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Essex Corinthian Yacht Club

February 2017



THE ESSEX CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB

OFF-SHORE

IDEAL 18 FLEET NEWS

In case you missed it last month, here are the Fall Frostbiting News: ECYC's four sailors finished strong but once again fell short of EYC's Carter Gowrie. Cindy Gibbs with Sue Watts crewing sailed consistently well, winning one week and placing second for the season. Jon Gibbs nailed the second to last week with a northwest wind and the strongest ebbing current I've experienced by finding the perfect balance between getting out of the worst of the current yet staying in enough wind along the western shore on the beats. This moved Jon up a spot into third and he held off Tom Atkinson on the final day. Ed Birch finished fourth for the season after losing his co-skipper to the south last summer. Frank Hall, Peter Emblin, Priscilla Robinson, and Danny Atkinson sailed with Jon and Tom during the season.



Spring Frostbiting is not too far away, with a planned start in early March. Qualified skippers and crews, or those who would like to become so, should contact me about scheduling. Any teams of a skipper, crew, and alternate crew, signed up before the season begins, get first shot at regular scheduling.

Please remember that in order to sail you must be qualified and checked out by one of our sailing instructors. Please check the bulletin board in the River Room for details.

Tom Atkinson

Fleet Captain

Email: fleetcaptain@essexcorinthian.org

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **February 1st:** Clubhouse reopens (no dining)
- **February 3rd:** Galley reopens
- **February 4th:** ECSA Planning Meeting
- **February 14th:** Special Valentine's Day Dinner
- **February 25th:** Privateers' Bash at the CRM
- **March 4th:** Chili, Stew & Soup Cook-Off
- **March 25th:** Caribbean Night
- **April 8th:** Spring Commissioning



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

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



Fellow Corinthians!

Welcome to our 33rd year at the Essex Corinthian Yacht Club. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday with family and friends and looks forward to a great new year!

I want to welcome back all of our Bridge, Board and Committee folks and look forward to working with them for another great year. We have some hard working members and they should be appreciated.

Rear Commodore's Update:

As the January winds blow and the boats sit in yards covered till spring, there is still a lot of action at ECYC.

During this dormant time, the House Committee is busy working on the clubhouse, during the brief time the doors are closed. The Entertainment Committee is coordinating with the Race Committee to schedule dates for events on land and the water, often on the same date. And many other committees are working to achieve their common goal to ensure the Club's vitality in the future.

In recognition of the need to encourage membership growth, the Board of Governors voted to allow Club members, who successfully propose a new member, to receive a \$100 discount off their annual dues! For more details, see the Membership Update below.

So while the boats are hibernating, the beat goes on to prepare for Spring, which will be here in a flash. Hope you all enjoyed the Holidays and we will see you soon, as the Galley opens in just a few days.

Chris Morano

Rear Commodore

Email: rearcommodore@essexcorinthian.org



Vice Commodore's On-Shore & Entertainment Update:

New Year's Eve came and went, and we are already almost a



full month into the year 2017. Our **New Year's Eve Bash** was attended by 50 members and their friends who celebrated in our dining room decorated with a New York City theme, complete with a crystal ball suspended from the ceiling (thank you, Chuck Grusse, for helping us find the best way to hang it safely!). Not everyone made it through midnight, but hats off to the few intrepid members who stayed on and watched the ball drop in Times Square (live-streamed) and toasted the New Year.

The big focus for us this year at ECYC is our membership. We need your help to bring in new members who will fit well into our Club. We are a Yacht Club, but you do not have to own a boat or be a sailor to be involved. It is the people that make it what it is, along with our Corinthian Spirit. You get out of it what you put in! We are in the process of putting together our committee lists for 2017 and I hope you can be part of it.

We have had a busy month of January while the Club was closed. Once again I want to thank Chuck Grusse, our House Committee Chair, and all of our members who give their time and effort to keep the Club looking great. One big project involved recoating the floor, and we are also in the process of painting the River Room. I want to give a special thanks to Jean Little, our Club Manager for all her help with painting.

