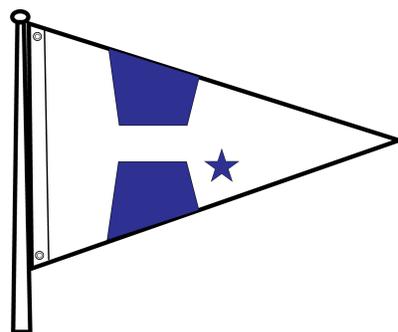


February , 2022

# OVER *the* WAVES

*The Monthly Newsletter of the Wickford Yacht Club*



Wickford Yacht Club



## Commodore's Corner

Greetings!

Somehow, breaking open a new calendar gets one thinking about the clock. Winter boat projects that we have been working on are almost finished. Soon, we will be stripping off boat covers and getting ready to launch. For me, I look forward to warmer days and running into people at the boatyard, some who I may not have seen in months. It is a good time to shake off winter's cobwebs and know we are getting close to being on the water again.

I want to thank everyone for their patience and perseverance as we enter our third year of the pandemic. I know it has been difficult. Having the club closed for the second winter in a row is a burden none of us anticipated. We thought this would have been behind us by now. Let's remain confident however, there will come a time when it is.

On a positive note, I am pleased to report that our new stove has been installed in the galley. It has safety features that were missing on the old one. We no longer need to worry about gas leaks whenever the pilot lights go out. Jim Hutchins and Chuck Ebersole did a wonderful job with the installation. Many thanks to Jim and Chuck for a job well done.

All the best,

Neil Bergh  
Commodore



# Rear Commodore's Report



Racing at WYC has been exceptional in recent years due to the professional, and efficient work of all our volunteers. We are indebted to these volunteers. I plan to follow our successful traditions.

I am thrilled to work with the fantastic volunteers of the WYC Race Committee. I feel this group is one of the things that makes this Club so special. They are a dedicated group that week after week head out on the water to deliver great racing, and from what I have seen, they have a whole lot of fun doing it! Through the uncertain times of the pandemic they managed to figure out how to run races safely and efficiently, allowing a large number of members to get out on the water to enjoy the bay at a time when options for fun were very limited.

Our racing this summer will start on June 1st, with the Solstice Series running through July 6th, and the Dog Days series running from July 13th through August 24th, with no racing on August 3rd due to the Summer Cruise.

I am pleased to announce that our PROs, Doug Nannig, Chuck Allen and Greg Phipps, will be leading the charge again this year. In the coming weeks, I will send out a signup for RC volunteers. If you have been involved in past years, I hope you will be again this year-your knowledge and skills are what makes the racing run so well!

If you have not been involved before but think you might be interested let me know-no racing or RC experience necessary, just a willingness to enjoy beautiful evenings on the water with a great group of fellow Club members!

We have received an invitation from the Off Soundings Club "SAILBOAT RACING IN SOUTHEASTERN NEW ENGLAND" to participate in Block Island Race week. Looks like the races start June 10th. Email me at [brewer\\_rex@hotmail.com](mailto:brewer_rex@hotmail.com) and I will forward the emailed invite to you.

Looking forward to a great 2022 on the water.

Fair winds,

Rex Brewer  
Rear Commodore

# Fleet Captain's Update



Happy New Year! I look forward to serving as your Fleet Captain for 2022, surfing the wakes of the esteemed commodores Bergh, Smith, and Brewer.

I regret that I have not had the opportunity to meet many of our club members. Having joined WYC shortly pre-COVID, my interactions have been limited, so I'd like to share a little about myself.

I have been in New England for most of my life. Born in New Hampshire, raised in Connecticut, schooled in Massachusetts, summered in Maine, and further schooled in Vermont, I have managed to vote in 4 of the 6 New England states. Rhode Island has been my home for the last 23 years. Having learned to sail on my grandfather's 1947 Lightning, and learned to waterski behind my uncle's 1960's Chris Craft runabout, I have a fondness for wooden boats. You may have seen me launching a kayak from WYC or rowing past in a dark blue dory. I've also been known to step onto my stand up paddleboard from the dinghy dock. I was a competitive rower for over 11 years, and have enjoyed sea kayaking our Rhode Island Coast.

After sailing a Sea Sprite 23 around Narragansett Bay for 10 years, I acquired a Sea Sprite 34 and learned the value of reciprocity with other yacht clubs during our transit from Oyster Bay, LI, to Wickford. I'd happened to include Rex Brewer as crew for the trip, and as we fell short of our planned overnight destinations (the captain, ahem, may have been optimistic in his anticipated daily mileage estimates), he pulled out his cell phone and secured berths at various yacht clubs along the Connecticut coast.

As a former Port Captain in 2021, I look forward to leading this year's Summer Club Cruise. Early enthusiasts are clamoring for a westward journey this year. We'll plan a February Zoom meeting to kick off the planning process. Please contact me with destination suggestions, and especially if you have interest in being a Port Captain. Email: [dglindquist@gmail.com](mailto:dglindquist@gmail.com). Cell phone: 401-954-8048.

