



# LAKE SOUNDINGS

PULTNEYVILLE YACHT CLUB

Volume 30, No. 3

April 2005

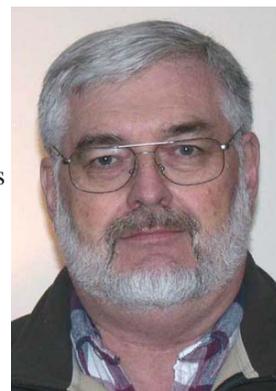


## Signals from the Commodore

Good Day Fellow Members,

Today will be a little hodgepodge of information and chatter from my part with some liberties taken.

As many of you are aware and for those that are not, it should be no surprise that the Board of Governors and I have had several meetings with the Cornwall Trust. I think everyone would say the meetings have been very cordial and productive, and we all look forward to a continuance of that productivity as we discuss future operations and activity.



In that light, I can tell you that at this point two things have been firmed up.

The first is that starting with our 1<sup>st</sup> lease payment this year in February our payments have been rolled back to 2003 levels. This is a reduction of \$4500.

The second is that the trust will start construction this summer to widen the West pier. This is a costly and significant undertaking that hopefully will produce benefits to the club in coming years. The plan is twofold in that a wider pier with better sieve resistance shall reduce the need for year-to-year dredging of the channel. Dredging that is done will be able to be done from the pier, without double handling of the sludge. This will be a significant saving. There is no cost to PYC for this operation.

We plan on continuing these talks and I will report results; neither prospects nor speculations to you, as things progress. We are being expedient but have no firm timetable stated for various items.

I have heard much stated about lack of dredging in 2005. Some have felt this is a powerboat vs. sailboat decision. It categorically is not! The decision to remove dredging funds from the budget was as you were told – a strict financial decision needed to balance the budget. Finances are for many reasons as tight at PYC as they may be in your own homes. Unlike politicians who live in a negative budget world and can raise taxes seemingly at will, we need to live within our approved budget.

All that being said and done, we do plan on doing soundings for both weed control and dredging purposes this spring. Again the Cornwall Trust has early on indicated a willingness to help us with this, and that discussion is on the table but a bit premature. The past couple of years our new harbor neighbors have joined us in that endeavor and that would be explored again if need be. If we have to dredge, we will do so to enable you to have a good season. You must realize that we have not dredged every year in the past! The situation will be carefully looked at and, at the same time, keep us in as a financially stable state as possible.

"Commodore" *(continued on page 7)*

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## The Secretary's Corner

Current Membership is: 88  
Voting, 19 non-voting, 0 Social



I would like to thank everyone who helped out at our booths the Boat Show and the Auto Show. Unfortunately we did not get many promising leads there but the efforts were both necessary and worthwhile. We all need to remember that recruiting is a numbers game and that we need to generate a lot of exposure to get just a few new members. The Marketing Committee is working hard to generate exposure for the club and to get our name out in the area. If you have any ideas or would like to help out, please contact Nancy Gong or myself.

Please remember that contact information and membership applications are available on the "Join Our Club" page of our website. You can also contact myself or Nancy Gong for printed signage, informational handouts, or applications.

Mark Blaakman has finished setting up the Members Only Page of our website. To access the page, go to <http://www.pultneyvilleyachtclub.org> and click the "Members Only" button on the lower left corner of the page. Then click on "click here to access the PYC Member Only Page."

The user name is: pycmember. Please call Alex Brougham for the password if you did not receive it by e-mail. I do not want to publish it as this copy of the Soundings can be found in the non-secure area of the website.

On the page you will find PDF versions of the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for 2004 & 2005, 2004 Club General Meeting Minutes, and the New Member FAQ.

Please thank Mark when you see him for all his hard work in setting up and maintaining this area as well our website in general.

*Alex Brougham*  
*Secretary*

**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:

Alex Brougham - 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:

Brian McCarthy - Commodore  
Dick Sheehan - Vice Commodore  
Merril Gray - Rear Commodore  
Alex Brougham - Secretary  
Joe Griffio - Treasurer  
Mark Blaakman - Fleet Captain



# Rear Commodore Reports

## Notes from the Engine Room.....

Hello, everyone, welcome to Spring!

