

Port Tacks

The Finger Lakes Yacht Club – Village Marina, Watkins Glen, New York

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Meeting Notice!

FLYC members are cordially invited to attend the "Winter Doldrums Rendezvous" on Sunday, February 27th.

For details, please see the newsletter insert.

Corrections

If you notice any newsletter or web site errors, please do not hesitate to contact the editor at the e-mail address below. Your feedback is appreciated!
flyc@FLYC.US

Introducing the FLYC..., Again!

It's been a couple of years since you've seen a newsletter from the FLYC. During that time the club has done well, but moved along largely by force of habit. Happily, there has been a resurgence of enthusiasm among the membership and we have not only a full slate of club officers and directors, but also a complete roster of volunteers for the club's various committees and working groups. We have some fresh leadership along with some fresh ideas and renewed energy. This is certainly a good thing for our club.

Along with the enthusiasm comes ambition to expand club activities. In the past, we have had an active racing program along with a full social calendar to help us appreciate the all-too-short boating season of upstate New York. This year, plans are underway to make significant upgrades to the club's cruising activities. The addition of boating and sailing classes for members is also being organized.

To be successful, all of these opportunities need to be communicated to you, the

members. Expect to see more information on the club's web site as it receives a much-needed update this spring. The club newsletter will also be upgraded as needed in order to be an effective means of letting you know what is going on and how you can get involved.

In other words, the FLYC is undergoing a refit during this off-season. When we launch in a couple of months, hopefully you will see a "new and improved" version of the club we all enjoy so much.

As with any refit and its subsequent commissioning, there will be a few rough spots during the shakedown. Your critiques will be welcomed, but your help to fine-tune the revitalized FLYC will be truly appreciated.

So come aboard, enjoy the ride, and don't be afraid to help raise the sails by getting involved. After all, the best camaraderie is that found among a vessel's crew.

Members, meet your "new" club!

- Editor

Commodore's Comments

By Wilbur Dowdle, S/V The Irish Wake



"Thar she blows!" The summer of 2011 will soon be surfacing; let's all get ready for her.

The Finger Lakes Yacht Club is not waiting until we see the warm sun and fair winds. We're working now. You'll be glad to hear that we now have a full board of eager, willing and very capable people, and

all are attempting to make this the best year yet.

The club's web site (www.FLYC.US) will be our sounding board as well as your chart to new events and social gatherings this year. We will be looking forward to your questions and comments. The web site will be kept up to date with a membership list with contact info for each member, slip number and boat name. (Anyone want to help? Contact Tom Alley or Ray Margeson.)

The News Letter will be on our web site and we hope to have a few mailers as well. Let's try to keep the mailings down. Dollars, you know.

The board is looking forward to more sailing this year. Cruising will be as important as racing. Maybe sailing in a mixed group of boat types doesn't sound too tough, but just ask those who have done it. It's as hard to sail slower than usual as it is to race. We'll attempt to set up day sails as well as the longer overnights. One of the advantages to this type of sailing is learning to sail to given destinations rather than just where the best winds take us. Tony Ruiz has agreed to head up this new Cruising area and will be looking to all of you for ideas and some help.



Continued next page

Upcoming Events & Dates

FEBRUARY

02/27 Board of Directors Meeting – Meetings are open to club members. The meeting location is still being arranged, so check the web site for details if you wish to attend.

MARCH

03/31 Newsletter Deadline – Please have all submissions for the April newsletter to the editor by the end of the day.

MAY

05/01 Membership Renewals – All membership renewals are due at this time. Be sure to fill in your renewal form (enclosed) and get it to the Treasurer as soon as you can!

05/14 Commissioning Tailgate Party – Take a break from your spring commissioning chores and join your fellow sailors for some pizza. BYOB (Beverage) and BYOLC (Lawn Chair).

FLYC Event Calendar – Finishing touches are being made to the club calendar. Look for it on the club web site and in the next newsletter!

