

June 2021

Volume 17, Issue 3

# Port Tacks

The Finger Lakes Yacht Club, Village Marina, Watkins Glen, NY

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Please send any comments, questions or corrections to:  
editor@flyc.us

## Commodore's Comments

by Terry Stewart

SV Syren

### Getting Started

It looks like we are going to have another sailing/boating/socializing season at the marina. It is great to see it unfolding. There are oddly parked vehicles, hoses running to and fro, foam brushes and shrink wrap all laying around, which indicates spring has sprung. The sound of power washers and the look of ladders everywhere indicate sailors and other forms of mariners are walking around the marina.



It is appearing that we may be getting back to nearly normal now, after over one full year of chaos. Although many events seem to be canceled again, our sailboat life is on tap to go strong. I believe that we have a potential of new members for our sailing family each and every day, so when you see a stranger strolling around be sure to ask if he's looking for a boat, that's how it all begins. If you see a new slip holder at the marina, be sure to twist their arm for a membership in the "Finger lakes Yacht Club".

The Schooner *True Love* is at this moment at Lock 14 headed for an Oneida Lake crossing tomorrow morning. She left Scaranos boat yard on Sunday and was stalled at Waterford awaiting official permission to enter the canal early. That permission was granted on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:20 am and off she went with Bill Holgate at the Captain's position and a competent crew of three, Fred Whickem, Larry Regan and Scott Williams. All is well on the boat after over a year of being dry. By the time of this printing, we are hoping to be up and running on May 28<sup>th</sup>. There is still rigging and Coast Guard inspection to do, so keep your fingers crossed.

-Terry

### Reminder:

Don't forget that membership renewals are due on May 1<sup>st</sup> each year. If this deadline snuck past you, it's not too late to renew your membership. Simply fill in the form on the last page of this newsletter and send it to the address indicated.

We look forward to seeing you at some live, in-person events this year!

- Your FLYC Officers & Directors

# Vice Commodore's Comments

by John Chesbrough

SV Aquarell



Welcome back, *True Love*! Terry and his hearty crew and assorted hired hands are busy getting the boat ready for all the tourists patiently waiting for touring the high seas of Seneca Lake. We wish them all a successful and enjoyable summer.

The marina tenants have been gradually getting their boats back to where they belong. I can't say when my boat will be ready to go into the water, the shaft is disconnected so I can replace the short rubber boot/shaft seal.

The cutless bearing needs replacing too. My spare time has been occupied by family members needing my assistance after their respective medical problems. After Memorial Day weekend I'll have more spare time.

There hasn't been much rain lately and the lake is actually down a bit. I've read that parts of Lake Ontario are having trouble with low water. Let's hope we don't have a repeat of last summer's drought. Maybe it's too early to pray for rain.

As you know by now the Marion to Bermuda race was cancelled. Tom and crew took the opportunity to cast off for Connecticut and a race to Martha's Vineyard and back. We expect a full report of your adventures on the high seas.

- John

## Port Tacks

Published six times a year by the Finger Lakes Yacht Club. The opinions expressed in **Port Tacks** are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Finger Lakes Yacht Club, its officers, directors, or members.

**Club Web Site** <http://www.flyc.us>

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# Rear Commodore's Comments

by Don Swanson



Greetings everyone and happy spring! After a long winter and a slow-to-start spring it's great to see boats and sailors getting ready for another season of racing and other sailing adventures. To that extent, this month's installment will highlight the following topics: race communications, some basic racing information, an invitation to new contestants and a friendly reminder for volunteers to help out on

race days.

I will be using REMIND, a free texting service for disseminating race information. Instead of cumbersome group texts, this method allows anyone to sign up (to receive messages) by texting a code to a phone number. I will be using REMIND messages: to post a reminder a few days before each race, when a race is delayed, rescheduled, or cancelled, when we will be using "make-up race" dates and other racing related announcements.

