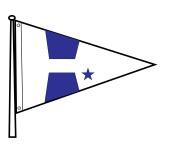
OVERWAVES

The Monthly Newsletter of the Wickford Yacht Club







Commodore's Corner

Hi All, I write this having just returned from a weekend at Cuttyhunk and a week or so out from returning from the Club Cruise. Boy do I love this time of year! We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful part of the world, and every time I sail back through the harbor breakwater I realize what an amazing piece of it we call home.

Speaking of the Cruise, this year's was fantastic. FC Thoms will fill you all in on the details but it was one of the largest fleets we have seen in years. The destinations, the parties, and especially the camaraderie with fellow Club members was the best. We had an incredible stretch of weather (apart from a cold front coming through at Cuttyhunk at 2AM, causing some pandemonium in the anchorage!) with perfect sailing conditions nearly every day. Thank you to Suzanne, the Port Captains and all of the cruisers, new and old, who made it such a fantastic week. Speaking with Past Commodore Lemieux recently he mentioned that he has spoken to several of the other clubs in the bay and many of them do not host an annual cruise, and those that do have much smaller numbers. and sometimes don't even venture outside of the Bay. I think what makes ours work so well is the amount of knowledge and energy our members bring to the planning and the level of organization we put into it-the information shared, the events planned, all of which helps bring newer cruisers into the mix. An example is the informal nightly chat during cocktails about weather and currents for the next day's passage-folks that have done this for years and years sharing their knowledge with first timers, maybe making that passage across Vineyard Sound or through Woods Hole a little less daunting. Connections are made when rafted up for the night, or when folks get together to troubleshoot problems. It all serves to make our bonds, and our Club, a little stronger.

On the 12th. the Beverly Yacht Club visited Wickford YC on their annual cruise, hosting a cocktail hour and dinner at the Club. 2 years ago they hosted us at their beautiful Club in Marion, Ma, and we were happy to return the favor. I received a note of thanks from their Fleet Captain-they had a wonderful time and were very impressed with the club and with Wickford as a destination-I think they will be back!

Past Commodore Bergh recently sent out an email regarding next year's Fleet Captain. If any of you have an interest in joining the board, please reach out to Neil, or any of the other Flag officers if you would like to learn more.

Lastly, thank you all for your diligence in trying to make parking in our lot more orderly. While still not perfect, reports are that more folks are being mindful, pulling in as far as they can, and leaving their keys in the car-lets keep up the good work!!

Next up is Lobsterfest on Friday September 8th-See you all down on Pleasant St!



Past Commodore Note



A Word About Next Year's Fleet Captain

Each year at this time the Board of Governors begins the process of identifying the Slate of Officers for the following year to be presented to the membership for approval at our Annual Budget Approval Meeting, normally held in November. Nominations for our next Fleet Captain are considered during this process.

As the Nominating Committee Chair, I have been asked by our Flag Officers to reach out to our membership to identify members who have an interest in serving as next year's Fleet Captain. Serving as Fleet Captain is the first step in a five-year progression which includes one year each as Fleet Captain, Rear Commodore, Vice Commodore, Commodore, and finally, Past Commodore. Responsibilities, outlined in our By-Laws, vary at each step, and prepare the candidate for their role as Commodore during his or her fourth year.

Our club is fortunate to have a long line of Flag Officers who have served our club well. This is a special group of volunteers who have dedicated their time and talents to managing our club, its finances, and its assets. The future of our club relies on solid leadership to help us navigate forward. Should you feel ready to serve in this important role feel free to reach out to me or any of the other Flag Officers. We will be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Neil Bergh Past Commodore

Vice Commodore's Report



Having traveled around a bit this summer, I got a real big dose of appreciation for Wickford, our harbor, and most of all our club. We are so very fortunate to have the friends, facilities, and beautiful protected harbor that we have! Summer is flying by, hope you & yours have been enjoying the club too! The things that make it fun, social events, racing, cruising, are all headed up by volunteers. Please consider what you would enjoy contributing to keep the traditions and camaraderie at our club alive.

Like everything else, the Wickford Yacht Club is evolving, we aren't exactly what we used to be and we aren't exactly what we are going to be. If you'd like to have the club you'd most enjoy, be part of the solutions.

