



the Binnacle

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



Upcoming Events...Awards Banquet & Party 10/12...Fall Workday 10/13...Mooring Field Cleared by 11/1

Etchells New England Championships Jim Turvey

As I looked out at the scene in Burlington Harbor, with 37 Etchells being positioned by their crews for the start of the first race, I understood. There they were, just beyond the breakwater and stretching from one end to the other, with the Adirondack Mountains in the background and Shelburne Bay off to the left and North Beach to the right. Each crew eager with anticipation, each with a clean slate and ready to go out and win the regatta. It was a scene of beauty and serenity that no camera could capture. And I understood why so many people had committed so much time and effort to this event.

Fourteen local boats competed, and 24 boats came from out of town. We had competitors from Canada, Florida, San Diego, Michigan - ten states and two countries were represented. We had the mighty (two past Etchells World Champions, one Finn double-world champion) and the meek (yours truly), and everything in between. (Editors note: there were 38 competitors in all, I was just late out of the dock when I made the observation above.)

Members of the local Etchells fleet had been planning the event for months, and contributed many hours of volunteer activity, as did many members of the broader LCYC community. An event of this scale requires quite a lot of preparation, and then round the clock support during the regatta itself - including registration, boat launching, docking the boats, race management, and running social activities. There were too many volunteers to thank them all individually, but they did a great job and it was much appreciated by all the participants. Having said that, I would be remiss without specifically recognizing the efforts of Rick Stevens, the LCYC Fleet Captain and overall regatta coordinator, and Fritz Horton, who was the Principal Race Officer and managed a team of 15 race officials. Sponsors included Vermont Sailing Partners, Winds of Ireland, Lake Champlain Transportation, Lake Champlain Chocolates, Rhino Foods-Chessters, Brueggars Bagels, Brett Lewis Threads, and Atlantis Weather Gear. The

<u>Article</u>	<u>Page</u>
Etchells NECs	1
Commodore's Corner	2
Safety Tip, Mooring work	
Dock Crib in Need of Help	
LCYC Membership Process	
LCYC Policy & Rules Changes	
Etchells NECs continued	3
Mooring Field Must be Cleared by 11/1	4
Ditch Witch / Stump Grinder	
More Tervis Tumblers	

Burlington Boathouse did double duty as host to 38 boats and to the Saturday night dinner. Karl Fjeld supplied a beautiful set of trophies for the event. Clearly this was a broad community effort! Many thanks to all volunteers and sponsors!!!

Competitors had not only traveled great distances and volunteered their time, but since the Etchells class has a weight limit all of us were subjected to the dreaded "weigh in". This spectacle, although not as sublime as the harbor view, did supply the ridiculous that so often precedes the sublime. Imagine highly skilled competitors, selected for their combination of physical and mental acuity, most of whom have very successful careers in their non-sailing lives, stripping down to their boxers in the middle of a parking lot next to the King Street Ferry dock. Female competitors weren't quite as aggressive at shedding clothing, but it is remarkable any time a woman makes her weight a matter of public record. (cont'd on page 3)





Commodore's Corner

As of this writing, the end of the 2007 season is less than three weeks away! It's been a good year – fair weather, no major calamities and very good involvement and participation of our members.

Highlights since the last **Binnacle** are:

- Junior Sailing Tag/Dinghy Sale – This year in addition to the great boats on our docks for viewing and the equipment tag sale, we held a silent auction to dispose of the unidentified and unusable dinghies on our south lawn and sold our 2 oldest FJs. **Total receipts - \$1291.00**
- Etchells New England Championships were held September 14-16. The winds cancelled all of Friday's races and part of Saturday's. However, **LCYC** hosted a fine barbeque on Friday evening. Our committee boat and **LCYC** crew persevered throughout the weekend.
- The annual Pig Roast was held on September 16th and was well attended by our members.
- Club House Burgees – Our club walls are adorned by yacht club burgees from nearly 40 other clubs. These were obtained by our members as they cruised beyond Lake Champlain. We have more to place on the west wall.
- Good News! With good management from our committee chairs, unexpected new members, no unexpected expenses and the impact of our 2006 dues increase, the club is back on a sound financial basis. We have approximately \$81,000 in cash at this time and will show a \$20,000 +/- operational surplus for 2007.
- 1st Annual Fall Lobster Fest will be history by the time you read this, but all indications are, based on 87 advanced reservations, that it will be a success.
- Up coming October Events:
 - Awards Banquet – October 12th
 - Fall Work Day - October 13th

