

# The BINNACLE



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**Commodore Stephen Munschauer's comments:**

Summer is here and the BYC can boast of a world class marina at Porter Ave. with new floating docks and an upgraded power system. We are working our way thru a few bugs with the power systems but that is normal with a major upgrade that we have installed.

Our Chef Dave Miller has left the BYC for another opportunity and we are pleased to announce that he will be replaced by Chef Glenn Fraccica, starting July 6th. Chef Glenn comes to us from the 31 Club, where he was the Executive Chef. We look forward to Chef Glenn joining us.

In a related note, after years of service, Christine Storfer has left the BYC. We thank her for service to



the BYC. We are in a search to find a Food and Beverage Manager who will primarily focus on front of the house operations to enhance the Member dining experience. The role will also handle Club functions, entertainment functions, and work with Members on private parties.

Now that Covid restrictions have been lifted, we are back to normal capacity, however we struggle to find enough qualified help in the dining room, bar, kitchen, and valet. We are trying to fill those positions as best we can.

COMMODORE — continued on page 2



**THE BINNACLE**  
**BUFFALO YACHT CLUB**  
One Porter Avenue  
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<http://www.buffaloyachtclub.org>

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Vice Commodore.....Douglas P. Bienko  
Rear Commodore.....Carl Hensler  
Fleet Captain .....Joseph J. Gelsomino Jr.  
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Mary Theresa Seitz                              Jonathan Johnsen

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Comptroller .....Mike Scheid  
Executive Chef .....Glenn Fraccica  
Membership.....Meghan Lee-Mueller  
Point Abino .....Ruth Sparks  
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COMMODORE —from page 1  
We did successfully have a somewhat Covid restricted Commodore's Breakfast, followed by a Commodores Dinner honoring PC Jim Kulwicki. It was good to see so many Members enjoying these events, with things almost back to normal.

Reports are that our Point Abino facility is looking great and the basin has a few boats in the slips, waiting for the rest of the fleet to arrive when the border finally opens.

Mary Theresa Seitz, and her Entertainment Committee, have many things planned now that restrictions have been lifted. There are several trips on the fireboat Cotter, and the Buffalo History tours boat, followed by dinner at the Club.

The Membership Committee has been very busy. Applications are flowing in and the Committee is conducting re-established interviews/orientations going through all the good things the BYC has to offer its Members.

In case you are not aware, we have a major issue with the basin wall in front of the cranes. Over the last several years we have been monitoring movement in the wall. We have hired an engineering firm to analyze the causes and provide a scope of work with cost estimates to repair/rehab the wall. Their report is due this summer with recommendations that work be started in mid-October after the basin closes. Accordingly, we will be calling a Special Membership Meeting to explain to the Membership what is involved and to authorize expenditure of the funds needed to make the required repairs/rehab. In the meantime, we are looking forward to seeing you all, with the 2021 boating season and prime dining season underway.

**Left, right, and cover: The Blue Angels flying over the club were a big hit. I have not talked to anyone in the area that did not have a story of how they went over house, work or their cars! Really awesome show as well.**

**Membership**

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

Active: Jeff Baase.  
Social: Mary Slisz, Edward & Maureen Mills, Richard & Carm Daeing, Eric & Jean Pecoraro, Newell & Amelia Nussbaumer, Debra Sanfilippo, John & Patti Mehlretter, Anthony & Toi Buscaglia, Marshall & Sandra Aykroyd, and Gary Kanaley.

Intermediate: Lindsey Rickard & Erik Riffel.

Crew: Morgan & Thomas DePasquale, Alexander Zientara.

Junior: Clayton Pike, Collin Kumpf, Charles Benfanti, Patrick Crawley.

Reinstatements accepted from:  
Social: Aaron & Rebecca Kiel.

Change of classification accepted from:

Active to Retired Active: John Cosmann, Dr. James Franzek.

Social to Active: Kevin & Meghan Osinski.

Intermediate to Active: Derek Reinhold.

Resignations accepted with regret from:

Social: Linda & Rick Kramer, Albert Bluemle, Daniel Tauriello.

Intermediate: Liam McCabe.

Non-Resident: Dolly Dewey.

Honorary membership was given to: Mary Creahan.

We mourn the death of: Donna Mae Braun and Jerry Stange.



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**Vice Commodore Doug Bienko's comments:**

Happy summer! Marlene and I have finally been able to get out sailing, hope you are all taking advantage of our somewhat brief summer weather window. Things are happening at the clubhouse, the Commodore covered the departure of Dave Miller – good luck Dave, and the addition of Chef Glenn, welcome, and the departure of Christine Storfer – we will miss both of you. We are diligently looking for additional staff, Rob is a great bartender, but he needs some relief, Zack is back in a limited role as he has a full time job, so we will continue the search. Nice to have the dining room restrictions lifted, and really good to see our membership continue to fill seats. The food has been great, and we look forward to Chef Glenn putting his own stamp on our offerings. We had the Lake Erie Interclub cruise, US edition in the basin for a couple of days, you will see some photos of the racing in this edition, as usual the BYC sailors did a good job of representing our club. Please look at the club calendar for upcoming events, the history tour and fireboat are always a good time. Valet parking is starting up this Wednesday, with one valet Chris, who has worked for us in the past, again we are looking for additional staff for that position. So please continue to use your club, and please contact me with any questions, concerns or suggestions to improve the member experience.

