

MRYC *Tidings*

SUMMER 2014 VOLUME ELEVEN ISSUE TWO

View From the Bridge

By Jay McKernan

Ahoy! comrades and friends. Now that we have all our boats commissioned and launched, we should focus on our cruising calendar for summer fun and boating. Our first cruise was the last weekend in June to Watch Hill with happy hour aboard *Miracles* and dinner at the Olympia Tea Room, which always has great cuisine.

On May 2, we had our first fund raiser that many of you attended and participated in. We had two wine vendors featuring some very nice and elegant Spanish wines, not to mention The Real McCoy rum that had 3, 5 and 12 year-old rums to sample, supplied by or through the Cask 'n' Keg. Kevin Wilde, owner of Cask 'n' Keg donated \$150 to our cause of supporting our junior sailing program. All in all it was a very successful fund raiser; we made just over \$1000 dollars for the sailing program. Stay tuned for our Autumn fund raiser featuring scotch, Irish whiskey, and bourbon.

So far, thanks to our Vice Commodore Mike Ryan, two JY15s are completely outfitted and ready to sail. Junior sailing commences 11 July and runs for seven weeks ending with a barbeque and awards on August 22. We have a certified instructor, and the cost will be \$30 each evening, so \$210 for the program.

June 14th featured the Commodore's Dinner, which was well attended with 18

members and guests. The food was plentiful and very delicious. We had a huge amount of food left over, so we will have another dinner social to be announced soon. We cleared \$200 after expenses for the dinner. Many thanks go to our Social Committee for all they did in making the evening a huge success.

I'm very excited to announce four new members for 2014: Robert and Jennifer Sampson, Lorraine and Bill Boyko, Thomas Holmgren, and Steve Tavares. MRYC extends their warmest welcome to these fine folks in the hope that they'll find years of enjoyment in our yacht club. We are still looking to grow our club by 5 to 10 members before the end of the year.

We were successful in securing Jeff Marshall's support of our club in allowing our members and immediate families the use of the pool at the Mystic Shipyard West. He is also allowing us to continue to run our sailing program at the Shipyard as well as use of the storage area located in the basement of the building.

I hope to see everyone out on the water and at our cruising destinations as well as our Friday night socials.



THE BRITISH RAID ESSEX, CONNECTICUT – AGAIN!

By Philip A. Shreffler

On the night of April 8, 1814, a flotilla of small boats from British ships at the mouth of the Connecticut River rowed silently and grimly toward the village of Essex, determined to destroy the fleet of Yankee privateers for which the town



was infamous among the U.S.'s enemy. Arriving at Essex in morning, the Royal Marines and sailors aboard the boats exchanged token cannon and small arms fire with the local militia "defending" Essex. When the raid was completed, the militia had been routed, the British had control of the town and 32 privateers and merchant vessels had been burned along with dry-docks, mountains of cordage, and other stores ashore.

The town of Essex commemorated the bicentennial of the British raid on May 10 with a



parade, as it does every year, and with an impressive reenactment of the event specially staged for the 200th anniversary of the engagement.

It wasn't difficult to locate 1812 period American militiamen, some of whom were

outfitted with authentic period clothing and muskets, others of whom were drawn from the ranks of the Ancient Mariners Fife and Drum corps. It was more troublesome to find accurately-uniformed Royal Marines and sailors—who had to be brought in from Delaware.

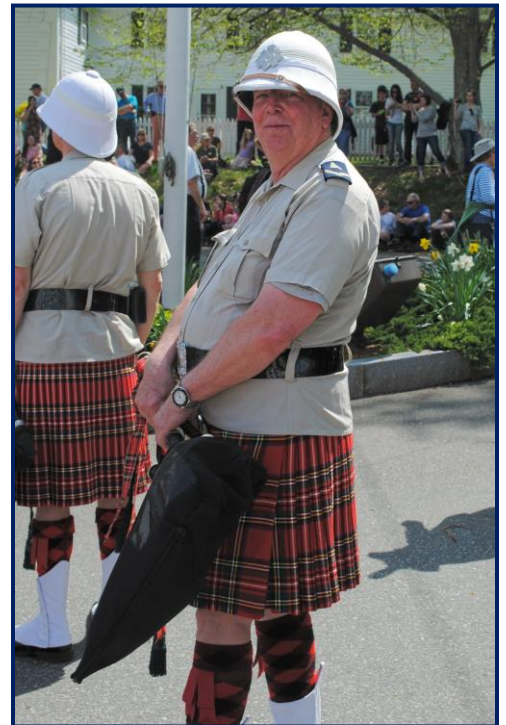
But when it was time for battle, the Americans had musketry and cannons at the original landing point, while the British sailors and marines rowed in toward shore menacingly in two longboats mounted with swivel guns. As in the original skirmish, there was desultory fire from both sides, the militia breaking and running, as the British landed and took possession of Essex

for the second time in two hundred years.

