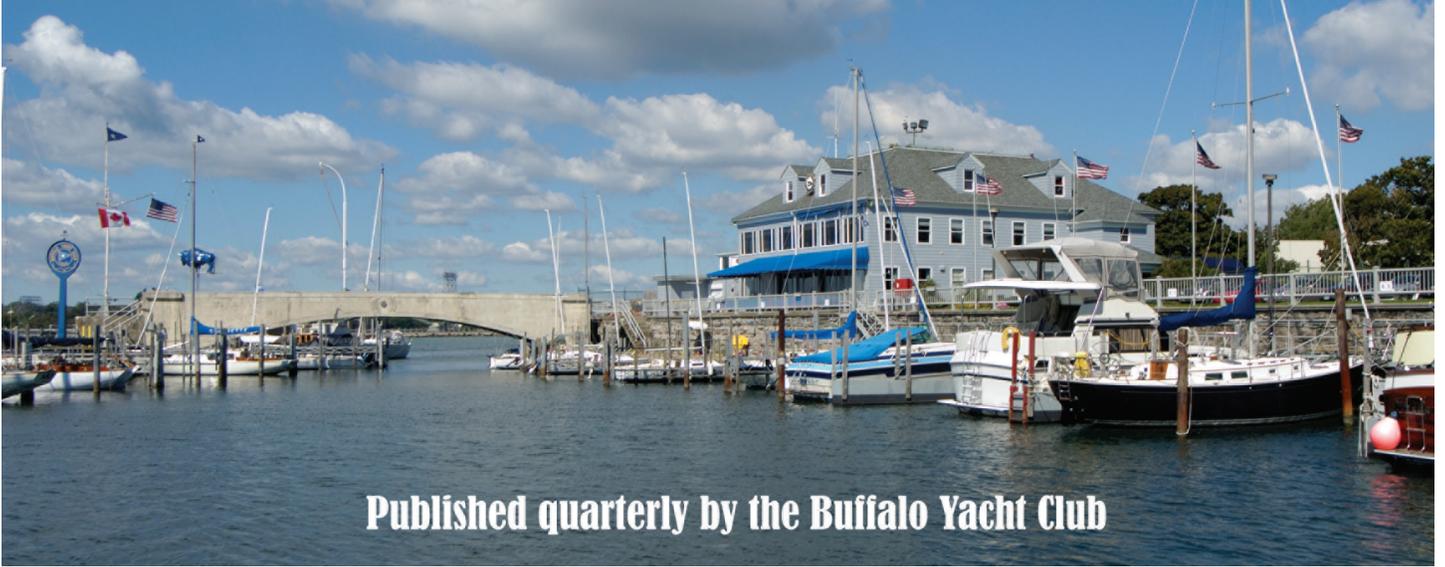


# The BINNACLE



Published quarterly by the Buffalo Yacht Club

Vol. CV No. 1

Buffalo Yacht Club

April 2020



## From the Commodore

I would love to start my message to the membership with a lighthearted greeting of summer and SAY the 2020 boating season is now in full swing, but as we all know nothing is normal as we remember it. The Clubhouse may appear to look as it has in the past, with its manicured grounds, flowers on the railings, beautiful new awnings adorning the building, members returning for an evening of dining and boats in the basin, but now members are greeted by sanitization stations, signs telling us that masks are to be worn in all common areas of the club and we should practice social distancing at all times. We ask for your patience as the Buffalo Yacht Club



moves slowly and cautiously into what is to become the "new normal". We are seeing so many positive things happening at our club under exceedingly difficult circumstances. We got creative and introduced our famous Friday Fish Fry as a takeout item. This led to additional meal selections being offered on both Fridays and Saturdays. Tuesdays jumped into the lineup with the introduction of Taco Tuesday. Carefully and safely we started bringing back staff as we crept into our reopening phase. Now dining is available in the Clubhouse, on the upper deck and

outdoor patio at 50% capacity. The Clubhouse received some much-needed internal improvements bringing some parts of the structure into the 21st century. Managing our slip holders at the Porter Basin has been a juggling act to be reckoned with. We are now filled to capacity with an overflow of members being neatly tucked into slips at the Erie Basin Marina. Members are bustling all about the grounds with some of them who are newly trying out





**Vice Commodore Comments**

What a different world and year we are experiencing. Our operations were shut down for about 14 weeks due to the pandemic. On Good Friday, April 10th, we started what turned out to be a very popular and successful take out "dinners to go" serving 166 fish fries. We expanded our menu offering and added Saturdays and a few Tuesdays and this lasted for about 10 weeks with over 1500 meals being served. Many thanks to Chef Dave, Sam, Mike, the Kulwicki's, my wife Cindy, the Bienko's and the Muscarella's.

Phase 3, allowing a partial and much regulated reopening, allowed us to reopen Wednesday June 17th for upper deck service, inside and out. The safety of our members and staff are of the utmost importance. Regulations call for 50% capacity, 6' distancing on tables, constant sanitizing and cleaning of everything, mandatory face coverings, no standing except for entering/exiting and use of restrooms, and many pages of tedious and onerous regulations too numerous to list. Many thanks to our member Dr. Gale Burstein for her consultation and response to our numerous inquiries, as well as her loyal patronage of our take out dinners.

We have a new menu for this interim, combing the bar, lunch and dinner in one page, printed in house, to be disposed of after use. Response to our reopening, even under these strange and constrained circumstances,

has been very positive, including a continuation of our take out dinners to go.

The next issue we are in the process of resolving is the lower deck, which by the time this is published should be worked out. We are trying to balance everything and do what is in the best interest and safety of the entire membership.

