

Summer 2023

THE ESSEX CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB



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View from the Bridge

Commodore Tom Atkinson

It has been a busy spring and many of you big boat owners are still busy getting your boats ready and in the water – the mooring field is filling very slowly this spring. Our new membership chairperson Patti Pickering has been the busiest of all onboarding 21 new members. We lost quite a few members at the start of the year, but thanks to Patti and her team of recruiters and sponsors, we have replaced them and then some – we now have 184 members. Membership has slowly been increasing the past several years – our goal is 200 members.

I'd like to personally thank Annelisa Santoro, Ed & Shirley Curley, Alan & Nancy Wasley, Jim Sibley, and John & Susan Abbot for their donations totaling \$5,350 to purchase new sails for our Ideal 18s. Club manager Jean Little – on her own initiative – sent handwritten letters to five select members and all five donated. The amount raised is more than half the amount needed for all four boats – an e-blast will be sent out shortly asking for donations from the general membership to cover the balance. When you read the Women's Regatta article below it doesn't mention that the winning team sailed an EYC boat with new sails, whereas runner up Cindy Gibbs sailed an ECYC boat with nine year old sails – to my eye the new sails made a difference.



Essex's traditional 4th of July Harbor Boat Parade is back this year on 7/4 at 2:30pm

And finally – please wear your nametags at dinner and social events. It is particularly important to do so now with all our new members!

Welcome to our new Rear Commodore, Patti Pickering!

The rear commodore position has been vacant since the beginning of the year after Jessi Kneier's resignation from the club. Patti Pickering has impressed the Board in her brief tenure as membership chair and has accepted our invitation to fill the vacancy (while continuing as membership chair). Patti and Tim Pickering moved to Essex from Killingworth in 2009 and joined the ECYC in 2013.

Patti grew up boating on Long Island Sound aboard her Uncle Ed's cabin cruiser and later on his Kells 28. After graduating UCONN in the early 80's, Patti sailed with her sister Sherrie and brother-in-law, Dave on his Catalina 30. Patti and Tim bought a Mako 22 and enjoyed fishing with the kids for many years and more recently, rafting up at Hamburg Cove with the kids and grandkids. Patti and Tim along with Sherrie and Dave missed sailing so in 2021, purchased a Saber 34, the Mary Elizabeth, and although a bit rusty, are embracing the adventures of sailing again!

Patti retired last summer after a rewarding career as a registered dietitian and director of operations in the hospital and long term care setting. She received her BS in clinical dietetics from UCONN and MBA from RPI. She is a member of the Essex Garden Club and is on the vestry at St. John's.



Membership Report



Let's give a big shout out to all the volunteers who helped out at the Spring Boat Show on April 28th. They are: **Nancy Briggett, Dee Brennen, Norm Dorval, Barb Doyle, John Fernandes, Brian Fresher, Dave Furtak, Jeff Going, Joan Sauvigne-Kirsch, Gill Nixon, Liz Nocera, Rebecca Bliss Plenter and Laurie Tomlinson.** Despite the inclement weather, we had fun manning the booth and there was a nice turnout with many folks signing up to become new members and received the initiation fee discount.

I am happy to report we welcomed 21 new members this year! We introduced the new Corinthians at a New Member Welcome Reception on May 26th. They are: **Greg & Beth Allard, Terri Allegrucci & Dennis O'Grady, Mark & Julia Carroza, Carol Campbell, Keith Fiels, Dee Brennan, Christine Gemelli & Chuck Zinser (rejoining), James & Susan Hiller, Wilk & Dagmar Miller, Julie O'Connor & Howard Jones, Stephanie Patterson (rejoining), Greg & Jan Perruccio, Rebecca Bliss Plenter, Greg Prato & Trish Denison, Kathleen & Jerry Reed (rejoining), Kathleen Sullivan Sealey, Sara Schweitzer, Debbie & Ken Soudan, Kim & Randy Stafford, Ann & Eric Tillman, Rich & Lisa Van Steenberg, Patty Yale, and Elizabeth Young (rejoining).** Many have already embraced our Corinthian spirit by helping on various committees. Be sure to check out the new member board by the front entrance and offer a warm welcome when you see them!

Patti Pickering, Membership Chair

IN & AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

ECYC's Website Get's a Much-Need Facelift!



Well, it's not new (though it is on a new platform) but it is most definitely improved. Barb Doyle is admirably filling Ruth Emblin's shoes as our computer and website expert. She added more information, more features, and a Members Only section. You received an e-blast April 30th announcing the new website and the instructions for accessing the Members Only section which currently includes member profiles, classified ads, membership list, reciprocal club information, and the most recent approved Board of Governors meeting minutes.

Here are the instructions for accessing it again:

- Log in to essexcorinthian.org and click on Member
- Log In in the upper right hand corner.
- Follow the instructions to create your account with your email address.
- Once you add your email, you will have to be verified by the webmaster in order to take the next steps. Please allow some time as emails will be verified once daily.
- Once verified, you will receive a confirmation email and can then return to the [website](#), click on Member Log In in the upper right hand corner and complete the information your profile.

