

MRYC *Tidings*

SUMMER 2013 VOLUME TEN ISSUE THREE

View from the bridge

By Bill Volmar, Commodore

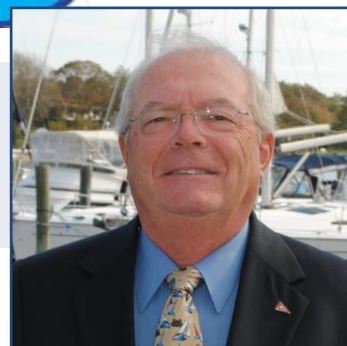
Ahoy, Mates! Well, we hope that everyone has enjoyed the long hot summer with record breaking heat and wild weather. Good weather always makes our special events like the Junior Sailing program and the SU4C Regatta even better, and bad weather puts a damper on things as it did for our Ancient Mariner Senior Regatta, which we had to postpone. All in all, though, we had a great summer full of both cruising and clubhouse events. Our cruise to Flat Hammock was our first summer cruise and went very well. The trip to Three-Mile-Harbor was very exciting with lots of wind and lots of tacking to get us to Long Island. Despite the fact that the wind died on the way back and we were forced to motor, it was still loads of fun. We are now looking forward to our annual Wine Cruise, September 20-22, our West Harbor-Fishers Island cruise on October 5-6, and our Essex cruise on October 12-14. So we still have lots of fun left for this summer's cruising activities. The great thing about September and October cruising in Southern New England is that the water is still very warm, and, unlike the inland areas, the coast remains mild during the cold spells that may come up. So we look forward to many more fun days on the water.

Our clubhouse was also active with fun events, starting with our Commodore's Dinner to kick-off the season, the Chamber of Commerce Ribbon-Cutting Open House social, and the Memorial Day picnic. In June, we started with the Flag Day Social, and then we hosted the Su4C Skipper's signup party, followed by a visit from the Sunshine Kids during the SU4C Regatta. Each month we held a Friday night summer social, and in August many

members attended the Quad Club Party at Mason's Island Yacht Club. On Labor Day we did have a wonderful picnic, even though the Regatta was postponed. Our clubhouse will get plenty of use at the end of the 2013 season as well. By the time this appears, we'll have had a Friday night Sailors' Superstitions Social on September 13th and another in October too! They will be followed by a work party on Sat October 19th to put the JY15 sailboats away for the winter. On October 26th we will have our Annual Members Meeting to close the 2013 summer season. But this is not the end of events at MRYC: now the fall and winter events begin!

We hope to see all our members either at the clubhouse or on the water during the remainder of this season. If you find that the calendar is missing that special event you would like to attend, please give the Board a call to get it added to the calendar. We are always interested in your ideas for club events, socials, and cruises. Keep informed by regularly checking our website www.MysticRiverYachtClub.com for the latest updates and information. Remember, "Mystic River Yacht Club" is on Facebook, so you can see all the event pictures and share in the fun! We are the friendliest Yacht Club in New England, and that starts with our own members. Keep watching your emails and our website for upcoming club functions.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself, I would like to thank everyone for participating in the 2013 MRYC boating and social events. We look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming fall and winter events as well!



Cruise on the Schooner *MYSTIC*

By Philip A. Shreffler

It's always a pleasant surprise when you find yourself enjoying an unexpected sailing cruise. And that was the case on June 4th when MRYC club member Geoff Jones, owner of the 170-foot three-masted schooner *Mystic*, invited more than 150 of his closest friends for a cruise from the vessel's home port in Mystic to Newport, a stop on its way to Fair Haven, where *Mystic* was to be hauled for some maintenance on the hard.

Joining the party were four MRYC members, Anne-Marie and Dick Dixon, Fred Allard and Philip Shreffler—in addition to two more, Geoff and Jon Henson who were working the schooner.

It was impressive to see how skillfully Capt. Jones maneuvered *Mystic* away from the dock, turned her 180 degrees in a very shoal river and just managed to squeeze through the bascule bridge.

Folks in houses and boats turned out to wave us on as we passed, and then we were out of the river, through the harbor and on our way to Block Island and Rhode Island Sounds.

There were fair breezes and blue skies that day, and so all of *Mystic's* canvas was set. As impressive as this looked to us on board, it must have been far more impressive to others watching us pass by. Eventually, though, the breeze dropped off enough that the sails were furled and the engines kicked in.

Sailing in a huge schooner through some of the best waters in the northeast is grand enough, but it's even better in the company of good friends. We were able to take our ease on deck, enjoy a mid-day meal of truly excellent chowder and, possibly, pretend that we were helming the boat.





Well, actually one of us didn't have to pretend. Dick Dixon was lucky enough to take a long trick at the wheel as he chatted with Capt. Jones.

