



THE ESSEX CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB

OFF-SHORE

IDEAL 18 FLEET UPDATE

Four weeks into the spring frostbiting season our fleet of Ideal 18s hold the top three places in the class. With only 15 points, Tom and Dan, with Priscilla Robinson as alternate, have won the day twice. Cindy Gibbs with 29 points in second has also won a day and opened up a lead over Jon Gibbs with 35. In fourth, member Ed Birch sailing with Rob Reichard, rounds out an ECYC sweep with 45 points.

We have been working with Essex Yacht club to co-ordinate our summer racing programs. EYC and ECYC will be promoting Tuesday night racing for Intermediates and skippers looking to sharpen their racing skills. Thursday night racing this summer will remain a spinnaker class. ECYC will host the EYC/ECYC team race in September. The racing and ladies clinics will also share a fleet on several occasions. Cindy and Tom are working with EYC on the details. The club boats will also be available for the Tri-Club River Races, consisting of the Willets, Clark, and Birch Memorial, this fall.

As our program continues to grow, we are working to codify our system of crew boat assignments. We have been able to accommodate all qualified skippers and crews to date. It works best when teams with a skipper, crew, and alternate crew sign up as a team before the season begins. We also will continue to assign an open boat to get individuals and newcomers into the game.

Shortly, the boats will be available everyday (except on Frostbiting Sundays) for use by member skippers and their guests, providing that they have been pre-qualified to do so by Ed Birch or Cindy Gibbs. Note that for the Frostbiting season our racing jibs are removed daily to extend the longevity of their competitiveness.

Please contact Jon Gibbs at fleetcoordinator@essexcorinthian.org for assistance in rigging the boats at this time. By May 1st we will make sure that there is always a boat fully rigged to get underway in minutes.

Remember all crews and guests must sign the waiver and contact info forms, and sign out on the bulletin board in the River Room as well!

Those interested in racing the club boats should contact Jon Gibbs. Those with previous club frostbiting experience are pre-qualified, others should contact Jon Gibbs for frostbiting qualification or referral to our racing clinic and summer racing opportunities.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **April 28th:** North U Racing Rules Seminar
- **May 6th:** Wine Tasting
- **May 8th:** Mother's Day Brunch
- **May 13th - 15th:** Essex Boat Show
- **May 19th:** Leukemia Cup Kick-Off Cocktails & Music
- **June 1st:** Wednesday Night Dinners start



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

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



Fellow Corinthians!

Essex Corinthian Yacht Club's 32 Commissioning

I am pleased to report that we are in Commission for 2016. The weather cooperated and after a day of heavy rain the clouds lifted and we went ahead as planned. Our Fleet Chaplain Dan Taylor Stypa delivered a wonderful invocation and Past Commodore Ed Birch once again sounded off on his trumpet. I also want to thank our Fleet Captain for a job well done. The reception that followed was well attended and Coastal Cooking Company prepared a delicious table of hors d'oeuvres.

Jon Gibbs

Ideal 18 Fleet Coordinator

Email: fleetcoordinator@essexcorinthian.org

NORTH U RACING RULES SEMINAR:

Thursday, April 28th, is the date for the Racing Rules Seminar, a joint event by Essex Corinthian and Essex Yacht Clubs. The seminar will be hosted at EYC.

It is always more fun if you know the rules...this is the perfect opportunity to gain new or hone your existing skills. The seminar costs \$25 per person, and there is also an option to purchase a North U workbook for \$7. Space is limited, so sign up as soon as possible!

Reservations can be made by emailing email@essexyc.com, pay at the door.

For more information, please go to www.essexcorinthian.org/more-events-at-ecyc.html

New Racing Clinic Planned

What's new and exciting this SPRING at ECYC?

We are offering a new and exciting **Co-Ed Adult Racing Clinic** to our members in the Ideal 18s!

Instructor: Cindy Gibbs

Classes will be held on 3 consecutive Wednesday nights:

May 25, June 1, June 8

Time: 5:00-7:30pm

Cost: \$150.00

Sign-up required.

Class size will be 6 to 10 students, first come-first serve.

The clinic will be informative, the perfect way to review the rules of sailing and racing, learn about starting and general racing concepts!

To sign up, contact Cindy Gibbs at cindysailing@essexcorinthian.org



Cindy Gibbs

Sailing Instructor

ON-SHORE & HOUSE

Caribbean Night and the Commissioning under our belt, we are now turning our attention to getting the clubhouse ready for the warmer season!

Please refer to our House Committee Chair, Chuck Grusse's report to find out how you can help. We need your support to keep the club ship-shape in Bristol fashion!

Our next few social events include a **Wine Tasting on May 6th** (for more information see article on the right) and the **Mother's Day Brunch on May 10th**. As always, you can find more information on our program on our website, www.essexcorinthian.org, click on "Events".

