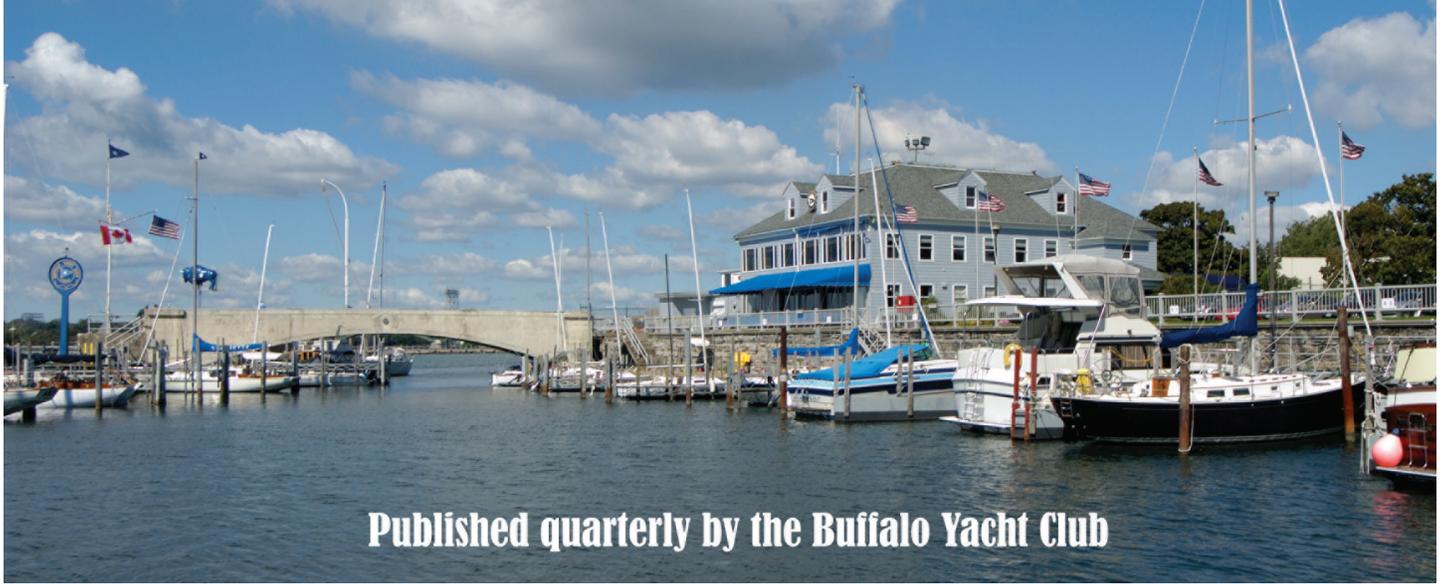


The BINNACLE



Published quarterly by the Buffalo Yacht Club

Vol. CII, No. 4

Buffalo Yacht Club

October 2017



Commodore's comments

Well, maybe it wasn't the best boating season ever. But before we go down that road, let's have a quick moment of reflection for the citizens of all the islands ravaged by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. And now my petty first world complaints are back in the proper perspective.

That said, if I'd had a boat in the Buffalo Basin in any of Slips 23 through 30 this season, I might have been more than a tad exasperated, since they spent much of the summer in a profoundly sub-aquatic state. Let the record reflect that these folks have the proverbial patience of Job, because they were all quite forbearing about their docks frequently being under at least a foot of water. Let the record reflect that bids are coming in for re-fitting these slips with floating docks and we hope that they will for installed for the beginning of the 2018 boating season. We plan to convert the Buffalo Basin in two installments so as to avoid hitting you folks with any nasty assessments.



At least that's our plan, since one bid actually just came in while I'm writing this, and it was on the high side. Seriously. Anyway, summer is going through something of a resurgence and maybe when we write the history of the 2017 boating season, it won't be all gloom and doom. I'll give a quick gloss of what my colleagues will cover in greater detail in their articles: We dodged a bullet on the Buffalo basin seawall, both structurally and financially.

I've never seen the Point Abino station look so good in recent years. The new docks (and the deck!) really have provoked a renaissance. We've done a lot of updating and maintaining to the Bflo clubhouse—paint, carpeting, chimney, landscaping, soon a new rubber roof so as to give you the palatial facility you deserve.... And the food—it's toothsome, it's consistent, the staff is stable (maybe not my best word choice...).

