



THE ESSEX CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB

OFFSHORE & WATERFRONT

2015 A YEAR OF FIRSTS FOR CLUB IDEAL 18 RACING



We are proud to report that the ECYC Ideal 18s are contributing more than ever to the competition in the Essex fleet. Our steady progress has brought a number of firsts this year.

Opportunities to join EYC Summer evening racing were taken advantage of by multiple teams many nights with three ECYC club boats on the line one night - a first.

ECYC members **Birch / Atkinson / Gibbs** swept the ECYC Ideal 18 Rum Challenge 1-2-3.

A team Racing challenge vs EYC was initiated, with the team of **Ed and Marsha Birch, Tom and Dan Atkinson**, and **Toby Doyle with Pricilla Robinson** prevailing.

Cindy Gibbs and Peter Emblin took the first day of Spring Frostbiting to start a year in which Dragonfly and Nautilus each won two days, as did member **Ed Birch with Rob Reichardt** in Harmony.

Nautilus with **Jon Gibbs and Bill Albro** took the overall Ideal 18 spring Frostbiting prize - new territory for a club-owned boat.

In their first season racing club boats, **Tom and Dan Atkinson** took a close second overall in frostbiting this fall (a first). With **Birch/Reichardt** third, and **Gibbs/Emblin** finishing fourth, Carter Gowrie doesn't know who to cover anymore, and we look forward to our pack of dogs prevailing this spring!

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **December 20th:** Last Brunch at ECYC
- **December 21st:** Galley closes until Feb 2016
- **January 2016:** Clubhouse closed for maintenance
- **January 2016:** Reciprocal dining at OLCC
- **February 2016:** Clubhouse and Galley re-open (exact details to follow)
- **March 25th:** Caribbean Night "Margaritaville"

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



VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



Dear Friends!

As the end of my watch approaches, I'm reminded of the reason I signed on to the Board of Governors in the first place - to lend a hand to an organization that is worth preserving, because of the people that comprise it. One needs only to visit the clubhouse in December to witness the embodiment of this sentiment. Year after year, without fanfare or expectation, **Joseph and Judith Walier** provide the spectacular holiday wreath that beautifies the welcoming façade of our clubhouse. **Katherine Berry**, in a tradition that goes back many years, leads a group of members who donate their time and energy to put up the Christmas tree and a Menorah, and decorate the clubhouse for the holidays.

AJ Wasley made a cameo to revitalize the famous #38 Dauntless and almost win a day. The **Atkinsons** took over in Dauntless this fall and made for a season in which five ECYC member teams scored second or better in Ideal 18 frostbiting.

Frank Hall, Myron Stacks, Jim Pfeffer, Terry Stewart, Bill St John, Skip Haskins, Bill Albro, and Myles Gibbs joined in taking the helm at least once this year, making for a dozen frostbiting skippers in ECYC boats this year. **Ed Birch** and **Jeff Going** both skippered Harmony, for fourteen members skippering Ideals in all.

Our thanks go out to all those who have supported the Ideal 18 program, the acquisition of Dauntless, and the increasing competitive preparedness of Dragonfly and Nautilus as well.

Jonathan Gibbs

Fleet Coordinator

Email: fleetcoordinator@essexcorinthian.org

ON-SHORE & HOUSE

At the **Decommissioning and Annual Meeting**, our incoming **Commodore, Steve Rodstrom** said it best: *"We are looking forward to the New Year continuing the friendship and camaraderie among the members of our great little yacht club!"*

All I can do is echo this sentiment. The last five years have been very rewarding, as both my husband Peter and I have really enjoyed everything ECYC had to offer. And while the last two years have often been extremely busy with organizing events and assisting my two co-commodores with everyday 'business' at the club, there are many memories that will be filed away under 'great fun', 'exciting event', 'wonderful camaraderie' and other positive attributes.

Of course, all this would not have been possible without the support of the **many dedicated volunteers** we are privileged to work with. Our **Board of Governors** consists of people who believe in our little yacht club, and it shows. It can't be expressed enough: thank you to all of you who gave their best to make our yacht club so enjoyable!

This year my sphere of activities centered on the on-shore part of the everyday routine at our club. It meant getting up close and personal with **House, Galley and Entertainment**. As members of a Corinthian Club we all know that a certain degree of dedication is required to keep us functioning! And I am so proud to know these individuals who have given 150 percent - no, make that 250 percent.... to ensure that our members can all enjoy the club's many facets.

