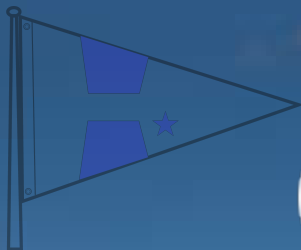
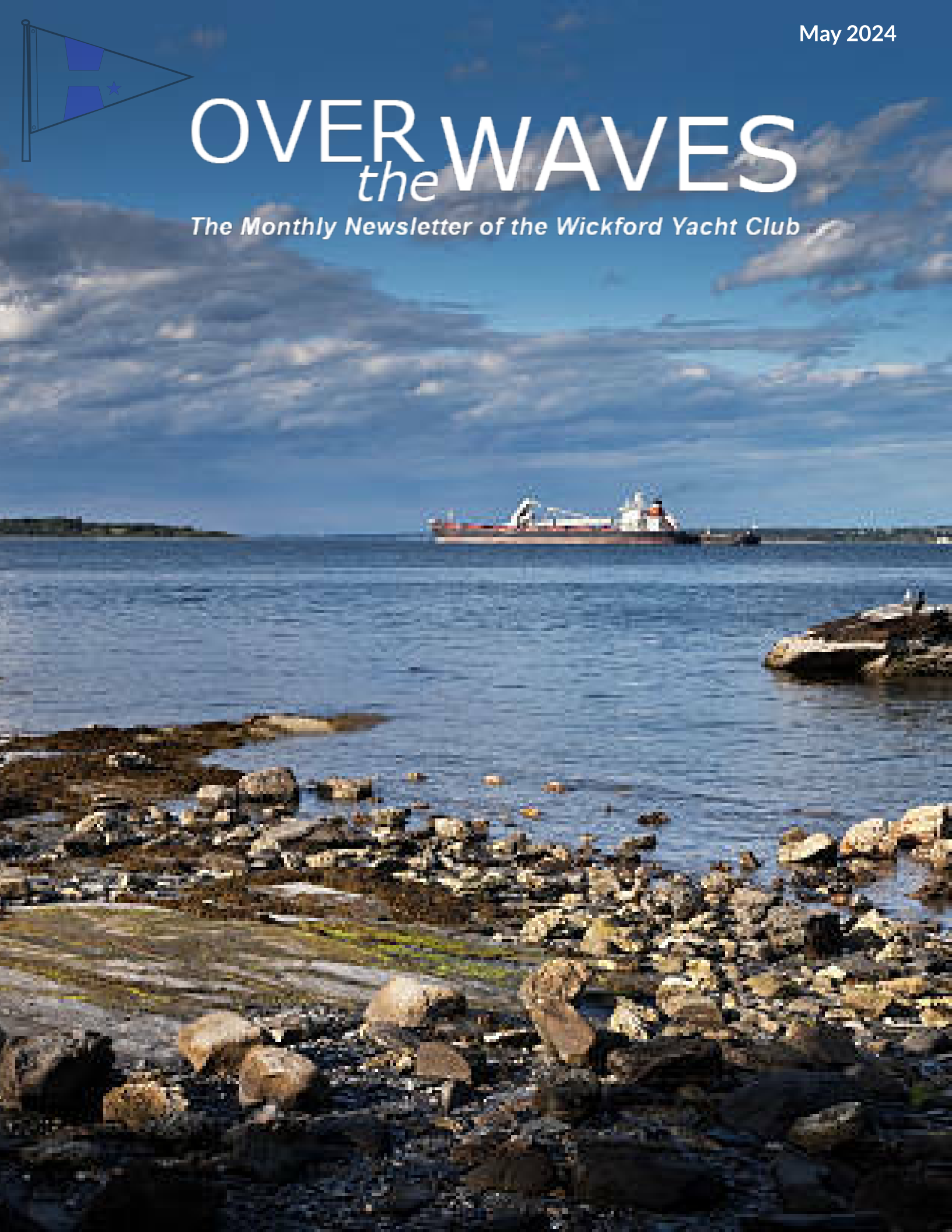


May 2024



OVER *the* WAVES

The Monthly Newsletter of the Wickford Yacht Club





Commodore's Corner

All of our volunteers are working hard for another great season!