We will also be planning the Spring and Fall Weekend cruises.

As a side note, some of you know I am an emergency physician. As such, my sleep schedule is erratic. Please don't hesitate to call or text. I assure you that if I am sleeping, I won't pick up. I will get back to you as soon as I am able.

I look forward to sharing a fantastic season on the water as we emerge (yet again) from this COVID pandemic. Get your shots, wear your masks, and stay healthy and strong in advance of the many great sea days to come.

Your Fleet Captain,

Dave Lindquist

# Sailing Activities Report



## Sea Dog Worlds

The Sea Dog Worlds were held at WYC on Saturday, December 4. Sachems Head came with a 15 boat armada to challenge the Wickford Frostbiters. The event was sailed outside of Wickford Harbor due to an extremely low tide. It was a pleasant day, but not exactly lovely for sailing. The wind was light and very shifty. The 7 race series finished with a long distance race that finished at WYC.

Wickford Frostbiters dominated the top ten, but Jay Mills of Sachems Head was the winner with Skip Whyte 2nd, Sam Stokes 3rd and Daniel Borsutzky 4th. WFA had 7 of the top ten finishers. 37 boats competed.

## Hangover Bowl Drifter

The annual New Year's Day Hangover Bowl was another slow motion affair in a season of extremes. 14 intrepid souls drifted about the harbor with occasional periods of light air and managed to have 7 races, the last finished at the club courtesy of an incoming tide. Skip Whyte and Ed Adams battled near the front all afternoon with Skip claiming the win. Paul Nannig was 3rd.

## Fall Frostbite Series Wraps up January 23rd

It has been a strange season with all days near a limit, either not enough wind or too much. The 4 November sessions were all light air followed by the light air Worlds. The rest of December it howled! We had 3 days sailed at or above the limit. The new self-rescuing Sea Dogs made it possible to race safely even if it was scary at times. We drifted on New Year's Day and were blown out on 1/9/22. 1/16 was another drifter. Everyone is ready for something near medium. Sunday, 1/23 is the final day of the Fall Series.

## Wickford Regatta 2022 - Volunteers Needed

Wickford Regatta 2022 will be held over the June 11-12 weekend. We hope that most of last year's team will be back again but certainly need more help. WYC always does a great job and the volunteers make it happen. A good time is had by all and there is a great party on Saturday night. Contact Skip Whyte if you are interested.

[skip@1stplacesailing.com](mailto:skip@1stplacesailing.com) 401-481-2997.



# Wickford Sailing Association



## WSA Welcomes New Board Members and a New Fundraising Team

WSA is excited to report that we have added two new non-WYC members to our board. Chris Moore and Kim Quaggan came aboard in December. They both have kids who were Beginners at WSA last summer. Both have lots of energy and new ideas.

John Coghlin is the new WSA secretary. While not a board member, John's experience and willingness to help out is a huge addition.

WYC members Greg Grande and Sue McDowell have also joined the WSA team to lead our fund-raising efforts. They both have experience in different types of fundraising environments. They are busy planning a fund-raising function to be held in May.

## New Website about to Launch

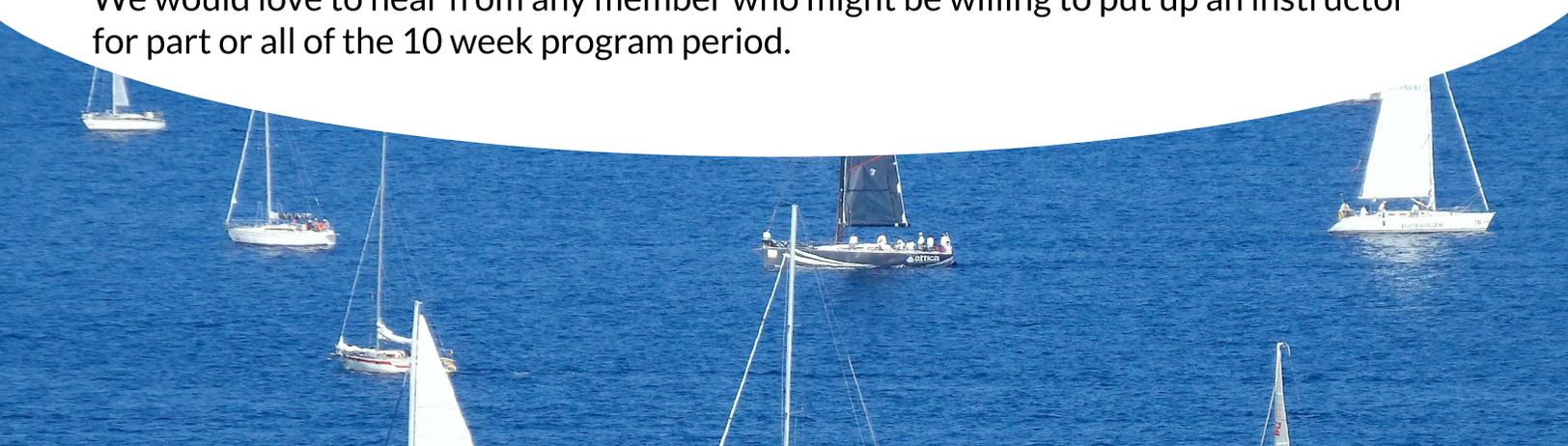
WSA has had a new website in the works for quite a while and it is about to go live. It will be linked to the WYC website in its usual place but will be much more colorful and informative. Charlie Wolpensinger and Cam Lewis are putting the finishing touches on the website and it should be live before February 1st.

