



the Binnacle

Newsletter of the Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.

Commodore: Charlie Van Winkle

October/November 2019

Director of Club Communications: Dave Powlison

Binnacle Editor: Tony Lamb



Photo by John Dupee

In this issue:

Commodore's Corner	page 2
Workday 2019	page 3
BOG Approves Dropping	
Change of Watch Dinner	page 6
New 2019 Board of Governors & Auditors	page 7
Viper Regatta	page 12
Around the Club	
Fall Cruising Notes	page 13
Docks Update	page 14
Year-End House Report	page 16



Commodore's Corner



*By Charlie Van Winkle
Commodore;*

We had a bluebird day for workday clear blue sky, no wind, warm temps – a perfect day to go out on the water, but alas, it was workday, and there was work to do. For me, this time of year is bittersweet.

I'm thankful for the opportunities to go out and enjoy the weather, foliage, etc. But it's also a little sad knowing that these days will be gone for six or so months. Fall workday and buttoning up of the club adds closure and finality on the summer. Try telling that to the 20 or so boats still on moorings, hoping to eke out another day on the water. For me, I learned the hard way. The longer I keep the boat in the water, the greater likelihood of it snowing while I put the cover on the boat. Bittersweet.

With the bathrooms undergoing renovations, the workday to-do list was considerably reduced. However, the mandatory jobs still needed to be done. I arrived at the club at about 7:45 and found the regulars already in their familiar places. Kudos to Ann Clarke and new social chair Heidi Lessard for having a nice breakfast spread ready for the early arrivals. I donned the drysuit and assumed my regular duties in the water guiding docks onto the trailer. The recent improvements completed on the ramp allowed for a smooth transition as the trailer left the water. We didn't have to worry about the docks bouncing off the trailer when they went up.

John Harris and the crew that puts the awning away got lucky and didn't have to wait for the morning dew to dry. Mike Clapp and his grounds crew got off to a good start. The bushes got trimmed, leaves raked and the bank on the south side of the launch ramp got its annual trim. Mike Kerbaugh oversaw the dock disassembly process, and Don Weaver organized their removal so they could be strategically placed and those needing attention would have it in the spring. New membership chair Betsey

Dempsey set up a workstation to allow members to verify their e-mail addresses. Finally, the Kevin Hawko team scrubbed and cleaned the junior sailing fleet along with the three club dinghies and put them in the Sharpie Building for winter. There are numerous volunteers that come in and do their workday jobs every season. Sorry if I didn't mention your name, but your efforts are appreciated.

It seldom turns out the way it does in the song, and the annual meeting was no different. There were three proposed by-law changes, and in order to inform every one of the proposals, we published the drafts and held two informational sessions prior to workday and revised the language based on the info sessions. The easy one was the quorum change. The old by-laws required nine members of the Board of Governors to be present to have an official meeting. With a fluctuation proposed in the Board count, the revisions stipulate a majority of the Board and not a number. That was the easy one, and it still took 20 minutes of discussion. The second proposal was to allow for the creation of a mooring waitlist. Not anticipated to be an easy one, it brought on some discussion and was tabled until we voted on the third proposed change. The third proposal was a modification of the associate membership category. The Board wanted a way to get younger members into the club, but the proposal as written was amended by membership from the floor.

Can you do that? Yes, you can! Local democracy in action! I did my best channeling of a town meeting day moderator and managed the amendment process. Proposals three and two passed in that order, and both by a "show-of-hands" vote, something I haven't seen in a while at LCYC. At the end of the day, the associate membership category was modified, with the age limit raised to 40. Associate members have the same privileges and responsibilities as full members, but here is the rub. You can only be an associate member for five years, and you age out at 40 regardless of when you started. Once you're a full member, you can't go back.

Saturday, October 19, was another bluebird day. I was wishing I had left *Red Head* in the water hoping to take advantage of the day for one last sail, but she was on the hard, and I had to winterize. When the boat chores were finished, I headed to the club to check out the

new paving. The walkways and driveways were paved last Wednesday and Thursday. Looking at the lake, I saw two small boats sailing up the bay. I wished I was out there, but then could see snow covering Camel's Hump and Mount Mansfield. Yup. Bittersweet.