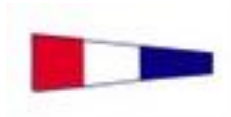
We passed through the Point Judith Harbor of Refuge and late in the afternoon eased up Narragansett Bay to Newport where we picked up a mooring off Goat Island. Dick Dixon planned to stay aboard *Mystic* that night, but the rest of us went ashore. Fred Allard and I dined on Bowen's Wharf and were just in time to catch the bus back to *Mystic* that Geoff had arranged.

A perfect day like this is one of the unexpected delights of belonging to MRYC, and the gratitude of the club must be tendered to Geoff Jones for his kindness in inviting MRYC members to cruise with him.



W E L C O M E

Mystic River Yacht Club would like to extend the warmest of welcomes to new members Ron Beerbaum as well as Fred Riebold. Ron, who lives in Ledyard, is skipper of a Paceship 23, while Fred of Brooklyn, Conn., cruises in his Four Winns 258. Welcome aboard to all!



MRYC Junior Sailing Program Concludes

By Philip A. Shreffler

An important part of MRYC's mission is education in skills that contribute to safe and enjoyable boating for all ages. A critical element of this portion of our mission is reflected in our annual summer Junior Sailing Program. This year's program was offered during the month of August, with new instructor Drew Lyons at the helm of the on-the-water educational series, and acting Fleet Captain Mike Ryan skippering the safety and rescue boat while keeping a close eye on the students in MRYC's

JY-15s. At the conclusion of the course, the young sailors received a beautiful certificate of accomplishment.

The students' skills were no doubt enhanced by their experience of the sailing course. Adults will tell you that our program helps build kids' confidence and character, adds to their maturity and gives them a sound foundation for future boating endeavors. But ask the kids themselves and they'll tell you "It's cool!"





Sails Up 4 Cancer Regatta

By Philip A. Shreffler

Every June, MRYC hosts the Sails Up 4 Cancer Regatta, a race to raise money for the cure. There are so many events surrounding the regatta—including a massive wellness exposition at the Mystic Yachting Center, a day trip aboard the schooner *Argia* for cancer survivors the Sunshine Kids, and a lunch at the MRYC clubhouse for the Kids, complete with pirates and fife and drum bands—that the race itself sometimes gets under-reported.

June 22nd, the day of the regatta, started with fairly decent winds but definitely developed into a light air day. Three classes of boats—Spinnaker Class, Cruising Canvas and Ensigns—crossed the line in staggered starts. Heading to windward on the first leg of the race, the various yachts sailed well, but a couple of Cruising Canvas boats, late to the line

and owing to the steadily decreasing breeze, had substantial difficulties even getting across to start.

In the end it was, not surprisingly, two Melges 24s, *Record* and *Eclipse* that took first and second place, with J-29 *Zig Zag Zoom* coming in third. In the Cruising Canvas Class, the Tripp 37 *Fusion*, the Cal 27 *Breakin' Wind* (hey, I didn't name her), and the Newport 30 *Joda* taking the top three spots. Of the three Ensigns racing, only two finished, *Sans Souci* and *Bonanza* in first and second place respectively.

A total of twenty boats, sailing in light air conditions that challenged skippers and tacticians made this year's edition of the SU4C regatta a great success. Complete results may be found on our website under the "Racing" tab at mysticriveryachtclub.com.





Reciprocity: An *MRYC* Benefit

By Philip A. Shreffler

Decidedly, one of the real perks of belonging to MRYC is reciprocity with other yacht clubs. By simply showing their MRYC membership cards, our members have been welcomed not only in other local yacht clubs but in clubs from Nova Scotia (see photo) to Bermuda to San Diego.

Currently, formal reciprocity letters have been exchanged with eighteen clubs in the northeast, and members may drop in and make use of the facilities of dozens, even hundreds of other clubs both in and outside of the United States.

A full list of yacht clubs that have welcomed our members may be found on our website under the “About us” tab and then by clicking “In the News.” Membership does indeed have its privileges.



Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron Clubhouse



Flat Hammock Raft-Up

By Philip A. Shreffler

July 13 was the day set for a club raft-up at Flat Hammock in Fishers Island Sound. But this rainy summer evidently discouraged a lot of MRYC members from getting out on the water as often as they might have wished.

While it wasn't actually raining on the 13th, except for a little spritzing, it was certainly humid and murky—and we probably should have noted that the date had a 13 in it. But that didn't deter at least five of us—Bill and Joan Volmar, Bill's cousin and new member Ron Beerbaum, M.E. Rich and I—from swarming aboard the Volmars' catamaran *Miracles* and making our way out to Flat Hammock on our own.

It was quite a pleasant afternoon, with good companionship, tasty munchies and (for those not working the boat) agreeable libations. At anchor off

Flat Hammock we were entertained by a spirited regatta of International One Designs out of Fishers Island while we took our ease and chatted. And at one point during the day, the clouds broke and the sun actually came out.

