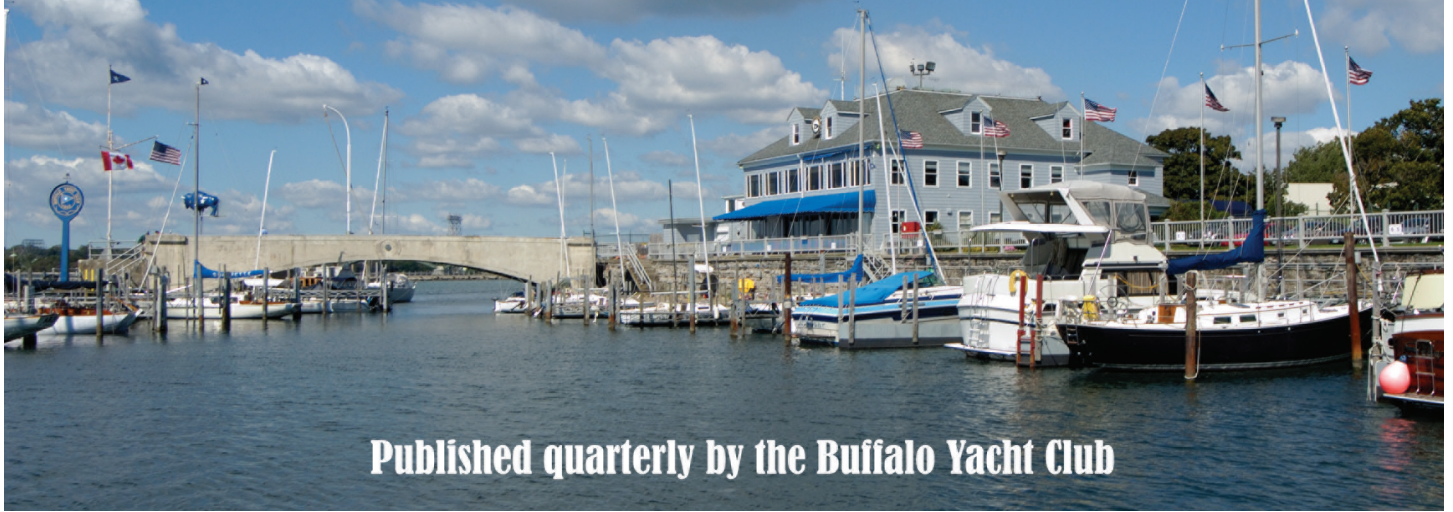


The BINNACLE



Published quarterly by the Buffalo Yacht Club

Vol. CVII No. 4

Buffalo Yacht Club

December 2022



Commodore Doug Bienko's comments:

Merry Christmas! Hanukkah Sameach! Joyous Kwanzaa! Where to begin? What a very busy year this has been for us. Big projects at home, pretty big project at the club, sailing and all of the other routine life stuff. We spent a lot of time at the club, one of my favorite places, really enjoy the people, and the environment, great place to spend time. Ted has taken the reins for his year, 2023 will hopefully be quieter for him. Together with the board we accomplished a lot, the place looks great, and the wall project is well underway, the piledriver crane is in the yard, the holes for the tie back rods have been bored, and scheduled to start putting steel in the ground tomorrow. Love to see it get



done this year, however the paving and railing reinstallation will have to wait for spring. I would like to thank PC Mike Barry for his tireless efforts at the helm of the Basin Wall Committee, and all of the members of that committee, especially Craig Bruening, who is making sure design is conforming to best practices, as well as advising the committee on other aspects of the job. Also thanks are due to the staff at the club, this has been a tough year for them, shorthanded as they were, rallied to give us a great experience in all aspects of club life, from the cleanliness to the prompt service of delicious food, and clean and well run basins. They are really special

people. Make sure you let them know they are exceeding your expectations. Thanks also to the membership of the club for your generous donations to the employee holiday fund, I know that the staff appreciate it.

The Commodore's Ball was fabulous, The room was decked out like I have never seen, Sandy Vogel did a wonderful job with the decor and flowers, not to mention the holiday decorations done by the members under her direction. The food was another big hit, I heard some very flattering comments from the visiting Commodores and their Vice's. The servers were in fine form, as usual.

