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

Commodore's Comments

by Terry Stewart

SV Syren

Dreamy Images

I open with a famous line "Call me Ishmael." Why, you ask? That name now evokes dreamy-like adventure images in my little brain. From the Husky dog that was named "Ishmael" in Fernandina's *Tiger Point Marina* who roamed the marina with a sense of adventure, to Herman Melville's main character, the name drips with excitement.



Leon and Ileen Frontier are former Village Marina tenants who have sailed long and wide. Their 39-foot Mariner sailboat, *Mupepe*, is now summering in Guatemala. They sailed from Key West to there last winter. Leon has sailed the equatorial trade winds from Africa to San Salvador and together he and Ileen have been many dreamy places on their vessel. They left from our little "Village Marina" in Watkins Glen.

I saw the Frontiers at the Village Marina just the other day and asked if they would be willing to share some of their stories with us at a Power Squadron meeting before they head back to Guatemala in the fall and they said yes. So, from Don Klober's adventures to Leon's adventures we can be blessed with another talk to let us dream by. Stand by for further information. In the meantime, "Call me Ishmael."

-Terry

REMINDER:

Your FLYC annual membership dues were due on May 1st. If you haven't renewed yet, please fill out the membership form on the last page of this newsletter and send it to the address on the form with your dues so that you don't miss out on any of this year's activities!

Vice Commodore's Comments

by John Chesbrough

SV Plein Air



It's Go Time

This time of year at our marina is always interesting. A mix of excitement and great expectations override minor feelings of anxiety and dread of the unknown. Will my bottom paint job hold up? Did the window leak get adequately repaired? That

three-year-old fuel is good to go, right? Actually, these concerns are part of boating, and they happen all summer long. Patience mixed with diligence is a good approach. And our yacht club is populated by many people with experience and knowledge about every boat problem imaginable. That's one of the benefits of a yacht club membership, being able to share knowledge, ask favors, and help each other out.

Right now, the club could use some help with the social committee which needs people. Volunteers have always been vital for the picnics – the more the better. The grill is open to volunteers for the events that require cooking. We look forward to perfect weather for each picnic weekend.

The Village Marina for this summer of '23 has more tenants than before (I snuck a peek at the dock lists). There is even some overflow onto dock 5 for seasonal slip holders. There will be more boats, more traffic coming and going, more boaters who are still learning the nooks and crannies. Keep your eyes open, look both ways often and keep the speed down. I'll see you out there.

- 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



Life's Course Changes

As we approach the leading edge of summer, it is time to get ready for another season of racing and cruising, and the excitement is palpable. If you have been down to the boatyard lately, you will know what I am talking about. There has been a lot of activity as skippers ready their vessels for another season. And I, like so many others, had been patiently waiting

through the cold, dark months of winter to finally begin preparations and spring commissioning.

But as life is wont to do sometimes, it took me on an unexpected detour just as the spring sprint was getting underway. In March a skiing accident abruptly forced a change of plan; requiring a surgical rebuilding of one of my shoulders - which I will be recovering from for the foreseeable future. Thankfully, the acute discomfort and immobility has passed and to strengthen my arm and shoulder again I am coupling my prescribed physical therapy with "heeling" sessions on the water. For as bad as this could have gone, I am truly thankful that I am getting better, and through it all I can still find joy in sailing, albeit with some adjustments, at least for now.

There have also been some changes around the yard and marina. There are some new boats and others that have changed hands, some have been cut up and others trucked away. We are always happy to have new folks join in the fun. Be sure to extend a welcome to new sailors, invite them to our race events and steer their course to the FLYC website and membership form.

As for Racing...

At the time of this writing, we have yet to conduct a race, but the season will have begun by the time you are reading this. On May 27th the Rust Removal Regatta is scheduled to be held. Like other races, I will be sending out a reminder via Remind@ messaging a few days before the event. It helps when skippers RSVP - especially when the conditions are marginal. Please see below for how to sign up for Remind@ messages. No download is needed, and you will then be able to receive text message updates regarding race info.

Looking ahead to the month of June we get started on our Summer Series races 1 and 2, scheduled for June 3rd and 10th, respectively. We'll take a break for the Waterfront Festival weekend and will return with race #3 on June 24th.

In July, race #4 is on the calendar for 7/1 and race #5 is scheduled for the 15th. We will top off July with a new event: The Cock of the Walk Race. This race is designed for fun and will be a bit different from other events. We are planning a Le Mans style race that starts on land with the finish line at the HH

SV Independence

Brewing Company bar. We hope to make it a distance race (endurance), but don't worry, it's not going to be a 24-hour event! Mark your calendars and pray for good weather. For this race the emphasis is on fun. We will share more details at the skipper's meetings at the preceding July Summer Series race events.

Independence is not just a name....

