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THE ESSEX CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB

April 2013

## A View from the Bridge

### Fellow Corinthians,

Well before we officially kick off the 2013 season at our 29th Commissioning on Saturday, April 13th, our activity schedule is clearly underway with much fun on and off shore.



After a quick transition of the dining room from an Irish pub for amazing St. Patrick's Day brunch to our version of Foxy's Beach Bar and Restaurant on Jost Van Dyke, Caribbean Night was a smashing success! There is something about that party that says, "winter is over!" Buffet, Marley, and steel drum music can do that. The Sun Kings Caribbean Party Band made their Corinthian Debut to rave reviews. Their version of Van Morrison's "Into the Mystic" should be a club

anthem!



The Caribbean style buffet created by the Corinthian Café was another spectacular example by Monique and

Ed that there is no better place to eat, drink, and be merry in all of Essex!

We also want to thank Past Commodore Lewis Davidson for the fun leis and for wonderful Hawaiian beer, compliments of Craft Brew Alliance.



We are also seeing an amazing transformation of the first deck as the renovation project moves towards completing.

Both new heads for ladies and gentlemen are now operational.

There are some special family connections to the project. The general contractor is Soc Libby. Libby you say? Sounds familiar doesn't it? Soc is the nephew of Cy Libby, manager of the Brewer Dauntless Marina. Cy can often be found lending his expertise and help with the clubhouse and our boats. Cy's father was part of the original team that build the clubhouse in 1936. His father was also involved moving the wood used to build the clubhouse from an old barn in Chester. For Soc, the renovation has been a special connection to his grandfather. Soc is also husband to Stacia Libby who is an Essex Selectperson.



The other family connection is the club was rewired by Brett Haskins, son of past commodore Skip.

While we are on the subject of club history, the Essex Historical Society will repeat last year's popular "History of



the Yacht Clubs of Essex" presentation at the club on Thursday, April 25th, 7:30pm. Come hear the interesting story of the evolution of recreational boating in Essex from a famous

dingy race in 1933 to the very unique but related clubs we have today. Club founder and past commodore Dennis Walker will tell a first hand account of the Corinthian's founding.

We are also pleased to welcome New York Yacht Club Vice Commodore, yachtsman extraordinaire and Essex resident Rives Potts to the club for a very interesting presentation of his families circumnavigation to the world's great open ocean races in Carina. With Rives support, we will be able to welcome fellow yachtsmen from surrounding clubs to



January 1936

ECYC in support of our sponsorship of the Valley Regional High School Sailing Club which is our way of fostering the next generation of Essex area sailors. Join us this Sunday, April 7th, at 4:30pm. A Sailing Club donation of \$10 is suggested. The Galley will be open for a special dinner following Rives's talk. Please RVSP with Monique at We are also pleased to welcome New York Yacht Club Vice Commodore, yachtsman extraordinaire and Essex resident Rives Potts to the club for a very interesting presentation of his families circumnavigation to the world's great open ocean races in Carina. With Rives support, we will be able to welcome fellow yachtsmen from surrounding clubs to ECYC in support of our sponsorship of the Valley Regional High School Sailing Club which is our way of fostering the next generation of Essex area sailors. Join us this Sunday, April 7th, at 4:30pm. A Sailing Club donation of \$10 is suggested. The Galley will be open for a special dinner following Rives's talk. Please RVSP with Monique.

Off shore, we salute our Frostbiters for their success so far this season. ECYC ideal 18's crews of Cindy Gibbs, Lori Comforti, Ed Birch, and Jon Gibbs are running 1, 2, and 3 for the spring championship. Of note, Jon Gibbs has been racing Dragonfly with outstanding results while welcoming, encouraging and teaching fellow Corinthians the finer points of sailing and racing. Well done, Jon! In the Etchells fleet, Toby Doyle and Bill Robinson are "in the money" week and week out.



Ideals off Hayden's Point

To be a part of our racing crew, please contact Cindy Gibbs.

Join us at the flagpole Saturday, April 13th, at 4:30pm for our 29th Commissioning

Ceremony to be followed by a complementary member reception. We will welcome our newest Corinthians into our special "environment for good fellowship".

Make it a good month.

Terry



Terry Stewart, Commodore

## **In Memory**

We regret the passing of ECYC member John Gould. John and Nancy have been members since 2007 and have thoroughly enjoyed ECYC.

Our thoughts are with Nancy and the Gould family during this difficult time. John was a friendly and gentlemanly presence at ECYC and will be missed by all.