We all know the feeling of being new and knowing only a few folks, long standing members can really help new members feel part of the club by saying hello and getting to know each other.

Before I step down from the soap box, please remember we are all in this together. There isn't a "they" to do all that needs to do be done, only volunteers. If you see a problem, try to think of a solution (that our by-laws allow) too, and bring both of those to me, or the member at large, for consideration.

Most of all, enjoy our club, our summer weather, and your fellow members!

Sincerely,

Rex Vice Commodore



Rear Commodore's Update

The 2023 summer racing series is approaching the last mark. As I write this, two weeks remain. There has been high drama: near misses, incredible saves, nail-biting judgment calls, last minute reversals of fortune, and stiff upper lips that never betrayed a tremor. And that's just the Race Committee.

There has been outstanding competition on the water as well. The weather conditions have offered their usual array of challenges, and the scoreboard remains in flux. We look forward to high spirits and fair winds as the season approaches its conclusion.

As I mentioned in last month's OTW, we will be creating a plaque for the Great Room that will carry the names of each series' winner, posted for posterity, for all to see. We are still seeking ideas for a nautical/racing icon to adorn the top of a plaque, so please reach out to me if you have suggestions.

Many thanks for the enthusiastic participation of all the racers this year. The energy you bring to the club ripples long after the final horn has sounded.

See you on the water!

Your Rear Commodore, Dave Lindquist



Fleet Captain's Report



The 2023 WYC Cruise was a wonderful time! Each time I am fortunate enough to commune with members of WYC, I love this club more and more. Our membership is an extraordinary group of souls! Thank you to everyone who participated in our summer cruise, celebrating WYC's 60thanniversary! We started our cruise with 30 boats in Cuttyhunk. The journey was Cuttyhunk, Edgartown, Vineyard Haven, and finally Pope's Island. It was an itinerary JT and I would happily repeat on our own.

The deepest, heartfelt thanks, on behalf of the entire group, to our wonderful (and I meanwonderful) Port Captains; Patty Kern in Edgartown, Annie Lannigan in Vineyard Haven, and Carl Bowen in New Bedford. Without their guidance, planning, and coordination, the cruise would not have been half as much fun. We had wonderful mooring opportunities in beautiful and interesting harbors, and events that left us all wanting more. Thank you for everything you did to create the structure where we enjoyed one another's company. I also want to thank Judi Sheehan for volunteering to help welcome our newest cruisers. She and Bob made sure everyone had a friendly face, offered their boat as a place to enjoy a cocktail on our off nights, and someone with whom to explore each port.

I would like to acknowledge all our 2023 cruisers and the number of cruises in which they have participated (it takes 2 ports or more to be counted as a cruise):

Rich and Elaine Lemieux – 33 cruises
Paul and Sarah Browne – 27 cruises
Bob and Nancy Shore – 21 cruises
Win and Kathy Brown – 20 cruises
Richard Fernie – 20 cruises
Jeff Cook – 15 cruises
Neil and Joan Bergh – 14 cruises
Gordon and Sharon Fletcher – 10 cruises
Bob and Patty Kern – 9 cruises
Betsy Moody and Ben Rice – 7 cruises
Doreen Gelfuso and Steve McCrory- 6 cruises

Richard Nagele and Sarah Bliven - 5
John and Linda Oliver Hughes - 4 cruises
Ezra Smith and Tracy Nan - 4 cruises
Carl and Kathy Bowen - 3 cruises
Larry Hower and Cindy Bennett - 3 cruises
Annie Lannigan and Dave Fuquea - 2 cruises
Charlie and Donna Costa - 2 cruises
Judi and Bob Sheehan - 2 cruises
Mike Tammaro - 2 cruises
Rex and Pam Brewer - 2 cruises
Suzanne and John Thoms - 2 cruises

This next part of the list is very special, as they are our first-time cruisers. It takes a leap of faith to join a group on a cruise. Thank you for your trust, and we hope to cruise with you again next year! Those cruisers are Jeff Shapiro and Raven; Dennis and Linda Kamerzel; Richard Schmidt and Kristina Sorensen; Eugene Wante; Randy Weitman.

