



Thames Yacht Club

Editor's Corner

Yesterday I was happy to notice on my calendar that the first day of spring is a bit more than two weeks away. And as this newsletter is going to press, it's snowing like mad and looks like we'll have to get the snow shovels out again. It's hard to imagine that not very long from now we will be sunning ourselves on the beach or in the cockpits of our boats.

But...it seems there is a lot to do before then. As we shake off the winter doldrums, please be aware that if there is anything you want to say or write in this newsletter all you need do is send it to my email focus_communications@msn.com.

Membership

Our newest members:

Mark Bancroft
Sean Muth

It The TYC membership committee would like to welcome a new member Mr. Mark Bancroft and a new beach pass holder Mr Sean Muth.

The bad news about the membership is that we lost 3 members in 2002 by deaths and have received 6 resignations so far in 2003. Our thanks to Frank Rossetta for leads on two new members and thanks to Lloyd McDonald for a lead on a prospective member. This is the time of the year to help search for new members.

Jim Avery—*Chairman Membership Committee*

From the Commodore

It's been a long cold winter, but Spring is definitely coming. I'm sure everyone has been messing about with their boats. Think Yacht Club! There are several interesting events coming up.

A race Management Seminar is being offered by ECSA on April 5 at Shennacosssett Yacht Club. This is great for anyone interested in helping with the race committee. Our annual meeting is April 9, with dinner and cocktails and on April 26, the TYC Marine Tag Sale.

Also, check out our updated website. It looks great. Check out the rest of the Mainsheet for details. I look forward to start of the new season and seeing everyone soon.

Judy Gibbs-*Commodore*

Youth Sailing

We have just hired our last instructor. Our instructors for the summer will be as follows: Samantha Repp, Head Instructor; Sage Farrar, Jr. Instructor; Julie Spear, Jr. Instructor; and Christopher Repp, Jr. Instructor. The registrations are beginning to come in and some of the classes are beginning to fill up so please look over the dates and send in your registration forms.

Lisa Huff-*Youth Sailing Director*

Notice

The April general membership meeting will be held on April 9th, instead of April 2nd, in order to accommodate implementation of by-laws revisions from last November. Details on inside pages.

TYC Marine Tag Sale

Is your basement looking like a marine store? TYC will be having our Marine Tag Sale this year on April 26th. Let us sell your extra items for you. Contact Stu Craig goombaysma@aol.com or Lisa Huff at jlczej@yahoo.com for details.

Rear Commodore's Corner

As I sit here looking at our latest snow storm cap off at about 18 or so inches (and knowing that I must work tomorrow and therefore am not able to go skiing) I start thinking about—what else? SAILING!!!!

Well, before I get into that let me introduce myself; my name is Lou Leverone and I am your new Rear Commodore replacing Stu Craig. I would like to thank Stu for all of his hard work over the past two seasons as Rear Commodore and also for the guidance and assistance he has given to me (and I'll probably need more) as I transition to this new position.

Over the past few seasons we have been fortunate to have a significant increase in membership and I would like to be sure that all of our new members (and existing members as well) get the opportunity to experience sailboat racing for themselves during our Spring and Summer Wednesday Night Race Series. This racing is quite informal and a great time is had by all who join in.

To that end I would like to make the following invitation/offer; To anyone who has a boat and would like to participate but is a little reluctant because they have either never raced their boat before or haven't done so in a long time and consider themselves a little rusty, we will do our best to place a race experienced skipper on your boat to coach you through the in's & out's of the racing process; rules, courses, starts, mark roundings, etc. Also, if you prefer to crew on one of our Wednesday night boats before you take the helm of your own boat, we will do our best to accommodate that as well. I let me know if you would like to get involved with our racing program and I'll do my best to help. It's GREAT FUN!!!!

Now, to all of you race hardened skippers out there who may, or may not, regularly race on Wednesday nights, please let me know if you would be willing to volunteer to help out our racers-to-be with some on the water coaching, or if you race your own boat would you be willing to take a new racer-to-be aboard for a race so they can see how it's done? Speak Up! This is a great way for you to participate in advancing the sport that we all love.

Now is the time to update your PHRF rating certificates. All certificates, including TYC certificates, must be renewed annually. If you plan on racing at any time this year get your application filled in now and submit it to our measurer, Bob Geary. A TYC certifi-

cate was included in last months MainSheet. If you are not planning to race in any ECSA events, the TYC certificate is all you will need to participate in our Wednesday night series.

A complete 2003 TYC Race Schedule is included in this edition, but I want to call your particular attention to our first event of the season; The Chili Bowl Series will take place on Monday, May 26, Memorial Day. First warning will be at 1300. This will allow the traditional cruisers to go away for most of the weekend and still get some racing in. We will run up to 4 short and 1 intermediate length races. The Chili Bowl Series is a non-spinnaker event and an excellent opportunity to get some starting practice in and to tune-up for the upcoming racing season.

It's not too early to think about volunteering for Race Committee duty. In fact I am looking for an additional *permanent* race committee person for this year's Wednesday night series. As our fleet gets larger, the more eyes & ears on the Queen the better.

