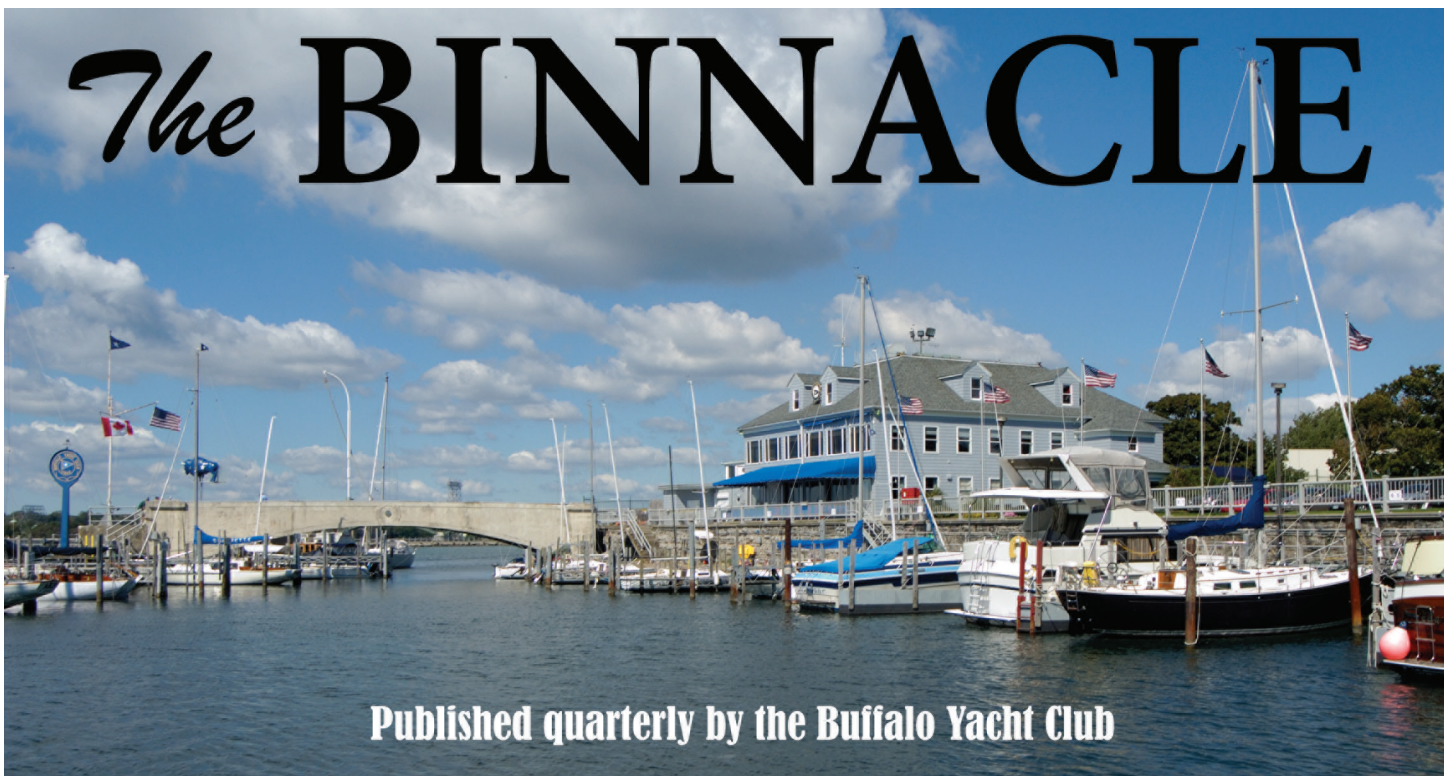


The BINNACLE



Published quarterly by the Buffalo Yacht Club

Vol. CVI No. 4

Buffalo Yacht Club

December 2021



Commodore Stephen Munschauer's comments:

I would like to thank all of the Board, Bridge, PC's, members, and staff, who helped me, and offered advice to make the Club a better place for everyone.

What a year, what a two years, this has been. November 20, 2020, the first day of my term, we went into Covid shutdown mode and back to serving take outs, again.

