

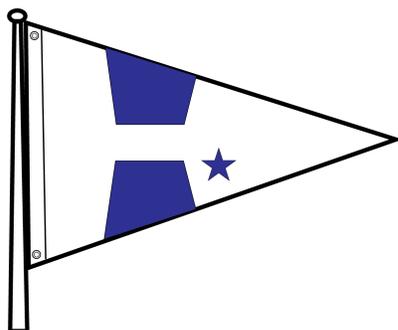
October, 2022

# OVER *the* WAVES

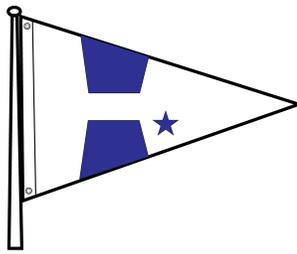
*The Monthly Newsletter of the Wickford Yacht Club*



Photo: Terri Browne



Wickford Yacht Club



## Commodore's Corner

It's been a great summer. Our social events were well attended and went off without a hitch. Wednesday night racing enjoyed great weather throughout the Solstice and the Dog Day series. Our summer cruise was well attended as we ventured to points East. My only complaint is that our summer went by too fast. Now that fall has arrived, it's time to think about hauling boats and preparing for winter.

A few people have asked me about inflation and what, if any, burden it may have on our club. We've all felt the impact of rising prices. So, it's a fair question to ask. What does this mean for the 2023 club budget?

The answer lies in the process we follow to develop a budget. Back in July, the Finance Committee convened to begin drafting the 2023 budget. As part of this process, the Committee evaluates the club's expenses and projects how these expenses can be reasonably expected to increase in the upcoming year. In recent years, the expected increases have been modest. This year, I think it's fair to assume that the projected increases in some of our budget line items will be higher. The Finance Committee has been working hard on these projections. Their goal is to make reasonable projections that will hopefully avoid any surprises during 2023. The draft budget remains a work-in-progress that I anticipate will be finalized and presented by the Finance Committee to the Board of Governors sometime next month. Once accepted by the Board, the budget will be presented to the membership and a meeting scheduled for membership approval later this year. Everyone will get a good picture of how inflation may be impacting our club at this time.

To be clear, our club is on firm financial footing. I am confident it will remain so as we move into 2023. My purpose here is to keep you informed as we proceed with the budget process. More communications will follow.

As always, feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Neil Bergh - Commodore

# Vice Commodore Report



As the 2022 season winds down I hope you all had a fantastic summer both on and off the water.

I write this having just returned from the 2022 Dutch Island Pursuit Race and Fall cruise. We had 10 boats registered, and with an unstable forecast we opted to go for course B, the shorter option, which sent us directly from the Harbor bell through the center 3 spans of the bridge, and around the bell at the south end of the Island. We started off in a light but sailable SE breeze, but by the time we got to the south end of Cold Spring Cove, it petered out, which commenced a 2 hour drift fest. Some boats got sucked into the cove by the tide, one sailor decided to swim over to visit neighboring boats, and appetizers were even passed between competitors.

Hans, after having covered maybe 200 yds in the first hour, retired due to a dwindling beer supply. Others were soon to follow. On Snoek we lasted about 2 1/2 hrs before pulling the plug, opting to spend the rest of the afternoon on the moorings at Dutch, For the 4 stalwart racers who soldiered on, they were at last treated to a beautiful southerly breeze for the ride from the bridge to the finish.

The Stones aboard Triple Play made the best of the fickle conditions, finishing at 3:28:00. The Fletchers aboard Take Two came second, with Steve McCrory and the Joyride Crew in third. Gary and Sue Breder rounded out the finishers aboard their beautiful Chesapeake 32 Hypatia. We on Snoek were "warming up" the moorings for the competitors, and all shared good food and drink for a very pleasant afternoon.

A pleasant night and fantastic sail home Sunday morning rounded out the weekend.

