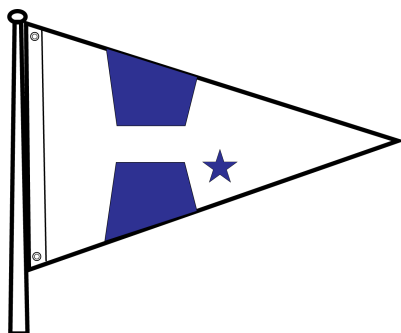


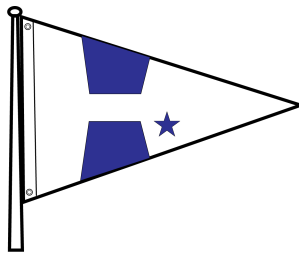
May, 2023

OVER *the* WAVES

The Monthly Newsletter of the Wickford Yacht Club



Wickford Yacht Club



Commodore's Corner

Hi all,

I write this with the great time that Tracy and I had at the Commodores' Reception still fresh in my mind. Thank you to Scot and Sue and their event team for putting together such a special night. The Club looked great, the food was fantastic (the little stuffed donut things....WOW!) and of course, the company was the best! As you will read in Mary Grace's Diary, the Commodores' Reception is a celebration of all who have served the Club as Commodore, and it was a pleasure and an honor to see so many folks in their blue blazers with the 3 silver star patch on Saturday night.

When I was asked to join the Board, I was pretty apprehensive about whether I would be ready when it was time for me to take the helm. After 3 years of watching and learning what goes into running this Club of ours, I certainly wouldn't say I know it all, but I do know that I have fantastic people who have come before me to help guide me along the journey. I am truly grateful for their help.

I am pleased to announce that the Member's Area project is wrapping up, and except for delays on a few items, the project is complete and the upstairs is once again open for business!

Looking ahead, we have the Kentucky Derby Rally on May 6th, followed by the WSA Starlight Gala on the 13th. Hopefully folks won't dance too late into the night, as we then have the Club Spring Cleanup the following morning! Before you know it the Club will be commissioned, boats will be in the water and we will be enjoying the fruits of our winter work.

See you down on Pleasant St!

Ezra

Fleet Captain's Report



Happy May Sailors,

I want to say a quick thank you to the Social Committee team for putting on a wonderful season opening event, The Commodore's Reception, Saturday night! It was great fun to see old friends and meet some of our new and prospective members.

A big piece of the fun last night was talking boats, final work and launch plans. With the gorgeous weather we have had this week, the excitement is palpable!

WYC's summer cruise is pulling together. Hopefully everyone has gotten their mooring reservations. There are still slips available in some ports if you were unable to secure a mooring. Please keep an eye out for upcoming emails regarding registration for the summer cruise events, they are time sensitive, and we don't want anyone to miss out!

We have plans in the works for a fun Spring Mini-Cruise in June! I am in communication with a couple of potential ports. I will communicate the date and event as soon as the plan is nailed down.

Dinghy dock and dinghy water assignments have been secured for the season. We will update the waiting list on the website soon. Please reach out to me at suzythoms@gmail.com if you would like your name added to the waiting list for the dinghy dock, in water, or rack spaces.

Please review the Dinghy Storage Policy, found in the House Rules, in the Wickford Yacht Club Member's Handbook. Compliance is truly a safety issue for all members. I hope to see you all at the club soon!

Suzanne Thoms
Fleet Captain

Sailing Activities & WSA Report



Wickford Sailing Association Report

Rodrigo Has a Home!

WSA is sending huge thanks to Betsy Moody and Ben Rice for offering to put Rodrigo up for the summer program season. We also received offers for portions of the summer from other members. Going forward, WSA will continue to be challenged to find accommodations for qualified instructors. We hope that the WYC membership will find ways to help meet this critical need going forward. Experienced leadership is the most critical component of a successful program and we are determined to reach out for the best talent every year.

Classes at Full Capacity

At the time of this report WSA's classes are completely booked with the exception of a couple of Minnow sessions that were added recently. The word seems to be getting out that WSA is a great place for kids.

Gala

WSA's fundraising Gala is on for May 13th. WYC members should have already received an invitation, but [here's a link to register](#). If you can't make it but would like to help out, you can [contribute here](#). Sue McDowell and her team put on an incredible spread last year and they are planning another fantastic evening. We hope you will join us for a great experience. More details can be found on the next two pages of this newsletter.

Scholarship Program

WSA has a scholarship program for young sailors needing some financial assistance. This year we have received many more scholarship applications than in past years and our scholarship fund is in need of some replenishment. We don't have an online method set up to contribute to the scholarship fund, but if you would like to contribute, please contact Skip Whyte at wickford.sailing@gmail.com.

