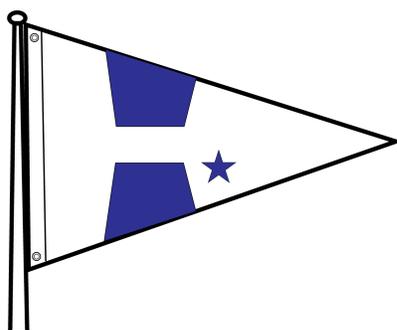


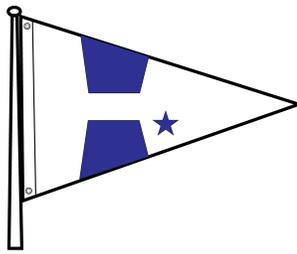
March, 2023

OVER *the* WAVES

The Monthly Newsletter of the Wickford Yacht Club



Wickford Yacht Club



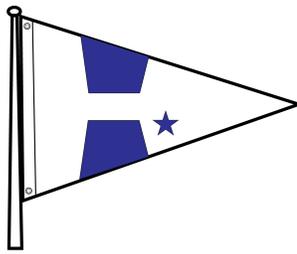
Commodore's Corner

Hi All,

It has been a busy month down on Pleasant St! The 4th Annual Craft Beer Festival was a great success, with 10 local breweries represented. It was great to see everyone who made it, and I was happy to see a number of new faces checking out what the WYC has to offer. Hats off to Randy Wietman and team for hosting what is becoming a highlight of the Club social calendar.

As any of you who have made it down to the club recently have seen, the Members Area project is moving along well. As of this writing, the structural, plumbing, and electrical work are all completed, with inspections passed, and the sheetrock is going up. I want to thank a few of the folks who have been instrumental in the project so far:

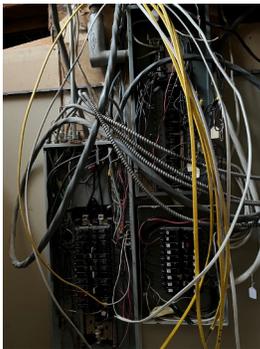
- House Chair Charlie Costa with the help of Chuck Ebersole have been working hard to integrate the work being done with the day to day operation of the Club, keeping the construction project contained and the rest of the Club looking great.
- Members Area Committee members Elaine Lemieux, Linda Hughes and Linda Gustafson are putting in a ton of work picking cabinets, flooring and finishes, and are doing a great job making choices that will look great but still fit within the budget. That is not always easy and I really appreciate their efforts.
- I particularly want to mention Jim Hutchins. I asked Jim to help me out overseeing the project on a day to day basis, as I am not always able to be down there to answer questions. He has developed a great working relationship with the contractors and has been key to keeping the project ticking along. Specifically though, I want to mention something Jim has done that will have a huge impact on the future safety of the Club. During the demo of the front hall/coat closet, it became clear that there were some major deficiencies in the electrical panels. There was evidence of scorching, and some burned wires in one of the panels, which had been left in place but bypassed at some point in the past.



Commodore's Corner

- Being a retired Master Electrician, Jim could not let this stand. Because it was technically outside the scope of the Members Area project, he worked with Charlie Costa and the House Committee to purchase new panels, and rewired the entire thing. This was a massive amount of work, which he did pro-bono. It is volunteer efforts like this, by members that have a particular skill that they are able employ for the benefit of the Club, that make this community so special. Next time you see Jim, please give him a pat on the back for a job well done!

Panels during demo-Yikes!



Panels after Hutch worked his magic



VC Rex will have more information to follow, but I also wanted to thank the Flood Team for their work navigating the insurance process and determining the best path forward for the Club. While things look for the most part normal, we want to make sure that we do our due diligence so that that we do not face any problems in the future due to this event, as well as safeguard our insurability for the future events.

I am excited to announce a new feature in this Month's OTW. Mary Grace's Diary is a fun section where we highlight a story or fact from the history of the Club. This is a great way for newer members to learn about some of the traditions and lore of our Club, and could be very useful in future Club trivia nights! Thank you to Barbara Jackson and her team for putting this together.

Up next on the social calendar is the St Patrick's Day Shenanigans, with traditional Irish fare, and the first ever WYC Trivia Night. I hope to see you all there!

See you on Pleasant St!

Ezra

Rear Commodore's Update



We are looking forward to an enthusiastic racing season in just a few months.

The dedicated, salty-souled volunteers on the Race Committee are already hard at work, planning for the upcoming competitions. While on racing days the RC are the ones who provide the structure for our Wednesday night competitions, the prep work now is what will enable those events to go smoothly.

Doug Nannig and Tyke Loomis have graciously volunteered to be PRO's again this season. If anyone else is also interested in fulfilling this critical role, please let me know.

