June 2013 Volume 9. Issue 3

Port Tacks

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

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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!

editor@FLYC.US

Judgment Call

Earlier this year I was summoned, and eventually selected, to serve on a Grand Jury. While there is some inconvenience associated with this, by and large it is proving to be interesting and educational at a number of levels.

I have certainly learned quite a bit about some of the laws in our country. It has also been edifying to see how the legal community interprets and applies these laws and how cases are processed through "the system." What has been truly eye opening, however, has been the time spent listening to the testimony of various witnesses, many of whom are themselves defendants in separate cases.

What has been particularly striking to me about the defendants is that they all seem to possess a common trait: Judgmental impairment. For whatever reason, they all seem to be incapable of making good decisions despite having (repeatedly) suffered consequences of prior bad choices.

Segue to boating. Skippering a vessel requires good judgment. It starts with, "Should I even leave the dock?" From there it continues with non-stop decisions

on how to execute each task such that the results are the ones intended and that the skipper, the crew, and the vessel itself all return to the dock unscathed. This is what skippers do. The ones that do it well bring their crew and vessel back home in all kinds of conditions.

But what happens if the skipper becomes "decision impaired"? Can a crewmember exercise the judgment needed to bring the vessel to safe harbor?

More importantly, can someone on <u>your</u> crew bring <u>your</u> vessel home if something should happen to you?

If the answer is "No," then you have a decision to make – a judgment call. Will it be the right one?

- Editor

See the <u>Partners in Command Seminar</u> information on page 4 of this newsletter for an opportunity to exercise some good judgment. This seminar has received rave reviews from prior attendees.

Commodore's Comments

 $By\ Wilbur\ Dowdle,\ S/V\ Irish\ Wake$



Welcome back to the lake, it's time to be sailing again.

In the last few weeks I have been at the marina almost every day. I've watched our friends return to their boats and perform the labors of love that we do every year to get our boats back into the water. Bottom painting, hull waxing, replacing lines and getting the slips

set up for the summer, we all do it and some love it more than others. What we all enjoy is the renewing of our friendships with the "lake family".

Linda Cozad (our social chair) did a great job arranging the Pizza Party. About 30 folks showed up and the pizza was gone in short order. Fresh air and hard work will cause that.

The yard sale was larger than last year but maybe we're having it at the wrong time of year. Let's look into a fall date for next year.

Every one enjoyed the afternoon and several folks renewed their memberships. As you know our year starts May 1st so if you haven't renewed... it's time.

Our next event will be the All American Picnic, hots and hamburgers, and don't forget your dish to pass. I hope to see you all there.

The *Irish Wake* is in..., at last! If you get a chance stop by and say hi, Dawn and I look forward to seeing every one.

Hope to have more news for you in the next newsletter.

My companion way is always open,

- Wilbur

Upcoming Events & Dates

JUNE 2013

Friday, June 14th – Waterfront
Festival. Lighting of the fleet at
dusk! Prizes available for best
boat decoration and most original!

Saturday, June 15th – 12:00 noon Cardboard Regatta.

Saturday, June 29th – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast Gathering – Join some morning fellowship – Donuts/Bagels/Coffee Available

JULY 2013

Friday, July 5th - 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Meet & Greet

Saturday, July 6th Noon – 2 p.m. Boat Picture Day

Saturday, July 6th – Message in a Bottle Event – 5:00 Social Time – 5:30 Dinner Seafood Kabobs.

Saturday, July 27th – Race to Lodi Week-end with FLYC providing dinner after race.

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

http://www.flyc.us/

LATE BREAKING NEWS

Trouble for US boats wintering in Canada?

The June issue of Cruising World magazine has an article on page 15 entitled "Chill Wind Blows in from the North". It explains how the Canadian Border Services Agency issued a directive in 2012 to overturn the former policy of allowing US boats that winter stored in Canada to avoid import tax so long as work was being done. Now they want to charge between 13 and 21 percent tax on boats wintering there, depending on the country of manufacture. This is not going to be popular with either the boat owners or those Canadian businesses that store and work on these vessels.

Reported by Don Finkle, RCR Yachts, Inc.

