

Port Tacks

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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

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

Basic Mathematics

As I begin writing this column, I'm sitting in an airport terminal waiting for the opportunity to cram myself into a pressurized metal cylinder with 150 absolute strangers to hurtle through the stratosphere at near sonic velocities. My travels will take me through several major American cities and move me halfway across a continent to my home port. I've already experienced several identity checkpoints, a couple of security screenings, and at least one x-ray "inspection". I'm thankful for the Velcro® "laces" on my shoes.

So what does this have to do with mathematics? Read on.

Consider the phrase, "an order of magnitude." Technically, an order of magnitude is simply a multiple of 10. It's certainly a familiar term, but do you really *grasp* its true meaning? Let's put the term into a familiar context.

It's the weekend. It's warm and sunny. There is a comfortable breeze from the west. Given the conditions, it would be a reasonable assumption that most of us would be aboard our boats and reaching up the lake at about 5 knots, perhaps a bit

more if we happen to be racing. A nice mental image, wouldn't you agree?

At the end of the day we get into our cars to go home. Since many of us live some distance from the marina, we likely get on the highway where it is acceptable to cruise at 55 mph, or about 50 knots. Gee, that sounds like an order of magnitude increase in velocity, doesn't it?

We're several paragraphs into this column and, after a couple of interruptions, I've logged back into my computer to finish this column. Our captain has just announced that we have reached our cruising altitude of 37,000 feet and we are traveling at about 500 knots – yet another order of magnitude greater than we cruise in our automobiles.

However, the image of the warm, sunny and breezy day sticks in my mind. Walk to the dock, undo the lines and go for a sail. No security checkpoints. No x-rays. No lines. Being barefoot is voluntary. Yes, it's two orders of magnitude slower to travel this way, but at least an order of magnitude more enjoyable!

See you on the water!

Commodore's Comments



The boats are going in....

Since my last report we have been busy. John and Rea Read hosted a get together at the House of Hong that was attended by 20-some folks. Every one enjoyed the evening; it's always great to get together with our "sailing family." Hats off and a big THANKS to the Read's for putting the event together!

On April 21st the day dawned with cold gray skies and then got worse. Rain, wind and 30-degree temperatures as eight hardy sailors mounted the cherry picker, one at a time, to make repairs to their masts. I'm sure the weather gods wanted to see just how tough these sailors really were. It was a true test, but all braved the worst and up they went. With wet cold fingers they removed or replaced screws, tightened bolts, drilled holes and all to insure a better sailing experience this summer.

By Wilbur Dowdle, S/V The Irish Wake

More than the weather, something else came to the front this day. Our sailing family is always ready to help. If you need a part, a strong back or sound advice, all stand ready to help. I am proud to call our members friends as well as our "sailing family".

Our membership fees are due May 1st. Unlike most things in the world, our dues have remained the same (\$40 per family) for several years. I can't think of a better value. Make sure you fill out an application and get it to Sue Morris with your check. (Be sure all your information is up to date and correct!) With all applications going to one person we can better keep our records correct and current. Sue will issue you a membership card when she gets your application.

As always we'll need volunteers again this year. I'm hoping that those who help will see that many hands make light work and being part of an event is more fun than just attending. If you have an interest in hosting an event, make your feelings known

Continued next page

Upcoming Events & Dates

MAY 2012

5/01 – Membership Renewals Due

The FLYC membership year begins on the 1st of May. If you haven't already done so, please make sure you send your completed membership renewal (and a check for \$40) to Secretary Sue Morris. Her address is on the membership form which can be found on the club web site.

5/19 @ 11:00 Nautical Flea Market

@ 14:00 Pizza Tailgate Party

5/26 @ 17:00 Happy Hour

@ 18:00 All American BBQ
Dinner with burgers/dogs/BBQ chicken provided. Please bring a dish to pass.

JUNE 2012

6/2 @ 18:00 Christening of the Boats

6/15 @ Dusk Waterfront Festival Lighting of the Fleet. All join in and have a spectacular lighting of the boats to kick off the festival as well as summer! Prizes will be awarded for best boat decorations! Suggestion for lite appetizers/drinks to socialize!

6/16 @ 12:00 Cardboard Boat Regatta. Not an FLYC event, but it is a spectacle that needs to be witnessed at least once!

FLYC Event Calendar – The entire event calendar is always available on the club web site. Check it out at:

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

LATE BREAKING NEWS

FLYC Cruising Class on 5/19

The first FLYC Cruising Class will be held May 19th at the Village Marina Bar and Grill from 8:30 to 10:30 am.

