its 125th anniversary at a gala event at the Shelburne Museum’s Ticonderoga. During the event's opening ceremony, Bill, a Life member and Past Commodore of the Club, was recognized by Commodore Chris Leopold with thirteen other Past Commodores attending the event. At this time Bill and John Dinse were recognized for the integral role they had played in reactivating the Club in 1962. A consummate gentleman, Bill graciously and modestly accepted the recognition from the membership.

Dinghy Upgrade: Automatic Bilge Pump

By Drew Hamilton

My boat partner and I share a dinghy as well. A few years ago, we arrived at the club after a few rainstorms and found our fuel tank floating in about 6” of water in the bottom of the dinghy. After pumping the water out we continued to our boat, only to have the engine stall on us. After cursing at the engine for a little bit, it was determined we had water in our fuel. We installed a small battery powered bilge pump in our dinghy and it continues to be one of the finest upgrades I’ve made to a boat. The dinghy is always dry when we arrive at the club, and we do not have any more fuel problems. I recommend the upgrade for anyone looking for a small project this spring.

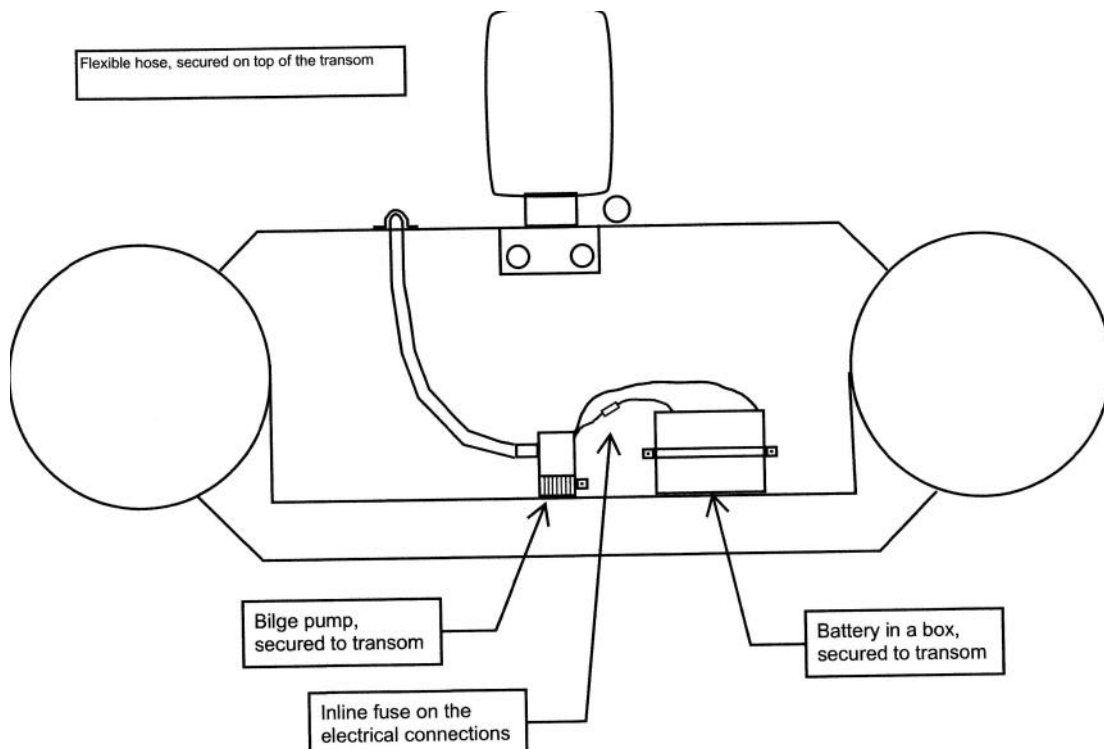
The upgrade cost about \$150 in materials and an hour of installation time. Below is a description of our set-up:

Automatic sensing bilge pump: A small 500 gph pump installed in the lowest point on the transom. These automatic sensing pumps do not require an additional float switch to be installed. It has a small built-in switch for manual operation as well.

