

# BELL 8

Spring 2025



# SEAWORTHY NEWS

ESSEX CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB

## VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



Spring is finally upon us, though it wouldn't hurt if we could mix in an occasional day or two above 50 degrees! While we are a hearty bunch, hosting our Commissioning ceremony indoors was a big hit, as a nasty east wind and sub 40 temps made the flagpole a rather unfriendly place to be. Alas, winter has finally loosened its grip, and it's time to turn our focus from maintenance and planning to the joy of being out on the water and spending quality time at ECYC. I'm honored to serve as your Commodore for another season, and I look forward to seeing familiar faces and welcoming new members to our club in the coming months.

This winter has been particularly productive. Chuck Grusse led our new front door project, something that's been near and dear to him for a number of years, and what a door it is! We are thankful for all his efforts and it's something we can all be proud of. We took it a step further and also replaced the old tile (left over from several renovations ago) at the landing with matching ipe hardwood, a weekend project Pete Decker took on once the door was completed. In the River Room, the Atkinson Family donated the kids air hockey table, which has seen quite a bit of use already. We know how much Pat Atkinson loved giving back to the kids, and this gift was another way to carry on that tradition. Thank you Atkinson Family! While we've made some amazing improvements in some areas, we are a bit behind in others. Next on our list is getting the top floor decks repainted and the awning installed, which will hopefully be done within the next few weeks; please excuse our appearance in the meantime. Some might blame that on the cold, rainy weather, but I think we all know the real reason we are a bit behind. Our House Committee MVP for so many years, the one and only Myron Stacks, has decided to hang up his tool box this year (at least at ECYC. I'm sure Barbara has plenty on her list at home!). Myron has been such an invaluable member of the team for so long, I think it's going to take 10 of us to keep up his pace. Myron, we can't thank you enough. Don't forget to come down and kick up your feet - you've earned it!!

As we prepare for another incredible year, you'll soon see that the Board has been diligently working to enhance our facilities, develop an exciting calendar of events, and strengthen our racing program. I am proud of the tireless dedication shown by our volunteers and committees, whose efforts ensure that Essex Corinthian Yacht Club remains the best combination of boating, value, dining, waterfront, and FUN...anywhere on the River.



*Bill Robinson*  
**COMMODORE "24"**



## *Ship's Store*

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Have you checked out the Ship's Store recently? Laura Loew has been instrumental in keeping our inventory fresh and updated with a number of new items over the last year. From ECYC branded Yetis, Tervis Tumblers and wine glasses to shirts, ties, hats, belts, and flip flops, we've got you covered. Make sure to get yourself outfitted in the latest gear for 2025!



## *Club Manager Update*

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You may have noticed a familiar face assisting our club manager Jean over the last few weeks. That's right, Meredith Landau is training up to take over club manager duties in June when Jean sails off into retirement. We'll make a formal introduction with Meredith in our summer edition of the Bell 8, and we'll of course toast to Jean and her many contributions in the months ahead. Stay tuned for more details!

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## **BOAT NAME TAGS**

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### *40th Anniversary Fundraiser*

Last year, as part of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we announced a new and fun way to celebrate our club fleet, with the opportunity to purchase an engraved boat name tag. These commemorative tags will be affixed to the backs of our dining room chairs (see example), as a way to celebrate the boats of ECYC, both past and present.

Priced at \$60/each, all proceeds above cost will go towards the ECYC Sailing Fund, which we rely on to keep our Ideal 18 fleet in fighting shape (sails, sail covers, repairs, bottom paint, rigging, etc). Our thanks to Dan Rennie for leading the sourcing and design work through a local manufacturer. To place an order, please phone or email club manager Jean with your boat name, and we will submit them for processing in batches. Please note that your boat name does not need to be a current boat, it can be commemorative. I know I look forward to honoring my father's old Marshall Catboat SOUNDER, along with our current family lobster boat TASHTEGO. Order yours today!