COMMODORE — continued on page 2



THE BINNACLE
BUFFALO YACHT CLUB
One Porter Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14201-1097
<http://www.buffaloyachtclub.org>

OFFICERS—2022

Commodore.....Douglas P. Bienko
Vice Commodore.....Theodore Johnson
Rear Commodore.....Carl Hensler
Fleet CaptainJonathan Johnsen
Secretary.....Kim Reynolds
Treasurer.....Kevin Osinski

DIRECTORS

P/C Stephen Munschauer Mark Hamberger
Eric Christensen Joseph Gelsomino Jr.
Mary Theresa Seitz Ed Gawrecki

Paul Grenauer
MANAGEMENT

Club Manager..... Sam DePasquale
Banquets & Dining.....
Accounting and Human Resources..... Michele L. Seward
Executive ChefJohn W. Cambria
Membership.....Meghan Lee-Mueller
Point AbinoRuth Sparks
Boating Education.....Paul Grenauer
BINNACLE Editor Doug Bienko

Dining Reservations—883-5900
Business Office—883-5900
Point Abino—905-651-7957

COMMODORE —from page 1

The band was great, my brother in law was in good voice downstairs too. Marlene's brother Joe is very talented, and a nice touch for the cocktail portion of the evening. Having my friends and family there was an added bonus. I don't spend enough time with them I thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Of course, that was made a lot more special because of my date that night, Marlene has put up with a lot this year more than past, I spent a lot more time this year at the club. Thank you so much honey. I'll try to make it up to you.

Tom Lewin is the impetus behind the club running a fundraiser at the club to benefit Roswell Park, Sail for Roswell is the name, and if you remember the last one, should be our chance as a club to shine again. As most know, Tom has had some health issues of late, well, if you don't count his hip. Roswell is very dear to me too, Marlene worked there, and we developed many friendships with the staff there, I even had some routine surgery there. So stay tuned for details on how you can support the effort.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for letting me have the honor of being the Commodore of the Buffalo Yacht Club. I will treasure the experience.

Membership

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

Social: Maureen McCabe.
Junior: Aniella DiDomenico.

Change of classification accepted from:

Active to Social: Stephen Anderson, Tom & Cheryl Spulecki.
Social to Non-Resident: Jonathan Nash.
Pt. Abino to Non-Resident: Kerry Kraft.
Intermediate to Social: Robert Armstrong.

Resignations accepted with regret from:

Social: Anthony & Toi Buscaglia, Joseph Lombardo, Katherine O'Donnell, F. William Gray.
Junior: Christian Gugliuzza.

We mourn the death of: Jacqueline Kraft, Patty Dobmeier.

Cover: Past, present, and future Commodores. Below: Leah Trow decorated a boat for us, day and night views.



When disaster strikes, wouldn't you like to be insured by someone local, who knows boats?

We Know Boats!

Marine Insurance — Since 1904

Stevens Marine Insurance Agency

a division of Vanner Insurance Agency
11 Pinchot Court, Suite 100, Amherst, NY 14228
716-688-8888
www.vannerinsurance.com



insured.™

Contact Peter Stevens
(pstevens@stevensagency.com)
for personal attention



TRAUTMAN ASSOCIATES

ARCHITECTS / ENGINEERS

Robert P. Stelianou, P.E.
RStelianou@TrautmanAssociates.com



Vice Commodore Ted Johnson's comments:

Well the spring came and went then the summer and I thought we were still in fall but we are in the throes of winter. The boats are all put away and the Commodore's Ball is past.... and if you missed it you missed an awesome night!! It was a great time for all and a perfect night to honor our Commodore. The waitstaff and kitchen did an amazing job and the decorations were a huge hit. What a highlight for a wonderful year.

Speaking of decorations, every year Sandy Vogel and her helpers spend a Monday night at the club and decorate. Every year they do such a wonderful job and it make our clubhouse look so beautiful. Please make sure if you see Sandy to thank her and her team.