## Staff Hiring Still Challenging

Last year WSA had great difficulty hiring staff and we were shorthanded all season. We are well ahead of last year with 2 new local 1st year instructors coming on board, but experienced instructors continue to be a non-existent commodity in the US.

However, we have been successful in attracting a number of very qualified applicants from Argentina and Ireland. We have hired Rodrigo Benvenuto as our head instructor. He brings 4 years of coaching and instructional experience in Argentina and Italy to the mission and is very excited to come to the US. We are hoping to hire one or two additional instructors from the foreign applicant pool but are struggling to find accommodations for them. Given the lack of domestic sailing instructors WSA is facing the likely need to be hiring multiple foreign instructors every year.

We would love to hear from any member who might be willing to put up an instructor for part or all of the 10 week program period.



# Social Update



It may not seem like it now, but Spring will be here before you know it, and hopefully by then, we will have fought off the last vestiges of this pesky pandemic. That's my segue into my solicitation for assistance with social events. A few require longer lead times, so it's prudent to get commitments to help with events as soon as possible. We have some volunteers lined up already but there are a few events for which we could still use some additional help. They are the Commodore's Reception (4/23), Commodore's Ball (6/18) and new event on May 14 called "Sail into Summer - WSA Starlight Gala" which will be a Wine & Cheese fundraiser. Greg & Sue Grande will be chairing the event but they could use even more help because of the nature of this type of event.

We are doing our best to work with the constraints of Covid but it certainly has its challenges. One of the casualties of Covid has been our very popular Craft Beer/Wine Festival. It was originally an event that filled a slow time of the year on our social calendar (Feb), but because of Covid, we had to cancel. We may still have the event but will have to look at a post-covid time frame and likely closer to Fall.

Should you have an input, or wish to help with an event, please feel free to contact me at any time. I will continue to be the point of contact for anything related to WYC event registration, PayPal, or on-line payments. Remember, as we are a working club, member participation is really necessary to be viable. Please note that no prior experience is necessary.

Fair Winds, and Following Seas!

Randy Wietman  
Social Chair

# Membership News



## | NEW MEMBERSHIP POSTING



**Charlie Wolpensinger**  
**Leigh Wolpensinger**  
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP  
Children: Ben and Faye  
Sponsors: Skip Whyte Cam Lewis

**Any WYC Member wishing to comment may contact the Board of Governors**

Commodore-Neil Bergh Vice Commodore-Ezra Smith Rear Commodore-Rex Brewer  
Fleet Captain-David Lindquist Secretary-Rich O'Brien Treasurer-Ben Rice  
Member-At-Large- Agu Suvari House Committee-Jim Hutchins Past Commodore-Bob Kern

Thank you, *Karen Pizzarusso*, Membership

# February Calendar

## February

February 17: Passing of the Flags (virtual)  
7:00-8:00pm

Weekly events - ALL CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Monday: 13:00 hr. Mahjong

Thursday: 10:00 hr. Coffee Hour

Friday: 18:00 hr. Happy Hour wine down

# WYC Board of Governors

Commodore	Neil Bergh
Vice Commodore	Ezra Smith
Rear Commodore	Rex Brewer
Fleet Captain	David Lindquist
Member-at-Large	Agu Suvari
Secretary	Rich O'Brien
Treasurer	Ben Rice
House Chair	Jim Hutchins
Past Commodore	Bob Kern

## WYC Committee Chairs

Awards	Anne Cunic
Social	Randy Wietman
Club Rental	Agu Suvari
Communications	Rich O'Brien
Sunshine	Pinkie Sweet-Holland
OTW Editor	Erin Spear
Website	Kyle Wilson
Yearbook	Kathy Brown
Finance	Ezra Smith
Frostbiting	Chuck Allen
Membership	Karen Pizzaruso
NBYA Rep.	Doug Nannig
Nominating	Bob Kern
Race	Rex Brewer
Regatta Activities	Skip Whyte
WSA Grants	Mark Callahan
Seminars	Yarrow Thorne
WSA	Skip Whyte

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