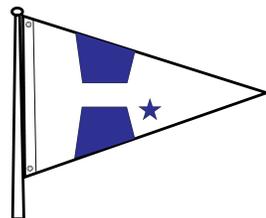


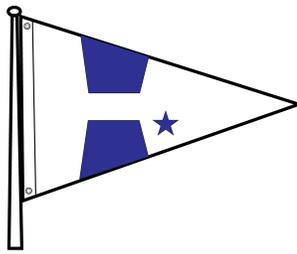
May, 2021

OVER *the* WAVES

The Monthly Newsletter of the Wickford Yacht Club



Wickford Yacht Club



Commodore's Log

As I write this on April 16, 2021 it's snowing outside. Ah, a typical New England spring where winter has not quite let go. But regardless, our boats are getting ready to be put in the water. So far it has been quite mild but not quite the > 50 F temperature required of painting weather; however, very good sanding weather and as we all know that comes first.

The WYC is starting to shine and it is due to the volunteers at our club that we continue to see improvements. The doors for the South wall of the pavilion have finally arrived and will be installed in short order. Painting the pavilion is underway both inside and out. BBQ deck area is now complete and awaiting clean grills to be securely placed on the deck. The Commodore's Room has never looked better – bar shined up, walls cleaned, furniture re-arranged, desktop computer and printers moved into office area, and party decorations properly stored and put away. The fence line has been cleaned up and debris taken away. It is difficult to remember all the items being taken care of and the various members who have contributed their time and energy. To all of them, a big THANK YOU!!

The final push to get the WYC "Summer Ready" is scheduled for Saturday, May 8th when we do the WYC Spring Clean-up; please put it on your calendars. This year Jenny Bourgeois is taking charge of organizing the beautiful WYC flower plantings and care throughout the summer. She is getting her team ready for the effort of filling the flower boxes right after Spring Clean-up and before Commissioning Day.

By the time you read this note we will have had our first social event of 2021. Thank you to those who planned and executed the Commodore's Reception – it was AWESOME. We continue to carefully monitor the RI DoH guidelines for conducting social events. Commissioning Day planning is well underway and we all look forward to the coming summer season.

Stay warm and healthy,

Bob Kern, Commodore

Rear Commodore's Report



Hi All!

It is time to start thinking about RACING!! Registration for the 2 summer series is now LIVE on Regatta Network:

For the Solstice Series: All racers must complete their registration on line by **Noon on May 26** using Regatta network. The registration form may be reached at: http://www.regattanetwork.com/event/22223#_registration

For the Dog Days Series: All racers must complete their registration on line by **Noon on July 14** using Regatta network. The registration form may be reached at: www.regattanetwork.com/event/22224#_registration

If you do not have a valid PHRF-NB rating (which you will need to the Spinnaker and Cruising Classes), please visit: <http://www.phrf-nb.org> to get set up. This year, like last, we will be running Spinnaker, Cruising and One Design (J-22 and Ensign) classes.

The Inaugural NYBA/Save the Bay Round the Bay Regatta is looking for local businesses who would be interested in signing on as event sponsors. As a Bay-wide event with starts around the Bay (including Wickford), it is an opportunity for local businesses to show all those sailors from around the Bay what a great place Wickford harbor is to come visit. If you are interested in learning more, please let me know!

See you out there (soon!)

Ezra

Fleet Captain's Report



Hello friends!

Spring weather and daffodils mark the beginning of what promises to be a wonderful boating season. Boat prep is in the *OMG so much to do stage*, but we're all getting there. Here's what's going on at WYC in preparation for our great upcoming season.

All moorings are in, or scheduled to be in, in Newport, Dutch and Wickford.

Dinghy dock, dinghy in water, and dinghy rack spots are assigned. There's hope for a bit more accommodation of member requests for dinghy rack storage when we see how the recreational equipment (kayaks/paddleboards) fit.

The spring mini cruise is set for Bristol. Bristol yacht club is reserving mooring space Friday and Saturday nights June 18th and 19th for us. Please use DOCKWA to reserve and mention "Wickford YC mini-cruise". They plan to include us in their social event "dinghy parade". Details to follow.

Cruise Planning continues. The list of cruisers has grown. Please plan to come to the cruise dinner at the Beverly YC in Marion, MA on Aug 1st and the cocktail party in Redbrook on Aug 2nd by any form of transportation. A boat is not required to enjoy this great events in beautiful harbors. Emails will be sent out when details and capacity limits are known.

Sincerely,

Rex, Fleet Captain



Sailing Activities Update



Wickford Regatta Headed for Record Participation

With 8 weeks to go and 47 registrations in hand in 9 classes, it looks like we are headed for record participation this year. The regatta team is coming together nicely, but we are in need of a Captain for our Venue team. The Cold Spring Beach venue is undergoing a major renovation that includes modifications that will enhance the regatta experience. The transformation will be completed only days before the regatta and we need to be prepared to be responsible citizens. The Venue Captain is the top cop at the venue. Please call Skip Whyte at 401-481-2997 if interested.

