

MAINSHEET

The Newsletter of Thames Yacht Club



From the Commodore

It is with sadness to report that long time member Peter H. Brouwer passed away on November 15. "Uncle Pete", as most of us called him, was an avid yacht racer in the area for the better part of 60 years. Pete raced on several club boats, always achieving the utmost respect of the competition. Peter was a Past Vice Commodore in the club, also serving on the Executive Committee for several years. In recent years, Pete and Jo An could be seen working at race party food tables. I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to work with Pete and observe the serious and professional manner in which he performed his job. Just like on the water, Pete obtained the respect of his co-workers. Uncle Pete was one of the good ones and will be sadly missed.

This will be my last column since I am stepping down as Commodore on January 1. I want to thank all of you for your contribution to the club over the past two years. Member participation in work parties and social events has been extraordinary and has fostered a sense of comradery within the club. The clubhouse under the leadership of Bevan Crighton and Keith Gagne underwent a major face lift. Al Schober's miraculous transformation of the galley into the 21st century is truly remarkable. The Dock Planning Committee headed by Scott Scaduto, Keith with Bob Gibbs and Cliff Fisher heading up electrical, amazingly completed construction of our new dock in little over a year including DEP permit application and approval process. Wednesday Night, Bradbury and Chowder Series race participation is up thanks to the efforts of Rear Commodore Ted Paulsen. Fleet Captain Glenn Freiman has resurrected the club's cruising fleet, putting it back on track.

The club's Social Committee under Vice Commodore Carolyn Leuze, came up with some interesting and enjoyable socials and race parties including the new Guy Fawkes Party. To this end, TYC was awarded the Richard H. Roberts Best ECSA Circuit Party for 2007. Carolyn's idea of a Hawaiian luau paid off.

Hats off to the Membership Committee under Chairman Jackie Fisher for bringing in 26 new members and counting this year. New members are important in providing strength for the future of our club.

Often behind the scenes committee chairs and team leaders go unnoticed. I want to thank Cliff & Jackie Fisher, Michael Passero, Chuck Wargo, Wayne Gammo, Lloyd McDonald, Tom Welsh, Jim Reyburn, Greg Reese, Roy Adamson, Cal Brouwer and Judy Gibbs for their contribution to the club. And a big thank you to the rest of you who have helped steer our club on a steady course over the past year.

I send all of you and your loved ones my best wishes for a Healthy and Joyous Holiday Season.

Jack Scaduto, TYC Commodore

Do you know ...

...that our last General Membership Meeting of 2007 will be on Tuesday, November 27th? That Thames Yacht Club is celebrating our 75th anniversary in 2008? Watch the calendar!

From The Vice Commodore

We've had a great fall with lots of activity. The galley was cleaned on the original clean up day by Jean Ann Scaduto, Lynn Weber and me. We are all ready to welcome the holiday season with a really clean and attractive galley.

Our Oktoberfest was celebrated in great style with plenty German food, German beer, German wine and music. Many thanks to those folks who helped with this party.

November 5th brought Guy Fawkes Day, celebrated at TYC with a traditional bonfire and suitable libations. This is a new holiday for TYC but the Brits have been celebrating it for over 400 years. About 35 people attended. The kids (and some adults) toasted marshmallows for somemores. Many people brought dishes to share, so there was a feast on the porch and on the beach. The weather was good - not too cold and the "guy" went up in smoke -watch cap, PFD and all.

We are developing quite an international flair with our entertaining. Going back to St. Patrick's Day, Fourth of July, Okoberfest, Guy Fawkes Day. What will be next?

Well, the TYC Christmas gathering on Saturday, December 8th at 6:30 will be next. Cost is \$22.00 each, payable at the door. Reservations are necessary as this is a catered affair. Please let Carolyn know by Wednesday,

December 5th. No reservations will be accepted after that date. Note that the date on the enclosed flyer, Dec. 4th, is incorrect.

Please bring an unwrapped gift for a child. They will be distributed to needy New London children by the Front Porch Foundation, a new group doing wonderful things with communities in New London. We can also accept donations of non-perishable food items, which will get to the food bank.

AND, big news! Thames Yacht Club has won the Richard H. Roberts award for the Best Post Race Party of the ECSA sailing season. Many, many thanks to all our members who made the LUAU such a great and award- winning event!

I have loved being your Vice Commodore, and I am happy to have Tom Welsh taking over. He is so enthusiastic, and he has such high regard for Thames Yacht Club, that I know he will do a great job. He will need the same support so many of you have so generously given to me and our club for the past two years.

With grateful appreciation to all those noble souls who went far beyond what most mere mortals would feel was their duty, to make events at TYC memorable, notable and FUN!

Carolyn Leuze, TYC Vice Commodore

Rear Commodore Corner

This year's club racing is over and the Queen is resting in her winter berth. It was a great season of racing, with rain, fog, strong currents, calm winds, and strong winds - the way we like it. We did have a man overboard incident this fall that was very sobering. It made me think about the potential dangers we face when racing. In the future I plan to use pfd's more often and practice man overboard drills. I also plan to hang my carefully stowed life sling in a place where it can be used at a moments notice. We need to make our sailing as fun and safe as we can.

The Chowder series is over and was the warmest in memory. The Coast Guard had ten boats participating in the series, making for interesting competition. For results go to the web site and see how you and your friends did.

