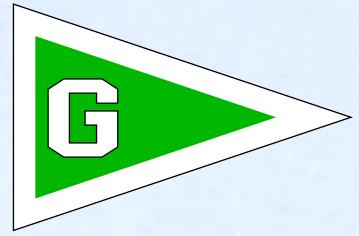


GYC JOURNEYS



February 2026
Volume 93, Issue 2



Inside This Month

- February 2026 Membership Reports
- Get that Chili Ready!
- GYC Winter Social Events
- Nailing Down the 2026 Race Season

COMMODORE'S Corner



We are almost through the winter season! It's been a snowy one and I want to thank everyone for their work keeping our social programs active and for those of us who go down to the yard every week to check on all of our boats. It is comforting to know that we are all being taken care of!

We are still looking for two important Chair positions at the Club. We need a chairperson for our Scotch Bonnet Light Race and our Women's Sailor Invitational. Both of these programs are long standing signature races at GYC, both have large volunteer staffs in place that help plan the events. These staff do much of the work planning the actual race, registration, parties, awards, advertising, sponsors and more. What we need are two motivated members to be their conductors! Someone willing to make sure the all of the behind the scene cogs turn in unison for these great events.

Your teams are already in place and as Tony Gambacurta so eloquently says... 'we won't let you fail'!!! I hope you will consider this and join one of these great events as a leader!

I have also been working to make the welcoming of guest sailors easier for all. As I try to tweak the role of the Officer of the Day and how to handle the use of our open docks, I have been working with Rich Allen and others to make sure our website is current and provides current information on open docks during the summer. For more information on this, check out page 15 of our newsletter.

Don't Let Winter Get You Down!

There are some of GYC's best winter events coming up in the next few weeks. Looking for a nice night of playing cards and enjoying friends and laughs? There are still three more Euchre Nights, with our next on **February 21st**. Bring a snack and your own drinks, we gather at 5:30pm and will start playing at 6:00pm. \$10 entry fee plus quarters for the tinks!

Want to enjoy a nice bowl of chili, maybe even bring your own and win first place? Stop by on **March 7th** for our annual Chili Cook-off. Get your chili with or without beans and let the battle continue!

Pat Pytlak has suggested our Club begin a series of seminars and classes to help sailors better their craft. As you read this, some of our more experienced members are looking to step up and create some great educational classes...stay tuned for more information!

TOURNAMENT



Keeping the Fleet in Sight - Vice Commodore Report

Bob Blakley



Thanks to all the previous work on our club, we have passed through some of the coldest weather without pipes freezing up and other damage! We do have mountains of snow around the parking lot making it difficult to get to our boats- heres hoping the warm weather window may ease this situation for us. Just a few short things to think about:

Spring Launch & parts:

The first launch, April 25, is not that far away and its the first GYC launch. Its not too early to get those parts you need prior to launch! Sea water impellers are notorious for their short life. Shaft anodes are best in magnesium for fresh water, zinc being the traditional choice for salt water, and aluminum outboards need their own protection – check your manuals.

Dredging:

We are working on the details of what we want done in the basin, nothing planned for the river. Typically the basin needs to be done every seven years or so and we are schedule for this spring. Our goal is to get this done before the first launch, but we may need to adjust the launch schedule as that date comes closer.

Dock Assignments:

There is a revised dock assignment list posted (Ver. 1/26/26), affecting slips 14, 27, and 47.

Dock Changes:

I mentioned last month our plans to reconfigure dock 27, while that work is being postponed until the Fall, we will still proceed with the wing wall dock. I will provide more details as they progress.

Toilets:

One down , two to go! Thank you to everyone who has helped!