Cheryl Arndt has been an extraordinary force of nature, bringing a fresh breeze into entertainment. We spent many hours devising plans for exciting club events despite having to work with a limited budget. Her sidekick for the summer season, **Charlotte Robbins**, helped us create a new twist on the Wednesday Night Music program. The Entertainment Committee (whose names would fill this entire newsletter, were I to list them all so please know you are all included here!) has been instrumental in helping us pull off **events from raft-ups, post-race parties to annual favorites such as Caribbean Night, 4th of July, Labor Day, the Commodores' Gala, Kid's Party and more**. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Of course, there were many volunteers from other committees who also helped out, especially when push came to shove during our preparations for our premier regatta, the **Cross Sound Challenge**. Again, listing all of them would take over this issue, so this is an all-encompassing "thank you" to everyone involved. Among the "behind-the-scenes" volunteers one particularly stuck out for me: former member **Karen Kari**, who tirelessly took all the lists of racing and sponsorship contacts we supplied her with and quietly and efficiently promoted both the regatta and post-race party for us. Karen has since moved south, but we are very grateful for all her help!

Chuck Grusse: There are not enough words to describe his untiring commitment to keeping our club ship-shape. He motivates us to care and pitch in (cracking the whip in a very gentleman-like way....)! Please consider helping out during the **January maintenance shut-down period** as we get the club ready for another great season!

The **Essex Art Association** once again this year adorned the interior of the yacht club with several shows featuring EAA Member's work. Hanging these works in the clubhouse strengthens our ties to the community while enlivening our walls and sparking conversation (and sometimes the imaginations - thinking of the painting on the north wall at the foot of the stair, for example) of our members. While the paintings are on public display, please be respectful of the fact that they are the property of the artist and must not be moved around the clubhouse. If you enjoy the shows and would like to be involved in working on the next one early in 2016, please contact member **Susan Malan**. Thanks, Susan, for being a great bridge to the EAA.

The **Tri-Club River Series** capped a season of great handicap racing this year. The series trophy was won, again this year, by **Toby Doyle** in Flo. Each of the three river events is a memorial race, imbuing the series with great tradition and meaning for the clubs, the competitors and the winner. Essex Corinthian Yacht Club hosts the Thomas Clark Memorial; Pettipaug the Charles Birch and Essex Yacht Club the Thomas S. Willetts Jr. Congratulations to Toby!

Our **Club Decommissioning and Annual Meeting** were held on a warm and sunny Saturday afternoon, December 5th. Thanks to all who attended the decommissioning ceremony, and especially to **Ed Birch**, our wonderful bugler for the day. Many thanks, also, to retired **Reverend Robert (Bob) Taylor**, who graciously opened our annual meeting with a particularly poignant invocation, followed by a blessing and a moment of silence for ECYC Members and friends who passed away this year.

The **Annual Meeting Reports**, given by committee chairs and officers, highlighted the range of club activities and accomplishments during 2015. The proposed 2016 budget, inclusive of modest dues increases, as presented in the mailer sent to all members weeks before the annual meeting, was approved.

The Report of the **Nominating Committee** included recommendations for at-large BOG positions and Officers. Nominated to the BOG for two year terms were **Catherine Gazikas** and **Scott Konrad**. Nominated to return for a new two year term was **Chuck Grusse**. Nominated for a one year term was **Mark Bavolack**. **Richard Pierce** will return to the BOG in 2016 for the second year of his two year term, leading us to completion of a strategic plan that will guide our BOG into the future. **Katherine Berry** will continue in her invaluable role as Secretary on the Bridge. The Nominating Committee will continue its work into the early months of 2016 to identify and nominate one more at-large member for the BOG.

Nominations for new **Flag Officers**, joining the BOG in 2016, included **James Pfeffer** as Treasurer and **Chris Morano** as Rear Commodore. **Tom Atkinson** will join the Officers as our Fleet Captain.

Steve Rodstrom will assume leadership of the BOG as **Commodore** and **Ruth Emblin** will move into the **Vice Commodore** role. To borrow a familiar phrase from our friend and new Commodore, 2016 and 2017 are looking "all good"!

Thanks in advance to all new BOB Members for their service to our great little yacht club!

