

# MAINSHEET

The Newsletter of Thames Yacht Club



## Commodore's Corner

I was very pleased to see the fall membership meeting so well attended. The evening's festivities were well coordinated, thanks to Jackie and her support crew. The meeting itself produced an approved 2005 budget and held the costs per member to this year's level. The meeting culminated with the election of next year's Officers and Directors.

I would like to thank the Executive Board, Committee Chairman, and all the members who supported me through my first year as Commodore. I have learned a lot this year that will help with decisions next year. Please let any board member know if you have any comments or suggestions before we plan next year's events. Clean up day's participation was great. We got a lot accomplished and filled the dumpster. The snow fences are up and the dock water is secured. However, the club will remain functional (heat, water, and bathrooms) until sometime after the December Holiday party. Thanks to all who came down and dug in and helped Russ and Bevin.

Reminder- mooring balls are not supposed to be left on the beach over the winter. Hope to see all of you at the December Holiday Party. (see Jackie's flyer).

**Eric Jones, TYC Commodore**

## Vice Commodore's Report:

If it weren't for the following members, the Oktoberfest would not have been so successful. Joe Dlubac, Lorena Jones, Lynn and Jim Londregan, JeanAnn and Jack Scaduto, and Chuck Wargo....thank you so much for all your help, over and over again. We had approximately 45 members who attended the social, and I also thank those who brought lots of yummy appetizers and desserts. Many helped clean up after the evening ended, and surely that is well appreciated by all of

us who had been there all day.

There were lots of compliments on the buffet, so those who missed it will probably have a chance to attend next year. We would love to have more attendees, especially the new members. All of our social events give everyone the opportunity to meet each other and become part of the camaraderie. Recently a new member said the camaraderie was the main reason for their joining TYC; this is always nice to hear. I must tell you we have a wonderful time while cooking and decorating the Club for these socials and we'd love to have more of you join in. It's easy to do...just call me when you get the next announcement and ask to help.

Which brings to my attention....the next event will be the Holiday Party on December 5, 2004. See attached flyer. Call me to help!! It will be on a Friday, so we will be cooking and decorating all that day.

See you at the Holiday Party.

**Jackie Fisher, Vice Commodore**

## "Sundaes with Santa"

**TYC, Dec. 12th at 2 -4 p.m.**

Drink Hot Chocolate, make your own Sundaes, and decorate Cookies.

It is for member's children, friends or relatives of. All are welcome.

There will be a Santa Claus to give out presents to the children.

You are asked to bring a wrapped gift for your own child/children.

**RSVP Laura Davis at 860 (536-7095)  
or [laura\\_davis@comcast.net](mailto:laura_davis@comcast.net).**

**[www.thamesyachtclub.org](http://www.thamesyachtclub.org)**

## Rear Commodore's Corner

Well, the 2004 TYC racing season is over, the Queen Merry is resting comfortably in her winter slip and this will be the last Mainsheet of the 2004 season. The Chowder Series was completed on Sunday, October 31 and the racing during this series was - as expected - the best of the season. Please see the Final Chowder Results insert in this issue of the Mainsheet and also posted on the TYC web site.

Writing this RC's Corner is my last official duty as your Rear Commodore. Lloyd McDonald will be assuming the duties of Rear Commodore as of January 1st, 2005. Congratulations to Lloyd!!!!

The last two years of serving as your Rear Commodore has been a great and rewarding experience for me and has opened my eyes to the importance of having TYC members volunteer for service to the club. Our club continues to operate effectively only when members step up and volunteer their services as much as possible. I was the direct beneficiary of the help of many members during my two years of servicing and I thank all of those who helped. It was invaluable!!!

Have a great off-season and please do all you can to help out Lloyd, our new Rear Commodore.

**Lou Leverone, TYC Rear Commodore**

## TYC Fleet 32 Force 5

News: the fleet had pick up your boat race on at TYC 9/25. On 10/9 the Lake Hayward Fall Regatta. The Fleet is open to any TYC member. If you have an interest to demo/race a boat, Please contact Fleet Captain: David Costanzo 860-546-6039 dsc22@snet.net or Bob Cullen 860-537-1085 rjcullen@snet.net 2005 Series: June- July- Aug. is planned.



The Force 5 Class Association is planning a Mid Winters: Key Largo FLA Feb 24, 25,26, 2005 <http://www.sailing-source.com/force5/>

**David Costanzo, Force 5 Fleet Captain**

## Mooring Committee Reminder

The end of the season is upon us. Please remember you need to swap your summer float for a winter marker. Mark Greer will be available to help in this regard, 860.439.0871.

Anyone wishing to buy, sell, or trade your mooring, let me know. We have new members already looking for equipment for next year. Enjoy your off-season!

**Guy Hannum, Mooring Chairman**

## 48TH Chowder Series

Tom Welsh, racing the International 110 **de ja vu**, won this year's Chowder Series taking home the Little Brown Jug as well as 1st place in Class B. 1st place in Class A went to Shennecossett YC's Reinhard Sarges, owner and skipper of the Pearson 30 **Salud**.

13 boats raced the non-spinnaker Fall classic over a 6 week period beginning September 26th and concluding October 31st. The first 3 races were sailed in light to moderate air and the final 3 races in moderate to heavy air. The best four races out of the six were scored.

Welsh tallied 6 points for the Series with three first places and a third. Sarges tallied 4 points on four first place finishes. While Salud had the better score, de ja vu won the Jug because it can only go to a TYC member.

Second places went to Jack Law and **Bandit** in Class A with 9 points and Eric Jones and Walt Pratt and **Teamwork** in Class B with 6 points.

