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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

Special Edition: Club Election Results 2013

Usually the club only publishes five newsletters a year. Since our Commodore of three years has retired and we have a number of new faces on the Board of Directors, this special edition has been produced in order to introduce them to you.

Please join me in welcoming our new club leadership!

- Editor

FLYC Election Results

Commodore: Dawn Dowdle

Vice-Commodore: Barry Lewis

Rear-Commodore: Jim McGinnis

New Directors (2-year terms):

- Tom Alley
- Mike Crouse
- Andrea Johnson

Incumbent Directors (1-year remaining):

- Ray Margeson
- Jim Morris
- Tim Walker

Following the elections, the new Board met to appoint the following positions:

Secretary: Marcia Taylor

Treasurer: Dennis Kingsley

Social Committee Chair: Rebecca Lewis

Race Committee Chair: Jim McGinnis

Continuing in their current roles are the following volunteers:

Rebecca Lewis: Facebook Administrator

Tom Alley: Newsletter Editor and Web Site Administrator

Commodore's Comments

By Dawn Dowdle, S/V Irish Wake



As I write this introduction as your new Commodore, I wish to thank the outgoing officers of the Yacht Club for their time and service to the club, we are a success because we have a membership that is willing to volunteer and work together. You all may know who I am, you may know my boat, *The Irish Wake*, but did you know my boating career began on Seneca Lake 20 years ago aboard my father's 38 foot Marine Trawler Yacht, *The Manhattan Dream*? Or that my first sailing experience was sailing aboard the 12 meter America's Cup boat, *True North*, in 2008? Still, I feel like kind of a "Newbie" when looking around at all the experience we have in the Club.

We lucked out when we found our first sailboat in the Watkins Glen Marina, a 28-foot Newport on dock 4. We found more than a boat that year; we found friends, comrades, teachers and family.

Our last meeting of the year took place at the Glen Harbor Hotel, following a wonderful meal served along the waterfront windows; what a perfect setting! Our year-end meeting is always bitter sweet, we honor race winners, we recall the sum-

mer fun, we thank friends for their help and then we turn to each other and say, "So what do I do on Friday night now?" Well, you build a fire, and you begin to plan. I'm planning for another successful year for everyone, no matter what kind of boat you may have, no matter what kind of boating you prefer. I'm looking forward to our next boating season, to seeing everyone, to sharing their thoughts and ideas, to make the 2014 boating season the best yet. I am excited and look forward to working with our new officers, board members and directors. So, please remember you can find me any given day on our Hunter 336, *The Irish Wake*, cruising or racing on Seneca Lake or just enjoying our FLYC friends and Watkins Glen Marina neighbors at slip 212. Please stop by and say 'Hello', our companionway is always open there is always room for one or two more.

Have a safe and joyous holiday!

See you next year!

- Dawn

Upcoming Events & Dates

2014

February – Meeting of the Board of Directors. Once the new Board is organized, a meeting will be scheduled to set the calendar and plan events for the 2014 season. This usually occurs in February. The meeting is open to all members, so watch your e-mail for announcements!

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

Membership Renewals

It won't be long and it will be time to renew your membership for the 2014 boating season. The good news is that, thanks to the wonderful effort of all our volunteers, there are no plans for a dues increase! It's never too early to renew, so fill out the membership form on the last page of this newsletter and mail it in today.

From the Vice Commodore

by Barry Lewis, S/V Kestrel

My first step into the sailing world was a charter with Terry and Lisa of Seneca Sailing Adventures for my birthday in 2012. Once on the water, I knew this was what I had always dreamt it would be.

I purchased my first sailboat, a 1974 Cal 25, before the end of the summer. The 2013 season started with a weekend sailing class at Annapolis Sailing School. The summer was spent getting to know the Cal 25 along with everyone at the marina. Before the season was done, it became apparent that 25 feet just wasn't enough room for our family; and we moved up to a 34-foot Hunter called *Kestrel*.

