

Lake Champlain Yacht Club
– *Commodore Macdonough Race* –
Saturday, September 9, 2017

The 50th Consecutive Running in 2017

The Macdonough Race is one of the required races for the LCCS Cannon/Goose Series and one of the optional races for the Champlain Series.

- For the LCCS Notice of Series, see <http://lcchampionshipseries.org>.
- For the LCYC Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions, Courses, and on-line Race Registration see <http://lcyc.info/racing>. To be scored you must register and have a current PHRF rating.

In 1968 John A. Williams, then Commodore of LCYC, in conjunction with the Lake Champlain Racing Conference, organized a 73.6 nm race to commemorate the victory of an American fleet commanded by Commodore Thomas Macdonough over the British fleet on September 11, 1814 at Plattsburg Bay. The race starts and finishes off the club in Shelburne Bay. The original course, still used for all Spinnaker Classes, consists of only two marks, the HBN at La Roche Reef to the north and Diamond Island to the south.

In the late 1970s an alternative shorter course of 48.2 nm was created for smaller spinnaker and JaM boats; this course rounds Valcour Island instead of La Roche Reef HBN. This course is now used only for JaM boats; all spinnaker classes must again sail the long course.

In 1971, John Williams conceived a unique trophy to be awarded annually to the winner of this race on corrected time. The trophy consists of a section of the actual rib of the USS Saratoga, Commodore Macdonough's flagship in the battle, and an American 12 pound cannon ball retrieved from the lakebed in Plattsburgh Bay. These two most appropriate objects are securely fastened to a modern wooden base resulting in a trophy that combines abstract beauty and historical symbolism appreciated by Lake Champlain sailors.

The currently-known best elapsed time of 11:08:12 for the 73.6 nm course was set in 1999 by Frankly Scarlett, a Soverel 33 skippered by Dave Powlison and John Harris. Present club records go back only to 1996.