



THE ESSEX CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

Dear Friends,

I am trying hard not to complain, but enough of this winter already! We've had two frostbite weekends postponed so far, and a quick glance out of the sunroom windows or over the deck and you'll see why a third postponement is definitely within the realm of possibility. I'm already way behind on TESORO's spring commissioning list, and I haven't even dug my way through to the base of her ladder yet (remember this when my varnish looks awful again this year)! The ice is wreaking havoc on our plans to get on the water, and is not doing our beloved sundeck any favors, either. But not to worry, ice in the basin is a normal part of the ebb and flow of the seasons in Essex. Cy Libby will deal with the dislodged pilings and minor damage to our deck with great aplomb!

If we are so fortunate to free Fair and Square from her ice bonds and the south basin clears so that we can launch boats, our Ideals will be ready for the new season, with thanks to Jon Gibbs, Jeff Going and the entire waterfront crew (Ed Birch, Cindy Gibbs, Nick Incerti and others). ECYC's boats have had gelcoat repairs, bottom paint and TLC to ready them for competition and learn to sail programs this spring.

Last Friday evening, March 7th, the dining room really started to take on the feel of another fantastic year for ECYC. A team of volunteers of members



Pirates are taking over the River Room on March 21st!

UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS:

- **March 14th - 16th:** St. Patrick's Weekend at The Corinthian Cafe
- **March 21st:** Caribbean Night
- **March 16th:** Spring Frostbiting (if conditions permit)
- **March 21st:** Caribbean Night
- **March 23rd:** Spring Frostbiting continues
- **March 25th:** BOG Meeting
- **March 30th:** Easter Brunch at The Corinthian Cafe



Ice on the Connecticut River impacts ECYC

ECYC. A large gathering of members broke free of the cabin fever epidemic that has plagued Connecticut this winter, to enjoy a wonderful selection of entrees offered by Monique and Chef Ed. It was a great night of reunion with Club friends sharing that special feel that is our unique brand at ECYC. We were delighted to have 6 of our Past Commodores join the evening; Dennis and Sally Walker, Ed and Marsha Birch, Loch and Jane Syme, Jeff and Marlene Going, Jim and Celia Francis and Terry and Laurel Stewart.

The presence of Jack and Carol McElwee, however, was an absolute gift for all of us, marking a memorable start of the new season (our 30th anniversary year) at ECYC.

With many thanks to Jim Pfeffer for organizing the trip, ten of our members are recently returned from a fabulous experience cruising the southern latitudes from St. Lucia to St. Vincent and the Grenadines. While there were "challenges" with equipment and services provided by The Moorings, the post-Christmas Winds did their thing flawlessly day after beautiful day as our two-boat flotilla made its way south along the leeward coast of St. Lucia to the Pitons, Young Island Cut on St. Vincent, Elizabeth Harbor on Bequia, and further south, leaving Canouan to port, to the Tobago Cays where we swam with the turtles and toasted yet another amazing sunset.



L to R: Peter and Ruth Emblin, Terry and Laurel Stewart, Tim and Jean Brewer, Chris McGarry and Amelia Alverson, Jane and Jim Pfeffer on the sand spit at Tobago Cays

On to Union and the Brewer's favorite anchorage Chatham Bay, in the lee of volcanic peaks where the breeze slides off of the mountains in "screeching" puffs and our ambitious crew, in the Corinthian spirit of fairness and equal opportunity, set off to have a drink at each of the 5 rustic beach bars located on this remote bay (I'm told we succeeded, but I can only vouch for the first three). From Union, we pointed ourselves southward, once again, toward Carriacou and Tyrrel Bay, where clearing was a complete

PIA. On our last full day's sail, our 9th straight day on a port reach (to this point in the trip I hadn't bothered to adjust the port jib lead because the sheet was working perfectly as a clothes drying line) we carefully followed Peter Emblin's precise course for the dead center of Kick'em Jenny (the submerged volcano), and on from there to St. George's in Grenada, where we threw in our one and only tack of the trip to beat briefly on starboard (if only to wake Jean from her afternoon siesta) beneath Fort George and into the harbor for our last night at nearly 11 degrees north latitude.



