

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

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## Member Notice!

Reminder: Membership dues were due on May 1<sup>st</sup>. If you haven't renewed your membership, yet, you can give your completed application to Sue Morris aboard Sales Call on dock 3.

## 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

## Getting Into The Groove

June is more than the beginning of hurricane season. It also signifies that the boating season in upstate New York is in full swing. Despite the long winter, late and wet spring, and high water delays, most of us should be in the water by now and changing into our summertime rhythms where we once again rebalance our schedules to accommodate the time we want (or need) to be aboard our boats.

Similarly, with this third issue of the club newsletter, your new officers, committee chairs and other contributors are getting settled into the routine of writing articles and submitting material. Likewise, the editor is again resigned to the fact that a certain level of nagging, bribing, cajoling and outright threats are required to make all of it happen. (Some things never do change! ☺)

This month we have an eclectic mix of topics in the newsletter. Aside from the usual club business, we have some columns

discussing cruising, boating education, and nautical traditions. There is also information on how to order boating apparel with the FLYC embroidered logo, a duplicate of the club event schedule to hang on your refrigerator. There's even a short column from someone at the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary with some tips to get your boat to stay put when anchoring.

So as the weather warms up and the breezes turn fair, make it a point to get out and visit your boat on a regular basis. Make the most of the summer and the boating season this year.

Get into your groove!



## Commodore's Comments

By Wilbur Dowdle, S/V The Irish Wake



A quick note on what's going on in the club. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of May we had a "Nautical yard sale" at the Marina. The folks that have been involved in these before said it was a good turnout. We had about eight or nine different people who brought items for sale and maybe twice that many buyers. The weather was not on our side and that turned several away for sure. In fact, we had the meeting at

the Village Marina Restaurant rather tempt Mother Nature. Mike, the restaurant manager, furnished pizza for all and at a very good price. You might want to thank him when you see him.

The attendance was low at the meeting so it was decided to have another one on the 29<sup>th</sup> along with the All American Picnic. As these meeting are for the membership and meant to provide a chance to get questions answered by the directors we all hoped

for better weather and a larger attendance.

At the May 29<sup>th</sup> cook out we had a better showing, all pitched in and with some co-operation with Mother Nature the sun blessed us with a rare dry day. Hots and Hamburgers along with good conversation made for a pleasant evening at the lake. I think we had over 20 folks. Sometimes a hotdog or hamburger is just right for the occasion.

A change was made at the meeting, all applications are now to be sent to Sue Morris along with payment. Sue will issue a membership card, record the application and then forward the money to Terry to be deposited. Application forms can be printed from the web site, the newsletter, or picked up from the dock reps. We have 31 paid members to date so if you see a friend that's a member, remind them of the need to renew their memberships. If you print off a few and have them on your boat, you can pick up the application and get it to Sue. Scott Stevens was our member representative but his many other duties spread him too thin.

Continued next page

## Upcoming Events & Dates

### JUNE

- 06/03@18:00 Boat Christening** – An annual tradition at FLYC. Come and experience it!
- 06/04@14:00 Summer Race #1**  
**06/04@18:00 Chicken BBQ Dinner**  
One of the “signature” meals served by the FLYC. Don’t miss it!
- 06/11@10:00 Summer Race #2**  
**06/19@14:00 FLYC Guest Race**  
**06/25@11:00 ‘Tour de Lac’ GPS Competition**  
**06/25@17:00 Tour de Lac Awards Dinner**

### JULY

- 07/02@14:00 Summer Race #3**  
**07/02@Dark Independence Day**  
**Fireworks** – Enjoy a great view of the village fireworks either from the lake or from your slip.
- 07/08-10 Seneca South-North**  
**Cruise** – Cruise from Watkins Glen to Geneva & back.
- 07/16@14:00 Summer Race #4**  
**07/23@09:00 Commodore’s Race to Lodi** – A great way to learn how to go cruising and explore another part of the lake.
- 07/23@17:00 Lodi Beach Party**  
**07/30@14:00 Summer Race #5**

**FLYC Event Calendar** – See the whole season schedule in this issue!

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

## LATE BREAKING NEWS

### Where Is *Tomfoolery*?

There have been a number of inquiries as to the whereabouts of *Tomfoolery*, normally seen on Dock 4 by this time in the season.

*Tomfoolery* is undergoing a summer-long refit to fix some soft spots in her deck, along with some miscellaneous updates and upgrades that most “good old boats” require.

