



Ripples

March 2005



From The Bridge Deck

Everyone that attended the St. Valentine's Day Food and Wine Pairing experienced the value of belonging to the Youngstown Yacht Club. The food preparation was excellent, the wine was perfectly matched with each course and flowed freely, and the entertainment was

superb. The highlight of the night was the fun we had throughout dinner and late into the evening. It was difficult for the members introducing the wines to quiet the noisy crowd enjoying the company of those at their table and the constant bantering between tables. The evening felt like a family gathering. Many thanks to my wife Melanie and VC Mary Alice Eckert for co-chairing this wonderful event.

This month you will have an opportunity to show your friends how much fun it is to be a member of YYC. The St. Patrick's Day party on Friday, March 18th is part of our membership drive. Bring your friends down for an evening of fun and entertainment. This is a great opportunity to introduce friends to the Club as the initiation fee is waived for new members joining by April 30th. There are more details on the St. Patrick's Day party and new membership incentive throughout this issue of Ripples.

The Board is working on a number of projects to evaluate what members want from their Club. Central to this effort is the search for a consultant to help us evaluate our current structure and provide direction based on their experiences with other clubs. You will hear more about our current situation and plans for our future in articles in this column and from our Secretary, Ray Volpe. We also welcome your thoughts and comments.

Looking at all the recent snow it's hard to believe that boats will start going in the water later this month. There are many items left on my honey-do list that will just have to wait until next year. Some of our members could not wait for the sailing season to start here and have represented YYC at sailing events in warmer climates. Melanie and I are returning to San Diego later this month with many of last year's crew to race in the NOOD regatta. When I return, I look forward to shoveling off the deck and plowing through the ice for the first race scheduled for the first Sunday in April.

Remember to contact one of the Level or LYRA committee chairs to volunteer for what should be the most exciting week of the summer. Plans are coming together quickly and we need help from members to make these events a success.

Looking to the Future

Last month we wrote about the Club's accomplishments during its 74 year history and the many advantages of being a YYC member. It's a history in which we can all take pride, and a Club that offers enviable opportunities for sailors and landlubbers alike.

We also wrote that the Board is actively exploring ways to meet the challenges facing Western New York. Thanks to a generous gift from one member, the Club has solicited proposals from a number of consultants to help us evaluate our strengths and to develop a strategy for the future.

On March 3rd a special meeting of the Board and Past Commodores was convened to review the challenges facing the Club. Those challenges include providing the best possible services for our members at a time when growing numbers of attractions are competing for our free time and discretionary dollars.

The Club's leadership has been very aware of Western New York's demographic and economic trends, and past Boards have taken actions appropriate for their time. More recently in January, an aggressive membership drive was launched waiving the initiation fee for new members joining during the off-season wintry months. Also, this year YYC is hosting back-to-back Level and LYRA racing events partially funded with growing vendor sponsorship. The current Board has significantly cut budget allocations and worked to reduce operating expenses. House and Yard services and operations have significantly improved.

Nevertheless, economic and demographic trends in Western New York have not improved, and this necessitates a review of Club strategies for the future. This is a serious undertaking about which you will be hearing more.

In the interim, here are some of the ideas and comments floated at the meeting of the Board and Past Commodores.

See **Club Future** on page 3



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Ripples is published monthly and distributed to eligible Club members and to subscribers. To subscribe, please contact Josie at josie@yyc.org.

News about Club events and members are always welcome and highly encouraged. E-mail articles and photos to LibertaT37@verizon.net or drop them off with Josie in the YYC Club Office.

Editor: Ray Volpe
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Member Happenings

We want to let you know a bit about members, former members and their families and what they are up to these days:

Davey & Judy Ellcome are grandparents! Son Ben and Abbe have a new daughter, Bea Lily Ellcome born on January 9. Ben is First Mate on the *Northern Light*, a vintage wooden 12 Meter in Newport, RI. Davey & Judy are headed out to Key West for some R&R, maybe to recover from the shock of being grandparents (that is a subtle dig at Jude who is younger than I am).