Having fulfilled several terms as a Flag Officer, serving in capacities of Rear Commodore and Treasurer, **Deb Wallis** will leave the BOG after many years of distinguished service. As I mentioned in remarks at the annual meeting, I have no words to describe what Deb's work has meant to our club's sustainability. What's more, I cannot tell you what an honor and privilege it has been to have Deb's counsel during my tenure on the Bridge. In 5 years working with Deb, she has exemplified the meaning of Corinthian and has set the gold standard for service to our yacht club.

Our Regatta Chair for 2015, **Priscilla Robinson** will also step away from the BOG this year, having lead the ECYC to one of our most outstanding years of PHRF Handicap Racing in the ECSA, continuing our young tradition of friendly "round the buoy" regattas with ECYC and managing the Tri-Club River Series. Please join me, the BOG and the lower river valley racing community in a massive thank-you to Priscilla for her amazing organizational skills and unwavering commitment to executing our premier event, the Cross Sound Challenge, at the very highest level of Corinthian sailing competition.

With thanks to **Hollis Barry** for her guidance, ECYC has cultivated a strong and mutually beneficial relationship with our Galley Caterer, the **Coastal Cooking Company**. With leadership and encouragement from Hollis, Monique, Chef Ed and their staff have demonstrated their commitment to our Club and have renewed the Agreement for a 5th year. Going forward, a continuation of the healthy, give and take relationship between the Club and CCC is vital to the stability of the club and to our mutual success.

Valerie Votto has served the BOG as Entertainment Chair and Membership Chair over the last 4+ years. An amazing teammate to have on the BOG and a true asset to our club, Val will retire her position on the BOG. Be assured, Val will remain a vibrant and valued advisor to incoming committee chairs. We thank Val for her many contributions to the success of our club.

Cheryl Arndt, having completed her second year of service to the club as a valued board member and Entertainment Committee Chair, will also step aside to make space for a successor. Our heartfelt thanks, Cheryl for your unrelenting commitment to the task.

Terry Stewart will complete his tour of duty, after 8-10 years of dedicated service to this club. A finer gentleman you will never meet. We are very fortunate to have Terry and Laurel as members of this Yacht Club. I am indebted and very fortunate to have had Terry as a willing advisor.

This January, all ECYC Members and their guests will be welcome to participate in **Old Lyme Country** club activities and are invited to dine at their facility, using the reciprocal privileges that each of our Clubs have put in place once again this year. Please call **OLCC Clubhouse Manager Rose Iams (860 434 1639 x2)** in advance to make a reservation. Your ECYC account will be charged. In February, please welcome OLCC Members to our dining room on Friday evenings.

Cheers,

Tim Brewer

Hollis Barry, our hard-working Galley Liaison for the last two years, and the **Coastal Cooking Company** team have successfully concluded another year, and we can honestly say that the dining experience at ECYC has been very enjoyable! Many theme nights and special brunches added to the fun, and we've enjoyed CCC's catering at many of our special events. The more we learn about each other's requirements, the better the level of cooperation, and we are looking forward to a successful season in 2016!

I have also enjoyed getting to know our new **Club Manager, Jean Little** better and am very positive that with her help we can streamline our operations even further. We will be making improvements to office procedures that will benefit the everyday administration and provide our members with an even higher degree of service. Jean has been a very enthusiastic, helpful spirit around the office and it is a pleasure to work with her!

Finally, I would be remiss not to thank the two Past Commodores (or one Past and one 'Almost Past'...), **Terry Stewart and Tim Brewer**, who have had a tremendous impact on our club's past, present and future. In addition to his unflagging support of ECYC Terry has a fount of knowledge of all you ever wanted to know about the world of yacht clubs that is unique and he is very happy to share. "Go ask Terry, he'll know" has become the standard at the club! And Tim has worked tirelessly on moving the club into the 21st century, endorsed the expansion of our fleet, pushed the development of our own regatta and tried to keep our budget in balance with the help of our long-time Treasurer, Deb Wallis; and the list goes on and on. We are very glad that Tim has agreed to continue on the Board of Governors and apply his long-time experience in racing to the post of Regatta Chair.

I am looking forward to the upcoming season, and working with our **incoming Commodore** (or as we like to call him 'Almost Commodore') **Steve Rodstrom**, the 'Almost' **Rear Commodore Chris Morano**, and the new Board of Governors in 2016!

Please consider joining a committee in 2016. We will be looking for event planners to take the lead on individual events next season to make the life of the Entertainment Committee a little less stressful. If you love the events ECYC has put on in the past and want to help, please contact me.

