



# the Binnacle

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

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<http://www.lcyc.info>

September 2015



## Corn Roast and Potluck

**Date: Friday, September 11, 2015 from 18:00-20:00**

Join us for LCYC's Corn Roast and Potluck celebrating the anniversary of Commodore Macdonough's historic victory over the British fleet at Plattsburgh Bay. Hosts Chris and Jenny Leopold and a crew of member volunteers will serve fresh roasted corn. Please bring your own dish to share, we'll provide the corn, butter and a home-made dessert. A limited supply of LCYC burgers and hotdogs will be available on a first come, first served basis. BYOB.

We hope to see you there!

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## **Commodores Corner**

It's hard to believe that it is already Labor Day, 2015. To paraphrase my favorite former NPR talk show hosts, 'It's happened again, you have squandered another perfectly good summer of sailing, racing, cruising, paddling, motoring, skiing, or just spending quality time with friends and family on Lake Champlain.' The only question you should be asking yourself now is if you squandered enough time away! If not, September has been unusually warm and dry. Make sure to get down to the club in the next few weeks and enjoy yourself.

As the season wraps up, I'm taking stock of my second and final season leading the Board of Governor. I have been privileged to serve with a dedicated and talented group of club members on the board. Our meetings have been productive and enjoyable. All have spent a significant amount of time and energy in their roles. It has been rewarding to work alongside this team of members committed to keeping our club healthy and viable for the long haul. I look forward to working with our incoming board members and introducing them to you at the fall workday next month.

Even though the kids are back at school and it is dark by 8:30, there are still plenty of good times to be had on the lake. The Commodore MacDonough race, a perennial favorite on MOOvin', will be held on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup>. Come by the club and enjoy a great breakfast with the racers. UVM is hosting a collegiate regatta the following weekend downtown at LCCSC. If the breeze is good, it promises to be fun to watch! The club is hosting the Viper 640 New England Championships the last weekend in September. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year we have hosted the Vipers, and promises to be even bigger and better than last year's outstanding regatta.

So don't haul the boat yet. Lots of good times to be had this month. I'll see you at the club and on the water soon, hopefully several times before we all meet again at the fall workday (You're your calendars...October 17).

Doug

## **The view from the Docks**

LCYC has been active this summer on and off the water. As we enter September, it's time to reflect on the great season we've had so far in 2015. The Dock Crew has been busy as well and its time for a mid-season update. Most of the focus in June and July has been on improving the Junior Sailing dock.

As described previously in the Binnacle, we built six new docks for the club's Flying Junior sailing dinghies. These new, more stable docks have been a great success and the 14x14 foot platforms are a lot safer for the junior sailors. Following club opening, Walt Marti and Bob Schumacher designed and installed V-supports for the bows, added rollers to the dock ends, and installed industrial grade outdoor carpet to complete the functional fit out for the beginning of the instructional season. Many of you have probably noticed the new decking on the center section of the Junior Sailing dock and may be wondering why it was replaced. The main spine of this dock was built and launched in 1999. The pressure treated decking lumber wasn't top quality but more importantly, the screws used to attach the decking were not as good as those available today. The screws had corroded due to the reaction with the chemicals in the wood. The most efficient and cost effective repair was a new deck for each dock section after we determined last summer that the frames of the docks were structurally sound. Special thanks to the Junior Sail group and the Sport boat fleet for providing the volunteer labor to replace the decks and to Walt Marti who organized the crew and to Chuck Finn who organized pre-cutting all the decking. The first dock section, covered by the ramp, needs re-decking this fall once it is out of the water. You may also have noticed the additional Tee section at the end of the Junior Sail dock. Last summer we completed the first Tee and this summer we extended the Tee with an additional dock section to the south. We now have 28 feet of docking space to accommodate the Junior Sail Boston Whaler, Sport Boats, and Flying Juniors. Keep in mind, the Tee is for loading and unloading only. The Junior Sailing Tee is also the perfect spot for a refreshing dip in the lake on a hot day or evening and is the only dock to be used for swimming and access to the raft. If you are bringing a small boat into this dock, keep an eye open for swimmers in the water. Thanks to Chuck Finn and Pierre LaRoque, our club diver, for getting the new Tee launched in time for Family Day.

