

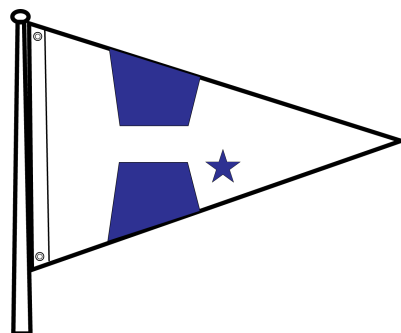
December, 2023

# OVER *the* WAVES

*The Monthly Newsletter of the Wickford Yacht Club*

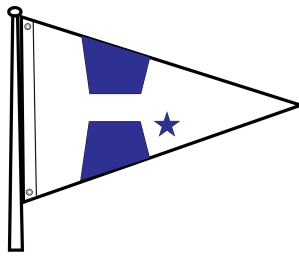


Body text



Wickford Yacht Club

Image: Discover Newport



## Commodore's Corner

Hi All,

Well, this is my last time addressing you all in OTW as Commodore of our wonderful Club. I hope you will agree with me that it has been a good year- it has been a pleasure and a privilege to take my turn at steering the ship.

I am proud of what the 2023 Board was able to accomplish. We started our year off with some challenges: a flood and an unexpected vacancy in the Fleet Captain position really before the year even started. Sitting in my first Board meeting as the guy in charge was a little daunting, but with the support and efforts of the board as a whole, and the solid guidance of Past Commodore Bergh and other committed members, we were able to work through these challenges. At the same time, we were also just starting demo on the Member's Area renovation, a large project that drew upon the skills and experience of many members. Fast forward to Opening Day: the critical flood remediation work in the Great Room, Hallway, Closet and Pavilion was complete (and the remaining flood insurance money was safely put away in a flood fund, ready for further work as the club schedule allowed), the construction upstairs was done, a fantastic Cruise was taking shape, and the Club was fully open for business with a full social schedule planned! They say many hands makes for light work, and all of this indeed took many hands to accomplish. I want to personally thank all of you, the Membership and Board of WYC for making it happen.

When I first agreed to join the Board, a Past Commodore told me something very important. The job was not about leaving a personal mark, but keeping the ship on course, learning from, and building on, all the hard work that has been accomplished by those that came before. Through the efforts of past Boards and the Membership as a whole, our Club is on incredibly solid footing as an organization. Our job as the Board is to steer the ship, drawing on the Club's institutional knowledge to make incremental improvements and, if needed, course corrections when obstacles arise.

I hope you all have a joyous Holiday Season and a Healthy and Happy new year. And let's raise a glass (of water in my case, I am sitting at my desk at work currently!) to the Board of 2024!

Respectfully,

Ezra



# Rear Commodore's Update



As I write this, the Frostbiters are finishing their last race of the day, cruising downwind toward the docks on an easy southeasterly breeze. The overcast sky, leaden waters, and low sunlight make for a classic late autumn tableau. My foreground is the fireplace upstairs in the Members' area. This is part of the beauty and privilege that Wickford Yacht Club offers.

The Frostbiters are not under the purview of the racing duties of the Rear Commodore, but their Corinthian spirit is nonetheless inspiring. I tried to join them last year. While I might blame my poor performance on my old L5-S1 disc injury, and my higher end weight/displacement ratio in a Sea Dog, the truth of the matter is that these are skilled racers who, although endlessly welcoming and encouraging, show up to compete with professionalism. Regarded from afloat or ashore, they are an impressive lot.

Reflecting back on 2023, I must again offer my thanks to the entire Race Committee for their tireless efforts to provide the support for one of the key pillars of Wickford Yacht Club, the Summer Racing Series. The experience and expertise of the PRO's, the fortitude of the committee boat and mark boat personnel in the face of challenging conditions, speak to a commitment of providing the energizing yet safe opportunity to race on Narragansett Bay.

In this upcoming year, as Vice Commodore-elect, I look forward to building on the work of Commodore-elect Rex Brewer, and the new members of the Finance Committee. I have no doubt that I shall become ever more appreciative of the work of Peter Fahlman, and the financial stability that his efforts over the years have created for the club. It will be a pleasure to work with Jay Koyler, our next financial guru, to continue the legacy of forethought and anticipatory planning.