Please send Barb (barbdoyle@comcast.net) any sailing/boating or event photos you think might look good posted on the site.

Galley Update



Summer Hours:

Please see website for weekly menus

Lunch (self-service):

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday
11:30 am to 2:00 pm

Dinner (table service):

Wednesday & Friday
5:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Brunch (table service):

Sunday 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

**Wednesday Night Dinners feature
Live Music Each Week**

Galley Reminder

Wednesday thru Saturday lunches are self-service. There are no servers those days, therefore please clear your table of dishes, paper products and cups after you are finished and wipe down the table top if necessary.

Spring 2023 Commissioning Day



Burges from Around the World



One of the distinguishing features of our clubhouse is the display of yacht club burgees from around the world. Each one represents a story of a member's visit to another yacht club, often involving the exchange with our burgee as a sign of interclub friendship.

After many years, we finally have archived our collection to associate each burgee with the club they came from. With thanks to webmaster Barb Doyle, our collection is now on display ranging from Hong Kong to Capri, from Alaska to Hawaii, from Nova Scotia to Grenada, from California to Florida, from the Naval Academy to the Military Academy, to even our sister clubs in Essex!

Check them out on our website: [Burges](#) | [Essex Corinthian](#)

Terry Stewart

RIVER ROOM RENOVATIONS HAVE BEGUN!

The River Room has been cleaned and painted. Coming soon are area rugs for the floor and updated furniture! Many thanks to Vice Commodore Bill Robinson who joined me, along with our Design Team, consisting of Stephanie Robinson, Deb Martin and Leah Melius. Thanks to Sigrun Morano, who helped me clear the room of furniture. Once again she got dragged into another of my projects. I am a lucky guy. Also many thanks to ECYC members who have contributed money over the years to the River Room Fund. Thanks to those contributions, all expenses have been paid from that fund, sparing any financial burden on the ECYC general fund.

The goal is to provide additional space for events, as well as a welcoming place for our members and young children to gather and enjoy our beautiful clubhouse.

Past Commodore Chris Morano



ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

2023 Club Events

Tuesday July 4: **Cookout w/ Live Music**
Saturday July 15: **3 Mile Harbor Cruise & Beach Party**
Monday September 5: **Labor Day Catered Barbecue**
Saturday September 23: **Cross Sound Challenge**
Saturday October 14: **Sea Chanteys**
Saturday November 11: **Veteran's Day Big Band Night**
Saturday December 9: **Children's Holiday Party**

Subject to change: other events may be added. Note: Details for each event including times and registration requirements will be sent to all members via email in advance.

LADIES ON DECK

Our Ladies on Deck continues on the first Tuesday of every month and is an evening set aside just for ladies to come socialize over appetizers brought to share. Members are encouraged to bring guests to introduce them to the club.

And keep an eye out for future **Dudes on the Dock** - the first one held in June was a great start and we'd like to see it continue through the summer.

Events Update

The club had several great events this spring including the Afternoon Tea in April and Caribbean Night in early June. Both were well attended. Gill Nixon headed the Tea assisted by Nancy Brigggett and Mary Lee Schroeder, which included a large variety of teas and finger foods made by chef Lori. The event required a large amount of china provided by members, borrowed from friends of members, and purchased from Goodwill. There was a shortage of servers so Harry Bird, Hershel Connor, Steve Snyder, and Tom Atkinson served the ladies in matching outfits with black bowties.



Over eighty people attended **Caribbean Night** June 3rd on a cold and windy evening making the deck unusable. Maria Decker headed the event assisted by Nancy Briggett and many entertainment committee members. The popular White Lizard Band returned after a year's absence. It was crowded and noisy, but a good time was had by all, including the traditional limbo towards the end of the evening - the younger serving staff won again. Chef Lori showed her versatility, serving up an excellent buffet of Caribbean food. Captain Jack Sparrow (aka Tucker Reynolds, owner of Lighthouse Signs in Westbrook, the "official" sign maker of ECYC) made a surprise appearance thanks to the generosity of select members. Many attending the event had their picture taken with him.



Memorial Day Potluck



And while it was a little less rockin' than last year, the **2nd Annual Corinthian's Got Talent** was a lot of fun. Jane Reilly headed the event assisted by Harry Bird, who graciously brought and set up all of the audio equipment including speakers and microphones!

Vice Commodore Bill Robinson kicked off the night with a rousing rendition of *Caribbean Amphibian* before turning the stage over to some of our youngest members, who proceeded to belt out classics such as *Row, Row, Row Your Boat* and *Life is a Highway* from the movie *Cars*. Our very own in-house star who brought the house down last year, Deidre Regan, made a guest appearance. And, Pat Atkinson, Cindy Gibbs, and her sister Suzie finished us off with a group sing-along of *That's What Friends are For*.



