



## View from the Bridge

Decommissioning and the Annual Membership Meeting will be held Saturday, December 3rd at 4pm. You should have received a packet of documents in the mail recently that includes the agenda and supporting documents, as well as a voting proxy to submit if you will not attend the meeting. Voting is required for 2023 budget and dues, one simple bylaw change, and the 2023 slate of officers and board members. A significant dues increase is unavoidable. There was no increase last year, and inflation - which was tame for more than a decade - took off early this year and will only decline slowly. The proposed 9.4% increase in what you will pay (dues, capital fund, and taxes) next year is necessary in order to align expected income with expected expenses. However, we are offering a 3% discount on payments made by check. The reason being that we incur a 3% credit card transaction fee, so we want to encourage paying by check instead of credit card. You should also be aware that historically we borrow against a bank line of credit and/or our capital fund in order to pay our bills the last quarter of each year. This year, because of inflation, we tapped them earlier than ever. We receive most of our income early in the year because of dues and new members initiation fees. But we have to pay back the line of credit and/or capital fund that we tapped the previous year. The easiest solution is to continue growing the membership to increase our income. Jessi Kneier has been doing a fantastic job as membership chairperson, but every member can help by encouraging anyone who shows an interest to join. Please try to attend the Annual Meeting - the decommissioning ceremony is short, the meeting is usually short, appetizers will be served after the meeting, and the annual awards will be presented - perhaps you may win one!

# IN THE CLUBHOUSE

## Reminder

If any information in the Member & Fleet Roster is wrong or out of date, please e-mail Jean (ecyc@essexcorinthian.org) and she will mark up her copy of the roster so that it gets corrected in the 2023 edition. If the information is correct now but changes later, please notify her of the change.

Thank you!

## IN THE GALLEY

### December:

Please keep an eye out for weekly emails about galley hours and menus during the month of December.

**Note: The club and galley will be closed all of January, and the Old Lyme Country Club is open to ECYC members during that time. An e-blast with further details will follow.**

*“The purpose of the Club is to provide a facility and environment of good fellowship for active yachtsmen at a moderate cost.” This foundational statement has driven our Corinthian style club since its inception in 1984. The success of keeping our club at moderate cost is possible only by participation of the membership. A perfect way to do this is by helping on one of our various committees! There are many ways (big or small) to contribute through a committee and most require minimal commitment. If you ever thought about helping to make our club function, now is the time! In the coming weeks you will receive an e-blast describing the different committees we have and the roles they play. Please consider where you would be willing to serve. I can assure you, the experience is rewarding and a great way to meet new people here at YOUR club!*

**Jessi Kneier, Rear Commodore**



Member Joe DiRenzo (former Navy and Coast Guard officer and Naval Academy graduate) presented a United States Naval Academy Sailing Squadron burgee to our club this past August. Joe was challenged by Past Commodore Terry Stewart (former Army officer and Military Academy graduate) to obtain one to go along with the United States Military Academy Sailing Program burgee that Terry provided previously. These burgees are difficult to obtain because they are normally available only to members of those exclusive programs. The burgee was presented to Commodore Tom Atkinson. Look for both burgees hanging on the far wall side by side. Joe also obtained a burgee from the Annapolis Yacht Club, and we challenged Terry to get us reciprocal privileges.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT



**New Members Reception**

Now that the worst of COVID seems to be behind us, people are looking to jump back into recreational activities. This has definitely carried over to our club as we have welcomed 27 new members to ECYC this year! We are ending 2022 with 184 members and hope to grow our membership even more next year. Please spread the word about our wonderful club to your friends and family!

*Jessi Kneier, Membership Chair*

## ENTERTAINMENT REPORT

Our latest event packed the house as we sang along with the Jovial Crew at our first ever Sea Chanteys Night!

Awards were given for best pirate outfit and Chef Lori served up a hearty pub style buffet.

We have already booked the Jovial Crew to come back next year so stay tuned!