## SPRING BOAT SHOW

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With the Spring Boat Show coming up later this month, it's a great time to nudge those in your network who might be considering membership. We'll be offering special incentives for prospective members who visit our booth, as well as tours of the clubhouse throughout the weekend. As ski filmmaker Warren Miller always liked to say, "If you don't do it this year, you'll be one year older when you do!"

### *Membership Report*

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We welcomed the following 9 new and returning member families to the club this winter/spring:

*James & Reagan Dryfoos*  
*Michael Prigoff & Beth Green*  
*Chuck Poindexter*  
*Elizabeth & Robert Bartlett*  
*Bill & Betsy Sandberg*  
*Robyn Rivers*  
*Stephanie Hartell & Steve Hall*  
*Rick & Barb Kanter*  
*Dana & Dave Larson*

Spring is here, and the CT Spring Boat Show on Essex Island is fast approaching! Join us April 25-27 (Fri 1-6 PM, Sat/Sun 10-5 PM) at our booth. This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with potential new members. Volunteers are needed to staff the booth and to give tours of the club itself over the weekend.

Please email Rebecca Bliss at [membership@essexcorinthian.org](mailto:membership@essexcorinthian.org) to sign up

We are excited to host our New Member Reception on May 23rd, from 5-6 PM. We will be serving complimentary appetizers and introducing members who joined within the past year. All current members are encouraged to attend!

*Rebecca Bliss, ECYC Membership Chair*

## *Friday Night Dinners*

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One area where we've heard your feedback is around seating capacity at Friday night dinners. During the busy season, we know it can get crowded and the prime outdoor tables can go quickly. Part of that is just the nature of running a part time restaurant with 1 or 2 nights of dinner service, as is customary for many yacht clubs. We also embrace our long standing culture of longer, leisurely dinners instead of a rushed high turnover atmosphere. For this reason and several others, the concept of reservations or multiple seatings have been thankfully tabled (no pun intended). With that said, as our membership grows, and the best restaurant in town is no longer a secret, the Board is looking at ways to increase dining capacity. As a trial first step, we will be adding several tables to the upstairs dining room, and we will also be offering seating on the 1st floor deck & River Room as needed. I know my family already squirrels away downstairs with the kids most Fridays (you're welcome ...haha), and others may follow suit. Adding additional tables outside should ease some of the congestion upstairs, and I personally think the 1st floor deck is an untapped resource in our dining toolkit. Stay tuned as our Galley and Board continue to iterate on what's working and where we can improve the experience.



# 2025 REGATTA DATES



**MAY 18th** *3rd Annual Women's Invitational*  
**SEPTEMBER 20th** *Cross Sound Challenge*  
**OCTOBER 11th** *Thomas Clark Memorial*



## CLUB CLEAN UP DAY & New Door





# COMMODORE'S CORNER



*Recognizing noteworthy member contributions in the Corinthian spirit. In a volunteer club like ours, there are dozens of examples each month, but we'll highlight 10 in each Bell 8. Send your nominations to [commodore@essexcorinthian.org](mailto:commodore@essexcorinthian.org)*

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## **ANN TILLMAN**

Pick any club function and you'll find Ann working to help behind the scenes. But I specifically wanted to recognize her for personally taking our surplus event food to the local soup kitchen back in March. It was a wonderful gesture and exemplified her Corinthian spirit in an amazing way.

## **DEB & KEN SOUDAN**

For all their hard work and collaboration with Rebecca Bliss in getting our boat show booth set up and staffed!

## **JESSI KNEIER**

Have you noticed the flower arrangements that adorn our dining room tables lately? We have Jessi to thank for taking this task on and helping to beautify our dining room

## **CHUCK GRUSSE**

I've been told it was a 10+ year journey to make the new front door a reality, but you did it Chuck! Thank you, and congratulations on a job well done.

## **PETE DECKER**

Channeling his inner Myron Stacks, Pete not only installed our new ipe landing area, but also found time to replace the side door mechanical lock that has long alluded me. Thank you Pete!