I am hopeful that we can maintain the very high level of participation we've achieved with our multiple venue programs. The last three workdays have each seen over 150 people working.

A final note – The Queen City Park water intake project, which originally was scheduled to begin in late July, has finally started. Because of the late start, there should be no impact on **LCYC** events or boating.

Safety Tip - Mooring Work

The club row boats are very tender and are not to be used for any mooring work.

They have proven unsafe for this purpose. The mooring puller raft is available for member use. It is equipped with a standard small outboard with electric starter. Our diver Pierre or our stewards can instruct members in use of the puller as needed. After use please return to work dock in clean condition.

Dock Crib in Need of Help! Bob DeSorbo

The concrete crib which serves as the shore anchor for our main dock ramp is sorely in need of attention. I am currently seeking suggestions as to how to proceed. This fall would be a perfect time to affect repairs as the water is low and usage will be at a minimum. I am not sure if a permit is required from Shelburne to do this work? If so, this would be the first point to address.

There is some money in the budget to attack this job properly. What is needed is the right plan... I would certainly appreciate it if anyone could help out and contribute some input on the situation. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas in the evenings at 802 496-4118 or by email at fire4deck@aol.com.

LCYC Membership Process

How do you assist your friends in becoming new LCYC members? It is easy. Just give the membership chair the prospective applicant's name and email address. The membership chair will then email data about the club such as dues and fees. The packet will also include application and recommendation forms.

The board acts on completed applications at each monthly meeting. Board decisions are communicated soon after the board meeting. The communication is normally via a welcome letter to the applicant.

For ease in answering questions regarding the club you are reminded that initiation fee is \$2400 and payment in three installments is normally approved by the board if requested by the applicant. You probably remember annual dues are \$750.

Contact Denny Bowen dbowen_765@comcast.net if you have any questions regarding LCYC membership.

Your Action Item: Notify Denny of address, phone number, email, boat or any other change of data from you initial application.

LCYC Policy and Rule Changes

LCYC policy and rules were changed at the September 2007 Board of Governors Meeting. The new or changed policies and rules are provided below for your information. These are:

Members and guests are requested to dress in a conservative manner in and around the club house. Shirts or cover-ups must be worn above the waterfront level after 5 PM or during any other organized club event.

Dogs must be on leash at all times on club grounds and docks.

All member use of club house and/or grounds for private gatherings involving more than 10 Guests requires BOG and/or the House Chairperson approval. Current use fees apply.

Harbor Rule – General #16 second sentence regarding guest moorings is revised as follows: "A fee of \$20 per night will be charged....." The last sentence of rule #16 was modified as follows: Guest mooring use is limited to member's guests and members of recognized Yacht clubs. All Fees apply and stays are limited to three nights.

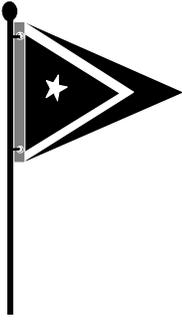
Etchells NECs (cont'd from p1) The racing conditions were challenging and quite variable. On Friday we had winds from 25-35 knots, and there were no races held that day. On Saturday we started out with winds in the 8 knot range, and in the middle of the race the winds rose up to 20-25 knots, with higher gusts. The challenging conditions resulted in two masts down, one bent, and one boat that was only kept afloat by the heroic efforts of its crew standing on the keel to prevent it from taking on too much water. With these conditions in mind, and the fact that a healthy share of the competitors had retired for the day, the race committee called off further sailing on Saturday. Then on Sunday, the forecasted 10-15 knot breeze never materialized, and we were treated to the most variable day of wind I've experienced: 45-60 degree wind shifts oscillating every 2-3 minutes, as well as wind variations from 0 to 7 knots in a checkerboard of thermals over the course.

