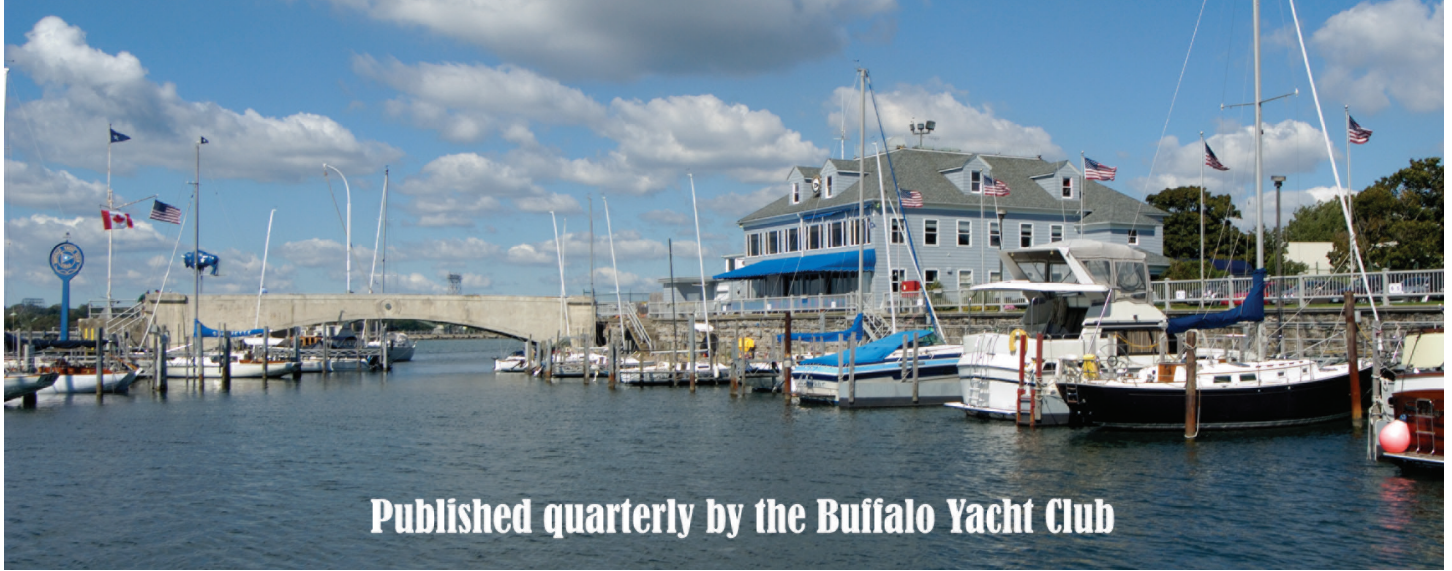


# The BINNACLE



Published quarterly by the Buffalo Yacht Club

Vol. CVII No. 1

Buffalo Yacht Club

April 2022



**Commodore Doug Bienko's  
comments:**

Have you been to our club lately? Because it is looking great, the painting is finished on the exterior (thanks Ted), the new dining room is fabulous, the new menus are in and what a pleasure to be able to see the print without glasses again. Mike Massey has the kitchen turning out some of the best food I've had there, the servers are efficient and helpful as ever, the basin is full, and our racers are doing good things on the courses of Lake Erie. Boating Education has a full boat, good to see all of the kids having fun. In other words, the place is really a gem on Buffalo's waterfront. So come on down and enjoy. Mary Teresa Seitz and her



entertainment committee is putting on some events that are a joy, check them out.

I would like to thank all of the members who attended the Spring meeting, and voted to approve the funding for the crane wall repair, it is not very glamorous, but really does need to be fixed. Thanks to Kim Reynolds and Tim Hunt for their efforts to have everyone hear and be heard on the PA system, as well as the zoom participants. If you see Mike Barry around, please thank him for his attention to detail on this very important project, along with Ed Gawrecki who is spearheading the permitting process, and all of the members of

the Crane Wall committee.