There are a few manufacturers, we went with: Rule-Mate Automatic Bilge Pump RUL-RM500B – 12V, 500 gph. I found it for sale at Defender for \$70.00.

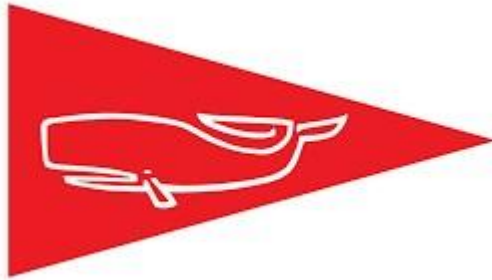
12 Volt Battery: 12V “lawnmower” style rechargeable battery. Our battery lasts a full season on one charge. We got ours on amazon for \$43.00. Mighty Max ML18-12, 12 Volts, 18 Amp-hours.

Battery Box: Attaches to the boat and keeps the battery secure. This was another amazon purchase, \$17.00. Attwood PowerGuard Battery Box.



Outreach to the Lahaina Yacht Club

By Betsey Dempsey



After reading in Sailing Magazine about how the terrible Hawaii fire destroyed the Lahaina Yacht Club, I thought about how devastating it would be if something similar happened to LCYC. As our Secretary/Membership chair, I felt compelled to do something. At the very least, let them know we are with them in spirit. I contacted their club and learned that they are now raising funds to rebuild (at some point), and hoping to replace the hundreds of burgees that were lost in the fire. With the support of our BOG, I mailed them a letter of support and one of our burgees. Below is the response from Lahaina Yacht Club. We hope our small contribution lifts their spirits just a little bit. You can read more about the devastation of the club in this Sailing Magazine article.

“Aloha Lake Champlain Yacht Club Commodore Gagne, Officers, Directors and Members

Thank you for generously supporting the Lahaina Yacht Club's Burgee Campaign. These Burgees provide encouragement that will enable us to rebuild our Clubhouse.

Your role as a donor is pivotal in ensuring the Lahaina Yacht Club continues to stand strong and resilient. We recognize and deeply appreciate the impact of your contribution, which extends beyond just a Burgee. It signifies a shared belief in the spirit of our Club and its ability to overcome adversity.

We look forward to the day when we can celebrate our successes and milestones with you. Your involvement is not only appreciated but cherished, and we hope to have the opportunity to express our gratitude in person. I hope you will seek us out the next time you find yourself on Maui. We hope to have made significant progress in the rebuilding of our Club as we will celebrate our 60th Anniversary in 2025.

Once again, thank you for being a pillar of strength for the Lahaina Yacht Club. Your support is truly valued and makes a significant difference in our ongoing efforts.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Linda Rickabaugh
2024 Commodore
Past Commodore 2001, 2019-2021”

New Members: The Tryhornes

My family lives in Montgomery, VT. Our hobbies these days are home improvement projects, landscaping, and gardening, so we really enjoy the downtime of sailing and hanging out in the cockpit as a family.

I work as a realtor, volunteer at Jay Peak, and manage airbnbs around Jay Peak. My husband Matt works in health care and our girls are in middle and high school. We spent many summers on the Shelburne town moorings and in 2021 we sailed off the lake and down to the Exumas, Bahamas.

Up until that trip we had really kept to ourselves and didn't have a sailing community. One of our favorite parts of cruising was the community we built!



We sold our family boat and I purchased a smaller vessel to learn to solo sail. I've never owned my own boat so I'm eager to bring my experience to this new adventure. I look forward to enjoying the beautiful facilities of LCYC and making new friends.

