

# MRYC *Tidings*

SPRING 2012 VOLUME NINE ISSUE ONE

## *View from the bridge*

*By Bill Volmar, Commodore*

Fairly warm weather was pretty much the rule throughout this past winter, which was a very pleasant change from the previous year. We all had more time to work on our boats and take care of the spring clean-up this year. Let's all hope for a long, pleasant, warm — but not too hot—summer for our 2012 boating season.

But the off-season brought Mystic River Yacht Club a pretty shocking surprise. Right after my last report in the fall, we learned that our old space at Mystic Shipyard West had been leased to a catering service, and we had to vacate. Well, after a winter-long search and spring move, we now have an excellent clubhouse to call home. It will be open to members 24/7 and has many benefits, including the great picnic area, its easy access to downtown Mystic, special parking and boat launch privileges, and its accessibility by both water and land. It also has a place for our JY-15 junior sailing fleet and a trolley for the chase boat.

We have already had a wonderful clubhouse opening on May 5<sup>th</sup> for the Commodore's Dinner and a very successful Memorial Day Barbecue on May 28<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to our second Sails Up 4 Cancer Regatta on Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, and the start of our Monday Night Junior Sailing program on June 25<sup>th</sup>, which will run for nine weeks this year. And don't forget our Op Sail Cruise in July with the tall ships. We'll also hold our second Senior JY-15 Regatta (The Ancient Mariners' Regatta) on Labor Day, September 3<sup>rd</sup>.



Our summer boating season is full of interesting destinations, beginning with our Watch Hill Raft-Up on Jun 8-10<sup>th</sup>. We have also begun a full schedule of shore activities this year, continuing with a Father's Day Brunch on June 17<sup>th</sup>. We are currently planning to have two "Dinner on the Deck" Socials on the *S/V Mystic*, the 170-foot, three-masted topsail Freeport schooner, which is docked at Schooner Wharf and owned by Stephen and Geoffrey Jones, new Club members and our new landlords. There is also talk of a pool party at the MSY pool on one of those hot summer days. We feel that hosting new, innovative events that spark the interest of members is part of our future. So watch your emails, the MRYC Calendar, and bulletins at the clubhouse to keep up to date with activities and events both planned and unplanned for the members.

If you have a desire for a special event during the season, a special port of call for a cruise or an interesting event for the off-season, please let us know. Remember we are the "Friendliest Yacht Club in New England," and that starts with our own members. We are looking forward to your continued support and to an exciting year of boating and fun in 2012.

# M R Y C ' S   N E W   H O M E !

*By Philip A. Shreffler*

As Commodore Bill Volmar mentioned in his “View from the Bridge,” Mystic River Yacht Club has a new home, and I don’t think it’s unfair to refer to this as an historic event in MRYC’s progress into the future. This was all precipitated by Mystic Shipyard very suddenly announcing that they intended to rent the entire building in which we maintained our former clubhouse to a catering company and that we would have to vacate in fairly short order. I’m sure that you can all imagine how taken aback



we were. We put our club’s furnishings into storage and, started from scratch to find a new clubhouse. Spearheaded by the boundless energy and commitment of Commodore Volmar, the Board of Directors began to cast around for possible properties. After a false start with a potential clubhouse across the river in the Mystic Shipyard East (owing to an unexpected and unreasonable increase in the cost of the building), Bill and the Board discovered another location that seemed promising: the building that we now call home at Schooner Wharf, 14 Holmes Street, right in downtown Mystic.

Formerly a maritime art gallery and bookstore next to the Riverwalk Restaurant, the space looked very good indeed, with lofty, airy ceilings, and the location wonderful. It was

clear that this clubhouse was more nautical, friendlier, and had a larger room for our functions than our previous space at MSY. In addition, it had an ample outside patio area for picnic tables and an outdoor grill. And by great good fortune, the landlord, Geoffrey Jones, was willing to work with MRYC not only on an affordable price but also in installing the kitchen and bathroom that the club would need to make the gallery into a true clubhouse. While the construction was going on in late April, MRYC volunteers gathered at our former clubhouse building, in the basement of which we had stored dozens of boxes and hundreds of pounds of club property - including a monstrously heavy bar! Working in a well-coordinated way, and using a caravan of private trucks and trailers, we transported the physical trappings of MRYC essentially in one day to Schooner Wharf on the Stonington side of the Mystic River and got it all stowed in a shipshape manner. It was MRYC’s first move since its inception in 2004. And it showed what MRYC teamwork is all about.



