

Commodore's Report - Halsey Bagg

The world of virtual meetings is becoming a norm as we all learn to deal with the pandemic. As my first year as Commodore, I thought it would be important for the board of directors to stay in contact with each other during the off season and started holding virtual conference calls in October. With one exception, we have held these monthly conference calls to discuss all the boat club business. As it turns out, we learned a skill that also helps us navigate this pandemic. The accomplishments of these monthly meetings is development of a new navigation map (in its final stages), a trifold CLBC brochure (at the printers), a Cranberry Lake puzzle (in progress) and the membership survey which most of you participated in and the summary report is included in this newsletter.

Regarding our summer events, the bad news is almost all are cancelled including the following:

- Firecracker - Saturday, July 4
- Annual Mtg & Banquet - Saturday, July 18
- Boat Race and Picnic - Saturday, August 15

However, there is good news. A social distancing version of the The Poker Paddle for the Library, which originally was on our schedule for Saturday July 25th is in the planning. Look for details in upcoming notices.

Membership Survey - Karen Vavra

A total of 139 members participated in the survey we sent out this spring. That's a great response rate (60%), and we thank you all for sending us your feedback. Here's a short summary of the results:

Our members reported joining the Boat Club between 1919 – 2020, where half of the members joined in 2004 or before, and half in 2005 or later. When asked why they belong to the Boat Club, the two most

popular reasons were to support the local community and to provide stewardship of the lake. Meeting other people, participating in CLBC activities, and being able to dock in town were somewhat important, and "tradition" was least important. Memberships from 2004 and before were more likely to value "tradition" than those who joined later, but overall the two groups answered the question the same way. The majority (62%) of our members are here for the summer, with 20% vacationing here for a month or less and 18% are year-round residents.

We asked how our members rated the activities we traditionally offer. The Paddle for the Library had the greatest number of positive ratings, and the other events had substantial support as well. The percent of respondents who had "No interest" in the events ranged from a low of 16% for the picnic to 29% for the 5K/10K race. Clearly, most of the members who answered the questionnaire are interested in the events we hold.

In the survey we listed a number of potential options for events or activities we could hold. 60 – 80% of the respondents were interested (i.e., rated them 3-5) in historical boat tours, informal BYOB's, picnic on an island, summer lecture series, the loon count, water and invasive species sampling, and work parties. Around half of the members expressed interest in boat races, group hiking, and group paddling.

We also asked members for other suggestions for activities they would like to see us offer and received many interesting ideas. There was a major interest in water-related activities such as the boat parades and rallies, boater safety courses, inspections, and a life-jacket loan program, and fishing tournaments. In the past few years we haven't offered those types of events due to the cost of liability insurance, but the board has agreed to take another look at how our club might manage them. There were also many

Officers

Halsey Bagg, Commodore
Debra Roberts, Vice Commodore
Jenna Burkard, Treasurer
Karen Vavra, Corresponding Secretary
Sally Holden, Recording Secretary

Directors

Nolan Fedorow
Gil Gellasch
Kate Kosior
Chuck McMenamy
Bob Sutor

Mark Friden
Chris Haber
Roger Mayer
Susan Smith

Membership Survey - Karen Vavra (cont)

suggestions for social events such as beach parties, bonfires, and concerts, and interest in family social events that involve or focus on children and teens. Lakeshore clean-up activities, as well as a number of other ideas were also suggested. While the current COVID situation will probably prevent us from offering them this year, the board is seriously engaged in evaluating them for future offerings.

Members were also asked if any of our regular events should be discontinued or changed. A few people suggested combining or changing the banquet and picnic. The board members had concerns about the Cardboard Boat Race because of declining participation in recent years.

The survey asked members to suggest the amount of funding they felt should be allocated to various local organizations. The two organizations that members most wanted to support were the Hub and the Cranberry Lake Fire Department, followed by the Town Beach, the Library and Clifton-Fine Hospital. Nineteen people said they would be interested in volunteering to serve on the board or on a committee, and 39 said "Maybe". We'll be in touch with you to find out your interests.

Overall, we learned a lot from the survey. We know that the two biggest reasons for being a member of the boat club are to support the local community and support stewardship of the lake. The board will strive to ensure that our decisions are aligned with these two guiding principles. Social interactions, docking in town, and CLBC activities are also important to our membership. Most members are reasonably happy with our traditional summer events. In addition, many of the new potential activities generated lots of interest, and many other ideas were included in the comments. We will consider these to replace or rotate in with our traditional ones. There is a lot of interest in water-related activities. We need to figure out what it will take to manage the liability issues involved in offering water-related events.

We appreciate the time our members took to complete the survey and the many helpful and insightful comments we received. What we learned will help us make better decisions in the future.

Fish & Game Committee - Dana Hall

The Chair of your Fish & Game Committee, Dana Hall, reports that Zebra Mussels have been found at the Rome NY Fish Hatchery. The Rome Hatchery is one of DEC's largest hatcheries with annual production totaling nearly 160,000 pounds of brook, rainbow, and brown trout. DEC is adjusting its stocking regimen for 2020 and fish from the Rome hatchery will only be stocked in waters currently inhabited by zebra mussels. As a result, Cranberry Lake will not be stocked with these trout. For more information go to the links to the DEC website:

(<http://www.dec.ny.gov/press/119668.html>)

(<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/23287.html>)

Remember all boaters are encouraged to follow the CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY standard to prevent these invasive species like zebra mussels from spreading to Cranberry Lake.

Membership Renewal

To date we have 100 of the 250 memberships renewed. It is now time to **renew your membership**. Please use the updated 2020 renewal form that is available on our website:

(<https://www.cranberrylakeboat.club/documents/2020-CLBC-Membership-Form.pdf>)

Final Thoughts:

If you'd like to be more involved in the activities of the boat club and serve on one of its committees, please let us know (Halsey Bagg, 315-790-7512 halseybagg@gmail.com).

Also, if you are interested in becoming a member of the board of directors, contact Sally Holden (774-262-7013, sallyholden1954@gmail.com), who chairs our nominating committee and is our recording secretary.

Watch for announcements on our Facebook Page or the Bargain Hunter for activities to be held in lieu of our traditional events.

Don't forget to support our local businesses.

We hope everyone has a relaxing and healthy summer.