Mary Tryhorne

Shirley and George Pappas

Shirley and George Pappas recently moved to Shelburne from Annapolis, MD in order to be close to their grandchildren. George is a retired IT consultant whose second career has been operating a tour boat and water taxi in Annapolis plus serving as Fleet Director of Chesapeake Region Adaptive Boating, an adaptive boating program. Shirley worked in the finance industry where she founded and led a retirement investment line of business for a savings and loan before retiring to concentrate on raising their two children, Kristin and Andrew. They are proud that their kids acquired the same love of sailing that they themselves have enjoyed. Kristin was co-captain of her college sailing team, where she met her future husband and current LCYC Board Member Drew Hamilton. George and Shirley's son, Andrew, lives in the San Francisco Bay area and continues to race, mostly crewing on a Mills 43 team.



Shirley and George are long-time members of the Annapolis Yacht Club where George serves on the race committee, mostly driving various committee and media boats. While spending a recent winter in Vermont, George crewed on the Charlotte-Essex ferry. They look forward to their new lives in Vermont and to enjoy the boating and skiing opportunities that are available. They especially look forward to helping Drew and Kristin pass on their own love of sailing to grandkids Lila (6) and Teddy (4). Lila already is learning to steer their 24' Chris Craft!

Regatta Committee 2023 Retrospective

By Bob Turneau



For me, this photo sums up the challenges of last summer's sailing season and the beauty of Lake Champlain...it's not a complete picture, and it's not what racing on the Lake means to us all. Certainly, there was a dearth of wind this year, with only 12 of 18 possible Wednesday Night races actually run due to thunderstorms or no breeze on Shelburne Bay as the culprits. Wind or lack of wind affected our most prominent races.

The 2023 Ladies Cup was held on a classic Vermont summer day - sunny with light breeze forecast. As the fleet gathered by Juniper Island in the broad lake, the wind was fickle with small puffs filling in from a number of directions. The Race Committee wisely hoisted the AP pennant and announced a postponement with two horn blasts to allow time for the wind to settle in and sailors to apply another coat of sunblock. After the delay, the RC made a great call to have the fleet race back to the club by rounding the Shelburne Point red can and finishing at the club mark C. As the race started, racers were faced with the decision on which direction to go in order to gain advantage and get to the first mark ahead of their competitors. Once boats got to Shelburne Point, the fleet split into those who sailed the west side of Shelburne Bay or those who stuck it out in the middle of the Bay searching for the best breeze (this turned out not to be a winning strategy). Club members Jason Hyerstay and Will Nye were ultimately able to make the best of the light wind conditions and win the Ladies Cup!

This year's Commodore Macdonough started as a classic light air chess match up to Point Au Roche. A spectacular light show from a front that rumbled through the race course late in the race also brought a deluge of rain. A number of boats exercising significant forethought and restraint withdrew from the race and were catching up on their sleep while those of us still on the race course were testing the waterproofness of our foul gear!

Last summer also saw continued refinement of the use of the MSBots which have become integral to our racing program. It's predicted that the MSBots will be sentient by 2025, at which time they will be entering their own boats in our races ;-)! Additionally this summer, we changed the format of the Mid-Lake Race to a medium distance race allowing us to run a longer race using more of the broad lake, but not have the logistics of an overnight race.

We closed the season with a wonderful event at the St. John's Club in Burlington for the season awards, where we shared a great Bove's lasagna dinner (which triggered a lot of great memories), drinks and good cheer! I am grateful to Chris Leopold, Robin Jeffers and the Social Committee for their amazing job organizing this event.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge and thank all the folks involved with sailboat racing at LCYC for their work in making this season happen: the stewards who got us to our boats; the Race Management team; all the PROs and Race Committee members who held the races; and the Regatta Committee members. Without them it's hard to see how we would have sailboat racing at LCYC.