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

[CLICK TO PURCHASE GALA TICKETS](#)

WSA GALA - MAY 13

Auction Details

A sampling of Raffle and Auction items have been secured from:

- North Sails - Sea Dog Sail
- America's Cup Charters
- Whalers & Narragansett Breweries
- S&S Fabric Products
- Conanicut & Gill Marine
- Cindy Wilson Photography - Portrait Session
- Skip Whyte - 1/2 day Sailing Instruction
- Mike Tammaro - custom made handholds
- The Sherman's Air BnB
- The Fletcher's Weekend Getaway to Maine
- A custom piece by Tyke Loomis, the Sailor's Tailor
- Jewelry and of course a bag from Trader Joe's
- West Marine 8 ft. Inflatable - Next to New!
- Ferry Tickets - BI & Fast Ferry to the Vineyard And much more!!

If you can't make it but are interested in the list of auction items for absentee bidding, I'd be happy to send you a list for silent bidding by proxy or anyone is welcome to come down to the club for early bidding as we set up that afternoon.

If you have trouble registering online, you may contact Gregory Grande <greggrande5@gmail.com> or call him at 860-997-9751.

We hope you can join us in supporting WSA as we try to keep our fleet current and our tuition reasonable as we introduce new sailors to the sport we all love so much. Thank you in advance for your support.

Kathy Brown for WSA, wickfordbrowns@gmail.com

[CLICK TO PURCHASE GALA TICKETS](#)

Social Update


From Social Chairs Scot and Sue

We agree that our folks loved best the parties where guests lingered, and friends stayed a few minutes and cleared the dishes to the kitchen. That is what happened as the Club members gathered April 15 to celebrate past Commodores and their partners. Patty and Bob Kern and Elaine and Rich Lemieux outdid themselves with scrumptious appetizers passed among tables decorated with early tulips (creatively masquerading as water lilies) and spectacular grazing tables (bordered by branches of pussy willows)!

Conversation continued well past the bartenders' shift, until the third encore of now-legendary, warm, raspberry-filled doughnuts made the rounds. And then, friends talked while they worked, clearing the Great room for the next adventure.

Special thanks to volunteers Larry and Joan Ehrhardt, Sue and Rick Moore, Sarah Bliven and Rick Nagele, Donnalee and Jack Fronce, Donna Dufault, Joan and Neil Bergh, Jenny Bourgeois, Barbara Dawson, Judi and Bob Sheehan, Pete and Maureen Galster, Claire and Pete Northrop, and Roberta Hale.... What a crew!

In short order, folks are getting ready for post time May 6th for a Kentucky Derby Rally. Make sure you are there wearing your hat and ready to pick your horses! You can still register [here](#).



Welcome
Back!

Members Update



NEW MEMBERSHIP POSTING

Susan Keller INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Sponsors: Joan Moran
Siobhan O'Bara
Gordon Fletcher

Boat Info: *The Salty Babe*, Boston Whaler



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

Vero Beach WYC Seasonal Chapter

L - R

Kathleen Chrostowski, Joy Tindall, Winnie Hagan, Maryanne Boettjer



Email name tag order request to Membership, Karen

\$9.00 payable to Wickford Yacht Club.

There is room for your boat's name. DEADLINE for ordering for the 2023 season is May 17.

Members Update



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

We'd like to start up our seminar series again and need volunteers to help. We are looking for committee members who can help plan the events, including the topics and speakers. If you would like to help, please contact Jeri Levesque at jalsails@aol.com.



Jeri Levesque, Commodore 1985

Next time you're enjoying the panoramic view from the upper deck, thank the 1985 Board and member/architect Ed Ekman for the vision to convert a small deck off the "game room" (Commodore's Room) to the expansive deck we enjoy today. Our plans also included replacing the two toilets in "closets" that opened directly into the downstairs Great Room. Using them could be embarrassing when someone opened the door, exposing you to a room full of party goers! My year as Commodore was a planning year. The 1986 Board executed these plans, as well as a kitchen upgrade to significantly improve the functionality of our facilities.

In the early days of the club, (before women's lib) female members were part of First Mates. We did "women's chores" like cleaning and decorating. Because there were no extra funds for amenities, First Mates, under the direction of Sally Andrews, held an annual fashion show. Women members and the kids were the models. The event was always a sell-out.

Bruce Dawson, Commodore 1978

My year as Commodore in 1978 was all about fortifying the building foundation and bulkheads. Upon



completion, the docks were reconfigured from slips to the transient/dinghy docks we have today.

Wickford has always had its share of colorful characters, and we hired another a real character to handle the project. Tony Quigley – AKA Quigger the Digger - showed up on a long rusty barge loaded with boulders, a crane with a control house and a pregnant wife.

Mrs. Q was the crane operator.

Quigger built a cofferdam, drained the seawater, and work began. Throughout the summer Tony would come and go to replace his supply of boulders. There were anxious times as we waited for the barge to reappear. Is he ever coming back???? Quigger made it happen – by the end of the season the job was done.

The bulkheads were secure, new docks were installed, and Mrs. Q gave birth!

Mary Grace's

DIARY

Mary Grace's Diary - Event Traditions and Dress Code Explanations

What's the difference between the Commodores' Reception and the Commodore's Ball? How and why are they different from other social events? What's the dress code? Here are the traditional answers!

