

Signals from the Commodore

Tom Ecker • 1

The Secretary's Corner

Bob Hamilton - 2

Rear Commodore Reports

Bob White - 3

On the Range

Eric Matteson -4

Virtual Cruise

Terry Weagley-5

A Walk On the Wild Side

Earl Chapman-6

Looking Ahead

Page-7

Inserts

LAKE SOUNDINGS

PULTNEYVILLE YACHT CLUB**Volume 24 — No.9****October, 1999**

Signals from the Commodore

By Tom Ecker

Dear Members,

Since I have last written to you many things have happened. To start off we had the wonderful club cruise thanks to Dave and Terry Weagley. While no boats were able to leave the harbor due to the weather, we had a wonderful tea time at Fairhaven (that's what the pavilion became) and then the next day Sodus was a thing to behold. (Same pavilion—different town!) Some of us watched the movie "My Fellow Americans" others went to a tour of the Thorpe Vineyard and its 10' x 14' wine tasting room and retail store. (We also went to the garage sale). Then a group visited the Chimney Bluffs State Park and viewed the Chimney Bluffs from the water's edge. What a magnificent sight. We finalized the cruise by heading out to Steger's for a dinner which included 27 of us. What a grand party!

At our last board meeting there was much discussion regarding the boating year end schedule. Following an emergency board meeting on the weekend, the year end schedule was changed. Now I know we can't please all the people all the time and if our final decision creates a problem for any of you I am truly sorry. However, for the good of the club as a total unit we had to change the schedule due to the very low water situation. This is nobody's fault other than Mother Nature and you all know "You can't fool Mother Nature". The water is dangerously low and we have some boats on the ground as I write this letter. We need to move Haul a couple of weeks earlier to minimize the risk of hauling boats in an unnatural state. Please understand the problem and pitch in to help your neighbor. If we all work together, we can continue the tradition of cooperation at such a great club.

Along those lines, later on in this publication is a letter from CLOVER, a visitor to PYC. It really points out what PYC is all about. A special thank you to DADS Again, Beach Bum and Sar la Mour. Included with the letter was a donation to PYC for \$50.00. With members like this, how could any club be any better?

See you all at Haul Out.

Tom Ecker

Commodore



The Secretary's Corner

by Bob Hamilton

The September Board meeting was held September 8th and the principle focus was the Haul Plans. As you all know by now, Haul has been changed to October 8th and 9th.

Membership status is currently at 122 Voting, 12 Non Voting, 6 Soundings Only. Our two latest new member families are Bill and Deborah Halling, and James and Celine McIndoe. Say Hello and Welcome if you see them at the club.

The 2000 membership renewal will be coming up in December and now is a good time for prospective new members to get their applications in. So, if you know of new member candidates, please have them contact Wendy Axtell to initiate the process.

Remember you must be a member in good standing to continue your membership in the club. That means that your workday assignment has been completed, and all dues and fees paid. If you still owe a day, or dues and fees, make sure that this is corrected before December 31, 1999,

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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NEWSLETTER STAFF:

Bob Hamilton - Secretary
Stage/Markovitz - Distribution
Merril Gray (cgray1@rochester.rr.com) - Editor/Publisher
Bob Hamilton - Printer
Special thanks to those who have contributed to this issue.

PYC OFFICERS:

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

It's coming up to the winter season, but a few "This is what I did last Summer" cruising articles in the Lake Soundings will help keep the summer memories fresh. So, if you have some good stories to share, please send them to Merrill and Cher Gray or me as articles for the Lake Soundings.

Next Board Meeting will be in October 13th at Bob Hamilton's house. Time approximately 6:30PM.

Long term reminder - The PYC Annual meeting will be on December 5 at the Pultneyville Fire Hall. More details later.

See you at the banquet,
Bob Hamilton
Secretary



Rear Commodore Reports

by Bob White

It is hard to believe that the season is almost over. It has been a great boating season!