I hope you all had the opportunity to have lunch or dinner at the club or sample some of our fall specials at the bar. We continue to try to provide what you, the membership, are looking for. Don't feel shy about asking our bartenders to make something special for you and I will say that Rob has mastered making the best cappuccinos. I would be remiss if I didn't encourage you to welcome Michael (Mike) as our newest bartender. He is excellent and by no way a novice. You can see him currently on Wednesdays.

One of my goals this year was to get the downstairs bar ceiling replaced

and I feel badly that I did not complete this task. The Board had approved that we could do this work provided that I raise the money for it, which is between \$11-14,000. Because of the wall project dollars are tight on everything else. So far we have raised about \$6,000 without a lot of effort. There are 4-5 people that have volunteered \$1,000 each. If you want to help close this gap please talk to Peter (aka Louis) Johnson and he will ensure your donations are noted. We hope to do this work during the shutdown in January and February while the club is closed.

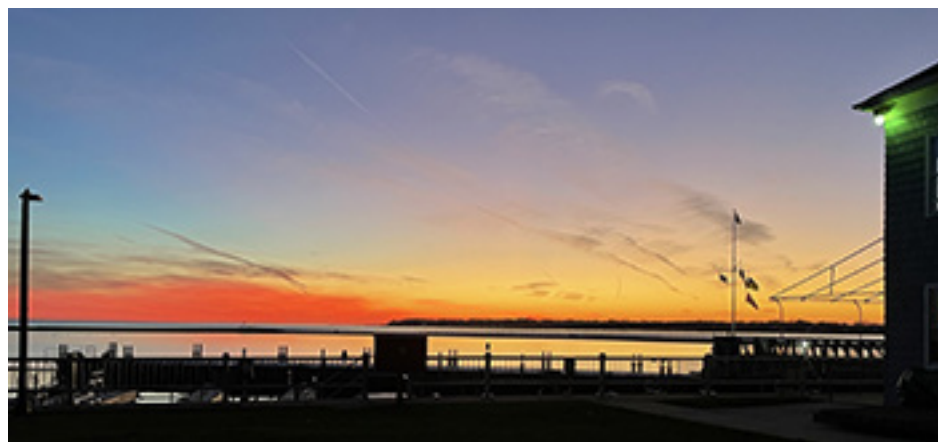
Our new Chef, Jack Cambria is working well with the staff and is excited about presenting a new menu to the members when we reopen February 8th. As the holiday season is bringing us parties and more business Sam has been working hard to bring in staff and he is doing a first rate job on all accounts. This is the busiest the club has been since before the pandemic. Please let the Vice Commodore know of any issues or any suggestions so we can make your experience the best possible.

The club will shut down as usual in January for work and cleaning. The Club will be closed from January 15th – February 8th. If anyone has any questions please reach out and let me know how I can help.

Below: Never tire of the sunsets at the club.



Above: Niagara Sailing Club's Commodore Jack Dally and Vice Judy Tucker presented the BYC with a plaque thanking us for a donation to their rebuild. They were effusive in presenting it, and it is hung on a column in the bar.



873-6320
873-3440

167 Southwood Drive
Kenmore, NY 14223

CHARLES R. VOIT
"A Man for All Seasons"

Heating • Air Conditioning • Sheet Metal
Fabrication • Light and Heavy Gauge



John E. Roberts Funeral Home
Providing WNY with Low Cost & High Quality Funeral and Cremation Service



Anne Roberts Dobmeier
(716) 874-3377



www.jerfh.com
jerfh@aol.com

280 Grover Cleveland Hwy
Amherst, NY 14226

WESTERN NEW YORK

HERITAGE

Western New York's Illustrated History Magazine

We have been keeping the region's rich and diverse heritage alive for over 20 years.

Subscribe or become a business sponsor today by visiting our website or giving us a call.

716.893.4011 • www.wnyheritage.org



Rear Commodore Carl Hensler's comments:

It was sad to see one of the best summers in years come to a close, but on the bright side it is already December and spring is just 4 months away.

The Point Abino Committee or PAC as it is sometimes called, consisted of the following members: Jeff Markarian, John Bratek, Thomas Kraft, Alan Aquilina, William Flaglor, Jeffrey Vogel, P/C Stephen Munschauer, P/C Paul Neureuter, Robert Fohl. Also included in the PAC as Ad Hoc members: P/C Emanuel Gambacorta, Delbert Voth and Michael Jordan. My sincere appreciation goes to all for their guidance, support and hard work. Thank you.