<http://www.flyc.us/>

LATE BREAKING NEWS

FLYC Membership Cards

Membership cards might seem like an unnecessary formality in a small (and informal) club like ours, but if you plan to go cruising anywhere, be sure you have a current FLYC card! Most yacht clubs will recognize membership in another club and provide some sort of reciprocal recognition.

Remember that reciprocity is not free. The price is to be welcoming to visitors of our homeport. (Not a problem for FLYC members!)

Commodore's Comments

Continued from Page 1

Ray Montondo will be our race chairman again this year and is looking into some ideas for visiting captains to be given race points while sailing a boat other than his own. The idea is to encourage more crewing by experienced sailors to help build a larger race fleet. We will be working with Ray to get the equipment he needs to continue his good work again this season.

Each dock will have a FLYC Representative. The FLYC “rep” will be listed on the web site for your dock. Any time you have a question or need something, the Rep will be there to help. If he (or she) can't help, you will be directed to someone who can. The idea is to pull the Club together and be there for anything its members might need. The more help, the less work; the less work, the more fun and relaxation. That's why we're here.

Another new feature for FLYC members in 2011 will be the availability of boating and sailing classes. After exploring various options, the club has partnered with the Seneca Sail & Power Squadron and the United States Power Squadrons to offer a complete line of classes and seminars covering many aspects of our beloved hobby. I encourage you to look into this. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

The club is having another board meeting on Feb. 27th. I'll have more information after that.

Meet Your Commodore

by Wilbur Dowdle, S/V The Irish Wake

First and foremost, I would like to thank all the members that voted for me in November to be your Commodore.

For those who do not know me, let me give you a little background. Dawn (my lovely wife) and I bought a Newport 28 in June of 2009. She was on Dock 4 in slip 425. We named her *Celtic Dawn II* and she was our first keelboat.

I have retired from the insurance business where I was a claims adjuster for 39 years. My last 15 years I had the privilege of heading up a disaster team that handled hurricanes, floods and other large losses. Dawn has retired (although way too young) from Alfred University where she was assistant controller and worked in the finance office for over 19 years. She then took on the role of Town Supervisor for the Town of Wayne before retiring again.

In July of 2010 we purchased *Seneca Sunset*, a Hunter 336, from John and Rea Read. John joked at the time that the Commodore job went with it. I just hope I can do half as good a job as John did. In 2011 our vessel will be rechristened *The Irish Wake*, our last big party.

A near disaster cemented our loyalty to Village Marina and the FLYC. We were caught in 40 mph winds while returning from an overnight cruise to Miles Winery. With my lack of experience I attempted to come into my slip and got in trouble – in a big way. I managed to get back onto the lake and then tried to come into dock 5. Fighting high winds and sheets of rain, we looked up and saw at least seven people standing at the dock with lines, fenders and helping hands. All were FLYC members. Dawn and I made up our minds at that instant that we wanted to be part of a group that reacted in that way: Good people doing good for others.

I see my job as Commodore to be one of service. My commitment to the FLYC will be to implement your needs and desires through committees and directors. We can work together to further develop our goals.

With that being said, my companionway will always be open to your ideas and needs.

Your Commodore, Wilbur

Meet Your Vice-Commodore

by Cliff Geer, S/V Moonlight Lady

Nancy and I have been members of the FLYC since its inception. We bought our first sailboat, a Hunter 23, in 1987. Neither of us had ever sailed a boat but thought it would be a good thing for us, together with our three children, to learn to sail. We learned the basics on the 23 and in 1989 purchased a 28-foot Hunter that we kept until 2008 when, with grandchildren and retirement, we moved up to our present Hunter 34.

I am looking forward to working with the officers and members of the FLYC this summer for the club has always been family oriented with an emphasis on safe sailing, racing, and socialization. I look forward to a successful sailing season in 2011.