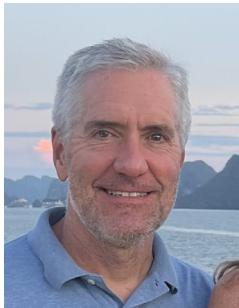
The screenshot shows the homepage of the Genesee Yacht Club (GYC) website. The header includes the club's name and成立年份 (92 Years: 1934 - 2026). The main menu has links for HOME, GYC VISITORS, LEARN TO SAIL, ABOUT, CRUISING, RACING, SOCIAL, CALENDAR, CONTACT, and SHIP STORE. Below the menu are four images of boats and a building. The 'GYC HOME' section features a 'Welcome' message and a note about the club's history and mission. The 'IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS' section lists several links, including 'LINK to JOIN MEMBERSHIP E-MEETING', 'Membership Meeting computer and phone connection instructions and meeting outline', 'Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification Information and Sign Up', '2026 DOCK LIST (1/26/26)', '2026 Launch Schedule', 'VOLUNTEER WORK NEEDS – Signup Genius', 'One-Off-Jobs Listing', and 'GYC Calendar Use Guide'.

Bob Blakley and Rich Allen are working on a separate sign-up link for the various odd jobs that pop up around the Club. We will post a more detailed report next month, but keep an eye on a new link.

The screenshot shows a Google Sheets spreadsheet titled 'Odd Jobs Listing'. The spreadsheet has four columns: 'Status' (with an 'Open' dropdown), 'Sign Up Title and Description', 'Sign up (click link or write in your name)', and 'Contact for More Info'. Row 2 is a header, and rows 3 through 8 are data rows, each with a dropdown in the 'Status' column. The 'Sign Up Title and Description' column is empty in all rows. The 'Sign up' column contains a link: 'http://tinyurl.com/2026oddjobs'. The 'Contact for More Info' column is also empty.

Guiding Winds from the Stern - Rear Commodore Report

Kevin Reilly



While the snow continues to fall, the 2026 Race Committee is hard at work finalizing a new season of races. We have received a tremendous amount of input concerning the layout of our race program as well as how we handle multiple races and missed opportunities.

We hope to have a final version very soon and will post online, so keep an eye out. Meanwhile for all of our snowbirds, just know we are all jealous of your adventures and can't wait for your return with stories of warm days and perfect sundowners...just to make us MORE jealous.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GYC

February 21	Euchre Tournament
March 5	General Membership Meeting
March 7	Chili Cookoff
March 11	Executive Board Meeting
March 21	Euchre Tournament
April 18	Euchre Tournament



GYC Provisional Membership Approved

Mike Linser & Rick Traulsen

Active Membership Approved

No Approvals for February

Membership Packet Awarded

Will Phips & Chris Sullivan



Next Month We Vote On

No votes scheduled

Would you like to add something to the GYC Newsletter?
Contact Christopher Toole at
Toolenaround16@gmail.com

Please check the 2025 Directory for Accuracy!

Check your email, phone number, boat name & more!

If you would like to change something, contact
Craig Roth before the end of the year.

craigroth6@gmail.com

Directory is online in member's section at
<https://geneseeyc.org/>

ALL CHANGES DUE BEFORE APRIL 1ST

Think it is time to update your picture for the
2026 Directory?

Now is your chance, send a new clean shot to
Craig Roth and he will see that it is included in
the 2026 Directory!

Please be sure the picture is clear without a lot
of background clutter.



If people want to email work hours, please send them to
Pat DeMetsenaere
(jerryco@frontiernet.net)

Be sure to beat the October 31st deadline!!!



2026 EXECUTIVE BOARD

COMMODOREJoel Doyle

VICE-COMMODOREBob Blakley

REAR-COMMODOREKevin Reilly

SECRETARYPeggy Braitch

TREASURERRobert Gibson

PAST-COMMODOREKevin Dudarchik

MEMBER at LARGEJoanne Mudge (2027)

MEMBER at LARGEFrank Woods (2027)

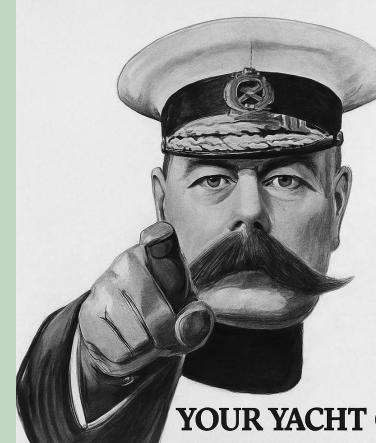
MEMBER at LARGETerry Pitt (2026)

