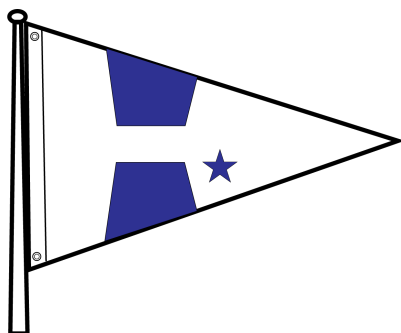


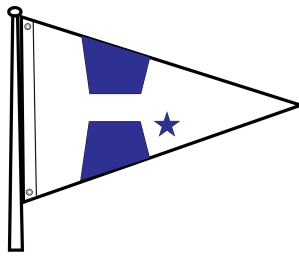
April, 2023

OVER *the* WAVES

The Monthly Newsletter of the Wickford Yacht Club



Wickford Yacht Club



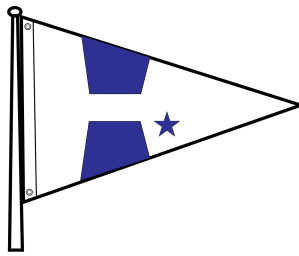
Commodore's Corner

Hi All,

Is it wishful thinking or is it starting to feel like Spring? The high school sailors are out on the water, the snowdrops are up and I hear spring peepers at the end of my street. I am even starting to have that “I really need to start thinking about the boat” feeling again!

Our very busy off-season at the club continues to hum along with social events and construction projects doing a delicate dance together. Thanks to the efforts of our Flood Team and the Upstairs contractors, Jaimar Construction, we were able to complete the flood remediation work in the Great Room, Storage Closet, Sail Locker, Entry Foyer, Coat Closet and Under Stair Closet in an incredibly quick 3 days, just in time for the St Patrick’s Day Party. The painters were literally finishing up painting the new wainscoting and baseboard in the Great Room as the cleaners arrived to prep for the party. A huge thanks also goes to our Social Chairs Scot and Sue, and their event team, for their patience and trust that we would be able to tear the room apart less than a week before their event and have it back together, looking better than even, in time.

A word about the work done. We were able to access all of the interiors of the walls in the great room, storage closet, sail locker, entry foyer and coat closet to treat the stud work with anti-mold agent. We did so in a way that will allow easy access in the future if (when) we have another flooding event. Anywhere there was sheetrock down low we replaced it with plywood or Advantech exterior grade sheathing, screwed on rather than nailed to allow for easy access. In the storage closet, when the old floor was pulled, we found that spray foam had been applied between the floor joists. Over time it had settled, and there were pockets of standing water on its surface. This was all removed, the area treated, and new flooring screwed down to allow for easy removal. (continued)



Commodore's Corner

Upstairs, Rich and Will are making great progress with their trim work, the counters are installed, final wiring being done and we will have the Members Area project completed by mid-April.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Commodore's Reception on April 15th in our newly renovated Club!

Ezra



Vice Commodore's Report



Dear all,

The hints of spring in the start of flowers that get southern sun, and slightly green grass are starting to show! I can't wait to get our boat in the water and see everyone down at the club.

Our great improvements upstairs, flood repairs, and mold remediation have all come together to get our club in good shape for our rapidly approaching season.

The social calendar is full of fun, the racing is all scheduled, and the cruise is looking GREAT!

Looking forward to a great season! Stay safe, see you on the water!

Rex

Rex Brewer
Vice Commodore



Rear Commodore's Update



Racing preparations continue apace. The Notice of Race for the Solstice and Dog Days Series will be posted soon, after which people can register for the races. Many thanks to the Race Committee and PRO's who continue to labor behind the scenes. Announcements regarding Race Committee training session and Skippers' meetings will be forthcoming.

This year, we will be trialing an online system that will permit the connection of captains seeking crew, and interested crew seeking available boats, for the Solstice and Dog Days racing series. Ideally, this will limit last minute scrambling for matchups on the docks.