Despite the limitations of my work commitments, I pledge to do my best to be available to the membership in this upcoming year.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with your thoughts, concerns, or suggestions.

Respectfully,

Your Rear Commodore,

Dave Lindquist



# Lend a Hand this Holiday



It's that time of year for the annual Safe/Sea and Cardis Furniture Toys for Tots drive!

This holiday season, there will be a drop box at WYC. As you see in the photo, the box will be in the main entryway as you enter the club. We are asking for donations of new, unwrapped toys.

**The deadline for donations is December 15th**

If you have any questions, please reach out to Pete Andrews or Kyle Wilson. Thank you and on behalf of Safe/Sea, we are so grateful for your generosity!





# Sailing Activities Report



## SAILING ACTIVITIES REPORT

### **Wickford Frostbite Season is Underway**

The WFA season kicked off on the first Sunday in November as it has for many, many years. Turnout has been strong every Sunday as the WFA fleet prepares for the “Sea Dog Worlds” on December 2nd. 26 different sailors have raced so far this season and several new boats are in the works.

The “Worlds” are in Wickford this year and we are expecting a strong contingent from Sachems Head to bring their A Game. Sachem’s Head has grabbed the top spot for the last two years while Wickford has dominated the team competition each year which is a combination of the top ten boats from each fleet. There will be an informal potluck social in the WYC Pavilion after racing.

The Hangover Bowl is a New Years Day tradition. There is always good viewing from the WYC for those who appreciate winter sailing as a spectator sport.

# WSA Report



## WICKFORD SAILING ASSOCIATION REPORT

### **New Racks for Optis and Prams**

WSA was very fortunate to receive a Take It Outside Grant to replace the existing wooden racks along the breakwall. The new racks will occupy the same footprint but are much more efficient and attractive. There will also be a rack to store the empty dollies which will keep them away from the ramp and save valuable space in the lot. The new racks will arrive in the spring.

### **Thundermist Sold - search underway for a smaller replacement**

The Thundermist's engine suffered a fatal breakdown in August and the decision was made to sell the boat and replace it with a smaller boat more appropriate for working with Beginners.

### **Additional Optis needed next year**

The WSA population has been growing and growing up. The Beginners of recent years are moving into Optis in increasing numbers and WSA will need to add at least two boats for next summer. WSA may sell a few Prams to make room for the Optis.

### **Staffing Challenges continue**

Unfortunately, Rodrigo Benvenuto will not be able to return as Head Instructor next year. He did a terrific job last summer and he will be missed. Several candidates are currently in the interview stage and a new head instructor will hopefully be hired before Christmas. Some of last year's staff will be returning but WSA is seeking 2 Opti Instructors and a 420 instructor. Domestic applicants continue to be very hard to find. It is likely that we will have one or more instructors from overseas that will need accommodations.

# House Committee Update

1. Mike Tamarro has joined Pete Galster and myself on House Committee. Feel free to contact us with any issues or suggestions.
2. We now have a red suggestion box in the pavillion.
3. A "lost and found" box has been placed in the coat room.
4. A motion sensor light switch has been installed in the ice machine hall. Let us know of any problems. Kitchen door to the hall should be closed when not in use.
5. The motion sensor switches in the downstairs bathrooms are now working properly. No need to turn them off.





# Members Update



## NEW MEMBERSHIP POSTING



**Robert and Katherine Thomas**

**Children: Evangeline, Gabriel, Michael**

**Boat: *Solaire* Maine Cat 30'**

**Sponsors: Rex Brewer  
Skip Whyte**

**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



We bid goodbye to treasured Wickford Yacht Club members, our friends Willa, Michael, Don & Pam, Joan, and Al.

They nurtured recent and early years at the Wickford Yacht Club with their leadership, committee involvements, and “firsts” that defined where we are today. We’ll miss their talents, humor, unique personalities, and the rich memories they gave us.