Fortunately, the event organizers seem to have forbidden the "British" from burning the yachts at the Essex Yacht Club.

Just before the "battle," there was the traditional annual parade, led by the Essex 1812 Sailing Masters fifes and drums and featuring the Mystic Highland Pipe Band, which included MRYC member Kevin Miller on the bagpipes.

The yearly parade is always held on what is known in Essex as Commemoration Day but which some local wags refer to as "Losers' Day." It is, after all, one of the few events to celebrate every single year a dazzling military defeat. But this year, Essex did it in style.



SAILS UP 4 CANCER REGATTA A HUGE SUCCESS

By Robert S. Davis and Philip A. Shreffler



Newport 30 Mark III *Joda* hauled in the third place spot.

In the small Ensign fleet, Ted Parker's *Sans Souci* garnered a first, and George Bates' *Bonanza* grabbed second. A full run-down of all the regatta's participants, boats, and finishing positions may be found on our website mysticriveryachtclub.com under the "Racing" tab.

At the Post Regatta Party and awards ceremony there was plenty of dancing to the sounds of Rock' n' Soul Revue helped along by the Gosling Rum Dark 'n' Stormy Stations. Plenty of barbeque, beer, wine and silent auctions

Sails Up 4 Cancer held its Fourth Annual Regatta in Fishers Island Sound on June 21. Sponsored by the Mystic River Yacht Club with the Mystic Mudheads providing race committee, it once again turned out to be a great event for a great cause. A challenging course set by PRO Greg Gilmartin gave everyone a lot of fun and a tour of the Sound. Each sailor had nothing but kudos for the Race Committee as well as the beautiful breeze and plenty of sunshine.

The winners in Class 3 were skipper Woody Bergandahl in his Melges 24 *Ripcord* in first place; O.J. O'Connel in another Melges 24, *Eclipse*, in second; and Prescott Littlefield in the J-29 *Zig Zag Zoom* taking third.

In Class 2, Mark Salerno's Tripp 37 *Fusion* romped into first place; Dan Andrews' Cal 27 *Breakin' Wind* took second; and Dave Buley's

had everyone in the first day of summer groove.

Money raised at the regatta and other Sails Up 4 Cancer events will go towards supporting cancer care and research. For photos of the

Regatta along with the race results and additional information please visit su4c.org.



Pictured with this article are MRYC member Mike Cavanaugh's *Crystal Slipper* on a run in the regatta, and the skipper and crew of *Fusion*, first place winners in the non-spinnaker class.



CHARLES W. MORGAN'S 38TH VOYAGE

By Philip A. Shreffler

Mystic Seaport's premier attraction is the last remaining wooden whaling ship in the world, *Charles W. Morgan*, built in New Bedford in 1841. She was brought to the Seaport in 1941 but hadn't been under sail since 1921. Now, after an extensive five-year restoration, the *Morgan* has at last put to sea again for her 38th voyage.



The ship was towed down the Mystic River in May—a pretty spectacular sight for those at the bascule bridge—to New London, where final rigging and other work was completed by

Seaport staff and volunteers, including MRYC's own Rear Commodore Dick Dixon. Later, after four days of sea trials off New London, the venerable vessel was ready to weigh anchor on



June 14 for a three-month cruise to Newport, R.I., her home port of New Bedford and other southern New England ports of call.

It's impossible for anyone who loves ships and the sea to even look at a photo of *Charles W. Morgan* under a full suit of canvas without getting goosebumps and having the blood race just a little faster in the veins.

Under the able command of Capt. Kip Files, the *Morgan* will serve not only as a goodwill ambassador for Mystic and its Seaport, but she will prove—as she really already has—that the grand old ladies of the sea are a testament to our maritime heritage and the working progenitors of the yachting that we all enjoy. May the *Morgan* always have fair winds and calm seas.

To view photos and videos of the *Morgan* on her first sail, please visit: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=RICHARD+D+DIXON. Also, check out: <http://mvgazette.com/news/2014/06/20/last-her-kind-whaleship-charles-w-morgan-has-strong-ties-vineyard?k=vg53c347a726e28>.



