



THE ESSEX CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB



VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



Dear Friends!

While we've had a great start to indoor club activities with the success of Caribbean Night, a special St. Patrick's Day Dinner, a lecture and book signing with our own George Rider (with Dorothy and most of their family along) and our traditional Friday night dinners, we have had a very slow start to our on-water activities (through no fault of our own). Marinas up and down the Connecticut River Valley are all running 3 to 5 weeks behind normal schedules for readying dock space and commissioning boats. Have patience with your winter yards, this is not a situation they would have chosen. With any luck at all, by June 1st, this past winter will have faded from our memories.

Club Manager Search Committee Update:

For the first time in over 20 years, ECYC needed to put together a search committee to identify a new Club Manager. If you haven't heard, Elaine is looking forward to her well-deserved retirement. After all this time of having her as the go-to person at ECYC we will certainly miss her! At large members Cathy Gazikas and Liz Fowler have joined the search committee, as have Board of Governors representative Chuck Grusse, Bridge Officers Deb Wallis and I. Please join me in thanking these caring and talented members for offering their time and expertise to the very important work of getting the word out about our open position, screening candidates and ultimately, bringing forward a recommendation for a new Club Manager. Our club's collective thanks also to Dan Post-Kennedy, General Manager at SHYC, who helped us to get our job advertisement posted on the NECMA (New England Club Managers Association) website at no cost. The NECMA has proven to be a very valuable resource in reaching qualified candidates, with several resumes already received.

If you have a candidate in mind that you believe would be a good match for the needs of our Club,

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **April 4th:** Spring Commissioning
- **April 5th:** Easter Brunch
- **April 17th:** Italian Night
- **May 10th:** Mother's Day Brunch
- **May 12th:** Leukemia Cup Kick-Off with Gary Jobson

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

OFFSHORE UPDATE

Think Spring!

Now that we have the Green Light for **Frostbiting** (weather permitting, of course) we plan on having our Ideals 18 in commission by this weekend. The Marina in front of our club is getting put back together after the harsh winter's ice damage and the **Essex In-Water Boat Show** will go on as planned at the docks on the weekend of **April 24th**.

I am pleased to announce that **Jon Gibbs** has agreed to be our **Ideal 18 Fleet Coordinator**. Jon has been involved with the boats and will help carry forward our Ideal 18 Program. Having three boats will now allow more members to get out and enjoy the water so please contact Jon to get involved.

The **Newport 12 Meter** event is filling up so please contact David Evangelisti (email 12meter@essexcorinthian.org) or me. This is such a great day spent with Essex Corinthians and members from other clubs.

Our **Regatta Schedule** is now complete and we have a great lineup again this year. Our big event, **The Cross Sound Challenge**, will be held **Saturday September 26th**, so mark your calendar. We also have the **Leukemia Cup Regatta August 29th**, to name but a few. Our complete list of events is available online at www.essexcorinthian.org or on the calendar board at the River Room!



Our summer season is right around the corner so I am putting away the shovel!
Think Spring!

Steve Rodstrom

Vice Commodore

Email: vicecommodore@essexcorinthian.org



Ideal 18 Sailing Update

2015 ECYC ADULT SAILING LESSONS

Our 2015 Adult Sailing Program will begin on May 23rd. Sailing lessons will be offered in our Ideal 18s. Instruction will include all day lessons on Saturdays from 10 am to 4pm. The Saturday lessons will extend over a course of three weeks. The cost for the course will be \$100.00 and includes all teaching materials and instruction. At the end of the course you may go through qualification to use our Ideal 18s. Register with our club manager or sign up on a posted notice at the club. Classes will be based on sign up. Instruction will be provided by some of our top ECYC sailors. Classes are limited, so sign up early. If you have questions, please contact

Ed Birch

Ahoy all ECYC women sailors!