COMMODORE — continued on page 2



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

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COMMODORE — continued from page 1

and reports from diners are laudatory. We've had successful regattas with successful parties. We have a new fleet of Flying Juniors, largely enabled by the BYC Foundation. And we didn't break the bank.

Clearly, we have many people to thank, but, other than our fine staff, all of them are your fellow members who are participating in the committee and board structure of the Club. Our November Club meeting isn't that far away and John Cosman and his trusty Nominations Committee are looking for folks who want to take part in the commonweal of the Club. One particular weakness of our boards over the years is that they're frequently exclusively male and we're not any happier about it than you are.

Serving on a board is a delicate blend of representation and self-interest, and it's quite possibly the case that much-needed changes like freshening up the first floor women's room or even placing purse hooks under the downstairs bar have been overlooked for lack of an advocate. So, please, be that advocate.

And in the meanwhile, if I don't see you on the water, I'll see you at the bar, maybe even with a hook for my man-purse

Pen in the following dates on your Calendars for ways to enjoy and utilize your club.

October 14th! – Buffalo Basin Work Party

October 21st – Point Abino Work Party

October 28th – Oktoberfest – Pure enjoyment for all Bavarian's at heart. Come and enjoy an amazing feast and dance the night away to the Auslanders.

October 29th – Children's Halloween Party – Games, prizes, frightening buffet and the Reptile Guy. Scary fun!

November 11th – Trophy Night – Everyone's a winner this evening.

November 16th – Annual Members Meeting. Witness your club in action.

November 17th – Friendsgiving – An evening to celebrate Thanksgiving with your friends. Look for this one to be a show stopper.

November 23rd – Thanksgiving – A special day to give thanks and praise with family at the BYC.

November 27th – Christmas Decorating Party. Help transform the club into this magical season.

December 1st - First Friday – Unveiling of the 50 year members plaque.

December 2nd – Commodore's Ball – An event that never disappoints all those who attend!

December 8th – Tree Raising Ceremony – Time old tradition that brings joy to all at the BYC!

December 10th – Children's Christmas Party – Games, prizes, food and a visit from Santa too!

December 31st – New Years Eve – Special menu and dance to the tunes of Janice Mitchell and the Jim Beishline Trio.

Jim Kulwicki



The Obersheimer Cup



Dick Ham's Mad Max



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Vice Commodore comments

When I was a young boy I spent many a day at the club with my dad. Before the fire, the club house had a veranda surrounding the second floor. We don't have the veranda anymore, but our upper deck still has the best view in the city and the outdoor patio is a great spot to watch the sunset over dinner and a cocktail.

Carolann and her staff have been doing a wonderful job in the kitchen and we have some great specials to offer you each week. On Wednesday nights we will continue to offer two different 3 course dinners at the unbelievable price of \$20.17. On Thursdays and Sundays you will be able to enjoy half price appetizers with the purchase of an entrée. Of course we have our famous fish fry available every Friday as well as "Cod in the Basket" for those with smaller appetites, for the low price of \$14. Saturday is Prime Rib night which is available in three sizes depending on your hunger level! So, there is a different reason to come to your club on each night of the week! And please don't forget to make reservations for lunch and dinner so that we can better serve you and your fellow members.

With the end of the summer season we look forward to our Oktoberfest party, the children's Halloween party and our Thanksgiving buffet. Don't forget to book you holiday party now so that you won't be disappointed. There are a few dates left so contact Christine to schedule your family or office event.

When my dad and I sat on that veranda before lunch with other members the manager at the time would come out and make an announcement. The manager's name was Harold Beck, and he was a jack of all trades. Every time I was there he would make the same announcement, and it was pretty funny to a six year old kid. Ask me!!



Georgous sunset at Point Abino.
Below: Charlie on Enchanted



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Rear Commodore Comments

The 2017 boating season has now come and gone. It was an eventful season at Point Abino. Some staffing changes. Some new docks. Some new members. Some new boats. Some good parties. All good stuff. Now we start planning for the 2018 season.

Before I get too far in to this, I want to say thank you to Ruth and her staff for another great season. I also want to thank the Point Abino Committee for their help, this year. I extend a special thank you Jason Dziadzio and Mike Jordan. Jason helped with numerous electrical repairs and Mike contributes in too many ways to count. Both donated a lot of their personal time for the benefit of everyone. Thank you all! Basin Business:

The most obvious change this year was the additions of new T-Docks and new 30' floating docks (S30-S33). The new floating T-Docks filled up quickly. This was so well received that we are considering adding more docks of this kind. If you are interested in this, please let me know.

