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

Commodore's Comments

by Mike Sidell

SV Delta G

Sailing season is finally here! I hope you've had a chance to enjoy getting out on the water.

In this issue, I'd like to focus on our nautical flagpole. First, what is a nautical flagpole? Here's a bit of history on it, thanks to a quick internet search:



Nautical flagpoles mimic the look and functionality of ship masts. These flagpoles often feature a vertical pole with a horizontal yardarm, and sometimes a gaff, which is a diagonal spar extending outward. This design allows them to display multiple flags simultaneously, much like the rigging on a ship.

Nautical flagpoles trace their design back to the early days of seafaring when ships used masts and rigging to fly flags that conveyed crucial information. These flags could signal nationality, communicate weather conditions, or issue warnings.

As ships evolved, the tradition of using flags for communication remained vital. Eventually, the aesthetic appeal of ship masts translated to land-based flagpoles, often placed in marinas, coastal towns, and nautical-themed spaces to celebrate maritime heritage.

https://kronbergsflagsandflagpoles.com/blogs/news/what-are-nautical-flagpoles?srltid=AfmBOoqKWjnbGwTIUHpqF5ARb1-q9IA1aPj_dC4tlw5E0R3g36bKyk

You've probably looked right past our nautical flagpole, located front and center at the marina. Take another look: it's been revitalized! The previously tattered and well-worn US flag that had been flying has been replaced with a fresh new flag. The FLYC flag has been located, cleaned, reinforced and sewn

in weak spots, and has been hoisted. Much-needed new halyards have been installed. And there's room for more flags. Let me know what thoughts you have about possibilities. State flags from New York and Pennsylvania, nautical letters spelling out FLYC, and a flag signifying Watkins Glen have all been suggestions. If you have an idea or would like to contribute to funding a flag, let me know. If you have a flag you'd like to fly, that's welcome too – so long as it's not political in nature.

Prestige Flags is the company that we purchased our FLYC flag from. In the past, they've also created small 12x18 burgees for members. The current price for one is \$27, if there's a minimum of six ordered. I can get an order together if there's enough interest in flying your own FLYC burgee. See me or call me at 570-404-1219 if you would like to buy one.

Before closing, have you welcomed anyone new this year at the marina? Recapping from the April newsletter, here are the things I hope you've done:

1. Reach out to one dockmate who you know isn't a member. Encourage them to consider joining FLYC. Give them a membership form if they express any interest or direct them towards me or an officer.
2. Ask at least one non-member to attend one FLYC dinner. It's a bargain at \$10 each for non-members and they can test the waters to see if membership makes sense for them.
3. If you're a racer, invite one non-member or non-racer to crew with you for one race this season.

See you dockside!

- Mike
Slip 433

Port Tacks

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Vice Commodore's Comments

by John Chesbrough

Sloshing into Spring?



I'd have to say that this year the steady march of boats into the waters of The Village Marina has been a lot slower than usual. Normally we have to beg Terry to get on his list for when we want

because the spring conditions are so perfect. Evidently alot of boat owners are holding out for more cooperative weather. Take heart, the first week of June is looking pretty good. The disagreeable weather and general shortage of boats put a stop to the rust removal race so let's hope that the coming race season will be one for the books in a good way. It's obvious that the *True Love* is ship-shape and operating smoothly again, weather permitting. The ongoing project with that other boat in that other tent-

like structure continues. It still remains to be seen where that boat will be this summer. Keep an eye on the north end of Dock 5.

This spring's rainfall has been very generous to the lake, bestowing an extra 10 inches or so of water. (That's alot of water!) Right now the lake level is very high and since the docks don't float, some boaters prefer to use a step-stool to get aboard. Keep an eye on the lake level and adjust your dock lines accordingly. Remember also that the extra water brought much extra floating or barely submerged debris including large tree parts. Maintain a look-out.

In spite of the awkward start to this boating season I have a good feeling about it, so I'll see you all out there!

- John

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Rear Commodore's Comments

by Don Swanson

SV Skylark

New Year, New Sailing Season, New Boat



[Bill and Don will be alternating duties to write the column for the club's race fleet. In this edition it's Don's turn. – Ed.]