At this point, we plan on opening the lower deck on Wednesday July 8th. The bar stools will be removed and there will be ONE designated place to stand and order drinks to take back to your table. You must order food with your drinks. There will be no other standing at the bar permitted. Things are constantly in flux, with ever changing regulations, and trying to do what's best for our membership and staff.

Since the Canadian border is closed, a lot of our dual slip holders find themselves using their Porter slips, making the basin a very busy place this summer compared to other years. Accordingly, we are in the process of trying out a limited menu offering on Sundays from 12:00-4:00. Hopefully, some of our other Pt Abino slip holders who are boat less this summer, along with some of our Social members, will take advantage of this program to come and enjoy a Sunday afternoon at your club.

In terms of projects around the House, we have had 3 major projects since our last report. The stairs to the kitchen from the first floor, across from the trophy case, which were in terrible condition, have been replaced, thanks to Hayes Construction. The new stairs are fantastic. The sink inside the lower deck bar needed replacement, and subsequently the flooring in that bar area also became a factor once the old sink came out. Both the sink and the flooring have been updated. We also have 13 touchless faucets installed throughout the club to help eliminate common contact points. Finally, while the contractor was working on new electricals for the basin, it became opportunistic to repair the sinking area between the locker rooms and the bridge. A huge thank you to our Ship's Husband, Doug Bienko, for dealing

with all things House related.

Looking forward, we all hope this pandemic passes quickly so we can start getting back to what we hope will be life somewhat near what we call normal. We hope our membership stays safe and has minimal effects from this virus. It will be nice to get back to normal boating, dining and bar activities, entertainment functions and all of our BYC traditions.



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there is a new lower capacity in place. If you were not able to get reservations, there will be another ride later in the season. George and I installed new touchless faucets throughout the club, hope everyone likes them - I know I do. I hope you enjoy this edition of the Binnacle, I have used

member photos pretty exclusively, as my usual content is missing, such as racing photos from the Dover race, and Commodores Breakfast. Thanks to all who contributed. Stay safe everyone.

Rear Commodore Comments

I'm at a loss on how to report anything at the Point, beside telling you what I hear from Captain Sparks - and the queries from our members who are up there. Very lonely place from what that information reveals. So: the Basin is open, and we are adhering to the Provinces' guidelines, which are pretty restricting as to what we can do. The docks have been repaired, a new walkway has been constructed of concrete by the shore head. The pools are not open, due to a couple of things, the fact that we would have to staff it continuously whenever it is open, sanitizing whenever anyone leaves, moves, or uses anything there. It is also required that we paint new lines and have it inspected before opening, which has to happen every three years. We are exploring getting a tile contractor to tile all the pools, with all the required lines in the contrasting colors needed to satisfy the requirements. Look for that to happen as soon as we can get the bids, and do a cost analysis, as well as find the funds needed. Hopefully the border will open end of this month - i really want to go up. I really enjoyed helping Chef in the kitchen for the takeout we had been doing during the shutdown, brings me back to my high school days (and beyond a bit) I learned some tricks and receipies that should serve Marlene well - grin. The Fireboat Cotter ride sold out in four hours, since



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**Fleet Captain Comments:**

After what has been a “challenging” spring, summer is finally here! We have had to work through many issues including a cool spring, the loss of the northern outer wall docks from last Halloween’s wind storm, and of course the Covid virus fallout. Despite not being able to have the traditional work party to get the Porter Basin ready we achieved much through smaller work parties. Getting hit with snow squalls one Saturday when Joe Gelsomino and his crew were getting the south outer docks in place while others were moving the dinghy dock walkway sections into place was certainly noteworthy. In the end, bit by bit, the collective efforts of members and staff brought us along. Thanks to everyone who helped along the way. Another milestone in getting the basin ready was finally being able to get rid of the damaged dock sections that had been laying in the dry sail area of the parking lot.

Once the insurance company finally gave us approval to scrap out the damaged docks RC Bienko took quick action to get a scrap dealer lined up and a lift rented so that he could load the old docks and get them carted away. Hats off to Doug for helping get that done only days after the insurance company gave permission.

Good news regarding the replacement north outer docks recently came our way. Despite the expectation of delays due to Covid, the dock manufacturer has indicated that they are still on track to deliver the new docks at the end of July with installation to take place at the beginning of August. The possible glitch to that schedule will be having the border open back up so that their workers can come over for the installation. Let’s all keep our collective fingers crossed!

Along with that, we are looking to get the last of the fixed docks replaced with floating docks next fiscal year.

It’s been good to see the basin filling up for the summer, time for everyone to get out on the water and enjoy the warmth and sunshine.



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**Member Photos**  
 Top left: Tom Hauser, Left: Lee & Charmaine Smith Top: Kerry Kraft, Above: Scherer.  
 Opposite page Top Left: Gail Lannon, 2nd from top Right: Liz Jordan, Bottom Right Tom Lewin.  
 Thanks everyone, keep them coming!



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**Above and opposite page:** Chef Dave (made him take his mask off for photos - don't worry) Kulwicki's, Munschauer's, Bienko's Muscarella's General Manager Sam, Mike Scheid, all smiling behind the masks. Left Ruth Sparks photo, thanks



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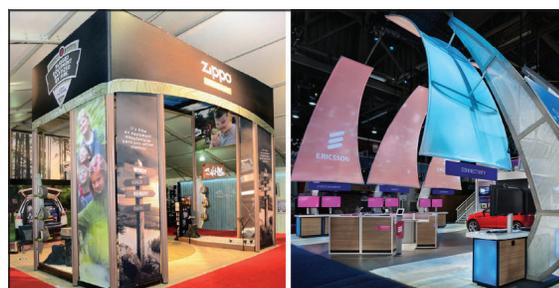
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