## Friday Night Colors

As we enter our commissioned season, we will honor a tradition practiced by yacht clubs worldwide simply called "Colors." On Friday nights at the time of sunset, a rotating member of the ECYC board, designated as the Officer of the Deck, will conduct Colors. As the US Flag is lowered at the Essex Yacht Club, the OOD will announce "Stand for Colors," ring our club's bell twice as a warning prior to firing our club's salute cannon. As the US Flag is lowered, members are asked to stand in respectful silence. Once the Flag has been lowered, the OOD will ring the bell once and call, "As you were."

## ECYC Summer Cruise Opportunities

Please note the dates and ports below for the joint 2013 Baldwin YC- ECYC summer cruise. Please reach out to Cliff Vermilya for questions at

[vermilya@comcast.net](mailto:vermilya@comcast.net).

We will also announce plans shortly for a shorter Corinthian Cruise to begin on July 20th commencing with the Three Mile Harbor Fireworks with Block, Newport, and Cuttyhunk.

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Captain's choice                  Saturday, July 27

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Cuttyhunk                                  Sunday, July 28

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Cuttyhunk                                  Monday, July 29

- Onset Tuesday, July 30

- Onset Wednesday, July 31

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Marion Thursday, August 1

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Marion Friday, August 2

- Westport Saturday, August 3

- Bristol Sunday, August 4

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Bristol Monday, August 5

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Wickford Tuesday, August 6

- Wickford Wednesday, August 7

- Newport Thursday, August 8

- Newport Friday, August 9

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Newport Saturday, August 10

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Home Sunday, August 11

## House and Grounds

Our major renovation continues. We have reached function, form to follow. The heads have been christened, the deluxe port-a -potty removed. Next up is painting, carpeting, trim, full lighting, and accessorize. Please stop by to view the progress and enjoy the club's new look as it is created. Continue to seek appropriate office furnishings to compliment the brand new ECYC administrative office space. As with last month's appeal, should any members have access or know of office furnishings please contact me or Elaine. The objective to have all in place by commissioning on April 13 appears to be in reach.

Whereas the renovation is the major event, there are others to be cared for in parallel. To meet the demands of the many projects we hope to complete this spring, there has been created a number of sub teams within the house committee. Each sub team is led by a

house committee member who will obtain materials, build the necessary team via volunteer solicitation to membership, define tasks, schedule work period(s) to complete the task objective. Presently the sub-teams and leads include:

Power wash exterior	Steve Rodstrom
Replace potting soil	Jack MacElwee
Repair stationary windows	Andy Roussel
Paint shutters, window cover	Lew Davidson
Clean windows, frames, sash	vacant
Enhance front porch	Terry Stewart
Deck maintenance	vacant

All members are welcome and urged to assist any team to complete its objective task. Please contact team lead to join any of the respective teams, or me to volunteer to become the lead for the 2 vacancies. Look for announcements and requests for assistance from the teams in the coming weeks. Future teams will be created as projects are defined.

Looking forward to 2013 to be an especially memorable year in the history of the ECYC building.

Chuck Grusse - House Chair

## **2013 Off-shore events**

It's on, boaters! Spring rituals like bottom sanding, battery charging, varnishing the toe rail, ogling new equipment at the annual Defender Warehouse sale and settling up with your winter

storage yard are all in full swing. Complimenting these rites of spring are the Frostbite Races

every Sunday afternoon. First gun is 1300 - bring your binoculars down to the club and enjoy

brunch and the exciting starts and finishes right in front of the clubhouse. Lori Comforti and Cindy Gibbs, Ed Birch in Harmony and John Gibbs in Dragonfly have been doing very well in

the Ideal 18 fleet series. Toby Doyle leads the Etchells fleet with Bill Robinson close behind.

Great job to all of the ECYC competitors! Jon Gibbs is organizing crews for Dragonfly. Contact

Jon at [johngibbsarch@aol.com](mailto:johngibbsarch@aol.com) to skipper or crew a race.

I mentioned last month that we're working on a range of new PHRF opportunities this year.

Below are some "save the dates" for these NEW EVENTS:

June 23rd - PHRF "Fun" Race off of Saybrook Point with EYC.

July 14th - PHRF "Fun" Race off of Saybrook Point with EYC.

August 25th - PHRF "Fun" Race off of Saybrook Point with EYC.

September 21st - First Inaugural "Cross Sound Challenge" hosted by ECYC.

Our ECYC Club Cruise this year will kick-off on July 20th with an informal Club Race from Saybrook Point to 3 Mile Harbor (beach party in the afternoon, fireworks at 9 PM). On Sunday

July 21st the Cruise will head for Block Island and on from BI to Newport and Cuttyhunk, returning to Essex via Newport, Watch Hill (and/or Block). For those with more time to cruise,

our cruise can be linked with the Baldwin YC Cruise, which kicks-off on our return date of July

27th.

