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February 2019

The Latest News from ECYC!



View from the Bridge

Dear Fellow Corinthians!

Welcome to the first issue of the Bell 8 Newsletter for 2019! We celebrated the end of 2018 with a great Raclette Dinner at the club, which was the perfect ending to a busy year.

January was not exactly quiet, either, as it is the month when we traditionally give our club a make-over. Thanks to a large group of volunteers we

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IMPORTANT DATES:

- **February 1st: Galley & Club re-open!**
- **February 2nd: ECSA Planning Meeting**

were able to do all the required maintenance in record time this year. I am very grateful to everyone who lent a hand! The club is looking great and awaiting our February 1st opening just around the corner!

We are also very excited that our dedicated Galley Search Committee headed by Vice Commodore Chris Morano was able to sign a temporary galley contractor to start serving meals on February 1st. Gourmet Galley will be with us in February and March, giving us more time to select the best possible caterer for the long term. Please make Gourmet Galley's chef welcome and support the efforts that have gone into ensuring that we have continuous dining service. Please refer to VC Chris' column on the right for more details.

During the month of January we always receive a number of resignations and requests for reclassification to non-resident. Some members are moving away, have experienced changes in circumstances or cite other reasons. Our membership numbers fluctuate at this time of year, and we need to make up for these changes by acquiring new members. The number of active members is the foundation for our budget calculations. We are discussing a number of strategies to create a membership drive this spring. We can only accomplish this with your help. Invite your friends to the club, show them what we are about, and let them know that membership in ECYC truly has its privileges!

We are also planning a number of member events this year that may attract more attention. You may have noticed a screen being installed above our fireplace (thank you, Pete Simms!). We are planning to hold a variety of presentations at the club, so stay tuned for more details!

Please feel free to contact me or any member of Bridge and Board if you have any comments, questions or concerns. I plan to be available for a quick chat at the club on most Friday nights!

Ruth Emblin

- **February 16th: Video Presentation**
- **February 23rd: Privateers' Bash at the CRM**
- **March 2nd: Chili, Soup & Stew Cook-Off**
- **March 9th: Essex go Bragh Parade**
- **March 23rd - 24th: ECSA US Sailing Advanced Race Management Seminar**
- **April 6th: Caribbean Night**
- **April 13th: 35th Spring Commissioning & Reception**

Refer to our event calendar on our website
at www.essexcorinthian.org for event details!

VICE COMMODORE'S UPDATE

While the Club has been closed this past month, there have been a lot of issues that were addressed.

Over the past few weekends, a hearty group of volunteers converged on the clubhouse to perform an extensive cleaning. On the first Saturday, I was amazed at the amount of volunteers who showed up with cleaning materials in hand. As a result, the Club will reopen looking great! I am sure all of you join me in thanking all of those who helped.

Even though we are in the middle of winter, sailing will restart next month with the commencement of the Spring Frost Bite Series. Our Race Committee has been working hard as well. As Race Chair Robinson reports in this edition, many sailing events are scheduled in 2019. By next month's Bell 8, Co-Chair Toby Doyle may have to step up and provide the report as Bill will most likely be changing diapers after the birth of his first child in February!

The biggest issue currently affecting the Club is the

ECYC Commodore #21

Email: commodore@essexcorinthian.org



ENTERTAINMENT UPDATE:

Ahoy, Members of Essex Corinthian Yacht Club!

Hopefully you are staying warm and enjoying these beautiful New England winter months. We are looking forward to a fun and enjoyable 2019 at ECYC. Our entertainment committee is working on the calendar of events for this year.

We are planning a **video presentation** on February 16th, exact details will be shared shortly. This will kick off many future presentations, simplified by the fact that the club now has a drop-down screen and projector available!

Our first major event will occur on March 2nd which will be our **Annual Chili, Soup and Stew Cook-Off**. We will publish more details shortly. We may also add Raclette to the menu, to allow those of you who missed our New Year's Eve dinner to sample this dish. Stay tuned for more information. We hope to see you at this event to sample and enjoy the many delicious creations.

Looking forward, our **Caribbean Night** event is happening on April 6th. It will be a fun event to welcome the spring season. Theme and details will be coming soon!

We hope to see you at the club!

Nancy Simms & Pat Atkinson

Co-Chairs Entertainment

Email: nancy-events@essexcorinthian.org or

pat-events@essexcorinthian.org

selection of a new caterer to provide our galley services. During the past month a galley selection committee has been working hard to resolve this issue. A Request for Proposals has been distributed to caterers in the area. There has been response with prospective candidates asking questions and touring the facility. As this is a very important decision, the selection committee decided to seek a temporary provider for the months of February and March.



I am pleased to report that an agreement has been reached with Gourmet Galley, a well-known and experienced catering business, based in North Stonington. **On opening day, February 1st, the Galley will be open for lunch and dinner!**

Throughout February and March, food services will be provided following the same schedule, as in the past. **I encourage all of you to come to the Club on Friday the 1st and sample the servings of our new chef.** Check Gourmet Galley out at the following link; <https://gourmet-galley.com/> . Check out this video, to learn more about this great company <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALcOn-M-1Tk&feature=youtu.be> . In addition to galley services, Gourmet Galley is available for catering jobs at ECYC or other locations.

