

# DESTINATION

## BASIN HARBOR RESORT

### and BOAT CLUB

I will tell you of a great destination for your summer vacation or club rendezvous.



The destination is Basin Harbor Resort and Boat Club on Lake Champlain.

by Al Rudolf

The trip from the Hudson River through the NYS Canal is one that I have written about before. It is fun, scenic and very different from what some of us are used to. The canal system is very boater friendly with marinas and the canal locks which act as a park for your enjoyment. On your trip through the locks you will have many locations for mooring for the night and most are for free. The Basin Harbor Club is more than a marina, it is a resort with much to offer. They have just completed updating the docking to accommodate more boats and increase the ease of docking. Floating docks, power, and water are available for each boat. Fuel and pump out is available nearby. For the boaters with smaller boats, or if you just want to stay on land for a while, cottages or rooms in the main inn are available. I have stayed in the main inn several times while visiting on a bicycle trips through the Champlain Valley, but I have always enjoyed staying aboard our trawler "Redhead" in the harbor. While in the harbor most of the activity is within sight of your boat.





Enjoying the amenities  
of Basin Harbor Resort &  
Yacht Club over the years.

The resort was started by the Beach Family in 1886. Today it is still operated by the 4th generation Beach family and this resort has much to offer to the boating family. Let's start with the waterfront. There are about 60+ docks which can accommodate larger yachts as well as cruisers. The docks are located in a tree-lined protected harbor. Also at the Harbor bicycle rental, and small boat rentals such as sunfish sailboats, kayaks, or paddle boards are available for rent. A sandy beach with plenty of comfortable lounge chairs line the water. Several paddle boats and smaller rowboats are kept on the beach for the children to use. A diving board is located in 12 feet of water and just off from there is a huge water trampoline.

Back on land the "Burgee Bar" offers drinks during the afternoons, and quality craft beer is available at all the restaurant locations at Basin Harbor. Just past the bar is the north dock which hosts special dinners 3 times a week. On Tuesday "The Harbor Fair" is a themed event in which families can enjoy a grand buffet dinner with activities for the younger children such as games, a hayride, and toasting s'mores. On Sunday night a band will play music while you enjoy the "Farm to Table Dinner" which features great foods on the buffet table from the local farms. Thursday night is every boater's favorite, the Lobster Dinner. The dinner will also have other favorites on the buffet table for



Al and Cathy passing through a Champlain Canal lock.

**A lifetime of memories in any trip to Basin Harbor Resort and Boat Club.**



you as well as the band for entertainment. All dinners are topped off with several deserts and a campfire. Be sure to try my favorite, Grandma Beach's Apple Crisp for desert.

Just up from the water is a large field with croquet, badminton, and disc golf. The Harbor Master can also supply fishing gear if needed. Nearby the waterfront is the Harbor Store where ice cream and candy is available in the afternoons. A small gift shop is also located in the main building stocked with Basin Harbor items and some essentials. Just about half way to the airport is the fitness center where exercise equipment is available in a climate controlled room.

The resort offers "Kids Camp" with 4 age specific groups each day beginning at 9:30 am. The children play games with other children their age for 4 hours. They can also choose to have lunch with their camp buddies. At dinner time "Kids Table" is also available for the camper to meet up again in the main dining room. My children enjoyed the camp for many years and still talk about today.

A short walk from the waterfront is the airport and the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. The airport is a short grass strip with a few single engine planes landing each day. The Museum is a must see for boaters. Exhibits included are of the rich history of the Lake Champlain area.

The fun continues to the balance of the resort which includes a 18 hole golf course with club rentals if needed. A heated 25 yard pool with diving board is located near

the main building and is open till late September. There are 3 restaurants for dining. The main dining hall is the more formal restaurant. For more casual dining the Red Mill is located at the airport which is just a short walk from the waterfront. The Red Mill has a bar with several Vermont craft beers on tap. The menu features culinary delights of New England as well as traditional "comfort food". The Ranger Room, which is near the pool, serves lunch daily. The Resort has a large network of trails for cycling, walking, exploring and running. The area roads are located in a rich farming area where several cycling route will take you exploring. One can cycle north or south along the Lake, or head inland 7 miles to Vermont's smallest city Vergennes. For the more aggressive cyclists the Champlain Valley is a excellent place to ride for the day. Cycling routes in the area are from 25 to over 100 miles and are not very hilly as one might expect for Vermont. A favorite ride for me has been to cycle north up to Charlotte which is about a 40 mile ride. The ride parallels the lake for most of the ride.

The fun continues into the evening with many other events such as night golf using glow in the dark balls, bingo, movie night, and the bar at the Red Mill Restaurant is open late.

Our family has visited the wonderful resort many times in the past 25 +years. It is the best resort on the Lake and will make a great stop for your boat club rendezvous or destination for you family vacation. Visit <http://www.basinharbor.com> for more info and pictures.