We had two other couples join us at one port. We enjoyed their company tremendously; Dan and Mimi Dyer, and Eric and Melissa Thorkilsen.

If you are interested in cruising with us, please contact me or any of the folks on this list to answer questions or find out how to join us next year.

See you out on the bay, Suzanne Thoms

2023 WYC SUMMER CRUISE

























Want to see more pics?

Here's a link to the Dropbox ZIP FILE if anyone wants to download all of the cruise pictures: https://www.dropbox.com/l/scl/AABoVrU9YYcBleP9Gq8F-MFIE1WxUJ0D50E

Here's a link to the FOLDER for viewing the photos in Dropbox: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/b45scklo9d8y11v/AAD2qHkjwDDTwiwboKBlNaU2a?dl=0

Sailing Activities & WSA Report



SAILING ACTIVITIES REPORT

New England Masters Championship Coming September 23-24

The Laser Masters will be returning for their annual New England Masters Championship over the September 23-24 weekend. A few volunteers are still needed for this event. Contact Skip Whyte at 401-481-2997 or skip@ 1stplacesailing.com if you would like to help out.

WICKFORD SAILING ASSOCIATION REPORT

WSA Season Ends on a High Note

The WSA summer program wrapped up on Friday, August 18 with a family sailing period followed by awards on a day characterized by massive morning downpours and tornadoes elsewhere in Rhode Island. The program was very well attended by parents and kids with the Great Room packed for awards.

Emilia Lewis was awarded the Mary Grace Batton Award for the outstanding WYC member in the program. Keira Oakley is the new Sailor of the Year.

Increased Participation by WYC Member Families

WSA was delighted to see a robust increase in participation by WYC Member Families in 2023. 20 lessons were taken by WYC families including a few Adults. There are another 3 pending acceptance as WYC members. There were only 7 in 2022!

A Great Staff Makes it Happen

WSA had a terrific staff this summer led by Rodrigo Benvenuto. Rodrigo is from Argentina and it was necessary to find accommodations for him for the summer. Besty Moody and Ben Rice made it possible and WSA will be eternally thankful. Similarly, Cam and Lena Lewis took in Irinia Pineyrua, also from Argentina. The addition of these two highly experienced and dedicated instructors made the difference. WSA is hopeful that we will be able to find homes for experienced instructors again next year. They simply can't be found locally.

Aging Power Boats

WSA made it through most of the summer without any major failures, but our luck ran out in the last two weeks with two boats suffering major age-related engine failures. One of the engines is not worth repairing.

Victory at Maine's Eggemoggin Series



Botin Partners - Naval Architecture ...

Congratulations to Mr. Harvey Jones and the crew onboard BP320 Outlier - Fastest Regatta Elapsed & Corrected Time and SOT Division Winner at the Eggemoggin Reach Regatta and 1st Spirit of Tradition at the Castline Classic regatta!!

... See more

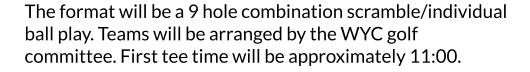


Yarrow Thorne, Alex Bowen and Chuck Allen were all aboard Outlier during Maine's Eggemoggin series... races of 25 miles each day.

Taking home the regatta win.



The 16th th Annual WYC Golf Tournament will be held Thursday, Sept. 14th at Jamestown Golf Club.



We have spots for 9 foursomes.

The usual "Bring Your Own Everything" awards ceremony will be held at the Yacht Club following play.

Come and join us. Please contact Bruce Dawson to sign up. Phone or text – 401-345-1108 Email – croc51915@cox.nets





Meet the Members

Meet Anita and Chip Buckley

We are Chip and Anita Buckley from Cumberland, RI.

I grew up in Edgewood RI summering in Wickford and Anita is from Linden, NJ.

We met at URI and have been together for the past 48 years. We have 2 children, Andrea and Alex. Alex and his wife Katherine are the proud parents of a lovable, almost 1 year old named



Anita and I retired 6 years ago and we don't miss working. Anita from 40 plus years in nursing at various hospitals and surgery centers and me 40 plus years in the dental industry, both family and corporate.