It was just then that we were joined by a substantial power boat from Shennecossett Yacht Club whose owners know the Volmars. Fenders were put out, lines tossed across and we had our raft-up after all.

But shortly thereafter, a pretty serious fog bank was seen rolling toward us from the east, one that would have enveloped us completely if we hadn't weighed anchor and gotten under way. It was as if the fog were alive and after us, and we raced it all the way back to harbor. Luckily for us, that was a race we won.



Labor Day and the Ancient Mariner's Regatta

By Philip A. Shreffler

Well, friends, there he is in the accompanying photo—the Ancient Mariner himself who is awarded at MRYC's Labor Day festivities to the winner of the Ancient Mariner's Cup Regatta for sailors over 55. And unfortunately, once again this year, no new names were added to the brass plaques on the Cup's base.

Last year, you may recall, the Labor Day winds were ferocious, making the setting of marks impossible and knocking down at least one JY-15 as club sailors bravely tried to make it out to the course in the Mystic River.

This year the problem was not only an almost total lack of wind but ominous lowering storm clouds and frequent furious downpours of rain that reduced

visibility to zero, since anyone out in it would have had to close his eyes.

So the Ancient Mariner sat in the clubhouse with that enigmatic smile on his lips that seemed to say, "Yeah, just go ahead and try to win me."

As for the rest of us, the foul weather didn't dampen our spirits on that Monday, September 2, as we gathered in the clubhouse for a great barbeque of burgers, dogs and a wide variety of healthier fruits and veggies. And even though we passed another year without a seniors' regatta, we were cozy and happy inside sharing good food and good conversation.

Now, just wait until next year. I mean, what could happen? Snow? No, I'd better not ask that!



The Quad Club Party

By Joan Volmar

Saturday, August 3rd was a warm, starry night, and Mason's Island Yacht Club was a perfect setting for the Annual Quad Club Party. The Quad Club is made up of Mason's Island Yacht Club, Ram Island Yacht Club, Stonington Harbor Yacht Club and Wadawanuck Yacht Club. Mystic River Yacht Club and The Mudheads were invited guests. Though the invitation called for "Black Tie and Barefoot," not many brave souls came barefoot.

In my opinion, this was the most lavish Quad Club party ever! The Mystic Horns played under a huge round tent strung with thousands of tiny white lights. Before the dancing began, the tent was filled with a sumptuous raw bar, an open bar and hot hors d'oeuvres passed by the catering staff. If you went

into the clubhouse, there was more food around a huge floral centerpiece.

Out on the deck, another bar was very busy serving drinks. Sitting in one of the rocking chairs, looking out over the water, visiting with old friends—life just doesn't get any better! There was even a moon-and-stars backdrop for a photo opportunity. Inside, an acapella quartet sang in perfect harmony, led by our old friend Dan Van Winkle.

After dinner, music filled the air and luminaries along the beach and dock provided a romantic touch to the evening. A cigar bar for the gentlemen capped off this elegant and classy evening.

Thank you, Mason's Island Yacht Club, for your hospitality!





Mystic River Yacht Club
14 Holmes Street
Mystic, CT 06355

Tidings is published online for MRYC members. Back issues may be found on our website at mysticriveryachtclub.com.

Editor: Philip A. Shreffler ► 92 Main Street #409
Deep River, CT 06417 ◄► 860-526-1219 ◄►
carfaxhope@comcast.net

Contributions from MRYC members & the MRYC Board of Directors.

Production Layout : Anne-Marie Foster
amarfoster@gmail.com

Mystic River Yacht Club
14 Holmes Street, Mystic, CT 06355
info@mysticriveryachtclub.com

MRYC CALENDAR FOR 2013

*Note: Many more events will be added. Check the calendar page of our website for updates:
<http://www.mysticriveryachtclub.com/Calendar.html>

If a member would like to reserve the clubhouse for private use, they should check the calendar.

If there is no event booked, they should contact Bill Volmar @ bvolmar@yahoo.com.

He in turn will notify the webmaster to post the event on the website calendar as a member “event” rather than a *club* to eliminate the chance of a double booking.

NOTE: MRYC events will most likely ALWAYS have precedence over private events.

October

5th – Raftup West Harbor, Fishers Island – 1 p.m., followed by dinner at the Pequot House.

12th – Saturday to 14th – Monday (Columbus Day)—Essex and Connecticut River Cruise

14th – Monday- 6-7 p.m. – MRYC Board Meeting – Hosts: Bill & Joan Volmar

18th – Friday - 7-9 p.m – Friday “Theme” Social – Hosts: ?

19th – Saturday – Morning Work Party – Put JY-15s away for the winter

26th – Saturday - Annual Membership Meeting & Party – Bill & Joan Volmar