This year we are planning several new events that I hope you will enjoy. One of the first will be a chili & soup contest held on a Saturday night in March. Please watch for the e-blasts and notices in Bell Eight for things to come. I am looking forward to our reopening next Friday night and hope to see you then.

Let's all remember that the members of the Old Lyme Country Club will be enjoying our Club in February, so please introduce yourself. Who knows, maybe a few will become members!

Please note that the list of this years BOG meeting dates is posted on the board outside our office. Members are always welcome. Please let us know if you wish to attend.

Have a great month!

Steve Rodstrom

Commodore



GALLEY NEWS

Welcome back!

After a vacation and some time off, the Coastal Cooking Company is ready to kick off another great year. The first **Friday night dinner will be on February 3rd**. Even though **Valentine's Day falls on a Tuesday**, Ed and Monique have a special romantic Valentine's dinner planned. More information will follow shortly!

As the season starts, remember appetizers can be preordered earlier in the day. Also if your table wants to eat together, please turn the orders in at the same time.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.
Bon appetite! I look forward to seeing you around the club!

Catherine Gazikas

Galley Liaison



Winter 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 2.30 pm - special brunch hours on selected holidays!



Celebrating the New Year at ECYC

Our thanks go out to the entertainment committee members who helped set up and decorate the room, and those who returned the next day to help remove the evidence!

The next day, ECYC members Val Votto and Gary Sharpe hosted their annual New Year's event a.k.a. The Frosty Five. It was the perfect way to start the New Year! Thanks, Val and Gary!



The 2017 "Frosty Five" Crew

As we start the New Year in earnest, we are already working on the event calendar for 2017. And I am extremely pleased to announce that we have two **Entertainment Co-Chairs** this year, **Nancy Simms and Pat Atkinson**. Both have been valuable members of the Entertainment Committee in 2016, and have decided to share the responsibility of running the committee this year. I am extremely grateful for their willingness to step up, as my responsibilities at the club have shifted and I am no longer able to fully concentrate on entertainment as was necessary in 2016. Please consider assisting our new co-chairs with our busy event calendar.

Speaking of events:

While not our own event, it has become a tradition for ECYC members to participate in the **Privateers' Bash** at the Connecticut River Museum. This is a great opportunity to express your "inner pirate"! The bash will be held on **Saturday, February 25th**, and tickets are available at the CRM or online at their website at www.ctrivermuseum.org/calendarevent/privateers-bash-3/

A new event at ECYC is our **First Annual Chili, Stew & Soup Cook-Off on Saturday, March 4th**. Dig out your favorite recipe and bring a pot to enter the competition. This is a pot-luck event. Details to follow shortly!

Our next big event is **Caribbean Night 2017**. This year we are moving it to a **Saturday night** to accommodate those members

GALLEY OPENS ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD

DID YOU KNOW?

The Galley serves a great lunch with soups, salads and all kinds of comfort food while you enjoy the early fall 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!

House Rule 12 in Review

After concerns were raised at the Annual Meeting that the extent of snacks and appetizers brought to the club during dining hours has impacted the galley negatively, we have formed a member committee to discuss House Rule 12 and related policies to come to an agreement that will satisfy both the membership and galley operators. There will be a membership poll in February to evaluate our members' opinion on the subject. Please make sure you answer all questions so we can come to a satisfactory agreement.

In the meantime, House Rule 12 stands as per our current bylaws. However, please be sensitive to the galley's efforts to provide us with enjoyable meals. If the galley succeeds, the club succeeds, as we receive a percentage of their income derived from club dining. This, in turn, is to the benefit of our entire membership.

If you have any questions, please connect with any club officer. Thank you!

Please Welcome the Members of the Old Lyme Country Club during their February Shutdown!

Several members have taken advantage of our reciprocity with the Old Lyme Country Club during the month of January. Now it is our turn to welcome their members to our dining room during their shutdown during the month of February!



Please treat the OLCC members to a Corinthian welcome when you see them!

STILL LOOKING FOR COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT FOR 2017!



Recently, a member approached me to comment on our club's communication. Following our chat it came to my attention that many of you are under the impression that the website updates, Bell 8, menu e-blasts and event announcements are provided by an outside contractor we pay for. Nothing is further from the truth: ECYC is a volunteer-based organization, and therefore we are doing all this with the help of volunteers. As the "Fleet Communicator", I have been in charge of the club's website, newsletter and e-blasts for the last four years.