MEMBER at LARGENick Lang (2026)



Lake Ontario Water Level

- **Thursday, February 12, 2026 - 244.52ft**
- **February long term average - 244.42 - 244.85**
- **Deep water temperature - 34° F**



YOUR YACHT CLUB
**NEEDS
YOU**

Easy Link to GYC Work Needs

We've made the link to our volunteer work needs easier
(thanks Ken Patterson and Rich Allen).

Simply go to the GYC website
(www.geneseeyc.com)

If you are using a computer, the heading
Volunteer Work Needs is in bold on the right.
If you are using a phone, scroll down to the same link

This will take you to **SignUpGenius** and on that page you
will see a listing of all the available jobs.

**Start planning your volunteer schedule for our 2026
season!!!!**

Would you like more information?

Go to the International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River
Board's websight for more!

<https://ijc.org/en/loslrb/watershed/water-levels>

Thank you Rich Allen for this tip!!!!

TowBoatUS Rochester and Captain Grant Langheinrich stand by to provide assistance in the
Rochester boating area 24/7.

Need a tow in the Rochester area?

Call

Oneida Marine Group, Inc.
Rochester, NY (585) 797-9847



TowBoatUS.

Reminder—

If you are joining or renewing
BoatUS membership, our
cooperating Group ID number is:

GA80272Y

GYC Looking to Create Educational Seminar Program

Pat Pytlak brought up an idea for a new series of educational classes, seminars and workshops geared toward sailors and the skills and techniques we need to better ourselves on the water. As we work our way through winter she suggested we try to gauge interest in creating a series of educational opportunities at the club.

The concept is quite simple:

Approximately once a month, a member or community expert would share information and/or skills relevant to sailing and safety on the water. It is clear to me that within our membership exists a wealth of experience and skills, however there is currently no formal way to share it with those who might benefit from or simply enjoy learning more about some topics. The porch chats only get us so far. I think one of the best things about sailing is that there is always something to learn and some way to improve.



The possibilities for topics are extensive:

Sail trim: Main, Foresail, Spinnaker (This topic could be a series of classes all on its own)
Trimming your rig: stationary and dynamic
Sail repair
Emergency techniques such as heaving to, use of drogues, steering by sail without a rudder, etc.
Splicing, whipping, line handling and maintenance. Choosing the right line.
Knots
Navigation
Reading the weather
Engine maintenance
Fiberglass and gel coat repair
Safety equipment: what to keep on the boat and how to use it
Proper VHF protocol
CPR/AED class
Fitness for sailors

The ideas are really unlimited!

Pat is willing to help organize these programs but if it becomes a successful regular event at the Club, the Executive Board might look at creating a Chair position to run this.

There is a lot of discussion over when we could host these meetings with thoughts before our monthly meetings or an off day. Ideally, the programs would be free or only have a low cost related to materials. If we can create a program to cover this March and April, we can see if there is interest in extending into the summer.

If you are willing to present or assist at a program, please contact Pat Pytlak at patp@rochester.rr.com.



2026 Membership Dues are....due!

Annual membership dues notices have been sent out and payments should be sent into the Club before the March Membership meeting. To avoid a 25% late charge, please be sure to send your payments in to the Treasurer!

2026's dock fees are due before the end of the April Membership meeting and all winter storage yard fees should be paid as soon as possible.

Please contact Treasurer Bob Gibson for any questions or help with payments at rpgibson8589@gmail.com



** Dues vary by membership level, please check with Treasurer for YOUR correct amount

ARTICLE IV - ASSESSMENT, DUES, AND FEES

A. Membership year - The membership year shall begin and end with the March membership meeting of the Club. Dues shall be paid by the end of the March membership meeting and nonpayment shall start the automatic expulsion process. The automatic expulsion process consists of sending the subject member a certified letter to the address of record (return receipt requested) within four days after the March membership meeting. The member will be advised of the pending automatic expulsion. Failure to pay both the dues and a 25 percent late charge by the end of the April meeting will result in expulsion.

