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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

Change

As we know, we are experiencing some exciting changes in our marina environment. The past changes we have seen certainly have proven to be a good thing. The old flea market area became the Harbor Hotel, the cinder parking area became the "Seneca Harbor Park" and the brick walkway along the docks are examples of what began about 2005. Now, the newly proposed ideas are equally exciting and offer more big changes to our environment.



When it comes to pass that improvements begin, which is still pending, marina tenants are depending on tenant bathrooms, showers, and a pump-out dock to remain operational. Some form of vehicle parking and enough space for winter storage area are also critical. These concerns are basic for the regular annual cycle to remain normal.

There are many moving parts to these impending ideas. If the result turns out as nice as the previous changes have, our space where we spend so much time will only be better. To help work toward that goal we should stay current with discussions in all the arenas. There are many. The Watkins Glen Village Planning Board, the Schuyler County Planning Commission, Industrial Development Agency, The Schuyler County Legislature, and private enterprises such as the Village Marina are all "players" to some degree in the ideas of how things will unfold.

It may be an appropriate plan to ask for interested members to volunteer to form a small group to stay current with developing plans, similar to what happened in 2013 when the Village Marina was before the county legislature requesting a contract extension. These members could then make sure the yacht club is informed of accurate information and, if appropriate, the club could properly voice an opinion to the plans in a timely fashion. The Finger Lakes Yacht Club has gone through many changes in 30 years and remains a solid group that contributes to the Schuyler County community in many ways. We would hope to continue in that tradition.

-Terry

Vice Commodore's Comments

by John Chesbrough

SV Aquarell



My Late Launch

It all started last summer when an observant sailor who was helping me adjust the stuffing box pointed out that the shaft log boot was looking shabby and might sink the boat. Naturally, I waited until this spring to do something about it and the task at hand blossomed

(springtime, why not blossom?) into a multifaceted chore.

Everyone who took a peek also took a turn at revealing yet another flaw in dire need of attention. The cutless bearing was shot. The strut/skeg cutless bearing carrier was warped in two directions. The flax in the stuffing box was shot. The flexible coupling was cracked. The shaft was scored, worn, and bent (a new stainless-steel replacement would cost more than I care to spend). When we (at various times I was assisted by one of Mike, Dirk, or Ted) disassembled the flex coupling from the shaft coupling it was discovered that the two did not mate properly, never did. Furthermore, the shaft had to be grabbed/yanked/shoved/pulled to get it in. These characteristics would explain the wear and tear. The engine had to be loosened, then slid over and tilted too, then retightened. The cracked flex coupling is obsolete and unavailable. Evidently the size and bolt pattern are unusual so a custom coupling will need to be made. Meanwhile our own Gary Weber took a gander at said cracked flex coupling and is of the sincere opinion that it still has many a nautical mile remaining within, but to be careful in reverse. At this point that sounded okay by me.

As the above-mentioned procedures were playing out, we (captain and crew) decided to repair all the windows and to repaint the topside. Then we got some rain and some more rain followed by a lot of rain. In between the droplets the painting was accomplished (a chalky surface can be cleaned with household degreaser/cleaner, rinse water and a million rags and paper towels) (Goo-be-gone works on old silicone caulk).

The good ship *Aquarelle* should be in the water by the time this is in print, snugly berthed in a new slip that is half a foot wider than the beam. Maybe somewhere between the beam and the water line I'll gain enough inches to fit a fender in. The high water will be helpful for that.

- John

Port Tacks

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

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Rear Commodore's Comments

by Don Swanson



The summer is in full gear and although the weather has been wet and the lake is rising, it has been a pretty decent season of sailing and racing thus far. I hope that all of you are enjoying the sun when we get it and are managing to get some fine sailing in between the deluges of rain that we've been seeing quite a bit lately. All the same, I hope you're having a good summer.

