THAMES YACHT CLUB INCORPORATED

May, 2004

MAINSHEET

The Newsletter of Thames Yacht Club

Commodore's Corner

Sadly, we recently lost long time member and Past Commodore Bill Murray. He and his wife Nancy have given a lot to the club. His avid participation on the Wednesday night Race Committee will be notably missing.

On a happier note, we have several new members, and I hope everyone will come out to the Club's May 28 Commissioning to meet and welcome them.

Your Club officers have been busy arranging for a great sailing season. But first we need to shift the facility back to its summer stance. That is, take down the snow fences, clean the beach, set up the pier, repair Queen Merry, spiff up the clubhouse, etc. If everyone can pitch in on clean up day, Saturday morning, May 8, we can make short work of a good-sized list.
Lisa reports that she already has 132 slots filled in the junior sailing program. We are still trying to increase our 420 fleet, so be on the lookout for a decent used one.

Don from Grampy's will again be serving dinners on Wednesday nights. Mary has agreed to resume providing the custodial services as she is now going to college in Rhode Island.
Eric Jones, Commodore

Vice Commodore's Report:

Not much to report on this past month, but we plan to have the Porch Party on Friday, April 30th.
and the Tag Sale will be Saturday, May 1st. By the time you get this it should have taken place.

Deadline for materials to be included in the June issue of the MAINSHEET is Friday, May 21st at 4:00 P.M.

I can use a few hands to help clean the kitchen on "Clean-up-day" on Saturday, May 8th. Please call me if you would like to help out.

Our next event will be Commissioning Day on Friday, May 28, 2004. We ask members to come early, bring your boat into the dock and "Dress Your Ship". The annual formal opening will begin at 1830 (6:30 p.m.) out on the dock. New members will receive their welcome by the Commodore and members.

Cocktails and appetizers will start once the ceremony is over. A light buffet will be served later in the evening at a cost of $12.00 per member. Please RSVP before

(Continued on the next page)

Membership Committee

As we have a number of people requesting information and applying for membership, try to think of ways to let people know about TYC. If you are working on your boat, speak to the skipper next to you. You will be surprised how many have not heard of TYC and are presently looking for a club vs. a marina. Our clubs strength is our membership.

Please welcome the following new members. When you see a new face, please introduce yourself, and make them feel at home.
Gordon & Bethany Angell, New London,CT
Joanne Clarke, Willamantic, CT
Raymond & Janice Estell, Coventry
Tim & Paricia Hesney, Waterford, CT
Brian Williams of Kensington, CT
The following members have resigned:
Alan Citron, Manchester, VT.
Patrick Crotty, Quaker Hill, CT
Jim & Ginny Verdier, S. Deerfield, MA.
Stu Craig -Chairman, Membership Committee

May 24th to me at (860) 443-5968 or Jacfisher36@msn.com. I will also need volunteers for cooking, and bringing appetizers and desserts.

There will be Membership Meeting and Porch Party on Sunday, June 27, 2004, beginning when you can get there. Bring your own drinks and munchies. It is a fun get-together along with the informative membership meeting.

The social events have started, so let's use these times to get to know other members and help out your club by attending.

Jackie Fisher, Vice Commodore

Rear Commodore's Corner

TYC racing season is just a few weeks away and we're a little short on race entries. If you lost or misplaced the entry form from the last Mainsheet - not to worry - there's one included in this months edition as well. And don't forget to start the PHRF rating process for this season as well. Bob Geary tells me that there potential changes for everyone, so get those 2004 PHRF forms (either ECSA-LIS or TYC) filled out and sent to Bob as quickly as possible.

Race Committee - Looking for a few good people to compliment our regular race committee staff. This is a great way to get involved in the TYC racing program and learn a lot about what else goes on surrounding a sailboat race other than the sailing part. It's also great fun with great people. I'm looking for a few folks to help out during the Chili Bowl, being held on Memorial Day, and also the Wednesday night series that starts on Wednesday evening, June 1st. If anyone is interested in becoming a member of our race committee please contact me at louis_t_leverone@sbcglobal.net or call me at 860-712-6059.

