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Early Spring 2021

WELCOME TO THE SPRING REBIRTH OF ECYC



View from the Bridge

Dear Fellow Corinthians!

For over a year I have had to write dreary messages to you announcing all of the things we could not do in light of Covid-19. So, it is indeed with great joy that I write that Spring is just around the corner! The ice is melting, the river is flowing, and the Frostbite Sailors are racing again!

In addition, with the continued progress in vaccinations, there is growing light at the end of the long COVID-19 tunnel.

With all of this in mind, **I am pleased to announce that ECYC services and activities will be coming out of hibernation.** Now do not get me wrong, there will still be a need to practice appropriate Covid prevention practices. However, with increased vaccinations amongst our membership, as well as the relaxation of restrictions by our Governor, there is more freedom to return to regular operations. Accordingly, the Club is now able to start on a path to the resumption of normal operations.

In preparation, I have asked that the deck awning be installed as soon as possible.

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IMPORTANT DATES:

- **March 7th - May 2nd:** Spring Frostbiting
- **March 27th:** Blessing of the Fleet, Chili Cook-Off (details to follow)
- **March through May:** Membership Drive
- **April:** Spring Commissioning (date TBA shortly)
- **April 7th:** Galley re-opens
- **April 30th - May 2nd:** Essex Boat Show
- **May 1st:** Mini Open House
- **May 4th:** Ladies on Deck
- **June 5th:** New Member Reception
- **July 11th/Aug. 8th:** RTB Races
- **Sept. 25th:** Cross Sound Challenge
- **October 9th:** Tom Clark Memorial Regatta

Note: All dates will be confirmed at a later time as we will still need to adhere to local and national Covid-19 guidelines. Refer to our event calendar on our website at www.essexcorinthian.org for details!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Effective April 7, 2021, The Corinthian Cafe will resume regular services. This will include lunches on Wednesdays through Saturdays, Friday night dinners and Sunday brunches. Galley Liaison Nancy Simms will be providing additional information as details develop. In addition, the outside Club grill has been serviced and is ready for use on the lower deck when the galley is not in operation.

I have asked the Entertainment Committee to prepare a list of upcoming events that can take place while still observing Covid safety protocols. Co-chairs Pat Atkinson and Melanie Carr will soon be reporting back with additional announcements.

With the increased interest in usage of our Ideal 18s, **ECYC will be offering a more formalized sailing program.** This will include the resumption of **Monday Night Ladies Sailing.** In addition, **both private and semi-private sailing lessons will be available to interested club members.** Vice Commodore Tom Atkinson and Fleet Captain Joe Pelletier will oversee this program. I am pleased to announce that renowned sailing instructor, **Cindy Gibbs will be the lead instructor.** Further details will be forthcoming.

Following past tradition, **On Saturday, March 27th, Fleet Chaplain Dan Taylor-Stypa will preside over a blessing of our fleet .**

Last year **Vice Commodore Atkinson spearheaded a kayak program** where club members pooled boats for use by the membership. Thanks to his efforts and those who provided kayaks, **the program will continue this season.** Keep an eye out for his announcements as Summer draws closer.

Rear Commodore Bill Robinson has been diligently preparing for Summer racing events, including regattas and races with our neighbors at Essex Yacht Club. Needless to say, his plate is full, especially as he and his wife Stephanie were recently blessed with the birth of their second son, Teddy. Again, read on as he will fill you in on all the details.

Our new **Membership Chair Jessi Kneier has hit the ground running.** At our last Board meeting she presented a multitude of ideas for increasing and maintaining Club membership. **As a result, the board voted to waive the initiation fee for any member applications made**

2021 Membership Drive

A promotional graphic for the 2021 membership drive. It features a blue and white pennant on the left with the letters 'ECYC' vertically, the year '1984' at the top, and '2021' at the bottom. To the right, a sailboat is shown on the water. Text on the right side reads 'Sail into Spring Savings 2021'. Below the pennant, contact information for Essex Corinthian YC is provided: 'Novelty Lane, Essex, CT' and 'Tel: (860) 767-3239'. At the bottom, it states 'Exclusive Spring Membership Offers: No initiation fee if you join in March, 50% off initiation fee in April and May' and includes the website 'www.essexcorinthian.org'.

Please share this announcement with friends and family! For more details on how to sponsor a new member, please refer to our membership application or contact Membership Chair Jessi Kneier.

VICE COMMODORE'S UPDATE

Greetings, Members!

I am thrilled to see that Club activities are on the way to returning to normal. I am hopeful that will include the annual chili/stew/soup cook-off!

Don't forget the Blessing of the Fleet on March 27th. This has always been has been a big hit after winter hibernation.