For this system to work, captains and available crew will need to log on to Regatta Network (regattanetwork.com) following the instructions below. Based on the postings, it will be up to individual captains and crew to reach out and connect.

Although the system is not yet live, here is a navigation primer: Regatta Network for crew signups:

- Go to Regattanetwork.com.
- Choose **Calendars**.
- Select **Series Racing**. Enter [Rhode Island] for the search field.
- You should see both Solstice and Dog Days Series.
- Choose **Event Website** for the series you want.
- Select **Newsroom and Results**.
- Choose **Crew Board**.
- Input your info, and voila!

Captains can now see available crew, and Crew can now see Captains seeking able hands.

We are working on creating a link that will take you directly to **Crew Board**, skipping most of the above steps. Meanwhile, this is the current process.

As with any new system, there is always a learning curve, and there are bound to be glitches. We look forward to your feedback as the season progresses, and any suggestions as to how to help the process run more smoothly. We are also doing our best to limit fee increases despite supply chain issues and inflation.

In other news, for anyone planning to race Figawi this year, there is a tune-up event available as you transit to Hyannis. Falmouth Yacht Club has reached out with an invitation to join the Falmouth to Hyannis race on May 26, 2023. You arrive in Hyannis with your boat and crew hopefully sorted out for the Nantucket crossing. [Here is the registration link.](#)

Plan for a fun and exciting racing season!

Your Rear Commodore,
Dave Lindquist



Sailing Activities & WSA Report



Wickford Sailing Association Update

Meet Rodrigo Benvenuto, Our Head Instructor (He Needs a Place to Stay)

Rodrigo, our head instructor, is from Mar del Plata, Argentina. He is a very interesting guy! In his 25th year, he has taken a sabbatical from his law school studies to devote himself to coaching with a heavy emphasis on developing opportunities for underserved communities. His father is an attorney who specializes in helping workers with problems.



His mom is social worker and Rodrigo has worked alongside her helping homeless people. In 2021 Rodrigo was coaching and teaching sailing in Italy. During that period we made contact with him and we made plans to bring him aboard as our head instructor for 2022. Those plans were scuttled when Rodrigo was hit by a car while riding his bike at home about a week before the WSA program started.

Prior to his accident, Rodrigo went to Costa Rica where he helped set up a sailing school in a community with little sailing! After healing from his accident he was back in Costa Rica continuing to lead his sailing school and has been there for much of the 2022-23 winter season. Last fall he found his way to the Ft. Myers area after Hurricane Ian where he was helping his girlfriend's family recover from the near total destruction of their home. We stayed in touch with Rodrigo throughout the year and were delighted that he was so eager to finally get to Wickford to lead our program in 2023.

NOW WE NEED TO FIND HIM A SUMMER HOME!! It would be great if we could find a host for the whole summer but recognize that is a big ask. Rodrigo is prepared to relocate multiple times if needed. We aren't expecting hosts to provide meals but some kitchen access would be needed. He will be arriving on or about June 18th and departing on or about August 26th. If you could see your way clear to host Rodrigo for a couple of weeks or longer it will help WSA save our season. Thanks for considering,

Skip Whyte
President, Wickford Sailing Association
mobile 401-372-7224
www.wickfordsailing.org

2023 is a big year as the WYC is 60 - so is the WSA!
*Supporting the continued growth of the program has never been more important.
What better tribute than to help drive the success of this 60th year event by
attending this "Sail into Summer" event.*



PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN ELEGANT
EVENING BENEFITING THE
WICKFORD SAILING ASSOCIATION

Sail into Summer Starlight Gala

SATURDAY, MAY 13
6 O'CLOCK 'TIL LATE
WICKFORD YACHT CLUB, NORTH KINGSTOWN, RHODE ISLAND

DRINKS, GLOBAL STREET BITES, AND SILENT AUCTION
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GREY SAIL BREWING OF RHODE ISLAND

TICKETS PRICED AT SIXTY DOLLARS PER GUEST
REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 1

Social Update

Up to Shenanigans at 60!