If there is sufficient demand, we will look at moving forward with that expansion in the near future.

Unusually high water levels helped mask this, but we are aware of some shoaling in the basin and we have some dredging planned for this fall. Thanks to Mike Jordan for doing some soundings that will help us better target the areas in need. The higher water levels also created some challenges. We expected the water level to drop in later June and it never happened to the degree we expected. As a result, we had issues with the steps. Eventually, this led to the idea and creation of the box steps that were deployed on the South side. These steps will be saved and deployed again should we ever experience these water levels again.

One question that came about multiple times over this season was why we want people to request a Day Pass from Ruth before they use one of the docks for a few hours during the day. The Point Abino Committee reviewed this question and decided that there are several reasons for the Day Pass. Here are a few of them. First, we don't have a lot of docks. Dedicating a dock would be a waste of a potential guest dock. Unlike the Canoe Club, we can't expect to make that money up in food and beverages. Second, Ruth knows which docks are assigned to incoming guests and can avoid having someone on that dock. Finally, there was a concern that some members would abuse this privilege and that would be offensive to the members who take a t-dock for this purpose. Day Passes are free to members and significantly help us properly manage the available guest docks. A simple phone call or email to Ruth is all that is required. I hope this helps explain the logic behind the Day Pass and you will take advantage of this in the coming seasons.

Here are a couple of the planned projects over the winter.

- 1. We are planning to replace many of the deck boards in the North dock. Particularly, those boards on which the steps rest.
2. A long list of items to be painted over the coming year.
3. We will be installing some bird deterrents on Harvey's barge.

On-Shore Business:

Some shore side projects are as follows:

- 1. Replace fans and lights in the dining area near the kitchen.
2. Replace the dishwasher.
3. Restock the glassware, etc. in the kitchens.

Please keep in mind that all BYC members are welcome to visit the Pt. Abino facilities and join in the fun. We had a number of events at the Point posted the Point Abino calendar in the various club newsletters. Starting next Spring, we will be adding a Point Abino column in the Compass to keep the entire membership informed of the events.

As parties are being booked and planned, please keep several items in mind. The first two can be done well in advance of the desired date.

- 1. Please check your desired dates with Ruth to avoid conflicts with previously scheduled events.
2. If you are serving alcohol at larger parties, please remember to file for a liquor permit with the Canadian authorities. This permit is required by law, only costs \$25 and takes about 30 days. This protects yourself, the club, the beverage vendor, and any caterer that may be present.
3. The legal drinking age in Canada is 19.

Below are the events left for this year. We may add a chili cookout or something of that nature. Please keep an eye on the calendar as it fills out.

2017 Events at Point Albino

- October 21 Work Party
December 9 Winterize Docks

As always, if you see something that looks wrong, please report it to the staff and/or myself.

I hope to see you around the club.

Michael Barry
BYC Rear Commodore

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Fleet Captain Comments

As we step lightly yet into another season we reflect on the previous with wonder as to how did it pass so quickly. Although moist at times and with relatively mild temperatures, we currently are experiencing some of the warmest weather WNY delivers as we stand at the cusp of the two seasons. It hardly seems imaginable it's time to witness the departure of boats from our basins. It's with appreciation I thank all the BYC Staff at both the Buffalo and Point Abino stations for their dedication and hard work making our 2017 summer season one to remember. It's because of the staff we're able to enjoy and appreciate our club to its fullest potential. Thank you to all of you!

Thank you to Doug Bienko and his Regatta Committee for providing us with some of the best racing and regattas Buffalo offers. I also want to thank both Doug and Jason Dziadzio for their dedication and hard work maintaining both facilities, Buffalo and Pt Abino nurturing them towards the true gems they are. Both basins had lots of great activities, few problems, a little wind and some sprucing creating the perfect cocktail for our enjoyment. What more could we ask for?

I'm disappointed to report we suffered a breach of security at the Buffalo Basin this year with a hole being cut into the fence on the Porter side. On a good note, nothing reported as stolen. The fence was repaired and we were back up and running hardly skipping a beat.

Boaters; reminding you that your slip request forms are being mailed at the end of October. Please be sure to double check the form for accuracy, fill them out and get them back to the office in a timely fashion.