Please come with your list of "what ifs" for an informative and enjoyable time.

From The Commodore (con'd)

and I'm sure we can make it available for you.

Tom is always looking for material to add to the newsletter. If you enjoy reading the articles, why not add one of your own?

Thanks to Guy and his crew for making repairs to the slips. I see braces and new boards in the docks. If you see a problem let me know and I'll get the info to Guy's people.

Well, that's about all until next time. As always, my companionway is always open.

- Wilbur

From The Vice-Commodore

by Cliff Geer, S/V Moonlight Lady

Getting your boat ready for the water

I'm sure many of you this winter, like me, have had the ever-present niggles of yearning in the back of your mind to get the boat back in the water. I know a lot of you have taken advantage of the mild winter, and even warmer spring, to take steps to bring that launch date as early as possible this year.

To that end, Commodore Wilbur arranged for a cherry picker to be at the marina on April 21st, and a few brave souls endured the cold, rainy day to work on their masts – many thanks to Wilbur for arranging that service.

Are you ready for launch day? There are many things to remember before you can head out on the shake down.

Paper work: Is your boat registration up to date? Have you sent your dues to Sue Morris to renew your FLYC membership? [See Sue's article on the next page for details! –Ed.] Have you made an appointment with Guy Schamel for a launch date and time? Remember, he wants them out of the parking lot by Memorial Day.

Waxing and repairs: Head to the marina early this spring. Take off the winter covers and give your boat a good airing-out. When applying that coat of wax, check your hull for abrasions, scratches or gouges and do the repairs. Check all the hoses and lines to make sure they are clamped properly. Are the belts in good condition and tight? Check all fluid levels and engine oil. If you did not change your filters in the fall, do so now. Make sure the drains are clear of leaves and dirt and the bilge pump operates in both auto and manual modes.

Emergency and electrical gear: Are the fire extinguishers properly charged and mounted securely? Check the expiration dates on emergency flares and replace if necessary. Review PFDs for any rips, tears, or mold. Be sure that batteries have a full charge and are properly connected.

These are just a few of the numerous items to check off your list of preparations before the crane drops your boat in the water, or you back down the launch ramp. Taking thoughtful consideration and preparing for the worst can make the best of your launch day, ensuring everyone has the safe and enjoyable day they have been waiting for all winter.

Other items to add to the list?

- Lines in position and secured?
- Plugs in the through-hulls?
- Extra cotter pins and such available?
- Gas in the engine tank?



- Cliff

From the Secretary

by Sue Morris, S/V Sails Call

Membership Dues Reminder

This is a friendly reminder to mail your 2012 dues. Please send a check (*not* cash!) made out to "Finger Lakes Yacht Club" at the following address. The payment will be noted and then forwarded along to the Treasurer for deposit.

It's best if you mail in the dues, but if all else fails, we will collect dues payments at our upcoming events. Your payment is due by May 31st, 2012.

Send to:

Susan Morris
PO Box 14
Pine Valley, NY 14872

Please include a copy of the membership application form (on the web site and at the end of this newsletter). We are working on compiling up to date information on emails, address changes, new boat names, etc. and the form will ensure we have correct information about you.

Thanks!

- Sue



About FLYC Racing

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

Also known as the "Rig Tuner's Regatta," this race is held in the pre-season to allow skippers to blow the cobwebs out of their boats and crew and tune up for the coming season.

FLYC Summer Series

This is a series of ten races held on weekends in June through September and is used to determine the club champion each year. Scoring is done per USSA PHRF handicapping with some slight modifications to allow for "golf-style" adjustments to keep things competitive.

FLYC Guest Race

A one-time race typically held sometime during the summer if the schedule looks too empty.

FLYC Race to Lodi

The club's signature event held in late July or early August. It consists of a one-way race of approximately 14 nautical miles from Watkins Glen to Lodi State Marine Park. A beach party usually follows.

Grape Harvest Race

A way to enjoy the fall foliage and get one last race in before the long winter.

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 either the Cruise Director, Vice-Commodore, or the club web site for additional details.

From the Social Director

by Karen Poole, S/V Karen's Dream

Please be thinking about a social event that you would like to host. Hosting an event is fun and is a big support to the FYLC.

What's involved with hosting? Read on.

