



the Binnacle

Newsletter of the Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.
Commodore: Charlie Lord Vice Commodore: Steve Walkerman
January 2007
Binnacle Editor: Jim Turvey
<http://www.lcyc.info>



UPCOMING EVENTS ...Change of Watch January 27th

Happy New Year!!

Ah, winter in Vermont—the grass is green and the temperatures soar into the 60's, just like the classic photos we're used to in Vermont Life magazine! Well, sort of. Anyway, hope springs eternal, and if we don't get a ski season that just means we'll get our boats in the water that much sooner this year. As we enter 2007, we have a lot to look forward to, and much to reflect on from 2006. In this first Binnacle of the year we'll pay respects to Col. John Williams, who passed in December, and we'll discuss some very nice guys who finished first in 2006—long-time Etchells sailor Jud Smith and the Horton/Nichol Star sailing team. We'll also take a look at some nice images from the past year, as we anticipate another great summer that is not so far away. And please see this month's flyer—the Change of Watch dinner at the Wyndham Hotel on January 27th will be a great way to kick off the year. But first, we need to handle some housekeeping issues.

Overdue Dues Due — Laurie Landau

Just a reminder that the due date for 2007 Dues and Fees was December 31, 2006. As of Wednesday January 3, we were waiting for payment from 21 members. All payments received between Dec. 31 and Jan. 31 must include a late fee (\$50). Payments not received by January 31 result in forfeiture of membership.

Docks Succession —Mike Barker

For Plato, enlightenment lay in the idea of the Good. Your LCYC Board does Plato one better, rejecting mere "goodness" for the redemptive promise of "greatness," a rare quality in our leaders, but our best hope to keep our beloved docks operating smoothly in the years ahead. By selecting Bob DeSorbo as your new Docks Chair, we can expect nothing less. But greatness needs support. We simply can have no great leaders if we have no followers (read helpers). As your departing Docks Chair, I ask you to volunteer to help out on docks as you have during my tenure. Bob himself is an example. Last season we would have been without range lights and power had Bob not come forward to help with his electrical engineering skills and dedication. That he dropped his anchor off the dock without attachment suggests this slight oversight was caused by his full attention to some problem on the docks, not lack of seamanship or his eternal quest to beat s. Welcome aboard Bob! I'm standing by to help!

Club House Volunteers Needed —Bob Turnau

Happy New Year! It's that time of year again....time for resolutions. While you may be considering various resolutions for personal growth, or a healthier lifestyle this year; I'd ask that consider making a resolution to help the club with some of the various tasks that are necessary for the upkeep and maintenance of the club house.

While a lot of work is done at our fall and spring workdays, there are some tasks such as painting which need to be accomplished when the club is less congested and there are some tasks such as stocking supplies which need to occur on a periodic basis. So I'm looking for club members to step up and help with these tasks.

Specifically, I'm looking for someone to organize a painting party of volunteers to scrape and paint the exterior trim and stain the exterior shingles and clapboards in the spring before the club opening.

Some other tasks for volunteers:

1. Repaint the kitchen and bathrooms.
2. Repair cracks in the garage doors.
3. The garage doors need to be scraped & painted
4. Repair kitchen drawers and cabinets.
5. Re-torque all screws holding the outdoor furniture together.
6. Stock paper towels, TP, soap, etc on a weekly basis throughout the summer.

Unfortunately, if we can't find club members willing to work these projects, the club will be faced with paying contractors to do this work and consequently affect our yearly dues. So, if you have some free time and would like to make a positive impact on the club, please give me a call (425-4024).

Change of Watch—Officer Appointments and Responsibility Changes

The following Board of Governor Member Responsibility appointments will be effective with the Change of Watch later this month:

Social: Bob Manchester
Stewards: Jill Burley
Docks: Bob DeSorbo
Communications: Tina McCaffrey

Also, the following Officer appointments will take effect:
Vice Commodore: Steve Walkerman
Rear Commodore: Ted Lattrell

In Memorium—Col. John Williams 1908-2006

John Williams died this past December at age 98. John was a great influence on LCYC over many years, and Dale Hyerstay has summarized just a few in the text that follows:

John became a member of the club in 1963, and was commodore in 1968-69. In the early years he owned and raced a classic Sparkman & Stevens Six Meter wooden sloop that he named "Sue" because that was about all that would fit on its small stern. Later he owned and raced a yellow Paceship 23 Bluejacket, also named "Sue".

John had a passion for history, which led him to create the Commodore Macdonough Race. The following text, slightly modified to reflect the current courses, first appeared in the 1972 LCYC Log:

"In 1968 John A. Williams, then Commodore of LCYC, in conjunction with the Lake Champlain Racing Conference, organized a 73.6 nm race to commemorate the victory of an American fleet commanded by Commodore Thomas Macdonough over a British fleet on September 11, 1814 at Plattsburg Bay. The original race course, still used for Classes A & B, consisted of only two marks, the HBN at Point au Roche to the north and Diamond Island to the south. In the late 1970s a shorter course was created for other classes.

In 1971, John Williams conceived a unique trophy to be awarded annually to the winner of this race on corrected time. The trophy consists of a section of the actual rib of the USS Saratoga, Commodore Macdonough's flagship in the battle, and an American 12 pound cannon ball retrieved from the lake bed in Plattsburgh Bay. These two most appropriate objects are securely fastened to a modern wooden base resulting in a trophy which combines abstract beauty and historical symbolism appreciated by Lake Champlain Sailors."