B. Dock fees are due by the end of the April membership meeting.

1. Failure to satisfy this debt to the club by that date shall result in loss of docking privileges for the current season and other penalties that may be elsewhere described.

2. A member assigned a dock has 14 days after the posting of the assignment or until January 7th

(whichever is later); or 7 days after the resolution of any appeal to the Executive Board to refuse the dock assignment without penalty or payment obligation. After this period the assigned member is obligated for the full dock fee.

3. A member with permanent docking rights the previous year, choosing to refuse a dock assignment, will be considered to have applied for a leave of absence.

C. All other fees are due and payable within thirty days of billing. Any fees for co-owned boats shall be billed only to the most senior member.

D. Winter boat storage is from October 1 to May 31 and summer boat storage from May 1 to October 31. Boats stored on the premises after June 31 will be billed summer storage and after Nov 31 billed winter storage.

The Vice Commodore may grant up to a 2 week unpaid period for temporary boat storage. Boats will be assessed 1/2 price storage if a boat arrives on the premises after August 1st (summer) and after February 1st (winter). Members assigned and paying for a GYC dock will not be assessed summer storage if the boat remains stored in the yard and the dock remains unused by the member. The Executive Board may modify the storage dates and fee rate due to special circumstances.

It Just HAS to be Almost Done!

We are in the third month of winter storage here at the Genesee Yacht Club and things are looking pretty good! There have been a few loose tarps here and there that have had to be re-attached or secured but we've turned the corner and there are just six more weeks until it's all over! (at least according to Punxsutawney Phil)

We want to thank all of our members who stop by on a regular basis to check on everyone's boat. Reaching out when they see problems or actually getting up there and tying down a stray strap or tarp corner. It is comforting to know that after a particularly windy night or heavy snowfall someone will be down there the next day to put all our fears aside.





2026 Launch Schedule in the Works

Launch dates are April 25, 26 and May 2, 3. As always, we follow the "last out - first in" standard. The launch schedule will be shared soon.

Note that lake level, extreme weather or restrictions due to dredging operations may change these dates or launch order.

CLOSED FOR THE WINTER

If you have never considered towing insurance, perhaps this is the year you might take a look at what BoatUS Towing has to offer.

Typically towing needs revolve around two areas. A need to move our boat from our dock to a repair facility or help towing our boat back to a dock due to a mechanical or structural failure while on the water.

BoatUS will tow your disabled boat from your home to dock to any repair facility you choose within a 25 mile radius. For boats docked on the Genesee River, this would provide towing east as far as Pultneyville and to the west near Kendal, NY.

Should you become disabled on the water, BoatUS will tow you to your home port. On Lake Ontario, the typical cost for BoatUS Towing is approximately \$130.

Providing our Club's Group ID# will provide a discount to this cost. Please use **GA80272Y**

Tow A BoatUS®

How it Works

- Breakdown at Home Dock: If your boat breaks down at your home dock or mooring, BoatUS provides towing to a repair facility (usually up to 25 miles).
- On-Water Breakdown: If you break down at sea, they'll tow you back to your chosen port, and the dock-to-dock service covers the tow from a dock to another dock for repairs.
- Cost Coverage: Higher-tier memberships (like Unlimited Gold) often cover 100% of these repair-related dock-to-dock tows, while other plans might cover a percentage (e.g., 50%).
- Coverage Limitations: There's often a 30-day waiting period after joining or upgrading, and it doesn't cover pre-existing issues or tows unrelated to repairs.