Boating has been part of my life from childhood. My family cruised out of Wickford on a 35 foot wooden sail boat that was built in Newport RI. While raising our children, boating took a back seat to YMCA

Camp Fuller, where Andrea eventually taught sailing, and we spent a lot of our time at a tennis and a pool club in Cumberland.

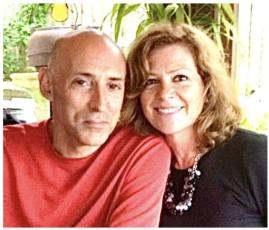
I introduced Anita to sailing with a laser we'd throw on top of the car and sail off Narragansett beach, in the Bay, and Wardens pond. I'm not sure it was the best introduction but we are still boating, now on a Riviera Belize 54. When not boating I play hockey a couple times a week and golf, and Anita moved on from tennis to pickleball. We are very happy to now be part of the WYC. We are looking forward to enjoying all the club has to offer and hopefully the club will enjoy us.



Meet the Members

Meet (again) Cynthia and Paul Waxman

We are very happy to be back in the WYC community and are grateful for the warm welcome we received from members.



Paul and I became WYC members in 2014, a year after we moved from Boston to start a new life in Rhode Island. We have a son Mattias, 31 years of age, who lives in Providence, and two cats, Willow and Fraser, that love to go for walks (yes walks on a leash). We are passionate about renovating homes, and that's how our story begins. It was an 1843 Greek Revival at 115 West Main Street that drew us to Wickford.

We're proud to say, that we dug into our new member responsibilities including spring clean-up, regatta

ground crew and our favorite, the social events. You may remember Vinny Cerbo's Commodore celebration or the Home for the Holidays party...we enjoyed every minute planning, setting up and serving (and hope to help out in the future, too).

Fast forward to today, and a special thanks to the Bourgeois's and Galster's for sponsoring us back into WYC. We now live in the Quidnessett neighborhood, in the woods, but not too far from Calf Pasture Beach. And yes, we've been busy making home improvements. Paul has honed his carpentry skills and recently completed a post-and-beam shed with a small attached green house. I'm a 'green thumb' (at least most of the time) and need a good kitchen garden where I can grow herbs and vegetables, which feeds my other passion, cooking. Paul and I both enjoy entertaining and have been known to throw a few memorable Halloween parties over the years.

We've always talked about learning to sail, and in July bought our first boat, *Con Brio*, a Point Jude 16. She's perfect, and we're learning every time we take her out, that boats are an adventure. Besides sailing, Paul is a fearless player of anything with a racquet/paddle including tennis, badminton, ping-pong, or squash (tennis anyone?). I'm learning to golf and very excited about my first golf outing with the WYC women's group in October.

Paul and I look forward to deepening our friendships with WYC members and getting to know new folks that have joined while we were gone.

"There are good ships, and wood ships, and those that sail the sea. But the best ships, are friendships, and may they always be."



Meet the Members

Meet Pat and Michael Morgan

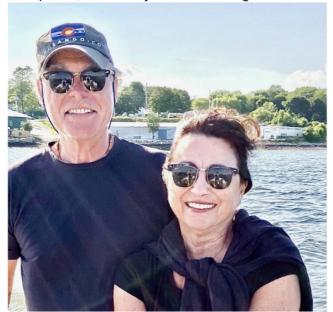
We are happy to now be members of the Wickford Yacht Club. Pat grew up in RI in West Warwick and for the past 45 years together we have always loved visiting Wickford village. In 2016 we found our 'retirement home' and in 2017 were finally able to move back to the ocean we love.

Pat spent 27 years as a clinical nurse caring for women and infants in several hospitals in NH & Maine and then moved to academia. She earned a Masters in Nursing followed by a PhD in nursing research that led to chair position at the University of New England in ME and chair/Associate Dean at the University of St. Joseph in CT. in Connecticut. Pat currently works as a Nursing Education Consultant part-time.

Michael began his career in healthcare as a Medical Technologist and spent 15 years in the laboratory at the same hospital that Pat began her nursing career (and yes, it <u>was</u> a hospital romance

■). After leaving the laboratory he moved to sales for laboratory products/services and spent 20 years with Fisher Healthcare where he retired in 2018 from corporate accounts.