Workday 2019

Paul O. Boisvert Photos







BOG Approves Dropping Change of Watch Dinner—on a Trial Basis

With falling attendance and high costs to LCYC, the Board of Governors recently approved eliminating the Change of Watch (COW) Dinner on a trial basis and conducting the awards typically presented at the COW during the Opening Cocktail Party. The traditional awards of “The Commodore’s Cup” and “Yachtsman of the Year” will be presented at Opening Work Day. Other recognitions and awards will also be presented then.

As in the past, new Board members would assume their duties after the first of the year, and retiring Board members would hand over duties to them at that time.

A number of factors weighed into the BOG’s decision. COW attendance has dropped from a recent high of 110 in 2015 to 87 in 2019 (-21%). In contrast, the 2019 Opening Cocktail Party saw over 200 members in attendance. Advanced signups for the COW have been low, and in 2019, there was even discussion among BOG members about cancelling the event due to lack of interest.

Financially, in 2019, LCYC spent \$2,967 for event. This is in addition to the \$38 per person, \$75/couple cost. By contrast, the 2019 Family Day cost about \$900, with no individual charge to members.

Venue options for the COW are also slim, so finding an alternative, especially one that might draw greater numbers of attendees and not increase the financial burden on the club, does not appear likely.

Finally, according to the club by-laws, the COW is the event at which “other business placed before the membership shall be acted upon.” Recently, almost no club business has occurred at the COW.

The LCYC by-laws currently state that the COW be held within 90 days of the end of the club’s fiscal year, but before spring work day. To comply with the by-laws, the “organizational change of watch” will be held at the regular Board of Governors meeting on January 8 at the Shelburne Municipal Building; the “celebration” will be on opening work-day. As with any Board of Governors meeting, they are open to membership.

If club members truly miss the formal dinner, we can revert back to it next year.



Photo by Gerry Davis

New 2019 Board of Governors & Auditors

Bill Kallock – Board of Governors (three-year term)

Bill grew up outside Cleveland, Ohio, on a small lake, where he spent his summers sailing the family Sunfish. By the time he was in high school, he was racing Lasers with his dad and crewing on Tartan 10s and a C&C 36. Bill joined the sailing team at Cornell, where he raced Lasers, 420s, windsurfers and J24s alongside his roommate and long-time friend, Doug Merrill. During the summers, Bill would return to Cleveland to crew on the C&C 36 and cruise on the family's Alberg 30 in Georgian Bay.

After college, he spent 10 years living in Colorado, but really missed living where he could sail. Fortunately, he moved to San Francisco and a friend from the Cornell sailing team invited him to crew on a J120. Racing on the SF Bay confirmed that he needed to always live near sailing. Lake Champlain and the mountains in the area brought Bill and his wife, Emily, to Hinesburg in 2001. It didn't take him long to convince his parents to bring their boat, a Sea Sprite 34, up to Lake Champlain.

After a few years of sailing out of Point Bay Marina, Bill and his family joined LCYC in 2011 for the racing, camaraderie and great junior sailing program. Bill's sons, Will and Odie, enjoy hanging out at the club and participating in the Junior Sailing program in the summer. Bill regularly crews for Doug Merrill on *Moovin'*, where they torture the rest of the crew with old college stories. He has also been quite fortunate in the past couple of years to take two epic sailing trips aboard a friend's Boreal 47; the first trip was from Almerimar, Spain, to Itea, Greece, and the second was sailing the fjords of Chile from Puerto Montt to Punta Arenas. He has been serving on the LCYC audit committee for the past 5 years.

Michael Kerbaugh – Board of Governors (three-year term)



Michael grew up in central Kentucky and was introduced to boating by his parents who loved their time house boating on Lake Cumberland. Michael swam competitively starting at age 7 and has always loved the water. Michael left Kentucky for college and graduate school in Minnesota where he enjoyed the Land of 10,000 Lakes.

After school, he moved to Vermont, taking a job at IBM as an electrical engineer. In Vermont, he has enjoyed an ongoing 35 years in the semiconductor industry, now working for GLOBAL-FOUNDRIES. Outside of work, he enjoys a variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, biking, windsurfing, skiing, sailing, running and croquet.

