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# LAKE SOUNDINGS

**PULTNEYVILLE YACHT CLUB****Volume 24 — No. 5****June, 1999**

## Signals from the Commodore

By Tom Ecker

Dear Members,

We got through the two work days and the club is looking great, thanks to all of you. The first work day was a bit damp but that didn't stop anyone and it was great to see some old friends again. Thanks to Tony Belaskas and Paul Roetling, most of the work is behind us for another year. The low water level is still a problem but Bob White is working on that and hopefully the channel will be opened soon.

We are all painfully aware of the problem the members have with the fishermen and the use of the club property by non-members. If someone is on club property, fishing or loitering, they are to be asked to leave. If an officer of the club is in the area, go to that officer and he will ask that they leave. If an officer is not present we urge you all to approach the individual and ask they to please leave as they are on private property. If they do not comply, the Sheriff can be called from the phone on the work shed. The numbers are posted there and the number to be used is the Marion number. The police have been notified that no one other than club members and their guests have permission to be on the club property.

I urge everyone to keep their eye open for candidates for the "Goodie Two Shoes" and "On The Rocks" awards. I understand three (3) masts were dropped, fell over board or the such. Perhaps

*Tom Ecker*

Commodore

## The Secretary's Corner

by Bob Hamilton

Membership status for the club is good with one new member joining since the beginning of the year, and five potential members we have invited to join. Hopefully, all will decide in time for the new member fondue and be able to join Michael Ball as our newest member. Thanks to Wendy Axtell for taking care of the perspective member process.

Included in this issue is the 1999 Reciprocal Club list showing the responses we have had to date. More cards are still coming in; so expect updates in later Lake Soundings and updated copies provided in the clubhouse. Many thanks to Jim Snyder for sending and collecting the cards and maintaining the database and list.

At this writing, the PYC Log database has been completed and is now ready for printing, finishing and distribution, probably at the Memorial Day activities.

**LAKE SOUNDINGS** is published monthly for PYC members, February through December. This newsletter is printed on recycled paper. Please save it to continue the cycle. Letters to the Editor, suggestions, commentaries, wit, memoirs, tales, seaworthy tips and maritime art are welcome. Disk, e-mail, typed or printed material must reach the Editor by the published deadline. Submissions will be edited and published as space, temperament and accommodations allow.



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Tom Ecker - Commodore  
Steve Heffron - Vice Commodore  
Bob White - Rear Commodore  
Bob Hamilton - Secretary  
Rich Critchlow - Treasurer  
Eric Matteson - Fleet Captain.

So standby, it will be ready soon and available on Memorial Day in the Clubhouse. More thanks to Michelle Keller for assembling the PYC Log and to Mike Schiff for the finishing help. If you did not pick up your log over the Memorial Day weekend, contact Bob Hamilton. Also remember, extra logs are available for \$3.00.

We just received some reminders for sailing events at Sodus Bay Yacht Club. Eric Matteson will have the details, but they are planning a Challenge Cup Regatta on June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. On a following weekend, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup>, they are planning the EYC Regatta at Sodus Bay Yacht Club.

Check the bulletin board for the latest mailings and newsletters.

That should be it for now, enjoy the Cruising season.

### BOAT/U.S. Group Accord

We have renewed our BOAT/U.S. Cooperating Group Accord. If you are a member of PYC and would like to join Boat/U.S., you can take advantage of our group accord and only pay half of the normal member-

There are BOAT/U.S. membership applications in the clubhouse or contact Bob Hamilton for membership applications. Our BOAT/U.S. Cooperating Group Accord number is GA80260Y.

**Bob Hamilton**  
Secretary



# Rear Commodore Reports

by Bob White

Ahhh, the season has begun again, and another safe launch. It feels good!

By now the workdays are history. Thank you all for a great job! The Club is looking good. At J. Belaskas's suggestion, we have procured a front loading dumpster (instead of top loading) to make using the full capacity of the dumpster easier (no walking around the back, which people do not seem to do). Additionally, because the discarded shrinkwrap and blue poly covers overloads the capacity of the dumpster, we would like to suggest that in the future members dispose of those covers at their own homes. Many have wound up on the ground in front of the dumpster, creating more work for the collectors, besides being a mess.

