

Essex Corinthian Yacht Club



THE ESSEX CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB

OFF-SHORE

IDEAL 18 FLEET NEWS

Fall Frostbiting has brought challenging conditions and many cancelled races, all our Ideal 18 skippers have won races and experienced the opposite. With two weeks left, Cindy Gibbs with Sue Watts in Dauntless have put together a great season, and, only four points behind Carter Gowrie, have a very good shot at the prize. Tom Atkinson managing our open boat (EYC Enterprise standing in) is also still close five points behind Cindy. Yours truly with Priscilla Robinson in Nautilus has had some trouble getting off the line this season, but climbed back to tie Ed Birch for the next spot.



We are happy to report that Dragonfly is back together and expect her to perform better than ever after encountering some obstructions! Thanks to Tom, Jeff Going, and the Board for making that happen. Exercise of caution by all skippers, consultation of charts, and observance of channel fairways through the mooring fleet is requested. Also make sure that anchor tackle is ready for immediate deployment at all times.

Qualified skippers and crews, or those who would like to become so, should contact Fleet Captain Tom Atkinson about remaining opportunities in frostbiting. Teams of a skipper, crew, and alternate crew, signed up before the season begins, get first shot at regular scheduling.

A boat remains fully rigged and available everyday through December 6 for use by member skippers and their guests, providing that they have been pre-qualified to do so by Tom Atkinson or Cindy Gibbs. All crews and guests must sign the waiver and contact information forms, and sign out on the bulletin board in the River Room as well!

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **November 24th:** Club closed for Thanksgiving
- **November 25th:** Holiday Decorating Get-Together
- **November 27th:** Trees in the Rigging & NEW Holiday Bazaar
- **December 3rd:** Decommissioning, Annual Meeting, Awards & Member Reception
- **December 11th:** Special Holiday Brunch
- **December 18th:** Last Brunch in 2016 & Corinthian Youth Holiday Party
- **December 19th:** Galley closes for the rest of the year
- **December 31st:** New Year's Eve Party
- **January through February 1st 2017:** Club closed for maintenance; reciprocal dining privileges at OLCC



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

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



Fellow Corinthians!

As the end of my first year as Commodore fast approaches, I look back over all of the fun events we have had. Our various club functions have for the most part been sold out and I feel our Corinthian Spirit continues strong moving into the New Year. **I want to give a special thanks to our terrific Bridge, Board and Committee folks for all of the many hours spent making our club run smoothly for another year.**

Jon Gibbs

If you would like to find out more about our Ideal 18 sailing programs, please contact

Tom Atkinson

Fleet Captain

Email: fleetcaptain@essexcorinthian.org

Rear Commodore's Update:

Boy, did this Summer and Fall fly by and yet, the Club continues to be very active. From the fine dining, brave hearted sailing (by our Frost Biters), to the most unique Commodore's Ball that I have ever seen, the advent of Fall has had something for all.

As we close in on the upcoming decommissioning, there is time to assess what went well and where there can be improvements. The Board of Governors has been doing just that. This has included looking into the future and planning new opportunities for the membership as well as maintaining the facility and the financial foundation of the Club.

Over the past year, I have been amazed at how ECYC has been able to offer so much at a very reasonable price, compared to other organizations in the area. This is achieved as a result of two main factors, the hard work of volunteers and our main income source, membership dues.

Both of these are in a constant state of flux. While there are many duties required to keep the clubhouse running and maintained, there are hard working members who have given many hours of their time to meet that challenge. But time, as well as age, takes its toll and there is always a need for others to step in to assist. By doing so, you can help to avoid additional expenses and help in keeping the annual dues at a reasonable rate.

A healthy membership level is also vital, as it provides the Club with the financial resources to keep our dues in check. As in any organization, this is always fluid as members come and go. So, if you don't have the time to volunteer for a Club committee, you can still contribute by finding and proposing new members for your Corinthian Family.

There are many plans being considered for next year and I encourage all members to contribute any ideas they may have.

Finally, I thank you for the honor of serving you as "The Rear" and wish you Happy Holidays! Stay warm and see you in the Spring!