The name *Independence* came with my boat and initially it was going to be changed to something more fitting or clever. But what would it be? A list ensued, debate followed, and here I am six years later this Fall, and this task never made it to the top of the list. Which is fine, because as time passed, the name seemed more fitting. I am, for the most part, a single-handed (not just because of my recent mishap) sailor and a DIY'er, which makes the name *Independence* more fitting than ever... at least for now. The name reflects my attitude, but the day may come when the hull gets repainted and then, and only then, I might return to the notion of a new name. Regardless of the outcome, I will always be independently minded and a single-hand sailor, and being so, I include myself in the vast cohort of sailors that would rather sail alone. Not for lack of crew but for the solitude and peacefulness found under sail as the boat and sailor become of one mind, body, and spirit. Of course, I still enjoy having company aboard and the occasional crew, but most of the time, even though I am alone on my boat, I am never lonely. I bring this up because I recently came upon an interesting on-line book: *Singlehanded Sailing: Thoughts, Tips, Technique and Tactic* by Andrew Evans. Even if you prefer sailing with a crew, you may find it helpful and an enlightening read. Click on the link below to learn more.

<https://tinyurl.com/2je5cw33>

Lastly, below is information on how to receive race notices and updates via text message. Skippers, please RSVP when a race notice is posted. Last minute changes to times and dates will be disseminated using this system.

To sign up to receive automated text messaging from FLYC Racing, text: @gk93e3 to the number 81010

If you have trouble with 81010, try texting @gk93e3 to (563) 265-6842.

You will receive a welcome text from Remind®. (Remind is the name of the service that allows me to communicate to all who sign up.) You will receive my notices by text message. No apps/downloads are needed.

We will use one group (FLYC Racing) for all race notices.

See you out on the water. Cheers!

- Don

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Secretary's Column

by Katie Alley



Ahoy!

As a reminder, 2023 annual dues *are due!* (Like, last month.) Please be sure to get your completed membership form and \$45 (in the form of cash or check) to me in-person at the marina or by mail to the address below. You should be able to find me most weekends either on Dock 4 or swabbing the decks on *True Love* .

As a side note, my address will be changing this July as I relocate to the Horseheads area (oh, the joys of one-year leases and inflated rent prices). So, if you're

SV Tomfoolery

mailing your check to me, do it before then to reduce the chances of it getting lost in the mail and in my move!

Thank you and see you on the water!

- Katie, FLYC Secretary

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Please mail membership forms and dues to (before 7/1/2023):

Katie Alley
218 Pleasant St
Ithaca, NY 14850

Or hand them to me in the marina!

From the Treasurer

by Denis Kingsley



While the club is not awash in cash, having spent a fair amount last year on outings, we still have a few shekels in our bank account. Thankfully, they weren't deposited in Republic or Silicon Valley banks.

SV Tark

Currently, as treasurer, I am the only one making deposits and signing checks for the club. It would be prudent to have another member as a back-up for these functions. If anyone is interested in serving in this capacity, please contact me. (607-739-8405 or dkingsle@stny.rr.com)

- Denis, still cooking the books.

Socially Speaking

Help Not Wanted – Help Needed!

As you read in Vice Commodore John's column, our club could use a hand with executing our social events this summer. We are terribly short-staffed on the Social Committee and really need some help. If you are at all able to help, even if only for

part of the summer, it would greatly benefit the club. Contact any of the FLYC officers for details.

- FLYC Board of Directors

Pursuit of Happiness: 5 Tips for Reverse PHRF Racing

By Heather Mahady

UK Sailmakers International

[This article originally appeared on the UK Sailmakers web site and is reprinted here with their permission. We thank both Heather and UK Sailmakers (www.uksailmakers.com) for graciously allowing us to share their article! -Ed.]



MAY 9th, 2023 – Every dog has its day, and pursuit racing is an excellent way to make all competitors feel like they have skin in the game. Pursuit racing, commonly called reverse handicap racing, is a variant of PHRF racing where boats start in reverse order, with their start times pre-determined by their ratings and the course length. The staggered start times are designed to result in a tight finish for every boat on the course, with many of the benefits and thrills of one design racing.

The reality is different, however, after battling up and down the course in varied conditions and facing tactical choices. Usually, only a handful of boats are in the running by the final leg. Nevertheless, they provide a fun event that varies the standard fare of windward/leeward round-the-buoys club racing. The slowest boats, having had a head start, experience the thrill of leading the way around the course while the faster boats need to be strategic about jockeying through the fleet.

The beauty of this is that you always know how you are doing, similar to racing in a one design fleet. If a boat is ahead of you, it's beating you; if you're ahead, you're ahead. It's that simple. There is no waiting after the finish for a computer program to crunch the numbers.