Over the two sessions of take outs, in 2020 and 2021, we served over 3,000 meals, probably more than we would have served if the dining room were open. Thank you to all who patronized your Club.

As the year went on, dining reopened with restrictions, which were eventually lifted. In early July, our Chef left,



and Mike Massey, our Sous Chef, stepped up and maintained our outstanding level of cuisine served at the finest dining venue in Western New York.

We have endured staffing issues with the loss of our Banquet Manager, Executive Chef, and Comptroller, along with struggles to find and retain, maintenance, kitchen, and front of the house staff, in this very uncertain labor market. We are thankful to all the loyal staff that we do have. A special thanks to Sam for dealing with all the staffing turmoil.

A related staffing issue is that the Club was able to take advantage of the federal Payroll Protection Plan loans and Employee Retention Credits, which have left us in a very

healthy financial position.

On another note, due to fall storms of 2019 and 2020, the Porter Basin has new floating docks on the outer wall of the berm, along with new docks on the inner side, electrical upgrades, and berm resurfacing, we now have one of the finest basins in the area.

A major effort has gone into designing the best way to winterize all of the floating docks to prevent future fall/winter storm damage.

The dining room, and lower deck, have new chairs, after over a five-year effort of replacing the well-used barrels chairs.

Looking forward, we will be upgrading the HVAC equipment to



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 Vice Commodore.....Douglas P. Bienko
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 Point Abino Ruth Sparks
 Boating Education..... Jonathan Johnsen

BINNACLE Editor Doug Bienko

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COMMODORE —from page 1

provide the latest in filtration systems for cleaner air circulation. There are plans for a new look in the dining room along with a new trophy case in the lower deck area, which will free up the existing case to once again be used to display items for the Ship's Store.

We had issues with power along the Porter wall of the basin and there are bids going out to resolve the problems and provide for future expansion.

The basin wall in front of the cranes has seen some movement and so to prevent a collapse we have undertaken an engineering study

and have Requests for Proposal's out to stabilize the wall.

The legacy floating docks are being reviewed for potential rehab and the outer south docks are being evaluated.

Also, if you haven't noticed, the flagpole has had a long overdue refurbishment with a coat of white paint and all the flags flying in their proper location.

Meanwhile, at our Pt. Abino Station, Ruth Sparks and her crew have done an outstanding job maintaining that facility and basin. Unfortunately, the Ontario Covid policies remain more restrictive than New York, so there was minimal allowed usage of the facilities for our Canadian members and the few US members that ventured over after the border opened on August 9th.

Those who did make it over there said they have never seen the place look better. We are hoping that next season we will be able to reopen the pool and the entire facility, which was restricted the last two seasons.

This past year the Membership Committee has worked hard on processing our many new members. They have also started to reinstate an old custom of orienting new members with the history, traditions, facilities, activities, and lore of the BYC.

They have also been working on a solution to address the issues we are experiencing with getting and retaining younger members. They are getting close with a new system that would reduce the number of classifications and perhaps put the dues structure on a bell curve, to fix the rapid increase in dues that causes many intermediate members to quit..

We intend to have town hall type meetings this spring to inform the membership and incorporate respective feedback and bring a proposal to the Board for potential presentation at next fall's annual meeting.

Once again, the Boating Ed program has exceeded our expectations and continues to grow and thrive.

The Entertainment Committee has done an outstanding job, particularly considering having to operate under Covid restrictions and subsequent reluctance of members to fully

participate in social activities. Also, a special thank you to our Vice Commodore Doug Bienko, who, in his role as our Ship's Husband, has done an amazing job maintaining and updating our aging facilities, and as The Binnacle editor.

Our 50-year member, Jerry Stange, passed away this year. He left a substantial gift to the BYC in his estate. I would encourage everyone to consider the BYC when doing your own estate planning.

Finally, on a personal note, Covid restrictions at the border have kept us from getting our own boat in the water. We would like to thank the Kulwicki's and the Vogel's for getting us out on their boats over the past two summers.