COMMODORE'S DINNER AND ANNIVERSARY GALA

By M.E. Rich

On Flag Day, June 14, 2014, we celebrated a salute to our Commodore, Flag Officers and, equally, the momentous occasion of the *tenth* anniversary of Mystic River Yacht Club with what can only be termed a posh party. The room was decked in gold and navy blue, with Holly Phelps' treasured collection of small

wooden yachts perched atop the buffet. Members, too, were decked out in blue blazers and fashionable frocks as we toasted the season, the Commodores and Commodorables (to use Bob Davis's excellent term), the wonderful, milestone decade, and a lovely, lively summer ahead of us. Check the calendar updates on our website, and to coin a phrase, make way while the sun shines!



MEMORIAL DAY BARBECUE

By M.E. Rich

The semi-official start of summer found MRYC members gathered for our traditional Memorial Day Club Barbecue on May 26 with plenty of protein (i.e. burgers

was in the water, when it *might* be in the water, and where it might be headed once in the water. We were looking forward, at the time, to an active season of messing about in boats, which is well under way now, whether cruising, rafting up or getting the young 'uns involved in Junior Sailing.

Another innovation at this event was Anne Wakim's Signature Cocktail Station, a donation-based libation for which monetary contributions are requested by the beleaguered Social Committee in hopes of collecting enough cash to buy a dishwasher. With the advent of more



and dogs) supplied and supplemented by our usual pot luck spread brought by members and guests. A crowd of sailors began to gather at 3 p.m. and didn't disperse until



after 7 p.m. due to camaraderie, plenty of vittles and weather conducive to both indoor and outdoor socializing. As always, conversation centered on whether one's boat



Clubhouse use this appliance would lessen the amount of work done after public events or members' private reservations. After all, less clean-up means more fun, wouldn't you agree?



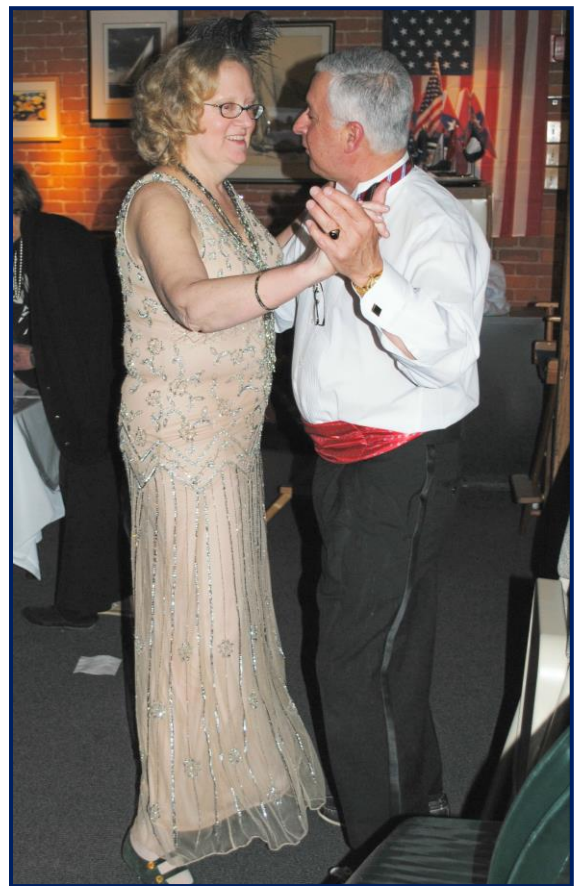
A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

By M.E. Rich and Philip A. Shreffler



and chicken courses—with all the trimmings imaginable, and three different desserts. Wine, provided for each table and replenished as requested, flowed liberally throughout the evening.

Gentlemen naturally were attired in black tie and the ladies in silks and sequins as properly befit the era to which we paid homage. Upon each place



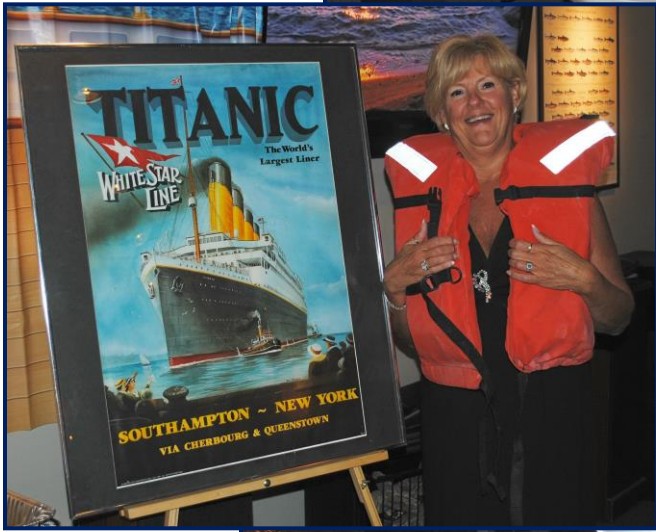
A Night to Remember is, of course, the title of a well-known movie about the loss of the famous White Star liner *Titanic*, and it also became the theme, on April 11, 2014, of a lavish commemoration of that historical event by MRYC. With spring approaching after a long and arduous winter, the club's Social Committee decided to start the season off with a bang (thankfully having left the icebergs winter far behind). Their bang up job brought members an evening of fine dining, stylish apparel and an atmosphere of early twentieth century elegance.