Michael began his sailing experience in high school, crewing on One Design Star with his chemistry teacher. That was his first taste of sailing and belonging to the Lake Sunapee Yacht Club. Later on we sailed together on Michael's Hobie Cats off the NH coast. Our last boat was a 21 foot sloop on Lake Winnipesaukee. We have our eyes open looking for another boat, this time power, but have yet to find the right one.



We both stay very busy in retirement, Pat with the Plum Beach Garden Club, gardening at home, some nursing consulting and lots of time at the gym.

I keep myself busy with house projects, yard work and the gym as well (I have to keep up with her!). We have a 28 ft travel trailer RV that we love to spend time exploring the country in each year. We've done several cross-country trips out west, down south and are currently figuring out where our next expedition will be.

We bring our cat, Lewis, with us on the trips and he loves the adventure. We taught him to walk on a leash so we can let him outside, this of course gets lots of

comments from other campers, things like "in my 46 years here at this campground, I have never seen a cat on a leash!."

So we are very happy to add WYC to our continuing adventure and look forward to getting to know everyone. Thank you for welcoming us into this great community!



LOBSTAS



The year was 2009. Damon Rivard was House Committee Chair and our Commodore was Barry Dufault. Not only were these two men pillars of our Club, they were good friends, and had servant hearts, which explains why both would do anything for the community at large and our Club in particular.

At Coffee Hour on Thursday August 20th, Damon was extolling how fantastic the weather had been all summer and how this had resulted in a bountiful lobster crop. In fact, he told all present that lobsters were so plentiful that the price was down compared to past years. Damon and the coffee klatch wondered if they could pull a lobster feast together in two weeks, to kick off the Labor Day weekend.

So, Damon called Barry – the official chef of the Club – to find out what creating a do it yourself lobster fest would take. Barry said he'd cook the lobsters if Damon could get them. Damon called his lobsterman buddy and Barry called Bruce Dawson to get Bruce to pull a team together to do the cooking under Barry's watchful eye.

Here were the rules that made it possible to pull off that first ever Lobsterfest in 10 days: The WYC would provide:

- ·1 lobster
- ·1 ear of corn
- ·Warm butter
- •Paper plates, napkins, and plastic cutlery

Members provided appetizers, beverages and glasses, dessert, claw crackers, table cloths, plates and cutlery if the paper/plastic was unacceptable. The kitchen was totally off limits for everything including washing personal items. You had to take them home dirty.

The price? \$5. No kidding.

The night was incredible. The full moon rose at 6:59 as everyone was still struggling with lobster claws. The night was GLORIOUS and so successful that the event is now an institution. Its almost always held on the Friday of Labor Day weekend, so we can celebrate the end of summer and also still have the long weekend to be on the water. Over the years Barry passed his knowledge to Bruce who, together with Barbara Dawson ran this event until last year when they finally turned the big pots over to the next generation. During that long run of Lobsterfests, the Dawsons added Dave's Cole Slaw to the menu, learned that Dave would actually shuck corn for us, got the whole system down to a science, and finally added dessert.



During the two decades of Lobsterfest, the business end of the Club changed too. By 2012 we had moved to 100% Constant Contact sign ups. Before then, you called (yes called) the event Chair to secure a ticket, then made your payment at the door...or not if you didn't show up. We were left with unpaid reservations for at least 10% of the headcount, but when Constant Contact was phased in, we could connect an event ticket with advanced payment – and no tickets were sold at the door. This was a HUGE cultural change, and we all know how hard change can be. But everyone understood that there were only 85 tickets available for Lobsterfest, and tickets were made available only after payment was received, so, Constant Contact became accepted because Lobsterfest made it necessary!

Of course, there have been a few kinks in the system. In 2014 Barbara Dawson received an email from a Julie Cook in South Carolina, who'd found over \$2,500 in her PayPal account that she traced back to us. It seems that the Constant Contact/PayPal link had been hacked and our Paypal account, which was keyed to our Treasurer Julie Cook's email, was switched with the other Julie Cook's email. Southern Julie Cook was so honest, and so kind...and had never had a lobster. So we sent her some, via Gardner's Wharf, and we sent her a WYC burgee too! She had her feast delivered for Thanksgiving and sent us a photo of three generations of Cooks trying to figure out how to open lobsters with a giant roast turkey in the background.

