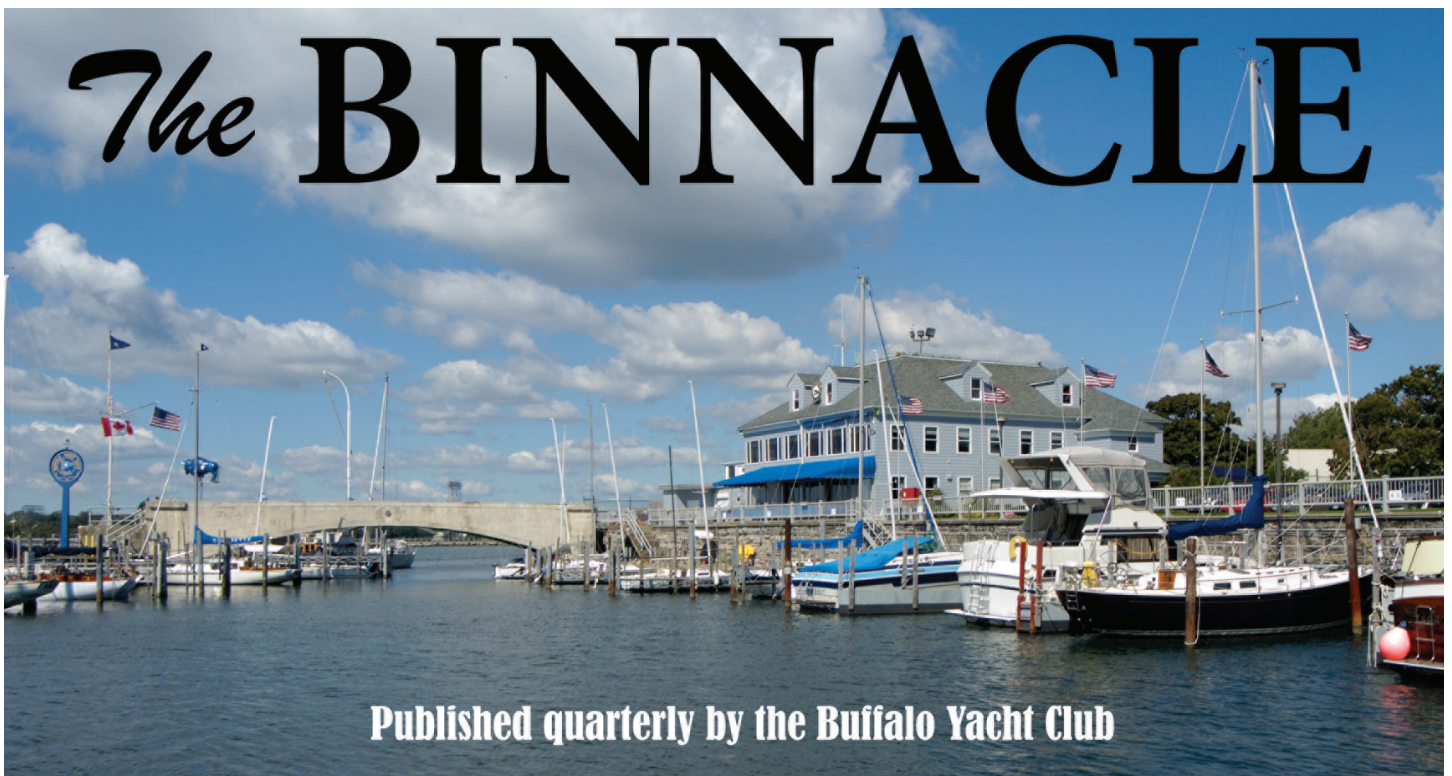


The BINNACLE



Published quarterly by the Buffalo Yacht Club

Vol. CVI No. 3

Buffalo Yacht Club

October 2021



Commodore Stephen Munschauer's comments:

Where did the summer go? It seems like we just opened the Porter Basin with its new floating docks, and now we are looking at it starting to empty out, with thoughts of how to winterize/store them.

When I last reported to you in July, we had hired a new Chef. Well, he only lasted two weeks before he walked out. Our Sous Chef, Mike Massey, stepped into the role of Interim Chef and the kitchen hasn't missed a beat. Thanks Mike.