If you’re curious, or want to enjoy a good laugh that most boat maintenance chores usually generate, you can follow along with her dry dock adventures at the following web site:

<http://tomfoolery.alberg35.org>

## Commodore’s Comments

*Continued from Page 1*

Thanks for all your hard work up to now, Scotty. When you get your Membership card, thank Ray Margeson, Nice job, Ray.

Don’t forget to sign up for any social event you want to be involved in. The sheet will be posted at bulletin board outside the restrooms at the Marina Restaurant.

Erin Collins has FLYC calendars for sale. Check on the web site for her E-mail address.

Lands End will put our logo on anything you purchase from their business website for a small fee. The club paid for the design that’s registered with them and again check the FLYC web site. *[See details on how to order on page 4 of this newsletter. –Ed.]*

The club took a few minutes to honor all the friends from the Marina that we lost this last year. We seem to take life for granted until we lose a friend or that dock mate that was always there. Being able to be on or near our boats is a privilege that we should all cherish every day.

The storm we had on May 29<sup>th</sup> turned Seneca Lake into a coffee brown mess of floating debris. When the lake clears and looks safe, take extra care. Those large logs will take a long time to leave the lake and will do huge damage to your hull or prop. If you see something out there and can, pick it up.

We are still looking for ideas to help celebrate the club’s 20<sup>th</sup> year. Please send your thoughts to Lynne, Tony, or Ray.

Tom Alley is still looking for articles for future issues of the newsletter. Why not write up something about your boat or an interesting experience you may have had? Tom likes photos!

That’s about all from here. Stay in touch and remember, my companion way is always open. Stop by and say ‘Hi.’

*- Wilbur*

## Safe Anchoring

*by Penny Baily, USCGA*

### Safe Anchoring

WASHINGTON - There are two reasons to anchor: 1) to attach a boat to the bottom and 2) to keep a boat in position when there is an emergency.

What anchor is best? That depends on the boat, the kind of anchoring needed and bottom conditions. While a variety of anchors are available including include plow, grapnel, mushroom, box and Danforth, the techniques that follow generally apply to all.

Marine chandlers should have a chart recommending the size of the anchor relative to boat size. It’s a good idea to attach 6 to 12 feet of chain between the anchor and the anchor line.) This adds additional weight to the anchor and making hooking a bit easier and reduces the probability of dragging.

The useable length of the anchor line (rode) should be at least 10 times the depth of the water. The amount of line paid out, the ‘scope’, should be at least 7 times the depth of water. If using a box anchor, the scope needs only to be twice the depth of water.

When anchoring, determine the water depth. Make sure that when the boat swings around due to wind or current, the boat will not hit another boat, go aground, or hit something else. Head into the wind. Come to a complete stop and slowly lower the anchor by paying out the line hand over hand. Do not throw it!

Once the anchor is on the bottom, slowly back the boat until there is about 3 times as much line out as the depth. Holding the rode over a cleat one should be able to feel the anchor as it drags over the bottom. When it “sets” firmly, the boat will stop. After the anchor is set, let out more rode get the needed scope. Make sure the anchor line is tied off to a cleat.

It is a good idea to look at several land objects, like special trees, rocks or buoys. If these objects stay in their relative position to the boat, the boat is not dragging. If they change signifi-

*Continue next page...*

## Safe Anchoring (con'd)

cantly, the anchor may need to be reset.

*The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed volunteer Component of the United States Coast Guard created by an Act of Congress in 1939. The Auxiliary, America's Volunteer Guardians, supports the Coast Guard in nearly all of the service's missions.*

## From The Social Director

by Lynne McGinnis, S/V Brewster

On June 4th there will be a Memorial Service for William Oakes at 10:00 a.m. at the Village Marina flagpole. Bill started the "Last Ditch Yacht Club" around 1980 before our present day Marina was built. The Finger Lakes Yacht Club is invited to attend this service.

On June 4<sup>th</sup> At 5PM (1700 hrs) we will set up tables and chairs for the 6PM (1800 hrs) Chicken BBQ. Each family is asked to bring a dish to pass or a dessert.

On June 17<sup>th</sup> the club is being asked to light up their boat at dusk for "Light Up the Glen" as a part of the celebration for the Cardboard Regatta on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, everyone has already received Parking passes from the Village Marina for that weekend and a map showing where to park.