Most summer days you'll find me at the end of Pier 3, slip #339.

I am also an active member of the Seneca Sail and Power Squadron, where I am continuing to expand my sailing knowledge.

- Barry



From the Rear Commodore

by Jim McGinnis, S/V Brewster

Like many people, I began sailing the Alcott Sunfish when I was in single digits and still enjoys sailing them as much as anything today. Think of single handing a Sunfish in gale force winds, one hand for the tiller, one for the mainsheet and toes hooked under the foot well, stretching your weight out as far as possible to weather, surfing each wave as it builds. There you go!

I have been sailing in the ocean off the coast of Maine, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Florida, California, Grand Cayman and the Virgin Islands. I've piloted Hobies to classic Cape Cod Catboats (A draft that's shoal, a beam that's fat; It's got to be a purebred cat!) to an Irwin 54 center cockpit (sweet) and had fun with them all. I also logged a lot of crew miles on *Tomfoolery* over the years.

My wife, Lynne, is from Indiana but has now learned to love being on the water as well. Together we chartered a 40-foot Jenneau in the BVI just a few years ago. Closer to home, we've sailed a 16-foot sloop, a 27-foot O'day, and now a 33-foot Hunter called *Brewster*.

Visit us around Dock 2. As usual, handicap modifications can be purchased prior to the first race of the season. *[Also note, Jim was not selected for the coveted Ethics Committee position again this year after winning the Grape Harvest Race.]*

- Jim



From the Secretary

by Marcia Taylor, S/V Windfall III

I had never sailed when, in 2008, my husband, Tom, decided that it was time to rekindle his love of sailing as boy at the family's cottage on Cuba Lake. We found *Windfall III*, a 1976 Dufour 31, available on Dock 4. I got a crash course in sailing from the previous owner and was introduced to the United States Power Squadrons by dock neighbor, Tom Alley. Taking Seamanship that first year was a great foundation. Six years of sailing experience and several USPS courses later, I am still learning. Just this year Tom and I participated in our first FLYC race and we also joined the FLYC cruise to Geneva.

Windfall III's other crew member is our poodle/terrier, Elliott, who monitors traffic on Dock 4 and enjoys touring the marina with me in my kayak.

- Marcia



From the Treasurer

by Dennis Kingsley, S/V Tark

My first nautical experiences were as a teen sailing on a buddy's old wooden boat on the lower Niagara River and Lake Ontario – though not far from the sight of land. For the past 40 years I have sailed mainly on Seneca Lake, though I've crewed on race teams at the Cayuga Yacht Club, played with K-boats on Keuka Lake and had a weeklong adventure on a Maine schooner. We won't talk about a recent two-year misadventure with a Seadoo Challenger.

For many years and three vessels, my boats were docked at Shangri La Harbor on the west side of the lake. There I sailed through the year – summer and winter. Since locating to the Village Marina with the *TARK*, a Hunter 30, I've been a member of the FLYC, enjoying the social events and racing - where I monitor the fleet by watching their transoms go by, and usually finish while there is still daylight.

I am also an active member in the USPS. When not sailing or thinking about sailing or cleaning the boat, I work as a Physician Assistant at Elmira Dermatology.

- Dennis



Socially Speaking

by Rebecca Lewis, S/V Kestrel

It is December and I am busy planning for the Holidays. However, as much as I love the Holidays, I must admit life has been a little boring as of late. Having nowhere to go on the weekends is getting depressing and I have realized as I write this message, I am a bit lost not seeing you all around the marina, especially during our Saturday morning coffee time.

As your new Social Director, I am both excited and a little nervous. I hope I can keep up the tradition of creating fun and entertaining events.



Already thinking of ideas for the 2014 season, I look forward to carrying on with favorites and adding some new, but know that I want to hear your suggestions too. Please contact me by email or stop by *Kestrel* at slip 339 when the sailing season is here once again. I look forward to seeing you all.