While I could not present a **trivia contest** last year, **I am currently stocked with questions and ready to go!**

Here's a **teaser question** - *What was the purpose of the Titanic's fourth funnel?* First person who contacts me with the correct answer gets a **six-pack of beer or a bottle of wine.**

Members are welcome to keep their kayaks on the dinghy rack again this year. If anyone is willing to let other members use their kayak, please let me know and I will play matchmaker.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Atkinson

Vice Commodore

Email: vicecommodore@essexcorinthian.org



prior to April 1, 2021. After that date the initiation fee will be reduced by 50% on applications received prior to June 1st. As you know **membership dues are the main source of the Club's revenue.** With that in mind, **do not hesitate to reach out and propose applicants to increase our roster.** Read on to learn more of Jessi's ideas.

As you can see, just like the Spring flowers that are starting to emerge from the thawing soil, so is life at the Club. The details of these activities and more will be announced by the various committee chairs as they develop. Many are discussed in the articles published in this edition of Bell 8.

I hope you all fared well during the winter and are taking steps to get vaccinated! **I recognize that the past year has been dismal on the ECYC front and thank all of you for sticking with the Club during this uncertain time. Please be assured that change is just around the corner.**

In the meantime, your clubhouse awaits you. So, come on down and enjoy your facility and one of the most beautiful views of the Connecticut River. Music will be playing and sometimes there will even be a pot of hot coffee waiting for you!

As always, do not hesitate to reach out to me or any Board member if you have any questions or concerns. I am excited and look forward to an upcoming active and successful season.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Morano

ECYC Commodore #22

Email: commodore@essexcorinthian.org



FLEET UPDATE



Who has the right of way???

REAR COMMODORE'S UPDATE

View from the Rear...

Mark your Calendars!

While we've been busy shoveling snow these past few months, **the ECYC Race Committee has been hard at work planning an exciting season full of racing opportunities** for our members. These events run the gamut, from our signature ECSA "big boat" regatta known as **the Cross Sound Challenge in September**, to casual **'Round the Buoys Sundays**, to one design **match racing and PHRF distance racing in the River.** There's something for everyone, whether you're a seasoned veteran or just looking to get started. **Take note of the dates below**, and please reach out if you are looking to get involved as skipper, crew, or on the water volunteer.

Spring Frostbiting

Sundays, March 7th - May 2nd

Around the Buoys

July 11

August 8

Cross Sound Challenge

Sept 25

Thomas Clark Memorial

October 9

In addition to my role serving as our Race Co-Chair, **you may be wondering what other jobs a Rear Commodore is tasked with in the midst of a pandemic and subsequent club shut down.**

It's a good question - I still haven't figured it out! With the downtime, and **despite my best efforts, I recently "celebrated" an**



The Ideal 18 maintenance program has continued plus a few items this year. Each boat has received new standing and running rigging and we have upgraded the jib trimming system on the fleet. With fresh antifouling and compound/wax the boats are looking good and ready for another season. Big thanks to our work party members; **Commodore Morano, Vice Commodore Atkinson, past Fleet Captain Jon Gibbs, Laura Nunno, Ed Birch, Dan Rennie, Peter Decker, Matt Melius, Jim Hammel, and Joan** (sorry, I do not recall her last name). I would also like to thank **Terry Stewart** and **John Khim**, who have been extremely helpful.

We are very excited to be able to offer a few additional events this year with a focus on team racing. This fun and cooperative race platform allows several boats from each "Team" or Club to race as a unit placing traps and working together for advantages on the racecourse. An **ECYC/EYC collaborative event** has been scheduled for **June 6th** and **Wednesday evenings beginning June 2nd** are on the books. We will hold the **Harrison Trophy** again in **September**.

ECYC tried out our **kayak rack** last summer and it became a great benefit for the membership. The use of the rack is offered to the members with kayaks and paddleboards to be stored on site. Anyone wishing to bring their gear down should contact Joe Pelletier or Jean Little.

As the C-19 virus wanes away we are also going to begin holding **sailing class days** for interested members and scheduled dates for **new sailor check-outs** (more information to follow). I would like to personally offer an apology to any members who were not given the chance to use the Club's boats as they hoped and I will effort to make sure every member has a chance to spend time in our fantastic boats. Please email me and we will work together to get everyone out on the water.

Joe Pelletier
Fleet Captain

impromptu 40th birthday party here at the club (outside, masked, and socially distanced of course) that was attended by a number of fellow Corinthians. Despite the cold weather and Covid restrictions, **it was a great reminder of the phenomenal resource that is our venue, and the camaraderie we share as fellow members.**

Over the holidays, we also welcomed the arrival of our son Edward "Teddy" Owen Robinson (9lb 9oz 22"), which historically would have been accompanied by a pre-pandemic style Essex Parade / celebratory motorcade. We've taken a covid raincheck on that one. While we certainly have our hands full now with two boys under 2 years of age, a classic ECYC party should give these weary parents a welcome respite in the coming months (hint, hint, entertainment committee!).

