

MRYC *Tidings*

WINTER 2013 VOLUME TEN ISSUE ONE

MRYC and the Mystic Stroll

By Philip A. Shreffler

The Mystic Stroll is that wonderful annual event during which the town, illuminated in its best holiday finery, encourages its merchants to set up sidewalk tables, tents and kiosks in a worthwhile effort to keep seasonal shopping convenient, local and genuinely enjoyable.



This year the Stroll was held on Tuesday, December 4, 2012 and MRYC joined in the festivities. Anne Wakim and the Social Committee did a glorious job of decorating the clubhouse with lights, garlands and other ornaments as well as our traditional Yule tree. This was all a prelude to the club's throwing open its doors for an open house featuring hot cider

and doughnuts—and playing host to a number of Mystic merchants. These included Mystic Mariner, owned by Jonathan Shockley and represented by Liz Ferrigno; Baubles and Bling presided over by owner Phyllis Sharpe (who recently opened her store at 29 ½ Broadway in Mystic); the CAbi line of women's apparel hosted by Jennifer Sampson; and local author Lisa Saunders who autographed copies of her new book *The Mystic Seafarer's Trail*.

With the fireplace blazing, a new MRYC video on the big screen TV (courtesy of Commodore Bill Volmar), and the homey scent of mulled cider in the air, the clubhouse provided an inviting atmosphere for our members and Mystic area residents who dropped by to shop and chat. We were surprised that even Santa took time from his busy schedule to look in (continued on page 2)





(continued from page 1) — undoubtedly convinced by what he saw that MRYC is scarcely naughty, but decidedly nice.

The club wishes heartily to thank Mystic Mariner, Baubles and Bling, CAbi's Jennifer Sampson, and Lisa Saunders for their participation in this very special event.

View from the bridge

By Bill Volmar, Commodore

Well, our boating season is over now, and all the boats are put away for the winter. We did have a good season with lots of activities. I hope that none of our members had too much damage due to "Super Storm Sandy"! Our new clubhouse stayed high and dry, even while other areas of Mystic and other shore communities became water-logged!

In August, our Dinner on the Deck of the schooner *Mystic* was a really big success. We had great attendance and everyone really enjoyed themselves and the great food provided by The Riverwalk Restaurant. Good news from the event is that we were able to pay for most of our new tables with the proceeds.

Our Labor Day Picnic and Ancient Mariner JY-15 Race were very enjoyable, even for me, although it would have been nicer if Joan and I hadn't flipped our boat at the beginning of the race and got it stuck on the bottom of the Mystic River. Afterwards, we had a very nice picnic and lot of fun with our fellow members.

MRYC's Members Annual meeting was well attended even though it had to be pushed into November, thanks to "Super Storm Sandy". We received a lot of member input and ideas for our new clubhouse. Actually, as a result of this meeting, we

installed a gas fireplace below the TV to help lower our heating bills this winter. And who doesn't love a fireplace in the winter?

The club's Open House during the Mystic Stroll was very successful. Thanks to Anne-Marie Foster and Jessica Morrissey we had a book signing and several vendors sharing our open house. We drew many people in from the main line Mystic Stroll area with our huge sign and by giving out cards for free hot cider and doughnuts. This kind of effort from our members is giving MRYC much community visibility.

Keep informed by regularly checking our web site: www.MysticRiverYachtClub.com for the latest updates and information. Remember, "Mystic River Yacht Club" is now 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. We're looking forward to your continued support and to an exciting array of off-season activities while we wait for the upcoming 2013 boating season. Next year will be even better than this year, with more activities, more cruises, and the return of our popular Friday Night Socials.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself, I would like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year!



MYSTIC RIVER YACHT CLUB'S 2012 ANNUAL MEETING

By Joan Volmar and Philip A. Shreffler

MRYC's 2012 Annual Meeting was conducted at our Schooner Wharf clubhouse on the afternoon of Sunday, November 18.

Commodore Bill Volmar welcomed the membership and offered a series of uplifting remarks. Though MRYC became an orphan last

year and was on the borderline between failing and succeeding, said the

Commodore, referring to the club's loss of its previous

clubhouse, we now have an excellent new home thanks to Geoff Jones.

And the club will maintain last year's lowered dues structure in

order to attract new members. Our former landlord Jeff Marshall and Bob Helbig and our current landlord and honorary member Geoff Jones have agreed to support MRYC in its efforts to sustain itself and grow.