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.

Wishing you all a Happy Spring!

Caribbean Night

Our Caribbean night was a sold out event! We had a tremendous response and had to stop taking reservations due to the large numbers. A year ago we had reservations numbering in the forties, this year it was double that, and received more requests late in the game. Please remember not to wait to the last minute, as I know several folk's missed out. The deadlines are there to help us plan a great event, so please rsvp as soon as possible to ensure that you will be able to attend the event of your choice!

The food was good and dancing went on for several hours. Some great dance moves were seen on the dance floor....

Membership

This is the time of year we look for new members. Finding new members is a responsibility we all share to ensure the future of our club. Members are the driving force behind our organization, and it is in our best interest to help spread the word. If you have someone in mind who would share our values and enjoy the atmosphere our club creates, please be in touch.

Remember to watch the calendar for upcoming events!

Hope you have a great month!

Steve Rodstrom

Commodore



2016 Board of Governors

NEW EVENT FOR 2016! WINE TASTING AT ECYC ON MAY 6TH

Please join in for a **Wine Tasting/Educational Opportunity** on May 6th from 6 to 8 pm.

Presenters: Jim Morrison, Tony Lombardozzi

This event is sponsored by Artisan Wine Inc., a distributor based in Norwalk, CT that focuses on bringing to market unique (limited production bottlings) from family managed wineries and vineyards.

The tasting will be from Italy and select areas of the US West Coast.

All wines are for purchase, with NO minimums, and orders will be filled by Amity Wine Inc of New Haven, CT.

For more information, please contact
Off-Shore & Special Event Coordinator

Mark Bavalack

specialoffshore@essexcorinthian.org



Wine Tasting at ECYC
Friday, May 6th

NEW GUEST WIFI NETWORK AT ECYC'S CLUBHOUSE

Our office improvements continue! After dealing with a few networking issues we now have a brand-new, secure WiFi network available, accessible to members and guests.

You can connect your wireless-enabled devices to the "GUEST-EssexCorinthianYachtClub" network. Please contact Jean Little, our office manager for the password!

Ruth Emblin

Vice Commodore

Email: vicecommodore@essexcorinthian.org



House Committee Update:

The planter boxes in front of the building made their transformation to spring complete, just in time for the fantastic Easter Brunch prepared by our partners Coastal Cooking Company. The transition from winter greens to spring pansies was done by Nina Thurston. Please join me in expressing appreciation for her efforts for all of us to enjoy!

Under the heading of "things just never seem to get completed", there will be a work day on Saturday April 16 to finish the top coat of paint for the main deck railing. The fun will start at 11AM (weather permitting) using brush and roller to (finally) get the trim paint applied. Last fall we started this Odyssey with multiple scraping, sanding, cleaning, and primer coat sessions and individual weekday efforts to get us to this point. But time and/or energy ran out before the final top coat could be fully applied. We will get this done before May 1.

Please consider coming down if even for an hour or two. I am convinced that if we could get 10 to 12 folks slinging brushes and rollers, this would be done before afternoon tea.

Immediately following the railing effort, in early May the task will be the recoating of the deck surface. Rental of a sander for the tough and large surface will be step one. Once most of the existing painted surface of the decking is sanded off a stain will be applied, to avoid the peeling experienced in previous resurfacing applications. This effort will get us through 2016, and possibly 2017, while the long term renovation of the deck is planned and designed.

On the topic of long term improvements, the key areas I've identified in the past are underway for initial definition, design, and costing.

The steps include:

- Gary Sharpe is developing the project factors for replacement and enhancement of the River Room river facing window and door.
- Terry Stewart is pursuing options for the replacement of the building alarm system.
- I'm pursuing the front door and front of building enhancement design.
- Rear deck refurbishment plan and design remains to have a volunteer.
- Sunroom window replacement evaluation remains to have a volunteer.

I remain hopeful to have the bulk of this season's projects wrapped up by Memorial Day to ensure the summer of 2016 can be enjoyed with ECYC looking as best as can be, and as much free time as possible.

Thanks, and please help whenever you can to support the work efforts of the next couple of months.

Chuck Grusse

House Chair

Email: house@essexcorinthian.org

Entertainment Committee Update:

Caribbean
Night on

Friday, April

1st was a great
success, thanks

To connect, open your devices WiFi connection manager and click on "GUEST-EssexCorinthianYachtClub" (please ensure you select the above, not any other network shown). You will be asked for the WPA password. Enter the password and click on OK or CONNECT.

Happy surfing!



GUEST-
EssexCorinthianYachtClub

GALLEY NEWS

ECYC had its first party of the season and it was a big hit .It was one of the largest turn-outs ever with wonderful food and fun music.