The Social Event Calendar, which includes both host sign-ups as well as participant sign-ups, will be posted on the bulletin board located on the back restaurant wall between the men's and women's restrooms. If you host an event you would be responsible for the following:

1. Purchase the main meat according to what social event is scheduled. There is a SAM's Club Card you could use. You will be reimbursed.
2. Solicit volunteers to help set up/tear down the tables/chairs and set out paperware and condiments.
3. Get the grill out and prepared for BBQ. Secure a "head grillmaster."
4. Have fun. It's just that simple!

Questions? Contact me at 607-368-3500. Thank you.

- Karen



Anna Charlene Stewart (1938 – 2012)

On March 29th, 2012 the FLYC lost one of its founding members, Charlene Stewart, after a lengthy battle with lung cancer. Charlene is survived by her husband, Richard (Dick), children Kathy, Brian, Tanya, and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Charlene and Dick were avid sailors and one of the first owners of *Camille*. 1997 was the first year that a trophy cup was awarded to the winners of the Commodore's Race to Lodi. Charlene and Dick won the race in 1997, 1998 and 1999 and thereafter, the trophy was often referred to as the "Camille Cup".

Charlene was the secretary for the FLYC for many years and kept a great scrapbook of the club's activities and members.

After selling *Camille*, Charlene and Dick purchased a 31-foot Gozzard, which they completely overhauled and sailed to Beaufort, South Carolina, returning to Seneca Lake the following spring.

Before becoming ill two years ago, Charlene was at the lake every weekend. Her presence has been, and will continue to be, missed. She was always ready to give a hand to help out and was a wealth of information on cleaning and the upkeep of boats. She always had the best interests of FLYC at heart and was always ready to support any decisions the members made.



Those wishing may remember Charlene through donations to the Chemung County SPCA, 2435 State Rte 352, Elmira, NY 14903.

Electricity and Water Don't Mix

by Phillip Baily, USCG Auxiliary

WASHINGTON- The Coast Guard Auxiliary suggests you have your dock inspected periodically for bad wires and loose grounds. The same goes for your boat. Any time a person swims around a dock or boat where there is AC power, electrical shock could occur. A boat plugged into shore power with a short on board is dangerous and the owner may not be aware of it. AC current may enter the bonding system if an AC ground becomes disconnected then electrical current can enter the water by way of a bonded thru hull fitting. The boat dock can also develop a short and create a potential life threatening hazard. Some drowning were discovered to be from electrical shock. *[Ed. Note: This is the reason swimming in the marina is discouraged. A miswired shore power cord on a boat could prove to be fatal to a person in the water.]*

Electrical discharge into salt water from a boat is not as dangerous as discharge into fresh water. The reason being, salt

water is a better conductor and will allow the current to flow to the bottom or some other grounded metal around the dock or to the neighbors boat while fresh water being less conductive will form an electrified field around the boat. Many marinas have stopped allowing swimming around docks because of these hazards.

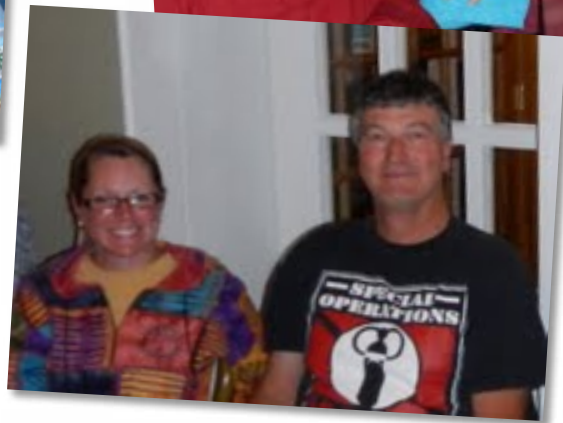
The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed volunteer component of the United States Coast Guard created by an Act of Congress in 1939. The Auxiliary, America's Volunteer Guardians, supports the Coast Guard in nearly all of the service's missions. For more information about the Coast Guard Auxiliary visit <http://www.cgaux.org>



FLYC Scrap Book

Photos by John Read

FLYC members and guests celebrated the mid-winter doldrums with a dinner at the House of Hong in Watkins Glen. Here are some snapshots of the event in case you missed it.