The job initially involved completely revamping our club's website, and now focuses on keeping it up to date, uploading weekly menus and sharing event information, collecting and editing the articles for our monthly Bell 8 newsletter, and setting up and sending out e-blasts to our members about everything from dining, events, special announcements to local information.

As a member of the ECYC Bridge my responsibilities have increased in the last couple of years, and I find myself in need of an assistant for the club's communication. We are looking for a motivated person with an eye for catchy designs, a love of words and full of energy, who is willing to give an hour or so of their time to the club each week. I will be glad to train you in working with Constant Contact and GoDaddy Website Builder, both applications that are easy to learn. And don't worry, I will not just dump everything in your lap, we will be working together!

Please consider helping out and learning more about our club's communication. Contact me at vicecommodore@essexcorinthian.org to volunteer!

who have a hard time attending a big event on a Friday night due to their work schedules. The date is **Saturday, March 25th**. Theme and more details will be announced soon!

Our **Spring Commissioning Ceremony** (yes, SPRING!) will be held on **Saturday, April 8th**. We are looking forward to officially opening the season at ECYC!

There will also be a few **lectures** offered at the club between now and the summer season. Please stay tuned for details. Lectures will include book readings, video presentations, information events and more. We will also once again hold the **Leukemia Cup Kick-Off** at ECYC this May. You can look forward to a special event with a few surprises! Furthermore, our *Special Activities Chairman* Mark Bavolack will organize **wine and beer tastings** this year, and he will be working on a new **fishing tournament** and our **traditional Hamburg Cove Raft-Ups**.

Our volunteers are working hard to create a great lineup of events for everyone. Please support their efforts by attending as many of them as possible.

Please contact me at vicecommodore@essexcorinthian.org if you would like to help out at any of our events, or even better, all our events! Our success hinges on the involvement of our volunteers. Please get involved!

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

Ruth Emblin

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



Special Functions Update:

Thank you to all who participated and made both of the 2016 Wine Tastings a great success !!

I am working on new offerings in 2017 and hope that you will participate and enjoy them. Suggestions always welcome, keep warm and stay tuned !

Cheers,

Mark Bavolack

Special Functions Coordinator
Email: specialfunctions@essexcorinthian.org

House Committee Update:

Putting out again this month an appeal for the following: There is an immediate need for which I appeal to the entire membership for someone who may have the experience and/or resource(s) to provide relief. Within the galley there is a pull down ladder (think attic pull-down steps) for access into the attic storage space immediately above the galley. The pull-down stairs are heavily used by our galley operators Coastal Cooking Company, as well as our board members and committee members, since it is the only true storage space for galley supplies/catering apparatus as well as the multiple decorations used throughout the year. The pull-down stairs have been replaced at least 3 times in the last 5 years, and are

Ruth Emblin

Vice Commodore & Fleet Communicator
Email: vicecommodore@essexcorinthian.org

SHIP'S STORE NEWS:

Wanted: Ship's Store Manager

After several years of running the ECYC Ship's Store, Jean Brewer has decided to resign from her post to pursue other activities. We thank Jean for her excellent work and expertise over the years!

Please contact our Club Manager, Jean Little, at ecyc@essexcorinthian.org for details on the Ship's Store and what the post involves. Thank you for your consideration!



Did You Know?

WINTER CLUB HOURS IN EFFECT:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday	9 am to 5 pm
Friday	9 am to 9 pm
Saturday and Sunday	9 am to 5 pm

CLUB REOPENS ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST (NO DINING)

GALLEY REOPENS FOR LUNCH AND DINNER ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD

Note: Private meetings may be scheduled after-hours, except 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.

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!