Another year, Damon got the date wrong and ordered the lobsters a week early. No worries! Club members who were game to cook their own got a really sweet deal at the pier at the End O Main. And the local lobstermen got two weekends of lobster demand from WYC!

With only one exception that I can remember, every year we've had fantastic weather. Often we've had full moons. But we always have a great time.

Enjoy!

Mary Grace

PS - Don't forget your claw crackers!



Who needed cheeseburgers, after all those wonderful seafood choices and cooling tropical drinks?

We all did, apparently!

A special thank you to Linda Gustafson, Tom and Ellen Grennan, Burger Chef Bob Shore, and especially Randy Wietman who went so far out of his way to get us to and from our cars. Thanks also to a wonderful group of volunteers who quietly made it all flow.

While you are all off enjoying your boats, we are planning for Lobster Fest on Friday September 8th (lest you want to sail the weekend) and Cocktails on the Deck to celebrate the Club's 60th Anniversary on Saturday September 16th.

Events Calendar

Upcoming Events

9/8 Lobsta-fest

9/11 Board of Govenor's Meeting

9/16 Cocktails on the Deck

9/23 Wickford Car Boat Association Awards

9/23-24- Laser Masters Regatta

Weekly Events

Monday: 13:00 hr. Mahjong

Thursday: 10:00 hr. Coffee Hour

Friday: 18:00 hr. Happy Hour wine down



Special Event Notification

Dear members of WYC,

I'm Deb Shapiro, breast cancer survivor and co-founder of *Paddle for Progress*. Jeff Shapiro, friend, and former spouse is a WYC member and is working with us on this important upcoming fundraising and awareness raising event for breast cancer. I am writing to see if you would consider an article about the event in your upcoming newsletter.

Paddle for Progressis an exciting inaugural fundraising event, dedicated to raising awareness and funds for breast cancer research in Rhode Island and bringing visibility to the precision medicine available at the Lifespan Multidisciplinary Breast Cancer Center. 100% of the proceeds will be targeted to fund breast oncology research in RI. All donations will be made directly to Lifespan via the website below or via check to the address at the bottom of this email. We are thrilled to announce a memorable day of paddling, fun, and community on Sunday, September 17, 2023, at Wilson Park located in the heart of North Kingstown. Rain date will be Sunday, September 24, 2023. Dr. Theresa Graves and Dr. Stephanie Graff of the Lifespan Breast Cancer Center will join us on the water in Wickford Harbor in their kayaks.

With the support of The Kayak Centre in Wickford and the North Kingstown Harbormaster we have planned a fun 2-mile paddle route in Wickford Harbor, ensuring a picture sque and serene experience for all participants. *Paddle for Progress* welcomes small watercraft of all types: kayaks, SUPs, pedalboards, canoes, and row boats. It's a fantastic opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends while making a meaningful impact on the lives of those affected by breast cancer.

My daughter and I are both fighting breast cancer and winning. We were diagnosed in 2022, each receiving a diagnosis of a different type of breast cancer within 100 days of the other. In good health, we were stunned by our joint diagnoses. The impact of breast cancer on individuals and families is enormous and high caliber treatment often requires significant travel. The availability of breast cancer precision medicine in Rhode Island is crucial on many levels. We know this firsthand and feel very fortunate to be successfully and compassionately treated at the Lifespan Multidisciplinary Breast Cancer Center in East Greenwich. We are outdoor enthusiasts and sea kayakers and have embarked on this inaugural *Paddle for Progress* event as a way of giving back and bringing both visibility and funding to breast cancer research in RI.

Thanks for considering, if you are interested, we also have a short video with Dr. Graves talking about the event. Together, let's make a splash in the fight against breast cancer right here in Rhode Island!

Deb Shapiro

Breast Cancer Champion & Paddle for Progressco-founder https://giving.lifespan.org/RIH/paddle-for-progress



WYC Board of Governors

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Vice Commodore Rex Brewer

Rear Commodore David Lindquist

Fleet Captain Suzanne Thoms

Member-at-Large Agu Suvari

Secretary Rich O'Brien

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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