Chris Morano

Rear Commodore

Email: rearcommodore@essexcorinthian.org



Vice Commodore's On-Shore & Entertainment Update:

When you pull up to our club please remember to admire the **beautiful holiday wreath** that for many years has set the holiday tone for our clubhouse. Special thanks to **Joseph and Judith Walier**, who have shared this with us for so many years. I also want to mention another holiday tradition that **Katherine Berry** organizes each year and that is **decorating the inside of our club** along with setting up the Christmas Tree and Menorah. Great job!

Decommissioning and Annual Meeting:

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 3rd for our 2016 Decommissioning Ceremony and Annual Meeting, starting at 4 pm sharp. A BYOB member cocktail reception will follow immediately after. I hope to see you there.

Back by popular demand we will have a New Year's Eve event this year. Details and sign-up information will follow shortly. Remember to sign up early so we can plan ahead and make our committee members job a little easier. Anyone interested in helping with this event please give me a call or contact our Vice Commodore Ruth Emblin.

In January all ECYC members and their guests are welcome to dine at Old Lyme Country Club using reciprocal privileges that each of our clubs have again for this January and February. In February, please remember to recognize and welcome the members from OLCC to our facility.

Please remember new members are always welcome at the Commodore's Table!

Have a Great Holiday Season and a Happy 2017!

Steve Rodstrom

Commodore



Trees in the Rigging

GALLEY NEWS

The **Coastal Cooking Company** has served many wonderful meals this year, and we are glad that we will be continuing our fruitful cooperation for another year. The galley contract was renewed in November. Thanks to Ed and Monique and their staff for keeping us all well-fed and happy!

Even though it's feeling more like winter, there are still many opportunities to enjoy the club. Come enjoy the Trees in the Rigging while warming up with something from the galley. This time of year the club is a great place to bring friends to share a festive meal while watching the moon rise or cheer on sailors who are braving the weather during the aptly named Frostbiting races.

A **Special Holiday Brunch** will be held on **Sunday, December 11th, accompanied by Francine Pelegano on piano.** A menu and RSVP link will be posted shortly. And look for more information in your mailbox about our **New Year's Eve party on December 31st!**

PLEASE NOTE:

The Galley will be serving lunch, brunch and dinner as scheduled through December 18th. The last brunch for 2016 will be on Sunday, December 18th. The Galley will be closed after December 18th through the end of the year, reopen for New Year's Eve, then close through the month of January. Please take this into account when making plans for dining at the club.

Looking forward to seeing you at the club,

Catherine Gazikas

Galley Liaison

Winter Galley Hours (until December 18th):

Lunch:

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday (self-service):
11.30 am to 2.00 pm

Dinner:

Believe it or not, the holiday season is upon us.... While temperatures have been quite mild in the first part of November, Old Man Winter has been giving us a taste of what is to come in the last few days. Some of us even woke to snow flurries the other day, and it was a clear indication that the warm seasons are behind us.

The clubhouse is nice and cozy, the fireplace has been used to ward off the chill, and Coastal Cooking Company's menus are being populated by comfort food to warm you from the inside out.

While the **club is closed on Thanksgiving Day**, we will open again on Friday. You can help us **decorate the club for the holidays** by joining us in the afternoon of November 25th. Next up is **Trees in the Rigging on Sunday November 27th**: come to watch the annual holiday parade on the Connecticut River from the deck! New this year will be our first **Holiday Bazaar** on the same day. Get a jump on your holiday shopping with gifts, crafts and baked goods donated to benefit the ECYC Entertainment Fund. I have it on good authority that the **selection of goodies will be great**, so don't miss the premiere of our bazaar!

On the heels of the Thanksgiving weekend is the **Decommissioning & Annual Meeting on Saturday, December 3rd** starting at 4 pm. There will be our traditional awards presentation and a holiday reception for our members after all the club business is completed.

On **Sunday, December 11th**, the galley is holding a **Special Holiday Brunch**. We will share details shortly.

Sunday, December 18th is the date for the last brunch of the year, followed by the **Corinthian Youth Holiday Party**. We will have two "holiday performers", **Santa** and **Red Supreme**, who will keep the kids of all age groups entertained!