*(Continued on next page)*

# Vice Commodore Report



In other news, the Members Area Committee has been busy and I have shared some images of the ideas we have come up with for the space. Elements include:

- New staircase to the second floor. We feel that creating a safe, to-code staircase is a priority for any work done to the second floor. This will require some reworking of the front entry lobby and coat closet, as the stair runs need to be wider than current with deeper stair treads.
- We thought long and hard about accessibility, and explored adding an elevator or a chair lift. The elevator proved impractical, both due to cost and space constraints, and we landed on the idea of a folding wheelchair lift that would run along the staircase ([Artira | Inclined Platform Lift | Garaventa Lift](#)). This too we felt is too costly for us to consider at this time, but the staircase is designed to accommodate it at a later date, if so desired.
- Renovated bathroom. While some may have a nostalgic love for the "twin thrones" we plan to bring the finish of the bathroom up to that of the 1st floor bathrooms, with an enclosed stall, vanity with storage, and a urinal. This would be a "his/hers" bathroom.
- New wet bar area. With the galley on the first floor, we felt that having a full kitchen on the second floor was redundant, but understand the need for a sink, overflow refrigeration, and good storage.
- This, along with removing the dedicated office space, allows us to open up the main room considerably. New member lockers, to replace the ones in the kitchen, will be located along the north wall with a counter above. The settee on the south wall will be extended the full width of the wall, and some high-top tables and new furniture will round out the space. The ceiling and overhead lighting will be replaced, as will the tired carpet.

We have received preliminary quotes from 3 contractors and are working with them to get their final and best numbers. The Finance Committee is also working through the 2023 Budget, to see if the Club is in a position to take on a project like this in the next year. As Commodore Bergh mentioned, and as I am sure all of you have been feeling, we are seeing very high inflation this year, and this carries over to construction projects as well. As we get a clearer picture of our finances for the coming year the Member's Area Committee and the Board will come up with recommendations for you, the membership, to vote on at the budget meeting in November.

We also plan to have 2 **informational sessions** on the project at the **October 7th** and **14th** Wine Downs. We hope to see you there!

Ezra Smith  
Rear Commodore

# Vice Commodore Report



# Vice Commodore Report



# Sailing Activities Report



The New England Laser Masters Regatta is coming up 9/24-25. Early entries are strong and about 40 boats are expected.

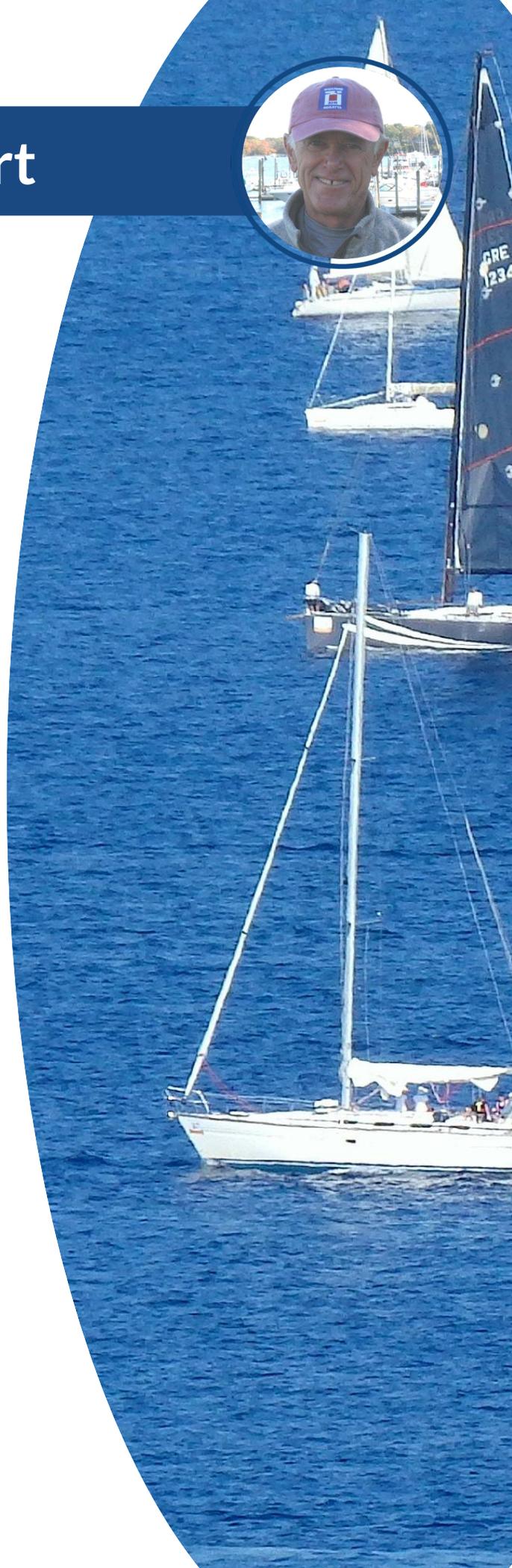
The Wickford Regatta 2023 dates will be either the 1st or 2nd weekend in June. Every year we are faced with potential conflicts with the NYYC Annual Regatta, Off Soundings and the youth event schedule which is packed in the weeks ahead of the US Youth Championships.