FIVE KEY PURSUIT RACING TIPS:

1. Take advantage of the open start line and **GET A GOOD START, IN CLEAR AIR**. The staggered start times should leave you with a lot of room at go. Arrive early to

the starting area to select the favored end of the line, assess the conditions, run the line a few times, and take transits on shore. This is your chance to really nail the start! Typically, start times are listed in advance, and there will not be a sequence for each boat.

2. If you aren't the final boat to start, **CONSOLIDATE YOUR POSITION** on the fleet behind you. Keep tabs on the fleet and keep your boat positioned between them and the next mark. Boats that start after you have a faster rating and will close the gap as the race progresses. Lead the fleet, it is harder for them to pass you if they are following the same course.





the tide when the wind shuts off. On the other hand, there is nothing more dismaying than to watch from the lead position as a puff creeps up from behind, allowing the faster boats to rocket past. But that’s what sailboat racing is all about.

Pursuit racing can also be enticing for less experienced racers and serves as a great way to introduce new racers to PHRF racing. This format gives the whole starting line to individual boats; there are only multiple boats on the line when boats share the same rating. Seasoned racers may argue that races can be won and lost at the start line, and that an empty start line doesn’t challenge the skills required to succeed in a conventional sequence. But for that reason, it removes huge obstacle to new racers, who may still be uncomfortable maneuvering in such close proximity to other boats.

There is a small amount of luck involved in any sailing race, but there is always plenty of skill required to spot shifts, puffs, tidal and tactical advantages. While many yacht club trophies seem to be reserved for the elite sleds, a pursuit race with a single winner allows the name engraved to represent a broader range of competitors, and even the most humble vessel has a fighting chance to win.

- Heather

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Heather Mahady is the General Manager of UK Sailmakers International. She is based on Vancouver Island in the Pacific Northwest, and is a passionate sailboat racer, sailmaker, and sustainability advocate.



Check out the UK Sailmakers web site for more articles and information at:

www.UKSailmakers.com



3. **SAIL YOUR OWN RACE**, stay focused, and look for any opportunity to pass those ahead. Don’t get caught up with your head outside of the boat too much. The boats that started before you have a slower rating, and you can catch them by maximizing your own boat speed and performance.
4. Avoid wasting time getting stuck to leeward, caught-up in a luffing match or a tacking duel during the early stages of the race. But towards the finish, you can use these tactics to **DEFEND YOUR POSITION**. This becomes increasingly more difficult as the fleet compresses in a well-balanced pursuit race.
5. Get to **KNOW YOUR COMPETITION**. Pursuit racing often lumps a huge range of PHRF ratings into a single division. Such a wide variety of boats will have an assortment of strengths and weaknesses, which are also impacted by the wind conditions. Being out-pointed by a leeward boat, out-maneuvered by a small sport boat, or sailing into the wind shadow of a larger, slower, cruiser are examples of unexpected setbacks you could encounter.

While in many ways, pursuit racing levels the playing field for all competitors, variable conditions can also skew results. If it is windy early in the day, the first boats on the course can get a considerable head start and leave their competitors bobbing in

Editor's Corner

by Tom Alley



We're Baaaaaack!

The last issue was all about the anticipation of getting our boats commissioned and back into the water for another season. By now, nearly all of us should be bobbing in our respective slips and beginning to settle into our summertime boating

routines. Time for a collective sigh and a group “Ahhhhh...” as we appreciate the water from the decks of our boats. This is, after all, what we waited and worked for all winter and spring.

As well-deserved as some rest and relaxation might be, don't let it become so all-consuming that you become complacent. Boating still requires a certain amount of diligence and attention.

From a regulatory standpoint, New York's Brianna's Law is still phasing in. If you haven't yet obtained your Boater Safety Card, you will need to do so either this year or next, depending on your age. The Finger Lakes Chapter of America's Boating Club (a.k.a., the Seneca Sail & Power Squadron) can help you with that aspect of compliance.

From a more recreational (i.e., fun) perspective, there are a number of social/cruising/competitive events on the schedule that are designed to help you expand your horizons. If you haven't ventured far from the Village Marina, here's your chance to do it in the company of experienced nautical travelers and to attend some fun events and gatherings at the same time. There's the trip to Sampson at the end of July and the trip to Geneva in early September. In my opinion, both of these events should be on your boating bucket list! Still not convinced? Talk to others who have participated in these events and then give them a try!

Learning Opportunities

I've said this before, but it bears repeating. People always ask me to tell them the best way to learn how to sail. It's very simple: Participate in your club's racing program. “Oh,” they

SV Tomfoolery

say, “but I don't want to race. I want to cruise.” That doesn't matter. Talk to any of the famous world cruisers and ask them where they learned how to sail, and they will all tell you that their weekly club races are where they learned 90% of what they needed to know before going on their epic voyages.