To this end, the club not only has a beautiful clubhouse space in downtown Mystic, which members can access at any time they wish, but we will also still have access to the swimming pool as well as storage for our JY-15 fleet at Mystic Shipyard West. We'll be able to run our Junior Sailing program from the Shipyard, and we'll receive reduced rates on slips. An additional benefit of membership is that those belonging to MRYC continue to have reciprocity with most other U.S. and international yacht clubs.

Over the course of this year, we have turned what was once a maritime art gallery into a first-rate clubhouse. We installed a kitchen, a bathroom and a gas fireplace, hung our burgees, and generally transformed the facility into a home where we really belong. John Henson was

elected Club Steward, and he has done a tremendous job in helping us get organized.

One of the highlights of the year was MRYC's sponsorship of the Sails Up 4 Cancer Regatta, which was very successful, while the

Sunshine Kids took over the clubhouse (along with a

crew of singing pirates!) and had their own

event within the SU4C

goings-on. Fleet

Captain Bob Davis

was thanked for his work on the SU4C Regatta as well as for running our Junior Sailing Program (together with Mike Ryan who helped insure our young sailors' safety).

Commodore Volmar then introduced the slate of officers for the club's approval. This included a second one-year term as Commodore for Bill and as Vice Commodore for Jay McKernan. Standing for Rear Commodore was Richard Dixon, Past Commodore Philip Shreffler, and Directors Bob Davis, Mike Ryan and (*in absentia*) Virginia Seccombe and Karen Fand.

The sense of the members was that it was particularly desirable for Bill to continue his role as Commodore, not only because of his success in that role but also for continuity's sake. However, since MRYC's by-laws designate flag officers' term limits of one year a discussion of how to handle this situation ensued. After examining various options, Seamus O'Brien moved and Fred Allard seconded a motion that we reelect the flag officers in question and revisit the issue next year. The motion passed unanimously.



There was one other election issue that needed to be addressed: since Joan Volmar had been acting as club Secretary for the past year without the official rank, and since no one was standing for the office, M.E. Rich moved and Fred Chester seconded a motion to elect Joan as Secretary. The motion carried unanimously.



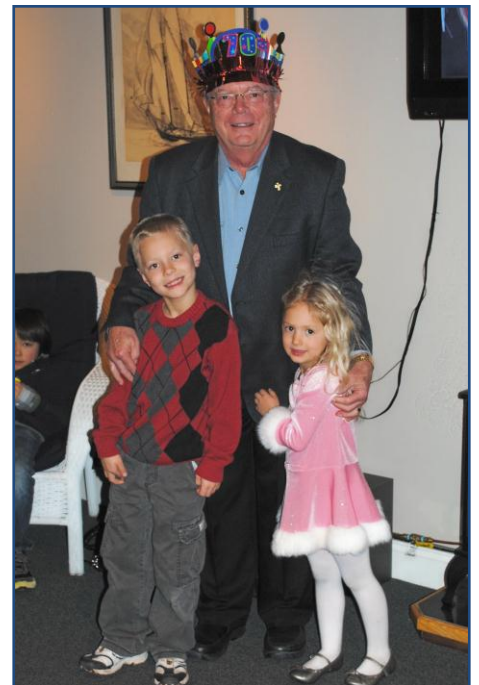
After the conclusion of the formal meeting, it was time for the food, drink and animated conversation that fuel our good comradeship. And it was also a chance for the kids in attendance to let loose a little as well (and you know MRYC kids are the best kids in the world when their idea of raising a ruckus is a spirited game of ring-around-the-rosy!).

CONGRATULATIONS!

Mystic River Yacht Club wishes to extend its heartiest congratulations to Commodore Bill Volmar on the occasion of his 70th birthday. To celebrate this milestone, a gala birthday party was held at the clubhouse on Sunday, December 16. With many family members, friends and, of course, a large MRYC contingent, Bill's birthday celebration was as warm and heart-felt an occasion as we've seen at our new clubhouse. And what better image could we offer to capture the pure sweetness of the event than one of Bill with his two adorable grandchildren Paul and Brooke? Happy birthday, Commodore!



Congratulations also go out to Jessica Morrissey's daughter Bridget Breen who is engaged to be married to Dr. Eoin Healy of Valbonne, France. Bridget was the Princess aboard MRYC's first Mystic Irish Day Parade float in 2006. And, as Jessica points out, this Irish Princess's marrying an Irishman who lives in France is proof that wishes really do come true!