By the time you read this, the Commodores Reception will be over, and both the WSA Sailing School gala scheduled for May 11th and Commissioning Day on May 25th will be right around the corner. Welcome back snowbirds, we've missed all of you. Frostbite sailing is finished and flowers are blooming. Am I the only one that hasn't done enough to get our boat ready?

If you are among the fortunate members that have a dinghy spot, the new dinghy policy is in effect (took years and many members to create this, it is on the web site.) Please fill out and sign the required forms to receive your new dinghy spot. Like we did on the two eastern dock sections, we plan to have a work party in the fall to put new top boards on the surface of two more sections of the east dock. This will be after dinghies come off and before frostbite boats are brought in.

The cruises are planned, be sure to let the Fleet Captain know which ports you will cruise to. The cruise cocktail party and cruise dinner will be accessible by car. Sign up for these events if you'd like to share in the cruise fun.

I am writing from Morocco. We are here visiting our son Ben that is studying here for one semester. See you on the water and at the club!

Sincerely, Rex



Vice Commodore's Update



March 25, 2024. Somewhere in the Caribbean.

"Hey guys? There's a lot of water down here." There we were, making 8.5 knots in a 20 knot breeze, a few hours into a beautiful reach from St. Lucia to St. Vincent on a 51' Bavaria monohull. And then one of the crew, the son-in-law of our captain, noticed that the floorboards were awash down below. We had done our own safety briefing, and were aware that the electric bilge pump did not have a float switch. We hadn't actually located the manual bilge pump, but at the start of a Caribbean bare-boat charter, we were enthusiastic about getting underway, and failed to pursue that detail. We also did not realize that the electric bilge pump was no longer working.

We did know that the life jackets were stored below in the forward cabin (about as far away from the cockpit as you can get). We weren't sinking, yet, but 6 inches in a 51' boat is a lot of volume. The water was high enough in the engine compartment that we did not want to start the engine. We furled the jib and started bailing. The captain, his wife, their teenage foreign exchange student, the captain's daughter and her husband, and the captain's father-in-law, all formed a bucket brigade. I was charged with the helm and the deck. Nothing like singlehandedly a 50-footer...

We eventually noticed that the water seemed to rise faster on port tack than on starboard tack. The problem was that when headed south with a nice easterly, it's all port tack. And sailing closer to land seemed like a better option than heading out into the Atlantic. Fortunately, the son-in-law was a contractor. He managed to jury rig the fried electric bilge pump, and also rig a siphon pump using one of the shower drains and spare tubing. We made it to an anchorage on St. Vincent without incident. We did not find the leak that night, but on an even keel, we did not seem to take on water.

Same issue the next day, until the son-in-law, crawling deep in a storage locker in the aft starboard cabin, noticed daylight. The interior cap for a 1.5" diameter tube (that housed an emergency swim ladder accessible from the water line) was sloshing around in the compartment. On port tack, that tube was well below the waterline, piping seawater directly on board. Once the cap was replaced and secured, the water ingress ceased. We pumped her dry, and dry she stayed. The remainder of our cruise had other minor challenges, but by then we were a tight, trusting group who had come through shared adversity.

Plenty of lessons learned: Check your electric bilge pump. Identify your manual bilge pump. Don't leave the dock until those issues are addressed. When at sea, stay focused on the problem, but delegate so that the boat's safety is not jeopardized by hyperfocus. In retrospect, we should have put the life jackets on. If you're bailing, that's a sign that all is not well. Oh, and keep a contractor on board. They can come in really handy.

Dockside, allow me to express my thanks to all of the robust volunteers who got the docks striped and numbered in time for this season. Many folks came together on short notice to get this task done. And it looks great!

It's almost time to splash the boats!

Rear Commodore's Report



Greetings WYC!

As we head into these 70-degree days, excitement and anticipation are building for the sailing season! I am counting the minutes!

Behind the scenes, we have been working to make sure that the 2024 racing season is the best it can be! I would like to speak with anyone who is interested in joining the Race Committee, or those interested in learning more about becoming a PRO. There are many newer members, members who are recent empty-nesters, newly retired, and those who have a passion for racing; we want you!