ECYC ON THE WATER

Sailing on the Ideal 18s

Despite our best efforts, ECYC has not been able to find a qualified sailing instructor to lead a sailing program. Accordingly, there will not be a sailing program this year. However, a pool of volunteer members are willing to go out with people who want to improve their sailing skills. Terry Stewart, Cindy Gibbs, Jim Stoll, John Kihm, Jeff Going, and Tom Atkinson are willing to help you. Please contact fleet Captain Jon Gibbs via email to request a day/time. Donations to the Ideal 18 maintenance fund are gladly accepted.

The club owned Ideal 18s may be taken for a day sail by any member who is qualified. Qualification is obtained by proving to the fleet captain or his delegate that you know how to sail, know the rules and regulations of boating and Essex Harbor, and know how to safely operate and secure an Ideal 18. The process typically involves the fleet captain or his delegate going out with you and explaining everything you need to know and observing your boat handling. Then a second trip out another time where the fleet captain or his delegate simply observes to see if you remember everything. If he/she is not satisfied, more trips with a member of the volunteer pool is recommended. If/when you feel you are ready to be qualified, contact fleet captain Jon Gibbs (jongibbsarch@aol.com) who will make the arrangements.

Kayakers

Last year we had some formal paddling events, but participation dwindled. There will be no formal events this year.

However, I am willing to create a Google group e-mail address for interested people so that if you want to go for a paddle, you can e-mail the group asking if anyone else is interested in joining you. Contact (tatkinson790@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining a group e-mail address. You may keep your kayak on the rack at the club and launch using the EYC ramp just south of the rack. Several people left kayaks on the rack over the winter which is okay, but understand neither the club nor Safe Harbor are not responsible if they are damaged or stolen.

Summer Racing Series

If you are interested in crewing on an Ideal 18 in the summer racing series please contact Tom Atkinson (tatkinson790@gmail.com) to be added to the Ideal 18 sailing Google group e-mail address which is used to communicate with each other. The series is hosted by EYC and are Tuesdays (spinnaker) and Thursdays (no spinnaker) with first gun at 5:30 (you need to be at the club by 5). You will be off the water by 7. Little experience is necessary. It is much less intense than frostbiting and is therefore a good opportunity to learn.

Race Committee

The race committee is responsible for four regattas hosted by ECYC – the Cross Sound Challenge, the Clark Race, the Ideal 18 team race, and the new Women's Regatta. Like most clubs with an active racing calendar, there is a perpetual need for power boats from 13' to 40' for committee and mark boats.

If you are willing to help out please contact Bill Robinson at racechair@essexcorinthian.org. All we need is you and your boat – we will provide the volunteers to do the work. It's a fun way to spend a day on the water, provide an essential service to the club, and ensure the ongoing success of ECYC's racing tradition.

Eastern Connecticut Women's Invitational Regatta Hosted by ECYC

Foul weather gear was the uniform of the day for the inaugural Eastern Connecticut Women's Regatta sailed in Ideal 18's hosted by ECYC on a foggy and rainy May 18th. Sailors from the North Cove, Pettipaug, Essex, Essex Corinthian, Hamburg Cove, and Noroton Yacht Clubs braved the weather proving the adage: "There's no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing." In addition to the Connecticut clubs, honors to the most distant traveled competitors went to the crew from the Kingston Sailing Club on the Hudson River.



Outstanding sailing tactics trumped local knowledge of Connecticut River conditions

with the team of Katie Morgan & Nichole Casey representing the Noroton YC scoring five bullets out of six races to win the day. When briefed at the skippers meeting about river currents and local obstructions, they calmly said, "OK, we'll figure it out." Indeed they did!

Upholding the pride of the local Essex Ideal 18 fleet, the crew of Cindy Gibbs and Laura Nunno of the Essex Corinthian YC came in a close second, engaging the Noroton crew in tacking duels throughout the day. Perhaps showing sailing the Hudson has parallels to the Connecticut River, MJ Reiss & Sally Hammel (ECYC member Jim Hammel's sisters) from the Kingston Sailing Club came in third. The regatta demonstrated outstanding sailing skills, tactics, and camaraderie among teams from across the region. ECYC looks forward to hosting the regatta again next year.

Women on the River Series

A big thank you member Diane Stark who did an amazing job organizing this year's Women on the River Series, a fun get together for women from area yacht clubs that meet, mingle, sail and dine. Over 45 women, including 18 from ECYC, participated during the four Wednesday evenings in May and June.



Important Notice about Communications

If you are not receiving e-blasts, check your spam folder – they may be going there. Or you may have unsubscribed. If they aren't in your spam folder, contact Jean and she will check the system.

The Essex Corinthian Yacht Club's Bell 8 Newsletter is a quarterly publication issued by the Essex Corinthian Yacht Club of Essex, CT.

For general questions on ECYC please refer to our website at

www.essexcorinthian.org,

email us at ecyc@essexcorinthian.org,

or snail-mail to Essex Corinthian Yacht Club PO Box 759 - Essex, CT 06426

Telephone: (860) 767-3239

Members are encouraged to submit articles and pictures of their club stories, sailing adventures/mishaps to the Bell 8 editor

Contact: communication@essexcorinthian.org

Let's get Social!

Find us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/EssexCorinthianYachtClub

Instagram at: www.instagram.com/essexcorinthianyachtclub

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