I would also like to honor the "passing of the torch" of one of the Club's stalwart and integral members, Dale Hyerstay. Dale has stepped back from his role with the Club's Race Management group. Dale's contributions to LCYC's racing program are extensive. His initiative, vision, and leadership were responsible for creating much of the infrastructure that supports racing at LCYC. 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! My final thought about this season is that it's about competing with friends, against friends, and enjoying this great treasure that is Lake Champlain. It's about the challenges and camaraderie and trying to make your sailboat go just a little faster in little or no wind. I look forward to seeing everyone next year on the start line!
Best regards, Bob



What's the Chance: Bermuda Yacht Club Burgee Swaps

By Betsey Dempsey

When Don and I visited Bermuda for the first time at the end of March, we did a burgee swap at the 2 clubs in Hamilton. (It's best to contact them ahead of time. We learned that the hard way in Norway!) While checking out all the memorabilia on display at the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club, I engaged a passerby named Paul in conversation. It turns out Paul raced on a Wednesday night at our club around 2018! Don and I enjoyed talking "shop" with Paul and were happy to help him with a few projects on his Etchells, when those he was depending on did not show up. The club was very hospitable and gave us a week's pass to come and go as we pleased. While they now have one of our burgees, they said LCYC members are always welcome to enjoy the club.



Shortly after our visit to RBYC, we toured the Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club. What a beautiful club! The weather didn't hurt either. Interestingly, the RHADC did have one of our burgees hanging, but I did not see one of theirs in our club. They were glad to have a mystery solved of who our burgee belonged to. Apparently, they keep detailed records of the burgees they receive and they had no information about ours. Glad we could help!

I enjoy checking out other clubhouses, seeing how they do things, and seeing their histories on the walls.

Betsey Dempsey



Around the Club



Stewards

By John Stetson, Stewards Chair

The 2024 stewards are busy completing their paperwork for the upcoming season. We are very excited to have a strong roster, including Adelaide Durant as our Head Steward. She is supported by returning stewards, Fisher Irwin, Maeve Begin, Charlie Filkorn, and Gabby Torrens-Sperry, as well as a new steward, Nate Hanson. Nate has been Jr. Sailing Instructor and is currently completing his USCG credentialing. Photos and bios will be included

in a future Binnacle.

Charlie is our first steward to have come up through the Steward-in-Training program. By all accounts, he exceeded our expectations and diligently completed his USCG credential last fall. We currently have two openings for SITs this summer. Candidates must be at least 16 years old and demonstrate a sincere commitment to pursuing their USCG credential and joining the team in future seasons.

Last season would have come to an early end had it not been for our volunteer stewards. While we are making efforts to bolster our list of credentialed volunteers, we are lucky to have so many others willing to help out when needed. 19 volunteers operated the launches for 136 hours, with 4 credentialed individuals carrying more than 50% of the total volunteer hours. Thank you to all the volunteers, and a special thank you to Bob Finn, Dick Lednicky and Sherm White for joining me in successfully completing their requirements for the USCG credential. We will continue to encourage and support credentialing of our volunteers. There are currently three volunteers pursuing the USCG credential.

Please reach out with any suggestions as to how the steward service can be improved. Mark your calendar - launch service begins May 18th!

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Junior Sailors are Off ... and Sailing!



By Jill Burley, Junior Sailing Program

LCYC’s Junior Sailing program is gearing up for another summer of eager young sailors. We have five instructors ready to get the kids out on the water. Leigh Kerbaugh will be returning for a second season as our Head Instructor to lead our staff of instructors: Henry Bushey, Eloise Durant, Griffin Hanson, and Magnus Nilsson, all enthusiastic graduates of our Junior Sailing program.

The eight-week program begins on June 17th and goes through August 9th. We offer week-long half-day and full-day classes for beginner, intermediate, and advanced sailors. There is something for everyone, at all levels of experience, age 8 – 17.

Kids interested in racing may look forward to two regattas – The Champ Chase Regatta will be hosted by MBBC this year on July 10 – 11. The Cheeseburger Regatta will be hosted by the Lake George Club on July 25 – 26. As a pre-requisite to engineering these regattas, we will offer a three-day Race Clinic July 1 – 3 for our kids to learn the ins and outs of racing, improve skills and practice with each other before joining sailors from other clubs and camps on the race course. For even more fun, and new this year, Leigh and Eloise will lead an all-girls session of half day classes on July 22 – 26. It is sure to be a super good time!