Bringing your non-member friends is easier than ever. They can now pay for their dinner or lunch using a major credit card.

Remember, if everyone on your table wants to eat at the same time, please turn your orders in together. However, please be aware that orders by groups larger than six may need to be slightly staggered to allow the kitchen to coordinate serving.

Congratulations to Monique and Ed and the Coastal Cooking Company team. They received a perfect rating of 100 during a recent health inspection!



On **Sunday, May 10th**, the galley will serve a special **Mother's Day Brunch**. Why not treat Mom to brunch at ECYC?

There are two seatings, and reservations are strongly encouraged to ensure you get your preferred seating! For details and reservations, please go to www.essexcorinthian.org/more-events-at-ecyc.html or download the brunch menu by clicking on the button below:

DOWNLOAD BRUNCH MENU

Looking forward to seeing you at the club,

Catherine Gazikas

Galley Liaison

Did You Know?

The Galley serves a great lunch with soups, salads and all kinds of comfort food to be enjoyed while the roaring fireplace takes the chill out of rainy April weather or enjoy the spring 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

FEEDBACK

*We want to know what you
think about our galley!*

SEND US YOUR STORIES! YOU MUST HAVE SOME TO SHARE....! NEW COLUMN PLANNED FOR OUR BELL 8 NEWSLETTER

Tell us about your last cruise, share your favorite destinations, an interesting or inspiring experience you had on the water, recommendations for a day out on the boat, or spin a yarn.... it is up to you!

We are looking for boating stories to share with your fellow Corinthians!

to all the members who came out to start the new season at ECYC! Thank you to the event coordinators, Val Votto and Terry Stewart, and their group



of helpers, who transformed the dining room into "Margaritaville". Thank you to Coastal Cooking Company for the delicious buffet dinner. This is what ECYC is all about, camaraderie, fun, and good vibes!

There are plenty of other events on our club calendar, which will be officially unveiled with our 2016 Member & Fleet Roster, soon to be available for pick-up!

As we are a membership-driven organization the philosophy is "all hands on deck" to make the 32nd year of our club successful and enjoyable for all! Check out the online calendar and select a club event you would like to become involved in!

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

Ruth Emblin

Vice Commodore & 2016 On-Shore Events
Email: vicecommodore@essexcorinthian.org
or events@essexcorinthian.org

Strategy Planning Update:

The group of members who have been involved in the strategic planning exercise (the working group) met on March 25th. The work undertaken at that meeting constituted a milestone.

Over the past few months the following has been accomplished:

The exercise began with an analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats faced by the organization. This is a so called SWOT analysis. We augmented this process with a risk assessment wherein we assessed each weakness, opportunity and threat against likelihood and severity. The results of this process were then plotted on one chart with a likelihood axis and a severity axis. This served to identify matters that needed to be addressed soon, matters that need to be monitored but not necessarily addressed now and, finally, matters that were sufficiently immaterial to be ignored.

At the last two meetings the working group looked at these results and identified what can be called "kernels" of strategies to address these matters. We are now at the point where smaller groups with specific knowledge need to be organized to develop detailed strategies. There probably is no need for the full working group to meet again (although they probably will be involved in the new smaller groups). I thank them for their efforts.

Richard Pierce

Strategy Planning Chair
Email: strategy@essexcorinthian.org

Membership Update:

If you know of someone who would enjoy our club as much as you do, why not invite them to come to the club?

We all have choices in how we spend our leisure time and money, but ECYC continues to represent unequalled value in recreation, dining, and fellowship. Spread the word!

Thanks, in advance, and see you on the water!

Scott Konrad



We are planning to publish your stories beginning with the May issue of Bell 8.

Please email your submissions to bell8newsletter@essexcorinthian.org by the last day of the month to make it into the next month's issue. We are looking forward to hearing from you!

LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST:

rites of Spring: BURNING OF THE SOCKS



Our friends at the Essex Yacht Club invite everyone to join them at the "2nd Annual Burning of the Socks" on Saturday, April 30th, from 5 to 7 pm.

Essex Sailors' Ceremonial Burning of Winter Socks!

Crew/Skipper Race Networking
Bring Expired Flares & Rockets for Demonstration & Disposal
Sea Chanteys by THE JOVIAL CREW
Bar! Pizza! Sliders!

Presented by EYC Regatta Committee
Casual Dress * Bring Your Old Socks

[Download a flyer by clicking HERE.](#)

Check out the spring program at the Connecticut River Museum by clicking [HERE!](#)

Burning of the Ships Day is on May 14th!

Come and commemorate the worst day in Essex's history with the famous **Loser's Day Parade!** The festivities kick off with the annual Burning of the Ships Commemoration Parade presented by Essex's own Sailing Masters of 1812 Fife & Drums corps.