I would like to kick off this month's column by expressing how thankful I am for the support received, guidance provided, and patience required as I have gotten a handle on this Rear Commodore business. Thank you to all who have participated and assisted. Your efforts and input have been instrumental in making the start of the 2021 racing season a success.

Before the season officially began, we held the annual Rust Removal Regatta on June 5th, a race that doesn't count towards season totals, but is a great way to get back in the swing. Lousy weather on the originally scheduled date of May 29th forced a postponement, but in the end doing so helped increase the number of participants. We had an exciting Rust Removal Regatta with westerlies gusting easily to about 20 knots and whitecaps moving from west to east.

Since then, the Summer Series races have been in full swing with four races behind us and four more to look forward to - so there are plenty of chances to join in the fun. It's a great way to shake off the Covid isolation blues and best of all, racing pushes your skills. If you have hesitated to join in, consider crewing to get oriented. Chances are, you will be entering your own boat in no time.

Our summer series racing season officially kicked off with race number 1 on June 12th, which began favorably with a gentle breeze out of the North, but as the race proceeded, the winds abated and pretty much faded as we ghosted across the finish line. As races go, it was a nice float, but not much of a sail. For our second race, which after some rescheduling happened on July 4th, we were rewarded with a northwest wind which provided a great day of racing and sailing. And most recently, race number 3 held on July 10th, we had a more robust fleet of seven boats and a pleasant day of racing under clearing skies and a northerly blowing at about 8-10 kts in the puffs. Overall, not too bad a start to the season and lots more to look forward to.

Once again, thank you to all the folks who have helped in placing and retrieving marks. If not for your help this would be more labor than love and as it is said, many hands really do make light work. We usually meet to place marks around 11 am on race day. If you can help out, please let me know by RSVPing to the Remind™ text messages sent a few days prior

SV Independence

to each race. And if not before the race, we can always use your help afterwards for retrieving the marks.

Spread the word and invite other sailors to enter the races. For our most recent race we started with seven entrants and without a doubt it made for a better experience. Keep your eye out for new sailors and spread the word on the docks. A larger fleet always makes for a more interesting and competitive day.

I will continue to use Remind and the few phone numbers I have in a text message group. I have tried to eliminate duplication, so if you are receiving both, please let me know. A few days before a race I will be sending a reminder out. Skippers' meeting is usually at 13:00 at the flagpole. Also, don't forget the after-race post-mortem. Please consider provisioning with a snack or two.

On-water race communications are on VHF 69. We usually conduct a radio check about 10 minutes before start. Skippers please be sure to radio the committee boat when crossing the finish line. It is also recommended that skippers keep their own time. Prior to each race there will be a horn sounded at minus five minutes, minus one minute, and a final (and slightly prolonged) blast will sound at the start. I would also like to remind all racers to avoid the *Seneca Legacy* and *Seneca Spirit* tour boats. It is usually not a problem but is something to keep in mind.

A word about scheduling. If you have been around a while, you know how fickle conditions can prove to be on Seneca Lake and races may occasionally be rescheduled to take advantage of better conditions. This may not always result in success, but I do appreciate your understanding and patience. If conditions or other issues result in a race being rescheduled, we try our best to decide the evening before or during the morning of race day. If postponed, we will use the next scheduled "make-up" race day to conduct the race. I will continue to do my best to keep you informed through Remind messages and the occasional text, but regrettably I do not have an exhaustive list of contacts. Below is information on how to sign up.

That's about it for now. Hope the season continues to be a good one for racing and cruising. Hope to see you on the water soon.

Fair winds,

- Don

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Here is how to sign up for the FLYC 2021 Racing message group:

Text the message @gk93e3 to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @gk93e3 to (574) 807-6973.