We have moved our sailing class to a "NEW" night - Wednesdays! Due to a big change in my career and its out-of-state location, I have moved classes to Wednesday evenings. I'm sure it will be a fun change and



please direct them to our website, www.essexcorinthian.org, to review the job advertisement and to forward their letter of interest and resume to: ECYCcommodore@essexcorinthian.org

Resignation of the Fleet Captain:

It is with sincere disappointment that I announce that Bob Robinson abruptly vacated the position of Fleet Captain and submitted his resignation to the Club, which has been accepted. On behalf of all of our members and especially those who participate in our Ideal 18 programs, I sincerely thanked Bob for all of his good work on the boats over the winter and expressed our sadness that he would not participate in the spring frostbite series, for which he had been working so hard to prepare for. In the true spirit of a Corinthian, Jon Gibbs has generously offered to continue to help us with crew development and scheduling of the boats during the upcoming season in the position as Ideal 18 Fleet Coordinator. Steve Rodstrom, volunteers and I will rig the boats and have them ready to launch just as soon as we have secure dock space to keep them. Thank you, Jon - our yacht club is lucky to have you.

Club's 31st Commissioning:

On Saturday, April 4th at 1600 hours, we will commission the Essex Corinthian Yacht Club for its 31st season. Please make plans to be with us, rain or shine, to officially open the clubhouse for 2015 and to enjoy the fellowship of your friends at a reception, featuring hors d'oeuvres by the Coastal Cooking Company, immediately following the ceremony.

Expanding Our Membership:

Identifying new members who share our values and recognize the special environment that we share on the waterfront in Essex may be the most important thing that you can do to ensure the future of our yacht club. As I've said, this is a responsibility that we must share. No individual or committee can do the work of identifying candidates - that's a job for all of us.

Cheers,

Tim Brewer

Commodore



Did You Know?

BOG MEETINGS:

BOG Meetings are Open to All Members: All Board of Governors meetings are posted in advance (see the bulletin board outside of Elaine's office for 2015 dates). We'd like to hear from you and get your feedback. Please make it a point to attend one of the meetings and participate in the operation, administration and governance of our great little yacht club.

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!

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

Please remember that with the change of domain to www.essexcorinthian.org over a year ago, the general office email address was changed to ecyc@essexcorinthian.org. We noticed that some of you are still using the old email address, which will no longer work. Please make a note of it, if you have not already done so.



after a great time on the water we can come into the club and enjoy some wonderful music and dinner. Class time will be 5:00 to 7:00pm. Classes will start on July 1st. I will also be offering semi-private lessons earlier in the afternoon on Wednesdays, for anyone who desires more one-on-one instruction; these will be by appointment. I look forward to seeing everyone this summer!

Happy Sailing,
Cindy Gibbs

2015 Dingy Rack

Please register your dingy if you plan to store it in the ECYC racks. Unregistered craft will be removed. Please contact **Steve Rodstrom** to register if you have one of the boats in the rack now or wish to add your dinghy. Space is limited.

ON-SHORE & HOUSE

Snow and ice be gone, we are ready to kick off the 2015 season! Thanks to our dedicated volunteers the house and dock area are looking great. Our Ideals are ready to go, and we are officially kicking off the 2015 season at our Annual Spring Commissioning Ceremony this Saturday, April 4th, beginning at 4 pm.

Caribbean Night brought many of us out of hibernation and reminded us that there is a lot to look forward to as the year progresses! Thank you to the volunteers who helped make the evening a great success!



Jeff and Holly Ridgway in the Caribbean Spirit

As we are planning a wide variety of events during 2015, I encourage you to join a committee, whether on- or off-shore, we need you! We have a very motivated Board of Governors, and we welcome members'

support in any of our endeavors! This is one of the characteristics that makes ECYC so special - we all share the Corinthian Spirit and come together to help. If you have suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact me or any of our board members to share. ECYC lives and breathes with the help of our membership.

See you all soon,

Ruth Emblin

Rear Commodore

Email: rearcommodore@essexcorinthian.org



SIGN UP NOW!

