



the Binnacle

Newsletter of the Lake Champlain Yacht Club, Inc.

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Tranquility anchored at Valcour Island-truly tranquil!!

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Commodore's Corner



By John Stetson, Commodore

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And, just like that, the Club is put away for the winter! Wow! The transition is always amazing to me. It is no small feat and requires many hands to make it happen. Fall work day has come and gone, and the weather even cooperated! Thank you to all who participated, either on Saturday or earlier. Volunteerism is alive and well at LCYC!

It is apparent to me that the activities actually performed on Saturday of Work Day are changing. They are changing to reflect the needs of the organization for more, but smaller, more focused work parties. The new docks will require that a portion of the decommissioning and commissioning is done prior to work day for safety and logistics purposes. Much of the winterizing of the launches occurred prior to Saturday and the Jr Sailing boats were removed, inventoried and packed into the Sharpie Building before the actual work day, both to accommodate schedules of those involved. Yet, the cleaning and packing up of the house and the huge amount of grounds' work carried on, likely more efficiently due to fewer projects. Parking was not an issue and all the work got done!

What did not change, however, was the traditional chili and cornbread lunch! After a season of incredible social events, the team pulled off another on Saturday. Good food makes all the difference! Sitting down to lunch after the work is complete is a good reminder of why we are there; it is all about the people!

The Annual Meeting was a great opportunity for the members to hear directly from members of the Board and Chairs. These are the people that spend many hours behind the scenes, in this case planning for a successful and productive work day, whether on Saturday or prior. They are the people who make my job as Commodore enjoyable! It is a great team!

The Annual Meeting is a special time when we elect new members to the team. In this case, Tom Lynch was elected to a three-year term on the Board and Ann Vivian was elected to a three-year term of Auditor. Both will begin to transition into their respective roles over the next few months and then formally at the Change of Watch in January. Congratulations to both!

As we close the books on the summer season, the Board will begin the budget process and planning for next year. The Long Range Capital Plan will be revisited. Stewards will be hired and licensing will be underway. Jr Sailing Instructors will be recruited and registration will begin in February for the program. Moorings will be assigned and pennants will be inspected. From boat projects to repairing septic lines, work will carry on while the Club is dormant, and then summer will be here before we know it!

Harbor News

Will you be using your mooring assignment next season?
and
Efforts to make the mooring field safer

Doug Hamilton, Harbormaster

Please inform the Harbor Master if you do not plan to use your mooring next season or if you want to request a mooring assignment. Most marinas require commitments before LCYC requests our dues payment, which is when the Harbormaster usually learns about openings in the mooring field. This can put new members in an awkward position of getting a mooring assignment in February and then having to decide between joining LCYC and forfeiting a deposit if they have already committed elsewhere. Early notification of openings is appreciated.

Watch for an email notifying you when your mooring tackle is brought onshore. The email will also include a pennant order form. After mooring balls and pennants are onshore, please inspect your pennant and the shackle connecting the stainless steel swivel to the larger steel swivel. Pennants that look worn out will be removed before the mooring field is re-commissioned in the spring. We're working with Pierre on an order form so new pennants can be ordered this winter and be ready for spring. Pierre will have a heated shop and is willing to handle orders for new pennants.

An example of a shackle that is ready for replacement.



Cruising Into Fall

LCYC Cruising Committee – Bill and Susan Bresee, David and Heather Main, Joss Besse

As we write this, fall workday is right around the corner, but summer has surprised us by sticking around right into October. Unfortunately most of us have hauled boats out of the water by now, so we aren't taking advantage of this weather, but imagine ... temperature in the 70's (or 80's), blue skies, fair winds, and our favorite anchorages empty. Maybe we will schedule a later haul out next year?