~ Thank you to Joanne Mudge for doing the research on this valuable insurance option

Save the Date - 2026 Commodore's Reception

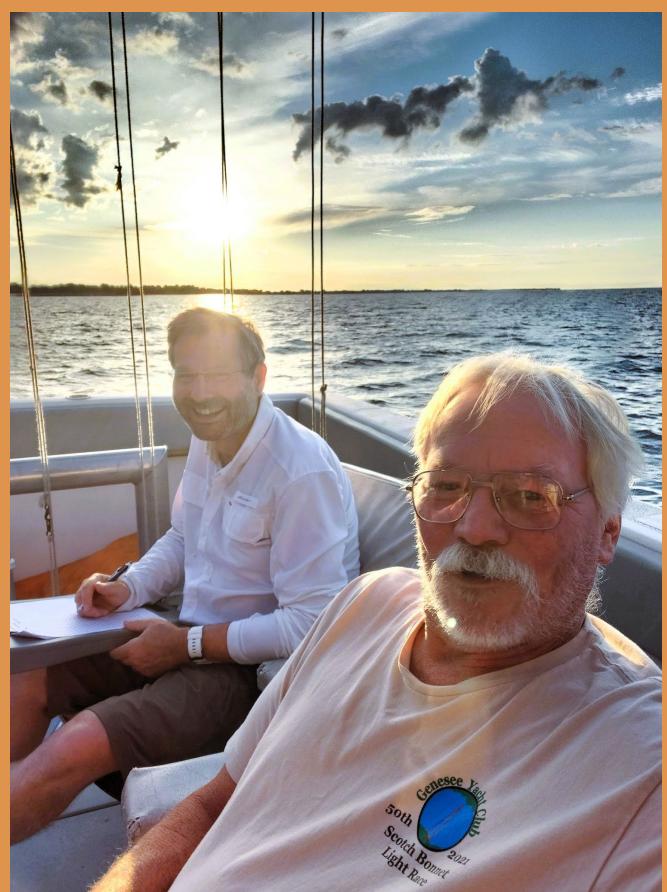
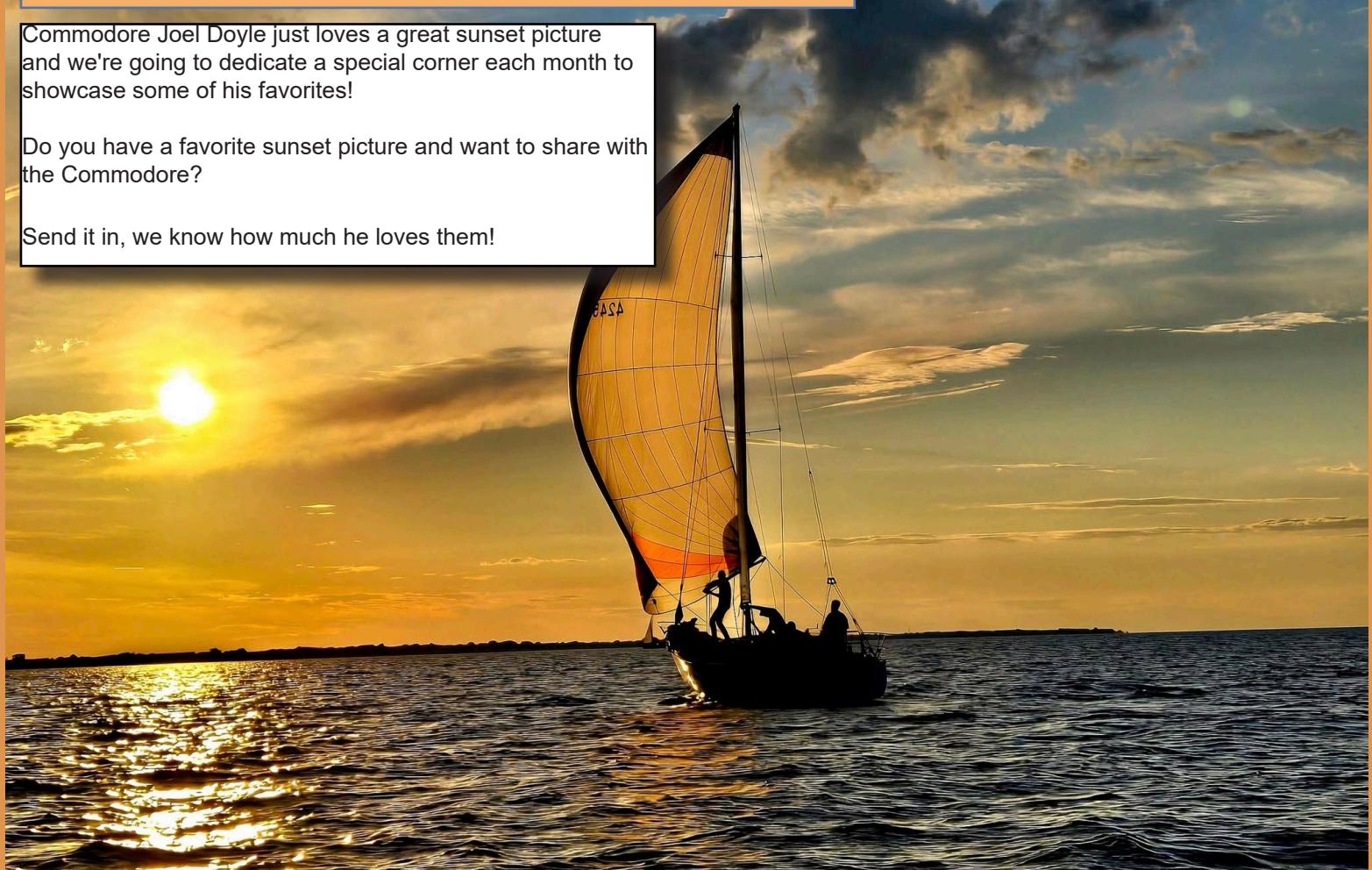