There were lots of repairs and improvements made over the past season (to many to list here) and the grounds have never looked better thanks to the devotion and hard work of Ruth, Kevin and Jeremy.

Definitely the largest project for the year was being able to get the pool painted and re-opened after all the restrictions for the past year were lifted. We have purchased new heaters for the pools. This required digging and installing a new 2" gas line and now will require new underground wiring and new electrical boxes to meet current codes. Gas line work was completed in the early fall and the electrical work will be completed over the winter or early next spring.

Bell Canada has now installed fibre-optic lines all the way to the light-house and we have switched to

them for our Internet service. This should be a substantial improvement for both the land and basin.

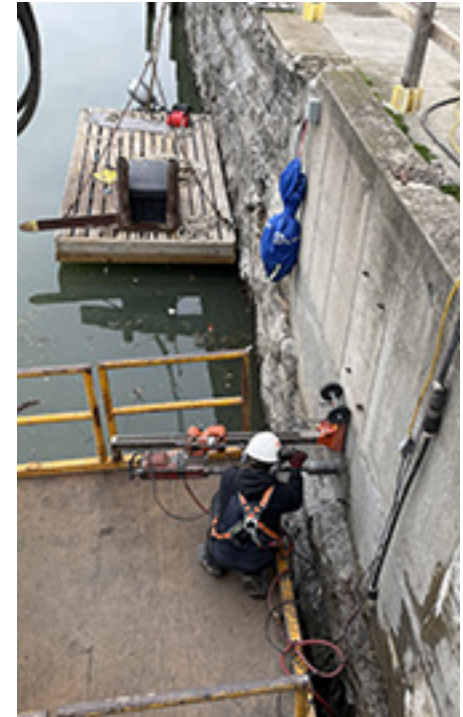
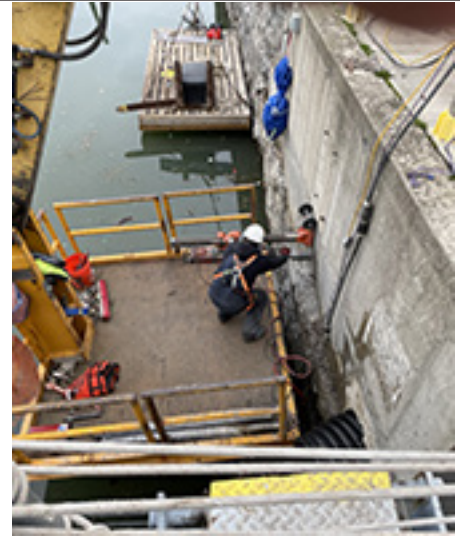
There were some great parties at the Point this summer with the highlight being the Smokn'Budha dinner party where over 100 were in attendance. If you missed it last year, make sure you come this year.

A few of the dock removal work parties had to be cancelled due mainly to Mother Nature, but a successful one was had during the week. Many thanks to all the brave souls who came out in the miserable winter cold to help. This could not have been accomplished without your assistance.

The Point Abino facility is now officially winterized and closed.

The lake level right now is the lowest I have seen it since the mid 80's. We are going to have to dredge and the permits have been applied for and are waiting for approval. Our window for dredging is very small and at this stage all we can do is hope for a mild winter and an early spring. The membership will be kept informed as we proceed.

Lets all hope for a mild winter, early spring and another great summer!



Left: Club looking great for the holidays. Above: Contractors boring holes through wall in preparation for tie back rods, which will hold the top of the piles used to stabilize the wall. Opposite page: Pile drivers have started the process to drive piles, hoping the job is complete before the basin freezes.