Jordan Paxhia finished second in her age group in a triathlon recently in Boston. She competed in three back-to-back sports: swimming, biking and running. She is currently training for a 20 mile run in March.

Some YYC sailors will be headed out to San Diego in March for the Beneteau First 36.7 North American Championship. Tom Lewin will be chartering one boat, and the Tisdales and Don Finkle will be chartering another. Sailing with the latter group will be Jim Carminati, Mike Bowley, and Paul Cannon.

Andy Hooker is spending a couple of weeks in St. Croix this month, passing the worst of winter before getting *Battlestar Pegasus* ready for launching.

Member Mike Hinde will be taking delivery of a new Back Cove 29 powerboat from RCR Yachts this spring. Mike was a sailor many years ago but has decided his lifestyle is more suited to powering these days. You should look for Mike and Rita on board their beautiful dark blue "down east" style cruiser this summer.

Two former YYC junior sailors are now serving in the US Army. Bryan Mackey is a Lieutenant with the 10th Special Forces Group, currently in Colorado. Bryan served a tour in Korea before that. Christian Herring is with the US Army in Iraq.

Morgan Paxhia and teammate finished fourth out of 22 teams in the Interclub Frostbite Midwinters in Annapolis recently.

Sadly, Bill Fraize Jr., a former Youngstown resident, was killed last weekend in a car accident. Bill grew up in the Village and learned to sail at an early stage. His father was a long-time Mayor of Youngstown. Bill owned a Shark which he raced actively on Lake Erie in his adulthood.

Jacob Doyle, one of our Junior Members, has officially been offered acceptance at both the NY Maritime and US Merchant Marine Academies. He is waiting to hear from Webb Institute, the school of choice for many of today's prominent Naval Architects.

See [Happenings](#) on page 7

Club Future from page 1

- We are actively addressing foreseeable challenges.
- At this time, we're operating within budget and in line with projections.
- Our location and facilities, House operation, and excellent sailing reputation are strong credentials.
- The House was most successful when operations were subcontracted to a professional restaurateur.
- We would benefit from being a more diversified and more family friendly Club.
- Many area residents are unaware that they would be welcomed as members.
- Membership eligibility and classifications should be reviewed.
- Young families need better opportunities to learn about and experience sailing.
- Many members are unaware that we enjoy reciprocity with over 700 yacht and sailing clubs throughout America.
- Can we address the needs of older boat owners and those desiring better shore side services?
- Unique opportunities to expand our presence on the waterfront may be within our reach – out of the box thinking is needed.

What do you think? Join us at the upcoming special meeting of the membership in April.

Ray Volpe, Club Secretary

A special full membership meeting is being scheduled for April. Look to Weekly Waves and the next issue of Ripples for the date and time.

Remember, every vote counts.



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Board Reports

Yard Report

A huge thanks to PC Larry White who has already built and installed a safety ladder in Fairbanks Harbor.

Dock face boards and dock cap will be looked at and worked on when the weather cooperates and before the water level gets too high. Anyone who has expertise in this area and is willing to help the Yard Committee please give me a call at (716) 754-0930. This is probably an early April project. Optimistic thinking.

We will have a couple of large work parties in April – this is where we all get together on a Saturday morning and grab a task and go for it! Everything from windows to outdoor patio furniture, to leaves and garden beds. It's really a good time when we all work together. Think Spring! MaryAlice Eckert, V.C. Yard

Harbor Master

March brings the beginning of spring and it is time to return some energy to sailing. Thank you for returning your mooring applications. I plan to meet with Bob Reese soon to formalize the mooring locations for the upcoming season. Bob has been granted a 3% increase in the mooring fees for 2005. This is the first increase in over 3 seasons and amounts to a \$28 to \$40 increase depending on the size of your boat. There are no big changes that I anticipate, but I am always interested in learning how the Club and RCR can improve your mooring service.