Michael's introduction to LCYC started 33 years ago as a racer, and he joined Rand Stretton's crew on *Magic* shortly thereafter. In 1999, he joined LCYC and became a partner in *Magic*. Michael and his family (wife Marie and children Alex, Leigh and John) have all enjoyed sailing on *Magic*. Two years ago, Mike and Marie purchased their first boat, *Stella*, a 40-foot Jeanneau. Mike and his family have spent the past two summers cruising *Stella* on Lake Champlain, experiencing the many anchorages and beauty of the lake. Mike has served on the BOG the past two years as Chair of Docks and is currently Rear Commodore.

Heidi Lessard – Board of Governors (three-year term)



Heidi spent summers growing up boating on the St. Lawrence River in northern New York. After meeting her husband Ben in college, they spent most of their time together on the river exploring the waterways and island-hopping.

After graduating, Heidi and Ben decided to move to Vermont to live closer to the romance of Lake Champlain. Looking at different places to keep their boat, they visited LCYC and immediately felt at home. They have been members since 2016.

Professionally, Heidi has dedicated her career to empowering and advocating on the behalf of others, is a Registered Nurse and an intuitive healer. Her work has evolved into the field of equine therapy, where she integrates clinical skills with that of the healing abilities of horses. She currently works as part of a team for a therapy program based out of Heart and Heritage Stables in Charlotte.

Heidi and Ben own a sailboat, *Evergreen*, an Ericson 25, and enjoy cruising. Recently, she has taken an interest in racing and plans to develop more in this area of boating.

In her free time, Heidi enjoys sailing, helping her husband restore boats, horseback riding, bicycling and has a passion for growing wildflowers. Heidi is proud to be a member of LCYC and part of its tradition. She looks forward to serving on the Board, building upon the service of past members.

John Stetson – Board of Governors (three-year term)



John lives in Shelburne with his wife, Gwen. John and Gwen first joined LCYC in 2000 and enjoyed their Pearson 28. They dropped their membership in 2004 as other activities and events took them away from family sailing. John continued to sail with Steve Unsworth on *Morning Star III*, *IV* and *V*. Over the past year, we became “re-members,” and our families are now partners in *Morning Star . . . again*.

John grew up sailing small boats – Sunfish, Dyer Dhow, Lightning and Thistle – on a small reservoir in the foothills of the Adirondacks. Family chartering off the New England coast and the Caribbean set the hook for a lifetime of sailing. The chartering continues today, including more trips to the Caribbean and the Greek islands.

John has a BS in electrical engineering from Cornell and an MBA from Northeastern. His career has taken him from consulting to construction management. He is presently the VP of Pre-construction Services for Engelberth Construction, in Colchester.

When not sailing, John and Gwen enjoy skiing, road biking and hiking. In the winter, they are generally found at Mad River Glen except for occasional trips to Bridger Bowl in Montana while visiting their daughter, Amy.

Betsey Dempsey – Board of Governors (two-year term)



Betsey lives close by on Bay Road with her husband, Don, an investment advisor; their "I'm 18, you know!" son, Aaron; daughter Katie (when she isn't a crew member on yachts in Florida and ignoring all financial advice she has grown up with); and Lilly, their fat cat. Their appreciation of LCYC began with several years of sailing camp for the kids. Soon after, the family decided the luxury of a steward was too much to turn down and joined LCYC in 2016.

Betsey's love of sailing started with her own sailing-camp experience as a kid. Years later came a Laser, then a Hunter 170, and currently they enjoy their O'Day 222. While the Dempseys don't race or cruise, they enjoy lots of time on the lake as well as many social activities at the club. As soon as the boat is in its cradle for the winter, Betsey's ski boots come out. She doesn't have much patience for the in-between seasons.

Betsey grew up in Shelburne, but lived in Williston for quite a few years before moving back 3 years ago. For about 17 years, she has owned Color Concepts, her paint-color consulting business. People often ask her how she became a color consultant. During years spent as a graphic artist, Betsey's side interest was decorative interior painting. Those skills blended well and fill a demand from homeowners and businesses. The most challenging aspect of her job is helping those who are color-blind (usually men.)

