

The BINNACLE

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Buffalo Yacht Club

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Commodore's comments:

As we start the 2021 season, we continue to have issues related to the Covid 19 pandemic, particularly regarding our restaurant and bar areas. I can't go any further without acknowledging and thanking Past Commodore Jim Kulwicki for leading us through 2020 with all that this pandemic rained down upon us. Please review PC Kulwicki's December Binnacle article which covers all the accomplishments and challenges that we faced in 2020.

This spring we will finally see the installation of the new floating docks on the outer wall, and replacement of the fingers destroyed in the October 2019 storms. You will also see new floaters on the inside of that wall, completing the transition to all floating docks in the Porter basin. Many thanks to the Floating Dock



Committee for this accomplishment. Meanwhile, Fleet Captain Joe Gelsomino, Jr. and the Porter Basin Committee are working hard to refurbish the docks on the outer south wall that were heavily damaged by the October 2020 storm.

Our Treasurer, Paul Johnson, has worked hard getting the BYC lined up to receive PPP money, and other funds, available through the various federal stimulus packages. This is a huge benefit to us, particularly concerning our payroll.

Our Point Abino facility also sustained storm damages again

last October. Rear Commodore Carl Hensler, a Canadian resident, is working hard to get everything in shape for an opening as soon as they open the US - Canadian border.

Mary Theresa Seitz, and her Entertainment Committee, are doing a marvelous job, under the Covid circumstances, in scheduling events and are looking forward to having the restrictions ease up, as we work our way back closer to normal activities. Please come to your Club and enjoy the exquisite cuisine that Chef Dave and his staff are offering.

COMMODORE — continued on page 2



THE BINNACLE
BUFFALO YACHT CLUB
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 Vice Commodore.....Douglas P. Bienko
 Rear Commodore.....Carl Hensler
 Fleet CaptainJoseph J. Gelsomino Jr.
 Secretary.....Kim Reynolds
 TreasurerPaul Johnson

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 ComptrollerMike Scheid
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 Point Abino Ruth Sparks
 Boating Education..... Leah Trow
 BINNACLE Editor Doug Bienko

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Above: New coating on berm held up to the first winter. Rest of page: work to restore the boat launch at Point Abino.

We continue to provide a safe Covid environment keeping an eye on all the Erie County Health Dept. protocols. The safety of our members and staff is of utmost importance. If you don't feel comfortable dining out just yet, please remember that all the items on our menu are also available for takeout. Please see Vice Commodore Doug Bienko's report for other House updates.

In an effort for more transparency, we have started sending out monthly Board Meeting Briefs. In which we highlight some of the issues discussed that may be of interest to the Membership. In the meantime, we are looking forward to seeing you all soon, with the 2021 boating season approaching.



Membership

The following new members joined the Buffalo Yacht Club since the last issue of the BINNACLE:
Active: Thomas & Cheryl Spulecki.
Social: Julius McCann & Libby Brennan.
Crew: Lydia Wishman.

Reinstatements accepted from:
Social: Kevin Osinski, William & Josephine Zenosky.
Intermediate: Robert & Kristin Armstrong.

Change of classification accepted from:
Active to Retired Active: Dr. Merrily Kuhn & P/C Jim Kulwicki, Ed Gawarecki.
Crew to Non-Resident: Nicole Gambacorta.
Intermediate to Social: Keith Szczygiel.
Crew to Intermediate: Jonathan Fohl, Liam McCabe.

Resignations accepted with regret from:
Social: Daniel & Leslie Keane, Heidi Hamberger-McKendry, Nicholas & Marlene Schmitt, Janet Casagrande.
Non-Resident: Gerald & Carole Revzin, Jason Jordan.
Crew: I'Jaz Eberhardt.

Honorary membership was awarded to Natalie Economou.



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Vice Commodore Doug Bienko's comments:

Things around the clubhouse have been pretty busy as of late. Our dining room has been the place to go for fabulous food. Chef Dave has stepped up his (and his kitchen staffs) game. All of our employees are doing a great job, managers, housekeeping, servers and basin. They have all rolled with the punches of the last year and allowed the club to maintain a very high standard indeed. Kudos! Chef has also improved the product coming out of the kitchen and the virtual cooking classes have Marlene and me cooking things we never would have tried without the confidence building instruction. Thanks Chef!

