

MRYC *Tidings*

FALL 2011 VOLUME EIGHT ISSUE FOUR

View from the bridge

By Bill Volmar, Commodore

The warm weather is really trying to hang on this fall. After Hurricane Irene and “Albert,” the earliest record-breaking inland fall storm ever (winter storms are from December through March), we certainly have had our share of weather extremes; I hope that the current warm trend stays around until, say, March 2012! But we all know that won’t happen.

While all that weather history was taking place, Mystic River Yacht Club had its annual meeting and “changing of the guard.” As the new commodore, I would like to thank all our members, new and old, for making 2011 a very successful and fun year. Member participation is the key to our success! Let’s increase that participation for the 2012 season.

Just like the weather, we have had some record setting events here at our club: The newly reduced dues structure in April; the club opening in May; the very successful premier Sails Up 4 Cancer Regatta in June; the Dixon-Foster wedding “social” in July; the new junior sailing program in August; our very own Ancient Mariners’ JY15 Regatta on Labor Day; and the welcome to new members at the end of September. The season was also sprinkled with cruising and social events.

Moving forward, we will always have new changes, new challenges and new opportunities to shape our future. Some of our record breakers will be with us again for the 2012 MRYC season: The Sails Up 4 Cancer Regatta and the Senior JY15 Regatta will be back. The junior sailing program with Team Chance will begin in July and be longer next year. Now, all that we need is for someone to fill the open slot for the wedding “social”. I feel that hosting new innovative events that spark the interest of members is our future.



For the winter season and the 2012 boating season, we are looking for new ideas to fill the schedule. Yes, we do plan to have a few key events during the off-season to get us together and help us remember that we are boaters and we enjoy all activities around the water. If you have a desire for a special event during off-season, a special port of call for a cruise or an interesting event in 2012, please let us know. Remember we are the Friendliest Yacht Club in New England and that starts with our own members. Keep watching the emails and our website for upcoming club functions. We are looking forward to your continued membership and to an exciting year of boating in 2012.

2011 MRYC ANNUAL MEETING

By Philip A. Shreffler

With a quorum of the Club's members present, the 2011 Mystic River Yacht Club Annual Meeting convened at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 23rd. Commodore Philip Shreffler extended a warm welcome to the membership and expressed his gratitude to all the members who had stepped up to various challenges that the Club faced during his tenure.

Outgoing Treasurer Dom DeGaetano was unable to be present, but last month at the New Members' Social had been presented with MRYC's 2011 Order of Merit Award for his outstanding, tireless, and often thankless, behind-the-scenes work in managing the club's finances. The report that Dom forwarded to the membership clearly showed that the club has operated in the black all year and presently has a substantial capital reserve.

Following that report, Commodore Shreffler summarized the highlights of the past year. Topping the list was cutting our annual dues in half and the club's initiation fee more than in half, this owing to a reduction in rent and going to seasonal use of the clubhouse. In addition to this, a system was instituted allowing members access to the clubhouse on an informal and ad lib basis, as well as guaranteed water access through the Shipyard's D Dock.

Anne-Marie Foster was thanked for her splendid work in administrating MRYC's website and newsletter production, as were Joan Gannon, Karen Davis, Anne Wakim and M.E. Rich for the long hours they'd put in on the Social Committee.

This year, the club got back in to the "regatta business" in a big way with the Sails Up 4 Cancer Regatta in September, an event sponsored by Fleet Captain Bob Davis's SU4C organization. That regatta was a resounding success with a dozen large yachts competing, plus a separate series of Shields Class races. And serving as the club's flagship for the event was Honorary Member Ted

Morgan-Busher's 1885, 102-foot British wooden yacht *Amazon*. The Regatta Committee also staged our premier Ancient Mariner's Cup Regatta, sailed in our JY-15s with Dick Dixon and Anne-Marie Foster the winners.

As always, the Cruise Committee set up and carried out a season packed with cruises to various desirable destinations, while through a partnership with Connecticut Community Sailing/Team Chance and MRYC, we were able to offer our first formal Junior Sailing Program. And, as gratifying as all of this is, the club welcomed a goodly number of new members in our ranks over the past year.