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What! New boat?

That's right. I wasn't planning on it and didn't see it coming but somehow I

finished last season with one and now find myself with two. I am neither a glutton for punishment, nor simply crazy, but somehow I find myself in the midst of a lot of work and new learning.

I had heard about the phenomenon of “fivefootitis” and have engaged in many a conversation about *next* boats. My standpoint has always been, my next one has got to be classic and more traditional. In short, my vision was along the lines of a Cape Dory 28 or 30; classic lines, beautiful brightwork and solidly constructed. And then about 4 years ago I took notice of a resident boat here at the Village Marina - *Skylark*, a Sea Sprite 30. Designed by Alfred E. Luders, the Sea Sprite 28, 30 and 34 are often mistaken for Cape Dorys, so naturally I was instantly enamored. Passing her as I motored in and out of my slip throughout the intervening seasons my goal took shape... This would be my next boat. If not in actuality, at least in terms of design. Well, now a couple years since the start of this courtship my goal is accomplished. Now I have lots of new goals to achieve. But I like the work and reward cycle so long as it keeps paying dividends...

For more information on A. E. Luders:

<https://sailboatdata.com/designer/luders-alfred-e/>

<https://thesailingmuseum.org/inductee/alfred-edward-bill-luders-jr/>

So change is in the offing as I work to get to know *Skylark*. And as in life and on the race course we often start with one plan but end up having followed a different tack. The wind changes, a sail rips, equipment breaks, or a myriad of events can change the course (literally and figuratively) for both a fleet



Figure 1: My new ride.

and individual skippers. So, as in life, we adjust, adapt, and hope for the best, as I am doing while I learn about inboard diesels, prop walk, and the nuances of handling a heavier displacement full keel boat - something that will take some getting used to. We might change boats and adjust accordingly, but thankfully sailing is sailing (mostly). It will be a whole new ball of wax for this skipper. I could keep going but without being too insufferable, let's get down to business and talk racing and cruising.

A couple days after this column is due, our season opener, The Rust Removal Regatta (RRR) is scheduled to occur (5/24). This, like all scheduled races, is tentative. Weather sometimes intercedes with our plans or if there are not enough participants we will not race. In the event of a cancellation, we will follow up a week or two later on days already scheduled for races and if needed, use our “make up” days (built into the calendar). We recommend that

you check the events schedule for race days and mark your calendars.

An important note about race scheduling and communications: Please consult the events calendar in this month's Port Tack or on our website. We will do our best to get race notifications out via text, but it's not always possible or practical especially when last minute postponement or cancellations occur.

We will be happy to take your contact info (phone, email) when we see you at any pre-race skippers briefing. Feel free to also stop over to slip 216 where you will often find me and we can exchange contact info at your convenience. I can also be reached through email: rc@flyc.us.

Bottom line: Check the schedule and plan accordingly.

Another change on the horizon this year will be our annual Commodore's Cup Race. Over time this distance race has morphed from one form to another and the progression was mostly to a shortened course. This year we reverse the trend and will extend the course, ...a lot. We are also moving the event up to June and it just so happens to fall on the Summer Solstice. If you are interested, your first stop is in this issue of Port Tacks (*The 2024 Commodore's Cup*, page 9) and then be sure to read the Notice of Race on the FLYC website (<http://www.flyc.us/>).

As the season gets underway it might be a good opportunity to review a few basic racing related "guidelines:"

- If the wind is predicted to be northerly, we'll have something, hope springs eternal!
- If from the south, good luck!
- Rain is wet, but thunderstorms are dangerous, so we avoid lightning.
- Two sailboats may be all it takes to have a "race" but it's not worth the effort to place marks and pick them up. At three or four boats and if there is good wind, then... probably.
- The best part of racing is that it gets sailing on your calendar and you on the water.
- If you want to be a better sailor, then race or crew.

