

MRYC *Tidings*

SUMMER 2012 VOLUME NINE ISSUE TWO

View from the bridge

By Bill Volmar, Commodore

Here we are at the end of August with our summer activities in full swing. We have had some really great events so far: the Watch Hill Raft Up, the Father's Day Brunch, the Sails Up 4 Cancer Regatta, the Junior Sailing Program, the July 4th picnic at our clubhouse, and the "Wooden Boat Parade Party" on the 170-foot, three-masted schooner *Mystic*.

Our sailing season started with wonderful weather for a cruise to Watch Hill. Next up was the delicious Father's Day Brunch at our clubhouse, catered by the River Walk Restaurant. Then came the very successful Sails Up 4 Cancer Regatta, also with great weather.

The introduction of the Sunshine Kids was one of the SU4C Regatta's greatest highlights. The children enjoyed viewing the race from onboard the schooner *Argia* as well as the welcome-back band, fire truck and pirates back at the dock. The party at our clubhouse gave them a chance to recharge with fun, food and drink before their walk to the Drawbridge for free ice-cream, followed by a visit to Mystic Aquarium. The children had a wonderful time, the regatta drew more boats than last year, and more people came to the post-regatta party at Mystic Shipyard West featuring a band, silent auction, and a wellness fair as well as plenty of dancing, food and drink.

The junior sailing program began on Monday, June 25th and brought club children ages 8-16 together for first class sailing instructions from our US Sailing-certified instructors. The program ran throughout July and concluded with a picnic for all participants on Monday, August 13th. You can see photos of the fun on our new Facebook page along with pictures from other 2012 club events.



The clubhouse is shaping up nicely with burgees hung, a new stove and refrigerator with ice maker in the kitchen, a new grill, electricity and water on our patio, the TV mounted and hooked to cable and WiFi. Our

next challenge is storage for our decorations and supplies.

By the time this appears, we'll have had the Block Island Cruise from Friday, August 17th, to Sunday, August 19th—plus a Dinner on the Deck (a real Dinner on the Deck!), on Sunday, August 26th, also aboard the schooner *Mystic*. Thank you, Geoff Jones, for the hospitality and use of your fantastic vessel!

Our Labor Day Seniors JY-15 Ancient Mariners' Regatta is the next big event, which also includes a picnic at our clubhouse. Sign up for the regatta or come early to the picnic and cheer for your fellow members as they race!

Keep informed by regularly checking our web site, www.MysticRiverYachtClub.com, for the latest updates and information. We are in the process of adding new functionality to our website to better inform our members! Remember 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. We are looking forward to your continued support and to an exciting conclusion to the 2012 boating season.

C L U B H O U S E N O T E S

By Philip A. Shreffler

As Commodore Bill Volmar observed in his front-page column, the MRYC clubhouse represents a tremendous transformation from the art gallery it once was to the excellent meeting space that it's become. The latest improvements include hooking up the television as well as the ice-maker in the refrigerator and hanging our collection of burgees. For those who haven't been by the clubhouse in a while, here's a peek inside.



T H E S U 4 C R E G A T T A

By Robert S. Davis, Fleet Captain

On June 24, 2012 Mystic River Yacht Club sponsored the annual Sails Up 4 Cancer Regatta, and by all accounts it was a tremendous success. The Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association sanctioned regatta was lucky to have perfect New England weather. With gorgeous sunny skies and a perfect 10-12 knot breeze out of the southwest, twenty-three boats in three classes competed for trophies in the top three positions as well as ECSA points. Classes

included Cruising Canvas, Spinnaker, and the One Design Ensigns. Race Committee responsibilities were performed by good friends The Mudheads aboard the *Eddie Maxwell*, while mark boat duties fell to Fred Allard on *Beakle*, with Sam Greenfield aboard as official regatta photographer. (Full race results for all classes are posted under the "Racing" tab at mysticriveryachtclub.com.)



It was a spectacular day not only for all of the race participants, but for Mystic River Yacht Club and Sails Up 4 Cancer. SU4C had made arrangements with the Connecticut chapter of the Sunshine Kids as special Guests of Honor. With the support and help from the MRYC volunteers it was a memorable day for all, starting with the regatta flagship *Miss Daisy*, a 70-foot Burger motor yacht, and ending with the post-regatta shore party. *Miss Daisy* led Mystic's own schooner *Argia* down the Mystic River to view the historic sites and to watch the regatta. On



headed up by Jessica Morrissey, SU4C EVP and MRYC member.