Finding a provider for our food services is not an easy task. We are small club. Our attendance at meal times is sporadic. Having discussed this with a multitude of caterers over the past month, I have heard concerns that it might not be economically feasible for some of them to take on this responsibility. **In light of this, I cannot encourage you enough to utilize the galley as much as you can.** We all know our clubhouse is special. Add to that new delicious food options and you will have a perfect place to enjoy a great meal with fellow



The club looking truly spectacular for our New Year's Eve Dinner

club members and friends. An increase in meal attendance will help in attracting the best permanent food provider for our future galley and catering needs. Please know that our search for that special company will continue during the next two months. 'Till then: Bon Appétit!

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Morano

Vice Commodore

Email: vicecommodore@essexcorinthian.org



SAVE THE DATE!



LADIES ON DECK FEBRUARY 19TH

We are looking for a host for our first monthly ladies' get together in 2019 on Tuesday, February 19th, starting at 6:00 pm.

These casual get-togethers are the perfect opportunity to meet your fellow ECYC Ladies, and make new friends.

Bring friends, bring an appetizer to share! BYOB.

If you are interested in hosting (it's very easy, just be there at 6 pm to welcome everyone!), please contact Ruth Emblin at commodore21@essexcorinthian.org

RACE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Yes, it's the beginning of February, and yes, there's a cord of



REAR COMMODORE'S UPDATE:

While this is not really club-related I thought I'd share this with you this month, as we all are getting cabin fever and this may be something that interests you.

One of the best kept secrets (in order to limit overwhelming demand I suspect) in Essex are the Griswold Inn Art Tours, which are conducted during the slow winter months. The tour is a bit of a misnomer as while you learn about various paintings, you also learn about the history of Essex, prohibition and how the Inn managed to stay open during that period, and the fascinating story behind the Norman Rockwell drawing in the Wine Bar (the "draft" for the only nautical scene that Rockwell painted). The tours are led by owner Geoffrey Paul, expert on the Inn's museum-quality collection. The tours are free, though reservations are required as space is limited (call several weeks ahead, but if they tell you they are full, show up anyway). The tours are on the following Sundays: February 10th, March 10th, and April 14th. Gather at 3 pm in the Wine Bar for a complimentary snack. The event begins promptly at 3:30 and lasts about 90 minutes. I highly recommend this tour!

firewood stacked in front of my boat; but it's never too early to start thinking about our regattas and how you can help!

We are finalizing schedules ahead of the February ECSA meeting but our regatta calendar is shaping up like so:

May 4th: CT River One-Design Leukemia Cup

July 7th: EYC - ECYC RTB Race

Aug 4th: EYC - ECYC RTB Race

September 21: Cross Sound Challenge

October 5th: EYC Willets Race

October 12th: ECYC Clark Race

October 19th: PYC Birch Race

If you'd like to help our team in hosting these events, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We have a proud racing heritage with a deep roster of accomplished sailors and enthusiastic volunteers, and we'd like to welcome you to be part of the action in 2019!

Bill Robinson

Race Committee Chair

Email: race@essexcorinthian.org



Tom Atkinson

Rear Commodore

Email: rearcommodore@essexcorinthian.org



A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER:

We are working on closing out the Fiscal Year 2018 and will post financials as soon as they are ready. Ruth Emblin has been working diligently creating a streamlined, effective, accounting procedure and process within our existing accounting software to better represent our financials.

Our building is has one of the best views in the area; but she has age on her and is costly to maintain. We urge any member who has ideas for efficiency or cost saving thoughts to please share them with us.

In light of the Galley changes and other considerations we will present a revised 2019 budget shortly. If you have any specific questions please feel free to contact me at 860-767-5011 or by email susanamalan@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Malan

Treasurer

WATERFRONT UPDATE:

This year we look forward to our summer Tuesday night racers taking on Thursday night spinnaker racing. As with last year year, with those who have benefited from our racing programs will continue to give back by sharing with those learning the

GALLEY UPDATE:



ropes. We also are working to offer more formal opportunities for members and members-to-be to be introduced to all that our fleet and waterfront offers. Such expanded waterfront programs will dovetail nicely with the Connecticut River LLS benefit regatta, plans for which all one design fleet have been accelerated (sign up to help!).

Summer evening racing is the best place to be introduced to racing in our fleet, and we are expecting a strong return of last year's racers for frostbiting, but I do know there are experienced racers that do qualify to frostbite, in our membership, that have yet to sign up for racing in our fleet. There are others not yet in our membership that might also be interested, have them get in touch about our racing opportunities too!

Contact me at fleetcaptain@essexcorinthian.org about our sailing programs.

Those interested in sharing their own expertise, experience, or interest, in any subject relating to vessels or the places that they go, should also talk to me about expanding our Tuesday evening "talks" that we started last year (to share our run ins with the racing rules).