Coming up on May 8th is our yearly TYC cleanup day. There's a few items that need taking care of on the Queen Merry that I'm hoping to get done that day as well. For those of you who don't know, the Queen Merry is our race committee raft.

The list things that need fix'n on the Queen as as follows:

* Replace damaged pieces of railing
* Inspect mooring bridle chain
* Paint mooring ball
* Inspect/adjust frame & cover rigging
* Repaint the Queen Merry sign

I should have most of the materials and some tools, so all that we need is you.

Lou Leverone, TYC Rear Commodore

From the Fleet Captain

The Cruising Season will start off with the first cruise to Greenport. We will be spending the night at Townsend's Marina. To make reservations call (631) 477-2000. (www.townsendmanorinn.com) We will be having Dinner at the Townsend Manor Inn at 1830 on May 22nd. Please let me know if you are interested.

2004 TYC Cruise Schedule

Greenport (Townsend Marina), Leave May 22
May 22 Dinner at Townsend Manor Inn at 1830
Return May 23

MEMORIAL DAY CRUISE

Block Island, Leave May 29 return May 31

SUMMER CRUISE

Block Island, Martha's, Vineyard, Newport
Leave June 26 return July 10/11

AUGUST CRUISE

Sag Harbor, Leave August 21 return August 22

LABOR DAY CRUISE

Destination to be announced
Leave September 4 return September 6

COLUMBUS DAY CRUISE

Mystic Seaport, Leave October 9 return October 11

John Huff, TYC Fleet Captain
jhuff@myeastern.com

Youth Sailing

The sailing season is fast approaching and our classes are filling up. For those of you that have not signed your children up, I encourage you to do so soon so that you may get the week that you want. We are now running our advertisement in The Day in their summer camp program section, this has generated a number of calls and many new students. I will be posting a list of the regatta dates on the Youth Sailing bulletin board so anyone that is interested in those, can mark their calendars now.

Lisa Huff, Youth Sailing and Publicity Chair

Help with our History

Jim Reyburn is writing a history of the club. If you have any anecdotes or color or black and white photos of club activities over the years, he'd appreciate hearing from you He's especially interested in club-related material on the 1938, 1944 and 1954 (Carol) hurricanes and other storms. You can reach him by phone at 860-442-2087 or by E-mail at jreyburn1@msn.com Mail address is 145 Shore Road, Waterford, CT 06385

Jim Reyburn

Cleanup Day Fun, Saturday May 8th

Hello. I'm your new House Committee Chairman and I need your help Saturday, May 8th during the 2004 spring cleanup. We have already repaired five pieces of ruptured piping in the galley and have the large refrigerator running again. The club looks pretty good, but there is always lots to do to make your club the way you want it. I have a list of projects turned over to me but I'm not sure how many of the items are already completed. I'll be doing a walk-through inspection at the next meeting of the Executive Committee and finalize the list in advance of Cleanup Day. Therefore I will not attempt to publish the work list here except for a request for an electrician to replace the outside light switch in the men's head and the guts to the light fixture outside the downstairs ladies room. The dishwasher is leaking, probably the result of water freezing in the pump. If I get a volunteer for that we can take a shot at fixing it, otherwise I'll call a repairman. There will be the usual list of cleanup items, removal of snow fences, scrub-a dub in the galley and heads and some painting items within the skill level of even the most tool-challenged. Lunch will be served. It's more fun than working alone on your boat, so join us.

Russell Carr, House Committee Chairman

TYC Members Honored at Off Soundings Annual Meeting

Several TYC members were recognized for being members of the Off Soundings Club for more than 30 years. Those honored with a special lapel pin were: Peter Brouwer, Bill Murray, Aborn Smith, Dick Steinhilber and Bob Welsh. Judy & Bob Gibbs' CAPRICORN received the NOR'EASTER TROPHY, for the best yearly performance for the 2003 season in class CR2. Capricorn and crew combined a 3rd in the spring series and a first in the fall win this award.