And finally, we will close out the year 2016 with a **New Year's Eve Party on December 31st**. The party will start at 8 pm and run through midnight, featuring heavy hors d'oeuvres, desserts and a champagne toast. The theme is "New Year's Eve in NYC"! Music for dancing will be provided by DJ Captain Peter. Details and official invitation will follow shortly.

Please contact me at vicecommodore@essexcorinthian.org if you would like to help out at any of our events, or even better, all our events! Our success hinges on the involvement of our volunteers. Please get involved!

Remember, our events are listed online at our website, just go to www.essexcorinthian.org ... and click on "Events"!

Ruth Emblin

Vice Commodore & On-Shore Events
Email: vicecommodore@essexcorinthian.org
or events@essexcorinthian.org



Friday (table service):
6.00 pm to 8.30 pm

Brunch:

Sunday (self-service):

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

CLUB & GALLEY CLOSED ON THANKSGIVING THURSDAY!

DID YOU KNOW?

The Galley serves a great lunch with soups, salads and all kinds of comfort food while you enjoy the early fall views across the Connecticut River! Why not come and give it a try? Daily Wednesdays through Saturdays, and brunch on Sundays.

Menus are available at
www.essexcorinthian.org/dining.html

We want your feedback about our galley activities.
Please let us know what you think!
Email galleyliaison@essexcorinthian.org



We want to know what you think about our galley!

Reciprocity with Old Lyme Country Club during January Shutdown

We are happy to report that we will once again have **reciprocity with the Old Lyme Country Club** for dining during our January maintenance shutdown.

We will send out a reminder towards the end of December with details on OLCC's dining schedule. As has become tradition, we will welcome OLCC members to our dining room during their shut-down in February.



LOOKING FOR COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT FOR 2017!



Recently, a member approached me to comment on our club's communication. Following our chat it came to my attention that many of you are under the impression that the website updates, Bell 8, menu e-blasts and event announcements are provided by an outside contractor we pay for. Nothing is further from the truth: ECYC is a volunteer-based organization, and therefore we are doing all this with the help of volunteers. As the "Fleet

Communicator", I have been in charge of the club's website, newsletter and e-blasts for the last four years. The job initially involved completely revamping our club's website, and now focuses on keeping it up to date, uploading weekly menus and sharing event information, collecting and editing the articles for our monthly Bell 8 newsletter, and setting up and sending out e-blasts to our members about everything from dining, events, special announcements to local information.

As a member of the ECYC Bridge my responsibilities have increased in the last couple of years, and I find myself in need of an assistant for the club's communication. We are looking for a motivated person with an eye for catchy designs, a love of words and full of energy, who is willing to give an hour or so of their time to the club each week. I will be glad to train you in working with Constant Contact and GoDaddy Website Builder, both applications that are easy to learn. And don't worry, I will not just dump everything in your lap, we will be working together!

Please consider helping out and learning more about our club's communication. Contact me at vicecommodore@essexcorinthian.org to volunteer!

Ruth Emblin

Special Functions Update:

Thank you to all who participated and made both of the 2016 Wine Tastings a great success !!

I look forward to new offerings in 2017 and the continued participation. Suggestions always welcome, keep warm and stay tuned !

Cheers and Happy Holidays to all!

Mark Bavalac

Special Functions Coordinator

Email: specialfunctions@essexcorinthian.org

House Committee Update:

There is an immediate need for which I appeal to the entire membership for someone who may have the experience and/or resource(s) to provide relief. Within the galley there is a pull down ladder (think attic pull down steps) for access into the attic storage space immediately above the galley. The pull down stairs are heavily used by our galley operators Coastal Catering, as well as BOG as it is the only true storage space for galley supplies/catering apparatus as well as the multiple decorations used throughout the year. The pull-down stairs have been replaced at least 3 times in the last 5 years, and need to be replaced again. The amount of use is simply too much for the standard homeowner product generally available. Seeking someone to source and install a "commercial grade" solution. Please contact me if able to address this ongoing and potentially dangerous condition.

We are just over a month away from the annual shutdown period for the ECYC building. Nothing to report yet as to specific activities planned for during the period, however I'm at least very certain there will be the deep cleaning tasks we have tackled each of the last 4 years I've been involved. This will minimally include a thorough dusting of all corners, high and low; ceiling fans; refitting the pads on all tables and chairs; etc. Look for notices and calls for volunteers later in December.

