



# The Binnacle

## Charlevoix Yacht Club

April / May 2020

209 Ferry Avenue, PO Box 522, Charlevoix, MI 49720

[www.charlevoixyachtclub.org](http://www.charlevoixyachtclub.org)

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## Upcoming Club Events

### April:

Stay Healthy,  
Flatten the Curve,  
Stay Positive

### All Dates Are Tentative

### Check Website for Updates and Details

**Fri. May 1** Skipper's Meeting

**Mon. May 11** CYC Board Meeting

**Wed. May 13** Spring Race Series Begins

**Mon. May 25** Mariner's Board Meeting

**Mon. June 8** CYC Board Meeting

**Mon. June 22** Mariner's Board Meeting

**Wed. June 24** Last race of Spring Series



*View from Irish Boat Shop docks March 8, 2020*

## Hail Spring ! (Northern Michigan Style)

Jenny Bednar

March is perhaps the month of greatest anticipation. Other places in the world enjoy spring blooms but here in Northern Michigan we watch for the days to get a little bit longer, the sun to feel a little bit warmer, and the ice to let go its grip on our beloved waters. We make slip reservations and schedule launch dates. Winter will not last forever. Likewise the crippling effects of COVID-19 will not last forever. At this time we do not know how far into the spring our plans will be disrupted. Even once the travel and gathering bans are lifted the ripple of economic effects will likely be felt for some time. But while we are waiting, adjusting our lifestyles, and managing new challenges let us also reminisce of our best and boldest adventures and dream bold dreams of our futures. We are boaters, we are sailors, we are resilient, capable, and creative.

One thing we can be sure of and comforted by, our new clubhouse plans and dreams are in process of becoming reality. Even while the walls take shape, interior design questions are being worked out.

Please stay in touch as we collectively weather this "storm". We would love to hear from you. If you have stories you would like to publish in the Binnacle please forward to [binnacle@charlevoixyachtclub.org](mailto:binnacle@charlevoixyachtclub.org). We will do our best to post event schedule and other updates on our website, Facebook, email newsletters, and Twitter.

We hope this edition finds you well and we look forward to seeing you as soon as The Fates will allow.

# Sail Charlevoix News

## Stan Carroll

We are excited to announce expanded adult sailing lessons with Sail Charlevoix / Lake Charlevoix Mariners. We have a new instructor and dedicated sailboat.

Jake Primak, our new Adult Instructor, attended Sail Charlevoix as a student. He is a freshman at the University of Michigan and is studying Film, Television, and Media. He races in the U-M sailing program.

Jake will be instructing on a recently purchased sailboat for adult lessons, a Highlander 20. Our adult program is for all interested in refreshing sailing skills and newer sailors who wish to comfortably handle their own boats. Sessions are tailored to the individual, small groups up to three are welcome. The new boat is ideal for learning and will be located at the Depot Beach on Lake Charlevoix.

Sail Charlevoix is also interested in volunteers to be part of our CREW team. This is a great chance to have fun with students and enjoy meeting families as we grow the next generation of sailors. If you would like to be involved in the Boyne City and Venetian parades, picnics at Depot Beach and more, please contact us at [info@sailcharlevoix.org](mailto:info@sailcharlevoix.org). The CREW team volunteers also help assist in setting up boats in June and putting them away in August.

We also have a large inventory of donated used boats for sale. The sale of these boats supports our school. [www.sailcharlevoix.org/boats-for-sale](http://www.sailcharlevoix.org/boats-for-sale)

If you are interested in more information about any of our sailing programs or activities, please visit our web site: [www.sailcharlevoix.org](http://www.sailcharlevoix.org).