## **JOE PELLETIER, CHUCK POINDEXTER, & SOUND RIGGING**

Thank you for providing the space to repair and prep our Ideal 18s for the season!

## **GILL NIXON**

Her execution with Chef Lori around the Afternoon Tea event is a pleasure to watch. As one of her servers, I get a first hand view, and we are lucky to have her expertise to guide us. Thank you Gill!

## **JOHN NOONAN**

For jumping right in and helping us put together our Waterfront Safety Day back in February. John joined us just last year but has already made a big impact; we are lucky to have him among our ranks.

## **DAN RENNIE & JANE REILLY**

While we were riding comfortably in the flat bed trailer with the kids during the St Patrick's Day parade, Jane & Dan volunteered to walk and display our banner down Main Street, letting everyone know who the most fun club in town is!

## **SUSAN WILLIAMS**

Susan joined our Ships Store rock stars Laura & Mark Loew at Commissioning to help us promote all of our great merch for the season. I understand it was a brisk sale, thank you Susan, Laura, and Mark!

## **THERESA DRYFOOS, JESSI KNEIER, & PATTI PICKERING**

Among a whole host of other contributions, thank you all for your help in revamping our new member board with Rebecca!

## **YOLANDA LOWE**

The Ladies on Deck series continues to be one of our most popular elements of the social calendar and we have Yolanda to thank for spearheading its resurgence. Thank you Yolanda!



## 2025 Spring Club Events

<i>Saturday April 26:</i>	KID'S MOVIE NIGHT
<i>Saturday May 3:</i>	KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY
<i>Sunday May 18:</i>	WOMEN'S INVITATIONAL REGATTA
<i>Friday May 23:</i>	NEW MEMBER RECEPTION
<i>Monday May 26:</i>	MEMORIAL DAY POTLUCK
<i>Saturday June 14:</i>	CARIBBEAN NIGHT
<i>First Tuesday of each Month:</i>	LADIES ON DECK
<i>May 17 &amp; June 21:</i>	YOGA ON THE DECK
<i>Wednesday's Starting June 4:</i>	MUSIC ON THE DECK

*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 and on our website*

## CHILI, SOUP & STEW COOK OFF





# St. Patrick's Day Parade



## *March Ladies on Deck*

Ladies on Deck was full of Irish cheer in March! Hosted by Barb Doyle and Patti Pickering, the evening included Irish food, Guinness, songs by club member, singer and guitarist Cliff Haslam, and Irish trivia prizes. Erin Go Bragh!





# Commissioning Day







# Afternoon Tea



## April Ladies on Deck

Hosted by  
Nancy Brigggett  
& Gill Nixon



# ECYC ON THE WATER



Jon Gibbs & Marliou Griswold (198)  
Tom Atkinson & Laura Nunno (191)  
Greg Allard & Jake Snyder (38)  
Cindy Gibbs & Jane Reilly (192)

## *Frostbite Yacht Club*

S P R I N G   S E R I E S   2 0 2 5





## *Ideal 18 Update from our Fleet Captain*



Ahoy Corinthian Membership, Winter and Spring have been active on the water. December, we found ourselves chipping away at the ice to haul the boats for the season. Thank you to all who assisted in putting the boats to bed for the winter. After a brief hiatus in January, February came quick with a planned March 1st start to the Frostbite season. Many of our members contributed to a two-day work party to get the boats ready in time for racing and yhr Blessing of the Fleet. A big thank you to Joe Pelletier for organizing the work parties and providing a top-notch location at Sound Rigging. As a club, we can all be proud of the boats which represent us on the water each week.