Meet Your Cruise Director

by Dr. Antonio Ruiz, S/V Carol D

My name is Tony Ruiz and I have been sailing together with my wife, Christa, aboard an O'Day 22 out of the Watkins Marina for the last two years. This fall we bought a new boat, a Watkins 25 named *Carol D*, with the intention of doing some cruising. Before I knew it, I got appointed to help organize the cruising events for the FLYC!

Luckily, more experienced members like Peter Knott (Pearson 30, *Quality Time II*) offered to help me. Along with some more knowledgeable FLYC "cruising" veterans, Peter and I thought it would be a good idea to put together a Cruising "How-To" session at the beginning of the season. At the moment we are trying to explore how we can make that happen.

As with prior years, the annual cruise to Miles Winery Cruise is being planned again in 2011.

The social committee and I would very much appreciate input from all FLYC members on day cruises you would like to see added in the 2011 season. Share your secret favorite location at Seneca Lake with other members. Also on the docket is to explore the possibility of an overnight cruise to Geneva.

Finally, did you know this is the 20th anniversary of the Finger Lakes Yacht Club? We would like to have as many FLYC boats as possible out and sailing that day. Brainstorming among us we listed cruising activities, a boat maneuver and sailing exercise competition, solving riddles or brain teasers, and/or treasurer hunting using GPS locations. Dressing up in costumes might also be fun. Your ideas are needed to help celebrate this milestone!

We'd like to hold this event on August 6, 2011. Please contact Ray Montondo (Hunter 30, *No Worries*), Lynne McGinnis (Hunter 334, *Elyria*) or me with all your good ideas and suggestions.

I look forward to sail with you in 2011!

Meet Your Rear-Commodore

by Ray Montondo, S/V No Worries

Hello FLYC members. I am the FLYC Rear Commodore, Ray Montondo. I think I have been an FLYC member for 7 years now, and am on my third boat. *No Worries*, my Hunter 30, had been sitting in the yard for as long as I had been at the club. She became my project during the summer of 2009 and I fist launched her last spring. I had a lot to learn about sailing her when I first took to the water, but she was definitely worth the effort. My wife Amy, my family, friends and I had many good times during the season, and are looking forward to the next which is right around the corner.

The FLYC board and committees are bursting at the seams with volunteers and enthusiasm this year! The Finger Lakes Yacht Club will celebrate its 20th anniversary this year. I have sailed at a number of yacht clubs, but have yet to find another with the high level of camaraderie and



*** PRELIMINARY ***

FLYC Race Schedule

All times indicate the beginning of the skippers' meeting prior to the race. This meeting is mandatory for anyone wishing to compete. Each boat must have at least one representative at this meeting.

Rig-Tuning/Practice Race

May 21st @ 14:00

FLYC Summer Series

Best 6 of 8 races will be scored to determine the series result.

1. May 28th @ 14:00
2. June 4th @ 14:00
3. June 11th @ 10:00
4. July 2nd @ 14:00
5. July 16th @ 14:00
6. July 30th @ 14:00
7. August 13th @ 14:00
8. August 27th @ 14:00

Make-Up Races (if needed)

- September 10th @ 14:00
- September 17th @ 14:00

FLYC Race to Lodi

July 23rd @ 09:00

See notes under the Event Calendar for a description of the social events coupled with this race. Special racing and scoring rules will apply to this event.

Entry Fees

The racing program at FLYC is self-funding. Unless stated otherwise in the sailing instructions, the following fee schedule will be observed.

Summer Series: Free for FLYC members. \$5/boat for non-members.

Race to Lodi: Free to FLYC members. (Race only.)

Handicapping & Scoring

Handicaps are assigned using the PHRF system with some local adjustments. Scoring is done using the time-on-distance system.

Additional Information

For additional information on the FLYC racing program and for the most current schedule and scoring results, please refer to the club web site and click on the "Racing" link.