I hope that everyone has a great winter, and I look forward to seeing you on the race course again next spring.

Ted Paulsen, TYC Rear Commodore

Membership Committee

It's hard to believe that the end of 2007 is almost here. During this year we have accepted 22 new members and two reinstatements to our membership. The latest being Ross and Patricia Zeldes as of October. We still have one more couple to interview before the end of the year plus there are several who are really interested.

Once again , the Membership Committee wants to thank all of you who have contributed to making our membership grow with very active and pleasant people. Your "word of mouth" and our wonderful web site have made this all happen, and with this in mind, we're looking forward to another great year in 2008!

At this joyous time of year, keep family and friends close at hand to bring smiles and joy your way.

Happy Holidays!

Jackie Fisher, TYC Membership Chair

Bevan Crighton, Tom Welsh, Committee

Thank you for TYC Children's Halloween Party

Thank you to Jack Scaduto, Carolyn Leuze, and Bevan Crighton for permitting the Club members to have the First Annual TYC Children's Halloween Party. A special thank you goes out to Karen Smith for conceptualizing, organizing, and implementing it. The party was a fabulous success with well over 70 people in attendance. The children had a terrific time showing off their costumes to their summer friends, turning each other into toilet-papered mummies, and attempting to eat donuts off of a string without using their hands. The children all enjoyed pizza for supper while the adults brought a delicious array of appetizers and main dishes to share. Many thanks go out to all who attended or helped with the set-up and clean-up. If any other parents are interested in hosting an off-season party for the TYC children, feel free to contact me for advice on how to get it going (mjmadaus@juno.com).

Melissa Madaus

DICK ROBERTS YOUTH SAILING PROGRAM, INC.

On October 19th the Dick Roberts Youth Sailing Program held its first fund raiser since becoming an IRS approved 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Nearly 50 people attended the event that raised slightly more than \$4000. Many contributions were received from those who couldn't attend. Thank you to all who participated! The Program will continue to assist Thames YC and New London Community Boating in providing sails, rigging, equipment, scholarships, etc. for the training and instruction of pre-teen and teenage children in the sport of sailing and appreciation of the sea. The Program is governed by a board of directors consisting of Cal Brouwer, President; Judy Gibbs, Vice President; Walt Pratt, Secretary and Treasurer; Mary Ellen Roberts and Jack Scaduto. "Helping to bring sailing to the next generation"

75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Mark your calendars! The 75th Anniversary Committee is in high gear planning and executing our special 2008 events. First up is the Kick-Off Cocktail Party on Sunday, January 27th. Look for your invitation to arrive around the first of the New Year. A slogan and the anniversary pennant have been selected and will be unveiled at this event. The premier event of the celebration will be the anniversary dinner on Saturday, April 26th at Ocean Beach's Port & Starboard. A treasure hunt is planned for the Saturday of Sailfest weekend just before the fireworks and the anniversary regatta will be the Sunday following Members' Day. Ample notice will be given for all events. Please plan to participate!

PETER H. BROUWER

Past Vice Commodore

1923-2007

Decades long member Peter H. Brouwer passed away November 15th in New London. Affectionately known as "Uncle Pete" to many, he was 84. While the Club directory notes his membership starting in 1947 his association with the Club started in the mid-1930s crewing for his brother, Dutch, and other aspiring skip-pers of the day. After naval service, raising a family, and living and working out of the area, Pete returned to the Club in 1964 with a Penguin class dinghy to frostbite with the Thames Penguin Fleet, which he did for almost 20 years. Pete was a big boat racer as well. In the 60's and 70's he sailed the Ensign, Mutual Fun, then a Coronado 25 called Del Coronado. His last sailing vessel was the C&C 30, Tara. Pete and wife, Jo An, then cruised for several years on their 28 foot Winner power boat, Seaflower. Between Tara and Seaflower, Pete raced with Past Commodore Dick Steinhilber on Starchaser, with Past Commodore Ken Foss on his 40 foot and 52 foot Astri's, with Spence Kloter on Serenity and with Cliff and Jackie Fisher on Rusty-Nail. Retiring from racing Pete joined Jo An working the dessert table at the Club's Governor's and Commodore's Trophy Race parties. For the last decade or so Pete enjoyed watching Wednesday night races and having dinner on the porch. Pete served as Vice Commodore in 1989 and 1990 and then two terms on the Executive Committee. Pete was also a member of the Cruising Club of New England and Off Soundings Club.

Cal Brouwer

CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale

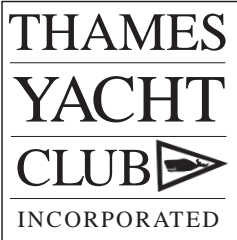
Nissan 5 hp short shaft 4 stroke outboard in great shape. Has external fuel tank. Very light use age. \$675.00

Contact Stu Craig 860-368-6576

For Rent

Killington Ski Condo for rent. One bedroom sleeps 4. Next to ski lodge parking lot. Complex has health club with indoor pool, hot tubs and racket ball. Most weekdays available and some weekends.

Contact Stu Craig 860-368-6576.



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New London, CT 06320

“Explorer of the Seas.” The largest cruise ship to enter New London harbor passes in front of the TYC mooring field. Photo; Melissa Madaus