*Pat Atkinson & Jessi Kneier,  
Entertainment Co-Chairs*



## Upcoming Events

Details will be sent via email

**Decommissioning & Annual Meeting** - Saturday December 3rd

**Children's Holiday Party** - Saturday, December 10th

**Ladies on Deck** - Tuesday December 13th

**Wish Tree Ornament / Holiday Brunch** - Sunday December 11

**New Year's Eve Dinner** - Saturday, December 31st

# ECYC ON THE WATER

## Cross Sound Challenge Report

The 10th edition of ECYC's marquee annual PHRF regatta was held Saturday September 24th under sunny skies and a brisk WSW breeze with variations on all sides of the course. With covid protocols marking scaled back affairs in 2020 and 2021, the regatta committee was eager to put a fresh spin on this year's event, and together with the entertainment committee's top notch on shore party planning & execution, it was a great success by all accounts. We were especially fortunate to have so many members and local organizations step up and join as sponsors for this year's event - almost 30 in total! Hats off to Terry Stewart for his tireless efforts in this area in particular.

Nearly 20 boats and almost 90 competitors navigated the "Cross Sound" course that first sent the fleet southeast to the Plum Island Whistle Buoy off the Northeast shore of Plum Island. From there, it was a dash north to the CT shore to evade the ebb tide that intensified throughout the afternoon. Winning boats found shallower water and short tacked the shoreline while occasional northerlies made the westerly slog back to Bell 8 a bit more palatable. After the long upwind leg against the tide, skippers and crews were eager to ease sails and head for the finish line off of Fenwick, with some boats finishing within seconds or minutes of the 4:30 time limit.

Congratulations to EYC's Direwolf, skippered by Larry Hennessy. Direwolf took home the most silver for the day, winning their class (C- Spinnaker), line honors, as well as the Dennis Walker trophy for best overall corrected time. In class A, EYC Commodore Carter Gowrie took 1st place on his classic Herreshoff AIDA, while Mark Salerno's Fusion (DIYC) won class B. A new "River vs Sound" award was also placed into competition this year, with the goal of fostering greater camaraderie amongst area clubs. The top 3 finishers from any River based club are compared against the top 3 finishers from any Sound based club. I am happy to report that The River took home the inaugural award, represented by Direwolf (1st, class C), AIDA (1st, class A), and Rhumb Rhunner (2nd, class C). Top finishers from ECYC were Jeff Going's Celebration, and Chris Morano's Dorian, each placing 3rd in their respective classes.

The regatta committee and entire ECYC Board would like to extend a special thank you to two members who truly went above and beyond to help make this event successful. Gary Riggio and his beautiful 50' Post Shifting Gears served as the main committee boat, while Cherie Calabrese served as photographer aboard Bill Robinson's mark boat/photo boat Tashtego. Thank you both for stepping up and embodying the true Corinthian spirit.

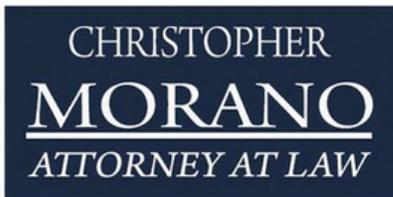
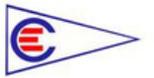
Bill Robinson, Regatta Chair / Vice Commodore

Photos by Cherie Calabrese





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Our thanks also to generous members like Tom Atkinson, Elayne Kyle, Jim and Diana Coan, Norm Dorval and Barb Doyle for their support!

# Thomas Clark Memorial Regatta



After EYC's Willets Race was postponed due to high winds on October 1st, the Clark Race served to kick off this year's Tri Club River Series on Saturday October 8th. Pettipaug Yacht Club's Birch Race is typically the final installment that coincides with their decommissioning. The series has historically taken place on the first three Saturdays in October, offering smaller boats a challenging distance race between Brockway Island & Calves Island. As anyone who has raced on the river can attest, these races typically have a little bit of everything to challenge each crews skill, patience, and luck, and this year was no different. Boat traffic, tide, big wind shifts, wind shadows, total absence of wind, water depth (or lack thereof), tactics and strategy all played a role and Toby Doyle's Flo was able to make the most of the conditions and took home 1st place. Matt Rennie's Rumor (DIYC) and Dave Fasulo's Aventura (PYC) finished 2nd & 3rd overall respectively, while Jeff Going's Celebration finished 3rd in her class. In the final two races of the series, Toby Doyle (Flo) made it a "picket fence" by finishing first in all three events. Making it an even sweeter achievement was his all ECYC crew of Cindy Gibbs, Bill Robinson, and Scott Beckwith.