The long range Dock Planning Committee uncovered an issue in early June with our dock anchoring system. Many of the chains have reached their life expectancy and are rotting. One chain broke on the Junior Sail dock creating instability and difficulty keeping the aluminum access ramp aligned with the dock. Throughout the remainder of the summer, we plan to replace chains on both docks. While we replace chains, we will be moving some of the anchor blocks as well. This should help with stability and, when possible, we plan to move blocks and chains to positions less likely to interfere with boat keels. This summer's high water has made this less of an issue than in 2014.

Enjoy the rest of season on Lake Champlain and remember to watch for swimmers at the raft, the Junior Sail dock, and around boats in our harbor. Safe sailing and boating to all!

Don Weaver  
Docks Chair

## Fall Storms and the Harbor

Along with some beautiful weather, September also typically brings some big blows. If you are one of our members who stay in the water through September, and even into October, please be sure your boat is prepared for these storms. Pierre has completed his summer inspections so chains should be in good shape, but you should be doing your own inspection of your pennants - almost all boats that break free are a result of pennant failure. Before the weather turns, please:

- Check your pennant to be sure that it has not chaffed during the summer. This includes particularly checking below water - sometimes the line wraps around the chain causing wear;
- Check your chafe gear - loose or worn gear should be repaired now, not while it is blowing hard;
- Check particularly whether the pennant wears on the bow anchor (if you keep one there) - as boats buck over big waves, the angle of the pennants may bring them in contact with the anchor. Best practice is to remove the anchor and stow it below;
- Be sure your pennant is well fastened to the cleat, rather than simply draped over it;
- If we have a major storm predicted, we will try to warn members through an email blast - but ultimately it is up to you to be prepared. In such conditions, reducing windage is a big part of the preparations - removing biminis and dodgers, roller furled jibs, etc.

If you don't take the time to prepare ahead of time, please remember that trying to protect your boat in the middle of a storm is difficult and dangerous. And if it is really rough, launch service (which goes to limited hours in September) may be cancelled altogether for safety reasons. So even getting out to your boat may be a problem - and those are the days you **REAL-LY** don't want to be out in a dingy! So please do a quick check-up now, so you don't lie awake some stormy night worrying about your boat.

Joss Besse  
Harbormaster  
434-3764







## LCYC SAILBOAT RACING 2015

Gerald S. Davis, MD  
Chair, Regatta Committee

The racing season is very busy, with 2-3 races per week through July and August. To date, 25 of 35 primary LCYC events have been completed.



The Champ Chase Regatta for Junior Sailors held July 14 – 16 was a great success under the leadership of Walt Marti and large team of volunteers. John Harris headed up the race organization and competition on the water. The event attracted almost 50 sailors from 6 regional clubs, racing solo in Optimist Prams and in pairs in Flying Juniors. Wednesday, the first day of the Regatta, saw steady Bay winds in the 17-22k ranges with lots of chop. It was declared a practice day, but 5 full races were achieved with good participation from many of the FJ teams and 4 stalwart Opti skippers. Thursday was a perfect day on the water with steady winds and sunshine, and 6 races came off in quick order, with scoring for the best 5. Top honors in FJ's



went to a team from the Northern Lake George Yacht Club, Erika Barth and Teddy Coughlin, with 5 bullets. Boats from the Malletts Bay Boat Club claimed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place honors. Matt Rogers from LCYC won the Optimist class, with the Northern Lake George Yacht Club scoring 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Great barbecues, a DJ for dancing, and classy awards at the final ceremony capped off a terrific event.