Judy Gibbs, Past Commodore

Dave Perry Presents- Position Your Boat to Win

The Mystic River Mudheads and ECSA are hosting a Dave Perry Seminar at the Coast Guard Academy on Wednesday May 12, 2004 from 1930 to 2130. Dave Perry is a renowned tactical expert and a humorous speaker. Anyone interested should go to the Mudheads website www.mudhead.org for more information and to sign up. The enrollment fee is $10.00 per person and pre- registration is necessary due to Coast Guard Academy security.

Judy Gibbs, Past Commodore

From the Treasurer:

At the April meeting the Executive Committee approved a motion to impose a 1% per month finance charge on all accounts receivable commencing June 1st. Finance charges will be compounded at the end of the month.

There are several dinghies stowed on the beach illegally (see House Rule 19). Generally these dinghies are interfering with the access to racks that are being rented. All dinghies are supposed to be stowed in racks which may be rented by members for $21.20 a year including sales tax. If you need a storage rack please contact the Treasurer, Walt Pratt, at 860 859-3964 or tyctreasurer@snet.net. There are also a few dinghies stowed on racks that have not been paid for. If you have an illegally stowed dinghy please remove it from the premises or make arrangements with the Treasurer for proper storage. Illegally stowed dinghies may be relocated.

Walter Pratt, TYC Treasurer

CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale

Ensign, Hull No. 910, Excellent condition
Sails: Racing condition--main, genoa, and blade.
(Shore) Cruising/practice--main, genoa, spinnaker, and storm jib.
Upgraded running and standing rigging, race-equipped (includes SailComp). Mast-step replaced and reinforced. All Schaefer or Harken hardware.
6 hp Evinrude outboard, new water pump, runs well.
Asking $6,750.
Contact Peter Schaefer:
(518) 674-8020, schaefer@well.com

For Sale

8' Puffin Rowing Dinghy, bright red
Awlcraft finish $350.00 or BO (860) 446-1731

For Rent:

Mooring Buoy #48 To Club members only..
250# for the Summer Season
Lee Highmore,(860) 443-7002

THAMES
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Tips to Follow for a More Effective Launch Service

By Jim Reyburn

Want to help make the club launch service the best on the Connecticut shoreline? Consider these tips:

o To hail the launch from your boat, use your VHF radio (Channel 71) if at all possible. If you can't raise the launch on the radio or you don't have a radio, give three short blasts on your horn.

o Get back to the launch when you get a response if only to let the operator know that you've heard him. " Most people use: "(Your boat name) standing by on 71." This verifies to the operator that you received his transmission.

o Be sure to keep your radio on for a while before pickup, if possible. Sometimes the launch operator runs into an unexpected delay and he'll radio that he'll be late.

o Unless it's a very slow day, don't ask for pickup at a certain time when you're dropped off. The launch might be busy then. Always radio or toot three when you're ready for pickup.

o Be completely ready to leave your boat before making a pick-up call. Sometimes the launch arrives to find that the outboard has to be lifted off the bracket and stowed or a sail cover still has to be put on, and so forth. This, of course, slows the launch service and it's unfair to others waiting for a ride.

o Try to get your crew or guests together to make one trip to your boat. That saves the launch from having to make repeated trips with one or two crew members.

o Always sit on the launch thwarts, not the gunnels. Wave action or a sudden motion could hurl gunnel riders overboard. The possible result: serious injury.

o Wait until the launch comes to a full stop before disembarking. Hopping from a moving launch can cause real problems. It's not easy to sail with a leg in a cast or an arm in a sling.

o Remember that children under 12 must wear a life jacket when riding the launch .

Employing these tips will help assure getting back and forth to your boat in the safest, and most efficient manner possible.