Breaking News from our Landlord, the Brewer Marinas Organization



IS
NOW
WITHIN
THE
FAMILY
OF



SAFE HARBOR
MARINAS

Some of you may have heard rumors that the Brewer Marinas have been sold to the Texas-based Safe Harbor Marinas Organization. The rumors are true, and we just received the official announcement of the merger. We have been told that not much will change in the structure of the management of the Brewer Marinas. The board and leadership of the combined company will be made up of executives from both Safe Harbor and Brewer.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to download a message from Brewer Marinas with details of the transaction and impact on business.

getting unstable again. The amount of use is simply too much for the standard homeowner product generally available. Seeking someone to source and install a "commercial grade" solution. Please contact me if able to address this ongoing and potentially dangerous condition.

I wish all a very happy New Year for 2017. The first workday for the closedown period was Saturday, Jan 7th. An impressive turnout led to a complete accomplishment of all objectives. A thorough cleaning, tables/chairs pad replacement, replace galley hand sink faucet, River Room refrigerator emptied and scoured, all valances & burgees vacuumed, ceiling fans degreased and cleaned, windows frames and glass cleaned, all furniture, tables, chairs removed from main room for floor refinish. It was a long, but very productive 5 hours. Join me in expressing a huge thank you to Alex Bell, Myron Stacks, Pam Peters, Lucy & Tom Rutherford, Val Votto, Gary Sharpe, Terry Stewart, and Harry Bird. Must tell you all, these guys can WORK! A second session to put it all back together again was held on January 26th. The dining room floor has two fresh coats of finish, it really looks great, reminds me of the Boston Garden Celtics court. Think you'll all be pleased.

The 2017 House Committee is being formed, all help and participation is welcomed and needed. Please consider becoming a part of this committee. Look forward to hearing from you, email me at house@essexcorinthian.org to sign up!

Chuck Grusse

House Chair

Email: house@essexcorinthian.org

Membership Update:

Happy New Year!

As we look past the bleak midwinter to another year of sailing and camaraderie on and by the water, one of your Board's foremost goals is to bolster Club membership, which currently stands at just over 170 across all categories. Aside from the intangible benefit of gaining new friendships, an increase in membership directly supports ECYC's financial health and ability to continue delivering a high-value recreational and fellowship experience as a private club while holding a line on cost.



You've heard us say before that **membership recruitment is everyone's responsibility**, not just the work of a committee, the Bridge, or Board. To create a material incentive for all to live that

tenet, your Board, at its January meeting, resolved to **apply a \$100 credit toward any member household's 2018 annual dues for every new member unit proposed by the existing member and approved by the Board of Governors this year**. The incentive applies only to initiators, not seconders, and the credit shall be applied after the new member has paid his/her initiation fee and dues in full.

We're also empaneling a new Membership committee and retooling the application package, so look for more about both next month.

Thanks for your support - and I look forward to seeing you when the Club reopens next week!

If you have constructive suggestions on how we can build and galvanize our membership in 2017 and beyond, please track

BEING A "CORINTHIAN"

Member Perspective: What It Means to Be an ECYC Member



The reasons why people join ECYC are as diverse as the people who belong to ECYC. Many have joined the yacht club for the love of the water and the obvious interest in boating (whether they own a vessel or not); others joined because they are new to the area and wanted to become part of the community; others who might not be new to the area have joined to meet new people and explore new things; some have joined simply because their friends are members; and yet others have joined because the Club offers a quiet place of respite and relaxation with an unparalleled view

of the river. For whatever diverse reasons people join the Club there is one common element-people join the Club because they think it can add value to their lives, either personally or professionally...and common wisdom says that people will continue to be a part of a club until they no longer perceive the value.

By its definition the concept of a club involves communal activity. There is a role and a place at ECYC for everyone no matter who you are, what you do, what your talents are or what time

constraints you have. Board members and those who run and coordinate the various activities and events welcome participation from everyone. While they might not reach out to you, please do not let that preclude you from reaching out to them. ECYC wants no one to reach beyond their capabilities or time constraints but ECYC wants you to truly feel like you are a member of the really special community that is ECYC.

