

MAINSHEET

The Newsletter of Thames Yacht Club



Special Message from the Editor

This will be my last edition as the Editor of the Mainsheet. It has been a typically fun and rewarding experience (albeit time consuming). I will be stepping up to take on the role as TYC's Rear Commodore for the 2009 Season. Ted Paulsen will be taking over for me as the new Mainsheet Editor effective in January. I would like to personally thank Ted for offering to take over. I look forward to any changes he sees fitting.

Greg Reese

From the Commodore

It seems the end of the season always brings a flurry of activity somewhat like the beginning of the season. Last Saturday we cleaned the grounds and secured the club house for the winter and later Eric and Lorena and I hauled TeamWork to mark the end of our sailing season. Wednesday evening we had a pot luck dinner and general membership meeting with elections for next year's officers and approval of the 2009 budget. Thursday evening Jeanne and I headed for a long weekend in California to visit with the children and grandchildren. We also had time to see a Raiders football game - I guess the best I can say about the Raiders is that we are in a rebuilding period.

A lot of projects are planned over the winter to continue improving the condition of the club house and surrounding facility. I am sure Bevan will be soliciting help and I encourage you to assist whenever possible. A lot of hands make the work easier and it's always refreshing to see different faces; after all it is our yacht club where we all benefit - so please don't depend on the committee chairs and legion of standard volunteers to do all of the work.

Given the difficult economic conditions of our times I feel the Treasurer, Cal Brouwer,

and the Executive Committee did an excellent job of preparing next year's budget. We are trying to hold the line on expenses. With the exception of Beach Members there will be no increase in dues and assessments. The small increase in the cost of Beach Membership (\$50.00) is a reflection of remaining competitive with neighboring associations whose facilities and services are not as attractive as ours while their cost of membership is higher. To reduce expenses the club house will be in "winter mode" after this weekend whereby there will be minimal heat in the facility and the water will be drained and shut off to ensure that we do not have a freezing and flooding problem. Access to the club house is restricted to the officers and House Committee Chair by using the deadbolt lock on the main entry door. Next season there will be a slight reduction in launch services as we limit the hours on Mondays and Tuesday to 0900-1800. The remainder of the week launch service will continue to be from 0900-2100. If you can think of ways to reduce our expenses please provide your ideas to a member of the Executive Committee.

I would like to solicit a volunteer from the Beach Membership to serve as a representative to the Executive Committee and act as a liaison to this special group of members. The idea is to improve communications in both directions and to ensure we are all on the same track for the entire membership.

I thank all of the members for their cooperation and assistance in making this a successful year. It takes a lot of time and effort from all of us to remain a viable organization and I appreciate your contributions in making it happen.

I hope you have a happy holiday season and an enjoyable new year.

Walt Pratt, TYC Commodore

From the Vice Commodore

I was privileged to serve as your Vice Commodore for the Thames Yacht club's 75th anniversary year. I also thank you for the support to serve another watch next year. I look back on a successful year of social events from the St. Patrick's Day party right on though to the Halloween party. I had an excellent and educational experience organizing, preparing and then the fun part of executing the parties over the year. I would like to review a couple of the highlights.

The Commissioning Day was a record turn out and though a blustery day the mission was accomplished, some in Spanish & some in English (culture complements of or Carlos M.). In the end we were left with a lot of smiling faces as the day closed out to a beautiful evening at the clubhouse. The Governors was also a fun event between the smoothies on the beach and Carlos's debut as the Hot Wing King the crowd of racers and enthusiasts seemed to want to stay all night. Then Commodores Trophy Race, sponsored by Gosling's Black Seal Rum. This one was no second to any party all year. The Gosling specialty drinks, and again the famous Hot Wings by Carlos and shish ka bobs on the beach got some great reviews.

All in all, right up to the Halloween Party, though not a large crowd was very enjoyable for those who came to win the costume contest and those who came to witness the costume contest.

We still have a couple of functions to go this year and the next function is the long awaited Ball Room Dance Night. An instructional showcase by the Arthur Murray Dance Studio will be held at the Clubhouse.

November 22, 2008

1800 (6:00) commencement with cocktails

1930 (7:30 pm) Buffet Dinner

Followed by an evening of dancing to 2300 (11:00pm)

Cost \$15.00 per person

RSVP by Nov. 20 to Tom or Pat at
pwelshct@sbcglobal.net

We are also looking for some folks who would bring a Desert to share. If you want to help the festivities be as festive as possible please contact Pat or Tom welsh. Many hands make light work and more fun.

The Christmas party will be later than the calendar due to scheduling logistics. We have planned to move it to December 13 so keep an eye on the Mainsheet and your

TYC Annual HOLIDAY PARTY

Saturday, December 13, 2008

(Details to come)

email. I promise you will have a great time if you come and be glad that you did. Please contact me if you would like to offer suggestions or get involved in the future

My number is in the directory and email above.

