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THE ESSEX CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB

February 2018

Welcome to a New Year at ECYC!



View from the Bridge

Dear Fellow Corinthians!



First of all, if I haven't had a chance to wish you a happy New Year personally, I would like to do so now. I hope your year 2018 has started well for you and yours! Our club will be back in business at the end of this week, and we look forward to another enjoyable, exciting and fun year at ECYC!

This is the beginning of my second month and my first "View from the Bridge" as the Commodore of ECYC,

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IMPORTANT DATES:

- **February 1st:** Club & Galley open
- **February 2nd:** First Friday Dinner
- **February 3rd:** ECSA Meeting
- **February 14th:** Valentine's Dinner
- **February 24th:** Privateer's Bash at the CRM
- **March 3rd:** Spring Frostbiting
- **March 3rd:** Blessing of the Fleet / Chili Cook-Off
- **March 17th:** St. Patrick's Day Party

and I am still getting used to the thought. I love our great little club, and hope to be able to follow in the footsteps of the many great Commodores who came before me. My gratitude to the members of the past and present Board of Governors who have helped shape the club, and whose volunteer spirit has been and remains a great motivation for me.

If you attended the Annual Meeting last December you know that we have a lot on our plate this year, whether it is implementing parts of our strategic plan or planning fun on- and off-shore events for everyone. Our club depends on our committees and volunteers to reach our goals.

The House Committee has been instrumental in getting the club ready for the new season, and I would like to thank everyone who attended the work sessions or helped otherwise. Work continues throughout the season, and volunteers are always welcome!

Like most clubs, our membership numbers fluctuate with the seasons. We are starting our 2018 Membership Drive this month. Please help our new Membership Chair and her team identify potential new members. Members are the lifeblood of our club and we function best when we have a large pool of active members. By active I mean people who are at the club frequently and interested in helping with our committees. Please let your friends and acquaintances know that while owning a boat is certainly a plus, we also welcome those who do not own a boat, but love the beautiful environment of the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound. The social aspect of our club is a very large part of what makes ECYC so unique.

We are also hoping to further promote the usage of our Ideal 18 Fleet as part of our member benefits. To date, these wonderful boats spend too much time in their slips. Why not try them out? We also offer sailing instruction for beginners and racing clinics for more advanced sailors. You may enjoy learning to race these agile boats on the river, while squaring off with our neighboring clubs. Talk to our Fleet Captain or our Rear Commodore! Watch for more information in the months to come.

- **March 11th:** Daylight Savings Time
- **April 7th:** Spring Commissioning & New Member Reception

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

VICE COMMODORE'S UPDATE



Happy New Year to all and welcome to another year at ECYC. With the New Year comes new leadership under the guidance of Commodore Emblin and a new Board of Governors.

At our first Board meeting, goals were set to increase our waterfront activities as well as enhance and improve our onshore facility and functions.

During the winter months, which are going by quickly, Board members and other member volunteers are working to achieve these goals. As always, there is a need for additional volunteers. So, if a committee sends out a call for assistance, please don't hesitate to jump in! All efforts will assist in continuing the future and enhancement of the Club.

Of course if you have questions or concern, don't hesitate to contact the Bridge or any member of the Board.

Hope your Winter is going well.

Chris Morano
Vice Commodore

Our event calendar is already heating up, by the way. We have a great special Valentine's Day Dinner coming up on February 14th with the Coastal Cooking Company pulling out all the stops to help you plan a romantic evening. A Chili Cook-Off is planned for early March. This year's spring party will differ a little from past years, instead of a tropical theme we will take advantage of St. Patrick's Day falling on a Saturday. We will combine the Corinthian Spirit with the Irish Spirit - and there is the recipe for a great party! Our club's official Spring Commissioning is on Saturday, April 7th. Our Entertainment Committee is hard at work, and could always use your help!

Our galley team is prepping for this week's opening, and we can look forward to another year of culinary enjoyment at the Corinthian Cafe. If you have suggestions, please share them; we have a Galley Liaison who will be happy to chat with you.

Please remember: The best way to make friends at ECYC and get to know all the club's facets is to volunteer for a committee. There are many ways to become involved, some more, some less intense. Our Committee Chairs will be happy to point you in the right direction!