Again we are at haulout time. This year, we have had to move up haulout two weeks early due to low water levels. Normally we try to haul the last week of October. For your information, in September, the water was nominally 6" below September 98. When most of the sailboats are pushing mud, which they were in early September, haulout is about a month way. The forecast for water levels next January (2000) is 3 inches below January of 99, so it looks like there will not be high levels next year (barring an extended down pour from the tail end of a hurricane this year. I am sorry if the change caused you some difficulties. Water levels are beyond our control.

The work assignments for the haulout are printed elsewhere in this issue. If you have any questions, call Don Boesel ASAP.

This year, only 70 boats are being hauled. Using an average of 4 boats/hour, we feel we will be able to complete the task in three shifts, two on Friday and one on Saturday morning. Please do not be late for your shift. With two shifts on Friday, it would be better if the afternoon shift comes a little early, in the event we run ahead. After your boat is hauled and you have checked it in the cradle return to your scheduled assignment. With everyone's cooperation and care we will have another safe economical haulout.

Bob White
Rear Commodore



The 1999 PYC “Virtual” Club Cruise

The 1999 PYC Club Cruise looked promising, weather-wise, early in the week. Of course, as luck would have it, the weather forecast deteriorated as the week progressed. The plan was to leave Pultneyville by 10am Friday. I’m not mentioning any names, but some diehards would have probably left earlier if the weather was better. OK, so the weather was yukky at 10am Friday. What do you do with a bunch of eager, frustrated sailors? Some of us put on our cute, bright yellow rain jackets and walked around discussing the bad weather, hoping that by some miracle, things would change. No luck. Not to be without a plan for very long, Uncle Wiggly as he is affectionately called by some, decided that we could still party even if we couldn’t sail. “Tea Time” was moved up to 3pm from the traditional time of 4pm, probably to sooth the wounds of the frustrated sailors. Three boats did get out for about an hour Friday afternoon before a heavy downpour hit. The fleet included Peter Fisk’s new sloop which made its maiden voyage on the big lake. The group gathered eagerly at the Pavilion and the “Virtual” Club Cruise officially began. What?, you say? You really had to be there to appreciate it: Tom Ecker looked a little confused at first when he arrived at the Pavilion and we welcomed him to Fairhaven. The opinion was that we would be in Fairhaven in spirit if we couldn’t be there in reality. A diverse menu of goodies was enjoyed by all. It was so enjoyed, that “Tea Time” lasted until 7:30 pm! Even after all the food was devoured, and our stomachs were full, most of us hung around chatting for awhile.

Conversations began to turn toward Saturday’s plan of attack as the evening wore on. Even if Mother Nature did outsmart us for one day, come hell or high water, Uncle Wiggly and the PYC “Virtual” Cruise was going to make it to Sodus the next day! Captains were to rally at 9:30 for a meeting. Ha! Come Saturday morning, the Lake was churned up with a wind out of the Northeast. We watched the waves splash across the wall and up onto Mariner’s Beach with disgust. Mother Nature had done it again! No one even bothered to come to the Captain’s meeting! "OK, let’s think of something fun to do today" was the cry! By late morning, two camps had developed: one was going to watch a video in the Clubhouse, the other was going to go to a winery. Everyone agreed that a group dinner would be fun, and when the numbers were all in, there were reservations for 27 at the Steger Haus. “Tea Time” at “Virtual Sodus” was set for 3pm again. Not being a wasteful bunch, we thought it would be a good idea to give ourselves enough time before dinner to finish off the wine, pop, and beer left over from Friday. By early afternoon, the smell of popcorn filled the air in the Clubhouse, and seven brave souls set out for the winery. “Tea Time” began promptly at 3 pm (earlier for those 7 brave souls on the wine tour). We were even joined by a visitor from Montreal who thought “Tea Time” meant just that! When she didn’t find any real tea, she gladly accepted a coke to help sooth her stomach, since she had just arrived from Rochester on her 36” Catalina. Dinner in “Virtual Sodus” was enjoyed by all, and some diehards even stopped for an ice cream at the Pultneyville Pickle. How they had room after such a big meal, I’ll never know, but some people just can’t say “No” to ice cream. You know who I mean!