There are two methods for signing up to receive REMIND messages, by installing the app or just signing up to receive REMIND text messages on your phone (instructions below). *You do **NOT** need to download their app to receive messages on your phone.*

When you first sign up to the group (FLYC 2021 Racing), your first REMIND text message may indicate there are missed messages (sent before signing up) and to receive them you'll need the app. Don't bother, you didn't miss a thing. Messages posted prior to this publication were "test" messages and contain no useful information. REMIND can also be used to send pictures or other files. If this is done, a description of what the file is will be in the message.

Here is the info for joining the FLYC 2021 Racing REMIND group:

- Text the message @gk93e3 to the number 81010.
- If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @gk93e3 to (574) 807-6973.
- Reply text @LEAVE to unsubscribe.

On the day of each race there will be a skippers' meeting at the flagpole at 13:00 with the start horn at 13:45. Race radio communications will be via VHF channel 69.

Countdown to start signals:

- T-Minus 10 minutes: Radio announcement.
- T-Minus 5 minutes: horn
- T-Minus 1 minute: horn
- START: horn

SV Independence

Our start/finish line is shown in the overhead diagram below.



The start line is a contiguous line extending westward from the light tower end of the outer seawall to where it intersects a line extending north from the old "fuel dock" - just east of the restaurant and behind the former treatment plant site (see diagram below).

Racers are encouraged to keep a stopwatch time of their own. An easy method is to use a cell phone timer app. There are a wide variety of free sailing and racing apps that provide a host of useful features beyond elapsed time, including speed, track recording and compass heading. I use Boatspeed (free on Google play store). When crossing the finish line skippers should radio the committee boat and/or sound your horn (you should have one on board for safety). We will affirm your transmission and record your time. Each skipper should be tracking their own time as a backup in the event of missed communications or other unforeseeable issues.

Afterwards, join us for post race analysis and hors d'oeuvres at the flagpole. Lynne McGinnis has kindly offered to provision us for the post Rust Removal Race on May 29th. Thanks to Lynne for getting the ball rolling this season. If you would like to provision future post-race gatherings, be sure to let me know and I will sign you up. Racers, please consult the calendar in this newsletter for summer series and other race dates.

Debates may rage elsewhere, but I trust we can all agree that racing is best when there are more contestants. If you are new to racing, please consider joining us for some fun, comradery and best of all, a great excuse to be on the water. Hesitant to enter your own vessel? Consider crewing to get your sea legs. We are always looking to expand the fleet and crewing is a great introduction to racing. If you're interested or know of any interested skippers (or crew), please pass the word and invite them to join in. Interested parties should join us at the flagpole at 13:00 on race days.

And lastly, we are always looking for volunteers to help out with setting and retrieving marks. Many hands make light work. If you can spare a little time, we could really use your

assistance. Please contact me through REMIND or email me via [racechair@flyc.us](mailto:racechair@flyc.us). Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

Hope to see you on the water soon.

Best regards,

- Don

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## Secretary's Column

by Sue Morris

SV Sails Call



Ahoy to everyone!

No news updates here except please don't forget to renew your membership or sign-up new members!

Send completed forms to:

FLYC  
c/o Sue Morris, Secretary  
PO Box 14  
Pine Valley, NY 14872

Boats are going in the water so hope to see you there!

- Sue, FLYC Secretary

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## From the Treasurer

by Denis Kingsley

SV Tark



There continues to be little financial activity with no current expenses and just a few deposits of dues for 2021. As previously noted, we remain solvent.

- Denis, still cooking the books.

# Socially Speaking

by Maggie Martin & Lynne McGinnis



## Upcoming Events

Helllllooooo! It has been a busy few weeks getting boats ready and in the water.

By the time you read this, the Memorial Day Picnic will be in the past - the kickoff

to our back to business as usual (almost) social season. Many of you may know that I have a broken ankle and will not be too useful for a while; I hope that you can pitch in and help! (Includes watching the world go by with a tiny glass of wine on occasion.)