Points of Interest from RCR Yachts

from the RCR Yachts Newsletter

Marine Traffic Website: Much like on board AIS, it gives you vessel identity, track history from last point of departure, speed, course, destination, etc. The address is http://www.marinetraffic.com/ais/default.aspx.

Also, unlike other sites, it shows all vessel traffic: Including pleasure craft, fishing vessels, pilot boats, tugs, and even military ships.

Thanks to Jon Wilson for this link.

Welland Canal Tip: One of the inconvenient facts of life is that in order to go between Lakes Erie and Ontario you either have to go over Niagara Falls or through the Welland Canal.

We have made the canal transit many times, sometimes delivering a boat for sale, often for the purpose of racing on the other lakes. We learned one lesson we'd like to pass along. You can save \$40 by using PayPal instead of credit card or cash. So when you are coming down to Lake Ontario this summer for the 40th Level Regatta keep that in mind!

- Don Finkle

From the Vice Commodore

by John Read, S/V Wingin' It

Just a word about securing you boat on the docks. As most know, our boats were "rockin' and rollin'" on the weekend of May 25th. Numerous boats pulled cleats out of the dock and several dock lines snapped due to chaffing or just old age.

Please examine your dock lines. Add chafe protectors. Boat repairs are expensive and unrepaired boats are less valued when you are ready to sell your boat. I would like to say "Thanks" to those who provided temporary dock lines and took the time to secure these boats. Our docks are not in the best of shape and loose boards and cleats are commonplace. Call Schamel Bros. (607-546-8505) when you find a board or cleat that is not secure.

It is important that your dock line also wraps around the 2 x 8 directly below your cleat or better yet a dock post if available. DO NOT DEPEND ON YOUR CLEATS ALONE. It is typically a good idea to secure your boat with double dock lines on the North side. Do not use the same cleat.

In closing, this past weekend was nothing compared to several storms we have had in prior years. We have high water currently. In heavy weather, rub rails can hang up on the outside posts or on the finger docks. We have also had mast spreaders lock horns on Dock 1.

You gotta love sailing!

- John

After the long winter and the chilly (and nearly absent) spring, this electronic post card really hit home! Enjoy. – Ed.



From the Secretary

by Sue Morris, S/V Sails Call

Hello to all!

Welcome to the new 2013-14 year for FLYC membership beginning May 1! We have at this time 30 paid returning members into the club. Thank you for renewing and any new boat owners please encourage them to join. We have a lot of great new activities planned for this year from our new social director Linda Cozad. Hope to see all of your smiling faces at as many events over the year.



See you soon!

- Sue

From the Treasurer

We are solvent!

by Dennis Kingsley, S/V Tark

- Dennis



Socially Speaking

by Linda Cozad, S/V She's Keelin' Me

The social events for FLYC are off to a good start. The first two events: May 18th Pizza/Flea Market/Bake Sale and the May 25th BBQ (which was rescheduled to Memorial Day due to weather) went very well and had good attendance.

I would send out a "Thank you!" to everyone that jumped in when the horn blew to help set-up to make this event a success! The volunteers cooking and the members helping to set up tables did a great job! I even managed to recruit one of our new members, my son Chad to help with the cooking, so we have a new cook volunteer!



The FLYC clothing orders have been placed and expect delivery mid-June. I will contact everyone by email when orders will be delivered.

Upcoming events: (Sign-up sheets posted)

- Friday, June 14th Waterfront Festival lighting of the fleet at dusk! Prizes available for best boat decoration and most original! Immediately following event bring your favorite beverage and lawn chair. (Cheese, crackers, small snacks available).
- Saturday, June 15th Cardboard Regatta event at the marina!
- Saturday, June 29th Breakfast gathering 8:30-9:30 a.m. Donuts/Bagels/Coffee available under the flagpole. No set-up necessary. Bring your chair and coffee mug.

Let's all make this a team Social Event summer... I need your help to make it happen!

- Linda

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 "golfstyle" adjustments to keep things competitive.

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 timeon-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.