John also created the Schuyler Island Race, as described in the text below:

"First run Sept. 7, 1968 as the Schuyler Reef Race, renamed the Schuyler Island Race the following year, it was one of four races created by Commodore John A. Williams (1968-69) in the tradition of the east coast fishing boat races, wherein the fleet sailed from home port out around an island or government mark and back, perhaps with an intervening mark or two. (The other three races were around Appletree Shoal, all Four Brothers Islands, and Juniper Island.) This race became the traditional last race of the year, which it remained until 1974 when the Hot Ruddered Bum Race was created and made the season-ender.

For many years the traditional prizes, awarded in the clubhouse soon after the end of the race, were a bottle of wine for first in each class, a six-pack of beer for second, and a liter of ginger ale for third. It was also a tradition that none of the awards left the clubhouse, having been shared among all racers gathered around the warmth of a cozy fire in the club fireplace."

The 2007 LCYC racing season will mark the 40th consecutive running of each of these races.

John also did the research on the large cast iron anchor in which he determined that it was probably shot off the British flagship "Confiance" in the Battle of Plattsburgh in 1814.

As one of his retirement projects John published a "History of Lake Champlain Yacht Club, 1888 through 1972."

In May of this year John was predeceased by Joyce, his wife of 55 years.



One more look at the memorable Macdonough 2006 race—one for the ages and one which Col. John Williams certainly could appreciate!

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2006: Nice Guys Finish First

Jud Smith—Echells World Champion!!

Earlier this summer, sailing legend Jud Smith made the trek to LCYC from his base in Marblehead to give LCYC Echells fleet members a clinic in making the Echells go fast. In November, Jud took his show on the road to Fremantle, Australia, and gave the whole world a clinic on how to make an Echells go fast. After winning the North American Echells Championship three times, and coming in second four times in the Worlds, it was a sweet victory. It would be very difficult to find a more respected, admired, and likeable sailor than Jud. All of us in Echells Fleet 25 were rooting for him, and it is a true cause for celebration that he finally did it—and it took a victory in the last race to complete the feat. The following text and picture are from the Echells worlds web site:

Smith and his crew of Dirk Kneulman and New Zealanders Andrew Wills and Thomas Saunders, crossed the finish line and shortly afterwards the Star Spangled Banner boomed from the Black Swan, the very same tender that boomed out Men at Work back in 1983.

Smith won the Audi Echells Worlds 2006 showing his ability and determination to take the title in the last race of the series.

The Fremantle Doctor was pumping with winds climbing into the 20's as Smith led from the first mark he was overtaken by his countryman Chris Busch down the run but rounded inside the San Diego sailor. Half way up the beat for the second time, he crossed ahead and was never overtaken again. Smith crossed ahead of Busch, third was Craig Healy.

Dockside Smith commented, 'We had a lot of fun on the boat, it was a United Nations, we got faster and faster all week. The monkey is off my back, after four seconds.'

Canadian Dirk Kneulman, Smith's main sheet crew, was the 1998 Echells World Champion. This afternoon he commented, 'This is better than my win back then. Jud has been the best Echells sailor around for a long time. We are all just so happy he has his reward at last. It's been an honour to sail with him.'



Team Horton*Nichol Named 2006 Athletes of the Year by US Sailing!!

US SAILING, the national governing body for the sport, has selected five athletes as sailing's 2006 U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) **Athletes of the Year** for outstanding performance and achievement. The Star team of Andy Horton (Newport, R.I.) and Brad Nichol (Lake Sunapee, N.H.) is the Team of the Year. US SAILING has also nominated these sailors to the USOC for consideration for the overall USOC Athletes of the Year Awards. The USOC will select the award winners from the Athletes of the Year recognized by each Olympic sport's national governing body. The awards will be announced in January 2007.

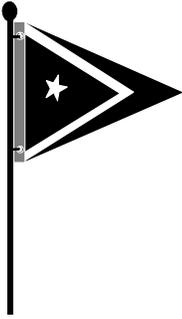
Team of the Year: Andy Horton and Brad Nichol Ranked number one on the US Sailing Team in the Star class, skipper Andy Horton and crew Brad Nichol have consistently achieved podium finishes in 2006. Horton and Nichol dominated the Star class and won an impressive gold medal at the 2006 Qingdao International Regatta. They also won a silver medal in a fleet of 67 Star boats at US SAILING's Rolex Miami Olympic Classes Regatta (OCR). Horton and Nichol won a bronze medal in a 93-boat fleet at the 2006 Star European Championship, part of Rolex Baltic Week in Neustadt, Germany. The team came in fourth place in a fleet of 66 boats at the Star World Championship in San Francisco, Calif., and fourth place in a fleet of 14 boats at the Holland Regatta in Medemblik, The Netherlands. They also came in eighth place in an aggressive 80 boat fleet at the Star North American Championship in Miami.

Andy and Brad came to Burlington in November for a fund-raising event which was very successful. They were able to raise \$31,000 for their Olympic campaign, thanks to a great deal of effort by MBBC's Bill Fastiggi, assisted by a cast of volunteers including LCYC's Ernie Pomerleau, who served as MC, as well as Don Rathbone, Skip Sheldon, and Bob Desorbo.

Andy is in Valencia preparing for the crew selection competition within the Luna Rossa Team for the final Americas Cup Trials, scheduled to begin in early April. The Team has two complete crews and team management will select the best combination of talent for the next series of events and will also substitute crew members during the trials just like a football team does during a game. Those who start the series may not be those who finish it. Andy is confident he will participate, but he doesn't know yet how often he will sail or what position he will play on the afterguard.

Following the last race of the Americas Cup in July, Andy will return to the US and devote himself full-time to final preparations for the US trials in LA in October. Another fund-raising event in late summer in Burlington and one by Brad's Yacht Club at Lake Sunapee, NH will help fund the teams efforts.

Anyone wishing to follow the latest developments can go to the team's web site, www.hortonnichol2008.com to sign up to receive the newsletter and make a donation.



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fold here



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