In a related note, we have hired Denise Colletti, who will work with Sam in the dining room and for parties. Denise's primary focus will be 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. Please welcome Denise as she greets you in the dining room.

The Board has been dealing with the issue of non-member vs. member revenue. The IRS has a 15% limit on the amount of non-member revenue we are allowed to have. This income generally comes from outside parties/banquets and reciprocal Club dining. Denise will be working closely with Sam and Mike Scheid to make sure we keep a close eye on the number,

so we do not exceed it.

The best way to make that happen is to increase our member revenue. Accordingly, please come and use your dining room and Club, we have the best views in Buffalo and an excellent menu to make it worth the trip. In September, we had a Special Meeting wherein the Membership authorized the Board to contract for a new HVAC system in the Clubhouse. This will primarily be paid for with Covid funding because of the significant upgrade of indoor

COMMODORE — continued on page 2



THE BINNACLE
BUFFALO YACHT CLUB
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COMMODORE —from page 1

air quality provided by the project. We continue to work toward taking advantage of all the federal Covid/stimulus funding we are eligible for, with many thanks to Paul Johnson and Mike Scheid.

A few of our members made it to our Point Abino facility after the August 9th limited opening of the Canadian border. Most reported that the Point Abino Station looks great, to which I can personally attest. Thanks to Rear Commodore Carl Hensler and Capt. Ruth Sparks for all the work and attention to those facilities.

Boating Education had another extremely successful year thanks to the efforts of Leah Trow, Jonathan Johnsen, and the BYC Foundation.

The Membership Committee has been working on a change to our membership categories with the intent of smoothing out the age differentials (and dues jump) between classes that seems to pose issues with getting, and retaining, younger members. Hopefully we will be able to bring forward proposals to the Annual meeting in November

We are working on the issues with the basin wall in front of the cranes including defining the scope of work required to repair/rehab the wall. Hopefully we will have more information by the November meeting.

The Entertainment Committee has numerous events planned so please participate in these upcoming events. They are always a great way to enjoy your Club and interact with your fellow members.

Speaking of upcoming events, it's shocking to think that planning is underway for the Commodore's Ball on December 4th. Where did the year go?

In the meantime, we are looking forward to seeing you all, whether it's the fall work party, an Entertainment event, or just enjoying the best dining and view in Western New York.

Left: LEIC (Lake Erie Interclub Cruise) committee take a break. Right: Jimmy Steliano "helps" raise a flag at Erie YC. Opposite page: Top: Sledgehammer take down LEIC, Bottom: Last Chance regatta waves were up.



Membership

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

Active: William Braun III, James DePerno, Sally Howard, Donald & Kathleen Tompkins.

Social: Julie Bargnesi & Michael Kirkland, Lisa DeMarco & Dawn Green, Sean McCabe & Melissa Smythe, James & Sally Porter, Joshua Lawrence, Brian & Elaine Wells, John & Katherine Hafey.

Intermediate: Robert M. Dobmeier III. **Crew:** Martha Jane Desmond.

Junior: Kathryn Eagan, Dominic Schi, Rowland Richards, Emma Catipovic.

Reinstatements accepted from: **Social:** Sarah Voit Vinson.

Intermediate: Samantha Robbins. **Change of classification accepted from:**

Active to Social: Philip Gambacorta. **Social to Active:** Ronald Hortman, Jack Mehlretter, Susie Robbins **Social to Non-Resident:** William Brown.

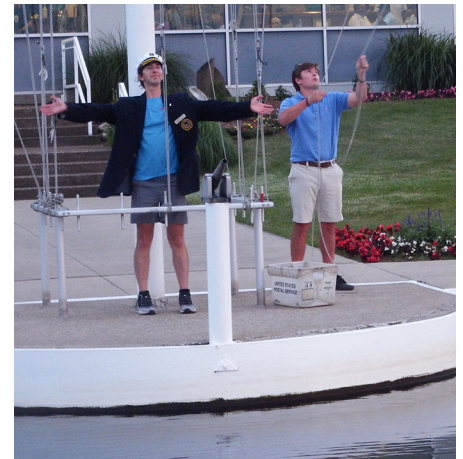
Retired Active to Non-Resident: Warren Emblidge.