Enjoy the holiday season as we say goodbye to yet another year!

Chuck Grusse

House Chair

Email: house@essexcorinthian.org

Strategic Planning Update:

After many months of meetings with varying groups of members, the Bridge and the Board it can be said that all design and development work around the strategic planning exercise is complete. We are now in the process of agreeing on specific actions directed at achieving the defined issues, goals and objectives.



Vice Commodore & Fleet Communicator
Email: vicecommodore@essexcorinthian.org



Thank You

The 2016 Gratitude Fund

Around this time of year, members are asked to express their thanks to those who support our Club so well throughout the year. Your voluntary gift is very much appreciated by these individuals. If you have not already done so, you can either send in a check or let Jean Little know an amount to be charged to your club account. Please make payable to the **ECYC Gratitude Fund**.

If you have any questions, please connect with any club officer. Thank you!

We are thankful....

This is the perfect time of the year to express our thanks to ECYC member **Susan Malan**, thanks to whom the walls of ECYC each quarter are graced with new art works from local artists from the Essex Art Association, another organization Susan is very active in.

Susan works with fellow EAA members in selecting art to display at the club. Susan also organizes how and where the art is displayed along with labeling and pricing.

Not only has Susan's effort enhanced the club's interior, the Art Shows benefit the club financially. The works are for sale and the club receives a commission on each sale.

If you see a work you like, simply let Jean in the office know. You can pay by credit card or have your club account charged.

Many thanks to Susan for lending her time and creative talent in helping two local organizations she enjoys!

SHIP'S STORE NEWS:

**The Ship's Store will be open on Decommissioning Day (Saturday, December 3rd).
Time to update your ECYC look?
Check out what's available for purchase!**



Did You Know?

WINTER CLUB HOURS IN EFFECT:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday	9 am to 5 pm
Friday	9 am to 9 pm
Saturday and Sunday	9 am to 5 pm

CLUB CLOSED ON THANKSGIVING CLUB CLOSED IN JANUARY 2017 FOR MAINTENANCE

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

NO SMOKING AT ECYC:



The clubhouse, the decks 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.

Richard Pierce

Strategic Planning Chair

Email: strategy@essexcorinthian.org

Membership Update:

2016 was a busy year for the Board of Governors, as we welcomed **20 new member households** into the Club. We're delighted to have new faces who share our love of the water, the Club's recreational and social activities, dining and fellowship, and appreciation for the value ECYC represents in a private club in one of the area's most picturesque locations.

Our latest additions are **Elise and Richard Helmicki**, of Essex, whose application the Board accepted at its regular November meeting. Proposed by Judy and Bob Taylor, the Helmickis originally became familiar with ECYC 18 years ago - when they celebrated their wedding reception here! They are recreational boaters with a Wellcraft 18' power boat and are active in the local community. Elise is secretary of the Essex Auxiliary of the Child & Family Agency of Southeastern Connecticut and a member of the Essex Garden Club, while Richard serves on the Essex Conservation Commission. **Welcome aboard, Elise and Richard!**

Against the backdrop of these new member arrivals, we bade farewell to over 30 members this year through a combination of circumstances including relocation, physical infirmities, death, and new lifestyle or budget priorities. The net shrinkage in membership strains our treasury, since we depend on top-line revenue to continue the level of programming so many find attractive.

The membership trajectory poses a challenge transcending any Membership chair, committee, flag officer or Board of Governors - and it's one we're examining closely within the framework of a long-term strategic plan. In the end, it's up to you - our members - to create and preserve the welcoming, collegial environment and active programming people seek in a club; to invite others to experience all that ECYC offers; and, at the right time, to connect them to our Membership Committee.

If you have constructive suggestions on how we can build and galvanize our membership in 2017 and beyond, please track me down at the Club or drop me a note at membership@essexcorinthian.org. In the meantime, best wishes to you and yours for a happy, safe holiday season.

Scott Konrad

Membership Chair

Email: membership@essexcorinthian.org

WEBSITE:

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

Green Tip of the Month:



How to Make the Holidays Less Stressful

It's that time of the year when shopping malls beckon with special sales, and holiday music is piped through stores and public buildings. Streets are trimmed with holiday decorations, and many of us are planning family gatherings. The holidays are often filled with frenzied activities and can become stressful.