- **March 20th:** Spring Meeting continues
- **April 5th:** Spring Club Commissioning
- **May 14th:** Leukemia Cup Kick-Off with Gary Jobson

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

BREAKING NEWS! BREAKING NEWS!

Our brand-new website is now LIVE at www.essexcorinthian.org!





Visiting with Charles and Cornelia Brewer (circumnavigators) at their island home, "Ravine Landing" in Moonhole on Bequia



The Essex Corinthian Yacht Club Burgee hangs prominently at the famous Bequia bar, "Whaleboner"

Please take note of the new Essex Art Association show now hanging in the Club. Massive thanks to Susan Malan for coordinating this fantastic program!

The clubhouse is looking great under the direction of VC Steve Rodstrom and House Committee Chair, Chuck Grusse. Collaborating with Brewer's, we now have improved secure storage for Club assets in the outbuilding behind the Chandlery building. This new storage space will take pressure off the River Room as a "catch all". Please help us keep the River Room looking good by picking up after yourself and not letting

clutter accumulate. Another of Chuck Grusse's major initiatives for this year is to add fans and lighting to our primary exterior deck area. His planning for this important improvement is progressing really well and we hope to have the installation complete for the start of the outdoor dining season!

Please support our exciting calendar of upcoming events!!
Look forward to seeing you at the Club soon!

Cheers,

Tim Brewer

Commodore

Essex Corinthian Yacht Club



New ECYC Home Page at www.essexcorinthian.org/

We are proud to unveil our new, streamlined site with many new features, including a page dedicated to ECYC's regatta racing program. The site has been developed in cooperation with members of the Board of Governors, and reviewed by a number of outside "critics".

Feel free to surf the site at www.essexcorinthian.org and send us some feedback. Our old site will continue to be available for a few more months until all web services and search engines have listed the changed web address.

As any website, ours is in a constant state of flux and will be updated frequently - and we welcome your feedback and suggestions!

Please send your feedback to Ruth Emblin, Rear Commodore & Fleet Communicator at ruthemblin@gmail.com

Galley News:

Coastal Cooking Company Starts Off 2014 With Great New Menu Offerings

Coastal Cooking Company (aka "The Corinthian Café") put on a great Valentine's Day dinner on February 14th, and everyone was raving about the Valentine's atmosphere in the dining room and the dishes Chef Ed and the CCC team created. Get ready for more special "theme dinners", the next is coming up soon, on the occasion of St. Patrick's Day.



Starting **Friday, March 14th to Sunday, March 16th**, the Corinthian Cafe will host a special **St. Patrick's Day Weekend Celebration**, with Irish-inspired lunch and dinner menus. Come and enjoy a variety of dishes with Irish influences. CC



OFFSHORE UPDATE

As I was gazing out the windows at the river while at the club, I acutely wanted to go back to the Caribbean, back to the islands I just visited together with a crew of ECYCers (see Tim Brewer's report for more details). Winter has been too long for my taste, and I am hard-pressed to be patient. We have so many plans for 2014 and at the moment the sailing season seems a long way away. Patience, grasshopper... the days are already getting longer, and the snow and ice will eventually melt... at least I hope so!

Spring Frostbite Series

After two consecutive postponements it is still not clear when the official start of Frostbiting will occur. Our Fleet Captain **Jon Gibbs** has been working with the organizers to facilitate the start, and he will advise the ECYC Frostbiting Teams of any further schedule changes. As you have probably noticed, the floating docks cannot be installed until the ice is gone, and one of the pilings has shot up and impacted the club's deck railing, complicating matters even further. We hope that there will be good news soon!

If you are interested in Frostbiting, please contact Jon to let him know. Please remember that in order to use ECYC's Ideal 18s, you must be approved by the Fleet Captain or one of the authorized club members (Ed Birch, Cindy Gibbs). See Jon's report below for details.

We are looking forward to another successful ECYC Frostbite season!

Tickets Are Now On Sale For The LLS Leukemia Cup Kick-Off on Wednesday, May 14th!

As you might have heard, **Gary Jobson** has agreed to speak at ECYC on May 14th, on the occasion of the kick-off for the 2014 Leukemia Cup.