Resignations accepted with regret from:

Active: Craig Jones. **Social:** John Glose, Anthony Muscarella.

Intermediate: Mark & Meaghan Piegay.

Non-Resident: Kay Lenahan. **We mourn the deaths of:** Cooper Lansing, Betsy Naylor



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Vice Commodore Doug Bienko's comments:

What a summer! I cannot believe I ever had an extra 40 hours + to go to work. Between a great racing season, my gig on the Edward M. Cotter, board duties, landlord stuff, and oh yeah, putting in a new pool at the house, had a busy year. But enough about that, our club has also had some challenges this year.

Sous Chef Mike Massey has stepped up in a big way to keep things together in the kitchen with a lot of help from our outstanding staff there, as well as our servers, they are all putting in extra effort to make sure your dining experience is to the standard you should expect. Come down and check it out, you won't be disappointed. If anything does not meet your approval, please let your server (and me) know.

Many thanks to the members who showed up in force to the special membership meeting held for the vote on the new HVAC systems to enhance our filtering and heating machinery, this should be a thirty year upgrade.

I want to thank (again!) Members Jodi Hill and Nick Osinski of Union Concrete who fixed the sink hole in the parking lot north of the north crane, as usual they did a great job, and solved our problem with little effort on our part. Well done!

While in that vein, a big thank you to the Navy and their contractors who gave us some of the surplus equipment from their security enhancement work, you will be seeing a new gate and gate operator by spring, the gate should also be a thirty year upgrade.

We excavated and filled with

concrete the south end of the drysail 2 weeks ago, in an effort to move the drysail boats there, hoping to expand our parking, which was more congested this year due to a new parking restriction on Porter Avenue. I have been in talks with the City of Buffalo and the operator of the Water pumping station to get some of that space opened up again, they had restricted the parking due to cars blocking their driveway, please do not block either of them, remember the water department sends trucks out 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and holidays too. Let your guests and crew know about this issue.

The house committee has been working on a new look for the dining room to update the look and feel of your club, we are hoping to have the new look done in a shutdown tentatively scheduled for January, as well as a paint job for the building and a spruce up of the lower deck Ladies room. If you have any suggestions for the house committee, please let me know, we would be happy to look at ideas from you.



Entertainment News

As summer rolls into fall and boats are put away for the season, the Entertainment Committee has been busy planning some wonderful events in the coming months. We are excited to announce that we will be having an art exhibit at the Buffalo Yacht Club entitled the Higner Maritime Collection, Twenty Five Years of Ship Building. It will be on display from Wednesday October 13 - Wednesday October 27th. Opening Night on October 13th will feature the artist, Justin Higner and he will speak about his art and the history of the various ships and boats in his collection. Light appetizers will be served, the bar will be open to purchase cocktails and a limited dinner menu will be available. The event will begin at 6:30 PM. Be sure to make your reservations for this unique and one of a kind exhibit on the club website or through the office.

We also have some other upcoming events being planned and they will include: the Family Halloween Party, Sunday October 24th, Oktoberfest Saturday October 30th and Friendsgiving Friday November 19th, to name a few. We are so excited to be featuring our parties once again! Please check your email and the club website for more details and to make your reservations. Please come down and join us, you, the members, are the key to our success!
Mary Theresa Seitz



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Rear Commodore Carl Hensler's comments:

Well another very lonely season at the Point has passed.

With us having to shut almost everything down this summer due to Covid maybe it's just as well it is over and we can look to better times next year.

I would like to thank all involved for their patience and understanding through this difficult period.

On a better note, Ruth Sparks and skeleton crew worked hard all summer keeping the Point looking great. They have done a great job and to keep this short – things that needed painting got painted, docks have all been stained, fixed docks are now out and stored and floaters will soon be stored and floated in center of basin as always. Due to Border restrictions there will not be a fall work party but not to worry, everything is under control.

We did have a bit of excitement this summer when some branches broke off the big tree and damaged the guard shack. Repairs have been made. About a week later one of the tall poplars (over 120 foot tall) fell and blocked Pt Abino Rd while damaging several of the brick pillars on both sides of the road. All repairs have been made and are barely visible.