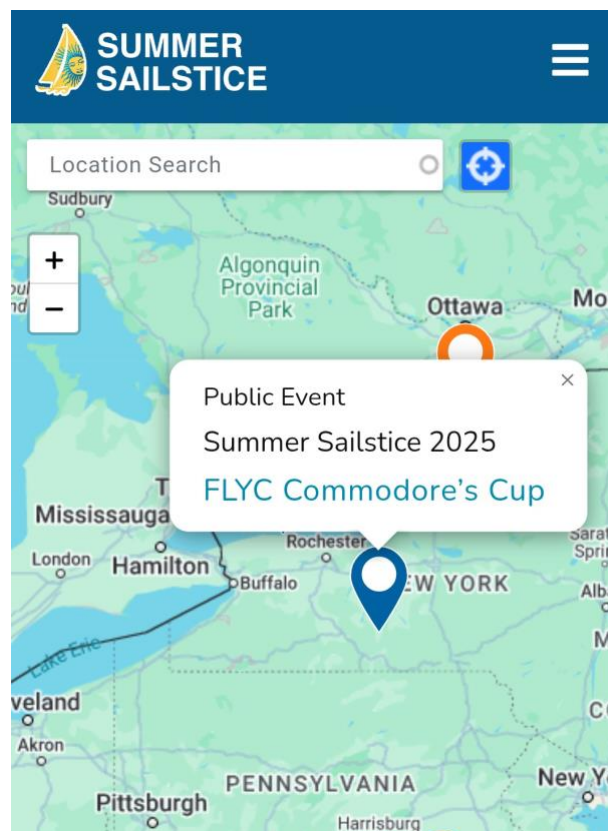


Figure 2: This year's Commodore's Cup is registered globally!

- Winning a race is nice, but the camaraderie makes not winning just as good.
- Drink lots of water and wear sunscreen.
- Volunteer and pick up a mark twice this season. We really appreciate it.
- Invite a dock neighbor to race or crew.
- Bring snacks.

And with that, I will conclude my remarks for another newsletter edition. I wish everyone a truly wonderful season of sailing, solo or with friends and family this year... if only the rain would stop.

Hope to see you on the water.

Cheers,

- Don

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Secretary's Column

by Katie Alley

SV Tomfoolery

Rain, Rain Go Away, Do Not Come Another Day



It's May 31st and so far I have only been sailing once. It's currently cloudy, 51°F, and rainy with a northwest wind. Yeah, no thanks... I'll wait until tomorrow when it's at least 60°F and I'll be *paid* to sail on *True Love*. It feels like

it's been raining non stop for the last few weeks!

Here's some shots from my first cruise on *True Love* and my only sail so far this year:

We've had better cruises, to say the least. The only upside was that Brock Sgrecci and I were working with new "green" crewmembers, and we were able to make them do all the work. Brock and I have worked on *True Love* since Terry took over in 2021 and are happy to exercise our seniority status.



Figure 6: A cold, rainy sail aboard *True Love*.



Figure 5: *True Love* passengers and liquid sunshine.

Memorial Day Picnic

Despite the weather, our Memorial Day Picnic went on with high spirits and good food. Commodore Mike was an excellent grillmaster. We officially raised the club flag and kicked off the season in the cold and drizzle.

Vice Commodore John led a moment of remembrance for our beloved dock neighbor, Eddie Peterson, who passed away during the off-season.

We were all bundled up. I'm certainly hopeful for a warm and sunny June.



Figure 3: Too much rain and cold to finish painting the decks.



Figure 4: Commodore Mike at the grill.



Figure 8: Memorial Day picnic.

I've been staying busy regardless - I'm currently leading an iteration of America's Boating Course on behalf of ABC-FLX for 34 students. It's the largest class we've ever had - proving that boaters certainly put off getting their NYS Boaters Safety Card, despite Brianna's Law being phased in over the last 6 years. (Did you get yours yet?)

From a Secretarial perspective, if you still owe dues for 2025, you should have received an email. We have a lot to look forward to in June and July, and we'll have fun – rain or shine!