By the beginning of May, kitchen and bathroom construction were completed and our furniture (and that heavy but crucial bar!) were in place. It may be that some of us had focused so much on getting the clubhouse up & running





that we neglected to brag, even to ourselves, about everything else that came along with the property. For example, we will have water access to the club on the Mystic River at Schooner Wharf's waterfront property, across the street, with a place for our JY-15s and an

and sailing out of Mystic Shipyard West. And as for parking, this is a special perk: we have 24/7 free parking in any of the Schooner Wharf parking areas in front and behind our Club House, as well as across the street by the water. Geoff Jones, our new landlord says that in 12



area to store them on land. So we can access the new MRYC clubhouse from land and sea. MRYC members will be able to make use of the boat launch there as well. We will also have a trolley rope mooring for a smaller boat. Oh, and yes! we will still *have full use of the swimming pool at Mystic Shipyard West* through a special arrangement we have made. So, all in all, we have everything that we need for a great sailing, water, and party season. Our summer Family Sailing Program is also moving ahead quickly and will have a much longer season this year, with classroom sessions in our new clubhouse

years he has always found a parking place, summer or winter, and he lives there. This means that even in the frenzied summer tourist season, MRYC members will be able to park as long as they want right in downtown Mystic. And it's still a very short dinghy or car ride over to the pool facility at Mystic Shipyard West. The train station is still within walking distance, and we will be next door to all the shops and restaurants Mystic has to offer. The new MRYC clubhouse will be available to *all* members *all* of the time. There is even a special security keypad lock, so you don't have to carry around a key.





This new clubhouse is planned at our current annual dues of \$500/year/member. And we will not use our bank account reserves to pay our lease obligation. At this writing, we've already had our Commodore's Dinner opening the season, and our traditional Memorial Day barbeque at the new



clubhouse—with many more events to follow. Soon we'll have our burgee collection mounted, and the clubhouse will look even better than it does now. We hope that you are all as excited as the Board is about this historic new adventure and will make use of *your* MRYC clubhouse as often as you wish.

Vice Commodore Jay McKernan has agreed to serve as Clubhouse Manager, and if members have any questions about the facility they can reach Jay at 860-961-5861 or online at [jmckernan@msn.com](mailto:jmckernan@msn.com)



# SAILS UP 4 CANCER ANNUAL REGATTA: SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2012

*By Bob Davis*

Sails Up 4 Cancer is excited to announce the details for the 2012 Annual Regatta, sponsored by Mystic River Yacht Club and taking place on June 24th. This regatta is open to all sailors and all classes. There is even a "Picnic Fleet" for the non-racer. Entry forms and additional information may be found on the [su4c.org](http://su4c.org) website.

This year's Skipper's Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1800 hours, at the new home of the Mystic River Yacht Club, the Regatta's sponsor. The new facility is located in the heart of downtown Mystic at Schooner Wharf, 14 Holmes Street. Scratch sheets and sailing instructions will be distributed, and all sailors and crew are welcome to attend.

The Regatta's first gun is set for 1100 hours in Fishers Island Sound on Sunday, June 24th. This is an ECSA-sanctioned race and good for points. Following the race the Post Regatta Shore Party will be held at the Mystic Yachting Center, 100 Essex Street, Mystic, beginning at 1700 hours.

This year, Sails Up 4 Cancer along with the Mystic River Yacht Club will be lighting up the grill for a BBQ, with entertainment by the Mystic Horns featuring Christine Cooney. There will be an open bar with wine and beer plus the famous Dark-n-

Stormy Stations. During the party, Sails Up 4 Cancer will be holding its Complementary Alternative Medicine Expo, hosted by Dr. Megan Marco of Stonington. If you missed it last year, here's your chance to catch it. Megan will have an array of exhibitors offering information for healthy living and healthy lifestyles. Attendees will be able to receive



information on acupuncture, yoga, massage, nutrition, meditation and pre-cancerous screenings to name but a few of the scheduled activities. In addition, there will be the award presentations for the top three boats in each class, plus a stellar silent auction.

Please visit [www.su4c.org](http://www.su4c.org) for additional information including the Notice of Race, Entry forms, and fees. Sails Up 4 Cancer is always seeking items for the Silent Auction along with volunteers to help both on and off the water. To submit an item for the auction or to volunteer, please contact Bob Davis at [rdavis@su4c.org](mailto:rdavis@su4c.org) or call 860-383-5405.





# FAMILY SAILING PROGRAM

The Junior Program will be run by US Sailing-certified instructors and will cover the fundamentals of sailing dynamics, rigging, knots, tacking, points of sail and, most important, Safety at Sea. All sailors will be required to wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) and have an adult fill out and sign a waiver.

The course will be held for nine weeks. Following completion there will be a Junior Regatta along with an award ceremony with Certificates of Achievement. All members and parents are encouraged to attend. There is no charge for the Junior Sailing Program, but donations are welcomed to help maintain the fleet and purchase educational aids. It is also the goal of MRYC to increase the variety and depth of the fleet and all donations will go towards this goal.

The Young Adult and Adult Program will begin Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 1700 hours and will be geared to the slightly more experienced sailors who would like to familiarize themselves with a larger boat and an emphasis on racing. The minimum age requirement is 16 unless it is determined that someone



younger has demonstrated the necessary skills. This program will be held aboard the Evelyn 32 or Tartan 34. Participants will see their skills highly improved and may engage in local Wednesday night or weekend competitive racing. There will be a fee for this class which is yet to be determined.

For further information, contact Fleet Captain Bob Davis at [Umookie@aol.com](mailto:Umookie@aol.com).