We are in the process of taking down a couple of the trees threatening the kitchen and a couple of trees threatening the Bertie Boating Club building and having all the "deadwood"

removed from the balance of the trees in order to prevent damage to the surrounding area while protecting the trees themselves from possible damage caused by falling / splitting branches.

In anticipation of the border and testing restrictions being relaxed next year we are looking into several other improvements for our facilities.

While it is sometimes difficult to understand, Ontario has much stricter and many more Covid rules and restrictions than New York and we must live by them. We WILL get through this and can all look forward to being able to enjoy Point Abino Facility of the Buffalo Yacht Club once again.

In anticipation of that day, respectfully submitted.



Above: RC Hensler greeting Dover visitors

Below: Aerial view of the Point



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Fleet Captain Joe Gelsomino Jr.'s comments:

It was truly gratifying to hear all the compliments conveyed to me this year on how nice the Basin looked. Those sentiments really are due to the efforts of both the Basin Committee and the Floating Dock Committee for it has been their efforts that has made this possible. The new docks and berm upgrade have been a great foundation and starting point for all the smaller items that cumulatively made an impact. From painting the flag pole to new marine dock-carts, new umbrellas to new trash receptacles and new 'No Wake' signs that finally made an impact. It has been a delight to have the assistance of all my committee members. From my perspective it was also great to see all the activity in the Basin this year. However with everyone enjoying their boats and club the increased electrical demand identified that we still have some electrical issues on the Porter Avenue side of the basin that will need to be addressed. We are currently talking to several electrical contractors to obtain bids and plan to rectify these issues for next year. Going forward the floating dock committee will be working on secure

winterization of our assets that have to remain in the water over the winter and the Basin Committee is still working on completing the entrance bubbler system.

We also had a Junior Sailor Safety at Sea event this year at the Basin. It started with the visit to our Club by a transient doing a Great Lakes cruise from Long Island, in July the Club was host to Richard du Moulin. Mr. du Moulin has sailed in every major ocean race, competed in twenty five Newport to Bermuda races, has been on four Americans Cup campaigns, he is the past commodore to both The Larchmont Yacht Club & The Storm Trysail Club and served on the US Sailing Safety committee. While at our facility Richard offered to put on an impromptu Junior Safety at Sea seminar which was enthusiastically attended by all our Junior Sailors and their coaches. The event started with a video lecture and culminated with the very practical exercise of using a life sling. It was very reassuring to hear the kids rattle off the steps that one should take for a successful Man over Board recovery when asked as a recap at the end of the day!



Top: Richard du Moulin, Left the lecture, and Above middle: Kids line up for life sling exercise, Above:no wake sign



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Top: Junior sailors call it a year, smiles all around. Well done to Leah Trow and all of our coaches and staff. Left and Above: Tom Lewin and IPC Kulwicki took a ride to welcome the Canadian Dover fleet.



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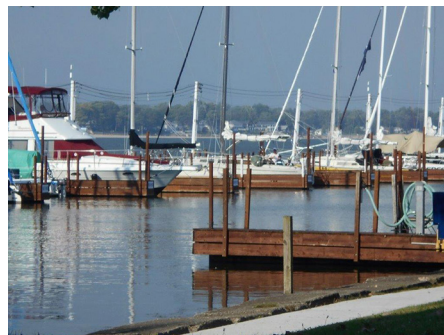
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This page: Point Abino Station was showing signs of life as the Dover Canadian fleet visits at the end of the regatta. Hopefully next year the basin will have a harder time docking the normal contingent!

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Clockwise from top: Dick Ham's Mad Max, Adam Masters' Black Sheep, Bill Bredenburg on Ketch Me Knot, John Reinhold's Futures, Jim Konziela sails Sturdy Girl. Opposite page clockwise from top left: Class flag hoist, relaxing on Gale Winds, Early morning leaving Erie, Jimmy and Jim relaxing, Sara Creenan's Aurora, Ted Johnson aboard Damn Yankee.







Top Left: Damn Yankee, Top Middle: Sledgehammer, Top Right:Futures, Left Gale Winds. All LEIC: Futures this page, 8, and 9 thanks to Joel Rait. Really appreciate the great work Joel. Page 11 Photo credit to my friend and Cotter shipmate Larry Cobado.

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