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

ECYC Commodore #21

Email: commodore@essexcorinthian.org



ENTERTAINMENT UPDATE:

Ahoy fellow Corinthians!
Happy New Year and welcome back to another year of fun and interesting happenings at ECYC. This coming season we have a

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REAR COMMODORE'S UPDATE:



I am happy to be back on the Bridge 37 years after leaving the Navy! No midnight to 4am watches thankfully. I've spent the past two years as Fleet Captain, paying attention only to my area of responsibility (our sailboats) and daydreaming while the other board members spoke at our monthly meeting. Time to pay attention now! My primary duty as Rear Commodore is the on-water activities, which includes our sailboats, the waterfront, and races. I have a lot to learn. I grew up in Westport, CT racing a Blue Jay (woody #4226) as a kid and a Thistle (fiberglass #1874 then woody #29) as an adult out of Cedar Point Yacht Club. I've been a small boat sailor all my life with a ten year break before moving to Essex four years ago. When we decided to move to the shore, we were not looking specifically at Essex, but we were patient and found the right house (walking distance to Main Street) at the right time (big price reduction the day we looked at it) and couldn't be happier here. Chuck Grusse (also from upstate) said to me the first time we spoke, "this place is heaven" - I agree. Our Vice Commodore is responsible for the on-shore events, but since my wife Pat is Entertainment Co-Chair with Nancy Simms and I therefore hear plenty about it, I'd like

number of events planned including old favorites as well as new.

Our first event will be our second annual Chili, Soup and Stew Cook-Off. We look forward to sampling a number of culinary creations for everyone's enjoyment. We will be awarding prizes for each category. This event is a wonderful way to start off the season during the chilly weather. The date is Saturday March 3. On this day the Ideal 18 fleet will be preparing their boats for the spring season, including the Blessing of the Fleet by our Fleet Chaplain.

Prepare your Irish jig and other step dancing skills for our St Patrick's Day Party on Saturday March 17th. Coastal Cooking Company will be preparing a meal for our enjoyment. Music will also be provided. Look for future information regarding this event.

Once again, we look forward to a fun and entertaining 2018!!

Nancy Simms & Pat Atkinson

Co-Chairs Entertainment

Email: nancy-events@essexcorinthian.org or

pat-events@essexcorinthian.org

SPECIAL FUNCTIONS:

Hello to all and welcome to 2018!

I would like to introduce myself as the 2018 Coordinator of Special Functions..... my name is Mark Bavalack. I look forward to bringing you another great season! Please feel free to contact me with ideas, questions and suggestions. I hope to hear from you soon. Keep a look out for information on upcoming events like wine or beer tastings, boating and fishing, or road trips as we get closer to Spring.

Stay warm,

Mark Bavalack

Special Functions Coordinator

Email: specialfunctions@essexcorinthian.org

to emphasize that entertainment is a major club benefit that most of the membership partake in, but it requires a lot of work. Many people are willing to help once at an event, but a lot of planning, purchasing, and set up is required beforehand. Entertainment Committee members - each of you please pick one event and volunteer to lead it soup to nuts. The Entertainment Chair is one of the most difficult yet critical position at the club and if it falters we all suffer.

See you at the club!

Tom Atkinson

Rear Commodore

Email:

rearcommodore@essexcorinthian.org



WATERFRONT UPDATE:

Final call for Spring Frostbite scheduling!
Frostbiting starts the first Monday in March.

GALLEY UPDATE:

February is time to get our Ideal 18 fleet ready for the coming season. Interested racers are encouraged to form teams on their own or sign up individually. Contact me (Fleet Captain) to sign up, join the skipper or crew e-mail group, get qualification for assignment, and set up scheduling.

Summer Tuesday and Thursday EYC Ideal 18 evening series, River Race and clinics to be announced shall provide opportunities for entry level skippers. One "open boat" will continue to provide opportunities for skippers and crew to try Frostbiting, and experienced teams will continue to be able to frostbite intact as much as possible, even if alternating weeks and/or rotating off seasons is required.

We will meet informally at 1900 hrs at the first Friday Dinner (or downstairs) to discuss possibilities.