The Race Committee is a wonderful bunch of people who enjoy working collaboratively to create a fun and competitive program for our club.

For those looking forward to racing this season; keep an eye on your email for summer racing notices and sign-ups in the next couple of weeks.

Enjoy these gorgeous days as we get ready to sail!

**Suzanne Thoms
WYC Rear Commodore
suzythoms@gmail.com
(401) 932-3306**



Fleet Captain's Report



May is a month filled with much merriment in Wickford Cove. Dinghies bloom on our docks, in-water and rack spaces as mariners set out to their vessels and commence the boating season. We'll be kicking off the Wednesday Night Solstice Series, enjoying upper deck Wine Downs, and prepping for the summer cruise. I'm eager to don my new blue blazer and celebrate Commissioning Day. George and I will also be shifting from sails to power as we commission our new cruiser, Cabernet and sell our 26' Pearson.

Members who hold dinghy storage spaces received an announcement with current assignments and the 2024 revised Dinghy Storage Policy. We ask everyone to please return the initial Acknowledgement document and affixing an ID sticker on your dinghies before placing them in the assigned spaces. Thank you all for supporting the revised policy and ensuring the safety and enjoyment of those who access the WYC waterfront.

The east docks that were resurfaced last November will be striped and numbered shortly. While members assigned to those spaces may be eager to set out their dinghies, we ask that they please wait until the spaces are lined and numbered. Contact me (Fleetcaptian@wickfordyc.com) if a brief delay creates a hardship. The next section of the east dock is slated for resurfacing late October or the first weekend of November. I'm working with the House and Building Committees to plan small work teams and recruit highly skilled volunteers for this project.

Planning for the spring cruise is proceeding with a tentative venue at Ida Lewis Yacht Club over the weekend of June 21st. Summer cruise prep is well underway with a catered dock party (via the Oyster Barge) at Cuttyhunk to kick off the cruise on July 27th, a cocktail reception at Parker's Boat Yard (Red Brook) on July 30th, and a cruise dinner in Padanaram (New Bedford Yacht Club) on August 1st. Registration and fees will be announced via Constant Contact within the next six weeks. Many thanks to the Port Captains who have been taking care of details for mooring and activities for each of the ports of call.

Lastly, May 22 is not just for the orientation of Suzanne Thom's race committee, it's National Maritime Day. Being a yacht club, we should all take a moment to thank those who have protected our shores. The day is a celebration of Merchant Mariners who have played instrumental roles in protecting our shores since the American Revolution. To all our mariner members, let's raise a toast to honor their bravery and service.

Fleet Captain's Report (cont.)



Dinghy Dock Update

Thanks to Mike Tammaro and first mate Yenny, Charlie Costa, Peter Galster, Bruce and Barb Dawson and Chuck Ebersole for striping the docks.



Best,
Jeri



Fleet Captain's Report (cont.)

Wickford Yacht Club 2024 Summer Cruise

July 27th- August 2nd

Heaven's in the Details Planning Meeting

May 2nd 7 o'clock P.M. (1900)

@ WYC Members Area

Or Join us via Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82859488109>

Agenda

Port Captains' Updates

Randy Wietman, Cuttyhunk

Mike Tamaro, Quissett

John & Linda Hughes, Red Brook

John Thoms; Moorings, Sue Smith & Scot Jones; Dinner, Padanarum

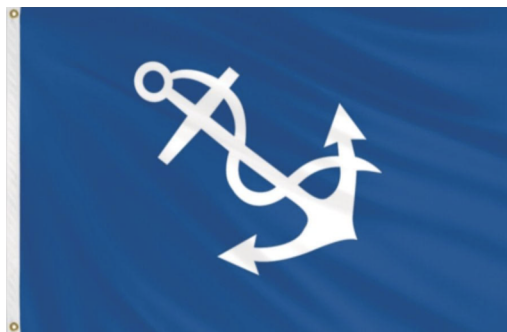
Ben Rice & Betsy Mood; Aquidneck 3rd Beach