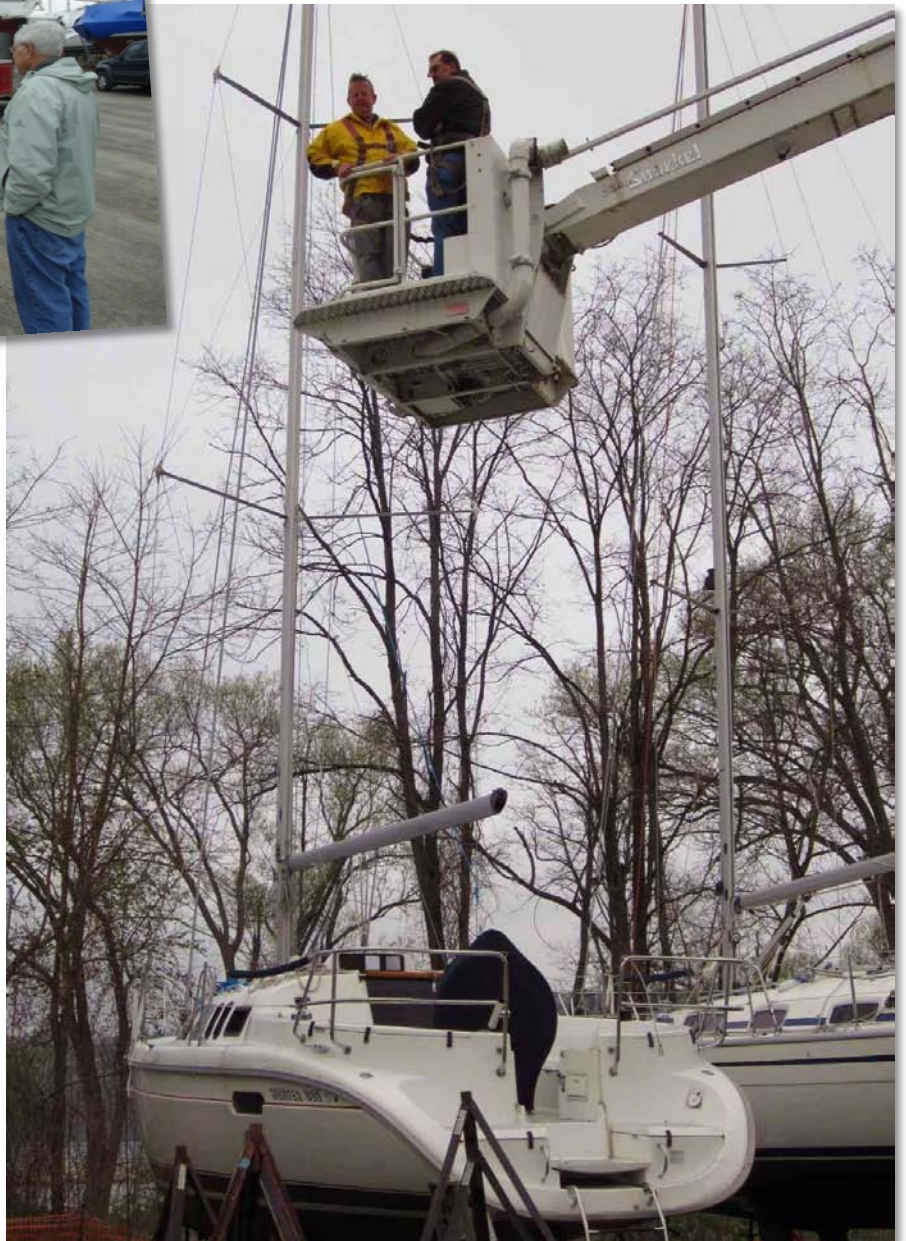


Masthead Work the FLYC Way!

Photos by Ron Waclawik

Commodore Wilbur got some help from Beers Tree Service for those needing to get up in their rigging. Ray Margeson, Terry Stewart, Jim McGinnis, Cliff Geer, David Cozad, Wilbur Dowdle and a few others all took turns at masthead maintenance.

(There are some things Cliff just won't do anymore!)



Beating the Winter Blues in Toronto

by Jim Morris, S/V Sails Call



Although this winter seems to be going by at a fast pace, reality seems to set in right after the Christmas/New Year crunch is over. What can we do this weekend to take our minds off of the fact we have 3-4 months until the boats go back in the water? How about going to see a boat show? Where you ask? Only 4.5 hours away by car and in a really nice city-Toronto, Ontario.

Sue and I needed a day off so we both planned a quick overnight trip to the Toronto Boat Show. This annual show is not too far and an easy drive (assuming Mother Nature cooperates-which it did). We loaded the truck and off we went. Crossing into Canada at Lewiston went pretty well and we reached our hotel just in time to watch an NFL playoff game.

Monday morning we were up and moving into downtown Toronto to the Energy Centre. This venue is right on Lake Ontario and we could see some pretty serious waves crashing over the break wall as we pulled into the parking area. The venue has both indoor and outdoor parking. We chose indoor and a quick escalator ride brought us up to the show floor.