The Ladies' Cup Race was held on August 1<sup>st</sup>, with the sailing surrounded by social events. Great credit to Jean White who organized and led the Friday night Punch Party, Saturday morning breakfast, and the delicious pulled pork and chicken cookout after the race. On the water, PRO's Berne Collins and Keith Kennedy led the race assisted by a large team of Race Committee and boat driver volunteers. There were 46 boats from all over Lake Champlain competing in 8 classes. Race conditions varied from light air drifting to a sudden squall with winds well over 20k compli-



cating a lee mark rounding. The Ladies' Cup and the Betty Sproston Little Commemorative Trophy for an LCYC member finishing first on corrected time were won by Don Brush in his Etchells, with JP Turgeon sailing the Farr 400 *Corbeau* claiming first-to-finish on elapsed time and on corrected

time to win the Ted Brooks and the Samuel de Champlain Trophies for any Club and non-Club members. Winners in Spinnaker A – D, JaM A and B, Sportboat, and Etchells carried away a permanent first place trophy for each class and 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> place individual plaques. It was exciting and successful, claimed as the premier sailboat racing event on Lake Champlain.





## **In Our Wake:**

**The 2015 LCYC Northbound Cruise**  
**by Doug Purdy**

The cruisers of LCYC attended the Ladies Cup punch party on Friday July 31st and then cast off our lines on the morning of Saturday August 1st for points north. Our first destination was Spoon Bay on Valcour where we spent two nights. On the way up, we had to dodge storms as they crossed the lake. Baka Maru was caught in one and survived winds of over 50 knots before the storm passed on.



**Squalls raced across the lake during our first sail.**

At Valcour we tied the boats to the southern shore of the bay in a raft and went for a walk around the southern end of the island. We stopped at Smuggler's cove along the way and rounded the island before walking across the middle back to Spoon Bay.



**Ready with our hiking shoes on!**

After two nights at Valcour, we set sail for Deep Bay in very lumpy conditions as the wind had been strong from the south for a couple days. The cruise carried a contingent of about 10 boats throughout the week. Some sailors had to go home for a day or two and caught up with us later

on the trip. We made it to Deep Bay and picked up moorings while thunderstorms moved across the lake. On this day, as the rest of the cruise, we missed the bad weather on the lake.



**A rainbow from a near miss as storms crossed the lake near Deep Bay**

A group took a walk to the point of Deep Bay during the day. It is \$22 for out of state boats to use Deep Bay moorings and \$17 for NY registrations. When entering Deep Bay, be careful of the can out in the middle of Treadwell Bay, but also stay in the channel on the East side until you see a mooring you want to pick up. The moorings are poorly maintained and several are below water level and not marked. It helps to have a crewmember on the bow calling the hazards. There is a trash dumpster at the NYS boat launch in the next bay to the West.

We got together on board for drinks and snacks almost everyday during this trip. The large group makes things a little crowded, but we enjoy socializing onboard one of the vessels. We met for drinks, dessert, and coffee in the morning. The next day we sailed and motored to a new destination, Pelots Bay.



**Pelots Bay Anchorage Sunset**





### **Pelots Bay Marina Tiki Bar**

In the morning, we weighed anchor and motored out and did some sailing on the way to the Gut. Before we arrived, the wind piped up into the low 20's making things challenging. We arrived early to the bridge which for maintenance reasons was being opened every few hours. We motored upwind and drifted under bare poles while we waited for the bridge to open. Once through, we had a great sail to Burton Island.



### **Burton Island Mooring Field**

Burton is a great place with walking trails, a store, free pumpout for moored guests and a whole new dock system. We had a strong northerly breeze both days while at Burton Island and enjoyed a great potluck ashore both evenings. We took a great panorama of the group in the picture below. Notice anything out of the ordinary?





**Burton Island Potluck**

We then went to a new destination, White's Beach outside of Mallets Bay entrance to the north. This public beach offered great swimming and a short walk to the Snow Farms Vineyard where we enjoyed some wine tasting after our walk. The beach was special because we found hundreds of bird houses on every tree in sight on the north side of the road.



From here, we motored to the Naked Turtle for lunch. If you don't anchor, the Naked Turtle offers a few hours of docking through the Plattsburgh Marina for a 5\$ fee. There is also a new Plattsburgh City Marina just to the north of the existing marina. We motored/sailed from there

to Butterfly Bay where we anchored in a light northerly overnight and enjoyed one of the best sunsets of the year.



### **Butterfly Bay Anchorage**

The following day, some people sailed for home, and others went to Willsboro for just one more day of sailing. It was as good a cruise as I have experienced in the 25 years I have spent sailing the lake. Thanks to all who participated.