2021 Race Season Standings

by FLYC Race Committee

www.FLYC.US

			Throw-Outs									
			Date ->									
			# Boats ->									
			1									
			6/12	7/4	7/10	7/24	8/14	8/28	9/4	9/18		
			3	4	5	3					3.8	
Boat	Owner	Type	Race #1	Race #2	Race #3	Race #4	Race #5	Race #6	Race #7	Race #8	Total	
Ellawicious	Bill Trondsen	Pearson 26	1	3	1	1					3	
Independence	Don Swanson	C&C 25	3	4	3	8					10	
Brewster	Jim McGinnis	Hunter 336	8	8	4	2					14	
Seek Ye 1st	Mike Crouse	Islander 36	8	1	8	8					17	
Lanikai	Tony Kutyana	C&C 25	8	2	7	8					17	
Bobs Boat	Bob Hansen	Sea Sprite 30	8	8	2	8					18	
Dry White	Tom Keebler	Pearson 28-2	8	8	8	3					19	
Sails Call	Jim Morris	Bavaria 34	4	8	8	8					20	
Tomfoolery	Tom Alley	Alberg 35	8	8	5	8					21	
My Boat	Frank Rinker	Pearson 27 WK	8	8	7	8					23	

For individual race results, please see the FLYC web site (www.FLYC.US).

Secretary's Column

by Sue Morris

SV Sails Call



Hello everyone!

Summer is going too quickly for me this year! Storms, heat, and humidity have made it quite interesting! Enjoy the FLYC Summer events.

Currently we have 27 new and renewed memberships.

If anyone is interested, please send membership form to the following address. Thank you!

Send completed forms to:

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

- 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



Summer Is Here!

Hello mid-summer dreamers! Just drying off and recalling a memorable wet July Independence Day picnic. Thank you to the brave folk who put up the tent in soggy conditions.

The picnic was great

— those who attended had a good time. We won't cancel unless there is extreme hardship. Thanks to Chef Mike and our NEW GRILL we had a sumptuous feast. And thanks as well to the tent takedowners who did this just before the wind did the job.

SV Aquarelle & SV Brewster

Our next event is the always popular Commodores Dinner at the Marina. The menu is 'Surf and Turf'. Chef Mike will grill steaks and shrimp. Please be sure to sign up on the FLYC bulletin board so we order the right amount of food! Bring a side or dessert and BYOB as usual. The calendar is being corrected – there is no Luau planned in August. See you all then!

- Maggie & Lynne

Contact: Maggie 607-621-7247

Lynne 607-426-7914

Email both at social@flyc.us

Watkins Glen Waterfront Development

By Maggie Martin

At the Independence Day picnic, we decided to write a letter indicating that we would like to be involved, updated, and informed regarding the planning and development of the site of the former sewage treatment plant. We have written a letter and are collecting signatures from FLYC members and boatowners. We have posted a copy of the letter on the bulletin board and in this newsletter (see below). Please sign if you are so inclined. It will be sent in early August to local planning officials. See Nancy on *Amazing Grace* (Dock 4) or ask dockmaster John Chesebrough if you wish to sign on.

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*Attn: Village of Watkins Glen Planning Board,
Schuyler County Planning Board*

Cc: Schuyler County Partnership for Economic Development

*Re: Finger Lakes Yacht Club (FLYC) Comments on Future
Plans for Marina Development*

As boatowners at the Village Marina, we are excited about the changes that are planned for the waterfront. We are writing to express our interest in participating in the process of developing a functional design that will improve and retain the character of the current Marina area.

Our understanding is that the existing Marina Grill building will be redeveloped as part of these plans. This building currently serves the important functions of providing

SV Aquarelle

bathrooms with showers for FLYC members. The redesign of this area is critical to the ongoing services for boaters. Our members depend on the current amenities and services. We ask that these services and features be carefully considered as part of the design process.

These include:

- Access to boat docks;
- Public launch ramp;
- High-quality bathrooms with showers;
- Wide public promenade with public seating areas;
- Public kayak and small craft launch;
- Travel lift for seasonal boat putting in and taking out;
- Boat owners parking;
- Transient dock for visiting boaters;
- Seasonal boat storage.