I have been thinking of this publication as Gerry's since I have been here, and I think I have a lot of work to do to get to his level. But I also think that we need some change, specifically the masthead photo, that is the one of the club above. So I propose that we change it occasionally, and have a photo contest to choose. I will ask a few of you to help out by being on a jury to pick out of submissions, and will award a free subscription to the winner each year. So start looking for photos you think would be worthy, and I will let you know how



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COMMODORE —from page 1

we will choose the 2023 photo in the next edition. I really have to thank all of the people that help on this publication, Meghan, who does the membership info as well as the upcoming events list. Leah Trow, who gets me some very good Boating Ed pics, Joel Rait, who gave me 450 photos from the Erie Dover - you will see a bunch of them in this edition, Caitlin Barry, who also gives me photos galore. New contributor Kevin Arnold, who has another column in this edition, Cindy Munschauer also is a photo contributor. And many more, please consider sending me material as I have been a little busy this year. And finally, thanks to the Bridge and Board, who along with their committees do the bulk of the work to make your club the best in our area!

**Upcoming Events**

**July**

**23 - Smokin' Buddha Food Truck @ Pt. Abino**  
**29-1 - Pt. Abino Members Only Weekend**

**August**

**13-14 - Mayor's Cup/Queen City Regatta**

**September**

**2 - Fun Run Starts at Pt. Abino, Finishes at BCC**  
**2-6 - Pt. Abino Members Only Weekend**  
**5 - Labor Day Reverse PHRF - Clubhouse & Office Closed**  
**12 - Cigar Night on the BYC Lawn**  
**17 - Obersheimer Cup**  
**24 - Celtic Cross Band (Irish Music & Food)**

**On the cover: Sledgehammer sailing to Point Abino, the Abino light and the city in same shot, photo credit: Brad Wood Photography. Left: Marilee and Jim on berm. Right: Memorial Day prep.**



**Membership**

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

**Active:** Todd Morris & Jillian Alli, Troy Szatkowski, Brad & Kelly Jones, Timothy & Angie Scott  
**Social:** Timothy & Patricia Collard, Jaclyn Mazzone  
**Intermediate:** Lindsay Glassman  
**Junior:** Benjamin Zenosky

**Change of classification accepted from:**

**Active to Retired Active:** William Roche, Joe Gelsomino Jr., P/C Michael Ryan, P/C James Kondziela  
**Intermediate to Social:** Alan Knowles  
**Crew to Intermediate:** Barrett Lloyd,

**Resignations accepted with regret from:**

**Active:** Sally Howard  
**Social:** Sue Jacobson, Kathy Hillman, Stephen O'Neill, Julius McCann & Libby Brennan, Edward Murphy, Michael Markarian  
**Intermediate:** Christine Candino  
**Non-Resident:** Stephen & Karen Golden

**We mourn the deaths of: Marion Fay, Joseph Gelsomino Sr.**



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**Vice Commodore Ted Johnson's comments:**

Well, the last time I wrote my report we were waiting on the carpet. I hope you have all seen it by now and enjoy it. If you like it thank the house committee which includes: Sandy Vogel, PC Tony Dailey, Merrily Kuhn, Greg Zadrozny, Ken Bienko, Kate Little, Robert Spampata, and our newest member Alex Zientara. If you have complaints please see the Vice Commodore. Also new, but was in process, is the new trophy case in the bar room. By putting this new case in we can go back to displaying our Yacht Club gear in the case at the end of the hall. This makes a big difference by eliminating the table case from the hallway. There are some great clothing options and additional items for sale just drop in to see Meghan and she can help you with your sizing options. If you are looking for the official board you will find it at the end of the hall by Sam's office and if you want to check out the list of reciprocal clubs that case is in the Locker Room Hallway. They are just finishing up the painting on the exterior of the club house and we have asked that the awning be put back up on the front. Everything looks shiny and new, we hope you like the nice consistent color.

Some things we are working on that you should start seeing are our new menus. They are in house and we are just in the process of doing the layouts so we can print and insert them. Hopefully within a week they will be out for all to see.

Speaking of the Menu Chef Mike is working hard to get the food out and it has been awesome. I cannot say enough about our delivery team, the waitstaff and bartenders. It is so hard to find people in this day and we are very blessed to have such good ones. Please let them know if you have special dietary needs or want to make some slight adjustments to your meals. Ever have a Reuben without the bread? I love it!

We still have a few things that we are working on getting done before the year is out. We will see how the budgets are looking, we would love to redo the ceiling in the lower bar and give it a new facelift. The Commodore is also helping me with the renovation of the south gate, Thank you Doug!