I am proud to report that **Cindy Gibbs with Laura Nunno** and others in the open boat for crew, and **Sam Berman with Tom Atkinson**, scored second and third respectively in Fall Frostbiting season results.

Last call to contact me for spring frostbiting is 1 pm Super Bowl Sunday (Feb. 3rd). Those with any questions or thoughts may meet then at the club. We will have a formal meeting at 7 pm Friday February 8th at the club to start planning the team scheduling, as well as the required repairs, required cleaning, and launching program for February. In the meanwhile those interested may want to arrange to request sailing as a team when possible. Also please help me to list any repairs required that you know of. We usually race the first week in March (Aeolus willing). I am glad to

We look forward to the culinary creations by **Chef John Wood of Gourmet Galley** during February and March! **He will start with lunch on February 1st, followed by our first Friday Night Dinner of the year!** Please note, menus will be posted online and shared via e-blast again beginning the week of February 4th.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions please contact our Galley Liaison at the email address shown below.

Chris Morano

Galley Liaison

Email: galleyliaison@essexcorinthian.org

Winter Galley Hours:

Lunch:

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday:
11.30 am to 2.00 pm

Dinner:

Friday: 5.30 pm to 9.00 pm

Brunch:

Sunday: 11.00 am to 2.30 pm - special brunch hours on selected holidays!

In the future, menus will be available at www.essexcorinthian.org/dining.html

NEWS & NOTES:

IMPORTANT:

Please respond to an **upcoming e-blast with your contact details so we can produce a printed Member & Fleet Roster** this year! Deadline for the update is February 15th.

PLEASE NOTE:

Pursuant to the motion approved at the 2018 Annual Meeting the "Galley Minimum" has been renamed "**Monthly Minimum**" to clearly reflect the

report that the covers and paint jobs have held up well through the recent storms.

Jon Gibbs

Fleet Captain

Email: fleetcaptain@essexcorinthian.org



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

Hello, my fellow ECYC Members:

As we shake off the rust of winter and begin to shift into spring mode, a new sailing season is just around the corner. Hopefully, a few of you are enjoying some winter skiing or soaking up some sun in Florida.

This is a rough time of year for membership reporting, however even though the numbers are down (as usual) in January the membership committee has been busy brainstorming to come up with new ideas for growing our membership this year (Spring). One is offering mid-week lessons or “demo rides” to both guests, family and friends of members along with local club members (PYC / HCYC) who are interested in trying out the Ideal 18’ sailboats prior to joining the club. A few enthusiastic people have offered to share the days and times we have been discussing offering these opportunities.

We are also looking at having a membership drive with special terms; stay tuned for more information as the committee needs to fine-tune the ideas and present them to the board for approval.

If you have any new ideas or thoughts regarding membership please feel free to contact me or anyone on our board.

fact that this fee directly benefits the club, not the galley. It is a “keep the lights on” fee that indemnifies the club against losses if members do not use the dining services and charge their club account a minimum of \$30 per month during the months of February through December.

DID YOU KNOW?

EARLY WINTER HOURS ARE IN EFFECT AT THE CLUBHOUSE:

- Tuesday, Thursday 9 am to 5 pm
- Wednesday, Friday 9 am to 9 pm (Office closes at 5 pm)
- Saturday 11 am - 5 pm (Galley open for lunch/Office closed all day)
- Sunday 11 am - 5 pm (Galley open for brunch/Office closed all day)
- Monday CLOSED

Note: Private meetings may be scheduled after-hours, except on Mondays. Please contact Jean Little for details.

NO SMOKING AT ECYC:

The clubhouse, the decks, stairs and the surrounding dock areas are **non-smoking areas**. Please remind your guests of this restriction, it is part of a facility-wide prohibition of open flames.

WEBSITE:

All of our events, weekly menus and announcements, as well as archive copies of the Bell 8 Newsletter are available online at our website at www.essexcorinthian.org!

SHIP'S STORE



Remember - Spring is coming!

Cheers,

Cindy Gibbs

Membership Chair

Email: membership@essexcorinthian.org



Ship's Store Online

Have you checked out our new Online Ship's Store yet?

While we will still have some inventory in our in-house store, this is your new direct link to purchasing custom-embroidered sportswear and other items featuring the ECYC burgee! Order your spring gear now to ensure timely delivery! **Every time you purchase something, ECYC will get a commission, which, in turn will benefit the club and its members!**

Copy and paste this link or click on the button above: www.team1newport.com/Essex-Corinthian-Yacht-Club/departments/1032/



USCG ice breaker out on the river. While the ice pile-ups have not been as extensive as last year, the freezing temperatures have caused the river to freeze up again. A visible reminder that it is still mid-winter.

The Essex Corinthian Yacht Club's Bell 8 Newsletter is a monthly publication issued by the Essex Corinthian Yacht Club of Essex, CT.

For general questions on ECYC please refer to our website at www.essexcorinthian.org, email us at ecyc@essexcorinthian.org, or snail-mail to

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