Upon returning to Schooner Wharf, Jessica had coordinated a huge surprise: The Mighty Mystic Welcome. The children were greeted by the Ancient Mariners, The Free Men of the Sea, songs, cannons, and the Mystic Fire Department's fire truck. Everyone then walked across the street to the new home of MRYC where treats were abundant: pizzas donated by Mystic Pizza and cookies from Panera Bread, along with entertainment provided by the Free Men of the Sea and singer/guitarist Tessa Stewart. It was indeed a wonderful lunch, but the day was far from over. Everyone crossed the street after lunch, over the bridge and into the Mystic Drawbridge Ice Cream parlor where all of the kids were treated to any ice cream of their choice



board *Argia* were the Sunshine Kids, along with parents and caregivers. Aboard *Miss Daisy* were volunteers Catherine O'Brien, Karen Davis, Linda Cavanaugh, Joan Gannon, Commodore Volmar and Vice Commodore McKernan,

by good friends and proprietors, Rod and Cheryl Demaris. By this time, one would think that the day was over. But not yet! The finale was free passes for the kids to the Mystic Aquarium thanks to the continued support of the Aquarium for Sails Up 4 Cancer.



Now remember, while this was all going on at the Club, there was also a regatta going on. And following the completion of the race, volunteers from both SU4C and MRYC all gathered at the Mystic Yachting Center to begin setting up for the big party. The event officially began at 1700 hours, but many

complementary therapies during cancer treatments and other useful data. A big hit were the three chair masseuses that were available to relax the backs of the sailors returning from the race. The line was long and patient at the famous Dark-‘n’-Stormy Station tended by VC Jay McKernan, with Commodore Volmar at the



sailors and friends just couldn't hold out and started arriving earlier. Holly Phelps along with Janet Andrew began food preparation and layout from the kitchen. With two grills going, the barbeque began and it was hectic.

The Mystic Horns featuring Christine Cooney lit up the atmosphere with their incredible sound of old and new tunes and the party began to rock. A fantastic array of silent auction items lined the walls both upstairs and down. The CAM-X (Complementary Alternative Medicine Expo), a cornerstone of SU4C was held downstairs, with Dr. Megan Marco who once again assembled a talented field of individuals providing valuable information on

helm of the wine bar downstairs. A thoughtful and moving address was given by Sunshine Kids Executive Director, Brooks Tomb, to Sails Up 4 Cancer and the many volunteers who helped to make their day an unforgettable one.

By all estimates there were between 250 and 300 people in attendance, a significant increase from last year in both the fleet size and overall attendance, which bodes well for both Mystic River Yacht Club and Sails Up 4 Cancer. And based on the comments of all of those attending, next year will be even bigger. For more information and additional photos please visit www.su4c.org, or the Mystic River Yacht Club and Sails Up 4 Cancer Facebook pages.



T H E M Y S T I C S E A P O R T A N T I Q U E B O A T P A R A D E

By Philip A. Shreffler

A nautical highlight of the summer in these parts, the Seaport's Antique Boat Parade is always festive and appreciated both by participants and those spectators who line the

Mystic River by the hundreds, possibly even thousands. M.E. and I had been invited by Bob and Janet Andrew to ride along in the parade aboard their 24-foot 1959 wooden Chris-

Craft *Mystical* on Sunday July 29th, together with Bill Volmar, Joan Gannon, and Ann

and John Wakim. *Mystical* is a beautiful boat, one of half a dozen Chris-Crafts in the parade (and the only boat this year to fly the MRYC burgee). Of course, the nice thing about power boats is that for the crew there's no jumping from winch to winch or constant sail trimming; we all just got to sit back and enjoy the ride!

A special opening of the bascule bridge allowed the parade to get under way a little after 1200 hours, some thirty-three boats, including power yachts, runabouts, sailboats, a number of classic Huckins cabin cruisers, tugs and other miscellaneous craft being led by the Mystic Fire Department's fireboat jetting arching sprays of water.

Just in front of our clubhouse, MRYC members waved to us from the deck of Geoff Jones's schooner *Mystic* where they were partying. And in fact waving was the order of the day. Now, the real beauty queen was *Mystical*, but on her behalf we returned the hearty

cheers and waves of spectators on the river bank and aboard their own boats as we glided from the Seaport all the way down to Noank Shipyard.