On June 25<sup>th</sup> there will be a GPS competition with an Awards Dinner at Set up at 5PM (1700 hrs) and dinner. The dinner is open to everyone. Please bring a dish to pass or a dessert and come hear how well everyone did finding the clues from around the lake and plotting each destination.



## From the Cruising Chairman

by Tony Ruiz, S/V Carol D

### Seneca Lake South-North Cruising Event

While planning for overnight cruising opportunities on Seneca Lake I discovered that there are only limited overnight dockages sites available. Too bad we do not have more Marinas along Seneca Lake, but as you know those are pretty much only at the south and north end of the lake. Thus, the obvious idea is to sail from the south (Watkins Glen) to the north (Geneva).

To explore this idea of a weekend cruise up to the north end of Seneca Lake I contacted the leadership of the Seneca Yacht Club (SYC). The initial idea was that if Finger Lakes Yacht Club (FLYC) and SYC could agree upon a weekend, FLYC boats could sail from Watkins Glen up to Geneva, NY on a Saturday, spend the night at SYC facilities during Saturday night and then return to Watkins Glen on Sunday. Similarly, SYC boats could sail from Geneva to the Watkins Glen Village Marina (VM) on the same Saturday and use the VM boat slips vacated by the VM boats sailing up to SYC.

Since FLYC does not own the Marina or the boat Slips, FLYC does not have any way to reciprocate with SYC for slips. FLYC can offer use of our members' slips at the Village Marina while they are off cruising. So if several FLYC boats cruise up to SYC, their slips will be available for use by SYC members. Otherwise The Village Marina will charge SYC Members ~\$25 to stay at the Guest Dock.

Chrissy Bennett West and Tom Toher presented the idea at a SYC board meeting, and although the board unanimously agreed that it is a great idea, they had to recognize that the SYC does not have the facilities to accommodate such an event. They only have few docks available for transient use; there are no slips that are occupied by member's boats – just moorings and slips at the local marina and the state park.

Next, I contacted Bob Stivers, owner of Stivers Seneca Marine in Waterloo, NY, to explore how



## 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.

### Early Bird Race

May 29<sup>th</sup> @ 14:00

### FLYC Summer Series

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

1. June 4<sup>th</sup> @ 14:00
2. June 11<sup>th</sup> @ 14:00
3. July 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 14:00
4. July 16<sup>th</sup> @ 14:00
5. July 30<sup>th</sup> @ 14:00
6. August 13<sup>th</sup> @ 14:00
7. August 27<sup>th</sup> @ 14:00
8. September 10<sup>th</sup> @ 14:00

Make-Up Races (if needed)

- September 17<sup>th</sup> @ 14:00

### FLYC Guest Race

June 19<sup>th</sup> @ 14:00

### FLYC Race to Lodi

July 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 09:00

### Grape Harvest Race

October 9th @ 14:00

### Entry Fees

There are no race entry fees for FLYC members.

### Handicapping & Scoring

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

### 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.

## Other FLYC Fleet Events

Not into racing? Join the FLYC fleet for some cruises to various points on the lake! Contact Tony Ruiz, the club cruise director, or the club web site for additional details.

July 8/9/10<sup>th</sup> – Seneca South-North Cruise. (see article this page)

June 25<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 – Tour de Lac GPS competition.

Continued on last page.



## Boat Christening: Some History Behind the Tradition

by Cliff Geer, S/V Moonlight Lady

Boat christening is not anything new. The practice dates back to ancient times when Greeks, Romans, Egyptians and Vikings called upon the gods to protect their ships and crew from the perilous seas. It has been reported that the Vikings offered human sacrifices upon launching a new boat. Now we are not proposing any human sacrifices but the christening of a boat is a fun event that can be enjoyed by all.

Christening gives a boat her identity. It always has been intended that a proper christening and accompanying ceremony ensure good fortune to the boat and her crew throughout the life of the vessel. Mariners have long held to the belief that it is bad luck to change the name of a boat but if you are renaming your boat follow certain guidelines.

First, remove the tiniest trace of the old name. Then, at the christening ceremony, give a short speech telling the boat what her new name is. Bring two bottles of the finest champagne or wine that you probably can't afford (the boat has probably taken all your cash and will continue to do so). Offer the first bottle of spirits to the boat and the gods of the lake and make sure you have enough for all your friends who are there to celebrate your good fortune of owning a boat.