Partner In Command Seminar

Imagine this scenario:

You have had a great day on the lake and are enjoying a late dinner lying at anchor 10 miles away from home port. The evening sunset is glorious. Your spouse asks you to get the salt and pepper back in the galley. You are in a hurry and fail to notice the water and ice that spilled in your path. Down you go and you hear a snap as pain shoots into your leg. You call for help and realize you need immediate medical attention as the sun dips below the horizon.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Are you and your partner ready for a medical emergency?
- 2. If you are incapacitated, can your partner get your craft safely into the harbor?
- 3. Do you know each other's "duties" for handling your craft?
- 4. What steps have you taken to prepare your Partner to Take Command?
- 5. Does your partner know how to get help?

Please sign up for an informative seminar that will prepare you and your Partner to handle this and several other boating "situations". The theme of the class is PREPARATION! If you are prepared, even major emergencies can be handled with confi-

Sponsored by the Seneca Sail & Power Squadron

dence and skill. Skipper and mates/crew are encouraged to attend as a team and discounts are provided for additional crew sharing the course material. Following the seminar there will be hands on demo's of fire extinguishers, flares and throwable life saving devices.

The class will be led by Don and Marge Kloeber who are power boaters. To add the sailor's perspective, Jim and Sue Morris, *S/V Sails Call* berthed in the Village Marina will assist.

Where: Watkins Glen Yacht Club

When Sat June 29th

Time: 9:00–12:00 Hands on demo's 12:00 – 12:30

Fee: SSPS member cost \$35 / \$10 for partner sharing text

WGYC/FLYC cost \$40 / \$15, Non-member / Public \$50 / \$25

<u>Sign up before June 8th</u> by phone or email to Don Kloeber at 607-562-7540 or <u>dkloeber@stny.rr.com</u> and let him know your names and number attending.

Payment includes some course handout materials including handy checklists.

Cruising 2013

FINALLY! Spring is here, boats are in or getting in the water.

It's time to start thinking about cruising. I have been trying to come up with some ideas for the year. Please look over the cruise ideas below and sign up or make some suggestions. Nothing is written in stone.

1) Sailboat Cruise

A two day Cruise to Geneva (30 nm). Leave around 8:30AM, arrive around 5:00 PM, tie up at the free city docks or anchor, spend the remainder of the afternoon aboard or sightseeing in Geneva. Dinner ashore and overnight at the dock.

A morning sail back to the marina, maybe stop off at The Rainbow for lunch. The estimated sailing time each way is 8-9 hours, maintaining 5 knots sailing and/or motor sailing. (Depending on the wind the distance sailed each way may be 35 to 45 miles)

2) Powerboat Cruise

This will be a real learning experience, a two-day cruise to Seneca Falls on the Cayuga-Seneca canal. We plan to have volunteers with canal experience to accompany and assist the cruisers. We also plan to conduct a locking class.

Day 1: This cruise would include passing by several powerboat marinas on the canal passing through the lock at Waterloo (12 ft. Drop) and tying up for dinner and the night on wall in (Free

by John Kremer, S/V Amazing Grace

with power and water) at Seneca Falls. Total distance: 38nm.

Day 2: Cruise canal over to the Seneca Falls locks (1/2 nm) for a tour of the awesome double locks (2 locks 25Ft. drop each). Some brave souls may choose to lock through and back. Then sail across Seneca Lake to Geneva. Tie up at city

docks for Lunch in Geneva. The total distance is 10nm. After lunch the formal cruise is over. Return to Watkins Glen (30NM) whenever you choose.

Email John at jdkvix@juno.com with questions or to sign on for a cruise

See ya soon!

- John

Notes:

- You or your crew might choose to overnight at a nearby motel if you wish.
- You do not have to go by boat to enjoy the trip; we will be tying up and locking at areas with good parking nearby so if you can't make it by boat, think about meeting up with us.

Is Random Boarding of Vessels Unconstitutional?

by Rick Leonard, RCR Yachts

Michigan outlawed it. Ohio lawmakers are on course to prohibit it. Arkansas has declared it unconstitutional. If nothing else, the subject of random boarding of the nation's recreational boaters is finally taking center stage.