I thank everyone for the privilege of serving as your Commodore. I'm looking forward to an exciting 2022 and wish everyone a safe and prosperous New Year.

Membership

The following new members joined the Buffalo Yacht Club since the last issue of the BINNACLE:

Social: Jay Boardway
 Intermediate: David Kirszenstein & Kevin Arnold
 Pt. Abino: William & Sally Graves

Change of classification accepted from:

Active to Social: Joseph Gambacorta
 Social to Active: Dee Drew
 Intermediate to Active: Naomi Lasco
 Active to Non-Resident: Andrew Dunbar
 Retired Active to Non-Resident: Frank Kania

Resignations accepted with regret from:

Social: Michael Straeck, Jim & Kathy Marshall, Larry & Nancy Robinson, Rob Plato & Deborah Rogenmoser, Leo Bradley
 Crew: Robert Gerst

We mourn the death of: Malcolm Bourne



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Vice Commodore Doug Bienko's comments:

I would like to start by congratulating our Commodore Stephen Munschauer on his year, like I said at his Ball, a steady hand on the tiller. He led the Club through another tumultuous year, together with IPC Kulwicki, they kept the club on an even keel under some trying circumstances indeed.

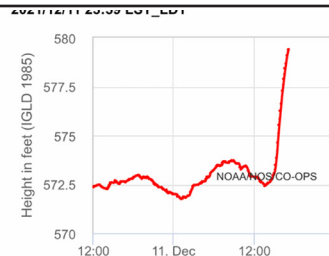
Speaking of the Ball, it was well done as usual by our great kitchen and server staff, led by Mike Massey and Sam Depasquale. Thanks to all our staff for all the hard work that goes into running a top notch operation. I would like to thank the house committee for their help and attention this year, we laid the foundation for the upcoming dining room update that will really make the upper deck shine. Very excited about our incoming Vice Commodore Ted Johnson, who hit the ground running, and will shepherd this complex job to its finish. The lower deck ladies room also is on the way to a makeover, another long overdue project that will be done so on.

The kitchen is still putting out a great product, and our search for a new Chef has concluded, we will introduce our new hire at the installation on January first, stop in and meet him.

We will have some news about a new Comptroller after the start of the new year, Mike Sheid will be staying into 2022 to make the transition to his replacement, Thanks to Mike for giving us this help, and best wishes in your new career.

The big wind event last weekend taxed the winter position of the docks in the basin, but due to a great layout by Secretary Kim Reynolds, and the good work of the Basin Committee and other volunteers, and the prep by Joe Gelsomino, we had very little damage, easily fixed. Good work team.

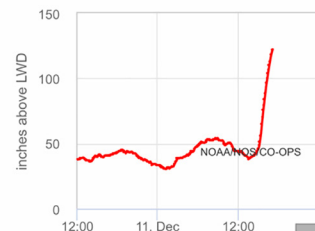
The board has commissioned a poll asking about COVID restrictions, and opinions on them to gauge your interest in making certain events or the entire clubhouse vaccinated only, or some variation of that. Thank you to all who replied to the survey. It will help us going forward on policy. We are working to make your club as safe as we can. As of now, per state and County rules, everyone must mask while standing or walking. You may unmask at your seat only. New Years eve celebration and Installation are vaccinated only. As always, if you have any suggestions for improving the club, feel free to contact me or any board member.



Water Level
122.2 inches

above LWD
as of 12/11/2021 17:06 LST/LDT
Low Water Datum(LWD): undefined feet

NOAA/NOS/CO-OPS
Observed Water Levels at 9063020,
Buffalo NY
From 2021/12/10 12:00 LST_LDT to
2021/12/11 23:59 LST_LDT



**Top photo:the water level gauge at the Coast Guard base on Saturday December 11, shows the rapid increase we had, 122 inches above low water datum. That is over 7 feet higher than the normal lately. Above:photo of the basin at 4:12 PM
Left: Basin at 4:57PM.**



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Rear Commodore Carl Hensler's comments:

December is not the most robust time of the year at the Point.

I can say though, through the efforts of Ruth Sparks, all the buildings are winterized, permanent docks are out and all the floaters are tied off in the middle of the basin. We are ready. So let winter come and recognize us "boat people" do not welcome it. If so it will leave early!