Recognizing that the legendary *Titanic* set sail from Ireland on April 11th, 1912, the Club mounted a sumptuous recreation of the grand days of steam liner travel. At the door, there was a station for arriving guests to deposit their luggage for transportation to their cabins. Upon entering the club proper, “passengers” were greeted in the “grand saloon” with tables glittering with silver and candlelight and the gleaming chafing dishes of the buffet offering up sirloin tips, salmon

setting was a White Star Line menu, and the club was even presented with a White Star burgee for its growing collection.

During dinner, music from the era enhanced the transatlantic crossing ambience and encouraged some following dinner to cut a rug. Perhaps MRYC should revisit the early twentieth century on an annual basis!





A PALATE-PLEASING RUM AND WINE TASTING

By M.E. Rich

To support MRYC's Junior Sailing program, members were treated on May 2 to a very special first-of-its-kind event that actually required proof of age—well, from The Real McCoy rum, that is, which is available in ages ranging from 3 to 12 years old. Be assured that *no* juniors attended this particular social, and all imbibers were demonstrably over the age of 21, which meant that most of the liquids proffered were pretty well depleted by night's end. Still, as always, there was a heavily-laden buffet table of excellent food



to help mitigate the effects of the evening's specialities.

Our friends from Cask 'N' Keg provided fine red and white wines along with expert discussions of taste, tannins and *terroir*, while a Real McCoy rum representative offered tots of the potent potable. We were especially delighted to have the CPTV documentary DVD *The Real McCoy* shown during the tastings, as it featured our august member, historian and author Stephen Jones, whose commentary and observations on the notorious rum runner were the ideal complement to our revelry.



ANY EXCUSE FOR A SOCIAL – EVEN BASTILLE DAY!

By Anne-Marie Foster

As MRYC didn't celebrate the Fourth of July as a group, it seemed only right that we celebrated the next holiday on the world calendar together: Bastille Day. And to free up our freezer from the generous servings left over from the Commodore's Dinner, we had a second feast!

Although the food wasn't French, in honor of Bastille Day, Richard Dixon obtained a donation of **Foggy Harbor Cassis** from ALLYN BROWN III of MAPLE LANE

SPIRITS, 57 N.W. CORNER RD, PRESTON, CT 06365 and mixed up carafes of Kir and Kir Royale, two traditional French cocktails, for the sipping pleasure of our current members as well as some former members and old friends – Walt and Lynn Lincoln. Please check out the article from *The Day* featuring our sponsor, Maple Lane Spirits: <http://www.theday.com/article/20140629/NWS01/306299941/1017/nws02#.U7A2t6q9L> CR and learn about a new local treasure!



MRYC's WATCH HILL CRUISE

By Joan Volmar

June 27 was one of those warm and light-air days that we've been waiting for so long this summer. In the morning, Bill and Mike Ryan rigged the JY-15



sailboats for the Junior Sailing Program soon to begin. It is so important to teach our young people the basics of sailing and instill a love of being on the water. So, as anxious as I was to shove off for Watch Hill, I waited patiently for my Captain. We motored over to Stonington in *Miracles* since the wind was not in our favor. We worked around the northwest tip of Sandy Point and into the well-marked channel that led to Watch Hill Cove. I never tire of seeing the beautiful sights on the coastline, greeting fellow boaters passing



by and watching the children play on the beach at Sandy Point. It was a perfect day!

Arriving at Watch Hill Yacht Club, we picked up a mooring near Lorraine and Bill Boyko on their Carver 44 *Manhattan Project*. We were supposed to have an afternoon cocktail party aboard *Miracles*, but they did not have a dinghy, nor we

dinghy. To solve our dilemma, we packed up our Happy Hour supplies and summoned the Watch Hill Yacht Club launch. We sat on the second floor deck of WHYC and enjoyed the panoramic views of Watch Hill Cove. The conversation was so agreeable and the time passed so quickly that we were surprised when we heard the cannon announcing Colors and watched the flags being lowered. The sky lit up a bright pink and purple—it was the end of a perfect day.