Wishing you and yours a very happy and healthy Holiday season and a wonderful New Year!

- Rebecca



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 Commodore's Cup

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.

Cruising Committee 2014

by Mike Crouse, S/V Seek Ye 1st

Islander Mike; Islander Mike; Islander Mike to all Yacht Club Members. Over!

First I would like to thank everyone for helping me enjoy one of the best summers ever on Seneca Lake! A summer that provided some of the best sails alone and together; racing enjoyed by most – especially the jousting parties afterwards; over-night trips that will launch us into 2014 with safe mooring balls finally.

Finding a new party location closer to home, new friendships with our northern sister yacht club; great photos that will help us remember all winter; bike rides on Catherine Valley Trail that almost killed me and, most importantly, experiencing new levels of friendship. Thanks again!

Mooring Ball Update

Our winter goal is to have everything in place for smooth sailing and safe anchoring in the spring. As of this writing, we have a 99% guarantee that we will be able to locate a half dozen mooring set-ups in Smith Park in 2014. Other locations with

proper depth, contour and vacant adjacent land have been identified from Lodi and south.

Winter plans include:

- Dotting our I's and crossing our T's with the proper authorities.
- Contacting the adjacent landowners for revocable permission to place the buoys.
- A written document involving mooring use.
- Determining approximate cost.
- Deciding ownership (individual, group, etc.).
- Plan developed for spring implementation – identify volunteers.

Please stay tuned to the newsletter for updates and feedback.

- Mike



Board of Directors

In case you haven't met them already, here are the remaining members of the FLYC Board of Directors.

Tom Alley

If you've been around the marina any length of time, you've likely heard of me, either through the club or through the Power Squadron or through dockside chatter. (Yeah, I'm the guy that occasionally *sails* in and out of his slip. Not to show off, but because I'm usually struggling with some sort of an engine problem! That's what you get for having a 50-year-old boat with the original motor. ☺)



I like to spend as much time as I can aboard my 1965 Alberg 35 sloop, *Tomfoolery* and I'm active in the club's racing and cruising programs. I served as the club's Rear Commodore for a number of years and have been a member of the Board just about every year since becoming a FLYC member in 2001.

Parts of my duties on the Board include acting as the editor of the club's newsletter and the administrator for the club web site. I also spend a good part of the summer teaching on-the-water boating classes for the Seneca Sail & Power Squadron.

Feel free to stop by Dock 4 and visit. I'd be happy to have you aboard!

- Tom

Mike Crouse

I found my love for being on the water at an early age on Lake Ontario up near the St. Lawrence River. It is where I learned to like the rough sea conditions fishing with an Uncle. I remember asking my Uncle why everyone else was turning back?

My first sailboat was a Phantom; similar to a Sunfish only a little bigger and fun in heavy weather. After years of fun just sailing I decided to race in the Phantom Nationals along with my neighbor, Tom Hall. *[No relation to the FLYC member.]* I remember not knowing a single rule! I was hooked as we both finished in the top 15 out of 45 boats that included the likes of a National Hobie Cat champion.

My 2nd boat, the Islander *Seek Ye 1st*, came after years of searching for the right year and model. I think she found me. She was in Traverse City, Michigan being bubbled in a foot of ice - it was love at first sight even though she was full of snow. We have thousands of miles together sailing Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, Bay of Quinte in Canada, and Seneca Lake. Islanders love the wind as she was designed for San Francisco Bay where the winds go from 0 to 40 mph in 10 seconds.

Soon we'll be vacationing back in the Great Lakes trying to sneak in a race or two. Hopefully, doing a Mackinaw race one day. I wouldn't trade her for anything! She has helped me face many a fear.