The Regatta Committee extends a heartfelt thank you to our esteemed race committee led by Jane Reilly (Principal Race Officer), Dan Rennie & Jim Hammel on mark boat, Ashley Gibbs and Ed & Marsha Birch on committee boat, and Terry Stewart for party & pizza logistics. Bill Robinson's Holland 32' Tashtego and Monomoy 19' Oyster served as committee boat & mark boat, respectively.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered on and off the water to make these events successful. If you are interested in helping us plan and run next year's events, please do not hesitate to reach out. Racing and race committee volunteering is at the heart of what our club is all about.



*Bill Robinson, Regatta Chair / Vice Commodore*

## Tri-Club River Race Series

In addition to winning the Clark race hosted by ECYC, Toby Doyle also won the Willets (hosted by EYC) and Birch (hosted by PYC) races, once again sweeping the series and bringing home the coveted trophy that will live for another year in our clubhouse case.

Pictured here is Toby accepting the Tri Club Trophy from PYC Commodore Mischa van Berkel with Ed Birch on the old school megaphone



## Manhasset Bay Challenge Cup

Jim Hammel and Tom Atkinson teamed up and travelled to Long Island in September to compete for the Manhasset Bay Challenge Cup, which is advertised as the oldest annual sailing event in the United States. Manhasset Bay Yacht Club started this competition in 1902, offering a perpetual sterling silver trophy cup that approaches the America's Cup in size and beauty, as seen in the photo to the right. The competition is among yacht clubs – each club can enter one boat. The winning club hosts the following year's race and selects the boat (18' minimum length). 26 different clubs have won the event. Manhasset Bay chose Ideal 18s with spinnakers. A minimum of three races of no less than four miles distance are required.



Alas, there was no wind Saturday morning, delaying the harbor start until early afternoon. The first race started in the harbor in a light northwesterly with the course crossing Long Island Sound and back. Four of the six boats were over the starting line early (what, no general recall?), but we had a clean start and sailed into increasing velocity, opening up a large lead. As the fleet exited Manhasset Bay the wind died completely for the next hour, and the ebbing current swept everyone down the Sound until the two hour time limit expired.

Shortly thereafter the forecasted southwesterly filled in. The fleet sailed back to the starting line for another try, this time sailing a shorter course within Manhasset Bay in a spotty 5-8 knot breeze. We got an excellent start again and led around the first mark, but the team from The Royal Canadian Yacht Club in Toronto (which has a large Ideal 18 fleet) sailed through everyone to leeward on the spinnaker reach and outpointed everyone on the next beat to win easily. We hung on to second place, comfortably ahead of the team from Fort Worth, Texas who had never sailed an Ideal 18 before. The race was supposed to be a one day affair, but it was late so they decided to run two races the next day. Sunday's forecast of no wind was accurate - we never left the dock. Since only one race was completed, no club won the Cup. Manhasset Bay will host the race again next September. EYC's ace Carter Gowrie has tentatively agreed to enter next year, increasing the odds of bringing the race to Essex in 2024.

*The Essex Corinthian Yacht Club's Bell 8 Newsletter is a quarterly 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](http://www.essexcorinthian.org),  
email us at [ecyc@essexcorinthian.org](mailto:ecyc@essexcorinthian.org),  
or snail-mail to Essex Corinthian Yacht Club PO Box 759 - Essex, CT 06426  
Telephone: (860) 767-3239*

*Members are encouraged to submit articles and pictures of their club stories, sailing adventures/mishaps to the Bell 8 editor  
Contact: [bell8newsletter@essexcorinthian.org](mailto:bell8newsletter@essexcorinthian.org)*

*Let's get Social!*

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*Instagram at: [www.instagram.com/essexcorinthianyachtclub](http://www.instagram.com/essexcorinthianyachtclub)*

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