- Katie, FLYC Secretary

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Memes, courtesy of Reddit

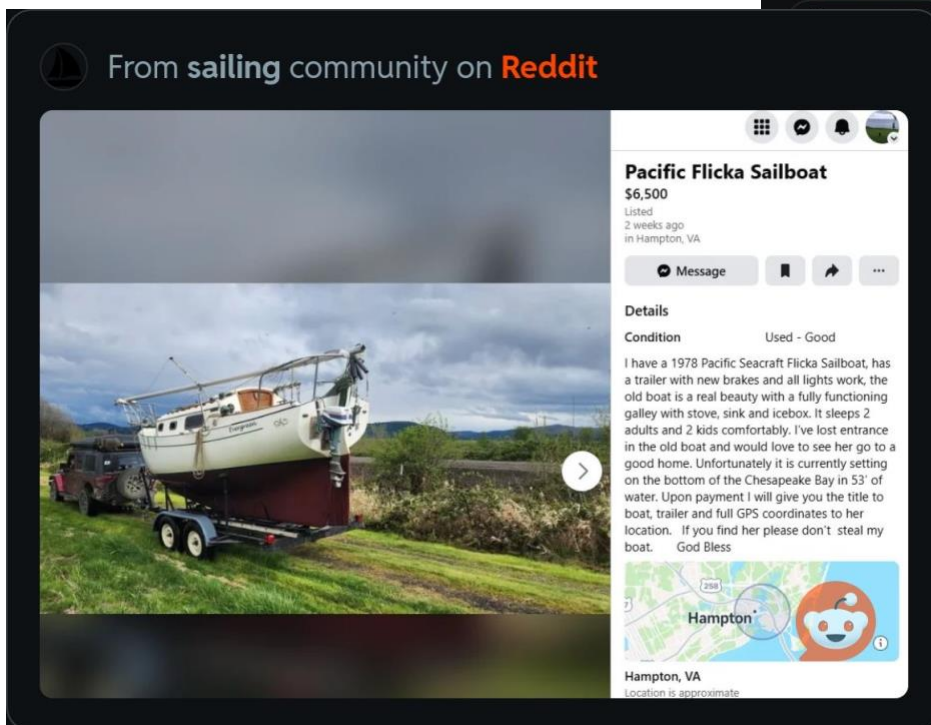
You can follow Katie and what she's up to on Facebook at "Katie Alley Art" or on Instagram at @katiealleyart.



Figure 7: Official FLYC club flag raising.



Figure 9: The FLYC 2025 season is officially underway!



The 2025 Commodore's Cup

By Tom Alley

As mentioned in the prior issue of *Port Tacks* and in the Rear Commodore's column, the FLYC Commodore's Cup Race is returning to its roots as a long-distance competition with a healthy dose of social activities thrown in. This year's race will take place on Saturday, June 21st, and will start at Watkins Glen and finish in Geneva just off the docks of Seneca Yacht Club; a distance of just over 29 nautical miles. Our friends at SYC have been invited (challenged) to race with us.

The formal Notice of Race (NOR) and Sailing Instructions (SI) have been posted to the club web site home page (www.flyc.us). As a "formal" document, it's not a very exciting read, but it does contain the details needed to manage and arbitrate a sailboat race.

Layman's Language

While the official NOR and SI spend a lot of time referencing US Sailing's *Racing Rules of Sailing*, the general character of this year's event can be described as follows.

Friday – June 20th

Friday will be a "feeder day" for boats coming from other points on Seneca Lake. To make the trip worthwhile, we are planning a pre-race celebration on the lawn of our marina. The club will provide hot dogs off the grill with all the fixin's for members. (Guests can partake for a nominal fee.) BYOB and a dish to pass and socialize, like the after-race gatherings we have throughout the summer on Saturday evenings following our regular races.

Saturday – June 21st @ 09:00

There will be a mandatory skipper's meeting at 09:00 by the marina flagpole. Every boat participating in the weekend (racing or not) is expected to attend. The race committee will finalize a list of all boats that are sailing north, and any last-minute instructions and reminders will be provided at that time.

Saturday – June 21st @ 09:45

Barring any last-minute adjustments, the start sequence to the race will begin at 09:45. Our standard

SV Tomfoolery

start sequence will be used with a horn sounded unless otherwise noted:

- T-5:00 (09:45) Warning Signal (1 long blast)
- T-4:00 (09:46) Race rules in effect – motors off. (no horn will sound)
- T-01:00 (09:49) Preparatory Signal (1 long blast)
- T-00:00 (09:50) Start Signal (1 long blast)

Boats joining the group for the trip to Geneva can start at any time, of course. I would encourage anyone wishing to go north to do so!