As major project stakeholders and primary users of the waterfront, we have strong interest in the schematic and final stages of design. We can send a representative to participate during meetings with project designers and developers. We will attend public planning meetings, at all relevant municipal levels, when this project is on the agenda. Please include the FLYC in any stakeholder outreach meetings, as well as distribution of public notices and meeting minutes. Our email address is secretary@FLYC.org.

Thank you for your attention, and we will see you on the water!

Marina Waterfront Development – Latest News

By Maggie Martin & Jim McGinnis

We had a meeting with Judy Cherry from SCOPED (and Dock 4) this week and she gave us an overview of the current planning for the waterfront project. We asked for this meeting as we have ongoing interest in the development and how it will affect us as boatowners and the area of the marina.

What we learned is that there has been a developer identified. The identity and specific plan is not yet public. We expressed our concern for continuation of the amenities that we currently enjoy and require, i.e., parking, restrooms with showers, boat access, storage, et cetera, and were assured that these were included in the requirements and will be provided for us. Our dock rental is and will continue to be with the Shamels, who have approximately 23 years left on their lease. New restrooms with showers will be provided by the county working with the developer as a part of the project requirements. We may have temporary ‘portable’ units during the construction phase. The restaurant will be closing at the end of this season in October when their lease extensions are over. That is all there is to know about how things are going to be for now.

In the broader view, we need to understand that the goals of area economic development and statewide waterfront development are sustainable year-round tourism, jobs, and tax revenue. There

SV Aquarelle & SV Brewster

are many interests to work with on this south end of Seneca Lake, with the State, County, Village, corporate (Cargill) and private ownership of the property.

Judy invited us to keep current through the SCOPED website, <https://flxgateway.com>. Detailed requirements of the RFP and the three alternatives proposed are available on this site. It is thought that the proposed condominium development along the waterfront where our boats are currently stored is no longer planned. We can go to the Schuyler County website under legislative reports, CD&R committee, to look at planning; Project Seneca, and view the agenda for meetings and previous minutes.

The Village of Watkins Glen has a large stake in this, and their website will have planning board and village council meeting agendas and prior minutes. All the pieces are not in place, and there is advocacy to be done for whatever role we, as FLYC members, residents, and members of the public, wish to pursue.

- Maggie & Jim

Editor's Corner

by Tom Alley



Coming Home

As I mentioned in my prior column, my crew and I returned to Essex, CT to do some serious cruising through southern New England and Long Island Sound for a couple of weeks in June before bringing *Tomfoolery* back

home to Watkins Glen. As you may have noticed, we made it back just before Independence Day. Since then, I've made a few minor repairs to the masthead, and we are now re-rigged and have been competing in local club races.

While the trip to our eastern shores and the Atlantic Ocean was a fulfilling adventure, there's also great satisfaction that comes with returning home. "Home," by definition, is not exotic to those that live there. Rather, it is a comfortable place to be. *Tomfoolery* is now nearby where I can make regular (and more frequent) visits. The waters we're in are familiar. I don't have to consult tide tables before every move, nor do I lie awake at

night wondering which component of the boat the salt water is going to destroy next.

It's all good. We're home.

While the original goal of our mission was not realized, I think my crew and I did a pretty good job of "making lemonade" when things went sideways. We left here 10 months ago seeking adventure and, aside from finding it, have returned not just intact, but reasonably content. There are hundreds of photos and videos to share, dozens of stories to tell, and more than a few drinks to hoist to toast our experiences as we retell them.

But above all, we're home. We're in familiar places surrounded by familiar faces. And that's something to be especially grateful for – having a place to call HOME.

- 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.

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.**

29 **Rust Removal Race.** Practice race. (1300)

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.**

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, Beverlyly 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)

07-10 **Annapolis Powerboat Show.*

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

14-18 **Annapolis Sailboat Show.*

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 1st. **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 _____