In past seasons there has been a critical shortage of volunteers to serve as Duty Officers. This is an area that I will be hoping to find members who would be willing to serve as an ambassador of the Club to visiting yachtsmen. If you would be able to assist the Club in this capacity, I would love to hear from you. If you are interested but are not familiar with the responsibilities, I would be delighted to fill you in. One of the perks of the job is to get the best parking spot at the Club during your tour of duty. Another benefit to you is to meet a number of interesting sailors who are cruising to YYC. Mark Kirby, Harbormaster

Fleet

Early in the season at YYC is less than frantic for the V.C. Fleet. From experience I know the problems come later when all the things that were missed need to be addressed before things fall apart. Fortunately, I have Josie on my side helping to keep things on track. My goal is to not screw up that relationship.

Board Reports (continued)

Fleet (continued)

My plan is to again create a three ring binder notebook complete with budget information, important schedule info, drop dead dates, regulatory permits necessary, etc. to help the next victim.....ah, V.C. Fleet. This time the notebook will be copied and the original left with Josie so the binder doesn't disappear.

I am fortunate to again have Andy Hooker following on PHRF LO and other Fleet details this year. He's already planning to take the Blue Moon over to help Ashbridges Bay Yacht Club with their one design regatta. Maggie Steyn and Helen Snyder have agreed to stay with scoring. Continuity always helps, especially when computer programs are involved. We are working closely with NOLSC on the 2005 race schedule. I am fortunate to have Norm Behring as my counterpart at NOLSC. In our preliminary schedule work he has already proven to be much better with detail than I am. That is a good thing for everyone involved. We have already put together a preliminary schedule. The plan is to have a firm schedule posted on our website by February 20th or so. The printed copies included in the YYC/NOLSC Sailing Instructions will follow sometime later.

On the cruising side of the schedule, we plan to keep the events that were so successful last year at least as good, possibly even make them better. Pat Mackey has already scheduled with the Mimico Cruising Club for our Solstice Cruise weekend to be on June 18th and 19th this year. From the info I have from Pat it sounds like a great venue again. A big thanks to Pat for again chairing. We plan to repeat the West End and 1000 Island cruises again, but I haven't any detailed info as we're still solidly in the telephone tag stage. Well, I'd love to just go on and on, but I have another meeting tonight. Vic Snyder, V.C. Fleet

Membership

We would like to welcome three new Associate members Will & Brooke Harris, Vincent & Deborah DiMarco, and Dave Giusiana.

Will, Brooke and their daughter Hannah have relocated to Wilson from Newport, RI. Many of you will remember Will as he grew up in Olcott and taught Jr. Sailing at Youngstown in the late 70s and early 80s. Since those years, Will has developed a world class resume sailing and winning with the best in J/24's, J/22's, other one designs and big boats around the world.

Dave Giusiana is an architect who lives and practices in Lewiston and has sailed with Rick Lohr and the crew of Night Owl for the past several years. Dave's sons Noah & Jonah both participate in the YYC Jr. Sailing program.

Vincent & Deborah DiMarco reside in Niagara Falls, NY. Vincent is President of DiMarco & Company, an accounting and tax firm based in Niagara Falls.

Don't forget the St. Patrick's Day Party at the Club on Friday, March 18th. The *Sons of the Gaels* will be on deck for an entertaining evening of Irish music, Guinness and traditional Irish fare. We encourage everyone to bring prospective members and introduce them to YYC.

Just a reminder: the board authorized a Mid-Winter special – any membership application received from now until April 30, 2005 will not pay initiation to join! That is a potential savings of about \$300 to \$1000 depending on membership class.

This is a one-time offer and a great opportunity for all those who are considering joining but have just not gotten around to the paperwork yet. The best recruiting comes from our membership and we need your help to spread the word to your friends, family & crew. Whether it's racing, cruising or social activities (or all three), YYC has something great to offer, and as members, we all share in the responsibility to promote our Club and encourage friends and family to join us.