With the advent of Spring, we need to start thinking about getting our boats ready to go into the water in preparation for Launch Weekend, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

Steve Heffron, who has been heading up the launch coordination for this Spring, has presented a schedule for launch that weekend; the schedule is on page 6. Please examine the schedule to find out which day you'll be launching and the role you'll be playing that day. If you are launching with us and your name isn't on the list, get in touch with Steve. His phone and e-mail are in the logbook.



Looking ahead, workdays are starting to come together for May and June and several members have agreed to be team leaders. On work day #1, May 14<sup>th</sup>, once again Dick Darrow will head up the North Shore Clean-up effort, Dave Weagley and Peter Fisk are leading the team that will build a new dock, Eric Matteson will lead the team that so ably repaired and adjusted existing docks last year, and Roger Carr will be leading the group that will be taking care of Building and Grounds Spring fix-up.

Also on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Cindy Kukuvka will lead the group that performs "club beautification." This is going to be somewhat of a magic act because the club has no budget for flowers or plantings. Cindy has asked that anyone who may have flowers or a planting that they would like to donate to the club, to please get in touch with her. More on this as the time approaches.

On work day #2, June 18<sup>th</sup>, plans currently call for building another new dock. That team will be headed up by Tom Jayne. And the big project that day will be the removal of the large dead tree that stands over the Baird House. Start thinking about which weekend you want to work; we are going to have an assigned list in the May "Soundings."

A note of encouragement; engine repairs on the fork lift have been completed at considerably less cost than expected which presents us with an opportunity to plan for a better future situation. Also, now that the ice is out of the creek, soundings will be taken within the next few weeks as we continue to build our contingency plan for dredging in the harbor, based on need. The Cornwall Trust has indicated a willingness to assist the club in this matter. We are continuing our work on a weed control permit.

One last thing; as Brian McCarthy pointed out in his article, the Smith College Tour of Houses is coming to the club May 7<sup>th</sup>. The club has agreed to make the Pavilion available as a lunch stop for people on the tour, and this means that the masts and racks must be removed from the Pavilion no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>. No masts will be stored on the lawn this year. Any masts not stepped or removed to their boats by the above date will be removed to the orchard. We will keep the gin pole area cleared of boats so that sailors who launch in the morning can step their masts in the afternoon. Please do not abandon your post during your launch shift to step your mast.

There will be more definite information about this year's workdays as their time approaches.

Until then, we'll see you at the club.

*Merril Gray*  
*Rear Commodore*



# Fleet Captain's Journal

**Ahoy there mates!** Have you seen our web site lately? I've been busy getting several things updated and added. One major addition this year will be the presence of our own web camera looking out over the harbor. We will also be upgrading the scoring PC for our racers. A special "thank you" goes out to Tom Foley, Joe Griffo, and Brian McCarthy for computer and networking donations that will make all of this possible.



The Fleet Captain Work Day is rapidly approaching. This is normally done the first weekend after launch and this year is no exception. The FC Work Day will be Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup> and we'll begin with some hot coffee around 8:30AM in the clubhouse. I'm hoping several experienced people will come to my aid, as I have no clue what to do or how to go about it. Please call or email me if you plan to help.

Sticker shock! → I just bought VC-17 yesterday for my boat. That stuff is now \$45 a quart and even after price challenges and a \$15 coupon it still cost more than last year. I'm going to have to grind pennies next year!

The race committee had an initial meeting to start planning the scoring system we'll adopt this coming season and more. I'll provide an update next month on the decisions made. Last season's racing survey results are steering the objectives for improvements. This year's race committee includes Earl Chapman, Larry Rice, Doug Axtell, Scott Nichols, and myself.

Scott Nichols reports the Automatic Committee Boat project is on track and within budget. We owe much gratitude for donated pneumatic equipment that will be used for the flag raising mechanics to Eric Matteson. Thank you Eric! We anticipate delivery of this system in time for use during most of the racing season. I'm thinking we should probably have several short races on a Saturday for trial starts and finishes using the ACB to get practice with it before use in competition. There will be more to come on this later.