Go to <http://www.essexcorinthian.org/leukemia-cup-regatta-2014.html> to order your tickets (sorry, tickets are not available directly from ECYC as this is a LLS-sponsored event, albeit hosted at ECYC). Or you can call LLS at (203) 665-1400 or email leukemiacupregatta_ctm@LLS.org for more information!



GARY JOBSON
AN AMERICAN SAILING STORY

The event will mark the kick-off for the Leukemia Cup registration period, and we hope that any of your sailors out there will be inspired to join us in the 2014 Leukemia Cup Regatta and its fundraising efforts. If you are unfamiliar with the regatta, please contact



enjoy a variety of dishes with their influence, as well as many of the Corinthian Cafe's favorites. For details on the menu, please contact Monique at monique@coastalcookingcompany.com.

Special For "Lunch First Timers":

Did you know that the Corinthian Cafe serves lunch every day on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, as well as brunch on Sunday? Well, it looks like some of you haven't tried lunch at the club yet, so here is an incentive: anyone having lunch for the first time on a Thursday or a Saturday will receive a free dessert with their order! Simply let Monique know that you read this in the March issue of Bell 8! Chef's choice of dessert, first time customers on Thursday or Saturday only.



Early Spring Galley Hours:

Wednesday through Saturday Lunch - 11:30 am - 2:00 pm
Sunday Brunch - 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Friday Night Dinner Service - 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Did You Know?

- We are going to start a feature called "**Member of the Month**" in April, spotlighting new and existing ECYC members. If you wish to nominate a member for this privilege, please contact Ruth Emblin at ruthemblin@gmail.com with a short description of the member and reason for nomination! We are looking forward to hearing from you!
- The **Galley Minimum** is common charge practiced by most private clubs that operate a galley. The Galley minimum goes to the club to fund overhead operations and not to the galley operator.
- **Credit Card Convenience Fee:**
The Essex Corinthian Yacht Club offers the following payment methods for paying member bills: Check, Credit Card, Cash (in person payment only, do not mail cash). New this year (as approved by the membership at the 2013 Annual Meeting) members and guests using credit cards as a payment method will incur a \$5.00 convenience fee per transaction, effective March 3, 2014, to partially offset the cost of processing credit card transactions. Payments made via check or cash will not incur a convenience fee. The ECYC Board of Governors appreciates your support.

Annual 12-Meter Challenge in Newport RI on Sunday June 8th



shorter. If you are unfamiliar with the regatta, please contact me, I will be happy to provide you with the necessary information.

We would also encourage anyone with a sailboat to enter the Leukemia Cup Regatta on August 23rd, 2014. Last year my husband Peter and I participated in the regatta with a dedicated crew and formed *Team Tartuca*. It is not just a fun event with pre- and after-parties, lots of awards and prizes, it helps the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society increase awareness and funding for cancer research. Many of us have been impacted directly or indirectly by cancer, and this event is the perfect vehicle to help. Crews act as fundraising teams, and a friendly on- and off-shore competition culminates in the great camaraderie sailors are known for! Please join *Team*

Tartuca and me on May 14th as well as August 23rd!

If you have any questions about the regatta or want to join a team or crew, please contact me at ruthemblin@gmail.com.

We are all looking forward to warmer weather and the return of spring, and with it, the official opening of sailing season at ECYC!

Ruth Emblin

Rear Commodore



COMMITTEE UPDATES

Race Committee Update:

While the Connecticut River is still in the grip of winter, we have been busy planning the upcoming sailing season. Watch for updates in upcoming newsletters, on our new website at www.essexcorinthian.org and in email communication.

Please feel free to contact me at any time should you have interest in sailing in any of ECYC's races or have an interest in joining the Race Committee. We always are looking for more boats in our races and being a part of the RC team is a great way to be involved with your club, make new friends and get out on the water for some fun. Join me and your Race Committee Team - you'll like it.

Cheers,

Adam McEwen

Race Committee Chair

Email: amcewen@gdeb.com

Update From Terry Stewart (Immediate Past Commodore):

There are still a couple of slots left for this year's Newport 12-Meter Challenge to be held on Sunday, June 8th, starting at 1 pm, but they may be gone soon! There will be a wait list, and you may be able to join one of the other yacht club's boats as "fillers" if there is availability (no guarantees).