Wickford Frostbiters Wrap up a Record Season

The WFA season came to a close on April 11 in dramatic fashion. With three sailors tied for first and 2 more only a point behind going into the final day the chips were on the line. Conditions were near perfect with 8-15 from the north. Neil McDermott won the day in his only appearance of the Spring Season, but when the dust settled Skip Whyte had won the series followed by Daniel Borsutzky, Paul Nannig, Brett Nazareth and Peter Greene.

The Sea Dog fleet has grown dramatically over the past 18 months with many new boats all sporting the new interior configuration that makes the boats faster, safer, and much more comfortable to sail. The fleet now has more than 20 boats with weekly turnouts in the high teens.

Skip Whyte
Sailing Activities Chairman



Wickford Sailing Association Update



Outstanding Head Instructor/Program Director Hire

WSA is extremely fortunate to have found an outstanding Head Instructor / Program Director for the 2021 season. Shale Shore is from Kauai, HI where she has been the Executive Director of the Kauai Sailing Association for the past 12 years. Shale is a US Sailing Level III Instructor and REACH Educator. She is taking a sabbatical from her position to come to Rhode Island to experience the rich sailing culture that doesn't exist on her island in the Pacific.



Kauai is definitely not commuting distance, so we are looking for accommodations for her for the 10 week program duration. The last 4 weeks are arranged. If anyone would be willing to accommodate Shale for a portion of the first 6 weeks it would be much appreciated.

Three additional instructors have been hired and one position remains open. Caroline Bourgeois returns after working last summer at Sail Newport. Dmitriy Ovren from Ft. Myers, FL and Ava Wilson from Chicago, IL are also on the team. Dmitriy summers in Newport and is a Laser Radial sailor. Ava is a URI undergrad with rich experience in the Marstrom 32 Catamaran Class.

Registration at 80%

Registration has continued at a good pace and the program is at 80% of capacity with waiting lists for several classes. All but the Opti Racing sections are nearly full.

Pre-Season Maintenance is Underway

WSA board members and other volunteers have begun an ambitious pre-season maintenance program. An inventory done last month revealed a number of issues and more are certain to be found. WSA's 5 power boats are all getting some love and will be ready to perform safely and reliably. Volunteers are more than welcome.

Skip Whyte,
President, WSA
401-481-2997



Meet the New Members

Kathy and Carl Bowen

Returning members, Carl and Kathy, have been life-long residents of Rhode Island, and have lived in Exeter for the last twenty-seven years.

Long time boating enthusiasts, Carl has sailed for many years with the NBYA, including as crew for the Newport to Bermuda Race. He is a licensed captain and worked for several years for Seascope charters of Newport. He has served on the race committee for the Wickford Catboats for many years.

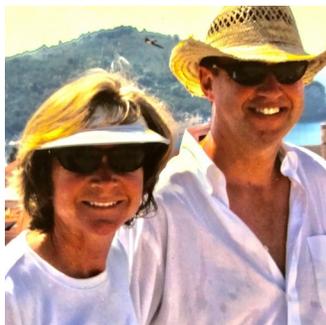
The Bowens have owned a variety of boats, from sail to power starting with a Cape Dory Typhoon, then a Cape Dory 28, a Nonsuch 28, a Fortier 26 and currently they have a Grand Banks 36.

Carl has just retired from a career selling dealer management systems to car and truck dealerships.

Kathy is a retired elementary school teacher, and currently works part time teaching science at St. Michael's Country Day School in Newport. She's an avid tennis player and golfer, having played in several of the WYC golf tournaments and with the Ladies group on Wednesdays.

They have their boat, **Cigatoo**, docked at Pleasant Street Wharf and are looking forward to enjoying the Wickford Yacht Club once again and participating in all the activities.

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Donna and Charlie Costa

Born and raised in Newport (ok Donna was imported to Newport when she was 2) meant that life always involved the water. It still amazes us the number of Rhode Islanders that never venture to the water and see the special bay and ocean front beaches that we have right here at home.

We left Newport thirty years ago looking for a home to raise our two children. And here we still are! We were able to find a great place to continue to boat from at Pleasant Street Wharf.

At the time we had a Southern Cross 28 – Magic. Currently we are wrapping up a four-year project restoring the Tugboat Hobo.