Please encourage and support your children and grandchildren to get involved this summer. Sessions are filling up. The full schedule is posted on the LCYC website, where you may also register. There are discounts available to our LCYC members. The program welcomes non-members too, so tell your friends and neighbors! Shelburne residents get a discount, too! We have scholarships available through the Landau Scholarship Fund. If you know of a child who may not otherwise have the opportunity to learn to sail, let us help make it happen! Please feel free to call me.

Lastly, for now, Work Day is only weeks away, May 11th. We will need volunteers to help “unpack” the Sharpie Building and prepare the fleet of Opti and FJ boats for the summer ahead. Mark your calendars and join to open the Club and get back to summer and sailing!

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Grounds

By Matt Fisher

Greetings LCYC members. My name is Matt Fisher and I am the new grounds committee chair. I have been a member since 1996 and co-own the J 105 Rogue with Walt Marti and Gene Cloutier.



The big news for grounds this year is that we are replacing our aging picnic tables. Most of them are in pretty bad shape and it has become a safety issue. The BOG reviewed multiple options and decided that replacement was the best option particularly for long term durability, ease of maintenance, and most of all safety. The new tables are commercial grade galvanized steel frame, and composite top and seat. They are essentially maintenance free, durable and can be kept outside. No more stacking tables under cover and best of all no painting tables every year. They have improved access to the seats (see picture) and have no exposed hardware to snag clothes or skin. The metal frame allows sliding along the grass without lifting, however having a steel frame they are heavier than the old tables so will require multiple people. The tables were drop shipped so we were responsible for unloading the 2000 lb plus pallets. Many thanks to Doug White for being there and his mastery with a forklift!

In other news, the parking lot is in the process of being resurfaced. Thanks to Bob Schumacher for organizing, and to Tom Cabot for generously donating the gravel. The north side is complete, and the south side will be done after workday. The lot is in great shape so say thanks when you see Bob and Tom.

Lastly I want to thank Wes Daum, Adam Dantzsch , and Doug White for their help in getting me up to speed, and I look forward to getting to know those of you on grounds who I don't already know. Looking forward to a great season

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Regatta

Kevin Hawko

As I write this article, we are five weeks from the practice race, scheduled for 22 May and then on to the Teacup Regatta to start the 2024 season. While there are no major changes to our regatta program, please note a few minor tweaks to this year's program.

First, our Race Management Group has been hard at work in the off-season updating our NOR's and SI's. Please check out the section 11 of the Sailing Instructions related to general recalls. Note that the procedures are different for Wednesday Night Series and our weekend events.

We've moved the Commodore MacDonough Race to 14 September to take advantage of the almost full moon, so I'm hoping the weather gods favor us with clear skies and consistent breeze for that hallmark event!

I'd like to remind our sailing community that LCYC relies on volunteers to serve as PRO or Race Committee. We still have several races that need volunteers. Each racing LCYC boat owner is expected to serve as PRO or Race Committee for a minimum of one race each season. Members can login to the LCYC website to sign up for remaining race committee slots. If you're new to being on a race committee, please consider volunteering for a Thursday night singlehanded race as a great way to learn the ropes and you can even learn about controlling "The Bots!"

I look forward to seeing everyone out on the water and am excited for the coming season of great racing.

Membership



Betsy Dempsey, Membership/Secretary

Welcome back!!

Not only do I want to see everyone back at the club again, but I want to extend a warm welcome to our newest members. Please be sure to introduce yourselves to George and Shirley Pappas, and to Andy and Annie Dunn, both of whom joined after the club closed up in the fall. George and Shirley happen to be Kristin Hamilton's parents, and Andy Dunn's father lives right at the top LCYC's driveway. Andy was even a Steward back in the day!

Just a reminder, if you change your boat, or even just its name, please let me know so I can make the change in the database. That also goes for any changes of contact information for our database. One more reminder, please wear your name buttons for all social events, including Work Day!