Hadley Exhibits

David & Ted Johnson

Exhibits • Graphics • Interiors
Models • Signage

www.hadleyexhibits.com
716 • 874 • 3666

**Hamburg
Overhead Door INC**

Over delivering. All over Western New York.
Residential & Commercial Doors and Operators
Loading Dock Systems • Parts • Hollow Metal Fire Doors

JIM KULWICKI

5659 HERMAN HILL
HAMBURG, NY 14075
www.hamburgdoor.com

(716) 649-3600
Fax (716) 648-6470
jimk@hamburgdoor.com



Fleet Captain Jonathan Johnsen's comments:

It was a sad day when the Basin closed earlier than usual, and the Boating season ended in October. But, of course, but the fun at the BYC continued. I hope you were able to make it to the many events over the last few months. Most unique for me was having Thanksgiving dinner with my family while watching the Bills play. My children, who probably were wondering how long that could stand at the dinner table with their parents, stayed for the entire game, of course. I think it was the longest (and best) Thanksgiving Dinner I've had with them.

As usual the Commodore's Ball was fantastic. This year we honored Commodore Bienko, who worked tirelessly throughout the year to make the Club better and I know will continue to do so, just hopefully not at quite the same frantic pace for his and Marlene's sake.

It has been a pleasure to serve the BYC as Fleet Captain this year; it has given me the opportunity to meet so many new people. There were far fewer complaints than I was led to believe there would be, and I received many compliments on how

the Club House and Basin were looking. I have to thank everyone who helped during the year to make the BYC a great yacht club. I look forward to continuing to serve as Rear Commodore next year and have already meet with the Point Abino Committee to hear what projects they want to pursue next year.

Slip assignments have been completed and you should be receiving yours in the mail. We were able to accommodate almost all requests at the Porter Avenue Basin in either slips or as slip hoppers. There were quite a few boats moving around and a number of new boats coming to the Basin. I look forward to seeing and meeting everyone next season.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and have a great New Year.



Take a history tour or plan your next event with up to 125 guests

BUFFALO RIVER HISTORY TOURS
Canalside

(716)796-4556
BuffaloRiverHistoryTours.com

1972 2022

CELEBRATING
50 YEARS

RCR
YACHTS
POWER & SAIL

Plan your next event on the Flag Ship of Buffalo

SPIRIT OF BUFFALO
Canalside

(716) 796-7210
SpiritOfBuffalo.com

Love the BYC? Consider Joining a Committee

I'm always looking for excuses to spend more time at the yacht club. Parties, dinners, and drinks at the bar are a lot of fun, but there are many other facets to life at the BYC as well.

One of the ways I've managed to discover this is by joining the entertainment committee a few months ago. At first, I wasn't sure which committee to join or how to go about it but, fortunately, I was asked by PC Jim Kulwicki and just decided to go for it. I would encourage anyone who wants to get more involved in the yacht club to reach out to someone who's already on a committee and ask if they are looking for help.

You don't need to bring a lot of ideas or expertise to serve on a committee. As a relatively new member, I thought that I couldn't possibly have enough knowledge or experience to meaningfully contribute in any specific area. The reality, however, is that committees need fresh perspectives from members who are open to new ideas and willing to learn. I have already learned quite a lot about how the club operates by serving on the entertainment committee and I believe this has made me a better and more engaged member of the club.

The yacht club committees typically meet once a month for an hour or two. While focus and dedication are important, this is not a large commitment and in my experience, there has not been a lot of extra work required outside of our scheduled meetings and events. I've found that I can get as involved with the entertainment committee as I want while also being free to decline when I have another commitment. Whether you're an active, intermediate or social member, anyone is eligible to serve on a committee. I think it's important that our committees represent all of the club's membership and

that there is a variety of perspectives weighing in on the goals and projects our committees undertake. I've been able to meet members that I might not have otherwise and have enjoyed hearing their thoughts on the club and what they want to get out of it. All in all, joining the entertainment committee has been a great experience that's allowed me to meet new people and deepen my connection with the club.

Kevin Arnold



Many Thanks to my BYC Extended Family

Happy News!!! As many of you know I was having dialysis treatments 3 afternoons a week for about a year while waiting for a kidney transplant, since my 2nd transplant had worn out. On September 30, 2022 I received a kidney from a 41 year old man who unfortunately, for his family, passed. I have much to be thankful for this year and the new graph is working well. Bonnie and I must thank all of you who kept us in your thoughts, prayers, and provided encouragement while I was on dialysis leading up to transplant. You can all include yourselves as being part of this successful transplant. Bonnie and I are looking forward to April when we can work on the boat and get "Bobbie's Cowbell" back in the slip. Thank you again for all the support.
Craig Bruening




5585 Harris Hill Road
Williamsville, NY 14221
716.741.9030
www.advanceglass.com

Trey Barrett & Bill Flaglor
Your **GUN CREW** connection for anything involving
Glass, Mirrors, Shower Doors, Window Repair,
Boat Hatches, Shelving, and more!!