Special thanks are already due to Cyndy Bennet & Larry However, and Charlie and Donna Costa, for volunteering their vessels to serve as Committee Boats on race nights. Anyone else who would like to be on the water in this role, please contact myself or Jeri Levesque.

This years Summer Solstice Series will begin May 31, and run through July 6. The Dog Days Series will begin July 12 and conclude on August 24. No race on August 2, due to the Summer Cruise.

Racing is a great way to get to know club members, and enjoy beautiful summer evenings on one of the best sailing venues in the country. We are working on a mechanism by which captains seeking crew, and crew seeking boats, and connect to help everyone optimize their fun on the water. The potluck dinner parties after the races are legendary! Stay tuned for details.

As we prep for the 2023 racing season, please reach out to me with any questions or concerns. We are looking forward to a great summer!

Your Rear Commodore,
Dave Lindquist



Fleet Captain's Report



Greetings WYC,

The cruise committee is planning a wonderful 60th year cruise for all who would like to join us! We are coming up on some important dates and deadlines regarding reservations. Please make note of these dates, and reserve your mooring or dock space as early as possible!

The Summer Cruise will proceed as follows:

- July 29- Cuttyhunk: mooring reservations are first come first served
- July 30 & 31 - Edgartown: mooring reservations open 8:00am, March 1 st Dockwa
- Aug 1 & 2 - Vineyard Haven: mooring reservations through Annie Lannigan by April 1 st
- Aug 3 & 4 - Pope's Island: dock and mooring reservations 10:00am, April 1 st

I will send out a message to those on the cruise email list regarding Vineyard Haven reservations this week. If you would like to join us, or potentially like to join us, please send me an email with 'Summer Cruise' in the subject line so I may add you to the email list.

A quick word about dinghy storage at the club. Concerning dinghy dock spaces, water spaces and rack spaces; we will know by March 1 st , once dues for 2023 are paid, what has become available. Due to limited spaces and high demand, please remember that each family may only rent one dinghy space (dock, or water, or rack) once your turn becomes available on the waiting list. Please refer to the Dinghy Storage Policy in the Wickford Yacht Club Yearbook for clarification or send me an email.

Best Regards,
Suzanne Thoms
suzythoms@gmail.com
Fleet Captain



Sailing Activities & WSA Report



Sailing Activities Report

The Wickford Regatta will be held over the first weekend in June. This year the 505 class will start a day early making it a 3 day event. Our regatta teams are coming together nicely but we still have a need for some more volunteers and power boats. If you are interested in helping out, please call Skip Whyte at 401-481-2997 or write to skip@1stplacesailing.com.

The WYC membership always steps up in a big way and does an incredible job. The regatta is considered the best of the year by most of the classes.

Skip Whyte, Wickford Regatta Chairman

Wickford Sailing Association Update

WSA Classes Fill in 5 days!

WSA registration opened on February 1 st and the response was overwhelming with most sessions filled within 5 days. Opti and 420 still have a little space but everything else is sold out.

Staff Accommodations are a Critical Problem

Staffing continues to be a problem. Local applicants are non-existent but we have had a number of excellent applicants from outside the area, but we haven't been able to solve the accommodations problem. We are still searching for a place for Rodrigo Benvenuto, our head instructor. Any partial solutions would be more than welcome.

Skip Whyte President, Wickford Sailing Association

Social Update

Next Up: St Patrick's Day Shenanigans March 18

Special thanks to the Brownes and Fahlmans for getting us out in numbers for a very well attended January Passing of the Flags and Annual Meeting. It was a comfortable family-style event to celebrate service, recognize leadership and briefly review the events of the past year. A great start to this 60th year of the Club. It takes a village - thanks to those who helped:

Cynthia Carpenter, Martha Parks, Roberta Hale, Anne Bowen, Jane Viera, Judy Sheehan, Bob Sheehan, Cindy Wilson, John Wilson, Charlie Costa, Pinky Sweet-Holland,

From a Chomp and Chat to discuss our Social calendar, to a Great Room Gathering, to a Cozy Collection around an upstairs fire, Friday Wine Down

has drawn dry-docked sailors, old friends and new members. If you don't mind a little construction dust, they have been a nice way to begin a winter weekend.

Randy Weitman did it again! What a great winter turn-out for our fourth annual Beer and Wine Tasting event. Ten local brewers and wineries provided samples and stories to help us see the rich, growing craft tradition around the Club. All this was over pub fare and music by acoustic duo FrankenPhil. Thanks to Apponaug Brewing, Foolproof Brewery, Grey Sail Brewing, Gooseneck Winery, Isle Brewers Guild, Newport Craft Brewing, Providence Brewing, Shaidzon Beer Co., West Passage Brewing and Whalers Brewing Co. Thanks to those who pitched in: Jeff Cook, Will King, Jo Marie McCann, Pete Galster, Donna Dufault and Rob Zimmer.