By this time, the hopes had dwindled to comments like, “Maybe we can just day sail out in front tomorrow”, or “If it’s nice, and the conditions are right, we could make a run for Sodus early, have lunch, and come back in the afternoon.” Yeh, right! Sunday morning wasn’t much better. The air had cleared, but the Lake was still “lumpy” and the wind was still out of the North. The “Virtual” cruise broke up into small groups-the Northshore, Peninsula, and Southshore groups, each settling, if not pouting, in their respective favorite places. What began as a day to hang out until we “had” to go home, became a game of “jump up out of your chair and see who’s trying to get out of the harbor now”. There were varying degrees of loudness to the Oohs and Ahhs, and Oh, boys, as boats of varying sizes, both power and sail, fought the waves head-on as they turned out of the channel. Some made it, some didn’t. Rich and Roseanne Critchlow win the diehard award for the weekend. They made it out not once, but twice on Sunday.

Most of us left by dinner time Sunday, hoping to get a chance to sail next weekend. Even though we didn’t get to Fairhaven or Sodus in reality, our “Virtual Cruise” brought us there. There were 14 couples signed up for the cruise originally, but some dropped out, and several new couples joined in on our “Virtual” fun at different times during the weekend. Despite the fact that most of us never got to sail at all, the “Virtual Cruise” speaks of the spirit of Pultneyville Yacht Club. It speaks of a diverse group of people from all different backgrounds, interests, and abilities. It speaks of the ability of these people to come together for whatever reason, be it work or play, and to have a good time. PYC is a great place to have a great time, and Dave and I think it’s the best place on the Lake to be.

Terry Weagley

On The Range

by Eric Matteson

Just when it seemed like things were winding down this year along comes hurricane Floyd to make a little trouble for us. Yes, as most of you already know there are not one but two buoys missing from our harbour entrance at the present moment. It seems that when there was nobody watching Floyd threw the light out of one buoy, snapped the chains on two others only to leave them on the beach and completely stole both of the anchors. As I watched the weather channel wondering what would come of the storm this result is one that I never would have guessed. So massive are these anchors that only a few can be transported by our raft when placing them in the lake or removing them. Huge chunks of concrete and steel vanished without a trace. This should serve as a sound reminder to us all of the massive power of the water on which we recreate.

This past month ended the season for the racing sailors and what a cruel trick we played on them. Our last two Thursday night races were cancelled due to a lack of wind. The floating happy hour that marked the cancellation of the last race in particular was very pleasant. This could only strengthen the resolve of the true racers to get out ONE MORE TIME and out they went. Kindly refer to the outstanding submission by Earl Chapman of *Comic Relief* for further details. To put a quick end to this, nearly half of the boats that started chose not to finish under sail for various reasons. I am sure that many tales will be told reflecting on that particular Saturday in the future.

THIS MONTH

The major events for this month will be to get through our haul out and finish removing the remainder of the channel marks. If anyone is desperate to get some time on the water after haul out please let me know. I can always use help in pulling marks and even winterizing the Gull.

ATTENTION ALL CLUB MEMBERS

There are still awards that are lacking recipients and I need some help in finding some. Please contact me ASAP with: CRUISING MILEAGE, TALES OF GOOD AND MISFORTUNE, OUTSTANDING SPORTSMANSHIP. Please help me by supplying all of the "Dirt" so that I can make the most of this opportunity to recognize those who are deserving.

OUTSIDE OF THE CLUB

I would like to mention that the skipper and crew of *Ariadne* took a second place at the hospice Regatta in Rochester. Nice job Kermit! You are going to have to get a different boat soon so they won't know its you coming to clean their clocks again. I understand that there were other members who participated but I was not able to get a list in time to publish. Good job to all who participated.

As a final note I would like to compliment all of the skippers and crew who raced this year. We had a great year of racing and it is all due to the dedication and commitment of the people who come to sail rain or shine every week. There would be no races if there were no competition. We are all dependent on each other for making a success of the year. Thank you for supporting our sport and remember that it is up to all of us to keep our fleet alive by bringing newcomers out and inviting more sailors to be part of the fun.