Way back in 1967 when we had our first full year at our new Club (which was still under construction, btw) we wanted to follow the common norms of great yacht clubs. Our membership had expectations based on other clubs that they'd belonged to, and we wanted to take tradition and our social responsibility seriously. Two of the most traditional, more formal, and more purposeful social events at every yacht club are an opening reception and a celebration of the Commodore. At WYC we refer to these as the Commodores' Reception and the Commodore's Ball.

Every Spring, the current Commodore extends an invitation to the membership, on behalf of all Commodores, to launch the new season. This event is a celebration of returning members and an opportunity to introduce new members. Commodores of other clubs may be invited to this event and to Commissioning. Because the Reception is hosted by the Club's Commodores past and present, at WYC we refer to this event as the Commodores' Reception.

When changes/upgrades are made to our facility over the winter, these are showcased at the Commodores' Reception. The past decade has been bookended by two examples, with the reconstruction of the upper and lower patio in between! Our 50th Anniversary Commodores' Reception celebrated the reopening of the Club after a double wallop. Major construction had closed the first floor in mid-season 2012, then Hurricane Sandy devastated the Club in October. Commodore Sarah Browne welcomed members back in April 2013 after nearly a year in exile. At this, our 60th Anniversary, we are celebrating the reopening of our Club after the planned reconfiguration of the 2nd floor and unexpected major repairs to the first floor due to significant flooding from Elliot last December.

Some clubs combine their season opening event with their club's commissioning. Wickford, being the Fun Club, decided to separate them right from the start. Why have one party when you can have two? This allows the Commodores' Reception to be fancier and more traditional, (in 1967 that meant men wore Caps and Yachting Jackets, women wore serious cocktail dresses, and there was a dance floor surrounded by lighted martini fountains) leaving our Commissioning Day to be more laid back. This relaxed dress policy was essential in our early days since the Commissioning Day menu used to rotate from year to year between a "cook your own" steak fry and a member dug, trench-style clambake. Both menus made 'wash and wear' attire necessary!

Mary Grace's

DIARY

Our second member focused event at WYC is held to honor the current Commodore. Although traditionally referred to as the Commodore's Ball, each Commodore's personality shapes the event and its description. This year's party in honor of our 57th Commodore, Ezra Smith, will be held on June 17th and will be the Commodore's Clambake. Dress will be Yacht Club Casual, with blazers worn by officers during the receiving line.

So, the Commodores' Reception is hosted by all Commodores in honor of all members. The Commodore's Ball, hosted by WYC members, celebrates the current Commodore and the legacy he or she will leave. The inward, club-centric focus of these events is different from our other broadly focused social events. As a result, they are considered Members Only events where guests, while welcome, are not encouraged.

As we roll through the social calendar, there are usually questions about dress code and which social events are appropriate for Junior members. Here are a few guidelines I've been asked to pass on:

- Cocktails" in the name of the invitation doesn't mean the wardrobe term Cocktail Dress. It just means we're serving booze.
- The docks and decking have gaps and holes and our driveway is a minefield for high heels. Every couple of years someone gets hurt due to footwear. Choose wisely for your safety!
- Yacht Club Casual means a shirt with a collar, or equivalent, for men. For women, skirts, dresses or slacks.

- Appropriate jeans are fine for all of us.
- Yacht Club Smart means a collared shirt and sweater or jacket for men. Khakis are preferred over jeans, but note that "preferred" doesn't mean mandatory. Ties are appropriate for some, but not all, events. Women seem to get this classification without needing suggestions.
- If you were or are a Flag Officer, please wear your blazer and patch when you represent your position at official events. For example, the Annual Meeting, Commodores' Reception, Commodore's Ball, Commissioning Day, or a memorial or Celebration of Life for a club member. At many of these events, the blazer can come off after the ceremonial part of the event concludes.
- Junior members are especially welcome at family oriented events such as New Year's Brunch, Kentucky Derby, Newcomers Meet and Greet, Commissioning Day, Cheeseburgers, Homecoming, Lobsterfest, Witches of Wickford, Halloween Trick or Treat, and the Junior Member Holiday Party. Please remember that Junior members and guests under 18 need to be accompanied by an adult member when they are on the second floor of the clubhouse or on the upper patio. Anyone under 12 must wear a flotation device when on the docks.

Although being at the Shipyard had fewer rules, the space we leased was only as large as our current Junior Yacht Club. That would mean we could only have about 25 members and NO ICE! So, all things considered, Pleasant Street is a pretty sweet place to be in the summer!

See you at the Club!

Mary Grace

Events Calendar

Upcoming Events

- 5/3 WYC Ukulele group Mtg.
- 5/6 Kentucky Derby Rally
- 5/8 Board of Governors Mtg.
- 5/13 Sail into Summer- WSA Gala
- 5/14 Club Spring Clean up
- 5/17 WYC Ukulele group Mtg.
- 5/21 Newcomers Meet and Greet
- 5/27 Club Commissioning Day

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

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