Lower Your Expectations:

Just because the media wants to make us believe that we have to follow all the hype doesn't mean you have to compare your holiday preparations with anyone else's. Each family is unique and has its own traditions, there is no reason you have to make yourself crazy by having the best-decorated home, biggest gifts or most elaborate holiday food. Often the simple things make the holidays even better.

Don't Do It All Yourself:

Involve every member of your family. Decorating, shopping, gift wrapping, baking and even house cleaning can become family activities if you create a festive mood for it. Have some eggnog and mulled cider, get everyone together and start the holidays together!

Change Your Routine:

Why not forego exchanging often rather meaningless gifts with extended family or co-workers and donate to a charity in their names instead? Many charities will send a holiday card with an acknowledgment to the person in whose name the donation was made. This is so much more meaningful than spending money on a vague gift just so someone can be crossed off your list.

Celebrate Together:

If your family is addicted to its digital devices, talk to them about having a period of time without tweets, posts, videos and blogs so you can get together and celebrate as a family. Put it in your calendar and make it quality time for everyone.

Include Friends:

Holiday stress is often caused by "holiday fatigue". Remind your family of what the holidays mean. The holidays are a time for reflection and sharing the love, and if you know of someone who does not have family to celebrate with, it might be a nice gesture to invite them to your celebration. Who knows, including someone who is not an immediate family member may even change those holiday family dynamics for the better!

Spend Less Money:

In addition to all the holiday stress you should not have to worry about how to pay for the credit card bill after the holidays are over. Expensive gifts are not always a must. It's the thought that counts. Often creative gifts are more welcome than something hastily purchased at the mall just because it is popular at the moment. Express your love for the "giftees" by planning your gifts with the person's interests in mind. Nobody likes to hear that your gift was returned, so make it meaningful or go to plan B, donating to a charity in the person's name! Shop smart and fast when you buy holiday foods. Many stores feature specials during the holidays, keep up to date on your store's coupons. And remember, the more time you spend in a store the fuller your cart will get. Buy the stuff on your list, then get out of there. Your wallet will thank you.

Create New Traditions:

There are plenty of ways to make the holidays more meaningful. Create new memories and traditions by supporting a food bank or other charity, ask around to find out what organizations need volunteers during the holidays and beyond. And simply practice random acts of kindness!

Buy Local:

Go to local stores and visit holiday markets to get your gifts and supplies. Not only are you supporting small business in your community this way, you will also help the environment by reducing packaging for transport and emissions caused by trucking items all over the country. And holiday markets are often connected to a charity, which will allow you to do good as well as provide you with ideas for your own celebrations.

Reuse Treasured Decorations and Decorate Naturally:

When selecting your holiday decorations, rummage through your storage to find old treasures before going out to buy new items. And if you find you need more pieces to complete your festive atmosphere, be conscious of material selection. Mass-produced decorations are often made with harmful toxins. Try to find decorations made of natural materials, like straw, wood, clay, glass or metal. Being selective will not only beautify your home but also help phase out plastic decorations whose production often has a negative impact on our environment.

Don't Overdo It:

Be selective and don't fill every waking moment of the holidays with frenzied activity. Create lasting memories by decorating your home together, sharing stories of holidays past, looking at old photos while



Supermoon Rising November 2016 - Image by Number 18

sharing a cup of hot chocolate. Social engagements during the holidays can be overwhelming, and there is no law that says you have to RSVP "yes" to every single invitation. Less is more, when it come to the holidays!

Thank you for being an environmentally aware ECYC member and have a wonderful, peaceful Holiday Season!

Ruth Emblin

Vice Commodore & Fleet Communicator

Newsletter Email: bell8newsletter@essexcorinthian.org

The Bridge and Board of the
Essex Corinthian Yacht Club wishes its
members and friends peaceful and
happy holidays!



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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PO Box 759 - Essex, CT 06426
Telephone: (860) 767-3239**

Contact Information for individual BoG Members is posted at www.essexcorinthian.org/club-officers.html

Find us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/EssexCorinthianYachtClub

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