Betsey will bring strong, obsessive organizational skills to the Board. She has been diagnosed by her husband to have Attention Surplus Disorder, therefore making her a good candidate for a detail-oriented position on the Board. Betsey thoroughly enjoys spending her free time at LCYC and is already looking forward to Opening Day 2020!

Gunnar Sievert – Board of Governors (one-year term)



Gunnar grew up in Stockholm, Sweden, and learned to sail in the archipelago east of the city, where his family had their summer house. After coming to the US, he attended Columbia College and law school at SUNY Buffalo. He then worked as an immigration attorney, first in New York and later in Boston. During his time in New York, he played soccer in Brooklyn and skied out of the Swedish Ski Club in Bondville, Vermont, mostly at Stratton, which is where he met his wife, Jean.

After getting married (also at Stratton), Jean and Gunnar continued to live in New York where they had their two children, Erik and Kristina. The young family then sailed every summer on visits to Willsboro Marina, where Jean's parents had their Cape Dory 28. After moving to Boston, they continued to visit Willsboro and sail, and joined LCYC in 2011 when they bought Mr. Dinse's Stuart Rhodes 19, which they had great fun sailing. In 2014, they bought their current boat, a Tartan 3400, which they love. After joining LCYC, Gunnar raced, first on Michael Barker's Tartan 34C, *Wingdam*, and after his death in 2015, on Bob Finn's J-27 *Kinsale*. Currently, Gunnar and Jean live in Shelburne where they enjoy sailing in the summer and skiing in the winter.

Susan Bresee – Auditor (two-year term)



Susan started boating on the mighty Hudson during the Mad Men days, in her family's Chris Craft 23' cuddy cabin *Sinbad*, usually day-cruising from Piermont to Croton, NY, to anchor for swimming and lunch. The highlight of each cruise was a local ritual - while passing under the Tappan Zee Bridge, all the boaters would blare their horns into the echoes of the black steel web above. The bridge was massive, the river felt like an ocean, the engine was often cranky, and the swimming was grand.

Eventually, the family moved, sold the boat, and Susan lived a landlubber life until 2001 when she and her husband Bill bought a 1977 Penn Yan 30' Fly Bridge Cruiser, *Betty Ann*, to explore Lake Champlain for five years with their three young kids.

After another break from boating while the kids played soccer and grew up, Susan agreed to learn to sail. She made this decision in 2010 at the Newport Boat Show, "beverage" in hand. Bill led her up and down the docks until they found the Sabre 386, and Susan fell in love.

Susan has been learning to sail on *Sophie* ever since. She nerds out on sailing books and YouTube videos. Her need to fuss over details is well served, as she agonizes about both sail trim and galley organizing. She's inspired by the women of LCYC, whom she sees racing, cruising, driving and docking. After 10 years, she feels like she's getting the hang of it.

Professionally, Susan is an old IDX-er. She and Bill worked together in Boston when IDX was a small private healthcare information technology company. She remembers asking a coworker how the heck to pronounce that guy's name. "Bruh-ZZEEE." She transferred with IDX and her new last name to San Francisco and then eventually to IDX headquarters in VT. She held various roles in sales, strategic planning and management as IDX grew and became a public corporation. She left IDX after 16 years to work again with Bill until they sold their company in 2010. Susan has volunteered to serve as president of Saxon Hill School, as president and treasurer of Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, as publicity rep for Vermont Youth Dancers, and currently she is vice chair of Jericho's Planning Commission.

Robin Turnau – Auditor (three-year term)



Robin and her husband Bob live in Charlotte, and they have been members of LCYC since 1996. They raced and cruised on the J-30 *Joyride*, then raced *Buffalo Theory*, a Henderson 30, and now race and cruise a C&C 99, *Unity*. Their two children, Maddie and Teddy, grew up sailing at LCYC, participated in the junior sailing program and were both stewards at the club for several years. Maddie graduated from Elon University in May and is now living and working in Charlotte, North Carolina. Teddy attends UVM and continues to sail with his parents on *Unity*.

Robin grew up sailing a Sunfish on a small pond at the family's summer home in New Hampshire. Outside of work and sailing, she enjoys time in the garden, pottery studio, foraging for wild mushrooms, hiking and kayaking. Robin is the Chief Advancement Officer at Shelburne Farms, overseeing communications, marketing and fundraising. Prior to that, she had a long career at VPR, including serving as President & CEO. She has served on several national Boards of Directors of media organizations.