Remember, we have taken many precautions to ensure a safe and pleasant environment for your dining pleasure, including staff training, intensive cleaning, CDC recommended air filtration, dividers for the bar (The Bar is open!), touchless fixtures in all restrooms. We are following all protocols for restaurants and then some. Please make reservations early if possible, as some nights are selling out – we want to make sure we serve our membership before accepting reciprocal reservations. And, don't forget, take out is available for everything on our menu!

The house committee is working on a new look for the dining room and we are all looking forward to the update. Stay tuned for further information as we work out the costs and the moving parts involved in painting and decorating a working dining room.

Mary Theresa and her entertainment committee have been busy planning

those events we know we can run safely this year, for example, Cotter fireboat cruises, Harbor Queen cruises, Derby Day party, Cinco de Mayo party, movie nights and more. Look for more in the Compass, there's always something going on, and hopefully more events added as we move out of the shadow of the pandemic. I am proud to be a part of such a storied and dynamic club that is the Buffalo Yacht Club, and I hope you are too. If there is something you think we can improve or if you have any ideas on making the club a better place feel free to let me know. Your input is always valued.



Below: Craig Breuning and Bonnie Stolarski enjoy a moment at the St. Patrick's day party. Right: more launch restoration.



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Rear Commodore Carl Hensler's comments:

Greetings from the Quarantined North. It has been over a year now and as of this writing the border will be closed for at least another month.

I'm sorry, I don't have a crystal ball, but can only hope it will open soon and we will all be able to enjoy the Point once again.

Most of the damage caused by the storms has been fixed over the past couple of months. What remains has been contracted and will be completed within the next few weeks.

The exception is the resurfacing (gravel) of the berm. We are going to wait until May to complete as a precaution against another spring storm similar to last year's when we lost all the new gravel.

Weather permitting, the floating docks should be installed next week and the fixed docks will follow shortly after.

If the Covid and Provincial restrictions on pools don't ease up in April, the scheduled painting in May will be postponed and possibly not be done this year. More to follow by the Spring Meeting. Due to obvious restrictions no spring work party has been planned. If we should get lucky and things open up, we will send out a call for help. In the meantime, once the basin is ready, Ruth and crew will be making massive spring clean up efforts.

The Point will be ready to accept boats on time!

Please keep in mind the restricted use of our facilities at Point Abino is mandated by the Federal, Provincial and Local governments NOT by our staff. So please have patience and be kind to our Point Abino Staff. They work extremely hard. If there are requests for services or something doesn't seem quite right, please contact the Rear Commodore and he will deal with it.

Thank you all for your cooperation and understanding.

Looking forward to a busy basin full of boats.

Below: Docks at the Point are in!



Fleet Captain Joe Gelsomino Jr.'s comments:

I am truly honored to serve as the Fleet Captain for the 2021 boating season. I am also elated to be the chairman of two committees (Basin and Floating Dock) for both committees have very active members that I will be serving alongside. I have always believed that it is the volunteers that make our Club truly enjoyable.

We started the very weekend after the November election with an impromptu crew that came down to Porter Ave to clean up after the storm days before the annual meeting. We spent a good part of the day removing two fingers of the South outer dock that had broken free of the main section and were partially sunk. The floating dock at the dry-sail hoist had also exceeded its maximum travel and had capsized and sank. V/C Bienko and George Freiburg have already reinstalled the dry-sail dock and have launched the Junior Sailing rafts for the High School Sailing program for their early start this year. As mentioned earlier there was significant damage to the South Outer docks, this will be repaired in time for this season. We did investigate replacing this section of docks but we would not have had delivery till the 2022 season. The work raft also sustained some damage during this storm and the motor was destroyed. Since the storm the raft has been rebuilt and a new motor will be on it for the spring work party. We actually had two separate work crews for this November clean-up; one working on the removal of the sunk docks, the other worked on

Fleet Captain — continued on page 5



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Fleet Captain —from page 4

securing the remaining docks for the winter season. A thank you should be extended to: V/C Bienko, Secretary Reynolds, P/C Berry, P/C Kondziela, P/C Obersheimer, Jerry Cataldo, Bill Flaglor, Paul Grenauer, Dick Ham, Peter Johnson, Tom Lewin, Joe Roetter and Dave Woollatt.