Let us design and fabricate your next project



DeMarco Chiropractic PLLC
Dr. Lisa A. DeMarco

Transit Professional Ctr
4976 Transit R.d. Ste #2
Depew, New York 14043
phone: 716-586-4000

www.depewchiropractic.com
Serving the community since 1996

RICH MARINE SALES
BOSTON WHALER

Mercury - Volvo
Winter Storage with Mast up

SALES SERVICE STORAGE
richmarinessales@gmail.com
873-4060 5 Austin Street



Family halloween party photos



Sandy Vogel
 www.williams-florist.com • 716-675-7800

SIGHTSEEING
 GROUP TOURS
 CHARTERS

Bedore Tours
The Spirit of Adventure!



For charter sales call **696-3200**

John O'Hear, President
 Bedore Tours & Charter, Inc.

www.bedoretours.com













As I noted in my remarks, the Commodore's Ball was fabulous, had a great night. Thanks to all who attended. I want to thank John Borsa for the great photos - he has prints for sale at johnborsaphotography.com if you want to purchase, or just look at the rest, we did not have room for them all.



Fichte Endl & Elmer EYECARE
 Seeing patients in a safe & socially distant environment. We are here for you!

LASIK, Cataract Procedures, routine eye exams.
 We are accepting new patients

1-800-309-2020 **www.fichte.com**

906-2300

The Augello Family invites you to their Dental offices in Snyder and North Buffalo.

Jack W. Hunt & Associates, Inc.
 The exclusive providers of the Perfect Transcript™

Court Reporting • iPad Realtime Photocopying • Video Services
 Video Conferencing

Principals—
 Kevin R. Hunt
 PC Timothy M. Hunt

716-853-5600
 424 Main Street
 Suite 1120 Liberty Building
 Buffalo, NY 14202

See us on the Web at www.jwhcorp.com



Both pages: High school sailors on the water and at their banquet.

CLAUSS & COMPANY
 793 DELAWARE AVE.
 P: (716)886-6600
 F: (716)886-4128

100th Anniversary
 1919-2019

MARINE INSURANCE
*Our love is Boats
 But we write
 Other insurance too.*

www.claussinsurance.com

Sea Ray
Smith Boys
 280 Michigan St.
 (on Tonawanda Island)
 North Tonawanda, N.Y.
 695-3472
 Western New York's
 Number One Marine Retailer

MARKARIAN *rugs*
It's a Family Thing

873-8667
 3807 Delaware Ave.
 Kenmore, NY 14217
www.markarianrugs.com

PRINTED IMAGE
 COMMERCIAL & DIGITAL PRINTING
 FULL SERVICE UNION SHOP

(716) **821-1880** **CALL TODAY AND SPEAK TO A REPRESENTATIVE**
 1906 CLINTON ST., BUFFALO, NY 14206

DESIGN....PRINT....MAIL

- GRAPHIC DESIGN
- DIGITAL PRINTING
- POSTCARDS
- FLYERS
- BROCHURES
- NEWSLETTERS
- BENEFIT TICKETS
- LETTERHEADS
- CATALOGS/BOOKLETS
- DIRECT MAIL SERVICES
- PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS
- BUSINESS STATIONERY
- POLITICAL PRINTING
- RESTAURANT MENUS
- ENVELOPES
- AND MUCH MORE

VISIT US AT
PRINTEDIMAGEOFBUFFALO.COM



The BINNACLE
Official Publication
of the
BUFFALO YACHT CLUB
One Porter Avenue
Buffalo, N.Y. 14201-1097

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BUFFALO, NY
PERMIT NO. 801

The Downing Family and Towne Auto are proud to support the Buffalo Yacht Club.

Please contact Anthony Daily (Buffalo Yacht Club Past Commodore) with any of your automotive needs at adaily@towneauto.com.



towne
AUTO



towneAUTO.COM