Lynnea Rosner photo



From the Viper Class Website:

The Viper fleet has returned for a 6th time to beautiful Lake Champlain for some topnotch racing and hospitality. The driving force behind the event, the Hyerstay family (Dale, Alice and Jason) once again rallied eager volunteers at Lake Champlain Yacht Club in Shelburne, VT, to organize perhaps the best “grassroots” regatta in the class. From Dale’s warm welcome on Friday night on the lawn in front of the club to the amazing hospitality of club members who hosted the fleet for two nights of the regatta to the “magic” beverage coolers that seem to always stay full in Vermont, the event is just straight up “easy” to do. The central location for many Viper teams is just right as well—we had 7 boats from the Marblehead fleet, 5 boats from Canada, 2 from the New York area, 2 locals, and one all the way from Charleston, South Carolina, who made the trip for the weekend.

For the full story, plus photos from LCYC’s Gerry Davis, go to:
<https://www.viper640.org/usa-news/mo-grins-smiling-after-lake-champlain-viper-open-win/>



Around the Club



Fall Cruising News

By Lynnea Rosner, Cruising Chair

The final Cruiser's Friday Night "Impromptu" Potluck for the 2019 season was September 20. Like much of the summer, the weather was great and the attendance was good, with everyone having a good time sharing cruising tales and great food. It was a good way to use up some of the leftover food in the social freezer. The forecast for the Fall Foliage Cruise weekend indicated going south would

be best, so we sailed to Westport early Saturday morning and hiked to the fairgrounds to attend Westport's Fall Harvest Festival, a mix of farmer's market, food trucks, various displays, a beer tent and live music. It was fun, and just about everyone picked up something from the market. We used the bandstand in Ballard Park to gather for happy hour—much better than trying to fit everyone on one boat since a number of folks arrived during the day.

Fall has long been one of our favorite times to cruise on the lake, with ample space in the anchorages as folks, busy with the start of school year and the changing season, begin to haul their boats for the year. This year we enjoyed a number of unofficial cruises as the foliage along the lakeshore slowly began to change colors, including Valcour, Kingsland Bay, Willsboro and Converse. After workday, even the trees along the shore had begun to change, making for some stunning scenery.



Lynnea Rosner photos

A
R
O
U
N
D

T
H
E

C
L
U
B



Overall, the 2019 cruising season featured good weather, with more sunshine than rain, and fair winds. We are fortunate that so much history occurred along the shores since Samuel Champlain “discovered” the lake, and to be able to visit many of the historic sites accessible by boat. (We have earned the title of the “hiking cruisers” since we try to include a hike most days). Somehow, we always learn something new (or that we forgot) about the historical events that have taken place along the shore.

With the season coming to an end, the clubhouse and our boats being put to bed for the winter. I'd like to thank those who joined us over the past three years on the cruises.



Docks Update

By Michael Kerbaugh, Docks Chair



What a year on Docks! With massive volunteer efforts, we had a great year on docks and I thank ALL of those volunteers who made it possible. Some of the accomplishments:

Built two new landing platforms for the “brow” connecting land and sea.

Repurposed two docks to provide additional dinghy space and improved junior sailing platform.

Dismantled and disposed of outdated FJ platforms.

Replaced numerous floats and made numerous dock repairs.

Continuously adjusted the docks for lake levels.

Instituted a system for assigning dinghy dock spaces based on seniority.

And these are on top of getting the docks in and out at workdays and maintaining the docks through the season. Most importantly, all of the work on workdays and all of the work on docks was done safely, with no safety issues noted. We have made progress and improved our safety thinking and safe actions on workdays.

We do know the dinghy assignments weren't perfect. We had some pretty tightly packed dinghies on some fingers. But overall, we feel that the new process was a success, and we'll build on that success in the years ahead.

All of this happened as a result of excellent hardworking volunteers. Thank you!!!



