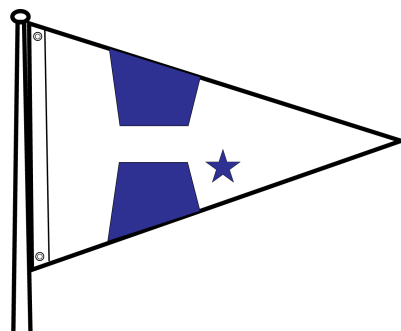


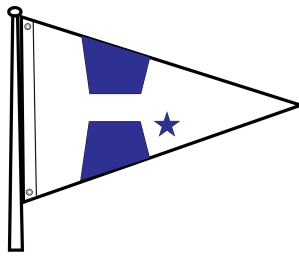
January, 2024

OVER *the* WAVES

The Monthly Newsletter of the Wickford Yacht Club



Wickford Yacht Club



Commodore's Corner

Happy New Year!

I am very pleased to serve you as Commodore. Commodore Eza Smith handled everything well during his year and lets us start the year in great shape. Vice Commodore Dave Lindquist is firmly in control of our business and financial affairs, Rear Commodore Suzanne Thoms is really looking forward to supporting all of our racing both one design and PHRF. Fleet Captain Jeri Levesque is hard at work on cruise planning, and docks and moorings.

Charlie and Donna Costa remain in charge of the house. We are sure to see the club well maintained with continued improvements. Scot and Sue work tirelessly and do a fantastic job as the chairs of the social committee. Karen Pizzarusso continues to be an incredible ambassador, and her tireless work promoting the traditions and history of our club are very appreciated. Agu Savari continues in the position of member at large. He is the memberships' voice on the board and your first contact for club use and bringing up things that need board attention. Ben Rice is a great treasurer that gets everything paid on time and manages our budget with detail. Our Steward Chuck Ebersole works far more hours than those for which he is paid, and knows where everything is and "how we've done it in the past". There are many more volunteers ie: secretary, gardening, communications, finance, WSA sailing school, etc etc..hug a volunteer, better yet join the fun and be one.

I am very pleased to have a great team of volunteers in every position that work hard for our club. We've started 2024 off with plans for a great year at the club and on the water. The social calendar is filling fast and the first cruise meeting was Jan 4th. (don't worry there will be several more).

Please come to the "**Passing of the Flags**" dinner on Saturday January 13th and see our Flag Officers get their new flags and emblems as they are welcomed into their new position by their predecessors.

Although we are a yacht club, we have limited places to put our boats due to the size of our property. During 2023, the board reviewed our rules again and made some changes to the dinghy policy so that we can have as many members as possible using the facilities that are available. Please read the wickfordyc.com web site under members area to see the current policy. As long as I'm asking for your cooperation, parking without using all the available space further reduces our limited parking, if there is room in front of you, pull in all the way and leave your keys. Thanks for your kindness to other members.

Welcome to another great year at our special Wickford Yacht Club! See you soon at the club!

Sincerely yours,
Rex Brewer, Commodore

Vice Commodore's Update



It is that time of year. Reflections of the past season and plans for the next are inevitable. Transitions are in the offing.

I am delighted that your new Rear Commodore, Suzanne Thoms, is an experienced racer, as well as an experienced cruiser and now a seasoned flag officer. The 2024 Summer Racing Series is in excellent hands.

As I step into the role of Vice Commodore, I am delighted (read: relieved) that someone of Jay Kohler's caliber is present as the responsibilities of insurance, finance, and club solvency loom large. We will shepherd the club's monetary obligations and demands with deliberation, patience, and prudence.

On a personal note, many of you know that I have a small boat problem: I have many small boats. A portion of today was spent sanding and varnishing various oars, daggerboards, and rudders. The meditative aspect of such work keeps me settled while the boats are on the hard. Scars on the daggerboard remind me of unseen rocks jarringly discovered at low tide. The process of smoothing the scratches and recoating the faired surfaces reminds me of lessons learned, and lets me dream about further adventures.

As we move into the planning stages of next season, I hope that all of you are sharing last year's highlights and forging upcoming plans.

I look forward to working with all of you in 2024.