OUR COMMODORE'S SUNSET CORNER

Commodore Joel Doyle just loves a great sunset picture and we're going to dedicate a special corner each month to showcase some of his favorites!

Do you have a favorite sunset picture and want to share with the Commodore?

Send it in, we know how much he loves them!



2026 Launch Schedule

4/25/2026

4/26/2026

5/2/2026

5/3/2026

Saturday	Sunday	Saturday	Sunday	Voyager
Honeymoon	Zepher	Sting	Flicker	Cosette
True North	Desire	Celtic Fire	True Story	White Bird
Moondance	Esperanza	Brandy Brook	Great Escape	Jackalope
Rum Runner	La Mer Sonne	Maple Leaf	No Agenda	My Precious
Ernie Coleman	Rosy	Silent Partner 1	Amethyst	Destiny
Aventura	Elaine Carter	Trilogy	Monarch	Griffen
Vita	Y Knot	Calyce	Talisman	Chelsea
Brain Waves	High Anxiety	Real Escape	Impetuous	Little Bo
Sarabande	Splash Dance	Siren II	Vamp	Free Spirit
Wizard	Elation	Aloha	Destiny (Balm)	Water colors
Wyndberry	Harmony			ESP
	Elation			Patty J
				Fin & Tonic
				Mystic
				Mojo
				Coldfront

Notes:

* Order Listed is not the order that the boats will be launched

** Lake Level and Dredging Operations may impact launch dates

The 2026 GYC launch schedule is now available on the GYC website under the “Important Announcements” section of the home page. Please be aware that lake levels and dredging operations may require changes to this schedule.

If you plan to launch at Voyager, please let me know your date. This information is essential for our yard space planning during the launch preparation season.

Due to number of boats that are currently stored on the hard, yard space is limited. Please be considerate of others when parking.

Additionally, the **“Roles and Responsibilities for Launch/Haul Boat Events”** document is available on the members-only page of the GYC website. If you are new to this process, please review it. For those who have participated before, we encourage you to review it as well to stay updated. This is a living document, and we welcome your comments or suggestions.

https://geneseeyc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/GYC-Launch_Haul-Responsibilities_Version1.1.pdf

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out via email or text.

Thanks,

John Meagher
jmeagher5@gmail.com

Our Ship's Store Chairman Joe Pasquarell has gone to great lengths to add some new apparel to our GYC collection, including some very nice spring/fall wear for those 'slightly' chilly days!