As in the past, we will expect all boats to serve on the Race Committee at least once during the season. A signup list will be posted on the bulletin board. You can also notify me as to which date you prefer. We expect the skipper and at least one crewmember, preferably two, to serve on RC. If no one volunteers at least a week prior to a scheduled race then I will select a boat from those who have not served. Your boat will not be eligible to race the night you are serving on the RC. However, Race Committee duty will now count towards qualifying for a series score. Your RC duty day score will be an average of you series score and you will be able to drop or keep this score as you see fit. This takes away the penalty of having to count your RC day as a drop while those who choose not to serve on Race Committee get to drop any race they want.

The Queen Merry will most likely need some work done to her before the season begins and I am looking for work party volunteers. I have not yet had the chance to determine exactly what work needs to be done—but volunteer now anyway. I'm planning on the weekend of April 26 & 27. I'll do my best to get a work list published in the next *MainSheet*. In the meantime please let me know your availability for this important task.

Lou Leverone-**Rear Commodore**

Classified

For Sale:

Walker Bay-8 Dinghy—Great for row'n or tow'n. Can be sailed with opt. sailing kit. Used 2 seasons. \$325.00. Call Lou at 860-444-2623

2003 Cruise Schedule

The tentative summer cruise schedule is listed below. If you have any suggestions for dates, locations, or other events, let me know.

Thank You

John Huff—*Fleet Captain*

jhuff@myeastern.com

2003 THAMES YACHT CLUB SUMMER CRUISES (TENTATIVE SCHEDULE)

START OF THE CRUISING SEASON!!

Greenport (Townsend Marina)

Leave May 16th return May 18th

MEMORIAL DAY CRUISE

Block Island or Sag Harbor

Leave May 24th return May 26th

SUMMER CRUISE

Block Island, Cuttyhunk, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket

Leave June 27th return July 20th

JULY 4th CRUISE

Destination to be announced

Leave July 4th return July 6th



LABOR DAY CRUISE

Destination to be announced

Leave August 30th return September 1st

COLUMBUS DAY CRUISE

Mystic Seaport

Leave October 10th return October 13th

Vice Commodore's Corner

By the time you receive this mainsheet, the first social event, the St. Patrick's Day Party, will have taken place. I'll tell you all about it in the next newsletter.

Now we look forward to the Membership Meeting & Social. But, please note: the date has been changed from April 2 TO April 9 in order to offer the by-law changes to the members. We will be serving Chicken Cacciatora over pasta, with salad, Italian Bread, beer, wine and soda.

The cost is only \$7.00 for everything. We welcome appetizers and desserts, so let me know when you RSVP.

Don't forget, I always need help preparing the club for all events: cooking, decorating, setting tables and cleaning-up afterwards. REMEMBER, this is your club, please help make it the best it can be! To volunteer, my phone number is (860) 443-5968 or jmfisher@webtv.net.

Jackie Fisher—*Vice Commodore*

Executive Committee Meeting Date

The TYC Executive Committee Meeting in March will be held on March 25 at 1930 at the yacht club.

Jack Scaduto—*TYC Secretary*

Members' Weekend

With the ECSA Calendar now complete, Members' Weekend will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 15th, 16th and 17th. Mark your calendars now! You can be assured it will be all it was last year and hopefully more. Look for more information in future Mainsheets.

Basic Race Management Seminar

ECSA will be holding a Basic Race Management Seminar on Saturday, April 5th, at Shennecossett YC. It will commence at 0800 and conclude at 1730 and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Successful completion of this seminar gets you on the road to certification as a club race officer. It is also an excellent platform to learn how race committees work for those skippers and crews who don't wish to become certified but are most interested in learning our sport. The fee is a modest \$25. See the enclosed flyer to register.

Spring Membership Meeting and Dinner

The annual Spring Membership Meeting will be Wednesday, April 9th, at the Clubhouse. It will be preceded by a Chicken Cacciatore Dinner. Social Hour starts at 1800, Dinner at 1900 and the Meeting at 2000. See the enclosed flyer to make reservations. By-Laws revisions will be on the meeting agenda. This is a follow-up to those made at last November's Annual Meeting, wherein certain sections are being modified to accommodate those revisions. Spouses are welcome and the Commodore is looking forward to seeing you and starting off the season.

From the Measurer

Many of you are awaiting indication from ECSA regarding ECSA dues and PHRF application certificate. ECSA is planning to implement an electronic membership application and an electronic submittal of handicap data. This action will trigger your PHRF handicap assignment electronically. The mechanism to do this is in the final stages of testing and should be full up in a couple of weeks. You will receive instruction from ECSA shortly as to how-to activate this process.

Those of you planning to participate in TYC only events, can continue to do so with a TYC handicap form as indicated in last month's *Mainsheet*.

If there are any questions, please let me know.

Bob Geary —*Measurer*

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First Class Mail

Thames Yacht Club 2003 Race Schedule

Chili Series (Non-spinnaker)	May 26
Wednesday Night Racing:Spring Series	May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 25, July 2, 9
Wednesday Night Racing: Summer Series:	July 16, 23,30, Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27
110 Fleet 12 Invitational	June 21 & 22
Bradbury Memorial Race	July 4
Great New London Ocean Race	July 11
Governor's Regatta	July 19
TYC Optimist Regatta	August 1
Oscar Kerman	August 16
Chili Series(Non-spinnaker)	May 26
W. W. Meek Series	August 17
Commodore's Trophy Race	September 7
Ensign Hospice Regatta	September 20
Chowder Series (Non-spinnaker)	September 21, 28, October 5, 12,19, 26
Skipper's Night (Awards Dinner)	September 5