



the Binnacle

Monthly Newsletter of the Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.

Commodore: Fritz Horton Vice Commodore: Steve Walkerman

October-November, 2003

Binnacle Editor: Muddy Bilges

<http://www.lcyc-vt.org/>



Fall Workday 2003

Many thanks to Mike Barker for these photos. Go to LCYC's website for more of them!

Announcements

Mooring Field Action by Steve Landau - Harbormaster

Our diver plans to begin decommissioning the field mid-November. Mooring balls and tackle will be cleaned, and lined up on the lawn. I recommend that you take your gear home to prevent "missing in the Spring" syndrome.

Check the lawn next to the Butler building around December 1 for your gear.

Dues for 2004 due next month.



Instruction Program a Big Success

By Beth Robitaille, Instructional Programs Chair

Last year, as a new Board member, I hesitantly accepted this position, not having the slightest clue about the level of involvement needed. My only qualifications were that I am a teacher and had enrolled my three daughters in the program the previous summer. During last winter's board meetings, I sat as somewhat overwhelmed listening to lengthy discussions about the mission of the Program and any major expenditures to support it. I realized then that establishing an efficient operation that engaged a large number of students in my first season would be crucial in order for the Program to be fully successful. I attacked that goal with great vigor, and the numbers below are evidence of success so far. With a 41% increase in revenue, we were about \$500 short of paying for the new Opti's in their first year! The real payback for me, however, was seeing greater numbers of enthusiastic students and their families in the Program than we have had in several years.

The Optimist Dinghies created more sailing opportunities for less-confident young sailors, encouraging those who would otherwise be crews in FJ's to take the helm on their own without peer criticism in "Opti's". We found they soon became more self-assured of their skills. In all cases, when parents began to realize their son's or daughter's accomplishments, they tended to take a more active interest in the Program and the Club.

The Instructional Program's mission is to offer the opportunity to all — young and old — to be introduced to the experience of sailing and to teach them its skills, thereby increasing the interest in the sport and maybe, if we're lucky, interest in membership in our club. Our Program has concentrated on youth instruction because young people have time on weekdays during the summer to be both students and instructors, and those who learn the sport early tend to stay with it later in life. Last year, with Bob Goodwin's help, we expanded the Program to provide adult instruction on Tuesday evenings, and it shows promise for 2004 and beyond.

The BOG supports the Program and takes the position that it does not have to be self-sustaining because it is fundamental to satisfying the Club's overall mission.

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Totals
Revenue	\$6,187	\$5,175	\$7,884	\$10,100	\$ 8,550	\$11,342 \$4,900 for JY-15	\$13,575	\$19,160	\$86,873
Salaries	\$3,874	\$4,950	\$6,461	\$6,007	\$7,979	\$7,972	\$11,601	\$11,318	\$56,288
Capital Expenses	\$2,000 new FJ	\$5,000 dock upgrade				\$6,000 RIB (not includ- ing \$4,900 "wash sale" for FJ)		\$675 + \$7,665 for Opti's	\$25,565
Profit	\$313	-\$4,775	\$1,423	\$4,093	\$571	-\$2,630	\$1,974	-\$498	\$471

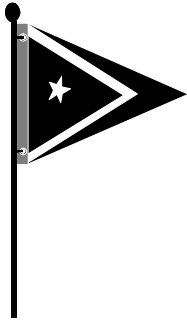
However, to address the issue of "profitability" of the Program, Steve Walkerman researched the club's financial records and provided the information for the table at left. Clearly, the Instructional Program has consistently proven itself a revenue-producing program that has more than supported directly related expenditures. A close look at our boats, however, reveals that those expenditures could be considered barely sufficient, at best.

LCYC's instruction fleet consists of seven FJs (Flying Juniors) and four new Opti's. Most of our FJs are old: one is vintage 1975, another 1978, and four date from 1990. Our newest FJ was purchased in 2000 with funds from the sale of two JY-15's. The only new sailboats bought in the past seven years were the new Opti's. Other program-related capital expenses have been made to support the Program — the instructors' RIB and upgrade of the docks — but incremental renewal of our fleet of instructional sailboats, though periodically endorsed by the BOG, clearly has been at the bottom of our list of expenditures over the years.