I would be remiss if I did not comment on the passing of my Binnacle mentor, great friend and benefactor of the Buffalo Yacht Club, Jerry Stange. Jerry gave me some personal

lessons on the software used on this publication, as well as tips and tricks for getting out this storied magazine. While I aspire to his level of perfection, I realize that I have pretty big shoes to fill. And that motivates me to get better, so farewell Jerry, fair seas.

**Below: Sledgehammer flying their Code Zero, on the last day of the Interclub Regatta. Pretty powered up, Thanks to Joel Rait for the great picture. Other photos and results on page 11**



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**Rear Commodore Carl Hensler's comments:**

Wow! An interesting year to say the least. The Point is a virtual ghost town with only a dozen boats in the basin. Mind you, a very well kept ghost town.

The facilities at Point Abino are in excellent shape in anticipation for the borders to re-open.

Ruth and her skeleton crew are doing a fantastic job of keeping everything looking great.

Docks have been stained, shore head painted, new enclosure for pump out pump adjoining the shore head has been completed. The newly rebuilt dinghy ramp is waiting to be used.

All the decks at the "Big House" have been stained. The shrubbery, flower beds and lawns are continuing to be watered, cut, and maintained. The grounds and buildings look neat and tidy and I have had several people from the area comment on how nice the place looks, considering there are no people around.

We had to cancel the painting of the pools (a major project) this spring due to Covid and have rescheduled for next spring. It is mandatory we complete this prior to using any of the pools.

There may be some other adjustments necessary but as of this writing, not sure exactly what will be required. We are waiting on the health department to advise us.

With the very limited budget and virtually no income for the past two

years, we have only been able hold/maintain the facilities. Everything is aging and a lot of items are already old and nearing retirement. There is a lot that should be done when things return to normal.

Without a lot of detail, some of the items to be addressed are: new commercial dishwasher, aging appliances, dining tables, chairs, landscaping (i.e. flower beds, shrubbery in front of houses, flagpole, and traffic circle and water side), pool pumps-filtration-auto chemical system

All the Officers are working with the Budget & Finance Committee to satisfy our future requirements.

On a positive note, we will be hosting the Canadian version of the Lake Erie Interclub (Erie-Dover) Race August 23, 24, 25. This will be run for the Canadians that were eliminated from the normal series due to Covid restrictions. The American sailors came down the U.S. shore and finished last week. We will provide overnight dockage on the 23rd and 24th. My last contact with Port Dover Yacht Club is they are anticipating somewhere between 15 and 20 boats. All of this is of course subject to the ever changing Covid 19 rules.

Anxiously anticipating seeing the basin full again.

Stay well.



**Above and below: photos from your Rear Commodore taken last week. a couple more on pages 6 and 7**




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**Fleet Captain Joe Gelsomino Jr.'s comments:**

Well the season is finally upon us: the tee-shirts, shorts and flip-flops season. Wait, I mean boating, sailing, power or an inner-tube season...anything to get us out on the water! The Basin Committee and I as Fleet Captain have undertaken or will be completing this season have been to increase the 'Wow' factor of everyone that visits or uses our facility. The wow as in "I want to come back", the wow that the third oldest yacht club in continuous existence in North America deserves.

One of the first things that we took on was getting a flag halyard back to fly the BYC burgee where it belongs, at the top of the flag pole. Simple task one would think and now we know why there has not been one for more than fifteen years. We had to procure scaffolding to facilitate this endeavor which also meant the pole received a fresh coat of paint. Many thanks to all the members that assisted in erecting the scaffolding, scraping, painting and taking the scaffolding down...of which while we had the scaffolding we also did the gin-pole on the bridge.

Back to the 'wow factor', a lot of things have been small and

seemingly insignificant but their cumulative affect will hopefully be noticed over time. Examples of minor and insignificant are; the repainting of the outdoor furniture, the purchase of new garbage cans for the berm in doing so replacing the mismatched and derelict ones that we were utilizing. And, a new dedicated storage rack was procured for housing all the gas-cans the club has to store.

There are several things on the horizon that we think you will be happy with once completed. A new air curtain system for the entrance is coming to fruition. Larger 'No Wake' signs for placement in the water but outside the marked water-way are in process. And, sun-shades that we can all enjoy while sitting on the berm are in the works!