The boating season may be coming to a close but please remember the club still offers amazing cuisine thanks to our Chef Carol Ann and her staff to all our members for their enjoyment. Participate, embrace and use your club for gaining the maximin effect on your lives. Ways to participate at your club are listed below. I can't wait to see you at the BYC!

October 14th – Buffalo Basin Work Party
 October 21st – Point Abino Work Party
 November 11th – Trophy Night
 James Kulwicki
 BYC Fleet Captain



Fleet Captain Kulwicki and Merrily Kuhn's Storm Warning crosses the line just behind Rear Commodore Barry's Vinyasa (below) after leading most of the Obersheimer Cup Race. story and more photos page 11 additional member boat photos on pages 9 and 10.



On Friday September 15 the club combined a New & Potential Member celebration with the Dedication of the new boats for the Junior Sailing Program.

Many potential members who attended expressed to how impressed they were with the dedication and that they felt very welcome and more motivated than ever to be part of The Buffalo Yacht Club.

It is clear that hosting regular potential member events like this could be one of the best ways for us to welcome potential members and being able to combine them with events such as Junior Sailing really puts our best foot forward.

The membership committee is looking forward to the next new member event and welcomes any and all ideas to help make the next event even more successful.

Best regards,
Dwight



Top: new FJ's fill the basin

Above left and right: great crowd for the New boat dedication

Right: Fleet Captain Kulwicki and Merrily enjoying the day.

Bottom: Education Director Peter Godfrey addressing those gathered. Check out the plaque honoring those that made the purchase possible by donating to the Buffalo Yacht Club Foundation. Thanks!




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Fleet Updates By Doug Bienko

Eugene and Kelly O'Neill sailed into the basin just after Labor day on their new yacht Ritual. Good luck with your new boat!



A Season of Highs and Lows

Life as a racing sailor certainly has its highs and lows. Now that my boat has come out of the water, I have time to reflect on the 2017 season that just ended. I've been racing sailboats since 1977 and have certainly experienced both sides multiple times. However, I don't think I'll ever forget the 2017 season on our J/111 Vinyasa. Never before have I experienced so many highs and lows in a single season.

High:

The boat was launched in early May and the boat went together well.

Low:

It wasn't long, however, before we realized the instruments were not quite giving us all the information we were expecting. We noticed this on a day where winds were about 7mph. At first, the instruments seemed right.

Although the velocity hadn't seemed to change, after about 30 minutes, we started seeing wind speeds of 2mph. Then, 20mph. Then, 60mph. Then, 3mph. All over a period of about 10 minutes and no change in the velocity was noticed based on how the boat was sailing. Once we hit the dock, we tried a few adjustments. This made no difference.

Lower:

On our second race of the season, we were still struggling with the electronics but, that quickly faded in priority when our steering failed in the middle of the race. This was in about 20mph winds and rough seas. My heart started beating rapidly as the break wall was quickly getting very large. A Mayday call was issued and cancelled several minutes later. Thanks to my crews ability to get the sails down quickly, we were able to get the boat back under some semblance of control and to the RCR dock without any further damage.

High:

RCR was great. They were on the boat early the next morning and had everything working by the end of the day. I would like to thank Storm Warning for coming to our aid during this ordeal. They came to our side very quickly and it was very comforting to have the escort in to RCR. I would also like to stress that everyone with wheel steering should try their emergency tiller prior to an actual emergency. This is not something you want to figure out in the heat of the moment.

As long as I was already at RCR and I had Brian on the boat, I mentioned our problems with the instruments. Of course, the wind speed seemed correct while on the dock and there was nothing they could really do without seeing the issue.

Back to the original Low:

On our next few sails and after several readings of the manuals, we tried checking and changing several calibration and configuration settings. Still no luck with wind speed and now we had broken our boat speed readings, as well. Things were going in the wrong direction and we had the Lake Erie Interclub Cruise (a.k.a. Erie-Dover) coming up quickly.

After delivering the boat to Erie, PA, we called the support line for the electronics vendor and spent about three hours on the phone walking through all sorts of settings and diagnostics. In the end, they told us to get RCR involved when we got back to Buffalo and have them call the specific person we were working with. Hence, we set out on the Erie-Dover with only the GPS working.