The water is going up. As I write this (5/07/99) the water is about 245', 1.7 feet over datum (243.3). Level forecasts indicate that lake levels will peak late June/early July at 245.6ft, be at long term normal levels in August at 245.3 feet. Soundings were made inside, outside and between the docks about mid April. Results of the soundings will be posted on the Clubhouse Bulletin Board as well as on the Board adjacent to the Tool Shed. Shoaling in the harbor was noted in a few areas and in the outer East West Channel in the usual spot. At Lake level 245, on May 6, 5' draft boats did not hit going out on the E-W channel. Caution- DO NOT GO SOUTH OF THE E-W RANGE. The lower water levels makes the above water rocks look like you are closer than last year. We are formulating our Dredging Plans as well as attempting to do some moving of the sediments around using hydraulic means.

Since publishing the 1999 Dock Assignments, a few changes have been made because of water levels. Additionally, additional boats have been assigned docks and some members boats have changed. The updated assignments will be posted on the bulletins boards. We still have 5 docks in the main harbor available, so be alert to opportunities to fill them. We are presently working with two more potentials. This puts us ahead of last year which was better than the year before. If you have any friends or acquaintances needing docks, let Tommy Bolt or myself know.

Barry Hall is heading up the Environmental work this year. Weeds are one item on the agenda. While last year we used chemicals, at some financial cost and some environmental cost., this year we hope to keep them in check using the weed sled. I am sure Barry will appreciate any volunteers.

The south side electrical box in. A bush will be planted just south of it for landscape and safety purposes. Our next step here is to replace the outlets, which we will do ourselves. Ernie Washburn is securing the necessary materials, but help again is needed for installation under his guidance. This is an opportunity to keep new retirees busy and out of trouble (as well as others).

Another recurring problem no doubt will be the Pultneyville Weed Mushrooms. Jim Allan is constructing a Mushroom Net made with orange plastic construction fencing which will be used to tow them from the harbor. Again, help is volunteers are needed for the work. And you will feel so good after a shower!

Last but not least, as we have seen Mast Stepping/Unstepping does have risks. Again, if you need help ASK. Also a number of people have made lifting straps consisting of a short line with a spliced loop at each end. As has been shown, bowlines are strong, if the tail end is under tension. When it is not, slippage can occur. Dan Harris, Rus Palum and I have made these straps. Pretty easy work.

Bob White  
Rear Commodore

# On The Range

by Eric Matteson

## TIME TO HAVE SOME FUN

*"The boats are launched, the marks are in, the work days are completed.  
The schedules are set, the plans are made and my energy has been depleted.  
This time of year can be so busy, theres so much to be done.  
Its over now and we've made the grade, lets kick back and have some fun. "*

Please forgive my poor attempt to bend a few words in my favor but I am overjoyed at the prospect of having some time to enjoy the club now that things are in order. Everything looks great and this seems like the correct time to mention it. Thanks to every person who worked so hard to make it possible (especially the people who worked on crews with me).

The racing program started off the year with a great practice race. Warm (yes warm) south breeze and flat seas made the night enjoyable. There was no score to report but I think that **COMIC RELIEF** does deserve mentioning since they stepped the mast during the skippers' meeting, rigged on the way to the race course and still managed to cross the finish line first, handicapped scoring not included. As the season continues I will try to bring a few highlights from Thursday nights to the newsletter each month.

## THIS MONTH

The regular Thursday night races will be held as planned and just in case I haven't mentioned it before all are welcome. Here is a little hint for newcomers. If a person is interested in sailing but is a little too shy to ask for a position as crew, you can observe the skippers habits and try using an offering of the skipper's favorite refreshment. This tactic often works well and sometimes can even be used to displace others who are not so wiley. Sailing is thirsty work and skippers are always looking for crew with that inspired edge. The Poker/fun race will be held on Saturday 7/10. This has been a great event in the past since it utilizes skills for boating and firefighting. I want to get this out early so everyone has a chance to get it blocked out on the calendar. I can't wait to see what weaponry will be unveiled this year.

## OUTSIDE OF THE CLUB

This month there are a couple of events outside the club where we have been well represented in the past. Here are the points of interest for this month:

Scotch Bonnet light race at GYC  
Sodus Bay Challenge Cup at SBYC

If I can be of assistance in coordinating for anybody who is interested in participating in these events please let me know.