The Youth Champs, which were in California this year, will return to Narragansett Bay in 2023 and be held at Roger Williams University June 26-30. This will be a big boost to participation in the 29er, I 420 and Laser classes. The Brooke Gonzalez Advanced Racing Clinic at Sail Newport will be June 16-18.

The Wickford Regatta is usually on the weekend before the Brooke Gonzalez Clinic, but that conflicts which conflicts with the NYYC Annual Regatta. We await feedback from the participating classes before making the final call.

We are hopeful for an easy approval from the town for the Cold Spring Beach venue but have concerns about potential large insurance demands following similar demands at other events staged at public venues. The NBYA Junior Race Week at Compass

Rose Beach had to be canceled because the Quonset Development Corporation imposed a very high insurance limit just weeks before the event.



# WSA Report



The 2022 WSA 8 week season wrapped up on August 19th. Awards we held on the 18th and preceded by a family free sail at the club. There was a huge turnout of parents who seem to be uniformly delighted with the program and plan to return next year. WSA is looking forward to seeing our 3rd year sailors populating the Opti and 20 Racing classes next summer.

Fiona Mullaney was awarded the Mary Grace Batton award for outstanding WYC sailor.

The WYC board approved a proposal to insert a “plug” in the east end of the float to fill the triangular gap around a piling with the expectation that it would improve utility and safety. The plug was inserted in late July and has been a massive improvement.

Power boat decommissioning has begun. WSA power boats will winter in the WYC lot but there will be no more than 2 boats in the lot until November.

WSA has recently sold 6 of our older boats with several more on the list for sale. WSA will continue to retire its older equipment as it prepares for needed replacements.

Jeri Levesque has joined our fund-raising team and will lead a grant writing effort that we hope will yield positive results down the road.

Staff retention efforts are underway. Caoimhe Sheehan, our head instructor, will return to the US next summer but is eyeing the west coast. Rodrigo Benvenuto, our intended head instructor from Argentina who was injured in a bicycle accident in June, may finally make it to Wickford next year. David Berson, a long term WSA participant and Junior Instructor, was a terrific 1st year instructor this summer and is almost certain to return in 2023. Other staff members are also considering a return. WSA is looking forward to being fully staffed many months before the season begins next June.

# Social Update



Our next event is **Oktoberfest** on October 14 where we will have the band Bavarian Brothers playing again! Dinner will include German favs like potato salad, sauerkraut, kielbasa, pork chops, apple strudel, and a beer & wine bar.