Anyway, this has been a full and satisfying summer for the cruising group. We hosted 6 cruises this summer and while one hates to think we are all fair weather sailors, the brilliant weather – unlike all the thunderstorms over the past few summers – certainly drew more of our cruising community to join, including a few new ones! We also had 6 social gatherings at the clubhouse – pot lucks, captain's hour (ie BYO drinks), and a morning coffee gathering. We are finding that our social events are increasing in attendance – up to 50 at one point! We should mention that while not exactly organized, we also always gather for cocktails each evening while on cruises – we cruisers enjoy getting together, meeting new members, and generally getting to know everyone pretty well over the course of the summer.

Our one week-long August cruise – the Perseid Meteor cruise – drew 10 boats to Converse Bay for the first night. As the week went on the fleet split up with groups sailing north or south. One contingent enjoyed tiny Partridge Harbor and anchored as far south as Crown Point. The other group enjoyed the amenities of Willsboro. For Labor Day weekend, six boats cruised to Kingsland Bay and once again the fleet split the following day, heading both north and south. The Fall Foliage Cruise took us all north to Valcour in a fresh breeze, with a walkabout and early evening gathering aboard the elegant Miss Lily.

Finally, LCYC has 3 cruising boats headed south for the winter –Blue Note (Rick Stevens and Berit Solstad) Infinity (Bob and Deb Gurwitz), and Coast (Walt and Amee Marti). We wish them the best! And when they return, we hope you will join them, and the rest of us, for cruising in 2026.



Cruising Pot Luck.



*August Cruise: Off to a Great Start
With Captain's Hour
In Converse Bay.*



*David and Heather Main above
the Crown Point anchorage.*



Eiger Stubli taking advantage of the fall weather.



August Cruise-Nutmeg, morning after Westport.

Docks

Gene Cloutier, Docks Chair

This fall marks the final test of our new dock system as we figured out the process steps for disassembly, removal from water, and storage on shore. This included understanding the forklift work as these dock sections are a fair bit larger than our old dock's footprint was.

As we all know, the historic low water level added yet another challenge to the task and I am very pleased to share that the ingenuity of our club members and our diver Pierre again showcased their brilliance. This was also the debut and official test of Bob Schumacher's new trailer that he custom built for these docks, I think we will have to call it the "Bob trailer" from now on.

The most impressive feature of the Bob trailer was added by Pierre (see picture) when he added floats on the end of the trailer so that the trailer would actually float the back end to allow for very easy loading of the docks even in this low water.



The Bob Trailer.

Overall I was completely impressed with the planning done by Bob Schumacher, Don Weaver, Steve Walkerman and Pierre. There was a lot of time put into this work that showed in the smoothness of how it all worked on workday. Beyond this the team on the docks doing the disassembly was just as amazing and careful. But, it was not just them that made this successful, many on the dock team committed multiple days and hours this year that made this all possible. Again, I feel grateful to be part of a volunteer yacht club that not only knows how to solve problems, but one where our members come out to work and actually enjoy working at the club to make it better for all of us. Thank you all!



The Crew.

Hauling the Docks.



Unhooking and Arranging in the Water.



Floating on a Section.



Hauling up Hill.



Handling in the Yard.

Boats.

Bob Finn, Boats Committee Chair

Thanks to the many members who turned out for Fall decommissioning and during the season as emergencies arose.

Teams and projects included:

Dinse RC boat - Chris Hathaway and Noah Dater - electrical and fuel Tank; Chuck Bowen, Gunnar, Chris Gulden, John Harris & Larry Robinson putting up frame and cover; Drew Hamilton on anti-freeze

Rowboats – Charles London, Gunnar & Tom Cavin hauled, powerwashed and arrayed them on Sharpie north porch

Bern C – Ernie Reuter, Thad Halsmer & Don Brush cleaned out 40+years of sludge from water separator/fuel filter, bled the fuel line, and added anti-freeze.