This is the best time of the year to be visiting the club please make your reservations a few days ahead of time so we can ensure we have the proper staffing. Also, I am sure you have noticed that we have published our dress codes. Gentlemen, please remove your hats in the bar area unless it is a regatta day or night. Some of the questions that have been asked: Can I wear a tee shirt in the dining room... yes but only at lunch and ONLY at the Sailors table. Can men wear sandals for dinner in the dining room? No, but ladies are allowed except for flipflops. Remember the outside upper patio has the same rules as the bar/grille room. Please have a great time while at the club but remember this a club for all members and be respectful of their experience also.

If you have any questions or concerns please let me know what they are so we address them.



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

It is really great to see all the boats back in the basin and all the activity at the Big House and the pools. People make the Club. Two years of living in a ghost basin was way too long.

There are only a handful of slips unassigned and with the way new members are joining, I expect we will be full in a very short time. An overflowing basin is a problem we look forward to!

The Point Abino Committee adopted a master plan for landscaping improvements to be done over the next couple of years that will include the "Big House", flagpole, sign, and pool area gardens. There are also plans for improvements on the waterside of our property. This will make our entire club even more attractive and appealing.

As of this writing, we are negotiating with contractors for new, larger gas line to the pools that should prevent future pre-mature failure of the heaters. Many thanks to P/C Paul Neureuter and Michael Jordan for their assistance and guidance with this project. We are hoping to have this in place by the time you read this.

A bicycle rack has been placed near the North dock, boat launch area and a new kayak rack is being designed and spearheaded by Bill Graves utilizing some of the scrap steel in the back lot.

The weather cooperated as we recently hosted the annual Point

Abino Strawberry Festival, which was a huge success.

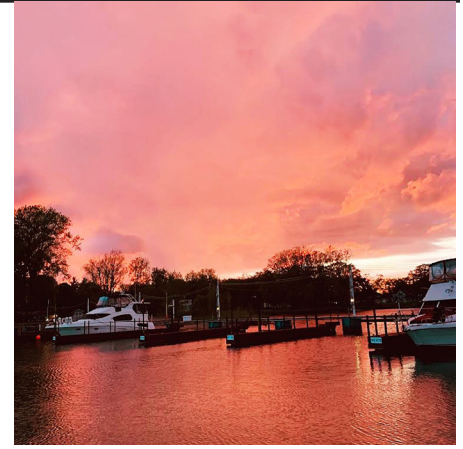
We also recently were host to 30+ boats from the final leg of the Lake Erie Interclub Cruise (Erie-Dover) A very special thank you to R J Bouchard for another year of organizing and directing the boats safely into their assigned slips.

We have received many compliments from both of the above events not only on the hospitality of the BYC and its members but on how beautiful the house and grounds looked. A special thank you to all who participated.

A very special thank you to Ruth Sparks and her staff Kevin and Jeremy. They have done an outstanding job. They really work very hard and it shows. The Point has never looked better!

Speaking of staff, we have been operating very shorthanded and are in the process of hiring a couple of additional part time people to fill in the off hours. If you see some new staff working, please introduce yourself to them. We also ask that you follow the Basin Rules and not give direct orders to any employee. There are request forms at the entrances to the Big House, please place any requests in the mail box at the work shop. Our employees can only have one boss, not 100; all orders must go through Ruth.

One more note: ALL pump outs must be done by trained Staff. Members are not allowed to do their own. Please schedule with Ruth in advance and be on time. Thank you for your cooperation.



**Top: Point Abino sunset, beautiful! Above: Sandy Vogel, member for 40 years, was recognized as the 2021 Member of the year, for her endless work at decorating our club, thanks Sandy!**

**Left: Ruth Sparks, Operations Manager of our Point Abino Station in Canada, has worked for the BYC for 14 years, and was named a 2021 Employee of the Year. She was recognized for her outstanding service over the years, and especially maintaining and keeping the Point Abino Station open during the COVID pandemic. Thanks, Ruth, for a job well done!**



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**Fleet Captain Jonathan Johnsen's comments:**

It is hard to believe that June has already sped by. Hopefully, everyone has been getting out on the water. I myself have yet to get in a sail but am planning to remedy that when I return from Rhode Island. But as we all know, some of the best sailing is over the coming months.

The Basin has been full, but, because Canada is open, we have been able to accommodate all slip hoppers and some transient boaters. Please remember to keep me and or the office aware when you are not using your slips so we can use them.