- Mike



Board of Directors (con'd)

Andrea Johnson

I caught the sailing bug in 2007 after taking a cruise on the *Malabar X* in Watkins Glen. I was so captivated by the beauty and grace of the sails billowing in the wind and the hull slicing through water. I fell in love, but knew nothing about sailing, so I enrolled in an ASA 101 course while working in Wilmington, NC in 2008. I also went on a couple more sailing cruises; one aboard *True Love* in 2009 (currently operating in Watkins Glen) and another in Maui in 2010. After crewing for a colleague on Keuka Lake a few times in 2012, I finally took the plunge and purchased *Spirit*, a Catalina 22, in June of 2012.

The summer of 2013 was AMAZING and I'm so thankful for all the FLYC members that helped me grow so much this year! I'm already looking forward to 2014 and am excited to serve the FLYC as the Cruising Co-Chair and Director.

- Andrea



shape for a year or so when I started to get serious about getting a sailboat.

After many boat hunting journeys, inspection visits, and collapsed deals, we were about one phone call away from purchasing a boat in Ithaca. On a whim I drove from Ithaca to Watkins Glen and happened to see Terry Stewart getting his boat ready for launch. Terry yelled at me as I drove through yard "Hey-you still looking for a boat?" The rest was history as we ended up sailing a Hunter 31 the summer of 2009. Although it was an adventure at times, we ended up meeting a wonderful group of people - many of them members of the FLYC!

We had such a good time that first year we made a huge decision and brought *Sails Call*, a Bavaria 34 cruiser, to the Lake in the spring of 2010. Both Sue and I have enjoyed taking courses through the Power Squadron. We encourage any other new boaters to take advantage of this excellent local resource.

Please stop in at Slip 316 and say hello!

- Jim

Ray Margeson

It was in Guam in the late 70's that I began sailing out of Apra Harbor. After a 30-year hiatus, my wife, Mary, seemed to sense that I needed something to do, as I got closer to retirement age. So began the quest for a boat.

In 2008 we bought a 25-foot Helms sailboat and soon thereafter upgraded to *Hattie L*, a 1984 Hunter 31, with accommodations that better supported spending more time aboard. When we're not sailing, I spend my time upgrading various systems aboard his boat.

I'm also active in the Seneca Sail and Power Squadron where I serve on the Bridge.

- Ray



Tim Walker

Tim and his wife Kathy sail a Hunter 30T named *GETAWAY*. They have been FLYC members since 2011.

With only minimal sailing experience consisting of some sunfish and day sailers, Tim and Kathy embarked on an adventure to learn to sail. After a couple of crewing experiences on a Catalina 25 in Ithaca, they made a leap of faith and purchased their first sailboat, a Hunter 30T. As new sailboat owners, one of the first adventures was moving the boat from Ithaca to its new home in Watkins Glenn. The lake/canal transit itself was a wonderful experience, and it has been a continual education ever since.

"With 3 seasons on Seneca Lake, as part of the Finger Lakes Yacht Club, we have met a lot of wonderful people. Everyone has offered friendship, experience, and tons of support. The great community of the FLYC makes Watkins Glen Marina seem like home."

Please visit Tim and Kathy, aboard *GETAWAY*, berthed on Dock 3.

- Tim



Jim Morris

I was turning 50 in 2009 and figured it was time for a Corvette or some other ridiculous toy. The last child was off to college and all of a sudden Sue and I had time for us! The idea of taking time to enjoy our beautiful lakes had been taking



FLYC Scrapbook: FLYC Annual Meeting

If you missed the annual meeting and banquet this year, here are some snapshots to show you what you missed.

photos by Rebecca Lewis



Left Middle: Sandy Follette and newly elected Commodore Dawn Dowdle.

Left Lower: Newly elected Flag Officers – Secretary Marcia Taylor, Vice Commodore Barry Lewis, Commodore Dawn Dowdle, and Treasurer Dennis Kingsley.

Right Top: Dessert – with a sailing theme!

Right Lower: Past Commodore Wilbur Dowdle (center) recognizing contributions and achievements of Mike Crouse (left) and John Read (right).

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 Marcia Taylor, Secretary
32 Robie St.
Bath, NY 14810

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 _____