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 very merry Holiday season and a happy New Year!

Ruth Emblin

Rear Commodore (a.k.a. "Almost VC")
Email: rearcommodore@essexcorinthian.org



House Committee Update:

The **2016 House Committee** is beginning to take shape as **Alex Bell, Jeff Going, Myron Stacks, and Harry Bird** have confirmed their intention to continue for 2016. Waiting for a group of about twelve others from 2015 to reply. All are welcome and needed, please contact me at house@essexcorinthian.org to be included.

As I look towards 2016, there is so much that needs, should, and could be accomplished.

The outline of **improvements** which would enhance the club to such great benefit of all include:

- 1) replace the decking, front and rear;
- 2) replace the rear deck railing;
- 3) Repair/replace front porch ceiling;
- 4) Replace front door.

Add on the **maintenance** tasks:

- 1) replace/repair galley appliance;
- 2) address leaking roof;
- 3) replace worst condition deck chairs;

Commodore



Jean and Tim Brewer

MESSAGE FROM STEVE RODSTROM, INCOMING 2016 COMMODORE:

As 2015 comes to an end and the holidays fade away it will be time to start thinking about all the fun events and on- and off-shore activities we will be having at ECYC in the upcoming year.

We are looking for members that will co-chair our social events and donate the time needed to the Entertainment Committee to make these moments special. No experience is necessary - just bring your ideas and enthusiasm! I also know that our House Committee is looking for help on several projects and can always use an extra hand.

Please contact me for further information on how to become involved. These committees are a great way to meet other members, and you will enjoy being part of a great group of people who are dedicated to this club's future.

I look forward to 2016 knowing we have some good folks on the Bridge and the Board of Governors with new ideas and talents that will keep us on an even keel. We will be working to finish our Strategic Plan that will help us look down the road and ensure a strong successful future.

I would like to thank all those that helped out at ECYC in the past year in ways large and small. We would not be the club we are without you! Thank you!

Have a wonderful holiday and a happy and healthy New Year!



2015 Board of Governors

Steve Rodstrom

Vice Commodore (a.k.a. "Almost Commodore")
Email: vicecommodore@essexcorinthian.org



Galley News

Thank you for allowing me to serve as **Galley Liaison** for the past two years. Coming into the position, I understood that Coastal Cooking provided great food. Working closely with Monique and Ed over the many months, I learned of several equally important attributes: their deep affinity for the club and its membership; their willingness to do whatever it takes to meet members' needs and requests, both individually and collectively; and their concern to provide varied menus which are both appealing and affordable.

Hopefully, in addition to the regular brunch, lunch and dinner fare, each of you has enjoyed one of the many themed dinners (Italian Night, French Bistro, Cinco de Mayo, Pizza Night, Oktoberfest) or outstanding holiday or celebratory brunches. Their popularity ensures these will continue to be a part of CCC's offerings going forward.

Monique and Ed, as well as the Board of Governors, appreciate your feedback. Throughout the year, please take a moment to let the new Galley Liaison know of your compliments, concerns and suggestions. It can only continue to help make our club experience terrific.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy holiday season and New Year.

- 4) retiling barroom floor;
- 5) top coat deck tables;
- 6) repair attic flooring.

As the above lists suggest, the house committee will be even more taxed in 2016, especially as I hope to really be delegating these tasks to house members, and general membership volunteers. As has been the tradition for years, during shutdown month of January there will be cleaning days scheduled. Also for this year, I plan to pursue the retiling of the barroom area. Recently there has been soft spots noted in the floor, never a good sign. I suspect water leaking under the tile has compromised the subfloor. Removal of the tile is the only way to determine extent of damage. Anyone with tiling experience and/or aptitude, please reach out to me to help with the replacement tile task.

Suggestions are always welcome, participation even more. Keep a lookout for more information as January schedule of activities is determined.

A very Merry Christmas to all ECYC members, their families, the Coastal Cooking team, Office Manager Jean Little, all our vendors, the Brewers team, and looking forward to a GREAT 2016.

Chuck Grusse

House Chair

Email: house@essexcorinthian.org

Entertainment Committee Update:

Over the last two years I have poured my heart and soul into being the very best Entertainment Chair I could be. At the end of my term I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to every member of the Entertainment Committee and every member, who showed up when I called, pitched in and turned my plans into a reality. We have shared tons of laughter, many cocktails and glasses of wine and had loads of fun. Somehow it all came together, although even I sometimes remain surprised that we actually pulled it off as well as we did.