*Jake Primak*



*Left: A Highlander 20, our new adult instruction boat*

*Below: Sail Charlevoix students and instructors ready to pass out candy at the Venetian Parade, 2018*

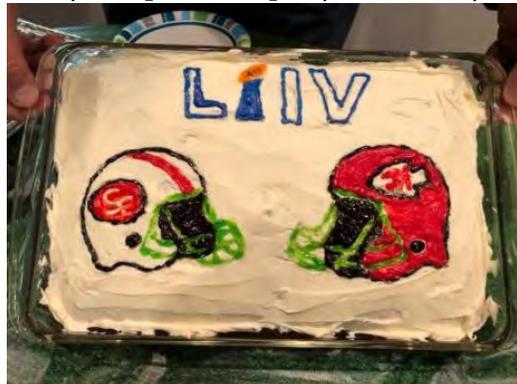


## Super Bowl 2020 Celebration at CYC

**Jim and Chris Abbey**

Celebration of the 2020 Super Bowl started a few days early for the 35 club members who participated in the

Abbey's Super Bowl party on January 31<sup>st</sup>.



*Below: Our hostess getting the deliciousness ready.*

*Above: We had Super Cake, and we ate it too.*



Adding to the enjoyment of the evening, along with barbecued chicken legs, broccoli cheese soup, and a variety of side dishes, were the featured games of bean bag toss, Super Bowl trivia, and guess the number of puzzle pieces.

Trivia contest winner was John Kunitzer with Diane Allen guessing the correct number of puzzle pieces.

Thanks to all who attended to share in the fun and entertaining evening!



*Left: Fierce bean bag toss competition between Tom Barnes and Jerry Seymour.*

*Right: Andy Allen enjoying trying to guess the number of puzzle pieces.*



## 50th ANNIVERSARY RUNNING OF THE CYC RED FOX REGATTA



### TWO THINGS TO WATCH FOR

1) Registration for the Red Fox Regatta and the Nucore Triangle race will be available no later than April 1, 2020. Watch for announcements for the start of registration on [www.yachtscoring.com](http://www.yachtscoring.com).

2) Watch for announcements on the availability of CYC Red Fox SWAG to create excitement and to get boats on the water: All these items will be available on the Screenmaster's Webstore. We will publish the web address when it is LIVE and so you can order. We plan it roll out different items each month.

May: Limited Edition:

HATS & 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary BURGEES  
- Once soldout these become collectors' items -

June: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary SWAG

Cozies, Cooling Towels, Dry Bags,  
Water Bottles, Mugs, Tumblers,  
Waterproof Phone Bags

July: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary CLOTHING

Shirts, Hats, Wind Breakers, Shorts

We want a great selection of unique merchandise for this very special event. We are early in the designing process and welcome your ideas. We are also looking for ideas to get more boats on the water this year. Please share your creativity by getting in touch with Jim Abbey at [jbabbey1@yahoo.com](mailto:jbabbey1@yahoo.com), or 313-467-7408.

# Memories of Jim Stewart

Jenny Bednar

*Kate Stewart was married to Jim Stewart for 13 years, sharing with him his love for Charlevoix, his love for sailing, and his enthusiasm for our club. The evening of March 22 we had a lovely phone chat about Jim Stewart and his lasting impression on life here in Charlevoix and on our club.*

**As a fellow Pearson racer, I've spent a fair amount of time looking at the stern of Cygnus, when did Jim get her? When did he start sailing?**

Jim bought Cygnus in the 80's but had been sailing Lake Charlevoix most of his life. He and John Ochs learned to sail together on "NMs" with Frank Ochs.

"NM" is short for "Northern Michigan" and is a boat designed specifically for racing in our area. If you are curious, the Little Traverse Yacht Club has published an article about the NM on their website [ltyc.org/racing/nm-history](http://ltyc.org/racing/nm-history).



*Cygnus under sail*

**What are some highlights of Jim's involvement with CYC?**

He was one of the members of CYC Corporation that helped with the purchase of our current clubhouse. Jim served as Commodore in 1989. Once when he was race chairman for the Beaver Island Regatta he had to cancel because there was no wind. He ended up towing Sandpiper in.

**I bet there are lots of fun sailing stories about Jim, can you tell us a few?**

I should put you in touch with his son Dillon, he'll have some stories. Dillon was with him when Jim got washed overboard on the way back from Northport. And John Ochs...Mike Miller they could tell you some stories I'm sure. If Jim were here, he'd be telling the stories, he was a phenomenal storyteller.