ECYC will have two crews racing to defend our title from last year. One crew will sail *Columbia*, winner of the 1958 Aermica's Cup and last year's 12-Meter Challenge defending champion.



Our other crew will be aboard *American Eagle*, a very fast 12 Meter.

Ted Turner bought *American Eagle* and won most of the world's greatest ocean races with her. She began her career racing for the America's Cup in Newport. *Eagle* was designed and built by A.E. Luders for the 1964 America's Cup Defense. She won the observation trials, but by the close of the season, her rival *Constellation* has secured the right to defend the America's Cup, easily beating the British challenger, *Sovereign*. *American Eagle* was subsequently Ted Turner's stepping stone to winning the America's Cup.

The cost per person is \$175 for the day in Newport on June 8th (1 pm to 5 pm), including awards ceremony at the dock.

In addition to racing on Sunday, June 8th, we will host a pre-race party at ECYC with the crews from EYC, Baldwin, Pettipaug and North Cove YC. Cost for pre-race party on June 7th is \$15 per person.

Please contact Terry Stewart to sign up for the 12-Meter Challenge!

More information:

Terry Stewart tgstewart14@comcast.net

Ruth Emblin ruthemblin@gmail.com

Burgee of the Month:

This month we are spotlighting our own burgee, because it is very exciting to know that ECYC colors are displayed at yacht clubs all over the world! Bob West traveled to Maui and visited the Lahaina Yacht Club. He spotted the ECYC burgee hanging in the clubhouse and snapped a photo of it for our burgee scrapbook!



A Note From Jon Gibbs, ECYC Fleet Captain:

Our Ideal 18s are on schedule for frostbiting with much thanks to Jeff Going for fiberglass cockpit repair and the entire Waterfront Committee of Ed Birch, Jeff Going, Steve Rodstrom, Nick Incerti, and Cindy and Jon Gibbs, who are all participating in the maintenance of our fleet.

We now have six skipper / crew teams participating, and the schedule is changing daily, so keep in touch and we welcome all inquiries!

Jon Gibbs

If you have any questions, please contact Jon at jongibbsarch@aol.com

House Committee Update:

Seeking fun loving people for close encounters of the 3rd kind. Not really, just checking on who's paying attention to my Bell 8 articles! Actually I'm seeking heavy duty standalone shelving for placement in a new storage area Brewers has provided us in place of the storage building portion previously used by ECYC. Could use something about 7' high, as much as 7' wide. Please reply to me or Steve Rodstrom if have anything which might fill the need.

Spring is coming, at least by the calendar, and not a minute too soon. If spring has not sprung by month's end I believe winter's cabin fever will trigger revolution in the streets and mass hysteria, count me as one ready to break out one way or another. I'm thinking the club is looking really good, ready to meet the full season swing just weeks away. Main floor refinishing is sparkling, river & locker rooms spaces cleared, and thorough cleaning throughout, she's really looking pretty good these days. I hope all agree, come in for lunch or dinner to enjoy the great setting.

Exterior remains to be attended as the weather improves. She's taken a black eye as an ice heaved piling slammed her stern portside, crushing a railing section. Necessary repair is being evaluated. Other tasks in front of us include power washing, deck lighting install, front deck renovation, deck sign installation, umbrella replacements, table painting, and gardening - to name a few. On the gardening front I will be reaching out to Jean Delia, Teresa Connell, and Barbara Hall in hope of their invaluable assistance in adding much needed color to the building.

The 2014 House Committee includes::

Chuck Grusse, Chair	Skip Haskins
Steve Rodstrom	Terry Stewart
Andy Roussel	Gary Sharpe
George VanDrasek	Jeff Going
Jenifer Grant	Ed Birch
Ron Noe	Alex Bell
Tim Brewer	Deb Wallis



Next month: Another Caribbean burgee joins our display!

Check Out The New Gear Available At ECYC!



The Ship's Store did some spring cleaning and ordered new merchandise! Look for special new club ties in the near future! Come see the great plush vests for men and women, perfect for those early spring days by the River!