All Racing Team/Committee members are strongly encouraged to join the Waterfront Committee and participate in spring work parties and fleet commissioning, mid-season hauling, cleaning and other and maintenance, and fall decommissioning. When that is not feasible, alternate contributions are welcome. Watch for announcements for the first of our weekend work parties this month (pending weather and shop space availability), at which we will also hold our first official Race Team and Waterfront Committee meetings.

Members and their guests can qualify to take out an Ideal 18 for day sailing. Our easy on-and-off-the-dock setup, no wake zone harbor, and breezes off the hills make for a great quick get-away and wonderful sailing. Contact Tom Atkinson or Cindy Gibbs.

We would like to schedule two open sail days when experienced skippers can introduce our recreational sailing program to newcomers. Memorial Day and July 4 are popular suggestions. Racing Team members are encouraged to participate.

Jon Gibbs

Fleet Captain



Welcome back for another great season of boating and socializing at ECYC. Our club's Galley, also referred to as the Corinthian Cafe, managed by the Coastal Cooking Company is reopening on Thursday, February 1st for lunch, followed by lunch and dinner on Friday, February 2nd, and lunch/brunch on the weekend. Ed and Monique Armstrong and their team are ready to serve up many of our favorite recipes. Please refer to our weekly menu emails for details on "What's Cooking at the Corinthian Cafe"!

We also have a special **Valentine's Day Dinner planned on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14th**. Don't forget to sign up. There are staggered seatings, and reservations are required. For menu details and to make a reservation, please go to

www.essexcorinthian.org/more-events-at-ecyc.html

Here are some tips for making Friday night dinners smoother for everyone:

- Order your appetizers upon arrival on a separate slip so those can come out while you are enjoying your cocktails. These can even be preordered earlier in the day.
- If your table wants to eat at together, turn all the slips in at the same time.
- Make sure your table number is on the slip.

If you are entertaining at home, remember CCC can cater your party so you can spend time with your guests instead of being in the kitchen.

As always if you have questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me. I'm looking forward to seeing you all around the club.

Catherine Gazikas

Galley Liaison

Email: galleyliaison@essexcorinthian.org



Winter Galley Hours:

Email: fleetcaptain@essexcorinthian.org



HOUSE UPDATE:

Our new House Chair is David Kirsch, who stepped up to the plate to follow in Chuck Grusse's shoes! Not an easy proposition, and we are very grateful for David's enthusiasm about the planned repairs and improvements to our clubhouse. He got a first taste of his new responsibilities during the maintenance sessions held on two weekends in January. Thanks to everyone who came and helped get the club ready for the new season. Currently David is putting together his team for 2018. If you haven't confirmed your House Committee membership yet, please do so by emailing him.

David Kirsch

House Committee Chair

Email: house@essexcorinthian.org

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

Ahoy mates! Happy 2018!
I'm pleased to announce that I'll be wearing an additional hat this year as your ECYC Membership Chair. I have put together an enthusiastic team to help us grow our club's membership. The team members are Sue Watts, Stephanie Robinson, Sam Berman and Leah Melius. They are full of new ideas and plans.
We look forward to your help. If you have a neighbor, friend or co-worker who has interest please invite them down for lunch or dinner to experience our great location, excellent food and beautiful Connecticut River views!
Cheers,

Cindy Gibbs

Membership Chair

Email: membership@essexcorinthian.org

Lunch:

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

Dinner:

Friday (table service): 5.30 pm to 8.30 pm

Brunch:

Sunday (self-service): 11.00 am to 2.30 pm
- special brunch hours on selected holidays!

Menus are available at

www.essexcorinthian.org/dining.html

DID YOU KNOW?

WINTER HOURS IN EFFECT AT THE CLUBHOUSE:

- Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9 am to 5 pm
- Friday 9 am to 9 pm
- Saturday 11 am to 5 pm
- Sunday, 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 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.

REVISED HOUSE RULE 12:

Please be aware that the rule regarding snacks allowed during dining hours at ECYC has been changed. **Only snacks like chips & dip, nuts and "Goldfish" are permitted.**

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!

The **Ship's Store** is currently undergoing reorganization. Watch for an announcement for our new online store with TeamOne Newport in the near future. If you would like to purchase an item from our inventory, please contact the office.



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
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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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