Participating in club races has the following benefits, whether you are a competitive person or not:

- It gets you out on the water and sailing your boat on a regular basis.
- It will give you experience in a wider range of weather and sea states than you might otherwise seek.
- It helps you learn how to get your boat to go from point A to B even when your boat doesn't want to go that way.
- It gives you the opportunity to gauge how efficiently you trim your sails by sailing with a group.
- It allows you to see (and emulate) techniques and strategies used by other sailors.
- It provides a social environment where sailors will eagerly share their knowledge in order to help you grow your sailing skills.

This is just a partial list. Most importantly, racing provides this:

- It's lots of fun for everyone on board!

Best of all, the FLYC racing program is fairly laid-back compared to many of the yacht clubs on other lakes. Although participants can be rather competitive during the race, they will, without exception, help you become a better (and safer) sailor.

Still hesitant about participating? Then volunteer to crew with some of our more experienced skippers. They'll be happy to have you aboard!

See you on the water!

- Tom

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

2023 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 Labor Day Weekend on the lawn by the marina flagpole.

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.

February

- 01 **February Newsletter Publication Date.**
- 11 **FLYC Planning Meeting.** Meeting of the Board of Directors to plan the 2023 FLYC Event Calendar. All are welcome. (1000) *Panera Bread, Horseheads.*

March

- 24 **Deadline for newsletter articles.**

April

- 01 **April Newsletter Publication Date.**
- 15 **Earliest possible launch date** (per slip contract).

May

- 01 **Membership renewals due!**
- 25 **Deadline for newsletter articles.**
- 27 **Rust Removal Race.** Practice race. (1300)
- 28 **Memorial Day Flag Raising & Picnic.** BBQ chicken. Bring a side or dessert to share and your own beverage. (1700)

June

- 01 **June Newsletter Publication Date.**
- 03 **Special Club Meeting, Watkins Glen Village Marina** (1000)
- 03 **Summer Series Race #1.** (1300)
- 10 **FLYC Nautical Swap Meet** (TBD)
- 10 **Summer Series Race #2.** (1300)
- 16-17 **Watkins Glen Waterfront Festival & Cardboard Boat Races.*
- 18 **FLYC Fathers' Day Brunch** (1100)
- 24 **Summer Series Race #3.** (1300)
- 30 **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)

July

- 01 **Summer Series Race #4.** (1300)
- 04 **Watkins Glen Independence Day Fireworks (2145)*
- 08 **Independence Picnic.** Hamburgers, hot dogs, on the grill. Bring a side or dessert and your own beverage. (1700)
- 15 **Summer Series Race #5.** (1300)

- 22 **Cock of the Walk Race.** A "fun" race not counting toward season totals. (1300)

- 24 **Deadline for newsletter articles.**
- 28-30 **ABC-FLX Cruise to Sampson. All FLYC members invited to join!*

August

- 01 **August Newsletter Publication Date.**
- 05 **Summer Series Race #6.** (1300)
- 11-13 **Watkins Glen Italian Festival*
- 18-21 **NASCAR at the Glen*
- 19 **Make-up Race.** If needed. (1300)
- 26 **Summer Series Race #7.** (1300)

September

- 02 **Commodore's Cup Race.** Destination TBD. (1000)
- 03 **Commodore's Dinner.** Steak dinner with Chef Mike. (1700)
- 08-10 **FLYC Club Cruise to Geneva.** Joint cruise with the ABC-FLX chapter.
- 09 **Seneca Yacht Club Barge Race, Geneva, NY (0900)*
- 09 **Vintage Grand Prix*
- 16 **Summer Series Race #8.** (1300)
- 22 **Deadline for newsletter articles.**
- 23 **Grape Harvest Race.** (1300) Join in this annual reverse-handicap race!
- 23 **FLYC Wine Tasting.** (1700)
- 30 **Make-up Race.** If needed. (1300)

October

- 01 **October Newsletter Publication Date.**
- 07 **Gear Buster Race.** (1300)
- 07 **Soup/Chili/Chocolate Festival.** Bring your best effort in one of these 3 categories to win! Power will be available for crock pots. (1700)
- 05-08 **Annapolis Powerboat Show.*
- 12-15 **Annapolis Sailboat Show.*
- 31 **Marina Haulout Deadline** (per slip contract).

November

- TBD **Member Banquet & Annual Meeting.** *Horseheads Brewery (in the marina). Food by Lakeside Eatery. (1700) RSVP by November 1st.*
- 24 **Deadline for newsletter articles.**

December

- 01 **December Newsletter Publication Date.**

January 2024

- 26 **Deadline for newsletter articles.**

** Non-FLYC events in italics.*

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 Katie Alley, Secretary
218 Pleasant St.
Ithaca, NY 14850

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:
 Racing Web site
 Cruising Sailing classes
 Social activities

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 _____