Please be sure to call Josie at the Club office - she can send a membership package out to your prospective member and answer any questions about the program. Paul Cannon, Membership Chair



Classified

For Sale. ARBITRAGE, 1986 C&C 35 Excellent condition – new sails. Call Dave or Bobbie Torrey: 998-4232 (C), 791-3983 (H).

Events Calendar

April Membership Meeting

(Date and Time to be announced in upcoming *Weekly Waves and Ripples*)

Obershiemer Winter Lecture Series

At Obershiemer Sailor’s Supply, Niagara Street in Buffalo, 7:15 - 9:30 PM. Open to the public, small donation at the door:

- Mar 9 Going south
- Apr 6 Spinnaker trim, steering & starting downwind
- Apr 13 Cruising

Junior Sailing Needs Your Help

YYC has one of the very best junior sailing programs around. Our graduates have gone on to be very successful in their lives and careers, and many will tell you that the experiences they had at YYC during the summers had a profound effect on them. Our alumni include numerous doctors and lawyers, an aeronautical engineer, a Navy F-14 instructor pilot, a Coast Guard jet pilot, teachers, bankers, business owners, computer scientists and just about every other vocation you can think of. Some of them are serving right now in our Military, protecting our way of life. Many have gone on to sail in college with distinction; in fact some of them are doing so right now.

Our income comes from only three sources: Tuition, Fund Raising and Donations. Our volunteers run the bake sale and ice sale at the Level, along with any other fund raising opportunities they can come up with. But money for repair or replacement of boats and equipment relies primarily on donations from members, friends and graduates. We can use cash donations earmarked specifically for YYC junior sailing. Shortly we will also be putting together a “wish list” of items that the program can use. The future of our Club depends upon attracting younger members and younger families, and the junior program is one way to accomplish that goal. We need your help.

Lower Niagara Beneteau First 36.7 Fleet

We are so excited about the growth of this fleet which now numbers seven boats between YYC and NOLSC. We can now race one design in Club and Interclub races. Ron Ciamaga is planning a fleet gathering soon at YYC so that the crews and skippers can get together to make plans for the season and start the arguments over who is going to beat who. The fleet members (so far) are:

- Rudy & Maryann Aranyosi
- Ron & Diane Ciamaga
- Don & Heather Finkle
- Rick Lohr & Sue MacNaughton
- Gary & Melanie Tisdale
- Jesse & Joyce Sabin
- Rick Sherk

Anyone interested in crewing in this fleet should contact one of the above skippers for the possibility of a ride. The 36.7 fleet is going to be “where it’s at” this year. Don Finkle

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Paul Hays Certified By US Sailing

Last year, during my term as VC Fleet, I became aware that Paul was working toward becoming a recognized race officer. To my delight, I just recently discovered that US Sailing has bestowed upon him the title of "Club Race Officer" and has listed him on their website as a qualified race official. He is now one of five certified officers on Lake Ontario and the only such official on the lower river.



US Sailing began the race officer recognition program in 1982. Its objective is to improve the quality and standardization of race management, therefore making racing less confusing and more enjoyable for all. Further, it makes event organizers aware of the availability of highly qualified race officials.

Paul completed a comprehensive syllabus which prescribed that he attend formal training and demonstrate his knowledge of race management rules and procedures by passing a test. Further, he had to document his extensive racing background, experience in performing each race committee job, and service as the Principal Race Officer in four separate regattas.

The "Club Race Officer" certification is the first of three levels. Paul now intends to work toward the second level, "Regional Race Officer", and it wouldn't surprise me to find that he will go all the way to "National Race Officer." We are fortunate to have someone with his dedication to the sport at YYC. His new credentials will serve us well. Please join with me in congratulating him on his significant achievement. Ron Ciamaga

LYRA 2005

The Lake Yacht Racing Assn (LYRA) is the oldest group of its kind in North America. Well back in the 1800s, sailing yachts were racing on Lake Ontario when the sport was little known elsewhere on the Continent. Fortunately the heritage of this organization lives on today in an annual regatta that moves from one location to another each year. In July 2005, YYC takes its turn as host of this prestigious event.