Milo – James Unsworth and Drew Hamilton replaced motor oil and filter (in all diesels); Al Price and Taylor Cameron added anti-freeze

Nautilus – George Pappas removed main (heavy) Batteries

New Boats locker in Sharpie Bldg was built on work day by John Harris and Rick Heath led by Bob Schumacher

Special recognition for responding to the call:

Jeff Bourdeau - repaired failed steering cable on Bern C – got it back in operation same day

James Unsworth - restored bilge pump on Dinse when water was discovered on cabin sole

Bob Schumacher and Don Brush – for troubleshooting and rebuilding steering hydraulics on Dinse which had failed on Ladies Cup Race day

Eric Schulz, Rick Heath and Thad Halsmer for their many hours working with Bob Schumacher and Don Brush to optimize Nautilus wiring

If I have failed to recognize anyone, my apologies – your contributions are truly valued. As all three of our launches and the RC boat are forty plus years old and vital to LCYC operations, all members who work behind the scenes to keep our watercraft going deserve our thanks and appreciation.



Fall Social Events Highlight September & October!

Robin Jeffers, Chris & Jenny Leopold, & Christina Lamb Sidell, Co-Chairs

September and October ushered in an unprecedented stretch of almost perfect autumn weather, but best witnessed at LCYC in many years. The one missing and badly needed element was late night rain. The beautiful weather extended our boating season and provided the perfect backdrop for a series of LCYC events. This translated into a beautiful evening for our traditional Oktoberfest dinner on Wednesday, September 10th.



Oktoberfest Dinner.

The wonderful Oktoberfest atmosphere and menu brought out a ten-year attendance high! Ulie Holzinger and his crew of volunteers once again hosted this wonderful early fall event. A special thank you to Ulie, the crew of Edelweiss II, and our other volunteers for once again providing a great evening of Oktoberfest spirit and fare.



McDonough Breakfast/

On Saturday, September 13th, our experienced breakfast cooks and hosts, Chris & Jenny Leopold and Amy Caldwell & Eric Carlson served homemade pancakes and waffles, sausage, fruit,

juice, and hot coffee/tea at the annual Macdonough Breakfast. Approximately sixty Macdonough Race competitors, cruisers and other members ate a hearty breakfast before heading out to the Lake for the race and a beautiful fall weekend. This no-charge breakfast event, open to all Club members and race competitors, raised \$195 in donations for LCYC's Landau Scholarship Fund for the Jr. Sailing program.

Our second annual Autumn Cocktail Party basked in the warm glow of a wonderful late afternoon and evening on October 4th. Departing from our traditional potluck fare, Social Co-chairs and event hosts Robin Jeffers, Christina Lamb Sidell, and Chris & Jenny Leopold served a buffet of warm hearty hors d'oeuvres, charcuterie boards filled with Vermont and French cheeses, platters of shrimp, vegetables and dips galore. Kimberly Crampton, Lynn Zipf, and John Kwiatkowski worked hard to keep the tables filled with food and made the kitchen sparkle after cleanup. The beautiful October weather brought out over 100 LCYC members who enjoyed the food and their community of friendship at LCYC.

Our final event at LCYC in 2025 was Fall Work Day on October 18th. On behalf of all of the members of the Social Committee, I would like to thank you so much for all of your hard work on our Fall Workday. From the Early Birds in the morning who helped to set up, to the helpers who kept bagels, donuts, coffee, etc. stocked. The people who helped to load pots, pans, dishes, eating and serving utensils into bins to store them over the winter were ever so helpful. The late morning crew came in to start warming the chili, put all of the cornbread, cookies and brownies, etc. on platters, set up tables with plates, utensils, chili condiments etc. and load the coolers with soda and seltzer. Following the Annual Meeting, at lunchtime we had great servers and runners who kept the chili coming and all the condiments that go along with it. Throughout the morning and into the afternoon we had our loyal dishwashers and cleanup crew who kept everything clean and ready to go. All of you were so very helpful and it was a great team effort!

A season of successful events from May to October! Our dedicated volunteers served breakfast, donuts, bagels, appetizers, and dinners to approximately 1,350 members and guests for these events, which broke records for attendance. Without your work, prepping food, setting tables, icing drinks, cooking and grilling food, serving food, working as a cashier, washing dishes and cleaning up the clubhouse and grounds, each of these wonderful events would only be an idea in someone's mind. The success of our Social program is due in large part to all of our LCYC member volunteers who make these events happen with a smile and a warm hello for every event throughout the season. Thank you!