We're thrilled to report that all four of our Ideal 18s have been out weekly this season, making up the majority of the Ideal 18 fleet at Frostbite. Shoutout to our skippers and race committee representation. In the Ideal 18 class, skippers include Tom Atkinson, Cindy Gibbs, Greg Allard, Jon Gibbs, Jake Snyder. For the Etchell's fleet we have Bill Robinson, Toby Doyle, Chris Morano, and John Kihm. Crew members in both classes include Joe Pelletier, Dan Rennie, Jane Reilly, Laura Nuno, Terri Allegrucci, Marilou Griswold and Sara Dubois. Special thanks to Diane Stark and Sharon Tracy for their support on race committee. Our club's commitment to the Frostbite institution is truly commendable.

Looking forward to the summer sailing and kicking off with our season with the memorable Memorial Day picnic.

Matthew Melius

## *Safe Boating Presentation*





# Beckwith & Crew Take St. Thomas



*By Scott Beckwith*

Last month, my bowman, John Hennessy from our Etchells fleet at Frostbite Yacht Club, and I had the incredible opportunity to spend a week in St. Thomas attending a sailing program hosted by North Sails U. For four days, we sailed an IC 24 around the beautiful waters of St. Thomas, even venturing to St. John on one of those days. The wind was consistently strong, blowing between 15 to 20 knots, and we had to reef the sails on two days as conditions intensified, reaching 20 to 30 knots. Each day presented new challenges and opportunities as we rotated through different positions on the boat—bow, spinnaker, mainsail trim, and driving—allowing us to gain invaluable experience. We were averaging 15 to 20 starts per day, far more than we'd experience in a full season of Frostbiting!



On Day 5, we each had the chance to master each station for seven races. John and I were able to secure four first-place finishes, two thirds, and one second, ultimately earning us a win for the program! The instruction was top-notch, and I have to give special thanks to Geoff Becker, who pushed us hard every day. One particular race stands out: we were leading by 250 yards and just 50 yards from the finish line, yet Geoff was still giving us guidance, a true testament to his commitment to teaching. As someone relatively new to racing, I learned so much during this week, and I'd highly recommend this experience to sailors of any skill level. A big thanks to the St. Thomas Yacht Club for providing the boats and unforgettable memories!





# *A Day with Dave & Betsy Perry*

Hosted by the Essex and the Essex Corinthian Yacht Clubs



Saturday, June 7th | 9:00am – 6:30pm

Rain Date: Sunday, June 22nd | 1:00 – 6:30pm

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Join us for an exclusive, full-day seminar with top sailing experts Dave & Betsy Perry. They will cover key tactics, rules, and boat handling skills to help you improve both onshore and on the water. Whether you're looking to sharpen your racing skills, improve your tactics, or get personalized coaching, this event is designed to help you elevate your sailing.

## **WHO IS THIS OPEN TO**

Sailors from the Essex and Essex Corinthian Yacht Clubs

### **9:00AM - 12:00PM ON SHORE**

Dave will discuss important rules and tactics to know on the starting line and around marks, and answer our rules questions. Then Dave & Betsy will share their tips and secrets for making the Ideal 18 go fast upwind and downwind. This is open to all members of the Essex and Essex Corinthian Yacht Clubs.

### **12:00 – 1:00PM**

Lunch and preparations for the afternoon sailing session included in entry fee.

### **1:00 – 4:30PM ON THE WATER**

Dave will run drills and short races designed to help us get better with our starts, upwind & downwind tactics and mark roundings. Dave & Betsy will also coach us on our upwind and downwind sail trim and boat handling.

### **5:00 – 6:30PM**

Over refreshments, Dave will lead a video debrief from the day's training, which he calls The Good, the Bad & the Ugly! Sailors are welcomed to ask Dave & Betsy questions in this constructive debrief. Again, this session is open to all members of the Essex and Essex Corinthian Yacht Clubs.

***Space is limited, and registration is open now!***

\$200 for a full day and \$100 for morning only—includes lunch.

**Call EYC front desk 860-767-8121 to sign up**

No cancellations after June 1st.