Highs:

Winds during the Erie-Dover were between 15mph and 30mph for the entire five days. This event is largely point to point reaching and downwind legs. Perfect for a J/111. According to the GPS, we frequently hit speeds over the ground of 13kts and set a new speed record for Vinyasa of 17.8kts! Talk about an adrenaline high. Wow!

Low:

On the third day of the Erie-Dover, we raced 42 miles from Port Dover to Port Colborne. It was again a high wind day with great boat speeds. Unfortunately, as we approached the finish and decided to douse the spinnaker, it ended up in the water. It shredded and we couldn't get it back in the boat. With the beach approaching, we had no choice. We cut it loose and watched it sink, along with the lines that were still attached. 41.9 miles of awesome. 0.1 miles of frustration and depression. This not only hurt that day, but soured our mood for the final two days of the event.

continued on page 9



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All photos this page: 2017 J-22 American Championship.
Right: Chris Doyle and his Jug 41 finishes first in the last race, causing a overall tie. and they win the tie-breaker. His crew are Will Harris and Adam Burns, well done gentlemen...



continued from page 7

High:

Overall, Vinyasa took two 2nd place finishes out of five races and 3rd overall in our fleet for the Erie-Dover. Respectable results for our first Erie-Dover.

Low:

Following the Erie-Dover, our first race back in Buffalo brought a new problem to light. The roller furling unit for our jib was not working well at all. It was so bad, we had to drop out and head for the dock. After some investigation, we realized that we had broken the top cap on the head foil and it started to split the top of the foil. Really?! This likely happened during the final day of the Erie-Dover and we hadn't noticed....until now.

High:

Again, RCR was great. They ordered the new parts and had the furler working once the parts came in a few days later. They had also contacted the support team for the electronics. Brian was able to restore the boat speed through a configuration change. Progress!

Low:

While we now had boat speed, the wind speed was still out. It seemed that either the mast cable or the masthead unit or both had broken. We agreed to start with the less expensive piece and RCR ordered a new cable. Once that came in, we tested the new cable. No luck. RCR then ordered a new masthead unit. It turns out, the masthead unit with the upwash wand is not easy to find as few are kept in stock and you have to find one.

Late Season Highs:

RCR did manage to track down a new masthead unit and it came with a new cable. To be safe, RCR installed the new masthead unit with the new cable and SUCCESS!! It's now late August, but we finally have everything working for the first time all season. Finally, we could actually sail to our polars and not just by the seat of our pants.

Results improved over the last couple of weeks.

We won the BYC Mayor's Cup race. Not only on time, but we were also the first to finish. What a great day! In the BHSC Last Chance Regatta, we started race #1 poorly and finished the same.

In race #2, we managed to finish boat for boat in front of one of our hardest competitors, the J/120 Sledge Hammer. We lost on time, but finishing in front of them is an accomplishment in itself. While not a win, it was still a nice finish for us.

In the final race of the year, the BYC **Obersheimer Cup, we won again! A pricey victory as the winner must provide the post-race rum at the party. However, after a season like this one, it was worth the price.**

It should be noted that I absolutely LOVE the J/111. I've owned several other boats and liked them all, but the J/111 is one of those special J Boats designs that just works incredibly well. Aside from the electronics, the issues were all inflicted in heavy weather sailing conditions and, now that they are sorted out, I do not believe these will occur, again.

As I stated in the beginning, racing sailors see a lot of highs and lows. It's a hobby that can be filled with the lows and frustrations of boat ownership, as well as the highs of friendships and success. Fortunately, time has a way of losing the lows and keeping the highs. I'll certainly remember hitting 17.8kts. Everything else aside, that was worth the price of admission and memories like that keep me coming back to the sport I love year after year.

Mike Barry



Amazing Potato



Poison Ivy



Black Sheep



Yoga on the lawn participants, Kelly O'Neill, Jenn Kuhn, Doug Bienko, Melissa Campbell, and Kate Little. all had a blast on a beautiful day in the basin.

Get Your BYC Swag On!
 We've recently spruced up the BYC Store. Located in the Lower Deck hallway, our display case highlights the varied BYC-emblazoned merchandise available for purchase. Apparel choices include the ever popular Fleece (both ¼ zip and full zipper), Polos, Button-downs, and Nylon Wind-shirts, and both lightweight and fleece-lined Jackets. But that's not all – there are fun items such as BYC License Plate Frames, BYC Burgess (great to take along on vacation as an offering when you're visiting reciprocal clubs), and BYC Tumblers, Lanyards, Beach/Picnic Blankets, and Commemorative Books. During regular business hours, Paul Palladino in the front office will be happy to assist you with your purchase. Never at the club in the middle of the workday? Not to worry – scope out the merchandise whenever you're at the club and simply call Paul to place your order. We've got the goods! So with the holidays fast approaching, why not pick up some BYC merchandise today!