The Christening/Rechristening of the fleet is taking place on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 5PM. This is an event that we are bringing back from the past, where we gather near the flagpole, and proceed down all the docks to dedicate our boats in whatever manner the captain wishes. Maybe have a little something to say about the boat, your history in the water, read

SV Aquarelle & SV Brewster

something appropriate, or talk about the origin of the name of your vessel. The host skippers may have some hors d'oeuvres on hand, and BYOB. Come along or drop in for part of the evening. It is optional if you want to participate in your own 'ceremony'.

The next event is the Independence Picnic. Not on the 4<sup>th</sup> this year, but on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup>. As always, please sign up in advance on the bulletin board so we know how many hot dogs, hamburgers, and veggie burgers to purchase.

For all our events, bring a side or dessert to share and your own beverage. The club provides plates, plastic utensils, and napkins. (And a grill!) See you around the docks.

- Maggie & Lynne

Contact: Maggie 607-621-7247

Lynne 607-426-7914

Email both at [social@flyc.us](mailto:social@flyc.us)

# East Coast Explorations

By Tom Alley

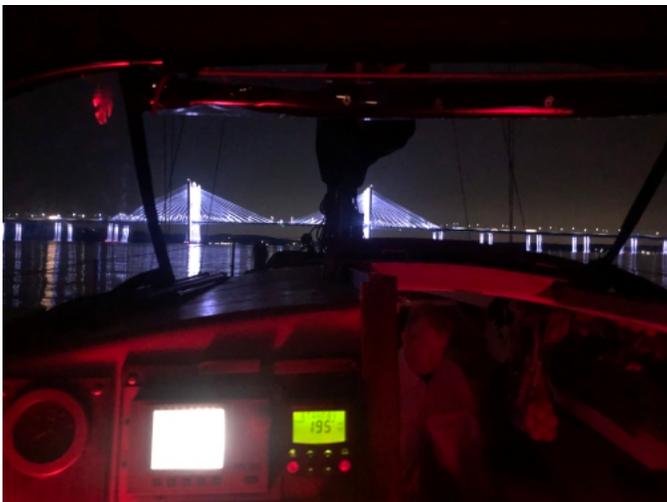
Although there hasn't been much time to sort through things, here are a few snapshots of *Tomfoolery's* trip from the upper Hudson River to Connecticut in late May. Much more to follow, so stay tuned!



*Photo 1: One of the lighthouses perched atop rocks in the Hudson River between Albany and New York City.*