This fall we had to remove some of the big poplar trees. Two were on the driveway overhanging the Bertie Boating Club building and the ones overhanging the kitchens on the shore side. They were threatening the buildings and were in tough straights. It was take them down or wait till they fall down and do major damage to the buildings.

As you all know, everything at the Point is based on pandemic restrictions and the border being opened up to allow our members access not only to their boats but cottages as well.

Assuming things are going to open up we have scheduled the pools to be painted in the spring.

Some of the other items we are looking at for the coming year are:

- A new dishwasher for the kitchens.
- A new and improved BBQ area.
- Landscaping to further enhance the appearance of our property.
- Improvement of the showers.
- A new party deck/patio.

Of course all are dependent on availability of Capital Improvement Funds for Point Abino as there are also several projects for the Buffalo Clubhouse and Basin that need to be addressed.

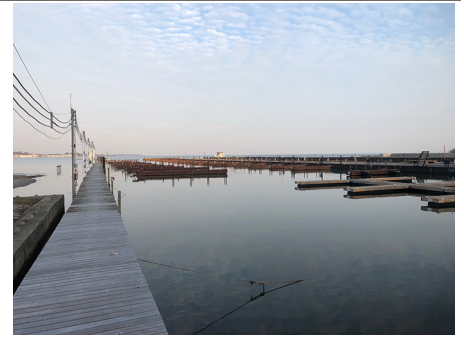
Good news for all. I just came back from Point Abino and we survived the storm on Saturday and Sunday of winds over 60mph with very minor damage. All the floaters survived and we only lost a few boards on the North dock along with the usual wash out of some berm gravel.

We are without power and will be for at least a few days which is not unexpected considering the number of trees that are down in the area. Thank goodness we had those trees taken down last month! Point Abino Rd is in tough shape but will be repaired shortly.

We were lucky! This time.

We are all looking forward to a much better year in 2022. Personally, I can't wait to see the basin full of boats again!

Think positive and stay well,



Photos this page: top and above: much more placid scene than Saturday.

Below: what looks like easily repairable fence damage at the shore head.



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Top left: Upper Deck decked out for Commodore's Ball. Middle Left: Lower Deck decorated with care by members at the decorating party under the direction of Sandy Vogel and her daughter Alicia Riley

Above: Oh Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree. Nice time at the tree raising.

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Top and Middle Left:Halloween Party ably supervised by PC Kulwicki. Left, Above and Opposite page: High School, Junior and Adult sailing were well attended this year, Thanks Leah!

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Photos pages 8-13 Commodore Stephen Munschauer's Ball. Opposite page: our outstanding staff did a great job, with Mike Massey leading them in the kitchen, and Sam DePasquale orchestrating the party. The food was fabulous, servers on top of their game, great music, and dancing in nicely decorated clubhouse, great look. Come and see if you have not been down yet.

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This page was written by BINNACLE editor Gerould R. Stange for the October 2010 BINNACLE

THIRD OLDEST? WELL NOT QUITE

The historic marker at the entrance to the Buffalo Yacht Club reads "Founded 1860. Said to be the third oldest yacht club in the United States..." The plaque from the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society (BECHS) was presented in 1972 to replace an earlier plaque dedicated in 1963 which had disappeared.

When the Club celebrated its centennial in 1960, then Commodore Ira G. Ross started proceedings to obtain this cast-in-bronze proclamation. BECHS' Chairman of the Markers Committee, Dr. I. Frank Mogavero and others researched the facts. Although we are not privy to their sources, it must be noted the words "said to be the third oldest" leave some doubt as to its authenticity.

