



# Telltale

Newsletter  
of the  
Seneca Yacht Club

April 15, 2020

Volume 50 Number 1

## Commodore's Corner

On behalf of the board, we hope this Telltales finds you healthy, safely stowed away and keeping in touch with family, friends and other loved ones.

For Seneca Yacht Club, this season will get off to a later start that we'd prefer. Last season it seemed to rain all spring and many boaters didn't get into the water until June. This year, a different kind of stormy weather, the Covid19 outbreak, has settled in to try to dampen our enthusiasm. After 91 years, I'd like to think the Club has seen it all ... but not a storm quite like this!

To lean heavily on a sailing analogy, our little ship has been caught in an unexpected turbulence...with heavy fog...the GPS is out...the electric bilge pump has quit...the main just ripped, and the grog is running low. Somewhat inconvenient. Even so, the crew is able-bodied and hasn't mutinied (yet), we have manual bilge pumps, an extra main, the navigator knows celestial navigation (if the sky ever clears) and the cook has stashed a generous personal supply of rum (not a well-kept secret). As the T-Shirt says: "Burnt Skin. Out of water. No land in sight. Sail on!"

So, here's the official SYC position. We're closed until we aren't and we'll be open when we are. There is formal language from our Governor.

*Governor Cuomo has issued several Executive Orders establishing numerous restrictions on businesses and government offices in order to reduce the spread of coronavirus and reduce the strain on our healthcare system. Recent guidance and memos issued by the NYS Department of Economic Development have confirmed that boating is not defined as an "essential" business. Unfortunately, this means that we cannot open for the season at this time. New Executive Order 202.14 issued on Tuesday (4/7/20) extends these restrictions through at least 11:59 PM on April 29. Future Executive Orders could extend this deadline.*

For Seneca Yacht Club, this includes the clubhouse and all in it - kitchen, lockers, loft, etc. Also, the cranes, boat ramp and gin pole will be closed. The Board will address any updates and future issues at the Board meeting on Thursday, May 14th which will be conducted via ZOOM. Let me know if you'd like to listen in and a link will be sent to you.

We're working to develop alternatives for engaging with our members, Sailing Academy Camp students, and the wider community. You may be pleased to learn that arrangements for a Virtual Punch Bowl Party, if needed, are already being planned. The Opening Workday will be postponed, and projects around the

Club to accommodate Social Distancing are in the works. If you have suggestions or thoughts, we'd love to hear from you, as well as any questions or concerns. Please don't hesitate to contact me. We'll update you as soon as there is more news, and until then, fair winds to you and yours.

Chris Lytle  
Commodore  
Seneca Yacht Club  
[ctlytle@gmail.com](mailto:ctlytle@gmail.com)  
315.224.8639

---

## **Burning of the Socks on the Equinox Ceremony & Haiku Contest (Virtual)**

The Equinox waits for no one, and although it wasn't possible to gather together in person, many built a fire, grabbed a suitable beverage and sacrificed some old socks. Many members also submitted their Haiku's for Spring which will be judged at an upcoming event on the beach. As mentioned earlier, given the impossibility of fairly judging the Haiku's vis our traditional Clap-o-Meter, there will be two Eggie's (Egg of Wisdom Awards) presented soon...for those submitted on or before the actual Equinox, and those submitted between the Equinox and the rescheduled event TBD.

---

## **Website**

While Telltales will be used to keep you updated, we've updated our website ([www.senecayc.org](http://www.senecayc.org)), and will also post any new developments. Our Facebook page will mirror the website news updates as well.

---

## **Opening Workday/Club Projects**

Whilst we're planning on our annual Opening Work Day as usual (date TBD) we've also discussed if and how to accomplish the same objectives, as well as other improvement projects while incorporating social distancing. We've developed a Project List, and each of our board committees will prioritize them, determine a project budget, list tools needed and schedule for eating these whales a bite at a time. More on this and other volunteer opportunities soon.

---

## **Moorings in the North Mooring Field**

Eligibility criteria to keep a sailboat in the North Mooring Field have been revised. Any member is eligible based on seniority, regardless of current boat ownership. Eligible boats must be no more than 30' LOA, with at least a 4 ft. draft. If you're not currently a boat owner, you have three months to purchase a qualifying boat if selected. If you would like to be considered, you must submit a written (e-mail ok) statement indicating your interest. The waiting list will be updated, and notification will be sent as moorings become available and your seniority position on the list. Send your notification of interest to the Mooring Committee via Jim Gindling, our Treasurer ([jgind4038@gmail.com](mailto:jgind4038@gmail.com))

---

## **"Ahoy" Calls to Members (Covid Care Calls)**

Many of our members might be feeling a little isolated with the Stay at Home measurers currently being observed. If possible, we'd like to make arrangements for someone to give a call in such cases. If you know of someone that might like to hear from a club member, or if you'd be willing to make a call or two, let the Commodore know at 315.224.8639 or [ctlytle@gmail.com](mailto:ctlytle@gmail.com) we'll make the connections.

---

## **Just Sayin'...**

"Social Distancing" is used to describe our current expected behavior. What is really meant is "Physical Distancing" to prevent the spread of the corona virus. Socially we should try to be closer than ever, especially in these trying times. With Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, text, and even phone (mobile or otherwise) we can stay in touch with family and friends. Staying in touch now is more important than ever. So get in touch with a friend or family member you haven't seen in a while. It'll do you both good. Take

care.

---



Check out our Facebook page to see what is going on at the club