Over Irish fare and accompanied by live Irish folk music, WYC members tested their knowledge of sailing, Irish trivia, and the Club at 60 years. Who knew there was an Irish martini (or was it invented by our own Siobhan O'Bara)? Members found the Great room at the end of the rainbow, decorated in jolly green, gold and white by a large cast of leprechauns and fairies who emerged to decorate. Members lingered in conversation with Irish Guinness and the signature martini under a magical sunset, marking the onset of Spring. Trivia answers were tossed out as traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage, a Vegetarian (GF/LF) alternative, salad and Irish Soda bread were served. Special thanks to Suzanne Mancini and Siobhan O'Bara who hosted the event, along with Joan & Neil Bergh, Sarah Bliven & Rick Nagele, Anne Bowen, Sue & Jon Colby, Joan & Larry Erhardt, Donnalee & Jack Fronce, Ellen & Tom Grennan, Linda & John Hughes, Barbara Jackson, Ryan Laprade, Greg Mancini, Elise Massenet, Jo Marie McCann, Deb Moukawsher, Jill & Bruce Mulford, Martha Parks, Colleen Peters, Ben Rice, Nancy Sherman, Bob & Nancy Shore, Jean Tamaro, Charlie & Leigh, Ben and Faye Wolpensinger, Rob Zimmer. Like we said, leprechauns and fairies!

A special thank you, too, to the Flood Remediation and House committee group that made remediation to the storage room and Great room happen ahead of time to allow preparation for the Saturday event. Super important work done behind the scenes to make it possible for the rest of us to celebrate. What a team effort for the Club!

Signup Genius links will be going out by email in the coming days to solicit volunteers for the Commodores' Reception in April and a Kentucky Derby Rally in early May.

Did someone say Spring Chomp & Chat Fridays? Does anybody know how to grill oysters?

Best regards, Scot & Sue



Welcome
Back!

Members Update



NEW MEMBERSHIP POSTING



Susan Harriman

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Sponsors: Siobhan O'Bara

Jeff Shapiro

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

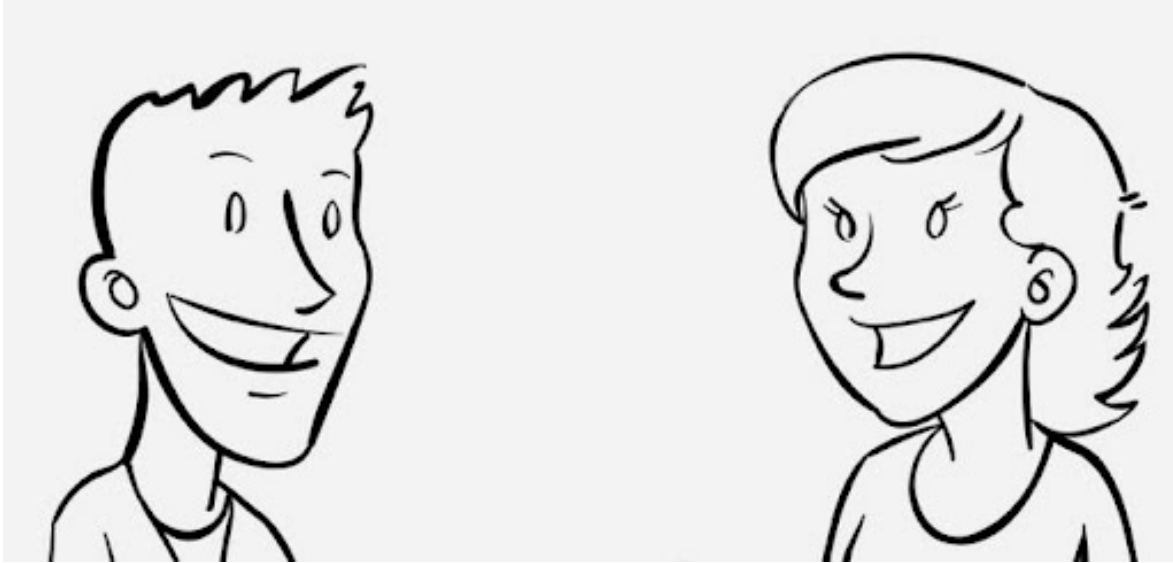
Commodore-Ezra Smith Vice Commodore-Rex Brewer Rear Commodore-David Lindquist
Fleet Captain-Suzanne Thoms Secretary-Rich O'Brien Treasurer-Ben Rice
Member-At-Large- Agu Suvari House Committee-Charles Costa Past Commodore-Neil Bergh