There was another work party headed by Roy Jordan with the assistance of Dave Woollatt that removed the fiberglass panels on the bridge after several sections were severely damaged and a few were missing as a result of the past two fall storms. Comments that I have received is that there is a significant increase in appeal with the increase in visibility.

If you haven't gathered by now, the Club has to assume that over the next few years we will be dealing with high water events during the off season and the possible effects they may have if we don't adequately prepare for them. At the same time our new docks are not conducive for removal and storage on our premises during the off season. The Floating Dock Committee is diligently evaluating three possible options for the winterization of the new docks and will have a report to you at the spring meeting. The three options that are being evaluated are; hauling them out with a crane at an offsite location, storing them in water at an offsite location, or store them in water in the Buffalo basin with an emphasis on winterizing earlier and with stronger attachments.

The installation of the new docks is on schedule, by the time you read this Buffalo Marine Construction will

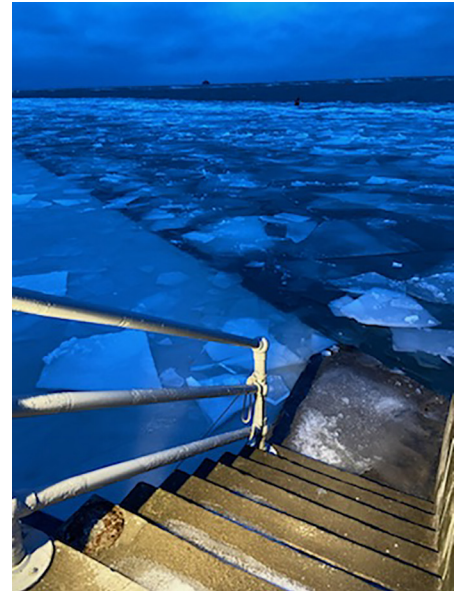
already be back on site. Most of the docks are already on our premises so all that remains is finishing the installation of the uprights/slides and then the final assembly of the various sections. One item on the Basin Committee's list is stabilizing the walkway for the dinghy dock, which we have several ideas to accomplish this and will be completed by the start of the season.

A few of the projects that the Basin Committee has undertaken relate to improving the overall aesthetics of the basin, to this end; new dock carts have been ordered, a new industrial gas can storage cabinet has been ordered and cypher locks for the two pedestrian gates will be installed this spring. Additionally a revamping of the bubbler system/air curtain across the basin entrance is underway. We have been using a high pressure low air volume compressor while what is needed is a low pressure high volume blower system. One benefit of the new design might be that we can cover more area which may allow us to prevent flotsam from collecting within the outer slips. John Buscher is shepherding the bubbler project and has already made significant inroads on design and sourcing the required materials.

One item that the Club will have to deal with in the very near future is the wall shifting along the East wall of the basin and specifically in front of the dry-sail hoists. We have contracted for engineering analysis and recommendations, and are anticipating that the remediation for this may be a tough pill to swallow. There is a general consensus both within our membership involved and with the

engineering firm we have contracted with agree that this issue will become more expensive to rectify the longer we wait, with the least desirable outcome being a possible collapse. Right now we are evaluating the situation to develop remedial options and are trying to establish a time frame for a permanent fix.

In closing I cannot express enough gratitude towards Vice Commodore Bienko for the many things that are getting accomplished with his help.



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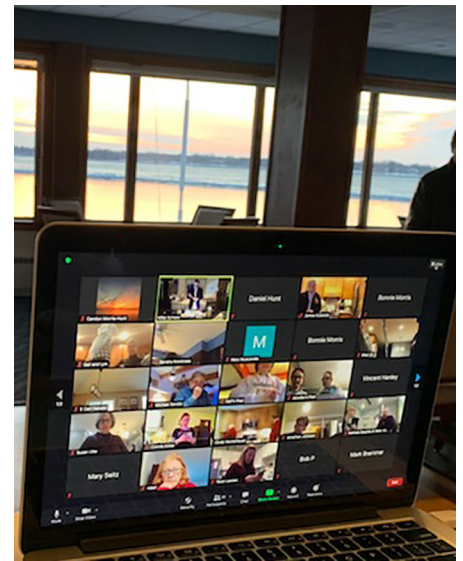
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This page: Chef Dave and Sous Mike making things a lot better in kitchens of our members, at least mine. Thanks guys. Left: decorations for Valentines Day. Above: Shana with the menu for the day.