Third places were awarded to Cliff and Jackie Fisher with **Rusty-Nail** in Class A with 9 points and Ted Paulsen with **Sundance** in Class B with 12 points.

**Cal Brouwer**



**Rui Varandas** skippers **Slingshot**, his C&C through the heavy air during the latter end of the TYC Chowder Series

## As you know, Clean-up day was Saturday, Novemeber 5th at the Club

I want to THANK those who helped me clean, scub, scrub, scrape and scrape some more the very very greasy stove and deepfryer in the galley. The thanks goes to Judy Gibbs, Eric Jones, new member Judy Palmisano and Jean Ann and & Jack Scaduto. Judy P also cleaned other areas of the galley. It was great seeing the new members help out today. Like I said above....we have fun while working! Spring Clean-up is just around the corner and we will more help then.

**Jackie Fisher, Vice Commodore**

## MAINSHEET EXTRA

# A typical or atypical Wednesday Night at Thames Yacht Club

Corinne Wargo

English I, Writing Sample, Sept. 25, 2003

Silence, the mid summer sun rose from its slumber as the crew of Bandit, the J-24 sailboat, awoke. Gradually the crew left their houses; the dew slowly evaporated as the hum of their car motors began. They were off, to the Yacht Club. By nine, the crew met in the clubhouse wiping the dust the sandman had left that night from their eyes as the skipper entered the vessel into the race. Quietly the crew assembled on the launch's slip and prepared to board. One by one they climbed on to the small craft, and sat as the excitement within their very souls began to rise.

Finally they reached the orange hull of Bandit, ready to take on what the wind and currents gave them. The crew hustled about the boat tying lines and raising the sails, they were soon ready to drop the mooring into the blue gray ripples of the Thames River.

The brilliant crisp white main sail pulled the boat, the crew made sure they were ready to race as they glided by the Queen Merry, the committee boat to check the marks. Slowly the skipper headed into the summer breeze as the crew pulled yet another dazzling sail up off the deck. The sail fluttered in the breeze before being pulled in by the after guard. Before the crew knew it the first 2 classes of boats had started and soon it would be time for the racing class to commence.

The skipper skillfully positioned Bandit just so that she would cross the starting line as the clock struck zero. The crewmembers on the fore deck began counting down, the tension among the crew stiffened, 5..4..3..2..1! Beep! The starting horn went off as Bandit and the other racing craft began.

The boats paraded down the river, Bandit in the lead! The crew tacked superbly, after a whole summers worth of work they were probably the best crew racing. The water streamed down the sides of the boat splashing onto the deck and crew every so often. As Bandit sailed down the river Goombay Smash, a J-30 sailed up from behind, though the crew was disappointed, the skipper reminded them that Goombay Smash owed the tiny Bandit time for it was bigger.

The wind shifted, as Bandit and crew neared the first mark, a slight breeze filled the sails and danced the polka with the crew's hair. Bandit tacked around the green buoy and lost time on the other J-24 Ambitious, whose aging team was experienced but not as clever as the Banditos.

As the crew reached the second mark they had prepared

a new sail to be raised. Bandit turned around the mark and a great masked sail appeared, the Banditos were flying their colors. The orange shute filled with air and Bandit flew away from Ambitious who had twisted their spinnaker. As more boats rounded the mark the race became like a parade in New Orleans on Mardi Gras. Colored sails majestically billowed in front of the sailboats and gently pushed them forward.

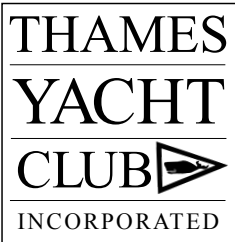
Bandit was flying, the crew striving to sail the boat to her best ability. It was working; Bandit was gaining on Goombay Smash, and the green spinnaker of Ambitious was far behind the luminous black mask of Bandit! The crew was overjoyed, yet before they knew it they had approached the last mark.

The crew whom mastered the tack where about ready to win as they rounded the last buoy in the race. Then disaster struck, the fore deck delayed the raising of the jib and slowed the mighty Bandit down. Heart heavy Bandit continued, hoping to still have a chance. The clever skipper had the after guard pull the jib in tight, Bandit accelerated. The skipper weaved the boat in and out of others until Bandit was second only to Goombay Smash. Even then he pushed Bandit harder until she was sailing at maximum speed; Bandit and Goombay Smash were neck and neck! Bang the gun was fired. Goombay Smash had finished first.

Bandit and her crew seemed melancholy as they put away the sails and lines they had taken out that very morning. Even on the launch and when they watch the waves play tag with the shore as they walked up to the clubhouse something did not seem right. For all they effort they put into racing today it seemed as if they should have won. The tired, sun-kissed Banditos all sat down on the porch of the clubhouse to hear the scores.

A voice suddenly came over the loud speaker, "And now to announce the placings for today's race, Class B racing boats, first place... Bandit..." and with that rest of the announcements were interrupted abruptly by the commotion made by the crew of Bandit they had won due to the fact that they had a handicap. As the blazing summer sun set and the cool moon rose the Banditos rejoiced for their hard work had paid off.

The crewmembers went home, the day was a success, the team would forever be the winning Banditos. As they shut their eyes overjoyed, they began their day in silence, as sailors and now they are ending it in silence and champions.



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The TYC 2004 Officers,  
Executive Committee members,  
Committe Chairpersons and Employees would like  
to extend their gratitude for making this past year  
a fine one indeed.

We would like to also like to take this opportunity  
to wish you and yours a  
Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!