Thank you, Karen Pizzaruso, Membership

**L-R In Florida: Vickie Farrell, Linda & Vincent Mitchell, Don Farrell, Vinnie & Pat Cerbo
all met up for a lot of DRINKS**



Members Update



Our Members Only page has a link for photos (send yours to Kathy Brown) and WYC merchandise

Click Below for Member Photos

Photos

Click Below for Merchandise

Merchandise

Members Update



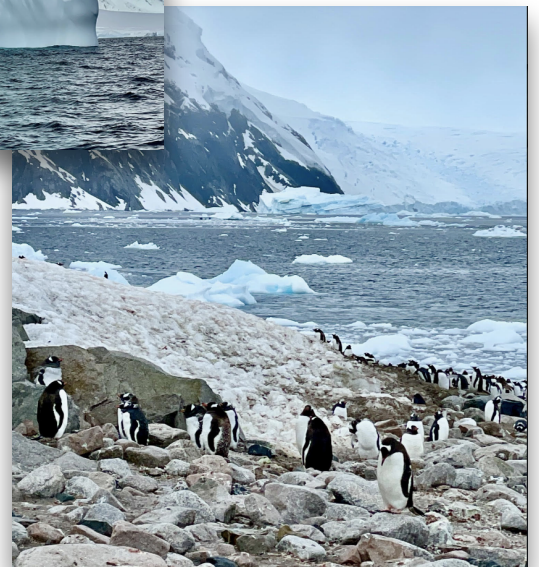
If your WYC parking sticker is missing, please tell Membership.

Also, you can support our local lighthouses by purchasing their very attractive license plates.



Barbara Dawson and Joan Peet parasailing in the Florida Keys

Barbara and Tom Halavik went South...
waaaaay South, to Antarctica.
There are 17 species of penguin on the planet, but the 8 you'll most likely recognize live in [Antarctica](#).



Awards Committee Update

The WYC Awards Committee was so pleased to celebrate in person this year! While we did not present awards in every category this year and many of those recognized were still in warmer climates, we applaud the 2022 (and a couple holdovers from 2021) the Wickford Yacht Club award recipients.

The Outstanding Service, given to a member who, quite simply, regularly steps up, doesn't seek any recognition, and just wants to help out, offering "*service above and beyond*". **The 2022 recipient, Pete Pizzaruso, exemplifies this.** During his more than 20 years as a WYC member, Pete has served as Club Treasurer, on the Social Committee, as Seminar Chair, participated as a crew member for the Wickford Regatta and Wednesday Night Racing, and recently served 5 terms as Chair of the Awards Committee.

He is always willing to pitch in where asked, and as the current Awards Committee Chair, I can attest when he leaves a role, he sets the next person set up for success, with detailed documentation, notes and timelines.