Bob and Barb Schumacher surveyed the FJ's on Fall Workday, and in the Spring, Dave Powlison will spend his spring vacation giving the boats much-needed repairs. He will need some volunteer help. If you are interested, please contact him to arrange details.

The water bottle fundraiser, which had a very successful kick-off on Fall Workday, will provide additional funds to support Program activities and should be very profitable for us next summer. Nevertheless, I suggest further investments to our program for 2004 as well as encouragement to students' parents to buy Opti's on their own for their children and passing them on as their children grow out of them. Our junior sailing dock has four ramps with empty cradles for more FJ's. Over a period of years, we should fill those cradles and incrementally replace our old boats with new, safe equipment for our students.

Our sailing instructors, Kate Brush and Luke Wight, are onboard for 2004 and plan to enhance the involvement of our young students and to reward them for their accomplishments. They are particularly challenged with providing sailing-related activities when the weather conditions prohibit on-the-water instruction. Please contact me with your ideas and suggestions, and don't hesitate to donate your sailing videos and books to the Club to provide more materials for some of those activities.



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Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 411
Shelburne, VT 05482

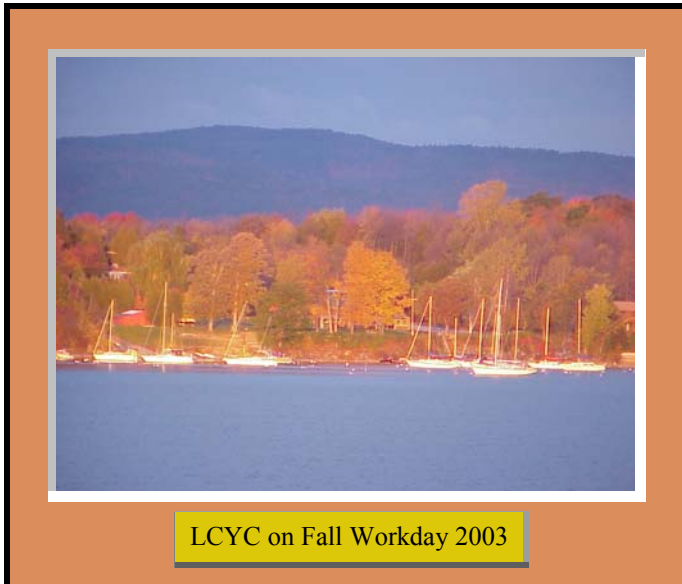
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LCYC Classifieds

Wanted for Junior Program & Clubhouse:
Sailing Books & Magazines, Old sailing tapes
and DVD's! Contact Barb Robitaille,
Instructional Programs Chair.



Last Seen on Workday! My green
Helly-Hansen Sweater! If found, please
call the Commodore!



LCYC on Fall Workday 2003

2003 Board of Governors

- Commodore..... Fritz Horton
- Vice Commodore & TreasurerSteve Walkerman
- Rear Commodore.....Steve Landau
- Secretary, Membership & Log..... Beth Thorpe
- GroundsCharlie Van Winkle
- Boats Bill Aldrich
- Communications Dave Kelton
- DocksJohn Harris
- HarbormasterSteve Landau
- HouseBob Platt
- RegattaTris Coffin
- Sailing ProgramsBeth Robitaille
- Social CommitteeSteve Adams
- Stewards & PersonnelLinda Livingstone
- Communications, Cruising /RendezvousDave Kelton

Appointed Officers

- Fleet ChaplainChuck Bowen
- One-Design CoordinatorRick Stevens
- Club HistorianBerne Collins
- Fleet SurgeonsDrs. Larry & Roberta Coffin
- Club LiaisonBruce Hill
- Auditors O'Brien, Doremus & Phillips
- PHRF HandicappersBarbara Francis, Gene Cloutier

Stewards

- Managing Steward:Chris Leopold
- Stewards: Ryan Heaslip, David Loepold, Alec Antell,
Kate Rabideau, Patrick Haley, Andy Dunn