We're still trying to schedule one more PHRF event for 2013 with Shelter Island Yacht Club. As

you can see, our dance card is pretty full already, but both ECYC and SIYC are working hard to

find a date that will work for this event, which we see as the beginning of an annual tradition.

Tim Brewer, Vice Commodore



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## Upcoming Events



**Rives Potts and the World's Great Open Ocean Races.** Sunday, April 7th, 4:30pm  
ECYC. RSVP with Monique. [monique@coastalcookingcompany.com](mailto:monique@coastalcookingcompany.com)

**North U Racing Rules Seminar** - Thursday, April 4th, 6:30-9:30pm. Essex Yacht Club.  
\$10 pp.

**ECYC Commissioning 2013.** Join us Saturday, April 13th at 4:40pm as we commission the club for the 2013. Check out our renovations and join a member reception to celebrate!

**Corinthian Kayakers Organizational Meeting** - April 16th, 6:30pm, ECYC. Please reach out to Don Shannehan to get involved [donshannehan@sbcglobal.com](mailto:donshannehan@sbcglobal.com).

**History of the Yacht Clubs of Essex** - Thursday, April 25th, 7:30pm. ECYC. Sponsored by the Essex Historical Society.

**Spring Boat Show**- Brewer Dauntless Marina, April 26-28

**Newport 12 Meter Challenge** - Saturday, June 22nd. Crews are forming now. Contact Terry Stewart at [tgstewart14@comcast.net](mailto:tgstewart14@comcast.net) to sign aboard. Four slots remaining.

**Ideal 18 Sailing Classes:** Learn to sail this year! Sailing classes on our Ideal 18's are now being planned. We intend to run a general class for all members along with a session designed especially for women. Please contact Race Chair Cindy Gibbs to express interest ([cindy.gibbs@yahoo.com](mailto:cindy.gibbs@yahoo.com)).

## Did you know?



Many of us have sat at the round glass table in the dining room. Supporting the glass is large wooden ship's wheel. Imagine the size of the ship the wheel belonged to. Even better, what actual ship did the wheel belong to? There is the mystery.

We know the table, with wheel, was donated to the club by the family of one of the club's first caterers. Could it be from the Osage, the largest ship sunk in the British attack on Essex? How about the Dauntless, Sam Colt's yacht from which the Dauntless Shipyard and The Dauntless Club are named? Or perhaps, one of the

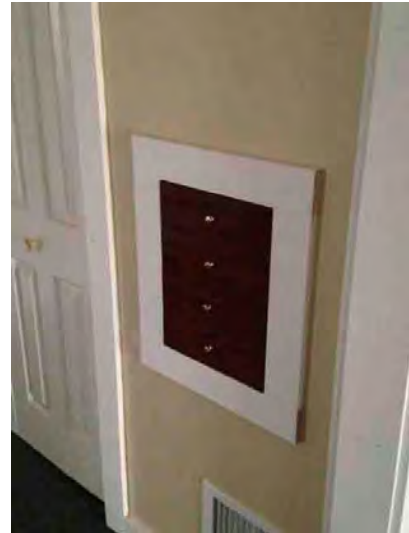
Connecticut River steamers who docked in Essex on their ways to and from New York.

Let us know if you can shed some light into the history of the wheel.

## **Name tag drawers back in operation**

Please know our name tag drawers are back in service. The drawers are now located next to the cloak closet on the first floor. All member name tags have been placed alphabetically in the drawers.

Please endeavor to wear your name tag while at the club to help get to know fellow members.



## **Newport 12 Meter Event**

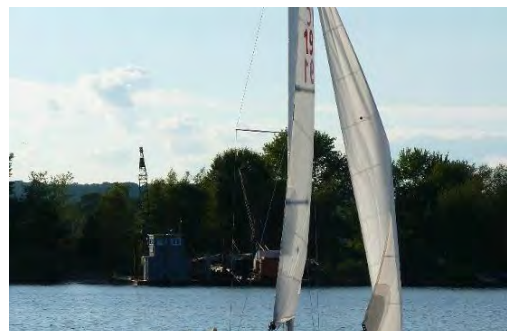
We have two slots remaining for this year's visit Newport visit to race 12 Meters with our friends from the Essex, Pettipaug, and Baldwin Yacht Clubs on Saturday, June 22nd.

Let Terry know.

## **Ahoy Lady Sailors!**

Once again this summer, we will be offering ladies sailing classes on Monday evenings aboard our Ideal 18's. Cindy Gibbs (Race Chair/ASA Certified Instructor) will be teaching the classes. They will begin on June 3rd running through June 24th. Time 5:30-7:30pm.