LEUKEMIA SUB KICK OFF 2015

Galley News

The leprechauns were out in force as Coastal Cooking Company put on another delicious St Patrick's Day feast. This has become an ECYC tradition and none were disappointed in Chef Ed and Monique's corned beef and cabbage and other traditional Irish fare. The excitement continued with a rockin' Caribbean Night-another fun-filled night to kick-off the 2015 season.

The year's second theme night is scheduled for **Friday, April 17th**. Please plan to join us as Coastal Cooking Trattoria tempts us with a wide variety of delectable pastas and Italian fare. This was one of last year's most popular events and it is sure to be a crowd pleaser again this year.

And, of course, don't forget to make your reservations for the Easter Brunch on Sunday, April 5th. Monique and Chef Ed's delicious holiday brunches are known far and wide. Two seatings, 10:30 and 12:30, are set to accommodate all who wish to attend. Email Monique at monique@coastalcookingcompany.com for more information!



Coastal Cooking Company will also hold a Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday, May 10th. We will post menu and reservations information shortly!

Remember, we publish updated menus via e-blasts and on our website. Check back often to see what is new: www.essexcorinthian.org/dining.html

Looking forward to seeing you at the club!

Hollis Barry

Galley Liaison

Did You Know?

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

FEEDBACK

We want to know what you think about our galley!

Spring Galley Hours:

Lunch:

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

Dinner:

Friday (table service)
6.00 pm to 8.30 pm

Brunch:

Sunday (self-service)
11.00 am to 2.00 pm - special brunch hours on selected holidays!

Strategic Planning Update:

LEUKEMIA CUP KICK-OFF 2015

Tuesday, May 12th, is the date for the official Kick-Off for the 2015 Leukemia Cup Regatta season, hosted once again at



ECYC. Gary Jobson will visit the club to share his experiences as an Americas Cup Sailor, as a cancer survivor and National Chairman for the Leukemia Cup Regatta.

This is a fundraising event open to the public - please invite your friends and neighbors to attend. ECYC is not only proud to be the current holder of the Leukemia Cup (displayed in our trophy case), but also an official sponsor of the regatta, joining Duck Island and North Cove Yacht Clubs in their efforts to gain attention for the life-saving work of the **Leukemia & Lymphoma Society**. Tickets may be purchased online at www.leukemiacup.org/ct/

PLEASE support this important event and join us for an inspiring evening. Register now!

If you have questions, please contact Ruth Emblin at rearcomodore@essexcorinthian.org.

Sign up now for the **2015 Eastern Connecticut 12-Meter Challenge in Newport, RI!, to be held on June 6th!** Limited space is available. While this year's "Challenge" will be spearheaded by 2014 winner North Cove Yacht Club, who will also host the post-regatta party on Sunday, June 7th, your contact at ECYC is Dave Evangelisti. Please email him at 12meter@essexcorinthian.org.



Stay tuned for more event announcements or refer to the bulletin board at the club! We

also publish event information at our website at www.essexcorinthian.org.

House Committee Update:

We can all hope spring finally shows up, cannot stand to think we'll have a repeat of last year's tardy spring arrival. I want to get flowers in the front planters, colorful blossoms hanging on the deck, get to work sprucing up the outside, and get the deck refurbishment started.

The house committee should have a busy early season to have all in place before the primary summer months, will make for a very active next couple of months. Of course, all members are welcome and encouraged to help out as workdays and individual tasks are announced. I will be reaching out to the house committee soon for individual POC's (point of contacts) for each of the specialized areas: Interior; Exterior; HVAC; Electrical; Gardening; Galley. These POC's will become the subject matter expert and overall lead for these focus building

Dear Fellow Members,

At the last Board meeting I provided the governors with a preliminary outline of the process I propose the Board follow to develop a strategic plan. A more detailed proposal principally focused on the preparation phase of the process will be generated in the next 60 days.

Richard Pierce

Strategic Planning Chair
Email: strategy@essexcorinthian.org



Our Heartfelt Thanks To Elaine Kyle



Elaine Kyle, Club Manager, receiving award at 2013 Decommissioning Ceremony

It is with mixed emotions that we report that Elaine Kyle, our beloved Club Manager and dear friend, has announced her retirement. After 21 years of dedication to our members and our mission, Elaine will join her husband, Richard, in a lifestyle that will allow more time for family and leisurely pursuits.