Charting Our Course

Bring your own charts! (Note: additional information (ex., mooring fees, tides on days at ports, etc.) will be provided in the Cruise Packet)

Traditions and Novel Ideas

Questions? Contact Jeri - fleetcaptain@wickfordyc.com



Day	Date	Leg
0 Fri/Sat	7/26/27	Wickford -> Cuttyhunk 32 NM
1 Saturday	7/27	Cuttyhunk
2 Sunday	7/28	Cuttyhunk -> Quissett Harbor MA (on Cape). 11 NM
3 Monday	7/29	Quissett -> Red Brook, MA . 8 NM
4 Tuesday	7/30 Cocktail Party	Red Brook
5 Wednesday	7/31	Red Brook -> Padanarum, MA . 6 NM
6 Thursday	Thurs 8/1 Cruise Dinner	Padanarum, MA
7	Fri 8/2	Padanarum -> 3rd Beach -> Wickford Padanarum-> 3 rd Beach 20 NM 3 rd Beach -> Wickford 12NM

Sailing Activities Report



Wickford Regatta.

Only 45 days (give or take) until the Wickford Regatta!

In case you've forgotten, here's some background about this event. The Wickford Regatta is one of Narragansett bay's most important regattas with a storied history. It began in May 1972 when our club was only 9 years old as a Lasers only event. In fact, the May date made it one of the first Laser Regattas held. Anywhere. Lasers were a new class back then, and all of the Laser sail numbers were between 100 (the first Laser ever off the assembly line) and 800. 16 competitors sailed two races on Saturday and one on Sunday. There was a Regatta Dinner at the Club that included cook your own steak from Ryan's Market and beer from Wickford Packey.

In 1973 we added a second class, the brand new 470 Olympic Class and all of the 470 competitors were Olympic campaigners. The Regatta ran off the Town beach with over 30 Lasers and 25 470s. By the third year there were limits on the number of competitors in each class. Demand to compete in the Wickford Regatta had outgrown the Club's ability to support all of the interested sailors. By 1976, the Wickford was a serious international sailing event and was the last event before the US Olympic Trials. Every US in sailor in the 470 who hoped to go to The Show was in Wickford. The regatta was glorious! As was, by now, the legendary Regatta Dinner. In 1977 the 505 class was added, FDs were added in 1978, and the International 420s came in 1979. By 1981 the volunteers at WYC needed a break from the stress of the event and called a halt to the Regatta. It was picked up by Barrington Yacht Club as the RIISA Regatta, and was held until 2008 when they got tired too.

But wait! In 2009 WYC revived the Wickford Regatta with seven classes competing on two courses. The Sailing Activities Committee created a logo and made the decision to provide a great hat to every competitor, which can be seen in dinghy parks around the world. No kidding! Wickford Regatta was one of the pilots for the online registration and scoring system now known as Regatta Network. More than 18 classes have been invited over the years, with competitors from Canada, Europe, South Africa, as well as from Florida to Maine, the Great Lakes, Texas, and California. We've registered more than 1,200 teams for the Wickford Regatta which means we've hosted more than 1,750 sailors on the race courses.

This year's Wickford Regatta runs June 8 - 9 and will host five classes of racers. We expect 70 dinghy class boats sailed by 94 skippers and crew. To execute this level of racing on two courses takes a lot of volunteers. There's year-round planning, marketing, and permit gathering before we get to the event. Each day of the event it takes at least 28 volunteers to execute race management on the two race courses, a team of two official scorers located in the clubhouse, eight volunteers to staff the race office at the beach, five volunteers to manage the venue on the beach plus five or more dolly Dollies, and ten shoreside volunteers to manage hospitality at the Club.

The expensive signal timers, signal flags, marks, and equipment that are required for a ranked regatta like this one are used all summer by our Wednesday Night race fleet. And of course, the revenue generated by the Regatta helps to support our Club's finances. So, if you haven't volunteered yet, send me your name and contact info. It's fun to be part of our history!