As his last official duty, the outgoing Commodore presented an Honorary Membership to Michael Cavanaugh for his dedication, especially, to MRYC's racing programs and passed the commodore's flag to Bill Volmar.

At length, Commodore Shreffler introduced the slate of Flag Officers and Directors for a vote. The entire slate was accepted by acclamation, to wit: Commodore Bill Volmar, Vice Commodore Jay McKernan, Rear Commodore Virginia Seccombe, Treasurer Peter Pappas, Secretary Janet Andrew, Fleet Captain Bob Davis, Past Commodore Philip

Shreffler, and Directors Richard Dixon and Bob Davis (Bob being a Director serving also as Fleet Captain).

After the election, incoming Commodore Volmar made a special presentation to Past Commodore Shreffler of a framed Club burgee embroidered with Philip's name and term of office as well as a smaller plaque, recognizing the Past Commodore's service.

With the adjournment of the formal meeting, the membership turned their attention to the open bar and the table of comestible delicacies provided for the Flag Officers' Cocktail Party. Grand fellowship continued well into the evening. Hurricane Irene Reflections



By Virginia Seccombe

Hurricane Irene created a great deal of extra work for boaters. Taking off canvas and sails then tying down everything else was not a welcome task. The decision on hauling the boat



came next and if it was hauled then re-launching the boat and putting everything back up was not something anyone

relished. The fact that this happened so close to

the end of the season caused many to leave the boat on the hard and end the sailing season. We made the decision to go back in the water.

Then there was the loss of power for days at home. As I sat on our boat in the water on Tuesday after the storm, exhausted from all the extra effort to get her put back together, I had an interesting thought. I now had lights, oven, stove, hot water shower, hair dryer, refrigerator, freezer, ice cubes, microwave, phone charger and even cold wine, all with a 360-degree water view—none of the things I had at home. I could be very comfortable staying on the boat with all these conveniences. So why did I need my house!

JUNIOR SAILORS GRADUATE AT MRYC

By Philip A. Shreffler

Through July and August, a dozen young people took advantage of our new MRYC/Team Chance Junior Sailing Program. Team Chance is the eastern Connecticut charitable organization which, under the umbrella of Connecticut Community Sailing, has as its mission getting kids out on the water and teaching or sharpening sailing skills. There were both classroom and on-the-water activities, with sailing in MRYC's JY-15s and Team Chance's J-24.

On August 15th, the last evening of the program, eight Junior Sailors (four were absent that night), their parents and MRYC members gathered in the clubhouse for a celebratory barbeque and awards ceremony. Beautiful graduation certificates were provided by Bill



Volmar, and the kids seemed as proud as America's Cup winners to receive their awards.

We hope that next year the Junior Sailing Program will expand. We'd love to see twice as many kids—or even more—receive certificates in the summer of 2012.

MRYC'S PREMIER ANCIENT MARINERS' REGATTA

By Philip A. Shreffler

Labor Day is always the date for a big MRYC barbeque, but this year we added our first, just-for-fun Ancient Mariners' Regatta, sailed in the club's JY-15s by teams that include at least one crew member aged 55 or more.

This year's regatta started small, with only three teams competing, and was shortened owing to the stiff southeasterly winds. Crews included Bill Volmar and Jeff Anderson, Bob

Davis and Connor McCrea, and Dick Dixon and Anne-Marie Foster. Trouble occurred right away when the Volmar-Anderson team lost a rudder pintle and later when the Davis-McCrea team got knocked down. After only two races Principal Race Officer Mike Cavanaugh (aboard Fred Allard's Mako 24 committee boat) decided that conditions didn't warrant continuing.

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Tidings is published quarterly in February (Winter), May (Spring), August (Summer) and November (Fall). Deadlines for submission of articles, photos and event announcements are January 25th, April 25th, July 25th and October 25th.

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Contributions from MRYC members & the
MRYC Board of Directors.

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MRYC'S PREMIER ANCIENT MARINERS' REGATTA (continued from page )

Nevertheless, the Dixon-Foster team—who sailed cleanly and smartly—were declared the winners. Commodore Philip Shreffler presented Dick and Anne-Marie with the Ancient Mariners' Cup, which stays on display at the clubhouse, and later with a certificate that they can hang over their fireplace with a spotlight on it.