Saturday – June 21st – The Race

Due to the fickle nature of winds on Seneca Lake, there are multiple contingencies built into the SI. This includes several checkpoints within the race. If boats are unable to achieve a certain checkpoint by a certain time, then the race will be shortened by the race committee to ensure everyone can arrive in Geneva during daylight hours. The race itself also has a hard time limit so no one will be forced to miss the shoreside social events simply to finish the race.

All participants (racing or not) are expected to maintain a radio watch to facilitate communications between boats.

Refer to the SI for all the details governing the actual race from pre-start to finish.

Saturday – June 21st @ 18:00

Participants can gather on the grounds of Seneca Yacht Club for a dish to pass dinner and post-race bragging and excuse-making, much like we do every year following the SYC Barge Race.

Sunday – June 22nd

FLYC boats will return home on their own schedule, unless someone wants to organize some sort of on-the-water event to make the cruise back more interesting?

- Tom

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Tom has been a member of the FLYC since 2001 and a member of the Race Committee for nearly as long.

Editor's Corner

by Tom Alley



Time to Execute!

Well, planning season is over and most, but not all, boats are in the water. It's time to go sailing! After a week's delay from our planned launch date *Tomfoolery*

should be floating once more by the time you read this. There's still much to do before we're ready to sail, but the heavy lifting should be finished. (Now it's just light lifting, but there's lots of it!) Once everything is ship-shape, then we can work on executing those long-anticipated opportunities that have been getting planned throughout the long winter.

Opportunity #1

The first big opportunity for some serious sailing or cruising is coming up on the weekend of the Summer Solstice, June 20th–22nd. That will be the weekend of the Commodore's Cup Race bookended by a pair of social events, one at the south end of the lake and one at the north end. I would encourage everyone to race, but if you just want to cruise up to Geneva and watch some of the racing along the way, that's fine, too. (You can still attend the parties!) The point is to get out and DO.

The best part is that you'll be cruising (or racing) in the company of other boats, many of which have made this trip dozens of times. Their experience and encouragement can be a great assist if you've never sailed out of sight of the marina before. Best of all, I don't know any of the more experienced boaters in our marina that wouldn't be happy to act as a mentor to help you get your sea legs.

Opportunity #2

Is June too soon? Then plan to head up to Sampson Marina the first weekend in August for our annual

SV Tomfoolery

cruise with the Finger Lakes Chapter of America's Boating Club (a.k.a., the United States Power Squadrons). They have a whole weekend packed with events. Some are educational. Some are strictly social. Some are entertaining. Many have all three qualities! If you want to do this, I recommend getting your slip reservations at Sampson now, as this is a popular event and available slips fill up quickly!

Opportunity #3

If life keeps you busy all summer and you suddenly find it's September and you haven't made it to the north end of the lake, there's one more chance the weekend after Labor Day: The annual SYC Barge Race organized by the Seneca Yacht Club.

Boats from SYC and FLYC have been competing against each other for well over a decade in this 24-mile reverse-handicap race. Held in September, sometimes the weather can get exciting, so be prepared for adventure! The competition is always good and is matched by the welcoming camaraderie of fellow sailors at the opposite end of the lake.

Again, you don't have to race. You can just sail up to join in with all the fun.

Opportunity #4

Just because these events are listed separately doesn't mean you are limited to only choosing one. I would be the first to encourage you to try them all! After all, prep season is over. Now is the time to execute – to DO.

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.

2025 FLYC Calendar

Please check the club web site (<http://www.FLYC.US>) to see the most current information. **Changes highlighted.**

Regular/Repeating Events

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 but bragging and boasting is mandatory.

March

21 **Deadline for newsletter articles.**

April

01 **April Newsletter Publication Date.**

15 **Earliest possible launch date** (per slip contract).