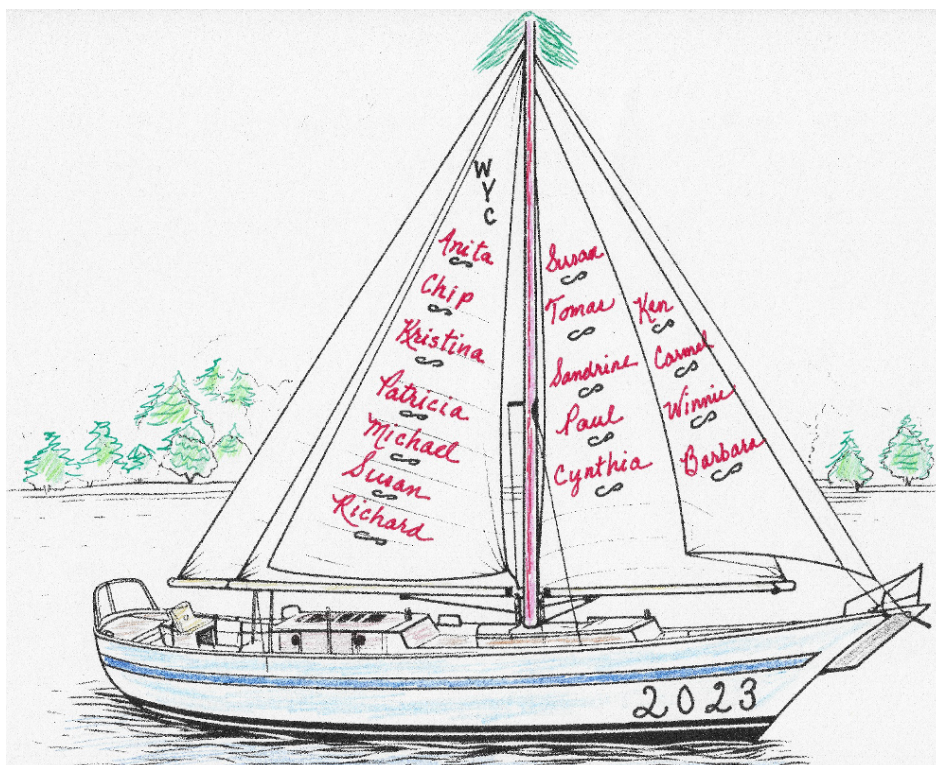
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With nostalgic lookbacks in print and photos we shared with our newer members the traditions that began in the early days at 165 Pleasant Street. Celebration events marked WYC’s 60th year, along with recognition of a member’s 100th birthday.

Upstairs, the newly renovated gathering room opened to applause. Future tales will be about the room’s original quirky facilities.

**SIXTEEN members were launched in 2023.**

**It was a very full year.**





# Golf Outing Recap



Wickford's Wednesday Gal Golfers Annual Autumn Road Trip to the Cape



What's not to love about a destination golf holiday at the Blue Rock Resort on Cape Cod? Unseasonably warm sunny weather and golden fairway hues accented the perfect road trip for



the Wednesday Women Golfers. Jenny Bourgeois organized the annual women's get away for 18 avid players to drive, chip, and putt their way across the executive course. An opening BYOE poolside lunch was followed by 9 or 18 holes and optional Chip & Putt Clinic. Jimmy the Pro arranged a putting contest on par with the Masters that ended with a sudden-death play-off between Joan Bergh and Grace Smith. Kudos to Grace who took home the prize! Prior to our arrival, Jean Robinson had arranged dinner reservations at Clancy's. Fresh seafood and fermented grapes rounded out a delectable meal. The next morning we enjoyed balmy sunshine as we loped the links, savored local lunch fare, and headed home.





# Upcoming Seminar



## Rescheduled Seminar Event 2023

# From Ukraine to Wickford and Back Again

Thursday, December 7, 2023 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM EDT

You are invited to hear Cam and `lena `lewis Share their Family's compelling Ukraine Story in a symposium-style seminar. Be inspired by the courage of one family caught in this terrible invasion.

See you there! Register now for this free seminar with light snacks:

**Sign Up Now!**



# Events Calendar

## Upcoming Events

11/30 Annual Meeting- Budget approval and presentation of proposed 2023 Board of Governors

12/10 Annual Holiday Party

12/12 Board of Governors Mtg.

12/31 New Year Eve's Party

## **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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