Find out more at www.ctrivermuseum.org/calendarevent/burning-of-the-ships-day-2/



ECYC TO HOST 2016 KICK-OFF EVENT ON MAY 19TH TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!

As part of our cooperation with Duck Island and North Cove Yacht Clubs in support of the Leukemia Cup Regatta, our club is proud to once again host the LEUKEMIA CUP KICK-OFF - COCKTAILS FOR A CURE!

The Leukemia Cup Kick-Off is a very social and informative event for anyone interested in supporting the lifesaving work of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The Leukemia Cup Regatta is a race held in almost every (sailing) state across our nation. What is better than doing something for the good of others AND enjoying time out on the water? And if you are not a sailor, you can still help with the regatta by supporting one of our teams racing or by creating your own virtual team for fundraising.

More will be explained on **Thursday, May 19th, beginning at 7.00 pm.** We are pleased to have been able to win support from the fellows of "Long Spice" as our musical entertainment for the night! You may know them if you frequent the Gris...they have agreed to provide us with a special musical performance in support of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society!

You can look forward to cocktails and snacks, raffles, seafaring music and inspiring moments!



Green Tip of the Month:

PLEASE SAY NO TO BALLOONS!

Springtime means that wedding and graduation season is just around the corner. It also means parties, food, drinks, beautiful decorations - and often balloon releases.

Latex and mylar balloons may look pretty, but like everything else, if not properly disposed of, can be very dangerous and even life-threatening to wildlife. Latex balloons, in particular, can kill sea turtles and fish, as well as seabirds, and even larger ocean dwellers like dolphins, whales and other cetaceans can suffer from dangerous health conditions after ingesting balloons.

There really is no such thing as a "biodegradable latex balloon". The balloon industry claims that some latex balloons "degrade as quickly as an oak leaf". Well, oak leaves can take as much as four (4) years to degrade, so that is a long time for a balloon fragment to wreak havoc among wildlife. It is also not true that balloons burst into "really small fragments". Balloon fragments are often sizable and don't look that great littering our environment, and even if they burst into smaller pieces it only means that smaller animals will also ingest them. Animals get entangled in the strings attached to balloons and often strangle or choke to death. Not a happy result of a celebration that started out happy!

Mind you, I am not telling anyone NOT to enjoy balloons - just asking to forgo balloon releases, because the winds will take them out of our reach and they can end up in the water or in wilderness areas, or even in your



backyard. If you really cannot celebrate without balloons, please dispose of them properly, in the trash, where they don't end up in Mother Nature's domain. And if you are open to alternatives, why not use truly compostable paper decorations instead.

Click [HERE](#) for some ideas on how to celebrate a party WITHOUT balloons and still create a very stylish environment.

To find out more why balloons are so bad for our environment, go to <http://balloonsblow.org>

Thank you for being an environmentally aware ECYC member!

Ruth Emblin

ECYC Fleet Communicator



PLEASE SUPPORT ECYC'S COMMITMENT TO THE LEUKEMIA CUP REGATTA even if you are not a sailor! Come to the Leukemia Cup 2016 Kick-Off Party at ECYC on May 19th!

This is a ticketed event open to the public - tickets are available for sale at www.leukemicup.org/ctwhv/

If you are a registered Leukemia Cup skipper, you will receive a discount code via email!

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to help with the event on May 19th or the Leukemia Cup Regatta on August 27th.

Ruth Emblin

Connecticut Leukemia Cup Regatta Co-Chair



Cocktails for a Cure

Please join The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, ECYC, NCYC, DIYC, and BBPM to kickoff our 2016 Leukemia Cup Regatta!

Thursday, May 19 | 7-9 PM
Essex Corinthian Yacht Club
Live music by Long Splice

Ticket prices: \$35 for unregistered participants
Registered participants will receive discount code via email
Purchase tickets at: www.leukemicup.org/ctwhv

Contact Luisa.Cardona@lls.org for more information!

Did You Know?

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.

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 REMINDERS:

- A quick reminder that if you are using a liquor locker and find a blue sticky note on it, please contact Club Manager Jean Little to indicate whether you wish to continue to rent the locker for \$25 per year or relinquish it. Unclaimed/unpaid lockers will be opened and repurposed. Please also remember to **always lock up** to keep the contents secure.
- If you registered for **paperless statement delivery**, please check your email for the latest account statement from ECYC. If not, why not consider going paperless? One less piece of paper to worry about! Please email Club Manager Jean Little to let her know your preferences.

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

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

Please note that schedules may change at any time without prior notice. ECYC and the editor are not responsible for any errors or inaccuracies derived from information provided by third parties.



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