Michigan lawmakers stirred the pot last year when they passed a bill prohibiting random stops of recreational boats for safety inspections. So it comes as no surprise that their action spilled over to neighboring Ohio where a similar bill is now rapidly moving through that legislature. But perhaps the biggest surprise is a recent Arkansas Supreme Court ruling that random boarding violates the Fourth Amendment.

First, Ohio's House Bill 29, sponsored by Rep. Rex Damschroder, R-Fremont, had its final hearing Tuesday. It was unanimously passed out of committee and passage by the full house seems assured. The bill has broad support from Ohio's boaters, the marine industry and the Ohio Division of Watercraft. Division chief Rodger Norcross might have summed things up in Ohio the best during his candid testimony: "We are supportive of HB 29 and agree that it is common-sense legislation designed to encourage, rather than discourage, recreational boating," Norcross told lawmakers. "In my time serving as chief, it has been made clear that excessive and random boardings of vessels by Division of Watercraft law enforcement are unacceptable," he added. Norcross later noted that while it's currently his policy, confirming it in Ohio law assures boaters the policy won't change with future administrations and that's important.

The Michigan law (and Ohio's HB-29 when it passes) covers state and local agency marine patrols. But Michigan's waters include four of the five Great Lakes while Ohio has the largest part of Lake Erie. Those waters are also federal and, therefore, patrolled by the Coast Guard. Boaters have been complaining about excessive random Coast Guard boardings for several years.

When Michigan's law passed, I asked the Coast Guard if it would follow the Michigan statute. The answer was: It's up to the various sector commanders, but federal law allows random boarding and federal law trumps state law. And that brings me to Arkansas.

On February 7th, the Arkansas Supreme Court (case: Arkansas

v. Robert M. Allen) handed down a ruling that the random stopping of Allen's boat was unreasonable and violated Allen's constitutional rights under the Fourth Amendment.

Allen was randomly stopped for a safety equipment check by Sergeant Glenn Tucker of the Game and Fish Commission. Tucker proceeded to arrest Allen and charge him with intoxication. Allen entered a no-contest plea in District Court and then appealed the conviction to the Garland County Circuit Court.

That court granted Allen's motion to dismiss, finding that Arkansas Game and Fish officers had no authority to stop and arrest Allen because "there was a complete lack of probable cause for this Defendant's (Allen's) stop." The state appealed to the Arkansas Supreme Court, which upheld the lower court's ruling.

The Supreme Court ruled that regardless of Arkansas' law stating that Fish and Game Officers can stop boats for random safety inspections, they do not have the unfettered right to stop and check a boat at will. To do so without probable cause removes the Fourth Amendment protection from unreasonable search and seizure. In this case, randomly stopping Allen's pontoon, which was "legally registered and illuminated . . . and being operated in an unremarkable fashion" . . . was "unreasonable and violated Defendant's rights under the Fourth Amendment."

The Arkansas decision settles it for the fish-and-game officers there. It certainly raises a comparable question for all other states. But it really opens an interesting question about the same actions of the Coast Guard. The Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution applies to the states but it is the federal law of the land. And, under the rule of law, the actions of government officials are prescribed by the principles and laws that make up our legal system and do not reflect the arbitrary whims and caprices of the government officials themselves.

In other words, isn't a policy of stopping and boarding recreational boats, whether by a local, state or federal officer including Coast Guard personnel, for random safety checks unconstitutional at all levels? It seems reasonable to assume so. At the very least, isn't it clearly time for a thorough review of any such policies as we begin another summer of boating?

NEW! – FLYC Member Ads

Seek, Buy and Sell Your Nautical Items Here - Free to FLYC Members

FOR SALE

Do you have some "boat stuff" that has been taking up space in your basement, garage, or starboard cockpit locker that might be better put to use on someone else's boat? List it here!

4 sale; two burner stove with oven, 22" high x 21" wide x 16" deep. Made by GAS SYSTEMS. Hooked up for CNG but tank too rusty and a danger. Easily converted to LP ...\$400.00. Rex Bird at slip 218 *Mystic Breeze* phone 607-797-2456. Call First and I'll bring to lake.....Thanks for reading this sale.... Rex and Shirley Bird.