The Board of Governors has no intention of replacing Elaine - that would be impossible. We will, however, do our best to find a new Club Manager. Please join the Officers of the Club the Board of Governors in thanking Elaine for her many years of dedicated service and friendship. We wish Elaine and Richard all the best for their retirement and hope that they will remember us fondly! We will miss you!

The ECYC Board of Governors

Green Tip of the Month:

Okay, so this may not really apply to boating, but while we are waiting for the last shreds of snow to disappear and for our boat launch dates, some of us may be looking at our gardens considering ways to spruce up the backyard a bit after this long, harsh winter.

In the past I used to just run to the nearest garden center and purchase whatever looked nice and was readily available. But often these plants are not native species, and may overwhelm native plants. Some of the larger distributors apply pesticides to their mass plantings that may be toxic to more than just pests... for example, bees and butterflies have been known to be negatively affected by some of these "mega garden center plants". A new

report suggests that even if we buy plants labelled "bee-friendly" at those large box stores, we may inadvertently be poisoning the insects. More than half of the labeled plants sampled at mega garden centers in the US and Canada contained highly toxic levels of neonicotinoids, which can kill bees, butterflies and other pollinators. And if they don't kill them outright, they impair the insect's immune systems and sense of navigation, which may turn your yard into a flowery trap. Several butterfly species (among them the Monarch) are endangered now, and bees are also reaching critical numbers. So why not get away from those mass-grown plants, find a smaller garden supplier with knowledge of native species, and plant a garden that attracts and supports beneficial insects?



Butterfly-Attracting Plants

We all know that butterflies evolve from caterpillars. And caterpillars are voracious eaters. So the best way to get along with caterpillars is to grow food plants specifically for caterpillars. Adult butterflies spend their short lives looking for mates and laying eggs. They also need nectar-rich flowers to feed them while they search for the perfect spot to lay eggs.

Violets, pansies, and Johnny-jump-ups feed the young of many fritillary species. Drifts of these hardy, sweetly scented flowers attract the dramatic, 3-inch-wide great spangled fritillary as well as smaller meadow fritillary and their intricately patterned relatives. New England aster (*Aster novae-angliae*) and related species host the caterpillars of butterflies such as clouded sulfurs, checkered whites, and pearl crescents. Many adult butterflies, especially the Monarch, depend on its abundant nectar for energy in late summer and early autumn. Monarchs

maintenance categories.

I can't wait for spring to really start in earnest!!

Chuck Grusse

House Chair

Email: house@essexcorinthian.org

Entertainment Committee Update:

Great Caribbean night! Ed's food Truck provided some fabulous dishes and along with some fortified fruit juice with vitamin 'R', (courtesy of my husband Dick) we all had a great time, despite the snow falling outside.

Having a DJ was a great solution to our "acoustic issues". It gave us the ability to control the volume of the music on request. Our senior members were enjoying themselves and were able to meet and mingle with some of our newer members.

Special thanks to all my setup and cleanup teams...no way we could do this without you!

We are heading into our season now, with lots of shore and on shore events so look for the e-blasts and announcements. Remember, our events are listed online at our website, just go to www.essexcorinthian.org ... and click on "Events"!

We will start the Ladies on Deck get-togethers as soon as the deck is ready and the weather gets warmer. I am so looking forward to some great apps and good wine - and good company!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please call me at 860 227-1363 or email me at events@essexcorinthian.org.