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Top: IPC Kulwicki and Commodore Munschauer. Above: Commodore and VC make the pass for 2021 Rear Commodore Hensler - on screen from Canada. Right Column from top:VC Bienko, Fleet Captain Gelsomino, Secretary Reynolds, IPC Kulwicki and Tom Hauser Left: Treasurer Paul Johnson

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Top: Employee of the year Leah Trow, our boating Education star. Above: Past Commodores at the PC photo wall, including Carl Hensler PC and current Rear Commodore being supported by PC Barry



Above: Immediate Past Commodore with Member of the year Don Muscarella - well deserved, Don. Below: Steven Adair, honored by outgoing Commodore Kulwicki for his 41 years of service! Thanks, Steven.





Aerial photos by Larry Cobado, my shipmate from the Cotter, thanks Larry. Left: Tom and Cheryl Spulecki, new members with Marlene and me at Valentines dinner. Top: Paul and Sue Johnson with Adam Masters and Naomi Lasco. Above: Jim and Merrily

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It Was the Worst of Times, It was the Best of Times

In 1859, Charles Dickens wrote, "It was the worst of times, it was the best of times". Now, more than 160 years later we, too, can say we've lived through the worst and best of times at the BYC.

A little over a year ago, one of the worst pandemics ever hit us. Our club had to be closed. Employees had to be painfully let go. We couldn't host our beloved Commodore's Breakfast or Ball. No weddings or other special events could be held. We had to adapt to the ever-changing COVID-19 health and safety protocols, and we had to come up with a plan to keep our club afloat.

Through the coordinated efforts of our officers, club management and Executive Chef Dave Miller, a phenomenally well-received take-out dinner program was quickly set in place. The first night almost 200 fish fry dinners were safely prepared and delivered to members in their cars, but things didn't stop there. "I tried to think out of the box," said our Le Cordon Bleu Institute of Culinary Arts trained Chef Dave. "We wanted to offer a variety of menu selections that would not only please people's tastebuds, but would also travel well." It was a challenge, but nearly 3,000 dinners later, the take-out program continues to be a success.

"It makes me feel good that so many people appreciated the quality of the food, and also felt safe enough to support our efforts," says Chef Dave. People were so loyal, returning many times to try out new selections and support our club, but also to be able to see other club members in the process. Members also enjoyed each other's company by participating in

several Sunday night Zoom Virtual Cooking Courses with Chef Dave. Always a great time, with the ability to enjoy new cooking techniques and great food & wine safely!

"It was also very rewarding to work side-by-side with the officers and their wives and other volunteers," he added. "We were trying to keep the club alive. It also gave us a rare opportunity to learn so much more about each other. We became family!"

Now our Dining Room has re-opened under very specific guidelines, and our staff is back and ready to serve you. If you haven't sampled Chef Dave's fabulously creative menu, you owe it to yourself to do it soon. You will come back often. "I like to challenge people with new dishes," he says. Many people have had a Reuben Sandwich, but how many people have savored a Reuben Pot Pie? And you really haven't enjoyed Bacon & Eggs until you've tried our new dish with smoked pork belly & cheddar grits. And, of course, there are still the very popular steaks and seafood, but so much more - Duck Confit Hash, Baked Escargot En Croute, Lobster Mac & Cheese, just to name a few.

"Cooking has always been in my blood, and I like to use my imagination to continually change things up to keep people coming back," says Chef Dave. "And where else can you get fresher ingredients, or a better view? It's just spectacular!"

Yes, we have lived through one of the worst times at the BYC, but it certainly brought out the best in all of us - overcoming many obstacles, while working together as a BYC family. Many thanks to everyone for your unwavering support!



Article by Cindy Munschauer, featuring Executive Chef Dave Miller, pictured above. We are indeed very lucky to have such talent in our kitchen. Thanks Chef!

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