**What was it like to race with Jim?**

Jim was always very safe. He was a good tactician, always calm, collected, ... until someone cut him off at the mark... then God help them. He was a different person then (giggle). But seriously, he was a very safe sailor and cared a lot about safety. He couldn't watch "All is Lost", it was too upsetting, he was so mad at Robert Redford's character for being so unsafe. We had to turn it off.

**Did you sail before you met Jim?**

No, I grew up on the AuSable River, I was always fly fishing. My first day on the boat – it snowed, it rained, and it sleeted but I never had so much fun in my life. That was a first spring series race.



*Cygnus and her crew*

**If Jim could say something to the members of CYC, what would he say?**

"The camaraderie of the club and the fellowship we have, with our love of Lake Charlevoix and our care for the ecology of Lake Charlevoix, creates a unique family. As sailors we see life differently, that fellowship is most important....and the club should get a TV so we can watch sports together."

*The celebration of life for Jim Stewart is being rescheduled for some time in August. We will post updates when we are able.*

# So You Bought a Boat....

**Will Harrision**

Originally, during the dark cold days of February, I conceived of this column as being all about varnish. We had pulled much of the teak and plywood off the boat, intending to use the pre-spring build-up to whet our boat project appetite with a little refinishing. Then a pandemic happened. In order to stay relevant, I decided to switch the focus away from varnish. After all, ask any writer and they will tell you staying relevant is one of the hardest parts of the job. Another positive side effect of this switch is you, dear reader, have been saved from the incredibly large number of bad puns and clichés associated with varnishing.

In case you have been in the Southern Ocean for the past two months, with your Iridium GO overboard, the world is experiencing a wide-reaching flu-like virus pandemic. Right here, I will say that making light of a serious situation and keeping a sense of humor in difficult circumstances are very different things. My intent here is the latter. As things unfolded, it occurred to me that boaters may be uniquely well suited to weather the storm. Take, for example, stay-at-home orders.

With schools closed, social and recreational facilities closed, office workers working from home and many other workers unfortunately not working at all, families are faced with the daunting task of actually being around each other most of the full 24-hour day. Frightening! Unless, they are a family of boaters. Boating families are far more accustomed to sharing small, limited spaces with each other for long periods of time. This doesn't mean there isn't any friction; (just pay attention next time a boat full of family approaches a dock) but boating families tend to have effective coping strategies. And what about 'social distancing'?

To combat the spread of the virus, we are instructed to maintain at least six feet from each other. Of course, the confines of family life pretty much mean this applies to "other people", not our spouses and children in the home. Once again, a boat might be the key to remaining both social and socially distant at the same time. Once we pile our family on board, we are pretty much automatically maintaining the required separation. If you aren't convinced, find a nicer boat than yours and just try approaching closer than six feet; it might get loud and very anti-social quickly. Yet, while we are each confined to our own little fiberglass mobile quarantine unit, we will wave, smile, and banter on channel 68 just as we always have in the past. We might have to forego the raft-ups, and we may not be able to get a burger at The Landing, but we can all enjoy a social activity "together" that non-boaters will find it hard to duplicate.

If there is a downside for boaters in all of the restrictions, I think it is the loss of excuses. I mean procrastination excuses. Boaters are great procrastinators; you may recall the formula for project accomplishment from a previous column. The large pile of boat stuff that obscured the dining room in November still lurks in the basement, waiting patiently for me to "get a round to it". With all of this additional home time, it is getting harder and harder to deflect questions about "when will you do \_\_\_?" With the boat yard itself closed to the public for DIY boat work, I may have no excuse for not tidying up those loose ends. I mean, literal loose ends; most of the running rigging could use a good whipping, and I have a rigger's kit. No excuse...

In the end, we will do as all mariners have done before. We will wait below for the storm to subside, busying ourselves with all manner of small tasks, until we can emerge from below decks into the sunshine of a new day and sail calmly into the (social ) distance...



*Work in process, pictured with offering to appease the laborer.*