The boats are not even out of the water yet and I am already looking forward to next year's race season. I expect to have even more fun next year since all of this will be old hat by then.

As always thanks to everyone who takes the time to read this newsletter.

Eric Matteson
Fleet Captain

-A “Walk on the Wild Side”

I’m not one to typically write about our sailing adventures, but the most recent Bown Race was notable in so many ways that it seemed unfair to deprive the “non-participating” segment of the club from a peek at the wildest racing I think I have ever experienced in the club

The day started off innocently enough. 70 degrees or so, reasonably sunny, 5-10 knots of breeze out of the Southwest, a little bit of leftover chop from the previous day’s wind, but everybody was talking about the “big blow” that was heading our way. We had an outstanding ten boats turn out for the race. I only wish more people would try. The race is not usually as challenging as this year’s. As we approached the starting time, Adolph & Charlotte masterfully brought *Tigger* to anchor to get the race underway. All the time, the wind was building. The gun goes off and on *Comic*, we had a wonderful view of a half dozen boats screaming across the line on the downwind sprint for Sodus. For you non-racers, seeing more than half the fleet start across the line in front of you is not the greatest way to start the day...but it was pretty... in a sad sort of way.

We worked our way below the fleet, popped the chute and took off, side by side with *Blue Peace* who also had their spinnaker up and flying. On *Comic*, we reached out, jibed, reached back, jibed, reached out, jibed, and reached back several times. With each crossing, *Blue Peace* was further and further ahead, and we cursed those darn masthead rigs with their ability to go dead downwind, only to find out from Dave Keller afterwards it wasn’t so technical...no way were they going to do something stupid like trying to jibe in what was now 20+ knots of wind. Good thing we don’t have that kind of intelligence...Oooops I meant, technology onboard *Comic*. During this run we hit 8.6 knots...with steady surfing runs of 7-8 knots and the rigging “singing” in the wind. I also now know why they call the Genoa Only boats GO boats, because close on our tails were, *Selkie*, *Glad Tidings*, and *Soukara*, and a few others close by them. In less than an hour, we’re at Sodus and heading home.

That’s when things really get interesting...Waves were at least 20 feet high (we’ll OK, maybe 6-8 foot, but they sure seemed bigger when you’re sitting in a trough, literally looking up). A few boats retired the race when they found their progress towards Pultneyville was a mere fraction of their boat speed as they moved sideways nearly as fast as they moved forwards, or in the case of *Tigger*, retaining more water than they were shedding. On *Comic*, the best quote of the day was “You know they charge real money for this kind of stuff at Darien” as we charged up each mountain, and on occasion literally “falling off” the other side of the cliff. One time we tried to take a shortcut by going through a wave instead of over it. Did you know that a solid six inch wall of water racing across the deck slows you down a lot and gets you really wet?

All the while we were convinced we were catching *Blue Peace*, and the fact she kept getting smaller was an optical illusion brought on by the wind, the waves and a special unreported Y2K effect. We did get close enough at one point near the end to see them try a very unusual, albeit expensive, approach to “shortening sail area”, but I figured this was really a “psyche out job” where they were just letting us get close, only to spurt away again.

We never did catch them, and before we knew it, we’re across the line and at the end of another racing seasonbut it doesn’t really end there. The stories will maintain us through the winter, and congrats to everyone who raced in this year’s Bown Race as no doubt they have many. This year, that was enough. I’m happy for the yachts that sailed home, but nearly as proud of the one that recognized that when it crossed the line to not being fun anymore, started up their engines and headed to the party as fast as they could get there. Special congratulations also go to the Kellers and *Blue Peace*, for outstanding racing in very difficult conditions on their way to a great win and another great race for the always dangerous Axtell/Sleggs combination on *Glad Tidings*. They weren’t the only winners this year though. Everyone made it home safe, and anyone who was there has more than enough stories to hold them over till next season, so from that perspective, everyone who went was a winner. Next year it's your turn. I promise it won't be as windy!

Earl Chapman



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.



October 2
October 8-9
October 13

Cradle Day
Haul Out
Board Meeting @ Bob Hamilton's home