Mary Grace Batton Award, determined by the Wickford Sailing Association, is presented to the most improved Wickford Yacht Club sailor. **The 2022 recipient is Fiona Mullaney, a fourth generation WYC member.** Her great grandfather is John DiMartino, a founding member and the sixth commodore of the Club. Her grandfather Paul has been a lifelong member, then joined by his wife Vicky, and later children, became a family member in 1972. Finally, Fiona's parents, Amalia and Mike Mullaney, became family members in 2016.

Timmy Sears was the 2022 Sailor of the Year, an award also determined by the Wickford Sailing Association.



The Founders Award, recognizing the Corinthian spirit of a member whose extraordinary activities in yachting go beyond the local level and bring honor to the club, goes to **Richard Fernie for his incredible accomplishments.**

Awards Committee Update

The committee did not present the Albert C. Henry award this year, but in 2021 **the committee recognized Phyllis Pirrie Cayer**. While not a Club member, Phyllis honors the spirit of the award. For almost a year, Phyllis made masks from material she purchased and had donated by community members. She sold the masks for a nominal fee, and donated over \$8,000 to the North Kingstown Food Bank. When the need for masks waned, she used the leftover material to make blankets for Hasbro Children's Hospital and placemats donated to the NK Food Bank.

The 2022 Idle Hour award, given to the most competitive boat in the Wednesday Night Racing Series, both Dog Days and Solstice, is determined by an algorithm developed by Doug Nannig. **This year's recipient is Gary Smith, on the ensign Miss Jenn, and for 2021 Paul Nannig on Dragon King was the winner.**



Since Tom Grennan was not available, the 2022 Drop Anchor Full Speed Ahead Award, recognizing achievements in un-sea-man-like conduct by a yachtsman due to an outstanding boating related blooper, gaff, or event, will be presented at a later date and function. We are all eagerly awaiting the recipient of this sought after award!

A personal thank you to the 2022 WYC Awards Committee for their support, time, and knowledge.

The members are Vinny Cerbo, Jeff Cook, Pete Northrup, Cynthia Carpenter, Tom Grennan and Corey Snelling.

And thank you to Cindy Wilson for providing the stunning photos we presented as awards this year. And finally, an appeal. The Awards Committee is a small group and our goal is to recognize the diverse achievements of our members, new and longstanding, but we need everyone's assistance.

To make it easier, we've created a simple online nomination form, [linked here](#) and that will start going out periodically as the sailing season gets started. You can also send nominations to anyone on the Award Committee.

We thank you in advance for your input as our hope is to present an award in every category for 2023.

Mary Grace's DIARY

The Commissioning of the New Wickford Yacht Club Facility - August 3, 1968

The weather on Saturday August 3, 1968 was perfect. Sunny, 80 degrees, a little wind, but not too much. The day's events started at Wickford Shipyard where the Old Wickford Yacht Club was decommissioned with Commodore Ralph Vale offering the toast "May the club have a safe passage and find a happy home in the West" as two junior members, Julie Graham and Eric Jackson, lowered the flags for the last time while adult members in full dress with caps and blazers looked on. A harbor boat parade followed, ending at our new Pleasant Street clubhouse where the same junior members raised the flags, with the help of the Commodore, for the first time. (All Fleet Captains should note that at this event the halyard for the burgee broke, proving that no matter how difficult your yardarm dressing was, it could always be worse!)

At the time, the flag pole was atop a shed located to the east of the pavilion. The shed's not there now. It collapsed - sorry, it was removed - soon after the Commissioning event. The flag raising ceremony took place on the roof, which wasn't very large, and it had an interesting slope, and it was in questionable repair. The roof's ability to withstand the weight of two junior members, plus the Commodore, then the added halyard repair crew, had quite a few members holding their breath...especially the moms of Eric and Julie!

By the time the Commissioning ceremonies were concluded, it was late afternoon.