## NOTICE TO MARINERS

I have been asked by a few members to place a hazard marking on a large rock to the west side of the marked harbor entrance. I do not as of yet have all of the hardware collected to place a marking there and I'm not sure if we should make our channel any more confusing than it already is to strangers. While it is on my mind I think that this is a good time to remind everyone that there is low water everywhere (not just at the docks). Please be cautious even in the

Eric Matteson  
Fleet Captain

## *Ladies' Sailing*

Cindy Kukupka

The flowers are up and around the clubhouse, take pity on the poor things, and water them as you go by! It will keep them looking fresh all summer!

Due do budget constraints (and the fact that we bought a big new tree to replace a wind storm loss) there are not the usual geraniums around the boat docks. Feel free to bring some from home to decorate your special place. We try to keep the colors to those of the club...red...white...and blue!

Mark your calendars!! Ladies Sailing starts on July 9th and will continue through the end of August. Bring your friends, beginners or old salts, we should have a few boats going out each week and can accommodate those who want the practice, with those who just want the relaxation! It's always fun, with lots of laughs and NO yelling!

Meet on the peninsula by "Puff" at 2pm. Bring your life-jacket, and any other special gear (rain?... never!). We are usually back in around 5:30....just when the wind dies, ask the Thursday night racers! Any questions, contact Cindy Kukupka at (315)331-3458.

*"I told Peter I was going to Wegmans."*

**Captain Kidd**

**Captain Kidd's trunk is  
empty this month !!**

## ***Under Weigh; A View on Channel Traffic***

*Merril Gray*

Everyone is aware of the problems of low water levels, and most are aware that the PYC board, particularly Rear Commodore Bob White, are working on ways to ease those problems such as the possibility of dredging and hydraulically moving problem silt. However, during a recent clubhouse conversation, Club Secretary Bob Hamilton suggested I comment on the congestion that is likely to develop in our now very narrow harbor channel, so I thought I would tell the following anecdote.

Cher and I finally had the opportunity to take GREEN EYED LADY out for her first brief trip up the lake. It would be a shakedown cruise to check for all the little things that can go astray or awry during fitting out. The afternoon was millpond still, with haze that obscured the horizon so that, looking north you could get the sensation of being suspended in space. A quick glance at the beach would put things back into perspective.

Returning to port we talked about the problem that could develop if you met someone in the channel, who wanted to exit while you wanted to enter. It was apparent that two large boats would not be able to pass in the channel if both boats need deep water, and we wondered how it would go on a busy weekend with many boats using the channel into Pultneyville Harbor.

We were about to come bow to bow with just that predicament. As we were about to turn the dogleg to go inside, I spied Dave Keller, aboard BLUEPEACE, who had already made his turn and had started out the channel. It was an easy decision; we stood away and waited until BLUEPEACE was clear. Since there was no other traffic, we continued on to our dock.

I tell this story because it is clear that this is something we are all very likely to experience this summer. While there are rules of the road that probably dictate the proper way to deal with it, just being aware that it may happen, simple courtesy and a dash of common sense can go a long way toward keeping it from becoming a "Little John and Robin Hood on a Log" situation.

In the meantime, we can be positive and offer our support to Bob and the others who are working to remedy the situation.



### **Want to do something about the lake levels---**

I have placed a link on the PYC page with a form that you can print, fill out and mail, to complain about the current water levels on our lake. The form is also included as an insert in this issue. Perhaps if we deluge them with this stuff, the powers that be will submit to our version of reason. It only costs 33 cents to try. The PYC site address is:

*<http://members.aol.com/bristol32/>*

The link is a hammer button (fix the damn lake!!) and is under a marquee announcing the link.

Regards,  
Your humble servant

***Doug Axtell***



KE SOUNDINGS

78 Phaeton Drive  
Penfield, New York 14526

**Pultneyville Yacht Club Site at the Web:**  
<http://members.aol.com/bristol32/index.html>

## PYC LOG

The PYC LOG is our way of telling the members what is in the wind for the coming weeks. Please read it over and mark your calendars for these important Club events.



May 29  
May 30  
June 5  
June 8  
June 15  
June 12  
June 19  
June 20

Commodores Review  
Bower sox Race & Memorial Day Picnic  
New Member Fondue  
Board Meeting  
Articles due for July Soundings  
Commodore's Brunch & General Meeting  
PYC Open Boats  
Mariners Pancake Breakfast