May

01 **Membership renewal deadline.**

23 **Deadline for newsletter articles.**

24 ~~**Rust Removal Race.** Practice race. (1300)~~

25 **Memorial Day Flag Raising & Picnic.** BBQ Chicken. Bring a side or dessert to share and your own beverage. (1700)

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

June

01 **June Newsletter Publication Date.**

07 **FLYC Nautical Swap Meet** (TBD)

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

14 **Watkins Glen Waterfront Festival & Cardboard Boat Races.*

20 **Commodore's Cup Pre-Race Social.** Menu includes hot dogs off the grill with all the trimmings and your dish to pass. Racers from SYC have been invited to join us for dinner and campfire! BYOB (1700)

21 **Commodore's Cup Race.** Race from Watkins Glen to Geneva with our friends from SYC. Details TBA. (0900)

21 **Commodore's Cup Post-Race Celebration.** Hosted at the SYC club house. Details TBA.

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

July

04 **Watkins Glen Independence Day Fireworks (2145)*

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

05 **Independence Picnic & BBQ.** Hot dogs, hamburgers and Italian sausages will be served from the grill. BYOB and a dish to pass. (1700)

11-15 **Lake Ontario 300 Challenge, Port Credit, Ontario*

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

12-14 **Italian-American Festival (Watkins Glen)*

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

26 **Deadline for newsletter articles.**

26 **Cock of the Walk Race.** (1300)

August

01 **August Newsletter Publication Date.**

01-03 **ABC-FLX Cruise to Sampson. All FLYC members invited to join! Details TBA.*

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

11-15 **NASCAR at the Glen*

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

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

30 **Commodore's Dinner.** Steak and Burgers. BYOB and a great dish to pass. (1700)

September

05-07 **Vintage Grand Prix Weekend*

05-07 **FLYC Club Cruise to Geneva.** Joint cruise with the ABC-FLX chapter.

06 **Seneca Yacht Club Barge Race, Geneva, NY (0900)*
All FLYC members invited to join!

06 **Geneva Cruise Social.** Held at SYC club house or at Seneca Marina Park grounds. Details TBA.

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

19 **Deadline for newsletter articles.**

20 **Grape Harvest Race.** (1300) Join in this annual reverse-handicap race!

20 **Pierogi Day!** Kielbasa, sauerkraut and pierogis will be served. BYOB and a nice Polish side or dessert to pass..., or anything you would like to bring is just fine too. (1700)

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

October

01 **October Newsletter Publication Date.**

02-05 **Annapolis Powerboat Show.*

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

04 **The Great Chili & Chocolate Cook-Off.** After the race, bring your best effort in either of these two categories. Power will be available for crock pots. If you are bringing a side, please have it Mexican themed to support our wonderful chili entries or bring whatever you like to pass around, it's all good! Margherita mix, ice, salt, limes and a BLENDER will be available..., just sayin'. BYOB (1700)

09-12 **Annapolis Sailboat Show.*

11 **Make up Race.** If needed. (1300)

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

November

TBA **Member Banquet & Annual Meeting.**

21 **Deadline for newsletter articles.**

December

01 **December Newsletter Publication Date.**

January 2026

23 **Deadline for newsletter articles.**

* Non-FLYC events in italics.

NOTE: There is a \$10 charge for non-members/guests attending FLYC picnics and meals.

Finger Lakes Yacht Club

2025 Membership Application

Membership renewals are due by May 1st, 2025. **Annual dues are \$45.**
Please send this form and a check to:



Finger Lakes Yacht Club, Inc.
c/o Katie Alley, Secretary
PO Box 224
Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Are you also a member of
America's Boating Club (US
Power Squadrons)? If yes,
check this box.

☐

Application: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

Important: Please include the names of all of your household family members. This will ensure that membership privileges are awarded properly.

Name(s): _____

Contact Info: Renewing members - check this box if your address is unchanged from 2024 ☐

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please list all email addresses you would like to receive digital communications to.

Boat Name _____ Location/Slip # _____

Make/Model/Year _____ Length _____ Type ☐ Power ☐ Sail

Please indicate which areas interest you:

☐ Racing ☐ Cruising ☐ Social activities ☐ Newsletter

☐ New Women's Sailing Team ☐ Boating/Sailing Classes

Other club activities
you'd like to see? Email
secretary@flyc.us

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 _____