We have secured the galley operations for other than specific events and put away the grills for the winter. I anticipate we will be able to offer comparable service to the membership through our galley next season.

Again I would like to thank all who have helped make for an excellent and educational year. Especially the same crowd who continually step up and donate or volunteer time and effort to make everyone have an enjoyable experience. Please get involved and be an interactive member of your club. I know you will not be disappointed in your efforts.
pwelshct@sbcglobal.net

Tom Welsh, TYC Vice Commodore

Rear Commodore's Corner

As this is my final article as Rear Commodore, I would like to say: it has been a pleasure to be a club officer and I hope you all enjoyed the racing season as much as I did. I would like to thank the race participants for all their help over my two years as Rear Commodore. It has been a lot of fun to be a part of the racing program, learning about the intricacies of the club, and getting to know its many members. I look forward to my continued involvement. Also, the Queen Merry is now back in port with the help of Greg Reese, (next year's Rear Commodore), Jim Rayburn, and Richard Webber.

We plan to build a little cover for the Queen next year to keep race the committee members out of the elements. Thanks again for a great two years. See you at the club.

Ted Paulsen, TYC Rear Commodore

**Please Note Below: Ted Paulsen's Email Address
for Future Mainsheet Submissions**

Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members

At the General Membership meeting the following were elected to serve in 2009:

Officers:

Commodore - Walt Pratt
 Vice Commodore - Tom Welsh
 Rear Commodore - Greg Reese
 Secretary - Carlos Mojica
 Treasurer - Calvin Brouwer
 Measurer - Bob Geary

Executive Committee - 2009 & 2010:

Bruce Costick
 Steven Smith
 Mike Passero

Executive Committee Members whose terms continue through 2009 are:

Lou Leverone
 Jim Avery
 Keith Gagne

Membership Committee

This being our last Mainsheet for the year 2008 and the last one for our Mainsheet Editor, Greg Reese, (whom we thank for doing such a fantastic job) I will provide you with a short synopsis of the year.

We added 18 new senior members to our Club, along with 5 new Beach members. In Sept. and Oct. we welcomed Tim and Sheila Appleton and Paul and Grace Plourd.

We currently have six applications in the works, one of which will be interviewed in early December; Christopher and Stacey Silvestri. Chris is the nephew of a Past Commodore, Errol Silvestri, who now lives in sunny Florida and also Past Vice Commodore, Carolyn Leuze.

Although the weather has chased us and our boats out of the water, we are still looking for new members to join our TYC family. Once again the Membership Committee would like to thank you for your help in supporting us with new and potential members.

We wish you a wonderful holiday season and hope to see you at the upcoming 2008 social events.

Jackie Fisher, TYC Membership Committee Chair

From the Measurer

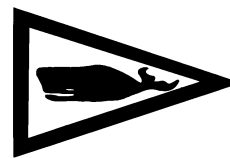
As the season winds down and thought is given to new Sails, please remember that we need to reflect this on your handicap certificate. For those of you that have had a sail measured before, you know that this is not a big chore provided that the sails are off the boat. For new sails, you can facilitate this exercise by having your sail maker measure and mark your sails. This eliminates a measurement appointment in the spring. If you do have your sailmaker do the measurements, please have him document this data on their letterhead and forward that information to me.

If you are thinking of replacing your asymmetric spinnaker, you should be aware that ECSA modified the measurement requirements in 2007 for these sails. A-sail girth penalties are now treated the same as regular spinnaker penalties. That means that the maximum, unpenalized midgirth has been increased from 175% J to 180% J. Also note that in the past we prohibited oversized, pole-flown A-sails. The 2007 change now allows such oversized poles subject to the aforementioned penalty.

As noted in my report at the Annual TYC meeting this past month, there will be an additional ECSA change for non-spinnaker handicapped boats. Those with a roller furling headsail will receive an additional 3 sec credit provided that the roller furler meets certain requirements.

If there are any questions, please talk to your sail maker or give me a call.

Bob Geary, TYC Measurer

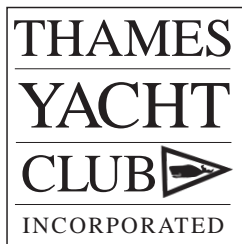


Mistakenly Picked-Up Item

In September one of the small children of our guests at TYC mistakenly picked up a plastic bag containing a yellow Everready flotation lantern and a Perko LED Navigation side light. The children thought the bag belonged to their parents. Anyway, the bag wound up in New Jersey until last weekend when it was returned to us.

I'm writing now to see if you would put an announcement in the Mainsheet about the retrieval of the bag with its contents. Hopefully the rightful owner will come forward to claim it. Please call Ron at (860) 429-6217.

Ron Rohner, ECHO



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