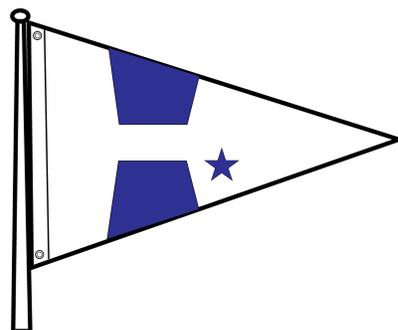


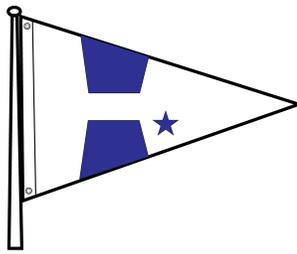
February, 2023

# OVER *the* WAVES

*The Monthly Newsletter of the Wickford Yacht Club*



Wickford Yacht Club



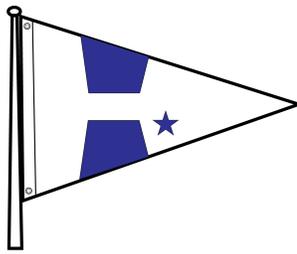
## Commodore's Corner

Hi All,

What is the old saying about living in "Interesting Times"? January at the Club was certainly interesting, with a flood (OK, actually end of December), a change in the Board of Governors, the start of the Member's Area project-am I missing anything? While this was a lot of upheaval for our usually tranquil Club, we can now look ahead towards putting everything back into place, better than it was, for the upcoming season.

- I want to personally thank Rex and his Flood Team for their efforts in inspecting and documenting the effects of the flood, and for navigating the complexities of filing a claim that must follow FEMA guidelines. While I think we all (to some extent) wanted to simply mop up and move on, it is imperative to our future insurability that we follow the process correctly. This was not a bad flood, but the next one might be, and it was important not to jeopardize any claims that might have to be made in the future. Look out for updates on the process in the coming weeks.
- While we, on the Board, are disappointed not to have Becky Allen on our team as Fleet Captain, we 100% support and agree with her decision to step back, and wish her and Chuck the best as they work through this next chapter. Suzanne Thoms, who has agreed to take on the position, is going to be a fantastic addition to the Board-her work and sailing background, as well as her energy and spirit, will be a benefit to the board and the Club as a whole. Suzanne will be announcing preliminary details for the 2023 Cruise shortly-is it going to be East or West??

(cont.)



## Commodore's Corner

- The Members Area project is moving along nicely, with the framing work clipping along as I write this. While the construction process has made it a little harder to enjoy our club, the finished product will greatly improve the usability and look of the upstairs. In addition, in demoing the space we discovered some structural issues that we have been able to rectify, as well as a lot of wiring that was not up to code, which will all be replaced. Not only will our efforts make the Club nicer, it will also be safer and stronger.
- Lastly, a note on Covid-The Board, as well as our Medical Committee, are monitoring the local Covid situation. At this time we feel that we can continue with “business as usual”, but please know that we are watching the numbers carefully. As we have in the past, we will keep you up to date on any changes to Club policy.

While each of these things have caused some challenges in the short term, please know that the Board, and all of the members volunteering their time and skills, are all working hard to have the Club ready for the season, better than ever. I for one am very much looking forward to warm summer days on Pleasant St!

Ezra

# Vice Commodore's Report



It is an honor to serve WYC as Vice Commodore. We have great volunteers throughout the club and in all positions. I am looking forward to a great year.

As most of you are aware, the club flooded on December 23rd. Our FLOOD TEAM of volunteers is: Jeff Cook, Charlie Costa, Chuck Ebersole, Wynn Browne, Skip Whyte, & Neil Bergh, These generous member-volunteers have completed a detailed room-by-room inspection, recording what was damaged by salt water, as well as an inspection of our building. This supports our insurance claim as well as ensures a sound structure that is clean, and dry. Please thank them when you see them.

We have found the walls in the Great Room to be dry and we continue to look at the storage closet, sail locker, heads, and galley. We are working with the insurance company to determine what will be done, and get everything repaired.

We will attempt to minimize the impact on club usage. Thank you in advance for your patience with this process. I will send out more information as it becomes available. Our social calendar is currently unchanged.