In July, we offering a 3 week racing seminar on Wednesday evenings (July 9-23rd) and inviting



Essex Yacht Club ladies to join us, so we'll have 6-8 Ideal's on the water & starting line for some exciting racing instruction.



Please call Cindy to sign up for these classes.

[cindy.gibbs@yahoo.com](mailto:cindy.gibbs@yahoo.com)

## Corinthian Kayak News (aka "The Mini-Fleet")



We will have our first meeting April 16 at 1830 hours. It will begin to set the plan for the coming season and will focus on the "Who." Who wants to kayak, who has a kayak and who needs a kayak. Once we can get that covered we'll develop an instructional plan for st timers, talk rental programs, basic equipment, and highlight some paddle excursions along the rivers and sound. Later meetings we'll discuss safety, tides, paddle techniques, transport and storage and try to answer any question you have.

If you can't make it please send me an email ([donshannehan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donshannehan@sbcglobal.net)) with your "kayak bio" so we know where you fit the group and I'll fill you in on what you missed.

## Burgee of the Month



**Mystery Burgee**

Who can identify this month's mystery burgee? Members identifying this burgee should let Terry Stewart know and will receive an ECYC burgee bumper sticker.

## **Notes from Membership**

Ahoy Maties!!

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members to ECYC:

Nancy and Mark McDonald, sponsored by Terry Stewart are new the Essex community and seeking ways to get involved. They have an Adirondock Guide boat and enjoy rowing on and around the CT River. They are interested in learning to sail and getting involved in the club activities.

Patti and Tim Pickering, sponsored by Susan Malan, moved to Essex three years ago and have an affinity for all things related to the water and boating. Tim is a former member of the American Yacht Club in Rye, NY. They are dedicated volunteers, spending time with the Nehemiah affordable housing project in Middletown, the Essex Historical Society, Habitat for Humanity and the Shoreline Soup Kitchen.

Pat MacKenzie Thompson, sponsored by Sharon Craig, is a many years resident of Essex. Known for her work as the Chair of the Essex Auxiliary of Child and Family Agency, Pat is also on the board of the Essex Winter series and a trustee of Middlesex Hospital. She has been a guest at many ECYC functions and is thrilled to be a full member.

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!!

Sharon Craig

## **2013 Membership Roster**

Our new membership roster will soon be out with current member contact information plus our on and off shore event calendar. We are very grateful to once again have a wonderful cover painting by ECYC member Jack MacElwee.

Jack has offered a limited number of copies for sale through the Ship's Store to benefit our sponsorship of the Valley Regional High School Sailing Club.



The cost of the copy is \$10.

Jack MacElwee 2013 Membership  
Roster cover

## **Ships Store**

In addition to our on-premise Ship's Store in the Sun Room, check out the online store at: [www.boatowners.org](http://www.boatowners.org)

## **Communication Information**

Please note our **EMAIL and WEBSITE ADDRESSES**

We have a helpful page on the ECYC Website. Want to sell stuff??? or perhaps you are looking for something....check out our "Classified Page."

Give your information to Elaine and she'll get onto the ECYC website.

Also, note that all Club events, menus, photos, etc. are on our website.

....so remember:

[www.essexcyc.org](http://www.essexcyc.org)

email: [ECYC@essexcyc.org](mailto:ECYC@essexcyc.org)

## **ECYC Information**

### **2013 FLAG OFFICERS**

Commodore - Terry Stewart

Vice Commodore - Tim Brewer

Rear Commodore - Steve Rodstrom

Treasurer - Deb Wallis

Secretary - Katherine Berry

### **2013 BOARD MEMBERS**

Sharon Craig

Chuck Grusse

Jane Pfeffer

Valerie Votto

Dan Watts

Past Commodore - Skip Haskins

Fleet Captain - David Dorrance

Fleet Surgeon - Dr. Marybeth Ellison, MD

Fleet Chaplin - Dan Taylor-Stypa

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Entertainment - Valerie Votto

Galley - Dan Watts

House - Chuck Grusse  
Membership - Sharon Craig  
Nominating - Skip Haskins  
Race Committee - Cindy Gibbs

Ship's Store - Jean Brewer

WebMaster-Skip Haskins  
Bell 8 - Robbi Storms

**CLUB MANAGER**.....Elaine Kyle

ECYC Office.....860-767-3239

ECYC Fax.....860-767-6569

ECYC mail:

Web Site: [www.essexcyc.org](http://www.essexcyc.org)

**GALLEY:** Monique Armstrong

Coastal Cooking Company

Office.....860-501-5036

email : [monique@coastalcookingcompany.com](mailto:monique@coastalcookingcompany.com)

Essex Corinthian Yacht Club

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