The biggest project for the Basin this year is the wall repair, which will be reported upon by others in more detail. Otherwise, the Basin Committee has not undertaken any renovations. If anyone has any suggestions for Basin improvement, please let me know.

**Right: Pancake breakfast on the berm Memorial day was well attended.**



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### Guest Column by PC Mike Barry

I know many members did not attend the Spring Membership meeting and I wanted to give a quick overview of the Issues, Implications and Solution. I will also attempt to describe what to expect during the construction. I will not be explaining the financial details of the project because that was sent to all members prior to that Spring meeting.

#### Overview:

As you likely know, the stone wall under the cranes at the Porter Avenue clubhouse was moving outward. This has been a concern for several years as you could see the wall bowing by just sighting down the railing from the bridge and looking towards Porter Avenue. The Board hired an engineer to monitor the situation. They confirmed that the wall was in fact bowing out and that this could collapse if left alone. This recently happened at Rich Marine. The engineer recommended we get it fixed before that happens. The Board then moved this project from Future Planning to a temporary action committee appropriately called the "Wall Committee."

The Wall Committee set about understanding the issue, the implications and the suggested solutions.

#### Issues:

There are two related issues.

1. The foundation of the wall is supported by pilings and fill. However, the fill is washing out.

2. As a result of the wall foundation erosion, the wall is moving towards the lake and could collapse if left alone.

#### Implications:

1. The cost of a fixing the wall after a collapse would be significantly higher than for the proposed repairs.

2. A wall collapse would put the dry sail and parking lot at risk. It could also destabilize and collapse the rest of the wall and put the clubhouse foundation at risk.

3. Worst case scenario is that someone could be on the docks below the wall when the wall collapses putting their personal well-being at high risk.

#### Suggested Solutions:

1. Do nothing and address it when something actually happens.

2. Place tie-backs in the wall and parking lot to help support the wall.

3. Place sheet piling in the water next to the wall and insert backfill to close the gap under the wall and the place tie-backs in the wall and parking lot to help support the wall.

The committee agreed that not acting until it collapses would be irresponsible and far more costly if the wall collapsed. They also agreed that inserting tie-backs without repairing the foundation was not a good, long-term solution because the foundation was still washing out. Hence, solution #3 became our preferred long-term solution.

After several months of engineering reviews and plans, the work was put out for bid. At the Spring Membership meeting in May, the club passed the Motion to fix the wall under the cranes as described in solution #3 above. This motion included an assessment to help pay for this \$922,900 project.

By the time you read this, you should have already selected a payment plan for the assessment, if you are subject to the assessment. The more payments we receive up front, the less we need to borrow and finance, reducing the overall financing costs of the project. Bond sales will likely be announced in August or September. The number of Bonds available will be adjusted based on how many members chose the single payment option.

#### Expectations during construction:

The actual contracted work is scheduled to begin on October 1st, 2022.

Prior to that date, we will need to remove the "grey floating docks" along the Porter Avenue wall and the lawn. Normally we store these in the parking lot. However, we will need to store those off site, this winter to keep the parking area cleared for the construction. Those slip holders may need to move their boats during that period. The Wall and Basin Committees are collaborating on those efforts and will try to arrange

alternate slips. Many boats haul out around this time so, our hope is to just move boats around the basin to the other docks that open up. We will reach out to those affected prior to that time. If you're a slip holder anywhere in the Buffalo Basin, please notify the office once you set a haul out date. This information will greatly assist us in our game of "musical slips." Dry slip holders will also need to leave property prior to October 1, this year. We need to clear the area for the construction vehicles and, once the work begins, the cranes will be completely unavailable.

Parking will be the biggest inconvenience. Starting October 1st, the southern parking area inside the fence will be unavailable making our already limited parking even more limited. This will be the case until construction, including repaving, is completed. Please make use of the Valets when they're available. We're hopeful to have this all back by the Annual Membership meeting in mid-November. Hopefully, Mother Nature will cooperate and allow the work to stay on schedule.

The Fall High School Sailing program will also be affected by this effort. They run through October, using the cranes to haul their boats and docks. The Wall and Boating Education Committees are working on an alternate solution. We need to ensure this valuable program stays on track.

#### Important Dates:

May 23, 2022 – Membership meeting at which the Motion was passed to proceed with the repairs to the wall.