In closing, we wish to acknowledge our co-chair Robin Jeffers for all of her wonderful and tireless work on the Social Committee. When she was asked in 2022 to join us as a co-chair she made a three-year commitment to bring her time, talents, and energy to the Social Commit-

tee. Her knowledge of area resources for putting on events for large numbers of people has been invaluable. We appreciate all of her work on our Social Committee and look forward to her working with us as a host for a few of her favorite Social events in 2026. A heartfelt thank you to Robin for her work and leadership.

Awards Banquet.



Jeff Hill, Foxy Lady



John Stetson, Morning Star Again.



Tris Coffin, Lisa J.



Tom Porter, Osprey

Junior Sailing

by Joe Rosen, Junior Sailing Director

The leaves are turning and the junior sailors have been off the water for over two months now, but the junior sailing program work continues. All of the junior sailing boats have been decommissioned and stored in the Sharpie Building for the winter by members of the Junior Sailing Committee. All sails are safely secured in the LCYC indoor, heated locker on Shelburne Road. Thanks to all the volunteers who pitched in for this work.

The Junior Sailing Task Force consisting of Fran Hardy, Doug Merrill, Ben Durant, Eric von Eckartsberg, Will Nye, Bill Kallock, Monica Morgan, John Stetson and myself met in September and October. Although still early, our number one priority at this time is to recruit instructors for next year. If you know of anyone interested please refer them to Fran Hardy or myself.

We reviewed the instructor feedback on the 2025 season. Recommendations were to provide more racing experience and give the volunteer Instructors in Training a bigger role.



The task force then went on to start work on developing a strategic plan for the junior sailing program. Including feedback from a questionnaire sent to parents. We discussed scheduling options and program direction. All agree the primary goal of the program is to create a fun,

safe learning experience to help provide an appreciation for sailing and develop more future sailors.

There was a general consensus that the goal of our program should be to provide a full spectrum of sailing opportunities. This includes teaching basic skills to beginners, more advanced techniques for intermediates, exposure to cruising and competitive racing opportunities for those interested. Many ideas were discussed including having the junior sailors, with a coach, participate in the LCYC Thursday night dinghy clinic.

Other topics discussed included exploring opportunities to make the U.S. Sailing Level 1 Instructor certification easier to obtain for our staff. We will also be looking at the possibility of making the Junior Sailing Program a separate nonprofit 501C3 organization.

The Junior Sailing task force plans to continue meeting throughout the winter. We are always looking for more committee volunteers and open to hearing your ideas. Keep an eye for early registration for the 2026 junior sailing program this February.



Etchells 2025.

Stewards.

Erik Filkhorn, Chair.

And then they were gone. Adelaide to Canada, Maeve back to Marblehead, Fisher at Williams, and Charlie in Rome, Ryan and Jaeger at UVM and Hannah back to Colchester High School. I think Leah is probably still racing somewhere. She always had her priorities in order. Parker closed us out for the season on October 5th but you'll be able to find him this winter on the Essex Ferry pinning for the Milo.



Our always merry crew turned in another great season. In the same way that you know the flight attendant will push the drinks cart, they got you to your boats and helped you with your bags and pumped your dingy's, but when things got sketchy, they were there to help with the unexpected.

Being the parent of one of them, I was lucky enough to have an endless supply of amusing anecdotes told in the code of boat names with key words like "reef", "beach", "adrift" and "almost sinking". Those stories always ended well and usually involved the stewards doing something extraordinary, yet matter of fact to help resolve whatever was going on, be it in the mooring field, the club house or the parking lot.