Sincerely,

Rex

Rex Brewer  
Vice Commodore



# Rear Commodore's Update



Happy New Year, WYC! I look forward to serving as this year's Rear Commodore for Wickford Yacht Club.

One of the Rear Commodore's main responsibilities is managing the racing season, specifically the Summer Solstice and Dog Days Series. There is much work that gets done behind the scenes in the months and hours before the starting gun each Wednesday evening. Fortunately, we have an experienced cadre of dedicated volunteers whose efforts make the process run smoothly. Please feel free to express your appreciation to them at every opportunity. I assure you that I will be!

I will encourage those with little racing experience, and those looking to re-engage with racing, to reach out. Sailing around the buoys on Narragansett Bay is a wonderful way to meet club members, build experience, and create memories. We hope to have a centralized location, likely the WYC website, whereby folks interested in crewing can post their names, and from which captains seeking crew can recruit interested racers. We will provide updates for this planned process as the season approaches.

Finally, I would like to echo our Commodore's words of caution regarding Covid. At last check, community transmission in Kent and Washington counties was Medium; Providence County was High. The latest variant circulating, especially in New England, is one of the most transmissible to date. Working in emergency departments in Providence and Newport, I still see patients with Covid every day. Fortunately, those who are vaccinated are not very sick, but concurrent health problems can put people at risk. I would encourage everyone to stay up to date on their boosters, for your own sake and that of your fellow club members. If you are having any symptoms, please consider avoiding crowded situations where people are talking loudly. Anything we can do to reduce the risk of transmission is warranted.

We will get through this winter season, making the return to the waterfront and the Bay all the more enjoyable. I look forward to sharing it with you.

Your Rear Commodore,

Dave Lindquist

# Fleet Captain's Report



Happy New Year!

Thoughts of being under sail, rafting with friends and visiting new ports are keeping me going through these grey, cold, winter days. I imagine we are all looking forward to the summer cruise, and all the fun to be had! Let's make WYC's 60th year a cruise to remember!

We are looking for folks who would like to help establish our itinerary and events for cruise 2023, seasoned and new cruisers alike. We are happy to help people through the process if you are new and willing to pitch in. Our first in person meeting will be February 8th, to determine where we would like to go. We will have a Zoom meeting the following weekend with the same information as the in-person.

For those who are not wintering in RI, we would love for you to join us on the Zoom call. Please reach out to me if you would like to participate:  
(401)932-3306 – calls and texts are welcome, [suzythoms@gmail.com](mailto:suzythoms@gmail.com).

I look forward to hearing from you all!

Suzanne Thoms  
Fleet Captain



# WSA Report



## 2023 Class Registration Opens February 1 st for WYC Members

Registration for the 2023 summer season opens February 1 st for WYC members and returning families who will enjoy a 4 day preferential window before registration opens to the public. WSA families get a 20% rebate on their lesson fees at the end of the season.

## Critical Need for Instructor Accommodations

It has become almost impossible to find enough local qualified instructors. Programs across the country are struggling with the same problem. We have been successful in attracting qualified instructors from Argentina and Ireland and a small number from the US who do not live within commuting distance from WYC. All of these candidates need a place to stay. We have a place for Irina but are still searching for a summer home for Rodrigo, our head instructor.

Additionally, we would like to hire one more instructor from outside the area. We have two who are eager to come to WSA but we need to find accommodations to bring them aboard. We will likely lose them to other programs very soon if we can't find a solution. We lost one excellent candidate from Ireland over MLK weekend. We have told all of the applicants that they might have to relocate one or more times during the season. If anyone is feeling lonely in an empty nest or burdened with a vacant guest room, they could really help resolve the crisis and help make the WSA program more successful than ever. Thanks in advance for considering.

## Storm Update

WSA fortunate that the water intrusion was limited to about 5". Very little beyond table and chair legs was exposed. A number of sails were saturated but have been dried but not rinsed. Two computers were ruined and a mini fridge may have bit the dust.

All of the WSA boats escaped unscathed.

Skip Whyte

Wickford Sailing Association

# Social Update

We all owe a special thanks to Randy Weitman, outgoing Social Chair, who had massive shoes to fill following John & Linda Hughes. We all know it takes a special skill to single-hand from event to event. He has been a quiet force, in a challenging time, encouraging returning members and new ideas for great events. Thank you, Randy!