The board has endorsed the social calendar for the year which includes revival and introduction of some fun events suggested by members. Events are now on the WYC calendar for your reference and planning and will be listed in the Yearbook. If you would like to be involved in an event or have an idea, please let us know.

Scot & Sue



Members Update



1st member (Jim Hutchins) to walk up new stairs to the Members Area.

Membership Look-back: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites

WICKFORD HARBOR & BREAKWATER (1900)	Wickford
Wickford Harbor	19.296620.4604340
North Kingstown	Washington

The original engineering project at Wickford Harbor was initiated in 1873 and modified in 1896. By 1900, boulders had been removed and a channel nine feet deep and sixty feet wide at its central part had been dredged. The two breakwaters at the entrance to the outer harbor were completed by 1964. A channel twelve feet deep and one hundred feet wide, from Wickford Harbor into Mill Cove, and an anchorage in Mill Cove were completed at the same time. The harbor, consisting of an outer harbor and three small coves, is used by recreational craft and small fishing boats.
(United States Army Corps of Engineers; Water Resources Development in Rhode Island, 1975.)



Colleen Peters has been commuting to her office Kongsberg Maritime in Norway. Kongsberg Sensors & Robotics implements oceanographic research with multibeam survey and scientific data management.



Members Update



NEW MEMBERSHIP POSTING



Winifred "Winnie" Hagan INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Sponsors: Neil & Joan Bergh
Bob & Nancy Shore



Richard Schmidt **Kristina Sørensen** FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Sponsors: Cynthia Carpenter
Susan Moore
Siobhan O'Bara

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

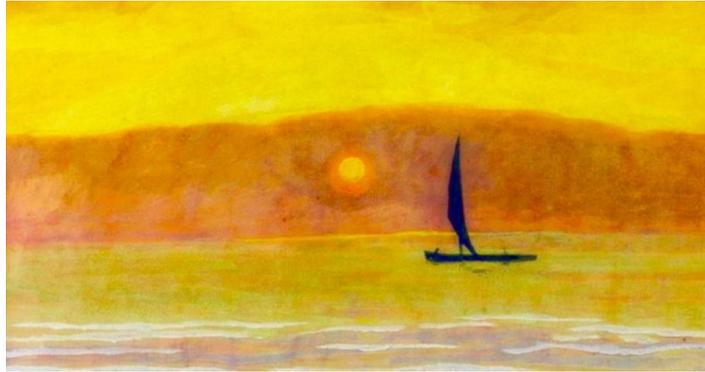
Commodore-Ezra Smith Vice Commodore-Rex Brewer Rear Commodore-David Lindquist
Fleet Captain-Suzanne Thoms Secretary-Rich O'Brien Treasurer-Ben Rice
Member-At-Large- Agu Suvari House Committee-Charles Costa Past Commodore-Neil Bergh

Thank you, *Karen Pizzaruso*, Membership

Members Update



Crossing the Bar



Willa Hogberg, January 25, 2023

Commodore 1990

<https://www.providencejournal.com/obituaries/ppvp0412950>

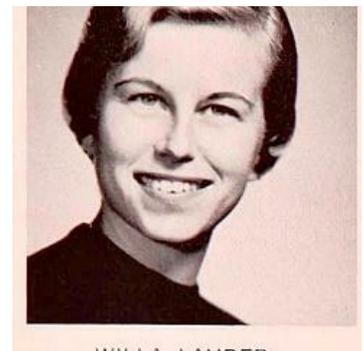


Wickford Yacht Club member since 1969, Willa's imprint on our club is everywhere, from the sisterhood she shared with other woman Commodores, the many members who were her sorority Chi- O sisters at URI, and to her golf and mahjong buddies.

The guiding Flag Officer leadership continued over the decades as an active member serving on House, Nominating and Yearbook committees.

Her "*see something, do something*" was quiet, even fairly recently when the nicked and scuffed WYC podium looked unfortunately shabby. Willa secretly brought it home, sanded and painted it, and brought it back without saying a word.

Willa's remembered legacy was her wonderful ability to form lasting friendships and show genuine interest in others. Our condolences to Ken, Keith, David and all the Hogberg family.



WILLA HOGBERG

Mary Grace's

DIARY

My name is Mary Grace Batton. I live in Wickford with my husband Fenton and our three children. It's 1963, and the only things that most of our children's friends know about boats come from the ferry that takes them from Jamestown to Newport, or the carriers docked at Quonset, or the big powerboats that they see in the slips below the Top of the Dock on Steamboat Avenue.