Members explored the pavilion that was still just a roof over four giant water pits where the shellfish had been kept; surveyed the grounds and guts of the new clubhouse; checked out the two toilet bathroom upstairs. Mostly everyone kept their eyes on the clambake crew who had been at work since early in the morning. The caterers had dug up the parking lot by the seawall to create pits lined with hot coals and seaweed. They wrapped clams, 'taters, corn, cod, and lobster in canvas, buried them, and kept the pits steaming away. In those days, almost all events were BYOB, but for this special event the club provided a keg of beer and a giant tub of cold soft drinks.

There were picnic tables all about the parking lot set against a backdrop of well-dressed vessels tied up to the seawall with Cornelius to the rear. Finally, someone sounded a bell and chowder was served, then the canvas was lifted off the steaming clam bake pits and LIFE WAS PERFECT!

There were hot dogs, pitchers of melted butter for the clams, corn, and lobster. There were pitchers of draft beer and soda. The messy hands and faces led to one of the best times ever had at the club. The sun went down, the almost full moon rose at 7:02 pm, and members started singing. Back then, singing was common at the club, on cruises, and just generally. In fact, some members, especially John Wilson, usually brought their guitar to events.



Mary Grace's DIARY

Looking through the current Membership Directory, I have counted less than a dozen folks who are members now who might have been at this event, and I've asked most of them for their help with this diary entry. A few were the adult members of their household, but at least nine who were then Junior Members remain members today – and the children of two of them are now members with Junior Members of their own. That's four generations of membership!

The commissioning of the NEW Wickford Yacht Club was a really big deal – not just for the families of the Club, but for all of Narragansett Bay. You have to remember that when we moved to Pleasant Street in 1968 there were only a handful of clubhouses on the bay with a year-round presence. There wasn't a Newport Bridge, there was no Harbor Court or any waterfront presence for the NYYC. Wickford Yacht Club was taking more than a passage across the harbor – we were stepping off our leaky summer barge and into the big league. But we were then, and still are Wickford, the FUN yacht club!

Because we are the fun club, and because we rely primarily on volunteer member labor, we try to do things the easy way. One of these traditions is the sale of all-inclusive event tickets. There are a bunch of legal reasons for this, but the short version is that we don't want to have a liquor license or apply for special permits to sell liquor – so we sell a ticket to an event.

It's already hard enough to be the social chair or an event host. The accounting involved with selling multiple types of event tickets, or individual drink tickets, or managing who's actually drinking on a non-alcohol event ticket, and having volunteers at the event selling and collecting tickets ...well, NO ONE would take on social responsibilities. So, that's where the idea of Event Tickets comes from.

The first Social Committees refined the easiest way possible to serve alcohol for special events, when BYOB wasn't in play. Many Club members were retired military and frequented the "O Club" at Quonset, which was known for its flowing lighted martini fountains. So, the Social Committee adopted this familiar "set it and forget it" option. No open bar, just three flowing fountains: Martinis, Whisky Sours, and Manhattans. The fountains were pretty to look at and easy to manage. Plus, no one kept count of consumption, since it was a serve yourself situation. Bar problem solved, right?

Well, back in the day, there were a lot more children accompanying parents to Club events. What could possibly go wrong with teenagers tempted by pretty fountains of flowing booze that you could stick your mouth under when parents weren't looking? The fountains only lasted one or two seasons. Then we put in liquor lockers! I wonder what will come next?

See you at the Club!

Mary Grace

P.S. My email is fixed! If there's a tradition you'd like to know more about, please write to me at MaryGrace@WickfordYC.org

Events Calendar

Upcoming Events

- 4/5 WYC Ukulele group Mtg.
- 4/10 Board of Governors Mtg.
- 4/15 Commodores Reception
- 4/19 WYC Ukulele group Mtg.
- 4/22 NKHS Sailing Team Dinner event

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 | Paul Nannig |
| Seminars | Yarrow Thorne |
| WSA | Skip Whyte |

Wickford Yacht Club
165 Pleasant Street
Wickford, RI 02852
(401) 294-9010
wickfordyc.com