We should all toast Randy (even from Florida) at his “new” beer and wine tasting event on February 16. This break-out event, in front of firepits and with local brewers and wineries, has the potential to warm us between ice and open water in 2023. Registration is open. Get your tickets [here](#).

As your new social chairs, Sue Smith and Scot Jones, we take seriously the fact that this crowd has been around, as a family, for .... 60 years! We are so moved by how we help one another, on boats, on cruise, and on land. We hope to develop a social calendar that celebrates the support, the fun, and the family that this club has represented for the last 60 years.

We hope to learn from you, and share ideas, during a Wine-Down January 27 that 6:00 in the Great room to share ideas about our 2023 social calendar.

Sue Smith and Scot Jones  
Social Chairs



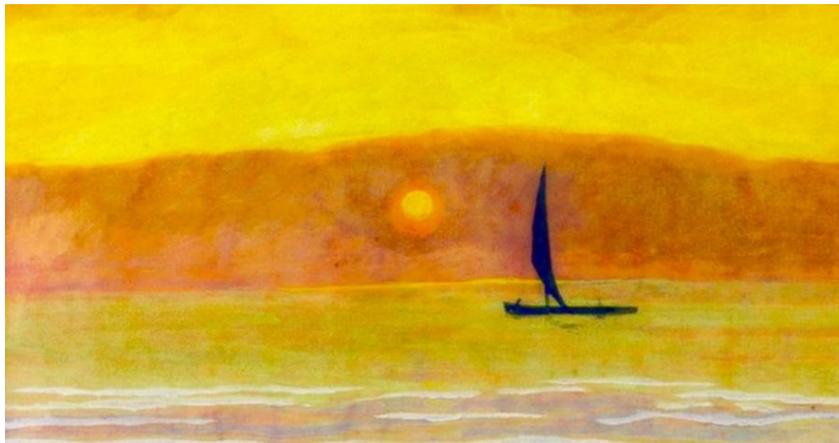
# Members Update



During the Passing of the Flags event on January 21st, the Club's annual awards were presented. Congratulations to all the recipients, including Pete Pizzaruso who was awarded the 2023 *Outstanding Service Award*. Here's Pete with his award, a beautiful Cindy Wilson framed photograph.



## Crossing the Bar



**David Damm, December 25, 2022**

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/david-damm-obituary?id=38491272>



Wickford Yacht Club member since 2006, we admired David's Narragansett Bay boating expertise in his Force Five 15 one-design racing sailboat, and the Trophy 19 power boat that he skillfully handled. Boat tiller or golf iron, he was a natural athlete.

Never reticent to step in and do a great job, David and Anne frequently volunteered to chair our most popular monthly Social events, proving them active on and off the water at the WYC.

# Events Calendar

## Upcoming Events

2/18: Wickford Yacht Club Craft Beer Festival | [Register](#)

## Weekly events

Monday: 13:00 hr. Mahjong

Thursday: 10:00 hr. Coffee Hour

Friday: 18:00 hr. Happy Hour wine down



# WYC Board of Governors

Commodore	Ezra Smith
Vice Commodore	Rex Brewer
Rear Commodore	David Lindquist
Fleet Captain	Suzanne Thoms
Member-at-Large	Agu Suvari
Secretary	Rich O'Brien
Treasurer	Ben Rice
House Chair	Charlie Costa
Past Commodore	Neil Bergh

## WYC Committee Chairs

Awards	Anne Cunic
Social	Sue Smith and Scot Jones
Club Rental	Agu Suvari
Communications	Rich O'Brien
Sunshine	Pinkie Sweet-Holland
OTW Editor	Erin Spear
Website	Kyle Wilson
Yearbook	Kathy Brown
Finance	Rex Brewer
Frostbiting	Chuck Allen
Membership	Karen Pizzaruso
NBYA Rep.	Doug Nannig
Nominating	Neil Bergh
Race	David Lindquist
Regatta Activities	Skip Whyte
WSA Grants	Kerri Bamford
Seminars	Yarrow Thorne
WSA	Skip Whyte

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