Betsy Dempsey

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Harbor



By Paul Boerman Harbormaster

Paul Boerman
LCYC Harbormaster

“The ship was cheered, the harbor cleared, merrily we did drop below the Kirk, below the hill, below the lighthouse top.” Samuel Taylor Coleridge. The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

Hopefully, anticipation of the 2024 boating season at Lake Champlain Yacht Club puts you all in a merry mood. A month from now the entire field should be commissioned and ready for the launch of your boat. As your Harbormaster, I suggest that these next couple of weeks will be a good time to not only prepare your boats for a safe season, but also to evaluate your mooring tackle and pennant while it is on the ground at the club. Please be reminded that this portion of the mooring is owned by you and it is your responsibility to maintain it. If the pennant is older than five years and has evidence of wear it would be best for you to replace it. You can do this yourself or you can reach out to the club diver Pierre LaRocque (pierre@champlaindivers.com) to have it replaced.

While you are stopping at the club to examine your mooring ball and tackle, please remember that it is your responsibility to put your mooring number (not your name) on the ball. There are a large number of balls that are not numbered. There will be paint and stencils in a plastic box at the club for you to complete this task. Failure to do so will result in an additional fee from LCYC.

If your summer plans include being away from your mooring for extended time frames, please let me know so that we can accommodate temporary moorings for members on the waitlist or guest moorings for those that are coming in for races. For the upcoming season, 5 members from the waitlist have been assigned permanent moorings. After assignments, there are 25 members remaining on the waitlist.

Inspecting your boat before launch will hopefully prevent unexpected maintenance or safety issues over the season. There is an excellent spring boat checklist available at boat.us.com.

Summer is around the corner. Let’s get ready!
Paul Boerman
LCYC Harbormaster
Boerman802@gmail.com

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Greetings from the Social Deck!

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

It seems like Spring is feeling overwhelmed by the return of Winter!?! But before we know it, Spring will return in earnest and it will be time for LCYC to open for the 2024 season. The LCYC social events calendar has been set and will soon be published. The LCYC Social “Team” (as we like to think of ourselves) or Committee, has been busy over the Winter scheduling and planning the events.

Last season was the first one that we had a team of four people planning, coordinating and hosting events instead of just one person being responsible for everything as was done in the past. Without a doubt, I think we can all say that it was great doing this work as a team. It was also a lot of FUN! We are looking forward to more fun and rewarding teamwork this year, too. Last year we introduced Sign Up Genius as a tool for people to volunteer to help at the events. After a few kinks were worked out, it has turned out to be a valuable and time-saving way for people to volunteer. Instead of one of four members of the social team having to call and recruit volunteers for each event, the team can relax and let the volunteers sign up for what works best for them.

Speaking of volunteering, along with helpers for each event, we will need LCYC members to volunteer to serve as hosts. Now this may sound daunting and you may be worried that you won’t know what to do. No worries! A member of our Committee will be present at each event, serving as the Coordinator, for the duration of the event. The responsibilities of hosting an event are as follows:

- Supervise volunteers
- Support caterers
- Identify any food and/or supplies needed for the event
- Cash management
- Event reports
- Confirm post event cleanup (for Wednesday night events, Regatta provides cleanup)

All of us on the Social Committee will tell you that it has been very rewarding to host and be a part of our LCYC social events. It is a wonderful way to promote and reinforce a sense of community among all LCYC members.

If you would like to have more details about hosting a specific event, or more than one event, any of us on the Social Committee would be happy to provide you with more information. For examples of what hosting is like, you can talk to Christina Sidell about Family Day. She and her family have done an outstanding job of hosting this event for many years. Robin Jeffers has done a superb job hosting the Boat Tour event for many years, too, and can tell you all about it. Chris and Jenny Leopold will tell you how much fun it is to host the Corn Roast each year. Katie Wight, who was a host for the first time ever last year, hosted the Ladies’ Cup After-the-Race Party. She did an amazing job with the help of her family.

We look forward to another season of fun at LCYC and welcome your questions about hosting and volunteering to help with a social event for this 2024 season. See you soon!