*Photo 2: One of the many (large) barges we encountered on the Hudson River.*

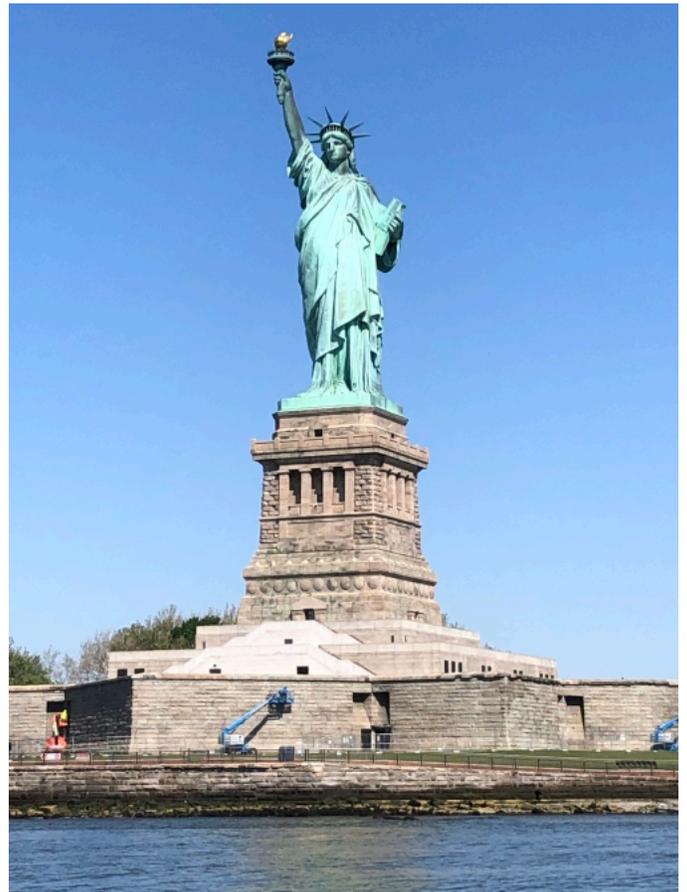


*Photo 3: Approaching the Tappan Zee Bridge shortly after midnight.*

SV Tomfoolery



*Photo 4: New York City at dawn. Freedom Tower can be seen to the right.*



*Photo 5: Lady Liberty in New York Harbor. Being on a boat allowed us to get up close for a good view.*



Photo 6: Tides matter! Just check out the wake being left by this channel marker in New York City as a 3-knot tidal current whips past! In a couple hours it'll be going the other way with equal vigor.

Wetherill Memorial Race starting the following morning. The race is a 140 nm circuit with some legs in open ocean.



Photo 9: Mike Crouse calling sail trim during the race. Note that we're keeping up with the boats in the "fast" fleet!



Photo 7: The happy delivery crew on Long Island Sound finally enjoying enough breeze to sail. (L to R: Tom Alley, Jim McGinnis, Mike Crouse, and Katie Alley)

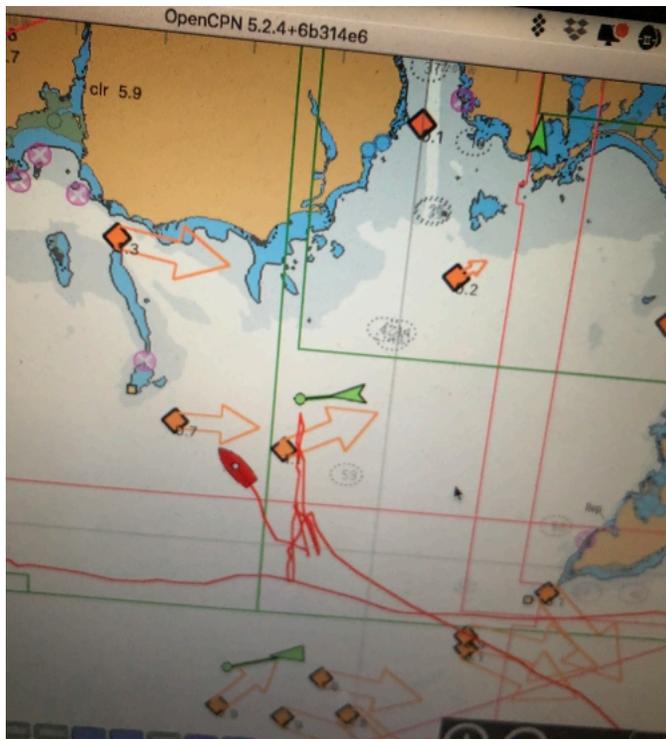


Photo 10: Chartplotter view of "not giving up." We're just a few miles from the finish, fighting light winds and a foul tidal current. Note the lateral tacks with little or no progress forward.



Photo 8: Drone shot of Tomfoolery after arriving at Essex Yacht Club in Essex, CT. Crew is preparing for the 69th running of the Sam

- Tom

# Editor's Corner

by Tom Alley



## Bermuda Update

I was expecting to write a very different column in this issue, but on Thursday evening, May 13<sup>th</sup>, the Marion-Bermuda Race Committee announced that the 2021 race had been cancelled. This despite the facts that Bermuda covid cases were declining and that the island was coming out of its late-April lockdown. It appears that the driving factor was the CDC's reclassification of Bermuda as a "very high risk" travel destination.