But they never stopped having fun. A favorite moment which I did not have the chance to photograph was a beautiful, synchronized landing with Adelaide and Charlie piloting the Bern and the Nautilus into the dock together like the Blue Angels during one of our busy weekend events. The stewards really are a cohesive unit. There was also a lot of pirate talk and something about fruit ninja which I didn't understand but they seemed happy about it. And of course, the art of the flying cleat hitch has been advanced to new heights this year.

But they're also in a state of constant transition as they move on into their adult lives. As is always the case this time of year, we don't know who all will be back and we're looking for the next generation to join the team. Yes, kids can make more money flipping burgers, but the growth and the experience they take away from this job is priceless. If you know of anyone who is interested in entering the training program or has enough sea time to take the class, we can help cover the licensure costs.

A 21-gun salute to the volunteer stewards as well. I'd try to name them all but I know I'd forget someone. We never went without coverage this year whether it was the busiest of race nights or the Maytag Repairman sort of rainy day. We can always use more of those too if you're interested, it's one of the most fun ways to do your volunteer hours though most of the volunteer stewards put in more than a few hours elsewhere.

Finally, back on the flipping burgers thing. We are collectively in the habit of providing a gratuity to our team of stewards at the end of the year to help bring them back up into the realm of a living wage. Starting now through December 1, if you'd like to express your thanks, please make your check payable to the LCYC Stewards Fund and mail it (yes, USPS) to LCYC Treasurer, PO Box 411, Shelburne VT 05482. I promise you'll get a few pledge drive emails from me between now and then. Whatever you can manage is greatly appreciated.

LCYC Launch over and out.

Grounds

Matt Fisher, Grounds chair

Another fall workday has come and gone and the club is buttoned up and is looking fabulous . A huge thanks to Adam Dantzscher for stepping in and supervising the activities in my absence. Thanks to him, all went smoothly and we accomplished everything we set out to do.

Highlights for the 2025 season include :

- Poison ivy mitigation. The bank is no longer overrun by PI and I am no longer anxiety ridden when I tread there. Thank you to John Bakewell for his time spent, expertise , and vision to improve the aesthetics of the bank.
- Culvert excavation on the west side of the club property: This has traditionally been a wet area with constant standing water. Thank you Adam Dantzscher for cleaning and deepening the ditch and installing a culvert for drainage .
- The main stairs got a much needed paint job. Thank you Robbin Larue, Bette Reuter, Paul Brana , and Sue Cloutier
- Tree removal: several dead trees were removed from the drive and one from the parking lot. Thank you Adam Dantzscher!
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Lastly, thank you to everyone who showed up on workday and those of you who completed projects prior to workday . We have a beautiful club because of your efforts



*Don Brusch, the Schumakers, and the Rosners.
Visiting Lake George in October.*

A Few Words and a Picture

Amy Caldwell, Membership



The other day, I was experiencing what felt like a withdrawal of sorts. Then I realized what the empty feeling I was experiencing was; I was missing the many car rides to Lake Champlain Yacht Club over the past 5 months. It is there that I have become a part of a community sharing skills, passions, interests and friendships. It is there that we form a connection with others who love to spend time boating while enjoying the lovely waters of Lake Champlain.

So, I rode out to “the Club.” The gentle breeze tossed the autumn leaves across the road. Upon arriving, what I saw was an empty harbor. But what I felt was the summer laughter and joy boxed up for the winter ready to burst out again in the spring. I must admit, I was a bit envious of the steward boats in the house surrounded by the amenities we all have come to love. Their over-winter place is priceless.

My thoughts turned to the many folks who took an interest in LCYC – all passionate about the water. I found myself proudly giving tours, never skipping the words that delicately describe the wonderfulness we all know lives on the shores in the special place called LCYC. I especially thought of the new members we asked to join us. They have merely a glimpse into what is to come - their eagerness to belong and the future connections they are sure to make. All of them were enthusiasts looking ahead to the many hours of sailing, boating, racing and socializing. I know we will all welcome them into our summer world as soon as we can. Meanwhile, we wait for the frozen ground to thaw, the sun to shine longer, the waters to warm and the vessels to fill the harbor. And to Spring WORKDAY!