The race fleet is in possession of several PYC burgee logo'd coolers and canvas tote bags used for prizes in the past. We are selling these on a first come, first serve basis to generate funds for alternate prizes/trophies and hopefully procurement a foundation set of PYC standard product line merchandise to be sold at the club. There are about 6 coolers and 8 tote bags left. Contact me via phone or email to reserve one. Tote bags are \$10 and coolers are \$25. We'll work out cash and product exchange on an individual basis. The best time for this would be on launch days during breaks.

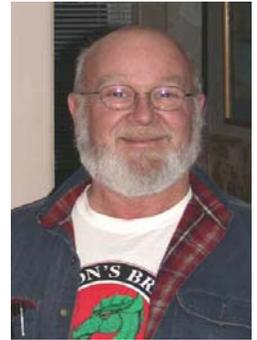
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How does Comic Relief do it? So many firsts... does all that laughing give them extra wind?

*Mark Blaakman  
Fleet Captain*



# Vice Commodore Reports



The sun is coming up more often and we are getting closer to the boating season; things are definitely looking up.

Just a couple of reminders for everyone; launch is scheduled for April 23rd and 24<sup>th</sup>. We would ask that you wait until your shift is over with before you step your mast, as it will take time away from launching the rest of the boats on your shift, and we need all the hands we can get for this project.

Also on May 7<sup>th</sup> the Smith College Tour will be using our pavilion for their box lunch during their tour of Pultneyville Historic sites. Our club is trying some new ideas to generate new membership, so we are asking everyone to please have their mast out of the pavilion by May 1<sup>st</sup> so the pavilion can be cleaned and set up for this tour. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

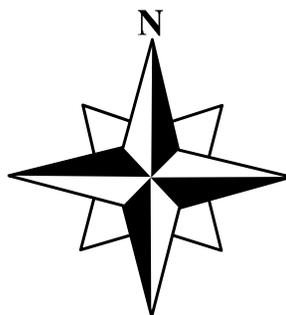
In the May "Soundings", we will have more info on up-coming events.

*Dick Sheehan*  
*Vice Commodore*



## ***Congratulations!***

.....to members George and Beth Del Vecchio, who are pleased to announce that they now have a new crew member. Please welcome Alex Bernard Del Vecchio to the club- and congratulate his parents when you see them.



## WORK ASSIGNMENTS 2005 P.Y.C. LAUNCH April 23 and April 24

| POSITION                              | Saturday 7:00 AM North Shore<br>Sunday 7:00 AM East End Pen                                            | Saturday 1:00 PM South Shore<br>Sunday 7:00 AM East End Pen | West End Pen                                        |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SAFETY OF CREW CHIEF FORK LIFT</b> | S. Heffron<br>C. Tertinek<br>D. Felton                                                                 | L. Rohr<br>S. Nichols<br>D. Boesel                          | T. Dobbins<br>L. Fedick<br>D. Weagley               |
| <b>NO. 1 SLING</b>                    | F. Bertoni<br>R. Palum<br>C. Yeager<br>J. Bopp                                                         | D. Axtell<br>M. Hill<br>J. Wurtenburg<br>T. Bolt            | P. Fisk<br>R. Pretzer<br>M. Blaakman<br>D. Smith    |
| <b>NO. 2 SLING</b>                    | J. Davis<br>J. Houck<br>S. MacDonald<br>M. Laffin                                                      | K. Sleggs<br>T. Broderick<br>D. Hunt<br>L. Rice             | T. Foley<br>B. Gelsma<br>R. Thurston<br>J. Thompson |
| <b>HARBOR CRADLE/ BOAT MOVING</b>     | B. Hamilton<br>T. Pautz<br>T. Kelly<br>S. Webb<br>J. Marron<br>E. Washburn<br>L. Helber<br>M. Saparito | A. Moritz<br>B. Corbin<br>H. Miller                         | T. Belaskas<br>C. Fitzgibbons<br>J. Markowitz       |
| <b>ORCHARD CRADLE</b>                 | M. Gray<br>J. Fortner<br>P. Roetling<br>C. Stevens<br>R. Sylvester                                     | R. Carr<br>J. Allen/K. Cylke<br>C. Abate                    |                                                     |
| <b>TRUCK</b>                          | C. R. Burcroff                                                                                         | T. Jayne                                                    | Ron Hilgert                                         |
| <b>LINES</b>                          | T. Ecker<br>R. Critchlow                                                                               | J. Williams<br>C. Kukuvka                                   | D. Smith<br>J. Thompson                             |