Saturday was a low key day in town. We walked to the lighthouse to enjoy the views, watched people fish and picked out our dream houses. Lorraine even got some pictures of Taylor Swift's house for her granddaughter. We took a leisurely stroll on the beach and onto Ocean House where we "stopped and smelled the roses." Later in the afternoon, the Ryan family joined us in their Boston Whaler and provided a ride to town for dinner. We met Suzanne and Forrest Cramer at the Olympia Tea Room where we had an enjoyable dinner. It was unfortunate that the restaurant was very crowded, so our wait was extended to almost two hours and the Ryans had to leave before we got seated. Bummer!

Sunday was another glorious day on the water! Although we had some early morning fog, it disappeared by the time breakfast was over. We said our goodbyes to the little fleet and motored out of the bay on our way back Groton. Once past Stonington we could sail even though the winds were light. I hated for the weekend to end and happily anticipate our next cruise. I hope you all will join us!



2014 Calendar of Remaining Events

July

11th – Friday 5 – 7 p.m. Junior Sailing – Mike Ryan

11th – Friday - 7-9 p.m. – Friday “Bastille Day” Social – Hosts: Richard Dixon & Anne-Marie Foster

12th – Saturday – All Day – SAILFEST NEW LONDON – no club events at this time

14th – Monday- 6-7 p.m. – MRYC Board Meeting – Host: Jay McKernan

18th – Friday 5 – 7 p.m. Junior Sailing – Mike Ryan

19th - 20th Saturday-Sunday Cruise to West Harbor & dinner at The Pequot House

25st – Friday 5 – 7 p.m. Junior Sailing – Mike Ryan

27th – Sunday - 1-4 p.m. – Antique & Classic Boat POT LUCK OPEN HOUSE – Hosts: Social Committee

August

1st – Friday 5 – 7 p.m. Junior Sailing – Mike Ryan

8th – Friday - 7-9 p.m. – “Woodstock” Social – Host: Mike Friedman & Nancy Apthorp

8th – Friday 5 – 7 p.m. Junior Sailing – Mike Ryan

9th – Saturday – Geoff Jones’ 3rd Annual Great Full Moon Flat Hammock bonfire

11th – Monday - 6-7 p.m. – MRYC Board Meeting – Host: Jay McKernan

15th – Friday 5 – 7 p.m. Junior Sailing – Mike Ryan

16th - 17th Friday - Sunday SAVE THE DATES – Cruise to somewhere

22nd – Friday - Junior Sailing Class Picnic and Awards @ MSY

29th – Friday 5 – 7 p.m. Junior Sailing – Mike Ryan

September

1st – Monday – 2 – 8 p.m. – Senior JY15 Regatta “Ancient Mariner Cup” & Bar-B-Que

8th – Monday- 6-7 p.m. – MRYC Board Meeting – Hosts: Jay McKernan

12th – Friday - 7-9 p.m. – “Caribbean Theme” Social – Hosts: ?

19th – 21st Friday-Sunday SAVE THE DATES Cruise to somewhere

October

10th - 12th Friday-Sunday Cruise - Hold Date

13th – Monday- 6-7 p.m. – MRYC Board Meeting – Host: Jay McKernan

17th – Friday - 7-9 p.m. – “Pot Luck Theme Cook-Off” Social – Hosts: Bill & Joan Volmar

18th – Saturday – Morning Work Party – Put JY15’s away for the winter

26th – Sunday – 5 – 9 p.m. - Annual Membership Meeting & Catered Dinner – Host: Jay McKernan

31st – Friday – 6 – 9 p.m. – Halloween Pot Luck Social for members & friends – Hosts: RD Dixon-AM Foster

November

10th – Monday- 6-7 p.m. – MRYC Board Meeting – Host: Jay McKernan

14th – Friday - 7-9 p.m. – Friday “Theme TBD” Social – Hosts: TBD

29th – Saturday – 2 pm – Club House Decoration Party & Holiday Lighted Boat Parade

December

8th – Monday- 6-7 p.m. – MRYC Board Meeting – Host: Jay McKernan

9th – Tuesday – 6 – 9 p.m. – Mystic Stroll Pot Luck Open House with local vendors

19th – Friday - 7-9 p.m. – “Yankee Swap” Pot Luck Social; bring a dish & wrapped bottle of booze, limit \$20

All Events Subject to Change

Details can be found on the website calendar page: www.mysticriveryachtclub.com/calendar.html

ALL EVENTS ABOVE AS OF: 7/13/2014





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Back issues may be found on our website at
mysticriveryachtclub.com.

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