Too often non-racers feel that they need to "get out of town" when the racers descend on River City. Nothing could be further from the truth! It is at regatta time that the Club comes alive and we become

much more than a restaurant with a nice view, or a place to gather at the bar after sailing. Regatta time is the most fun time of the year to be at YYC, make sure you are a part of it. The difference between a club and a marina is the involvement of the membership. We are the ones who make YYC what it is, and whenever we host an event; we are the ones who do the planning, work the event, and have the most fun.

YYC has the reputation of being one of the best regatta hosts anywhere, regardless of location or size. We know how to run a race, we know how to extend a warm welcome, and we know how to throw a party! In order to pull off large events such as the Level Regatta and the LYRA we need the involvement of just about every member. **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!** Don't be afraid to volunteer, and please accept when asked to help. You will have a ball doing it.

YYC is a "happening place" at regatta time. Boats come in from all over, and simply boat-watching is a lot of fun by itself. Then there is the people-watching -- plenty of that to keep anyone from getting bored. There is a party every night, usually with a different theme, various types of food to partake of, and drink specials too. You'll find clothing specially designed for the event and the famous red Mt. Gay Rum caps. Mark your calendars for the last week in July and make sure you are around YYC to take part in the fun and do your part as a volunteer. Don Finkle

Happenings from page 3

Ashley Chassar, daughter of Barb Chassar & Dale Halvarson, is a Senior at Boston University. Ashley, another former YYC Junior Sailor, has always been a super athlete and she is now captain of BU's soccer team. She is a molecular biology major.

The new Boston University athletic complex, of which the state-of-the-art hockey arena is the centerpiece, was designed by Cannon Design of Grand Island. This facility is stunning, and is one of about a dozen buildings at BU that Cannon is responsible for. Newer members may not realize all that Butch Cannon and his firm have done for YYC over the years in terms of design and engineering work for our Club. There are many projects that would never have happened without the generosity of the Cannons and their company.

Rick Braden (Rick & his wife Amy own *Therapy*), has been just been appointed Senior Counsel at the law firm of Bond, Schoeneck and King. Don Finkle



*Dining YYC Style
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and the
Anticipation of
a New Season*

Photos by Melanie Tisdale

St. Paddy's Day at YYC



The Club will celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Friday, March 18th (not the 17th). Special entrees will include Corn Beef & Cabbage, and Irish Stew, as well as our traditional fish fry and other menu items. The Sons of Gael will entertain with favorite Celtic tunes, and for the suds crowd, the bar is featuring specials on Guinness, Harp, Black & Tan, and Irish Coffee. And that's no blarney!

The evening is being arranged by Iggy Manning who suggests that you invite prospective members to join us for the evening. Remember, the Club is now accepting applications from both boat and non-boat owner membership, and the initiation fee is waived for applications received by April 30th.

The party starts at 5 pm with drink specials; dinner starts at 7 pm. The Sons of Gael will start performing at 9 pm. To ensure you have a table reserved, call 745-7230 x18 today.



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New J/100 Is Launched

We have put our Youngstown Showroom back into service again and currently have three new boats inside for viewing. The exciting new J/100, thirty-three feet of pure sailing enjoyment, is inside along with two powerboats: the Back Cove 26 and 29. If you have not yet seen a Back Cove you should do so soon; they are jewels of Maine craftsmanship but at attractive prices. Back Cove is a Sabre company, and we are thrilled to have such a super product to introduce to this area.

Peter Doyle, manager of RCR Wilson, is working hard on plans for the 2005 season. He has some great gift certificates for an evening get-away at one of the lovely Tower Rooms overlooking the harbor. Why not take your significant other off for a surprise romantic dinner at the Boathouse restaurant followed by a night in one of their theme rooms. Each of the four rooms in the Tower are decorated in different decor and the price is right. You can contact Peter at (716) 445-7368.