This year was a busy one with many events but the two most notable were the Cross Sound Challenge Party and my favorite, the Children's Christmas Party. Cross Sound saw a ton of work from my dedicated



The Roberts Trophy

committee along with many other club volunteers to pull off what was voted "The Best Post-Race Party" by the ECSA, and word has it, we swept that award with no close second! The Roberts Trophy will hang in the clubhouse for all to share. I am so proud to have led the onshore entertainment team that returned this trophy to ECYC, as it was in other hands after 1992 when ECYC first won it!

The Children's Christmas Party was held a couple of weeks ago. Val Votto, Elaine Kyle, Ruth Emblin, Mary Boone and I spent two days decorating the River Room, and countless hours shopping and planning to pull off what was the most fun event of my term. We had about 25 to 30 kids from ages 4 months to 14 years (and an equal number of parents and

Hollis Barry

Galley Liaison

Did You Know?

The Galley will be closed for the rest of the year, and through the January 2016 shut-down. Regular Galley operations will resume in early February. Please watch for an e-blast with details!

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!



Reciprocity with Old Lyme Country Club:

During the January maintenance shut-down ECYC members will have dining privileges at the Old Lyme Country Club.

To make a reservation, please contact **OLCC Clubhouse Manager Rose Iams by calling (860) 434-1639 Ext 2**. Your ECYC account will be charged for anything you consume at OLCC. In turn, we will welcome OLCC members at ECYC in February during their facility's shutdown.

For more information on the Old Lyme Country Club please visit their website at

www.oldlymecc.com/About-Us.aspx

ECYC Depends on You in So Many Ways....

As a yacht club based on the Corinthian principle our mission is to provide a genuine yacht club experience at a modest price. To do so we depend on our volunteers, but also have to maintain a tightly managed budget to avoid excessive dues increases in the future. Our dues have remained low compared to those at many similar organizations. To continue to maintain this goal we depend on your timely dues and galley consumption payments. As the year 2015 draws to a close we would ask you to take a look at the statement sent to you by ECYC this month. If you have outstanding payments, please consider taking care of them as soon as possible so we can continue to run our wonderful little club as efficiently and for all members to enjoy!



Thank you and best wishes for the holidays and the New Year!

Did You Know?

NO SMOKING AT ECYC;



Please remember that 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:

- If your **mailing address, email, telephone number, fleet description or any other information has changed** within the last year, please provide the new information to club manager Jean Little as soon as possible at ecyc@essexcorinthian.org.
- The ECYC Clubhouse will be **closed for maintenance throughout the month of January 2016**.

grandparents). Special thanks to my "Cookie Elf", new member, Lucy Rutherford for baking six (6) dozen cookies for our young guests.

I think I will cherish the words of one young man who told Val, Ruth and I that we had made this 'the best day of his life'!

Coupled with a wonderful compliment from Denis Walker

...what better way to finish up my term on the board.



Santa delights the kids at ECYC

It has been an honor to serve on the BOG and one I will cherish.

Over the next year or so I will take time with my husband Dick to do the things we put on hold these last couple of years. We plan to stay three months in Florida and then, when we return to Connecticut in April, we hope to take our Trawler Raggamuffin (often the 'Mothership' at our rendezvous) to Maine for a long summer cruise.

We have made some wonderful friends at our little yacht club and we hope to see you all in the future at events where we can just enjoy it and not work so hard (and not spend 2-3 days moving my household back and forth to the club in the back of our pick-up). I'm also looking forward to being out on the water participating in off-shore events.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and a prosperous New Year. Be safe and stay well.

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

Cheryl Arndt

Entertainment Chair

Email: events@essexcorinthian.org

Membership Update:

Decommissioning is over and the holidays are upon us, but Spring will be here soon and with it a new year of ECYC activities. The Spring Frostbite Series begins in February; Caribbean Night, where I hear we will be "Wastin' Away Again in Margaritaville", will soon follow; Easter and ECYC's fabulous Easter Brunch will be on the way. Before we know it we will be at Commissioning; and we have fabulous, new and returning members participating in upcoming ECYC activities and events. Please introduce yourselves, make these new and returning members feel at home. Encourage their participation. Show them the Corinthian spirit.