Sara Hanavan



Damn Yankee above. Below right: busy morning for OB Cup. Bottom: Joe Roetter

MEMBERSHIP

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

Active: John & Margaret Buscher; Social: Janet MacDonald; Pt. Abino: Kim & Donna Crossman.

Changing classification were: Social to Active: Eugene & Kelly O'Neill; Active to Social: Timothy Haley; Social to Non-Resident: Roger & Carol Forden; Non-Resident to Active: Dave Eckel.

Reinstatements accepted from: Active: George & Allison Blessios; Social: William Zimmermann, Dr. Gary Alexander, J. Gerard Green, and Ronald & Susan Uba.

Resignations accepted with regret from: Active: Chris Malof; Social: Kathleen Filipiak.

We mourn the deaths of Leonard Chabot and James Blackhurst.



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2017 Obersheimer Cup Race
by Doug Bienko Binnacle Editor

Looked pretty sketchy for the start, with very light winds out of 270 at registration, so I decided to go take a look on the lake. I "borrowed" Tom Lewin's boat and blasted out to B mark at the Waverly Shoal. Tom was on the 15th floor of a building and texting back and forth furiously with me, we decided that he could tell it was me after I did a couple of circles out there. The wind was at 270 true all the way out there, so I went back in and told the skippers the course, all of the Black Rock canal marks, A mark (R4) to starboard, B mark to port, A mark to port on the way back, and of course all of the Black Rock marks to finish in front of the club. Everyone got a start time, (handicapped race in that we give the handicap up front) and the slow boats starting first. Bill Flaglor from the celebrated gun crew was there to fire the signals, so we got the fleet off and running. I jumped back in Catch-22 and went out on the course to observe and take photos. There was some passing going on right away, as Joe Gelsimino, the defending champ jumped out to an early lead. The wind did come up against all odds by this time, and everybody was pretty powered up. At the weather mark (B) he was following Eric Christensen's Amazing Potato and Storm Warning, and Vinyasa, and Damn Yankee, and Poison Ivy. At the A mark, Storm Warning had the lead, till Vinyasa went by them like a scalded dog (no dogs were injured in this story). Storm Warning did hold off Teddy Johnson in Damn Yankee however for second.

Fun day, with everybody remarking how Tom Lewin was texting them while they were racing. Of course not all sunshine for the winner Mike Barry, as this race is pretty costly by the time you fill the cup. Repeatedly.



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From the Regatta Director, Doug Bienko
 Whew, what a year. The Great race, the J-22 North American Championship, Mayors Cup Queen City Regatta, all well run and fun due to the outstanding people on the regatta committee. They did an great job this year. Kudos to Jim Atkinson, Greg Zadrozny, Jim Kulwicki, Mike Barry, Tom Lewin, Ted Johnson, Tim Hunt, Louis Johnson, Kate Little and Patrick Weisansal. Well done gang. The race committee work was outstanding as well, with the Ihrigs Mike McGhee and Bobby, Flo Vach, Tom Lewin, and Chuck Chilcott doing their best to make our regattas the best they can be. Thanks to Jack Smith for his support (and boat) when we need it. Finally, thanks to all those who contibuted to this edition, I really have a time problem since I "retired".

James Blackhurst passed away on July 20, 2017 in Delray Beach Florida. He had been a member since 1980, sailing his boat Winsome. He is survived by his family: wife Judy Dezeeuw-Blackhurst, and 5 children.

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Below: New members John and Margaret Buscher

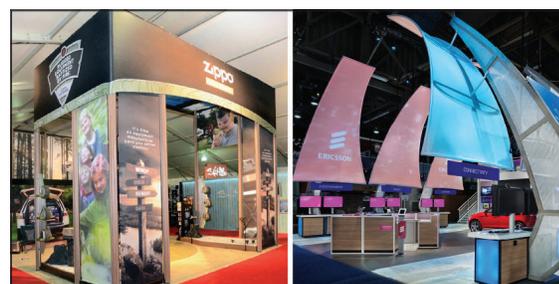


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