I know for a fact that the feeling comes with and through participation in and the planning of Club activities and events. I can assure you that there is no better feeling than to run or assist with an event and have attendees smiling, happy and enjoying themselves. True, there will always be those who are negative or critical but ECYC's history has proven that the best antidote is to invite such members to participate in planning the next event, and advising how to avoid that which caused them displeasure. It is special to witness first-hand the real camaraderie found at ECYC. Sure it sounds trite, but through participation you make new friends, you develop new talents and interests and you get to spend time with awesome people. (There is a group of us right now planning a special get together to varnish furniture - add wine and hors d'oeuvres and it's a party- the intent is for many hands to make light work of a rather mundane task. We are not special committee members, we don't know each other well, but as we were participating in the winter cleanup we all noticed that something needs to be done, and decided that we are going to do it together. After all ECYC is our club.) ECYC is your club too.

I know that ECYC provides more value to you when you make yourself a part of it. For my first few years at the Club I sat on the sidelines. I stuck with the people I knew. I took what the Club could offer, but I did not offer anything to the Club. I knew little about Club events and I knew less about its members, until the day I volunteered to help with the Fourth of July party. My great contribution for the day...I washed dishes. The day was sweltering and by its end my hands were chapped, but I met more people and had more fun that day than my two prior years of membership. Sure I had more to offer the Club than my dishwashing talents (I am a practicing lawyer) but until I put myself in the mix, ECYC had no idea what I was willing to do or capable of, and I had no real idea of the value of ECYC. I was resolute that I did not have the time...but ECYC let me participate at my own pace, and I came to realize that the more involved I got, the more value the Club had for me. Personally, I then went on to chair a number of events, using lessons learned even from that day I washed dishes to improve them. Not too long after, I became the Entertainment Chairman and later the Membership Chairman. Without a doubt as I increased my participation, the Club and its members meant more to me. Clearly in my life its value increased; I felt part of it and responsible for it. I became part of the team that provides the value that everyone seeks from the Club, and I wanted to share that with others and invited them to join, and they did. Clearly my enthusiasm for ECYC, and the Club's value to me was unknowingly tied to my participation. (If you do any research on Club membership, this is the norm.)

Last year I voluntarily stepped off the Board. I wanted to make room for people with new ideas, and give others the opportunity to glean from membership what I had. In addition, my workload had increased and it deserved my undivided attention. This resulted in my sitting back on the sidelines again, as I had so many years before, and guess what happened... I did not go to the Club or participate in Club events as I had in the past. I distanced myself from the activities, even weekly dinners, and upon reflection realized that for me my membership in ECYC wasn't the



me down at the Club or drop me a note at membership@essexcorinthian.org.

Scott Konrad

Membership Chair

Email: membership@essexcorinthian.org



same. My enthusiasm waned. I did not give ECYC all or even a part of what I could offer, and I therefore did not get the full value of ECYC membership.

We are a Corinthian club. Camaraderie and participation are an integral part of our founding. Our strength is in our members and our membership value is tied to our participation. Don't sit on the sidelines. Volunteer, get involved. Let the Club provide to you the value you seek. Let ECYC become your club. Its value to you is all in your hands. Please contact Board Members and Committee Chairmen and offer to help. Provide your known talents or discover new ones by assisting with Club activities. And, if you see something you don't like or you believe can be done better...the best way to fix the problem is to get involved. If you don't like how things are, institute the change. Speak up and follow up. You know the old adage actions speak louder than words. (Ask Cheryl Arndt...she once criticized the free beer at the Fourth of July Party - she later succeeded me as Entertainment Chair.)

Terry Stewart (Commodore 2012-2013) recently described the members of ECYC as a family. ECYC has a diverse group of members with a variety of personalities and opinions, even eccentric Uncles and crazy Aunts. We've got intellectuals and athletes; the erudite and the unassuming; introverts and extroverts and everyone before and after and in between. There are members who choose to take the lead and others who prefer to work behind the scenes, some can do a little and some can do more. But when all is said and done we celebrate our differences and make room at our table for anyone who wishes to join us. ECYC members embrace their differences; and truly recognize that "the whole is greater [and a great deal more fun] than the sum of its parts." Be a participatory member of the ECYC family. (By the way, I am the crazy aunt who is well intended, but a little too loud and doesn't mince words - subtlety is not my strong suit.)

Valerie Votto

Former Entertainment & Membership Chair



GREEN TIPS will return in March!

Thank you for being an environmentally responsible ECYC Member!

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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