- Cliff

## FLYC Apparel Now Available at Land's End!

by Jim Morris, S/V Sales Call

At the recent All-American Picnic, there was a lot of interest in the shirts that Sue and I were wearing with the FLYC logo embroidered on them. Here's how to get your own!

The FLYC has created our logo with Land's End. You can get a large assortment of clothing, travel bags, etc. (just about anything Lands End sells) embroidered with the logo for an additional \$6 each by following these easy steps:

1. Go to the Land's End website - [http://ces.landsend.com/finger\\_lakes\\_yacht\\_club](http://ces.landsend.com/finger_lakes_yacht_club)  
(Don't type in www ahead of this or it will not work. Copy and paste this into your web browser and activate.)
2. The Lands End Business Outfitter home page will be displayed.  
You can browse the merchandise for men, women, etc. or use the "search" window if you know the item number you want to find.
3. When you are ready to add to your shopping bag, click on the item, pick quantity, color, size etc. and select "continue".
4. The "logo application" screen will appear. Next to the "LOGO1:" select the "flyc" logo. Next select the "Location1:" window and tell Lands End where to embroider the item.
5. Use the "special request box" to add notes on thread color or other special requests. The Lands End folks are pretty good about getting back to you and helping with special requests.
6. Either "keep shopping" OR "proceed to checkout".
7. Add shipping information. You can leave the "Company" window blank. Press "continue".
8. Add billing information and your payment method.

Telephone assistance is available at 1-800-587-1541 and they are very helpful.

Here is our information for the E-store:

Company Name: Finger Lakes Yacht Club  
Customer Number: 4772089  
Store Login ID: flyc  
Password: senecalake  
Store URL:

[http://ces.landsend.com/Finger\\_Lakes\\_Yacht\\_Club](http://ces.landsend.com/Finger_Lakes_Yacht_Club)  
(Note the underscore between the words)

Our logo design number: 1127184k

Note: The logo size is 3.17" long x 2.37" high which is appropriate for the front of shirts, sleeves, etc. The "Finger Lakes Yacht Club" lettering across the bottom can be embroidered with a color that compliments the garment - just ask. There is no additional charge.

The charge for embroidery is \$5.95 for each item and will be added to your bill.

Each FLYC member is responsible to pay for your own merchandise.

Have Fun!



Sample embroidery from Lands End.

## FLYC Event Calendar - 2011 (...in case you missed it in the last issue!)

### May

- 14 @ 10:00 – Nautical Swap Meet
- 14 @ 14:00 – Commissioning Party
- 29 @ 14:00 – Early Bird Race
- 29 @ 18:00 – All-American Picnic

### June

- 03 @ 18:00 – Annual Boat Christening
- 04 @ 14:00 – Summer Series Race #1
- 04 @ 18:00 – Chicken BBQ Dinner
- 11 @ 10:00 – Summer Series Race #2
- 18 @ Day – Watkins Glen Cardboard Boat Regatta (Not an FLYC event)
- 19 @ 14:00 – FLYC Guest Race
- 25 @ 11:00 – ‘Tour de Lac’ GPS Competition
- 25 @ 17:00 – Tour de Lac Awards Dinner

### July

- 02 @ 14:00 – Summer Series Race #3
- 02 @ Dark – Watkins Glen Independence Day Fireworks
- 08-09-10 – Seneca South-North Cruise
- 16 @ 14:00 – Summer Series Race #4
- 23 @ 09:00 – Commodore’s Race to Lodi
- 23 @ 17:00 – Lodi Beach Party
- 30 @ 14:00 – Summer Series Race #5

### August

- 05-07 – Watkins Glen Italian American Festival (not an FLYC event)
- 06 @ 10:00 – FLYC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

12-14 – NASCAR at the Glen

- 13 @ 14:00 – Summer Series Race #6
- 20 @ 11:00 – Miles Winery Overnight Cruise
- 20 @ 17:00 – Miles Winery Tour & Tasting
- 27 @ 14:00 – Summer Series Race #7

### September

- 04 @ 17:00 – Surf & Turf Dinner
- 10 @ 14:00 – Summer Series Race #8
- 17 @ 14:00 – Make-Up Race (if needed)
- 17 @ 17:00 – Chili Cook-Off