The author, as Buffalo Yacht Club Historian, became involved with this issue in 1991 when *Soundings* Magazine published in its June issue a letter "correcting the record" by dispelling the "myth that the Southern Yacht Club [New Orleans] is the second oldest yacht club in the United States" behind the New York Yacht Club which was formed in 1844. He went on to list the "seven oldest clubs"—leaving Buffalo Yacht Club off the list. I wrote *Soundings* about our third oldest assumption and my letter was published in the August 1991 issue. This inspired *Soundings* to conduct its own research which was published in its December 1991 issue. *Soundings* assigned Buffalo Yacht Club fifth oldest status, behind Detroit Boat Club (1839), New York Yacht Club (1844), Southern Yacht Club (1849) and Carolina Yacht Club in Wilmington, North Carolina (1853).

The frustration in ranking yacht clubs by founding dates lies in the researcher's definitions and criteria. In the mid 1800s yachting in America, if defined as "pleasure boating" and distinct from competitive rowing, was strictly sailboats. The internal combustion engine had not yet been invented and very few steam-powered vessels were considered yachts.

From those early days, yachting grew rapidly. The 1906 edition of *Lloyds Register of American Yachts* lists 304 yacht clubs plus 15 racing associations. It places Buffalo

Yacht Club as fifth oldest behind New York (1944), Southern (1849), Mobile (1850) and Brooklyn (1857).

Soundings reported that the 1857 Brooklyn Yacht Club is not related to today's club and thus is not on its list. *Soundings* also left the Mobile Yacht Club off its list because it was founded in 1847 as a gun and skeetshooting club. Also, Mobile's early records were destroyed in hurricanes, and the club suffered lapses in continuity during the Civil War.

Then there's the Southern Yacht Club dilemma. It seems its founders also had summer homes in Pass Christian, Mississippi and held early meetings and regattas there. Were I to create a list (which I will not!) I would have Southern Yacht Club and Pass Christian Yacht Club share the 1849 claim to second oldest. And I would eliminate the Detroit Boat Club from *Soundings*'s number one spot because it was formed as a rowing club and didn't have a yachting division until 1899.

So back to the Buffalo Yacht Club and its 1860 date. We are eclipsed on the Great Lakes by the Royal Canadian Yacht Club in Toronto which was founded in 1852.

But rather than get into the fray, I like to let sleeping dogs lie. Our historical marker says we are "... SAID TO BE the third oldest yacht club in the United States." — GRS

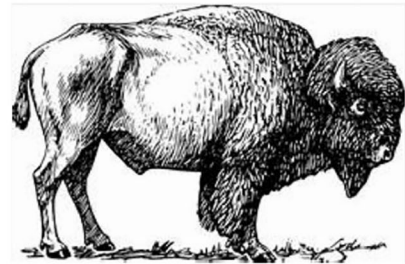


Bronze plaque rededication at the Buffalo Yacht Club on November 17, 1979. (from left) Vice Commodore Edward C. Koehler, Commodore Arthur R. Smith, BECHS Chairman of the Markers Committee Dr. I. Frank Mogavero, and BECHS President Robert B. Meech.



Fireboat *Edward M. Cotter* Passing Chinaman's Light — Buffalo Harbor — August 10, 2008

Buffalo's 118-foot long fireboat was built in Elizabeth, New Jersey in 1900. Christened the *W. S. Grattan* after the city fire commissioner, its name was changed to the *Edward M. Cotter* in 1954 in memory of the longtime president of the Buffalo Fire Fighters Local 282 who died suddenly. Some Buffalo Yacht Club members will remember the *Cotter* especially as the vessel that fought the disastrous clubhouse fire in November 1951.



The Brig *Niagara* — 1913

Shortly after the close of the War of 1812, the two brigs which had served as Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's flagships, the *Lawrence* and the *Niagara*, were scuttled in Misery Bay, Erie Harbor. In 1876 the *Lawrence* was raised and cut into souvenirs which were sold at the national centennial in Philadelphia. The *Niagara* was not disturbed until 1913 when it was raised and reconstructed for the centennial celebration of Perry's victory at Put-in-Bay. The reconstructed *Niagara* toured 15 cities on the Great Lakes during the summer of 1913.

The *Niagara* was towed to Buffalo from Put-in-Bay on September 2, 1913 where it remained for New York State's celebration of the Perry's Victory Centenary. This picture shows it being towed out of the Buffalo Yacht Club basin on September 6, 1913 bound for Sandusky, Ohio.





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