In the meantime, I hope you find joy in prepping your boats and your schedules for a wonderful summer ahead. **Before we know it, we'll be back on the water and enjoying that special Corinthian fellowship in no time.**

Cheers and Happy Spring Commissioning to all!

Bill Robinson
Rear Commodore & Race Committee Chair
Email: rearcommodore@essexcorinthian.org



TREASURER'S UPDATE

Greetings from the Treasurer!

As the months roll into Spring, I would like to say thank you to our members for paying your dues on time. We need a good buffer to start off our galley opening expenses and a least a month of reserves to make this happen. Our billing for meals runs a month in the arrears. Please, if you **have not** made your dues or EYC take out meal charges payments, do so immediately so we can make this happen. Thank you again and a reminder that accounts not paid will incur late fees which will not be credited.

Respectfully submitted,

Corinne Kilty

Email: fleetcaptain@essexcorinthian.org



PAST COMMODORE'S UPDATE

It truly is a reawakening! Many of us can begin to breathe easier, as vaccinations in our state are ramping up. If you are 55+ years old, make sure you register to be vaccinated. Don't give up if you cannot get an appointment right away, in our experience individual time slots have been opening up every day. Just check all available platforms frequently. Getting vaccinated means that we can start getting back to a "more normal" daily routine, albeit it will take some more time to really get back to something more closely resembling what we have considered "normal" in the past. In the meantime, our "new" normal is heavily dependent on getting people protected, but we can see a positive trend towards a much brighter future! Having received my first dose and getting closer to my second dose I am so looking forward to being able to socialize again, though precautions are still necessary, of course. In a way, wearing a mask has become second-nature, and I have to say, there were so many cute designs out there that I ended up purchasing quite a few!

Cabin Fever, be gone, **the club is opening**, and we can start seeing our friends again! I am also very excited to try out our **new chef's** offerings, having been a long-time supporter of Coffee's take-out cuisine. I can't wait for **Ladies on Deck and Ladies' Sailing Classes, and other social events** to start again. A reawakening on so many fronts, this season at ECYC is sure to become one to remember!

Some of you have asked me whether we will be going ahead with the planned **CT River Leukemia Cup** that had to be postponed

Treasurer

Email: treasurer@essexcorinthian.org

ENTERTAINMENT UPDATE

Hello Fellow Corinthians,

Finally, we can enjoy the club and all it offers.

The Entertainment Committee is working on completing an events calendar for this year. Hopefully, all club members will be able to enjoy these upcoming events.

Our first event will occur with our annual **Chili, Soup, and Stew Cook-Off on Saturday, March 27th** to coincide with the **Blessing of the Fleet**.

Please watch for an e-blast shortly which will include time for this event.

Stay safe and healthy so we can once again enjoy each other's company.

Pat Atkinson and Melanie Carr

Entertainment Co-Chairs

Email: pat-events@essexcorinthian.org

or melanie-events@essexcorinthian.org

HOUSE COMMITTEE UPDATE

We had a great year in getting our club into tip-top shape! I couldn't have done it without the help of my altruistic committee including **Myron Stacks, Pete Decker, Harry Bird, Terry Stewart, and Toby Doyle**.

We put up a weather vane, power washed the building, painted the shutters, painted the front door, decks, picnic tables, and some trim work. We have also fixed and replaced some lattice fencing.

With the help of the committee, we also did a clean-up of tables, chairs, and light switches. The bathrooms were also installed with handicap handles in each stall. The awning should also be installed on the deck soon, making it ready for the start of the outdoor dining season!

Scott Beckwith

House Chair

Email: house@essexcorinthian.org

twice last year. As cancer did not disappear just because of a pandemic, we are still continuing to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's mission. The event is still on, and will most likely be held in **October 2021** at the end of Fall Frostbiting. I am happy to report that our local one-design charity regatta still has all five yacht clubs on board. Planning will resume shortly, and we will keep you up to date on further developments.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon!



Ruth Emblin

Imm. Past Commodore

Email: commodore21@essexcorinthian.org

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

Salutations from your new Membership Chair!

It was quite the honor to be chosen for this role and I am excited to get to work for our special club. I have some big shoes to fill following in Cindy Gibbs' footsteps and I am glad she will be helping me along the way. Continuing on the committee is **Frank Strafaci** and joining our team are **Scott Beckwith, Jason Kneier, and Lisa Frank**. If you would like to join our committee, please reach out to me. We would love to have your help!