June 27, 2022 – Due date for members to declare their assessment payment option.

September 6, 2022 – The office can start taking orders for Bonds.

Mid-September (TBD) – We clear the grey floating docks of boats and haul them for winter storage.

September 30th – All boats, vehicles and everything else must leave the property. Yes, this is a Friday. However, the construction vehicles, equipment and supplies may start arriving late in the day.

October 1, 2022 – Construction begins!



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**In Closing:**

A lot of work and planning has gone into this from many talented and generous members across several committees and the Board of Directors. Thank you all for your continued support.

This is in no way a glamorous project. However, it is extremely important to the survival of the club. Thank you in advance to ALL members for your patience, support and understanding.

See you at the club!  
Michael Barry

**Erie Dover (interclub) Results**

Sledgehammer back to back! The BYC crew aboard Sledgehammer scored 4 firsts in fleet and a first in the overall for the second year. The BYC was well represented, with Dick Ham's Mad Max with three firsts and a second for first in fleet, and third overall, Sara Creenan's Aurora 2 firsts, a second, and second in fleet, and sixth overall, and Ted Johnson third in fleet and eighth in his first year on the new Damn Yankee. Bill Bredenburg got a first, 2 seconds, and second in fleet, and 20th overall. Jim Berry was seventh in fleet for his first outing on Zamboni, twenty first overall, and Jim and Sandy Kondziela were fourth in fleet and twenty fifth overall. Well Done gang!



**Guest Column by Kevin Arnold**

One of the reasons we chose the Buffalo Yacht Club over other groups was the opportunity to learn to sail with some of the most knowledgeable and passionate sailors in the area. Having been lifelong powerboaters, we were keen to see what it's like to move across the water with nothing but the wind to push you along.

I'm pleased to say that this has happened more quickly and more readily than I'd ever imagined! I'd like to share what a fantastic experience we've had learning to sail at the Buffalo Yacht Club and to encourage anyone who is interested to seek out these opportunities for themselves. There are so many ways to get out on the water and explore sailing through the club. I've been asked by numerous people to come "crew" on their boats and am currently doing that aboard John Reinhold's boat, Futures, on Tuesday nights. I'm looking forward to helping out with the committee boat, which manages the races, on Wednesdays starting in a couple weeks. The club also offers many sailing courses for all ability levels, which I'm considering later in the summer.

At the Buffalo Yacht Club, you don't need to have any experience to get out on a sailboat. If your first time out is anything like mine was, the only thing expected of you is to pay attention, observe as much as you can, and stay out of the way! There can be quite a lot of yelling during a sailboat race but there is also a lot of camaraderie and I felt like a valued member of the crew from my very first time on the boat.

At this point, I probably understand only about 10% of what is happening and what is being said at any given time. However, after just a few times out, I'm already starting to learn quite a lot of terminology and have a general understanding of what the crew is doing and why. It's amazing how quickly you can learn on a boat if you keep your ears open and aren't afraid to ask questions.

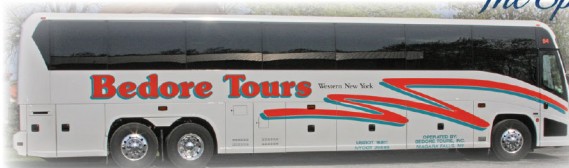
I'm not sure we're quite ready to make the transition from power to sail on our own yet but these experiences have definitely made me more open to the idea. In the meantime, I'm having such a great time getting out on the water and enjoying the spectacular summers we have here in Buffalo.



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**Top: Sledgehammer crew, including Tom Lewin - on phone in Anderson's hand. Bottom: Dick Ham and Mad Max going fast. From Top Right: Jen on Aurora, sledge with big red up, and PC Dan Ward aboard Raven.**





Erie Dover pics, top left: Damn Yankee, middle:Sledge and Yankee, bottom: Leah Trow aboard her dad's Intuition. From Top this column is Jim Berry on Zamboni, Bill Bredenburg's Ketch Me Knot and Jim and Sandy Kondziela's Sturdy Girl





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Top and top right: Past Commodores line up on berm for the Commodore's Breakfast. Above: Fotini, Vice Commodore Ted Johnson, Marlene and Commodore Doug Bienko. Right: Craig and Bonnie look great! Preceding page: more Commodore's Breakfast photos. And a wedding proposal!!

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