Members Update



WYC's members had a collective heads up on April 8



Pinkie & Chuck in Findlay, Ohio



Eclipsopalian's Ted & Priscilla Green in Ayers Cliff, Canada



← The rest of us viewed from that little red dot.



Please send your headshot photo to Kathy Brown



Meanwhile,
Anne Bowen &
Maryanne Boettjer
went Camino trekking
through Spain.

WSA Report



WSA Fundraiser May 11 th

The WSA fundraiser will be May 11 th . The “Starlight Gala” will have both silent and live auctions, terrific food and beverages. We look forward to seeing many of you and thank the entire WYC membership for their support of Wickford Sailing Association.

Click [HERE](#) to buy tickets to the Gala, OR click [HERE](#) if you can’t make it but would like to support WSA by contributing to our Endless Toolbox.

Classes Near 100% Full

There are just a handful of available spots more than 2months before the program starts. We must be doing something right!

Power Boats Launching in April

The WSA fleet of powerboats will be leaving the parking lot in April and early May. WSA thanks WYC for the opportunity to keep the boats on the grounds over the winter.

Head Instructors Still Needing a Roof

After an extensive search and many interviews of almost exclusively international applicants WSA has hired two very experienced instructors to lead our program this year.

Calvin Lamosse and Craig Keenan will be co-head instructors this summer. WSA is still seeking accommodations for both of them. We know it is a big ask, but we are hopeful that some WYC members will be able to put them up for at least a couple of weeks. The instructors are prepared to move a few times, but we have assured them that they won’t be sleeping in a tent.



Skip Whyte
President, Wickford Sailing Association

Social Committee Update

We look forward to seeing everyone Saturday evening, April 20th for the WYC 2024 Commodores' Reception! We have invited Commodores from neighboring Yacht Clubs, please be sure to welcome them. If you haven't already registered, please do so as soon as possible.

So far, the weather forecast calls April showers Saturday evening, which will hopefully bring May flowers for the upcoming May Events –

Saturday, May 4th, Kentucky Derby Day, there will be a potluck (food and beverage), for those who would like to watch and celebrate the Derby together in the Great Room. It has been hard to guess interest in this event and potluck ensures that the event can go forward for those who are enthusiastic.

Saturday, May 11th is the WSA Starlight Gala, Saturday. Registration is open for this event, also if you would like to make a donation, or donate a raffle item, all this information is included in the Gala's registration link.

Scot & Sue

House Committee Update



Our Spring cleanup day at the Club will be
Saturday, May 4th at 9:00 AM.

Hello Fellow Members:

Recently there have been arrivals at the club of miscellaneous furnishings. As generous as it is, it must stop.

All furnishings and room layouts are done by the appropriate committees with Board approval. There is to be no adding, removing or moving of furniture or other items without approval of House Committee.

If chairs, tables, etc are rearranged for a function, they must be put back by the people who moved them.

All items that were brought to the club recently will be placed in the pavillion for retrieval.

Thank you,
Charlie Costa



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

Sail into Summer Gala *A Cruise Through the Mediterranean*

SATURDAY, MAY 11
6 O'CLOCK 'TIL LATE
WICKFORD YACHT CLUB

DRINKS AND MEDITERRANEAN TAPAS
LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION

TICKETS PRICED AT SIXTY DOLLARS PER GUEST
REGISTRATION OPENS EARLY APRIL

Events Calendar

Upcoming Events - May 2024

- 5/2 Summer cruise planning mtg.
- 5/4 Club Spring Cleanup
- 5/4 Kentucky Derby Potluck Rally
- 5/7 Seminar- Kayak and paddle board safety
- 5/11 WSA Spring Gala
- 5/13 WYC Board meeting
- 5/22 Race committee meeting
- 5/25 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	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	Siobhan OBara
Website	Kyle Wilson
Yearbook	Kathy Brown
Finance	David Lindquist
Frostbiting	Chuck Allen
Membership	Karen Pizzaruso
NBYA Rep.	Doug Nannig
Nominating	Ezra Smith
Race	Suzanne Thoms
Regatta Activities	Skip Whyte
WSA Grants	Paul Nannig
Seminars	Winnie Hagan
WSA	Skip Whyte

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