Cheryl Arndt

Entertainment Chair

Email: events@essexcorinthian.org

Membership Update:

Commissioning is this weekend so its official! Despite the bits of snow remaining on the ground and the icebergs in the River the boating season has begun, and with that comes good times and great events at ECYC. We know you've invited friends to join you for races as well as at the raft ups, summer events, the boat parade and Trees in the Rigging. So why don't you invite them to join us as ECYC Members? If they join now they can participate as Members in the ECYC/EYC "Round the Buoys" Regattas, the 12 Meter Newport Regatta, the Three Mile Harbor Race and Raft Up, the ECYC Summer Cruise and much more. We are off to a good start for this season with applications coming in this week (there will be an official announcement of new members in upcoming publications); please speak with your friends and acquaintances about membership and let them share in all ECYC has to offer.

Val Votto

Membership Chair

Email: membership@essexcorinthian.org

CLUB MANAGER WANTED!

The Essex Corinthian Yacht Club Board of

especially the Monarch, depend on its abundant nectar for energy in late summer and early autumn. Monarchs cannot reproduce unless they have milkweed plants at their disposal. There are several special of milkweed (not a weed, despite its name, actually a very ornamental plant and a great accent behind base plantings). Look up "Asclepias" to find out more. Other important late-season nectar sources include zinnia, marigold (*Tagetes* spp.), goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.), Joe Pye weed (*Eupatorium* spp.), and sedum (*Sedum* spectabile).



Common Milkweed

To encourage the widest variety of butterflies, let your garden go wild around the edges; leave room for wild grasses, clover, nettles (*Urtica* spp.), willows, sassafras, and milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.). Thickets, marshes, meadows, and wooded edges provide the rich habitats that butterflies call home.

Monarchs, for example, tend to return to gardens where milkweed grows in abundance, so if you love butterflies, this is the way to encourage them and help them return from the brink of extinction!

Attracting Other Beneficial Insects

First you should learn to distinguish between the "good" and the "bad" insects. Not all insects are a threat to your garden, and many of them actually help fight off other plant predators. You can classify the "good" insects using the so-called "three P's system".

Think **P**ollinators, **P**redators and **P**arasites: Pollinators include insects such as honeybees and butterflies; they fertilize flowers, increasing the productivity of food crops ranging from apples to zucchini. Predators, such as lady beetles and soldier bugs, consume pest insects as food. Parasites use pests as nurseries for their young. In a diversified garden all three 'P's' are feeding on pests or on flower pollen and nectar. Learn to recognize the "good" bugs and leave them to do their work. Don't use broad-spectrum herbicides or pesticides on them, or you will upset the intricate balance.

Plants that attract beneficial insects include lupine, basil, calendula, baby's breath, cosmos, lobelia, sunflowers, violas, among the annuals, and perennials like angelica, blanket flowers, cardinal flowers, coneflowers, elderberry, goldenrod, lavender, milkweed, of course, penstemon, stonecrop, yarrow, to mention just a few.

If you would like to find out more about Native Species to plant in your garden, and how to attract beneficial insects, please follow the links below!

[Plant Native](#)

[Attract Beneficial Insects](#)

Happy (pre-boating) gardening!

Ruth Emblin

Rear Commodore & Fleet Communicator



Ship's Store Special For April 2015:

Club ties are \$5 off this month!

Complete the Corinthian look with a special club tie!

If you would like to purchase something from the Ship's Store, please see Jean Brewer or any bridge member for more information!



The Essex Corinthian Yacht Club Board of Governors seeks an energetic and outgoing CLUB MANAGER who will be responsible for managing all aspects of club operations and ensuring that members and guests enjoy a high level of satisfaction. Candidates should have worked at least five years in a hospitality environment (or equivalent), possess outstanding communication and organization skills and have experience in bookkeeping. This is a multi-faceted position involving billing, payables, vendor management, financial reporting, member interaction and the many daily tasks necessary to maintain smooth operation of the club. Proficiency with Microsoft Office programs is required and knowledge of QuickBooks is a plus.

The position is hourly paid and part-time, averaging 28 - 32 per week on a Tuesday - Friday schedule, with occasional attendance required at evening and weekend events.

All interested candidates are requested to please email current resume and salary requirements to Tim Brewer, Commodore at ECYCcommodore@essexcorinthian.org.



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

Essex Corinthian Yacht Club
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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