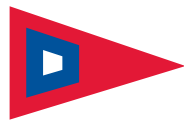
For more information, contact Jim Biggart 203-671-6679

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# *Fires and Fire Extinguishers:*

## *Considerations When You Are A Boat Owner*



**BY JOE DIRENZO**

During the recent ECYC Safe Boating River Guardians seminar, an attendee asked an excellent question: “What are the different kinds of fires you can have onboard, and what do you use to fight them?”

Today's modern pleasure boats are far more technically advanced than models from a decade or two ago. They are designed for safety and comfort. Despite the best designs, boaters occasionally face challenges if a fire breaks out, especially if they are not equipped to address it.

Let's start with the basics. What are the different types of fires aboard? According to multiple references:

**Class A FIRES:** Fueled by combustible, solid materials (wood, paper, cloth, plastics).

**Class B FIRES:** Involve flammable liquids and gases (gasoline, diesel, varnishes).

**Class C FIRES:** Powered by energized electrical circuits or equipment.

**Class D FIRES:** Involve combustible metal fires (e.g., magnesium, potassium).

All four present unique challenges to address either underway or pierside.

### **Class A FIRES: Combustible Materials**

Class A fires involve ordinary combustible materials like wood, paper, cloth, and plastics. On a boat, these could be items like wooden furniture, paper charts, or clothing. If you encounter a Class A fire, the best approach is to use water or a Class A fire extinguisher. Water helps to cool the burning material and extinguish the flames. If you have a fire extinguisher, aim at the base of the fire and sweep from side to side until the fire is out.

### **Class B FIRES: Flammable Liquids**

Class B fires are fueled by flammable liquids such as gasoline, diesel, or oil. These fires can spread rapidly and are particularly dangerous on boats due to the presence of fuel. Never use water on a Class B fire, as it can cause the burning liquid to spread. Instead, use a Class B fire extinguisher, which typically contains foam, dry chemical, or carbon dioxide. Aim at the base of the fire and use a sweeping motion to smother the flames.

### **Class C FIRES: Electrical Equipment**

Class C fires involve energized electrical equipment, such as wiring, circuit breakers, or appliances. Water is a big no-no for these fires, as it conducts electricity and can cause electrocution. Use a Class C fire extinguisher, which contains non-conductive agents like dry chemical or carbon dioxide. First, turn off the electrical power if it's safe to do so. Then, aim the extinguisher at the base of the fire and sweep side to side until the fire is extinguished.

### **Class D FIRES: Combustible Metals**

Class D fires are rare on pleasure boats but can occur if you have materials like magnesium or aluminum onboard. These fires involve combustible metals and require special extinguishing agents. Think of the metal in your engine room and galley. Water and standard extinguishers are ineffective and can even exacerbate the fire. Use a Class D fire extinguisher, which contains a dry powder specifically designed to smother metal fires. Apply the powder generously to cover the burning metal completely.

By understanding the different classes of fires and how to extinguish them, you can ensure a safe and enjoyable boating experience. Always keep your fire extinguishers in good condition and readily accessible, and make sure everyone onboard knows how to react.



# IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT COMMUNICATIONS



## *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* **ecyc@essexcorinthian.org**

**ESSEX CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB**

PO BOX 759 - ESSEX, CT 06426 *Telephone: (860) 767-3239*

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

EMAIL: **communication@essexcorinthian.org**

OUR COMMUNICATIONS TEAM ACTIVELY MANAGES 2 SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS WITH OVER 800 FOLLOWERS! WE POST FREQUENTLY ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS, GALLEY MENUS AND OTHER NOTEWORTHY CLUB NEWS.

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## *Are you receiving club emails?*

The dynamic duo of Jane Reilly & Stephanie Robinson have worked incredibly hard this year to freshen up our club communications, so that you never miss an important notice, upcoming event, or Galley update. The email subjects typically start with "From ECYC" so you can search your inbox to see if you are receiving them.

*Want to be added or removed from the list?*

EMAIL [communication@essexcorinthian.org](mailto:communication@essexcorinthian.org) and we'll get you squared away

*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.*