Your Vice Commodore-elect,

Dave Lindquist



Rear Commodore's Report



This is a quick last note as Fleet Captain; thank you to all who have worked to help make this year memorable. I look forward to serving as Rear Commodore, doing all I can to help continue the tradition of Wednesday night racing in a fun and safe manner. Anyone who is interested in working with the Race Committee can reach out to me as I start to compile the information to serve you all well in this role.

While I will not be in RI for January and February, I am available by phone, text, email, Zoom, etc. Anyone spending time in Naples, FL feel free to reach out for a sunset cocktail.

I hope everyone has a wonderful 2024, and I look forward to sharing some of summer's best days with you!

With warm regards,

Suzanne Thoms
Fleet Captain & Rear Commodore-elect

Fleet Captain's Report



I am excited and honored to serve as a WYC Flag Officer. My first action is to thank Rear Commodore Suzanne Thoms for taking me sailing aboard s/v Socha and additional meetings to explain my new responsibilities. I still have a great deal to learn and welcome members' advice.

The next item on my Do List is to schedule a Summer Cruise '24 Planning Meeting. Commodore Brewer and I will announce our choice of direction and while I'm new at this, rest assured, it's neither north or south. Everyone interested in the WYC cruise July 27-August 3rd please join us in the Member's Room on Thursday, January 4th at 7 o'clock. Let's gather and imagine we are in a port o' call - bring a beverage and snack if inclined- and we'll toss about destination preferences and swap lessons learned.

BTW, I understand that volunteering as a port captain ensures that sailor has more fun than the legendary Captain Ron and Kitty did dancing at Ted's. Remember his best advice for cruising, "If anything's gonna happen, it's gonna happen out there."

Jeri Levesque
Fleet Captain-elect



Sailing Activities Report



Sea Dog Worlds

The "Big Event" was held on December 2nd here in Wickford. 37 boats did battle with WFA coming out on top in the team competition and WFA sailor, Ed Adams, edging out Jay Mills of Sachem Head who nearly grabbing his third consecutive title. WFA sailors were 1st, 4th, 6th, 8th, and 9th with Sachems Head owning 2nd, 5th, 7th, and 10th. 3rd went to a visitor from neither fleet. WFA has consistently dominated the top ten but this year was the most even the competition has been in recent memory. Young blood is making an impact in both fleets with three junior sailors in the top ten this year, one from Wickford and two from Sachem's Head.

Chuck Allen has been PRO for the entire season and continues to amaze with his recovery. Anne Cunic, Margaret Smith, Gary Breder and Brad Brown rounded out the race management team for the Worlds.

The combined fleet enjoyed a terrific potluck feast after racing.

Fall Series

The WFA season has a Fall and a Spring Series. Somehow we avoid winter! The Fall Season starts the first weekend in November and ends January 21st. The Worlds and Hangover Bowl don't count. There have been 6 race days through New Years. Ed Adams and Paul Nannig are currently tied for the lead courtesy Ed having to count a last for a day he missed. 23 sailors are participating in the series. The Spring Series wraps up the first Sunday in April.

Hangover Bowl

The Hangover Bowl on New Years Day has a long and at times notorious reputation. In past years substantial quantities of Bloody Marys have been consumed between races but the fleet was well behaved this year with festivities reserved for the post-race celebration. Ed Adams continued his domination with a convincing win with Skip Whyte in 2nd and Peter Greene in 3rd. 15 boats celebrated the New Year the right way!

Wickford Regatta 24 Progress Report

This year's Wickford Regatta will be held June 8-9. We are beginning to put the team together and would welcome some new volunteers. Anyone looking for a role should contact Skip Whyte or Barbara Jackson, the co-chair of the Sailing Activities Committee.

WSA Report



WICKFORD SAILING ASSOCIATION REPORT

Staffing Challenges Causing Major Concerns

It has been increasingly difficult for WSA to hire qualified staff for years. All programs are having the same problem with an increasing share of instructors coming from overseas, mainly Ireland and Argentina. 2024 is no exception and WSA expects that 2 and possibly 3 of our staff will come from overseas and we will be challenged to find accommodations for them. WSA is deeply grateful for the hospitality that WYC members have extended for the last three summers and made it possible for us to bring some terrific instructors to Wickford.

We are currently in conversations with strong candidates from Ireland, Argentina, and Spain. Any families willing to consider housing an instructor for all or a portion of the 10 week WSA program can contact Skip Whyte at 401-481-2997 for more information. Thanks in advance for considering.