Molly Soper and Bob Forbes - Molly, who grew up in Old Lyme is the daughter of Club members Doug and Ann Soper. Her family kept their 46' ketch Antilles in the Essex Harbor. Upon joining Molly shared her fond childhood memories of ECYC. Antilles returned to Essex Harbor this summer; and Molly returned to ECYC bringing along her husband Bob Forbes, the manager of Essex Yacht Club.

Edward and Shirley Curley - The Curleys hail from Deep River and are the neighbors of our Commodore Steve Rodstrom and our Commodorinress Ellen Smoller. Ed is a Power Squadron Advance Pilot and holds his OUPV/ Six Pack License.

- Please remember that with the change of domain to www.essexcorinthian.org two years ago, the general office email address was changed to ecyc@essexcorinthian.org.



Green Tip of the Month:

MAKE THE HOLIDAYS A LITTLE "GREENER" THIS YEAR!

Most of us end up with a collection of cute gift bags after the holidays. Some of them are too nice to be used just once and then just thrown away. Not only does this represent a tremendous waste of money, but it also generates a lot of extra waste.

According to studies by the Medical University of South Carolina, waste disposal increases 25 percent in the United States alone, causing an extra 5 billion pounds of waste in the landfills. We can each do a little to reduce this amount by becoming more aware of the effects of packaging during the holidays.

Many manufacturers will use additional holiday-themed packaging to entice shoppers to get "that special gift". Plastic containers, boxes, copious amounts of tissue paper and miles and miles of bows usually wander straight into the garbage just a few minutes after the gift is opened.

Here are some tips to make holiday gifting less wasteful:

1. Reuse Gift Bags and Wrapping Paper.

We have made it a game among our friends how many times our gift bags can be used until they come back to us. You can also create a sort of collage from old wrapping paper, or get creative with scraps of fabric, old calendars or magazines. Rustic bows can be made from textile remnants, and with a bit of imagination you can create a real 'designer look'!

2. Select Tree-free Holiday Cards.

If you believe in sending hand-written holiday cards (which many of us treasure), make sure your cards are 'tree-free'. There are some beautiful designs made from tree-free resources like kenaf, hemp and others. Photocard enthusiasts, why not use a double-sided mailer instead of a folded card. Not only will this reduce paper consumption, it also may help you with postage if you are sending internationally. And if you don't need to have tangible cards, today there are plenty of apps for digital and e-cards that can quickly be emailed around the world.

3. Consider the Lifecycle of Electronics.

Computers, tablets, e-readers, video game consoles and music players are among some of the most popular gifts for children and teens today (and many adults, too!). While these items may be great for creativity and productivity, their lifecycle is limited and many of these items ultimately end up as trash as they are replaced by 'upgrades'. The manufacturing and disposal of these items creates significant human health and environmental hazards. Many of us can no longer imagine life without our electronic devices, but we should research the proper disposal of unwanted items to minimize the health impact of such garbage. To learn more about the environmental impact of computers and electronic devices, check out the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition.

4. Give a Coupon for a Gift from the Heart.

Instead of going to the mall or ordering some item online, give your loved ones the gift of your time and talent this year. Send or give them a coupon for a home-made dinner or a night out on the town, offer to walk the dog, help with gardening or home repair, or invite friends over for an evening of food and wine.

5. Purchase with Fair Trade in Mind.

If you want to give a tangible gift, consider purchasing Fair Trade merchandise. There are many companies that offer Fair Trade gifts from coffee and tea to hand-made crafts, art, jewelry, textiles and more.

6. Buy Local.

We are lucky to have a plethora of interesting local stores at our disposal. There is no shortage of unique gifts to be had in our area. Look for local stores that carry such items to save on shipping and related packaging. Even if a similar item is cheaper in a large chain store or at the mall, or even online, consider the origin of the item, or the packaging required to ship it to you.

7. Look Carefully at Components and Origin.

Kids' toys are often made of plastic which may have toxic components. Look at the label and identify where the item was made. Imported products may not uphold the same standards as locally produced items. Toxic PVC is found in everyday plastics, including some children's toys. Vinyl chloride, the chemical used to make PVC, is a known human carcinogen. Additives, such as lead and cadmium, are sometimes added to PVC to keep it from breaking down; these additives can be particularly dangerous in children's toys. The same applies to food gifts and even treats for our pets. Recent recalls for toys with toxic components as well as dog treats made from ingredients from global sources beyond our national quality controls have shown clearly that we need to be watchful when selecting what we purchase for our loved ones.