Paul O. Boisvert photo

Year-End House Report



By Tom Glynn, House Chair

Workday saw less work than usual for the house crew to do, as construction was underway on the restroom renovations. Right after the Regatta Awards Celebration, contractors moved in and began demolition, leaving the handicapped restroom functioning for workday. At this writing, we are nearing completion of the project. When all work is finished, we will have replaced all the toilet partitions with new solid plastic ones that will not rust. The partitions will also be ceiling hung rather than floor mounted, which will make cleaning the floor much easier. The fiberglass urinals in the men's room will have been replaced with porcelain china ones that will not stain. New faucets will be installed, and the existing tile flooring and rubber base will be replaced with new commercial grade sheet vinyl flooring and wood base.

In the course of work, all the plumbing for the toilets and urinals was exposed. The supply and drain piping was reworked to correct existing problems and to make reliable draining of the system for the winter easier. The walls behind the toilets have been covered with fiberglass-reinforced panels to make cleaning easier. Access panels have been installed at all critical valves, etc. Photographic records have been made of all concealed piping to make future repairs easier. Finally, all walls, ceilings and trim will be painted.

As might be expected in a renovation project, as work progressed, we uncovered a series of wiring, piping and other issues that were not part of the original scope of work because they were concealed from view. We have been fortunate that our contractor/project manager, Jason Bushey, has diligently identified these areas and brought them to our attention so they could be addressed while everything was "open." We expect completion of all work by the end of October, at which time the contractor will assist our regular winterization crew (Al Lewis and Wes Daum) in winterizing the system.

With the restroom project successfully completed, over the winter, we will begin planning for replacement of the clubhouse roof, including reconstruction of the cupola and skylight. Options for a more permanent replacement for the awning will be considered. Our plan is to do that work as early as possible next spring.



Photo by Tom Glynn

From the Weather Mark



By James Unsworth, Regatta Chair

And just like that, the race season is over! (I should add . . . there is still racing at MBBC. If anyone is interested in frostbiting in J/24s, you're welcome to contact me!).

It was a bit of a "hit-or-miss" season with a handful of excellent races and others which were not. That said, we completed 33 races, including Wednesdays, weekends and Etchells/sportboat races. Not too shabby!

A HUGE thank-you to all the volunteers who made it possible. It takes a village to accomplish the level of racing we have at LCYC. A special thanks to Dale Hyerstay, Keith Kennedy and the rest of the race management team, regatta committee, and all the PROs and RC volunteers who make my job fairly easy!

The regatta committee will be convening at the end of October to debrief the successful season. There are a few items we will be discussing, and the race fleet will be notified of any impending changes prior to next season.

This year's Kimura Cup (which is awarded to someone who has help drive one-design sailing at the club) was awarded to Keith Kennedy. While there were many people whom this could have gone to this year, Keith was awarded the honor for his work running one-design races for the Etchells fleet. Many thanks to Keith!

If you received any perpetual trophies, please remember to return them in the spring.

In parting, I want to put on ALL RACER'S RADAR that starting last season, we began keeping track of those who have (and more importantly, have NOT) been volunteering as RC. Signing up for RC is first-come first-served. Next season, we will begin assigning the remaining races starting with those who have not volunteered recently.

'Til next season . . .

Below are each series' top three finishers. The Viper 640 fleet hosted their event once again to tremendous success. Please see the separate piece on this. Top three in each series are:

Wednesday Night SPIN

3-Osprey (Porter/Knox)

2-Sundance (Glynn)

1-Stratos (Moody/Coffin)

Wednesday Night JAM

3-Monk (Graham)

2-Patience (Edwards)

1-Kinsale (Finn)

Weekend SPIN

3-Rogue (Marti/Cloutier/Fisher)

2-Odinn (Dahlen)

1-Stratos (Moody/Coffin)

**A
R
O
U
N
D
T
H
E
C
L
U
B**

Weekend JAM

3-Morning Star...again! (Unsworth/Stetson)

2-Red Head (Van Winkle)

1-Kinsale (Finn)

Sportboat Series

3-That 70 Show (Hill)

2-Streetwise (Hyerstay)

1-Selkie (Allan/Wallace)

Keleman Cup (Etchells Overall)

3-Bertha (Unsworth/Hamilton)

2-USA 466 (Besse/Booth)

1-Pied Piper (Powlison/Harris)



*Photo John Dupee
Senior Staff Photographer*