The Toronto Boat Show caters to sportsmen, water skiers, fami-

lies, and sailors. The show has a fairly large sailing section and we saw quite a few "Lake Size" sailboats along with a variety of general boating paraphernalia. Catalina, Hunter, Dufour, Bavaria, Jenneau, and Beneteau were present.

The show has displays of all types- from flat bottom fishing boats to 60 foot power cruising fuel guzzlers.

Solar panels to generators and everything in between is on display. We enjoyed the live fishing demonstration in a huge glass walled fish tank.

There are several displays promoting exploration of the Canadian side of Lake Ontario and all of the bays. Also, several water front/marina living developments were in attendance. The show has something for everyone including nautical antique store, outdoor furniture, and other "better living" merchandise.

Please check out the attached photos. In summary, the Toronto Boat Show is worth a visit (as long as the weather cooperates!).



FLYC 2012 Event & Activity Calendar

by FLYC Board of Directors

Social Events

May

Saturday 19th @ 11:00 for Nautical flea market

@ 14:00 for tailgate pizza party

Saturday 26th All American BBQ 5pm-Hapy Hour; 6pm-Dinner with burgers/Dogs provided; Please bring a dish to pass.

June

Saturday 2nd Christening of the boats

June 15th-16th Waterfront Festival Lighting of the fleet; All join in and have a spectacular lighting of the boats to kick off the festival as well as summer! Prizes will be awarded for best boat decorations! Suggestion for lite appetizers/drinks to socialize!

July

Saturday 7th at 5pm-Shrimp, Suds, and Sails; Shrimp on the BBQ; Bring a dish to pass, your favorite or Christmas in July/Dessert contest??

Saturday 21st – Lodi Racing Weekend with FLYC providing dinner after race. Commodore Race and Commodore will help in details of this event.

August

Saturday 11th at 5pm - Hawaiian Luau Beach Party; margaritas on the lawn; sand, sun and fun; Dish to pass!

September

Saturday 8th at 4pm - Chili and chocolate contest! Bring your own recipe/vote for the best!

November

Saturday 3rd at 6pm - Annual Meeting and Banquet

Racing Schedule

May

Sunday 27th Early Bird race

June

Saturday 9th Race #1

Sunday 17th Race #2

Sunday 24th Race #3

July

Saturday 7th Race #4

Saturday 14th Race #5

Saturday 21st Commodore's Race to Lodi (early start time)

Sunday 29th Race #6

August

Saturday 11th Race #7

Sunday 19th Race #8

September

Saturday 8th Race #9

Saturday 15th Race #10 (early start time)

October

Sunday 7th Grape Harvest Race

All races begin with a skippers' meeting at 13:00 unless indicated otherwise. A representative from each boat must attend the meeting in order to be registered for scoring.

Check the club web site for the most recent schedule updates:

<http://www.FLYC.US>

2012

February							March							April							May							June								
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa		
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July							August							September							October							November								
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FINGER LAKES YACHT CLUB

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flyc@flyc.us

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Commodore
(607) 769-0086

Cliff Geer,
Vice Commodore
(607) 535-6062

Tom Keebler,
Rear Commodore
(607) 796-0035

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

How To Submit Newsletter Articles

by Tom Alley, Editor

Anyone can write an article for *Port Tacks*. Any material remotely relevant to boating, the FLYC, the Finger Lakes region, or life in Central New York will be considered. If you think it's worth sharing, then it is probably worth including in the newsletter.

We all own boats and we all deal with the maintenance they require. Have a timesaving tip? Share it, PLEASE! We all want to spend more time relaxing and less time swabbing the decks. The same goes for those recipes that are simple to prepare on the miniscule stoves in the galley and draw rave reviews from your otherwise ungrateful crew. Please share!

Photographs and illustrations also work well. If you're the type that suffers from chronic writ-

ers' block, remember the adage of a picture being worth a thousand words. The only request if you are submitting photos is to identify the people in them along with providing a brief description of the event, location and/or task being shown.

See something interesting in a magazine or book? Forward it to us. More often than not, the author will give us permission to republish in our newsletter.

Afraid your spelling or grammar isn't up to par? No worries. Your article will be checked in complete confidence and you will be given final say on any edits made to your work.

What are you waiting for? E-mail your submissions to editor@flyc.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.
c/o Sue Morris, Secretary
P. O. Box 14
Pine Valley, NY 14872

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 _____