**NOTE: AM shift runs from 7:00am to 1:00pm; PM shift runs from 12:00noon to 6:00pm**  
**If your boat is being launched and you do not see your name, call S. Heffron at (585) 370-8216 ASAP! Please note that the Sunday morning shift will be somewhat short-handed. Anyone that might be at the club on Sunday morning is asked to see if you can lend a hand. This should be a relatively short shift. If anyone wishes a job change for any reason, please see me, Steve Heffron, at the beginning of your shift.**

"Commodore" (continued from page 1)

An early advisory: PYC intends to host a dining area for the Smith College Tour of Homes in Pultneyville. This is a huge exposure (possibly 500 to 600 People) to the demographic age we need to expose PYC to. Given the need for members, we are committing to this golden opportunity. **This means that all masts must be removed from the pavilion absolutely before May 1<sup>st</sup>. They also may not be on tables on the grass. If you cannot get your mast raised in that time after launch, you need to move your mast to your boat. Any masts not moved will be relocated to the orchard. We simply need the pavilion and all tables to be cleaned and ready to go by that week. We also will need volunteers. It is a great chance to get exposure we desperately need.**

In that light, here are some thoughts. Many are aware that we keep a member database that enables us to make informed decisions. I did some playing with that data and would like to pass on some demographic information on our makeup.

At this writing as of the end of February statistics show: 22 Powerboats and 63 sailboats in the harbor. Our roots were in sail and 74% are today.

The average boat: Power: Length 29.67 +/- 4.50 Ft; Beam 10.8 +/- 1.74 Ft; Draw is 3.12 +/- .58 Ft.  
Sail: Length 27.91 +/- 3.39 Ft; Beam 9.6 +/- 2.02 Ft; Draw is 3.93 +/- .98 Ft.

The heart of the matter: Costs: Power: Range \$2074 to \$2844 with \$2438 Mean.  
Sail: Range \$1970 to \$2666 with \$2276 Mean.

Now with some interest: 1996 data: 143 voting member vs. 87 today; a 39% drop!  
6 voting members with no boats, vs. 2 today.  
18 Powerboats vs. 22 today  
Length 29.00 +/- 4.15 Ft. vs. 29.67 +/- 4.5 Ft in '05  
107 Sailboats vs. 63 today  
78% of boats were sailboats vs. 74% today.  
Length 27.24 +/- 3.46 vs. 29.91 +/- 3.39 Ft in '05

Overall observations:

Powerboats have increased in length by less than a foot in 10 seasons. Sailboats have increased by a hefty 2.7 ft in the same time. Usually a larger boat means a deeper keel. Deeper keels require more dredging.

With 143 members, to give you an idea of what that number means, we could reduce dues and dock fees by 10%, and the club could still operate at over a 5K increase for reserves over today's budget with dredging added in. I'll let you imagine what we could do to improve life at PYC with an extra 5k a year.

To put it another way, we need members, and we need the Pavilion cleared before May 1<sup>st</sup>!

*Brian McCarthy*  
*Commodore*



## LAKE SOUNDINGS

P.O. Box 137  
Pultneyville, NY 14538

### Pultneyville Yacht Club Site at the Web:

<http://www.pultneyvilleyachtclub.org/>

## 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.



|              |                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| April 23, 24 | Launch Boats                |
| April 30     | Fleet Captain Work Day      |
| May 7        | Smith College of Homes Tour |
| May 14       | Work Day #1, 8:00 AM        |