Stop by our online store and take a look at what we have at

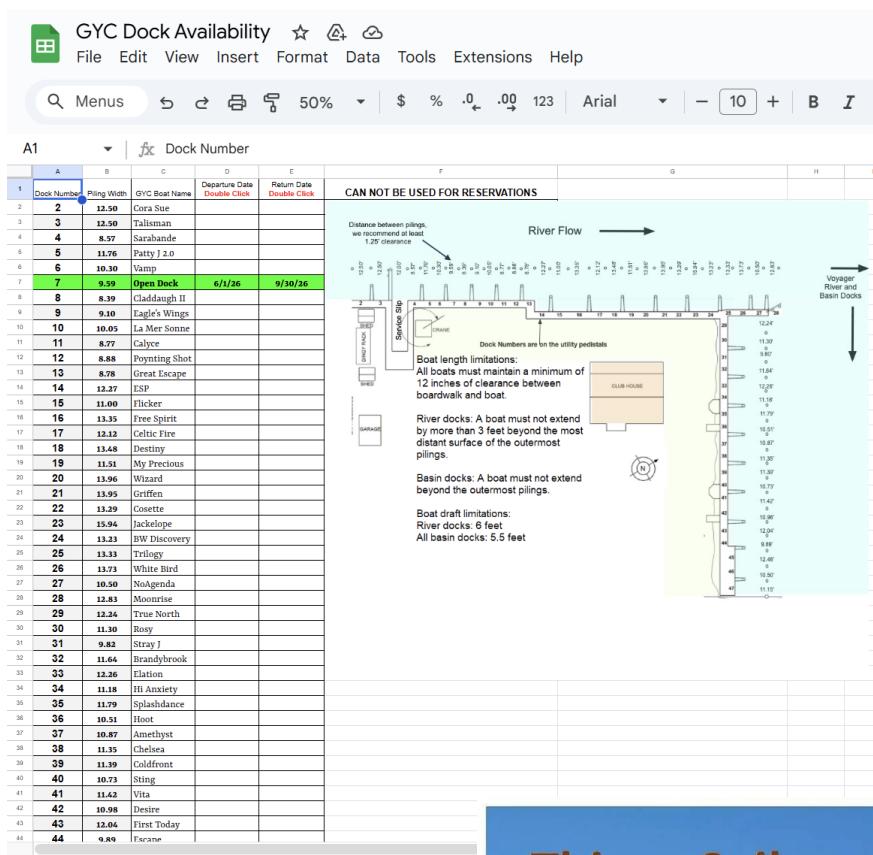
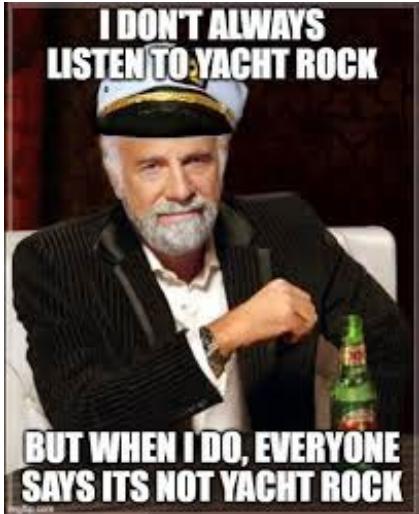
<https://geneseeyc.org/ship-store> for more information. You can reach Joe at giuseppe183@gmail.com

for information on what we have and prices.



Are you going to have friends or fellow sailors from our sister Yacht Clubs stay at GYC this summer?

The Genesee Yacht Club welcomes sailboats from reciprocal clubs on a first come, first served basis. Before arrival you can check slip availability by clicking on the "Visiting Boat Dock Availability" link, or by phone (585) 266-9796, or VHF-16, or tying up to the service dock recognized by the green travel lift and speaking to someone on the property.