We have a new event October 23 for those at WYC who wish to participate in the very popular Witches of Wickford event put on by the Kayak Center. Bring your coffee, costumes, and potluck appetizer (if you wish, for after the paddle) to the club at 10:30 to mingle and get ready for the short paddle over to the beach at Gardiner's wharf, where we will meet up with the other witches from around town at 11:30! Then, join us back at the club following the paddle to share everyone's potluck apps and drinks. What a fun way to celebrate being part of WYC! Register through the Kayak Center.

<https://www.kayakcentre.com/paddle-with-us/events/witches-paddle-2022/>

The Kayak's Center's registration fee will be donated to the NK Food Pantry. Any questions, call Judi Sheehan (860-961-9639) or Kim Cavros (401-300-9662).

A **Wickedly Wickford Halloween** is another new event for the kids. The date is October 30 from 3pm-5pm. Children are welcome to wear their costumes and enjoy trick-or-treating and fun activities!

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** To make this happen we need member volunteers to help out at the trick-or-treat tables. **WYC has decided to purchase the treats**, so we just need your help handing them out. This will be a fun opportunity to see the littlest members of the club dressed in their costumes. We are looking for at least 10 volunteers, but more is better. If you are interested in volunteering, register at:

<https://forms.gle/q5ZTaCPuauEzPVoTA>

Lastly, even though we already have an active social calendar, I think that with enough help, we could expand it to include several more events like celebrations for Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day week-end. We will be building the calendar for 2023 very soon, so if you have an interest in chairing any particular event, or perhaps want to make a suggestion for a new one, please let me know. Remember, these events happen as they do, only because of club members who volunteer some of their time. No experience is necessary. If interested in helping out with any social event, you may contact me, or the specific chair for that event.

Fair Winds, and Following Seas!

Randy Wietman, Social Chair

# Social Update



## ***A WICKEDLY WICKFORD HALLOWEEN***

WYC families, Save the Date for a Children's Halloween Party at WYC on Sunday, October 30 from 3pm-5pm. Come dressed in your *Halloween best* and enjoy trick-or-treating and fun activities!

***REGISTER HERE***

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

To make this happen we need member volunteers to help work the trick-or-treat tables. WYC will be purchasing the treats, so we just need your help handing them out. We will also be having some spooky activities that you can help the kids with.

**We are looking for at least 10 volunteers, but the most the better.**

**If you are interested in volunteering**

**REGISTER at**

**<https://forms.gle/q5ZTaCPuauEzPVoTA>**

# Members Update



Our WYC Web Page (protected password) Members Area has headshot photos.

If you haven't already, send yours to Kathy Brown, page 10 in your Directory.

No worries if the family pet photo bombs your picture.



Dan Dyer proving that good sailors never get old, they just get a little dinghy.

*Photo cred to JoMarie McCann*



## NEW MEMBER POSTING

Colleen Peters

Individual Membership

sponsors: Jenny Bourgeois and Win & Kathy Brown

Kevin Saremi and Debbie Saremi

Family Membership

Sponsors: George Hagerty and Victoria McDonnell

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 Pizzaruso, Membership

# Events Calendar

## October Events

10/8-10 Columbus Day Weekend

10/11 Board of Governors Mtg.

10/14 Oktoberfest

10/29 Club Decommissioning

10/30 Children's Halloween Party

## Weekly events

Monday: 13:00 hr. Mahjong

Thursday: 10:00 hr. Coffee Hour

Friday: 18:00 hr. Happy Hour wine down



## 15th Annual WYC Golf Tournament Results

1st PLACE TEAM:

Sue Moore, Jeri Levesque, Rich Lemieux, Keith Finck

Longest Drive: Ladies - Sue Moore Men- Neil Bergh

Closest to the pin Ladies-Paula Fahlman Men - George Levesque

Shot of the Year: Bob Shore

8 teams participated : 18 Men - 14 Ladies



# 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	Paul Nannig
Seminars	Yarrow Thorne
WSA	Skip Whyte

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