On the more difficult side; you may have noticed a lot of Styrofoam floating in the basin. We have been able to isolate its source but it may take a while to remove what has made its way into the basin. We are also diligently monitoring and evaluating the wall situation over by the dry-sail area and will keep you apprised as more information becomes available.

One thing we all can help in is the Parking at our facility. With the closing of Canada we have seen an increase of parking at Porter Avenue and we want to remind you that parking within the gates is very limited so if you can please consider carpooling! Said another way, be courteous of your fellow members and only park one car per slip within the gated area or within dedicated club parking.

The Basin Committee and I wish you a happy and safe boating season, and enjoy the Club!



**Above: Burgee back at top of flagpole once again thanks to member work. Well done.**

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**This just in at press time. We did learn just as this issue is heading to press that vaccinated US citizens will be permitted to enter Canada again, beginning August 9th. However, COVID testing requirements and limited information on pleasure-craft border crossing restrictions may delay the BYC from full resumption of our international activities beyond this date.**

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Opposite page, Top: if you look aft of the Cotter, in the spray, you will see one of the Blue Angels. Opposite page left: Point Abino looks great, also pics top and middle left this page. Left: Cotter with the BYC crowd, notice our burgee on the bow. David Woollatt and Nate took this photo, thanks guys! Above: Fog and wet weather rule July this year.

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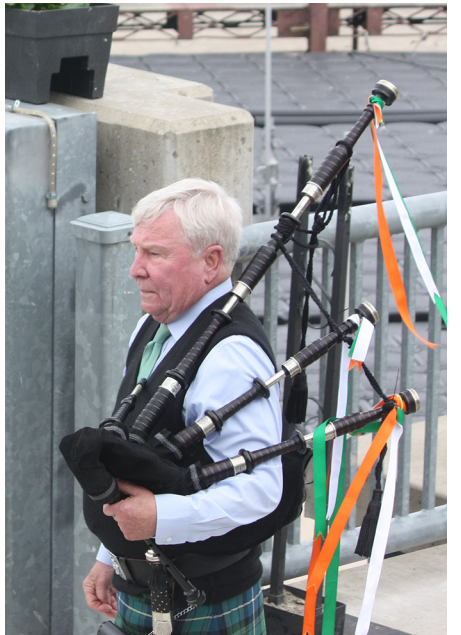


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**Top Left and right: IPC Kulwick leads the Past Commodores from the berm across the bridge. Middle left: Brantwood Brass band was in good form. Left: Moment of silence to honor members and spouses deceased in the last two years. Middle right: Roses for those deceased, and the wreath honoring the Armed Forces fallen. Bottom: Joe Roetter looks ready to belt out a song.**





**Top left: PC Don Goree, who was honored for his 50th year in the club. Middle: Commodore Munschauer addresses crowd. Left: Hand salute. Top right: Gun Crew. Middle right: Bagpiper-takes a rest. Above: Armed forces flags raised for the season.**



Party honoring Jim Kulwicki held in lieu of his Commodore's Ball that could not be held last year. Sold out, we had a great time on a special night. Top right, Mike Barry, who was MC was in great form, funny stuff. Thank you Caitlin Barry for the photos this page.

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### Lake Erie Interclub Regatta BYC boat results

#### PHRF - Spinnaker-51 (PHRF - 9 Boats)

- 1. Sledge Hammer, J 120, Tom Lewin, Buffalo, NY, USA - 1 -1 -1 -1; 4
- 2. Damn Yankee, Farr 47, Theodore Johnson, Buffalo, NY, USA - 2 -6 -2 -3; 13
- 5. Futures, J 124, John Reinhold, Lakeview, NY, USA - 6 -7 -4 -5; 22
- 7. Black Sheep, J 35, Adam Masters , Grand Island, NY, USA - 10/DNF -5 -3 -10/DNC ; 28

#### PHRF - Spinnaker-52 (PHRF - 10 Boats)

- 3. Polestar, C & C 35-3, Adam Croglia, Amherst, NY, USA - 4 -3 -2 -5; 14
- 5. Aurora, J105, Sara Creenan, Williamsville, NY, USA - 6 -5 -5 -4; 20

#### PHRF - Spinnaker-53 (PHRF - 8 Boats)

- 1. Mad Max, Laser 28, Richard Ham, Hamburg, NY, USA - 1 -2 -1 -1; 5
- 6. Ketch Me Knot, Hughes 40, William Bredenberg, Buffalo, NY, USA - 9/DNC -4 -4 -9/DNC; 26
- 8. Sturdy Girl, Cat Morgan 45 CC, James Kondziela , Snyder, NY, USA - 3 -9/DNF -7 -9/DNF ; 28



Above: Sledgehammer going upwind, crew hiking hard. Top right: big red spinnaker very deep. Right: Code zero on the last day sealed the deal for Team Sledgehammer. Overall scores were 1 -2 -1 -1. Photos this page by Joel Rait, thanks Joel.

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