Exclusive Early Registration for WYC Members February 1-2

WSA offers an exclusive 2-day early registration period February 1-2 to WYC members and returning WSA families. WYC members interested in registering for any WSA program who were not participating in the program last year need to contact Skip Whyte at 401-481-2997 or wickford.sailing@gmail.com so that the needed exclusive registration links can be sent before registration opens. We already know how to reach returning families but we need to hear from interested WYC members who are looking to register for the first time. We know that almost all classes will fill very rapidly. Last year we were more than 80% full in 5 days with waiting lists in many classes!

Social Committee Update

We started December with a spectacular 'Candles and 7 Fishes' Holiday Party from set-up to clean-up... The fun started high-up on the ladder hanging candle lights from the rafters in the morning... to our wonderful kitchen team...



Naughty but Nice Christmas Punch Bowl Cocktail, alongside coups set with fun Very Merry Ornantinis.

A holiday evening filled with friends, lots of laughs, fun drinks and delicious food.

Scot and I would again like to thank the incredibly wonderful Team of volunteers, who helped make this event successful! The volunteer list was mostly filled within an hour of sending out to the members.

Our first event for 2024, is the **Passing of the Flags and Annual Awards Dinner**, Saturday, January 13th. The invite along with a volunteer sign-up will be in your Inbox shortly. We look forward to welcoming our 2024 Commodore and Officers, hope to see many of you there!

We have quite a calendar filled for 2024...if you have any suggestions please reach out to us. Thank you to Everyone who volunteered in 2023, we could not have done it without YOU! Wishing everyone a Happy & Healthy New Year!!

Scot & Sue

Seminar Update

Update:

For 2024, Winnie Hagan will be helping to organize the seminar series, along with Jeri Levesque.

Save the Date! Safe Boating Seminar

When: January 17th - 6 - 8 PM

Where: Wickford Yacht Club

The *Better Bay Alliance* is offering a free presentation on boating safety at The Wickford Yacht Club. The seminar will cover: "The Rules of the Road", "best practices" on the water, Aids to Navigation, and how to access the most up-to-date information about boating events on Rhode Island waters.

In addition, we will demonstrate our recently introduced product called **LIVE CHART**, which is a (free) interactive Google Map of RI waters from Providence to Block Island, and Westerly to Little Compton. Through a clear chart-like view of all boating activities on RI waters, LIVE CHART enhances safety through its use by allowing all boaters, including those in paddle sports, to plan a safe day of boating activities.

While LIVE CHART is viewable with zoom in/out properties, what makes it special is that viewers can choose any date/time (4-hour increments) over the entire 2023 boating season for any area of the chart. Different colored polygon shapes, reflecting varying types of boating - sailing, power, Kayak/SUP and misc events - appear indicating events in specific areas. Over 300 events for 2023 were positioned to illustrate precisely the range of event locations. LIVE CHART also includes non-sailing events such as Aquapalooza, Folk/Jazz festivals, the Poker Run, Paddle for Access, Swim the Bay, and all cruise ship visits to Newport. This free mobile-friendly device is accessible via the Better Bay Alliance website (betterbayalliance.org). LIVE CHART is an invaluable library of information for all boaters in RI.

You don't want to miss this opportunity to set your sights on the upcoming boating season.

Register now members and non members are welcome.

Winnie Hagen

REGISTER

Events Calendar

Upcoming Events

1/8 Board of Governors Mtg.

1/13 Passing of the Flags and Awards. [Register](#)

1/17 Bay alliance Boat Safety Seminar, 6 P.M.

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	Rex Brewer
Vice Commodore	David Lindquist
Rear Commodore	Suzanne Thoms
Fleet Captain	Jeri Levesque
Member-at-Large	Agu Suvari
Secretary	Rich O'Brien
Treasurer	Ben Rice
House Chair	Charlie Costa
Past Commodore	Ezra Smith

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	David Lindquist
Frostbiting	Chuck Allen
Membership	Karen Pizzaruso
NBYA Rep.	Doug Nannig
Nominating	Ezra Smith
Race	David Lindquist
Regatta Activities	Skip Whyte
WSA Grants	Paul Nannig
Seminars	Yarrow Thorne
WSA	Skip Whyte

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