Charlie is retired from Raytheon, but certainly he never really retired. Long prior to retirement he had earned his Captain's license and was driving a variety of classic boats for the Tiedemann Group out of Newport. Winters kept him busy maintaining those same boats. Our daughter, who took sailing lessons at WYC 25 years ago, worked as his crew for a time. She is now an RN at South County Hospital. Our son is active-duty Air Force in New Mexico. Between them they have given us 3 wonderful grandchildren. Donna continues to work at a regional CPA firm.

Along with loving the water, we also enjoy train travel and have completed more the 50K miles on trips around the USA. This past year of not traveling and socializing much less makes you aware of how much you really enjoy the simple things like dinner on a dock or boat in the summer watching the sunset. We are looking forward to a return to a sense of normal this summer!

Cheers! Charlie and Donna



Meet the New Members

Deb (Deborah) **Moukawsher**

I grew up on the shore of Connecticut enjoying the water and only leaving it when I had to go back to school. In High School, I began sailing and motoring all over Long Island Sound in a Boston Whaler Harpoon 15' that I kept on Niantic River. Friends had other boats that we would use out of Giants Neck. It was pure freedom and delight along with a respect for the mercurial elements. I also worked in a boat yard which taught me so many more things.



Then came College, marriage, work and moving away from New England. I worked for many large Corporations spending most of my recent past around Chicago. Time has passed quickly but I always knew I wanted to move back to New England.

As retirement neared, I quit my job, put my house on the market and moved back. I've always loved Rhode Island getting my first taste of it when working the Boat Shows in Newport as part of my boat yard experience. I got a great deal on a house in Warwick before the recent boom and so far it's been the best decision of my life.

This past year in January, I started looking at Yacht Clubs to join. When I drove into WYC, I knew immediately my search had ended. The care and beauty of the place was evident even in the winter and everything I wanted. I luckily found Karen the next day and with fingers crossed I inquired about membership. I feel so fortunate to be a Member now and am looking forward to helping and volunteering in any way I can. I just bought my 1st ever kayak and can't wait to start exploring.

Social Updates

As Spring unfolds, the Club's Social Committee is busy planning upcoming events with modifications necessitated by the State's COVID-19 regulations.

The Club's kick off event was the Commodore's Reception held on Saturday, April 24. In May, the Club will hold Commissioning Day on Saturday, May 29.

As usual, Commissioning Day will be a delightful combination of both ceremony and socializing. Then, on Saturday, June 26, the Club will hold the more formal event of the Spring/Summer season, the Commodores' Ball.

This year, the Commodores' Ball will recognize both this year's Commodore, Bob Kern, as well as last year's, Bob Shore. The planning for these events so far indicates that they will be truly enjoyable, particularly this year! So everyone should reserve these dates on their calendars now.

John & Linda Oliver Hughes



2021 Events Calendar

Monthly (2nd Monday)

April 24 (Sat)

May 29 (Sat)

June 2–July 7

June 5 - 6 (Sat & Sun)

June 15-18 (Tue - Fri)

June 19-20 (Sat & Sun)

June 26 (Sat)

July 4 or 5 (Sun or Mon)

July 14–August 25

July 17 (Sat)

July 31–August 6

August 21 (Sat)

August 28 (Sat)

September 6 (Mon)

September 18 (Sat)

September 25- 26 (Sat & Sun)

October 9- 10 (Sat & Sun)

October 16 (Sat)

November 13 (Sat)

December 11 (Sat)

December 19 (Sun)

December 31 (Fri)

January 1, 2022 (Sat)

WYC Board Meetings

Commodores' Reception

Commissioning Day

Wed Night Racing – Solstice Series

Wickford Regatta

505 N. Amer. Champ. (Tentative)

Spring Mini Cruise

Commodore's X2 Ball

Family Fun Sailing & Cookout

Wed Night Racing – Dog Days Series

Cheeseburgers Party

WYC Annual Cruise (No Wed Night Race on 8/4)

Lobsterfest

Frost-biters' Pig Roast

Labor Day

Cocktails on the Deck

DI Pursuit Race & Fall Mini Cruise

Laser Seidenberg Regatta

Oktoberfest

Annual Mtg & Awards Dinner

Holiday Party

Children's Holiday Party

New Year's Eve Party

New Year's Day Brunch



WYC Board of Governors

Commodore	Bob Kern	r.kern12@verizon.net
Vice Commodore	Neil Bergh	nbergh@msn.com
Rear Commodore	Ezra Smith	ezrasmith@yahoo.com
Fleet Captain	Rex Brewer	brewer.rex@hotmail.com
Member-at-Large	Agu Suvari	agu.suvari@gmail.com
Secretary	Rich O'Brien	obrien524@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Ben Rice	ben@rice.net
House Chair	Jim Hutchins	jhutchins934@aol.com
Past Commodore	Bob Shore	flagshipundersail@gmail.com

WYC Committee Chairs

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Social	John & Linda Hughes	narrowriver1@cox.net
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