In light of the dynamic range of the weather conditions, the regatta proved one thing - some of these sailors are that good! You couldn't have conditions that were more polar opposites than Saturday's and Sunday's, and yet Hank Lammens (aforementioned Finn champion) won both races. Allan Terhune from Annapolis, MD finished second overall, and Gary Gilbert from Dakton, VA finished third. Local boats were well represented in the top ten finishes in both races. In the first race, Ray Harrington and Don Brush placed 5th and 9th, respectively. In the second race, Ted Castle, Don O'Brien, Don Holly, and Bill Fastiggi placed 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 10th, respectively. Ted Castle placed 5th overall for the two races.

There were two social events as part of the regatta - a cookout at LCYC on Friday night, and a dinner at the Burlington Boathouse on Saturday night. Both were well attended and gave everyone a chance to relive the events of the day. At Friday's cookout there was further evidence of the strength of mother nature when a boat broke loose in the mooring field and ran aground. It was all hands on deck as people switched from party mode to rescue mode to get the boat back safely tied up at the dock. The dinner on Saturday night was excellent, and we all enjoyed the charm of the boathouse's second floor, although it took a while to realize that the boathouse itself was floating and that we hadn't had too much to drink.

At the end of the regatta the 24 out-of-towners and some of the local boats lined up for hoisting the boats back onto their trailers. We had rented a crane and had it on a spot between the Echo center and the King Street Ferry, and it worked to perfection. Boats were coming out of the water every 5-10 minutes, and once on their trailers there was a hubbub of activity as people took their masts down (this time with gin poles not wind gusts) and prepped everything for the ride home, wherever that was. And as the day wore on, one after another headed out onto the road - maybe to go to a regatta next week or maybe just to go into storage for the winter. As the sun went down over the Adirondacks, the last trailer slowly pulled away, and serenity had returned.





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Mooring Field Must be Cleared by 11/1

All boats should vacate the mooring field by November 1st to aid in the process of decommissioning the mooring field. Members requiring moorings after that time should make other arrangements.

Ditch Witch? Stump Grinder?

The Grounds committee is looking for members that have access to a ditch witch and a stump grinder. We may need to dig a trench for some electrical work and we would like to grind out some stumps on the grounds. If you have access to either of these tools, or could volunteer to be an operator of a rented one, please contact Ulie Holzinger (holzinu@hotmail.com, 802-758-2528). Many thanks. Ulie

More Tervis Tumblers to Be Available at Work Day

Christina McCaffrey has ordered more Tervis Tumblers, and hopefully they will be here by work day. If so, Christina will bring them for on-site sales. Please bring along some cash if you'd like to buy some at that time.

2007 Board of Governors

- Commodore.....Charlie Lord
- Vice Commodore & TreasurerSteve Walkerman
- Rear Commodore.....Ted Lattrell
- Secretary, Membership & Log.....Denny Bowen
- GroundsUlie Holzinger
- BoatsBill Aldrich
- CommunicationsTina McCaffrey
- Docks Bob DeSorbo
- HarbormasterSteve Booth
- HouseBob Turnau
- RegattaJohn O'Rourke
- Sailing ProgramsDorothy Hill
- Social CommitteeBob Manchester
- Stewards & PersonnelJill Burley
- Cruising /RendezvousTed Lattrell

Appointed Officers

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

Stewards

Managing Steward: Andrew Boerman