### October

- 09 @ 14:00 – Grape Harvest Race

### November

- 05 @ 18:00 – FLYC Banquet & Annual Meeting

### December

- 04 @ 14:00 – FLYC Board Meeting #1

### February (2012)

- 26 @ 14:00 – FLYC Board Meeting #2

### March (2012)

- 17 @ 17:00 – Winter Doldrums Get-Together

### Key

FLYC Summer Race Series

On-the-Water Event

## FLYC Scrapbook

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, the Finger Lakes held their first event at the Seneca Harbor Marina for 2011, a nautical swap meet. Due to the miserable spring conditions of high Seneca Lake water level, overcast skies, and generally depressing weather, attendance was a little spotty – but those who attended were able to catch a bargain or two and redistribute excess marine gear. Anything from a high quality anchor, to an old Catalina sail, to assorted boat hardware, knick-knacks, and electronic gear was available at bargain basement prices. There was a bit of friendly haggling and satisfied customers were the order of the day.

- Reported by Ray Margeson, S/V Hattie L



More on the next page...



## FLYC Scrapbook (con'd)



### Why Take Boating Classes?

by Wilbur Dowdle, S/V The Irish Wake

Why take courses even if you've been on the water for years? With years and years of boating experiences you can still learn something from the variety of classes offered by the U.S. Power Squadron or similar organizations. Let me give you a couple of examples of how the classes helped me understand more about this wonderful sport of ours.

I have sailed for close to 50 years on Keuka Lake. I've crewed on racing scows when a teenager and owned Hobie Cats for years. I can't think of a time when I didn't have a powerboat of some kind. When we purchased a keelboat on Seneca we started taking courses from the Power Squadron. Dawn wanted to learn more as she had not sailed before and had not been around boats as much as I had. I agreed to take them with her even though I knew I didn't need them. Wow, was I wrong.

Ever hear of "The Rules of The Road"? Well it seems that there are more rules for being on the water safely including sounds, signals, lights, charts, and more things that do not come up much when sailing back and forth across Keuka Lake. We had a chance to see some of this while sailing on an 1800's vintage two-masted schooner.

The *Grace Bailey* was a true sailing ship with no engine even though she was 118 ft. in length. Her only power was a dinghy with a diesel engine. While in port the dinghy is tied to the stern and gives the *Grace Bailey* its only method of movement. "Rules of the Road" say she is a powerboat while the dinghy is pushing her and she's bound by the "power craft" rules on the water. That was news to me before my class. I thought it was a sailboat no matter what. After leaving

the port the dinghy was brought aboard, and only then were we on a sailboat.

When we started moving from the dock the first mate sounded a loud, long blast on the ship's horn (power craft rules). When the sails were raised and we started moving again he sounded a long blast followed by two shot blasts. (sail boat moving). I didn't have a clue, but now I know. These same warnings are used in fog as we found out two days later.

As we sailed past lighthouses we could see the scenic beauty but not once did we realize that they are very important to navigation. I mean other than warning sailors of rocks and other dangers. Sailors check their plotted routes by using lighthouses to take a bearing that they use in making a fix, something we learned in our piloting course. The several red, green or other colored lights that dot the shore at night all have special meanings and without our training we wouldn't have known what they stand for.

All of this may be sound very basic but it is basic to safe seamanship. We never stop learning and the more we know about something we enjoy the more we'll enjoy it. The Power Squadron is offering classes this summer. Who knows, maybe even the oldest of salts can learn something or teach a newer sailor something. Hope to see you in class.



- Wilbur



**FINGER LAKES YACHT CLUB**

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**WEB:**

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**KEY CONTACTS:**

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Commodore  
(607) 769-0086

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!

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## From the Cruising Chairman (con'd)

many sailboats he could accommodate, whether there are size restrictions, if he would give us a discounted per night fee, and if both two nights (Friday-Sunday) or one night would be feasible.

Bob liked the idea and he could fit 15-20 boats, with some being rafted. He can accommodate depth from three to eight feet. He will give us a \$10 discount per night (\$20 instead of the typical \$30/night). My preliminary thought is to arrange for the cruise to happen July 8-9-10 with July 15-16-17 as backup.

I will talk to our social committee and the SYC board to plan for a social event in Geneva.

What I need now is for FLYC members to let me know who is interested to participate in this year's Seneca Lake South-North cruise event. Places will be reserved on a first come first serve basis. Cost will be the \$20 per night plus a monetary contribution toward the social event that evening.

Please send me an email at [drtonyruiz@gmail.com](mailto:drtonyruiz@gmail.com)

- Tony

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## 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  
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