The Ship's Store not only sells burgees, there are vests, scarves, ties, polos, tees, sweaters, windshirts, etc., etc., etc., all waiting for you to show your Corinthian Spirit!

And if you want to add some Corinthian Spirit to your evenings at the club, check out the etched wine and drinks glasses. Toast your friends in style!

See Jean Brewer at the Ship's Store for all the new items she has added to the store's selection and check back frequently for any **special offers!**

Green Tip of the Month:

Celebrate World Oceans Day 2014

Having had the privilege of swimming with Green Turtles just a few days ago while on our annual ECYC Caribbean Cruise in the Windward Islands, I decided to renew my pledge to help protect our oceans. We all enjoy our "playground" so much, it is only natural to want to protect our local

Thank you for everyone's help.

Chuck Grusse
House Chair

Entertainment Committee Update:



Caribbean Night, Friday March 21st

Our fabulous **Caribbean Night** is always the highlight of the Spring season and you should not miss it on **Friday, March 21st**. Organized by Jean Brewer and her team this is the perfect opportunity to enjoy some Caribbean Spirit to combat our long, cold winter - no airfare required! Just bring your beach togs and get ready to party. There will be prizes for best Caribbean spirit, best appetizer (yes, we are holding another appetizer contest due to the popularity of the last one!), a Limbo contest, and more. Don't forget to visit the Pirate's Pub downstairs in the River Room where sailing stories take on a life of their own! Great music, food and fun.

Please call or email Jean at jeanbrewer15@gmail.com or use the sign-up sheet in the dining room at the clubhouse.

We are looking for leaders to help us run events throughout the year...on land and sea...no experience necessary...training provided...fun guaranteed! If you are the sort of person who wants to try out fresh ideas, please call me at 860 227-1363 or email me at bdtbs@sbcglobal.net.

Cheryl Arndt
Entertainment Chair

waterways and the world's oceans.

The Ocean Project, a not-for-profit conservation organization, spearheads "World Ocean Day", a celebration of all things ocean. To vie a beautiful video highlighting some of the reasons why we should protect our oceans, click here:

<http://youtu.be/tSEbPSrKkp4>



Green Turtle in the Tobago Cays

I hope you will join me in the upcoming months in making ECYC a "greener" club in terms of trash reduction, recycling and streamlining the use of our resources and the environmental impact of our activities. No matter, how small your effort, if you become more conscious of what we are doing to our environment, you will have an impact. Especially as boaters we need to be aware of all the factors that may negatively affect our waterways, whether we enjoy local waters or some exotic destination like the Tobago Cays, where a marine sanctuary protects a breeding colony of Green Turtles. Anchored in the Cays your boat is surrounded by these graceful animals, and they don't mind the ungainly human snorkelers gawking at them. However, the amount of boat and especially dinghy traffic in the sanctuary was worrisome, and one can only hope that people remain vigilant enough not to injure the turtles swimming below them or leave their trash in the sanctuary.

Swimming with these turtles was a great experience and the fact that park rangers patrolled the area handing out guidelines to inform boaters what they should and should not do while anchored in the sanctuary made me feel positive about the future of protected areas like the Tobago Cays. If people learn to respect nature we can stop some of the negative impact. These steps may be small, but each one of these steps leads towards a

Membership Update:

We are hard at work promoting our club - we believe in sharing the fun we've been having! There are a number of New Member Receptions on our calendar, and we are also planning another event to introduce interested parties to our organization. Stay tuned for more details.

If you have any friends interested in joining ECYC, please encourage them to visit the club. Membership opportunities are available, and Val will be glad to answer any questions you or they may have!

For questions, please contact

Val Votto

Membership Chair

valerie@vottolaw.com

brighter future.

And by the way, World Oceans Day is on June 8th!

Ruth Emblin

Rear Commodore & 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@essexcyc.org, or snail-mail to Essex Corinthian Yacht Club PO Box 759 - Essex, CT 06426 Telephone: (860) 767-3239

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.



Come stop by and see what's new at the Ship's Store!

**SHOP
AT
ECYC!**

New plush men's and women's vests have arrived!
Drinkware, scarves, belts, burgees, sportswear, ties and more...



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