8. Give the Gift that Shares.

Make a donation to a charitable organization in honor of a loved one. Select a cause that is near and dear to your or a loved one's heart. Or give a gift membership to an organization you think

R. Dan Eubank and Sandra Eubank - The Eubanks relocated from Nantucket and have already become active participants in ECYC activities. They independently sought us out and we are lucky to have them as new members.

Dr. Diana Harbison and Michael Augusta are also from Deep River. Diana Harbison is the Past President of the Essex Rotary Club and Michael Augusta has been the President of the Marvelwood Community Service Program for 22 years.

Alan Scriber has now joined us along with Cate Beckstein, who has been an ECYC Member since 2002.

Blue Grassfield - A former member of the Boston Yacht Club, Blue brought with him years of boating experience. Looking for camaraderie with fellow yachtsmen, Blue joined ECYC. He successfully ran ten (10) restaurants from Albany to Duxbury.

Tom and Lucy Rutherford - The Rutherfords bring with them a combined sixty (60) years of sailing and boating experience. Avid fishermen and kayakers, they joined ECYC because they enjoy life on the water, and think our facility is great. Many of us already know Lucy because she is an active member of the Essex Auxiliary of Child and Family Services. Tom is a member of the Essex Land Trust Board. Lucy, our new designated Cookie Elf, baked mountains of delicious cookies for the Children's Christmas Party.

Russell Pagliughi and Greig Todd - Lifelong boaters, Russell and Greig are members of the Newport Harbor Yacht Club and joined ECYC to make new friends in the Essex area. Since the receipt of their application Russell and Greig have been active members attending a number of ECYC events and lending a hand wherever and whenever possible.

John and Susan Abbott - The Abbotts are New York residents who spend their weekends in Deep River. John, who attended the US Naval Academy, grew up sailing in Mobile Bay, Alabama. The Abbotts are Pettipaug Yacht Club members who are looking forward to becoming involved in the Essex sailing community.

Thomas and Patricia Atkinson - Talk about jumping right in...Tom is our new Fleet Captain! A native of Westport, who was a member of Cedar Point Yacht Club, Tom grew up sailing a Blue Jay; as an adult he sailed a Thistle. His family had a 35' Bristol. Tom spent 6 years in the Navy as a deck officer of a frigate. The Atkinsons recently moved to Essex from Portland and joined ECYC because they "wanted to get back into sailing which [they] got away from when their children were teenagers".

In addition ECYC welcomes back returning members, **Sharon Craig and Walter Rasmussen; Laura Walker and Eric Glidden; and Dr. Ruth Levy; Richard and Tina Marsh; and Gene and Patricia Schoenleber.**

ECYC was founded to "provide a facility and an environment of good fellowship for active yachtsmen" and our membership has stayed true to this tenet since the Club's inception. Our strength is in our membership and strength comes through membership. Our strength increases as our numbers swell. What does your ECYC membership mean to you? Do you know others who may enjoy the ECYC as you do? ECYC can only continue with our programs and activities if membership is robust, otherwise the character of the ECYC we have come to love will have to change. Who can you bring to enjoy all ECYC has to offer? How did you become a member? Do you know others who like you can find a comfortable place at ECYC? Invite them to join!

Val Votto

Membership Chair

Email: membership@essexcorinthian.org

would interest the giftee.... Mystic Seaport and the Connecticut River Museum, or any of the local art museums and land trust organizations come to mind.

9. Green Your Holiday Travel.

Many of us have family spread out all over the place. It can be tough to keep traveling at a minimum to get together. If you have to travel many miles during the holidays, don't forget to look into green options for getting around. If your destination is accessible by public transportation, opt for taking e.g. a stress-free train ride rather than battling endless traffic in your car.

10. Recycle Gift Packaging.

Finally, remember to recycle all cardboard packaging and peanuts or other Styrofoam packing that come with gifts or purchases. These items will not break down in a landfill and Styrofoam in particular will degrade into tiny pieces that can end up in our oceans and waterways, and adversely affect wildlife. If you can, reuse these items over and over again for packaging and shipping. Locate your nearest town dump to recycle cardboard and other items they accept.

If each one of us uses just one or two of these tips, we can go a long way towards making the holidays 'greener'!

**Thank you for being an environmentally aware ECYC member!
Happy Holidays!**

Ruth Emblin

ECYC Fleet Communicator



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

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