Following a quick refueling there, Bob

Andrew headed carefully out into Fishers Island Sound and then opened the engine up. The well-designed Chris-Craft cut the water and planed beautifully in a remarkably smooth ride and even sliced pretty comfortably through the wash of other power boats.

In all, the MRYC spirit of good fellowship and our wonderful hosts the Andrews made the Mystic Antique Boat Parade a congenial and memorable afternoon on the water.



M R Y C ' S J U N I O R S A I L I N G P R O G R A M W R A P S U P

By Robert S. Davis, Fleet Captain

Well, all good things must pass and on August 12, 2012 the MRYC Junior Sailing program came to a close, with head instructor Jay Greenfield leaving to return to college in Charleston, S.C., and colleague Kyle Fast heading out for a long cruise with friends. By unanimous consent all of the kids had a great eight weeks on the water both in the J-24 provided by the instructors and MRYC's own JY-15s.

This year's participants were Ian Weigle, Ellie Korinek, Rebecca Ryan, and Jolie Isenberg.

Although we had a small class this year, I believe it worked out well. Once we broke the proverbial learning curve, some of the kids had virtually private lessons. The instructors deserve a resounding vote of gratitude for contributing their time and expertise to provide such enjoyable and memorable Monday nights on the Mystic River. Special thanks go to MRYC member and devoted father Mike Ryan for his invaluable assistance with his Whaler as chase boat each and every Monday night.

It's important for MRYC to continue to develop a comprehensive family sailing program and this can only be accomplished with the participation and feedback from the

members. On that note I welcome comments from members with any ideas for the program that will better help to fulfill their needs. We are fortunate to have such skilled and gifted instructors who are already looking forward to

next season. I hope that everyone had a great time, learned something about sailing and look forward to seeing you next year.

In the meantime there is still plenty of sailing left in the season, so anyone who would like to take advantage of the weather and

make use of one of the JY-15s please contact me.



A N O P S A I L 2 0 1 2 C R U I S E

By Philip A. Shreffler

MRYC yachts chose to venture out at different times for the various activities surrounding the OpSail 2012 weekend, so it was a fairly loosely-organized cruise. Some fell in with the Parade of Sail on Saturday morning, July 7th, or caught the fireworks at Mason's Island Yacht Club that evening, while Dom DeGaetano and I in Dom's Catalina 36 *Mary O.* wended our way over to Niantic Bay on Friday the 6th to see some of the vessels arriving.

Already at anchor was the stately *USCGC Eagle*, the United States' official tall ship. Also anchored were a Coast Guard 82-foot patrol boat and the beautiful classic ketch *Ticonderoga*, while Mystic Seaport's schooner *Brilliant* kept herself under sail, a very pleasant sight.



But what many dozens in boats and hundreds crowding the shore had come to see was the Navy's *USS Carter Hall*, a Harper's Ferry-class dock landing ship that was carrying a state-of-the-art landing craft in her stern bay. When *Carter Hall* appeared on the horizon, she looked like any other gray-painted naval vessel. But once she was anchored and the bay had been

opened, we were able to sail around her and peer inside where two huge air foil propellers only suggested the size of the landing craft that was promised to be deployed at 1600 hours.

Sure enough, at precisely 1600 (it's nice to know that somebody does something precisely on time these days), the landing craft was

launched from its mother ship. Even at a distance, we could tell that the LCAC (Landing Craft Air Cushion) was an enormous machine—a rigid inflatable large enough to carry several trucks and propelled the same way an Everglades airboat is. When the propellers roared to life, the craft sent up spray

so dense that it often completely obscured the LCAC from view. And it was loud. Really loud.

Designed as an amphibious assault craft, the LCAC can reach speeds of 40 knots fully loaded and so can storm a beach, even with all the noise, drop its ramp and disgorge its payload of men and materiel before an enemy knows what hit them. While *Carter Hall*'s LCAC came in more slowly, it was still awfully impressive as it skimmed the water into Niantic Bay and ran right up onto the beach at McCook Point Park, there to off-load trucks and an admiral who was to take part in Niantic's portion of the OpSail celebration.

It was a fine afternoon of sailing and certainly included a “Now-there's-something-you-don't-see-every-day” experience.





Mystic River Yacht Club
14 Holmes Street
Mystic, CT 06355

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 25th, April 25th, July 25th and October 25th.

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 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 - 8th 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.