As we observe every year around this time, and certainly not helped by the COVID-19 pandemic, membership numbers have once again fluctuated. Some people moved away, had lifestyle changes, or went on their final voyage into the sunset... To keep our membership levels balanced, we would like to announce our **2021 Spring Membership Drive**: Until the end of March, any new people to join our membership will have their initiation fee waived. For the months of April and May, the initiation fee will be 50% off. Please refer to our membership application online for details on how to sponsor a new member, and spread the word to your friends and family!

GALLEY UPDATE



This has been a long winter and I think we are all looking forward to spring just a little bit more than usual. **We are happy to report that the Essex Corinthian Galley will be reopening on April 7th.**

We will continue to follow COVID guidelines as listed below:

Social distancing and wearing masks when not seated.

Please note **traffic flow signage** throughout the facility. They indicate which doors to use when entering and exiting from the clubhouse to the deck. We also have signage for the two outside staircases. One for coming up to the deck and one for exiting the deck.

We will be following these guidelines until we receive further guidance from the state. While many of us will be vaccinated it is important to follow these practices for our members' friends and family who have not.

We look forward to starting the season off strong and anticipate starting **Wednesday Music Nights** a little earlier this year (actual date to be determined), which gives us just another reason to get out of the house and onto the deck.

The galley hours will be as follows:

Lunch: Thursday through Saturday from 11:30 am-2:00 pm

Dinner: Friday night from 5:30pm - 9:00pm

Brunch: Sunday From 11:00 am - 2:30pm

We look forward to seeing you soon at the club!

Nancy Simms

Galley Liaison

Email: galleyliaison@essexcorinthian.org

DID YOU KNOW?

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest members; **Raymond & Charlene Gasperini, Jeffrey Evans & MaryGrace Giuliano, Andrea Valenti & Leonard Hess, Kathleen Lowe, and new Corporate members Steven & Donna Johnson from Alchemi Wealth Management!**

There will be a bulletin board in the River Room near the bar highlighting new members including a photo and short bio. Please check it out regularly and be sure to give a friendly Corinthian welcome to our new members when you see them!

We are actively brainstorming and implementing new ideas to grow and retain our membership. In the coming weeks, you will receive a **poll to provide input** on what you like most about our club as well as voice areas you would like to see improve. Please help us in this endeavor by completing the poll. Your feedback is valuable to providing a club everyone enjoys!

Thank you again for this opportunity to be your Membership Chair! Please reach out to me if you have anyone interested in joining our club, our committee, or anything else you would like us to know. I look forward to a stellar year of growth and fellowship!

Jessi Kneier

Membership Co-Chairs

Email: membership@essexcorinthian.org

SAVE THE DATE!



FIRST 2021 LADIES ON DECK PLANNED FOR MAY 4TH!

Join us at our first ladies' get-together for the year on Tuesday, May 4th, starting at 6:00 pm.

These casual get-togethers are the perfect opportunity to meet your fellow ECYC Ladies, and make new friends.

Bring friends, bring an appetizer to share! BYOB.

Jessi Kneier has volunteered to be the host! Please watch for an e-blast with details!



EARLY SPRING HOURS ARE IN EFFECT AT THE CLUBHOUSE:

- Tuesday - Thursday 9 am to 5 pm
- Friday 9 am to 9 pm (Office closes at 5 pm)
- Saturday 11 am - 5 pm (Galley open for lunch/Office closed all day)
- Sunday 11 am - 5 pm (Galley open for brunch/Office closed all day)
- Monday CLOSED

Note: Private meetings may be scheduled after-hours, except on Mondays. Please contact Jean Little for details.

NO SMOKING AT ECYC:

The clubhouse, the decks, stairs 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, weekly menus and announcements, as well as archive copies of the Bell 8 Newsletter are available online at our website at www.essexcorinthian.org!

BOG MEETINGS:

Members in good standing are always welcome to attend board meetings. Please contact a board member or Jean Little to advise us that you are planning to attend as a guest.

GALLEY HOURS:

Early Spring Hours:

Lunch:

Thursday, Friday and Saturday:
11.30 am to 2.00 pm

Dinner:

Friday: 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Brunch:

Sunday: 11.00 am to 2.30 pm - special brunch hours on selected holidays!

In the near future, menus will be available at www.essexcorinthian.org/dining.html

SHIP'S STORE

Have you checked out our Online Ship's Store yet?

While we will still have some inventory in our in-house store, this is your direct link to purchasing custom-embroidered sportswear and other items featuring the ECYC burgee! Order your spring gear now to ensure timely delivery! Every time you purchase something, ECYC will get a commission, which, in turn, will benefit the club and its members!

Ship's Store Online

More club information on the ECYC Website: www.essexcorinthian.org



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

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

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