FINGER LAKES YACHT CLUB

P. O. Box 224
Watkins Glen, NY
USA 14891

WEB:
www.flyc.us

E-MAIL:
flyc@flyc.us

KEY CONTACTS:

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Commodore
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Cliff Geer,
Vice Commodore
(607) 535-6062

Ray Montondo,
Rear Commodore
(607) 733-3935

Please recognize that club contacts are volunteers; call them only during reasonable hours. Thanks!

Rear Commodore (continued from page 3)

sportsmanship that is found here at FLYC. Last year was a great season. Many new boats came out and participated in the racing events, even our last sail in October drew a good-sized fleet. The Grape Harvest Race turned out to be one of the most enjoyable and fun races for the season, of course having a nice breeze helped.

A few years back we began a golf style handicapping system and it seems to be working very well. If your boat isn't set up well for racing the scoring will continually correct until you are right up in the fleet. If the racing improves your sailing skills you will eventually find yourself with the lead boats. Of course all good things must come to an end. Boats that continually do very well will also be corrected the other way. This year we are looking forward to having our marks back in the water, and adding another stand alone race similar to the Grape Harvest Race, earlier in the season.

I have always felt that the amount of fun we have sailing as a club is directly proportional to the number of boats we get out on the water together. I hope everyone comes out and sails with the fleet, and encourages their neighbor to join in on the fun too. In addition to the racing events we are also adding more fun cruising events! Check out Tony's article and watch for more updates! For those of you haven't raced be forewarned; Sailing with a fleet is rewarding, addictive, and contagious. Come sail with us!

About the Finger Lakes Yacht Club...

Situated between the vineyards of Central New York at the southern end of Seneca Lake, you will find the Finger Lakes Yacht Club at its home in the Watkins Glen Village Marina.

The FLYC is a small, easy-going and informal group of boaters with a focus on family-friendly activities and the enjoyment of boats

and boating. Dues are reasonable and the atmosphere is welcoming and engaging.

For more information about the club, check out the web site, the club bulletin board at the marina (near the restrooms) or, better yet, talk to the folks on the dock. They will be happy to help you!

Finger Lakes Yacht Club

P. O. Box 224
Watkins Glen, NY
USA 14891



Finger Lakes Yacht Club

Membership Application

Membership renewals are due by May 1st each year. Send this completed application with your \$40 check to:

Finger Lakes Yacht Club, Inc.
P. O. Box 224
Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Are you also a member of the U.S. Power Squadron? If so, please check this box.

Application: New member Renewal

Important: Please be sure to include the names of all of your "dependent" family members. This will ensure that membership privileges are awarded properly.

Name(s): _____

Please indicate which areas interest you:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Racing | <input type="checkbox"/> Web site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cruising | <input type="checkbox"/> Sailing classes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | _____ |

Address: _____

Phone: Home: (____) _____ Work (____) _____
Cell: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Boat Name _____ Type: Sail Power

Make/Model _____ Length _____

Boat Year _____ Location/Slip# _____

By this application, I/we promise to uphold the By-laws of the Finger Lakes Yacht Club, Inc. and to comply with its rules and regulations.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Winter Doldrums' Rendezvous

Finger Lake Yacht Club Members

Come join us for a gathering at the lake to shorten the winter doldrums. Good friends, good food and a little grog if you wish.

When: Feb. 27, 2011

**Where: Seneca Harbor Station, Watkins Glen
2:00 pm for lunch and libations**

Menu: Group price of only \$10.00 plus tax and gratuity per person

French Onion Steak Sandwich
Grilled Chicken Sandwich
Docksider Burger
Harbor Turkey Panini
Fish & Chips
Caesar Salad with Chicken

All sandwich choices served with pickle, homemade potato chips, soft drink, coffee or hot tea.

The FLYC Board will hold their meeting at 1:00 pm and adjourn for the group lunch where we will entertain questions and comments. Any one wishing to attend the meeting is welcome. The board will reconvene, if need be after lunch.

RSVP: Wilburd@frontiernet.net no later than Feb 20th.

Look forward to seeing everyone!