Genesee Yacht Club

92 Years : 1934 - 2026

HOME GYC VISITORS LEARN TO SAIL ABOUT CRUISING RACING SOCIAL CALENDAR CONTACT SHIP STORE

LINKS MEMBERS ONLY



GYC VISITORS

The Genesee Yacht Club welcomes sailboats from reciprocal clubs on a first come, first served basis. Before arrival you can check slip availability by clicking on the "Visiting Boat Dock Availability" link, or by phone (585) 266-9796, or VHF-16, or tying up to the service dock recognized by the green travel lift and speaking to someone on the property.

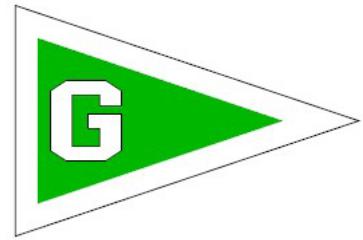
GYC Location

Click here for GYC's current dock availability. **PLEASE NOTE: Do NOT use this spreadsheet to reserve a transient dock!**

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JFEs7bnwjDZsR5f8XB0o4zsyP3qeAaNtFVFGNaZlGg/edit?gid=1525862750#gid=1525862750>

This email was sent via the GYC network to all GYC members from Tony Gambacurta, Tony has been instrumental in keeping our SBLR a major event on Lake Ontario.

~ Joel Doyle, Commodore GYC



GYC SBLR Chair request for volunteer – Tony Gambacurta, SBLR Committee

As you have heard, we are looking for someone to chair the Scotch Bonnet for 2026. In considering taking on this task, it's important to know, we have a committee.

The 2025 SBLR Committee was one of the best we have ever had. Hopefully most of them will continue in 2026. I can share a list of members to anyone interested.

We have many details covered including: notifications to organizations such as the US Coast Guard, interfacing with the tracker company, race organization & scoring, apparel, artwork, web site, registration and more. These things are mostly covered.

We all share a desire to put on an event that makes the GYC proud. We all share a disease I call Scotch Bonnet Fever. It comes from our passion for the event.

By the way, many club members contribute to the event. I don't know them all. I arrive on Friday, the day of the event, to set up for checking in boats. The Club house has been cleaned, including the bathrooms, the lawn is freshly mowed, and boats that arrived the day before and overnight have been checked in to a dock. I often don't know who does these things. It feels like the whole club contributes.

As Chairperson, the main things are communication with everyone. Finding volunteers, following the checklist, calling meetings. With the committee we have, you can't fail. We won't let you. There are rewards for chairing the SBLR. You will get your work hours in, that's for sure!

(I find it very rewarding awarding the awards.) Its hard to convey the feeling of being at the helm of the Club's big event, but, even bigger is the respect of the membership and Flag Officers you receive for taking on the job. When the event is over, the satisfaction of having pulled off one of the best sailing events on Lake Ontario is second to none. I can say this because we receive a lot of accolades for doing a good job, and, after all, it is the most awesome sailing event on the lake.

If you want to learn more about chairing the SBLR, please feel free to contact Rear Commodore Kevin Reilly who chaired the event for two years. I am also available and happy to answer questions.

Thank you.

Tony Gambacurta

Do you use FaceBook for social media access? Are you aware that GYC has a private group with over 640 members? If you haven't joined, stop by to get the very latest in GYC news, pics and events at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/281659826207>

We would also like to give a big shout out to Katherine Roth who is an administrator on our FaceBook page and spends a lot of time adding great content and links to all things sailing related. Thank you Kathy for everything you do behind the scenes to keep GYC looking great!

Genesee Yacht Club

Create a post + Invite Share Joined ...

Write something...

Feeling/activity Check in Poll

Featured

Most relevant

Katherine Roth Admin All-star contributor · 18h



Practical Boat Owner Yesterday at 3:30 AM

Historically, sailors were often seen as superstitious. Figureheads on ships were there to be guardians, offering protection and ensuring a safe passage home, with wome... [See more](#)

About

GYC is located on the Genesee River in Rochester, NY

Private Only members can see who's in the group and what they post.

Visible Anyone can find this group.

Recent media



See all