Only a few of them have ever been on a sailboat, and fewer still know how to sail...I guess that's not a surprise, because if they wanted to learn to sail, they have to enroll in the Saunderstown Yacht Club program, which would be hard for most kids, and really hard for a lot of the Navy kids. I guess that's why Ralph Vale can't find enough students to start a sailing team at NK High School. What a shame!

Well, Fenton and I decided that we are going to do something about this. After all, children who live by the sea ought to know how to sail, don't you think? At least they ought to have an opportunity to find out what it's like to use wind power to get around. As it turns out, Fenton and his friends have decided to establish a yacht club and one of its chief missions is to teach children to sail. What a mission!

The Club got going using a leaky barge on Gardner's Wharf. Then we were lucky enough to move to a room with a floating dock at the Shipyard, next to the URI Fisheries school. Most of the families in the Club have children, so we have a pool of junior sailors for now, but who will be next?

We aren't going to make learning to sail a cool thing to do on those Sprites! OMG, the sailors are getting wood splinters from the floating dock, splinters from the floorboards that Fenton and the guys put in to cover over the spotty re-glassing job they did in the winter, and the kids are getting fiberglass splinters from every part of the Sprites. When they aren't on the water, there isn't any real place for the kids to go, and the Club Room isn't going to help convince new families to join.

Fortunately, we'll have a great facility soon. Our Club is moving to the end of Pleasant Street into an old oyster business. It's going to take a lot of work, and our young sailors will still have to use the floating dock we'll move from the shipyard for a while, but I know it's going to be a better place for our young sailors (there's indoor plumbing) and for our adult members to hold events. After all, it has bathrooms, a kitchen, and a whole lot of ice!

I've decided to share my diary that chronicles the changes that have happened over the last 60 years with you. That way you can learn about key events and some behind the scenes dirt that made these events part of the Wickford Yacht Club history. You may have some questions for me too, so send them to MaryGrace@wickfordyc.com and I'll see what I can dig up.

One silly item I want to share with you is the history of the bathroom with two toilets, most recently known as the Second Floor Men's Room. This little gem is about to be wiped off the map by the current construction, so let's go back to 1968 when we bought the Club from the Fales family.

(continued)

Mary Grace's DIARY

The property had been a working oyster and shellfish wholesaler until a few years before. The depth at the sea wall was sufficient for the big boats to tie up and offload. There were open holding pools that flooded with the tides under the current patio. After the catch was sorted, it was moved into the racks of running seawater in what we now call the Great Room. There was a huge walk in freezer – the door is still located on the patio – and a huge storage loft over the part of the great room that has a low ceiling. It was a marvelous, smelly, wet environment.

The Fales had a summer home above the utility garage that is now the Junior Yacht Club/WSA space. It consisted of a kitchen in the north-east corner where the Grandfather clock used to be; a big family room, in the space where we have Friday night cocktails; the parent's bedroom, where the kitchen was until last December. Best of all, separate from the parental part of the house, there was a huge sleeping loft with a ping-pong table for the Fales sons. The loft included the Commodore's Room, the Women's Lav, and a mezzanine over the low ceiling'ed part of the great room.

There was a big problem with the overall layout, though, only one bathroom! To help with the ratio of bodies to need, the Fales installed two toilets side by side in their one bathroom.

The two-toilet situation was something that most members remarked on during the relocation tours. It's not often you see that in a private home... but wait, there's more! The two toilets were hooked up to the hot water lines so that they didn't freeze in the winter when the Fales were gone, which meant that in the summer, your fanny got a sauna when you "used the facilities." Every young member had to have THAT experience at least once before the dad's hooked up the cold-water lines.

Over the years we left the two toilets side by side in the tiny bathroom, just to remind us of where we started, and because it was less expensive than taking them out. But that little piece of history will be gone when the Club reopens. It's just something from our past you should know about, in fact many members have a photo of themselves and their best friend, fully clothed of course, sharing the space. Taking that photo was actually a thing...What can I say?

My next diary entry will explain the evolving adult beverage practices and the truth behind the legendary lighted beverage fountains. I'll share all the memories I can gather from those who attended our first event on Pleasant Street – the big Commissioning clam bake on August 3, 1968. Rumor has it there might be another clam bake on this year's calendar!

I need your help! If you've been around long enough to have even a second hand memory of the great Commissioning event, please send me a note at MaryGrace@Wickfordyc.com

If you'd like to know more details of the history of Wickford Yacht Club, please read Barbara Dawson's fabulous history posted on our website.

Events Calendar

Upcoming Events

3/13 Board of Governors Mtg.

3/18 St. Patrick' Dinner and trivia night

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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