Now what? We had everything ready. To say that my crew and I were disappointed would be a gross understatement.

Other competitors appear to have been caught equally off-guard. There were some FaceBook posts from other boats looking to see if anyone was interested in making the trip anyway. *Tomfoolery's* crew expressed interest, but we really needed a good shakedown of both the boat and the crew before we could commit.

Enter the Essex Yacht Club of Essex, CT. We were put in touch with Bill Gunther who was organizing the 69<sup>th</sup> running of the Sam Wetherill Memorial Race from Saybrook, CT to Martha's Vineyard and back, with a leg through the North Atlantic around the bottom of Block Island. This would be a 140 nm race. Bill offered to help us in any way possible to get registered for the race, which would be starting the following Friday on May 21<sup>st</sup>. After discussing it with my crew, we decided to go for it.

One detail: We had to launch the boat, commission her, and get her to Essex within four days.

Launch times are constrained to narrow windows around high tide in the Hudson River. We were already scheduled to launch later in the week, so it took a few phone calls to confirm that we could launch first thing on Tuesday morning, and on Monday afternoon, Jim McGinnis, Mike Crouse, Katie Alley, and I drove out to Coeymans Landing to begin preparing for launch. Because of tidal constraints, our objective was to do as much as possible to get *Tomfoolery* ready for departure prior to launch. I can state with great confidence that it is much easier to provision a boat from the dock than it is to haul a week's worth of food and supplies up a 10-foot ladder! We slept well that night!

Boatyard manager, Eric, showed up right on schedule on Tuesday morning and, since he had hung us in the travelift slings the afternoon before, we were in the water and tied to the dock for final commissioning within 20 minutes. Following some final system checks, we were underway down the Hudson River within 90 minutes. 214 nm, 45 hours, and a few adventures later (which I'm sure you will hear about), we arrived in Essex, CT during the early dawn hours of Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

*SV Tomfoolery*

After napping for a few hours, the Essex Yacht Club staff directed us to a complimentary slip where we could stay prior to the race. We were treated like celebrities, with introductions along the lines of, "This is the crew of *Tomfoolery*, who traveled all the way from Watkins Glen to race with us!"

Andrea Johnson joined us later that Thursday, after driving my van to Essex so that we would all have a ride home after the race. We attended the skippers' meeting and spent time reviewing the race instructions and formulating our strategy. Tides, we were told, would be the key. Several of the club's "old salts" shared a great deal of local knowledge with us that proved to be invaluable.

I won't bore you with the details of the race here. There's plenty to tell and that will be saved for longer articles in the future. Tides did turn out to be a major factor, as did some fickle winds. (We spent a total of almost 6 hours becalmed at various stages of the race.) We finished well – very well considering the level of competition we were facing. (Again, a story unto itself for another time.)

What's next? We'll return in mid-June to do some serious cruising in New England. We've had recommendations from many of the locals giving us a long list of places that are "must see," and since we're in the area, we'll take advantage of that situation.

More to come!

- Tom

*Well, your editor has opened his big mouth again. If you wish to agree, or to tell him he doesn't know squat, please send your comments to [editor@flyc.us](mailto:editor@flyc.us).*



*Photo 11: The crew of Tomfoolery after finishing the 69<sup>th</sup> Sam Wetherill Memorial Race in Essex, CT. L to R: Jim McGinnis, Mike Crouse, Katie Alley, Tom Alley, and Andrea Johnson.*

# 2021 FLYC Calendar

This is the club calendar as discussed at the Board meeting in March. Some dates are subject to change as plans firm up and get finalized. Please check the club web site (<http://www.FLYC.US>) to see the most current information.

Corrections & updates are highlighted.

## Regular/Repeating Events

**Saturday Morning Kaffee Klatch.** Every Saturday at 0900 from Memorial Day Weekend through mid-September under the awning on Dock 5 at the Marina Bar & Grill.