Scuttlebutt (Editor's notes)

By Tony Lamb



The revival of the awards banquet as an event at LCYC brought back a flood of memories of the Lake Champlain Racing Conference and club awards.

Most members are aware of the Lake Champlain Champion Series, a cooperative effort between Diamond Island YC, Lake Champlain YC, Malletts Bay Boat Club and the Plattsburgh area racers. (who run the Mayor's Cup race.) The LCCS website history describes the process by which it was formed in 2013. It also describes the history of its predecessor the Lake Champlain Racing Conference:

The original Lake Champlain Racing Conference began in 1968. It was formed by the three clubs of that era, LCYC, MBBC, and VSC, each club agreeing to provide two races. They used some existing races and created a few others specifically to be included in the Conference. All were weekend events – two were overnights, the others were two-day events with one or two races each day. MBBC's events were Royal Savage and Lake Champlain; VSC's were Valcour I/II and Isle St. Michel; LCYC's were Ladies Cup and Cmdr Macdonough. In 1982 LCYC withdrew the Ladies Cup from the Conference and created the two-day Odziozo in its place.

The Conference was a stand-alone structure with a Commodore and other officers, an annual printed document, dues, awards, and a bank account. In the 1980s attendance began to decline, mostly due to the growth of weeknight racing that did not require getting crew for two weekend days six times a summer. At the end of the 2000 season, after 33 years of providing great racing, the Conference closed down.

The Racing Conference was really quite a big deal for most of those 33 years. I remember being one the LCYC representatives for a few years. The Board would meet in November or December and coordinating the three club schedules would set the race calendar for the following summer. Then the individual clubs would set the remainder of their schedule of events. The meeting site would rotate between the three clubs.

None of the club houses were open and so we met in a variety of places. I particularly remember the trips to Plattsburg. We often met at the home of Dr. David McDowell and staunch support of the Valcour Club and the racing conference. It was a beautiful house on a bluff over-

looking the Lake, with a view of Valcour Island. Inside we met in a room he had that was an a detailed replica of the interior of a traditional Adirondack cabin. In those days the day races were two day events with a great party on Saturday night. (There is a story that the LCYC social Committee balked at going out for another keg after the racers partying on Odziozo weekend had finish five kegs and wanted more. And that was tame.) Dave would hold the Valcour party on his front lawn. He alternated hosting duties with Bill Rowe, another avid sailor. Their parties were a little more civilized compare to LCYC and MBBC. Once the Mayor's Cup started the party shifted to the Naked Turtle.

In those days we did not think to moor our boats overnight at the Plattsburgh Yacht Basin. Instead we anchored out behind Valcour Island. I have shared the story of how the crews all went ashore to hit the high spots of Plattsburgh, including that fine establishment-The Tiajuana Jail. No dingy ashore was safe as the crews figured out how to return to their boats late at night.

One of my favorite memories was making breakfast on our boat in the midst of an early morning fog when the sounds of bagpipes floated across the waters. Then McDowell's boat came out of the fog as it headed out towards the race course. Very Brigadoon like. Dave was very proud of his heritage.

The Conference gave out its own awards for the races in the Conference. Indeed awards were a much bigger deal than they have become in recent years. In most years LCYC gave out a framed photo of your boat with a list of any race or series you placed in.

The first few years I raced my own boat I really wanted to have at least one podium finish so that I would that memento of the year of racing. I noticed that more experienced racers were not as anxious to win one of the photos. After acquiring 15 or so of these trophies I began to understand. Where do you put them? I finally filled a wall at my office.

Other more original awards were also given. Below is a photo of a very nice lamp I received. With experience I realized that a couple of these go along way. Partners are not fond of helping you dust and keep polish these "honors"



That said, I would rather have all of these and the stories they represent than not. The photos that show crew who have long since moved away or on are particularly valued.

Sail safe,
Peace



Cruising Infinity Heading South.