MRYC is committed to fulfill its mission statement and continue to further all facets of responsible seamanship: "To promote and encourage the challenges and rewards of yachting, both power and sail, and to offer social, community-minded activities - educating and sharing skills that contribute to safe and enjoyable boating for all ages." These goals can only be met and carried on with the participation of the membership.



# Jerry Fand

Our dear friend Jerry Fand passed away on Wednesday, May 2, 2012, at the age of 79. Jerry was a founder of Mystic River Yacht Club and a talented artist who designed the MRYC burgee that we all fly with such pride. He was also a member of the New York Yacht Club (and of NYYC's Race Committee), served on the Board and as Commodore of the City



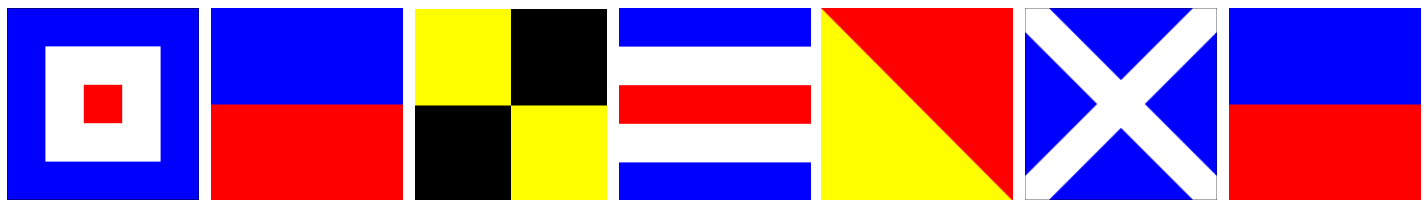
Island Yacht Club, was the Mystic Fleet Captain of The Corinthians, a member of Stonington Harbor Yacht Club and a successful racer in his 40-foot yacht *Heliotrope*. Jerry was the consummate sailor, and he'll be greatly missed by his many friends in MRYC. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Karen who is also deeply loved by our boating community.

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## TIDINGS NOW ONLINE

With our new clubhouse now open and a truly revitalized MRYC, this seems to be a season of firsts. Accordingly, another change instituted by the Board of Directors is that *Tidings* will now be sent directly to members by email as well as being found on the club's

website [www.mysticriveryachtclub.com](http://www.mysticriveryachtclub.com) under the "Newsletters" tab. Hard copies are available upon request from the Editor, Philip Shreffler, 92 Main Street, #409, Deep River, CT 06417, or at [info@mysticriveryachtclub.com](mailto:info@mysticriveryachtclub.com).



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MRYC would like to extend a hearty and heart-felt welcome into our yacht club family to new members Christina and Bill Korinek and their kids Ellie (9), Jonah (5) and Micah (3). In addition, Honorary Memberships

have been awarded to Hansina and Stephen Jones, Geoffrey Jones, his son Tait (8), and Harlie Segall, as well as Anne and Jonathan Henson and their son Magnus (5). To all, Welcome Aboard!





Mystic River Yacht Club  
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*Tidings* is usually published quarterly in February (Winter), May (Spring), August (Summer) and November (Fall). Deadlines for submission of articles, photos and event announcements are January 25<sup>th</sup>, April 25<sup>th</sup>, July 25<sup>th</sup> and October 25<sup>th</sup>.

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## MRYC CALENDAR FOR 2012

### MRYC 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS (Subject to modification or change)

Feb 4 – February Thaw Social  
Mar 10 to 11 – Member Open House  
Apr 28 – Movin' to new Clubhouse work party  
May 5 – Season kick off - Commodore's Dinner  
May 28 – Memorial Day BBQ – 3 to 7 pm  
Jun 8 to 10 – Watch Hill Raft Up  
Jun 17 – Father's Day Brunch  
Jun 24 - Sails Up 4 Cancer Regatta  
Jun 25 - Junior Sailing  
Jul 2 - Junior Sailing  
Jul 5 to 8 – Op Sail Cruise, Niantic  
Jul 9 - Junior Sailing  
Jul 15 – Dinner on the Deck  
Jul 16 - Junior Sailing  
Jul 23 - Junior Sailing  
Jul 28 to 29 – Fishers Island Raft up / dinner

July 30 - Junior Sailing  
Aug 6 - Junior Sailing  
Aug 13 - Junior Sailing  
Aug 17 to 19 – Block Island Cruise  
Aug 20 - Junior Sailing  
Aug 26 – Dinner on the Deck  
Aug 27 – Junior sailing Class Picnic & Awards  
Sep 3 – SENIORS JY15 Regatta Ancient Mariner Cup & Labor Day BBQ  
Sep 8 to 9 – Flat Hammock Raft Up & Clambake  
Sep 21 to 23 - 8<sup>th</sup> Annual MRYC Wine Cruise – Shelter Island  
Oct 12 to 15 – End of Season – Essex Rendezvous  
Oct 20 – Work Party – put JY15's away for the winter  
Oct 28 – Annual Membership Meeting

\*Note: More events may be added. Check back often.