**Post-Mortem Racing Social.** After every club race at 1700 on the lawn by the marina flagpole. BYOB/Snack to share. Open to racers and non-racers alike.

## January

22 **Deadline for newsletter articles.**

## February

01 **February Newsletter Publication Date.**

## March

19 **Deadline for newsletter articles.**

## April

01 **April Newsletter Publication Date.**

10 *\*Celestial* – Screening of short film on the Marion-Bermuda Race by the Finger Lakes Chapter of America's Boating Club, *Radisson, Corning, NY.*

15 **Earliest possible launch date.**

## May

01 **Membership renewals due!**

25 **Deadline for newsletter articles.**

31 **Memorial Day Picnic.** Hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers. Bring a side or dessert and your own beverage. (1700)

## June

01 **June Newsletter Publication Date.**

05 **Rust Removal Race. *\*\*Rescheduled\*\** Practice race. (1300)**

12 **Summer Series Race #1.** (1300)

12 **Christening/Rechristening of the Fleet & Light Up the Night.** Village Marina, all docks. Walk the docks, meet your neighbors, and learn about their boats as they are rechristened. Share hors d'oeuvres at your boat. BYOB. (1700)

18 ~~*\*Start of the Marion Bermuda Race, Beverly Yacht Club, Marion, MA (1200)*~~

26 **Summer Series Race #2.** (1300)

## July

10 **Summer Series Race #3.** (1300)

11 **Independence Picnic.** Hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers on the grill. Bring a side or dessert and your own beverage. (1700)

17 **Make-up Race.** If needed. (1300)

23 **Deadline for newsletter articles.**

24 **Summer Series Race #4.** (1300)

7/30-8/1 *\*ABC-FLX Rendezvous at Sampson. (FLYC membership invited!)*

## August

01 **August Newsletter Publication Date.**

05-08 *\*NASCAR at the Glen*

07 **Commodore's Cup Race.** Destination TBD. (0900)

08 **Commodore's Dinner.** BBQ with Chef Mike. (1700)

13-14 *\*Watkins Glen Italian Festival(?)*

14 **Summer Series Race #5.** (1300)

15 **Hawaiian Luau at the Flagpole.** Grilled Kebobs (shrimp & veggie). Bring a side or dessert and your own beverage. (1700)

21 **Make-up Race.** If needed. (1300)

28 **Summer Series Race #6.** (1300)

## September

04 **Summer Series Race #7.** (1300)

05 **Labor Day Picnic.** Grilled chicken or portobello with Chef Mike. (1700)

11 *\*Seneca Yacht Club Barge Race, Geneva, NY*

11-12 **FLYC Club Cruise to Geneva.** Joint cruise with the ABC-FLX chapter.

18 **Summer Series Race #8.** (1300)

24 **Deadline for newsletter articles.**

25 **Make-up Race.** If needed. (1300)

## October

01 **October Newsletter Publication Date.**

02 **Soup/Chili/Chocolate Festival.** Bring your best effort in one of these 3 categories to win! Power will be available for crock pots. (1700)

- *\*Annapolis Sailboat Show.*

09 **Gear Buster Race.** (1300)

16 **FLYC Haul Out/Help Out Day.** (1000)

31 **Marina Haulout Deadline** (per slip contract).

## November

TBD **Member Banquet & Annual Meeting.**

24 **Deadline for newsletter articles.**

## December

01 **December Newsletter Publication Date.**

*\* Non-FLYC events.*

# Finger Lakes Yacht Club

## Membership Application

Membership renewals are due by May 1<sup>st</sup>. **Annual dues are \$45.**  
 Please send this form and a check to:

Finger Lakes Yacht Club, Inc.  
 c/o Sue Morris, Secretary  
 P. O. Box 14  
 Pine Valley, NY 14872

**NOTE:** Due to the impact of COVID on 2020 club events, 2021 renewal for existing members has been reduced to \$10.

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"/> Junior Sailing
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

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 \_\_\_\_\_