Classic Adventures

Call Wilbur at 607-769-0086 or 607-292-6479

Dock 2, slip 212

We have a service for you at the marina.

If you need anything for your boat I'm sure we can get it for you and have it at your boat in a very short time. Most items are delivered to the marina on Tuesday or Thursday. It's easy, just tell me what you need before you go home Sunday and I'll have it at your boat when you get there next.

We are under retail and most items have no shipping

Paints-wax-cleaners-flares-rope-rigging-blocks-engine partsoils-filters

We can get it all

Snuffer for asymmetrical spinnaker	\$75
Cover for 34 foot Hunter	\$400
Sand blaster station	\$ 150
Parts washer	\$50
Dock lines ½ X 20 2 ea	\$15
DR Brush hog	

(15 horse-elect start- add'l mower deck) \$1500.

Contact: Wilbur 607 769 0086 607 292 6479

WANTED

Need that special item that's probably sitting in your neighbor's garage that he's not using? How will you ever get it without asking? "But how to ask tactfully," you say? Post it here, of course!

CREW WANTED

Want to go sailing but need crew? Post your "want ad" here and enjoy the summer out on the lake where you and your boat belong!

CREW AVAILABLE

Are you addicted to sailing but find yourself without a ride? Stick out your thumb and hitch a crew position with a needy skipper!

FLYC 2013 Event & Activity Calendar

by FLYC Board of Directors

Social Events

MAY

Saturday, May 18th, 1:00 p.m. – Pizza Tailgate Party.

Saturday, May 25th – All American Picnic. 5:30 Social Time; 6:00 Dinner.

Friday, May 31st – **7:00 p.m.** – **Christening of Boats**. Followed by member birthday acknowledgements.

HINE

Friday, June 14th – Waterfront Festival. Lighting of the fleet at dusk! Prizes available for best boat decoration and most original!

Saturday, June 15th – 12:00 noon Cardboard Regatta.

Saturday, June 29th – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast Gathering – Join some morning fellowship – Donuts/Bagels/Coffee Available

JULY

Friday, July 5th - 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Meet & Greet

Saturday, July 6th Noon – 2 p.m. Boat Picture Day

Saturday, July 6th – Message in a Bottle Event – 5:00 Social Time – 5:30 Dinner Seafood Kabobs.

Saturday, July 27th – Race to Lodi Week-end with FLYC providing dinner after race.

AUGUST

Saturday, August 17th – Hawaiian Luau Beach Party. 5:00 p.m. Social time; 6:00 p.m. Dinner.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 7th – Homemade Soup/Chili Cook-Off and Chocolate dessert contest! 5:00 p.m. homemade soup/Chili/Chocolate Contest!

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 2nd – Annual Meeting & Banquet – Details to follow

Racing Schedule

May

Sunday 25th Early Bird Race (No points)

June

Saturday 1st Early Bird Race (Rescheduled from 5/25)

Saturday 8th Race #1 Sunday 16th Race #2

Saturday 22nd Race #3

Sunday 23rd Beginning Skipper Race Day (No points)

July

Saturday 13th Race #4

Saturday 20th Race #5

Saturday 27th Commodore's Race to Lodi (09:00 Skippers'

Meeting)

August

Saturday 3rd Race #6

Saturday 17th Race #7

Sunday 25th Race #8

September

Saturday 7th Race #9

Saturday 21st Race #10

October

Saturday 5th Grape Harvest Race (No points)

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

2013								
February	March	April	May	June				
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FINGER LAKES YACHT CLUB

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

WEB:

www.flyc.us

E-MAIL: flyc@flyc.us

KEY CONTACTS:

Wilbur Dowdle, Commodore (607) 769-0086

John Reed, Vice Commodore (607)

Jim McGinnis, Rear Commodore (607)

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:

c/o Su P. O.	r Lakes Yacht Club, Inc. ue Morris, Secretary Box 14 /alley, NY 14872		U.S. P	u also a member of the ower Squadron? If so, ase check this box.	
Application:	☐ New member	Renewal			
	Please be sure to include the narure that membership privileges a			' family members.	
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Signature(s)		D	ate		