JUNIOR SAILING PROGRAM WRAP-UP

By Robert S. Davis

The final day of the MRYC Junior Sailing program ended as it started, with sun and fun on the water. However small this year's class was, with two instructors and four students, the kids virtually had private sailing lessons. Using only two of our four JY-15s for instruction, I feel confident that the kids ended the season feeling more comfortable on the water than when they started. I urge all of our members to support this program. It is free for members, and a small fee is charged for non-members. That said, it's the best deal in town. I'd like to see members share this program with their friends, neighbors, and relatives so that we can grow. And with that growth comes a larger fleet, an enhanced program, and increased membership.



We topped off the final night with a pizza party by Mystic Shipyard West's swimming pool—the pool being another tremendous asset that MRYC has. Along with the pool, MRYC also has the use of the grills. What more can you ask for? A beautiful summer evening of sailing for the kids, followed by a swim, and a hot dog on the grill. I can't wait for next season.

Special thanks must go to our instructors, Jay Greenfield, Kyle Fast, and Sam Greenfield. These guys are great instructors that we are extremely lucky to have. All three are US Sailing certified and have years of sailing experience. Jay runs the Junior Sailing Program at Masons Island Yacht Club and does an amazing job. Personal kudos from me to Mike Ryan who ran crash boat every Monday with his Whaler and followed the fleet for safety and support.



THE ANCIENT MARINERS' REGATTA—SORT OF

By Philip A. Shreffler

This year's Ancient Mariners' Cup regatta on Labor Day was probably doomed from the start—but that didn't daunt the crews who were chomping at the ground tackle to get it under way. The wind was piping at something around 18 to 20 knots, kicking up whitecaps on the Mystic River off Mystic Shipyard West, yet three of the club's JY-15s were rigged, launched and set out on the regatta course for a grim match race. Crews comprised Anne-Marie Foster and Dick Dixon, Joan Gannon and Bill Volmar, and Bob Davis with crew Rebecca Ryan.

Never mind that Mike Ryan in the committee boat had yet to leave the dock or that it would have extremely difficult, if not impossible, for him to set the marks for the race. Trying to buck the wind, the racers had difficulty even getting to where the course would be—had there been a course set to sail. Nevertheless, the intrepid Foster-Dixon team tacked and reached into position and actually cruised the area of an imaginary

some pretty heavy winds and familiarizing themselves with what they thought would be the course. However, back at the dock the Volmar team capsized and had difficulty righting the vessel under the windy conditions. The committee boat with Mike Ryan aboard provided the necessary assistance and they were finally righted but too exhausted to continue. Team Dixon also capsized leaving the team of Davis and Ryan as the only boat remaining upright and sailing. Due to the struggle with the weather, the prudent decision was made to cancel the race—to the dismay of a vocal Davis who felt that since his team was the only boat in the fleet not to capsize they should be declared the winner. But to no avail: the committee ruled "race cancelled, no winner."

After the inconclusive conclusion of the abortive regatta and some fortification at the picnic table, Bob Davis invited a number of us to join him aboard his Catalina 28 *In Dreams* for an afternoon sail.



The brisk winds that had subverted the regatta were certainly no problem for *In Dreams*. So Bob, Dick Dixon, Jay McKernan, Phil Shreffler and Joan Volmar's daughter Courtney caught the Noank Village Boatyard launch out to Bob's boat and set sail.

The late afternoon sunlight seemed to gild Fishers Island Sound and point the way southwest toward Race Rock

course.

Then along came the team of Ryan and Davis, with Davis at the helm and Ryan, a member of the Junior Sailing program, trimming the sails with precision. The two JYs were feeling their way through

Light, which is where we ended up before coming about for a leisurely run back to Noank. It was an extremely enjoyable way to end the day. And given the age of the crew (excepting of course Courtney), MRYC's ancient mariners got to sea that day after all.





DINNER ON THE DECK OF THE SCHOONER *MYSTIC*

By Bill Volmar, Commodore

Sunday, August 26, 2012, was one of those days that were just plain great!

The weather was almost perfect, not too hot, not too humid, very sunny and warm even late into the evening. And if you participated in Mystic River Yacht Club's special event, Dinner on the Deck of *Mystic*, that made it even better. The event drew many people from the surrounding towns around Mystic, Conn. All wanted to enjoy waterside dining on the deck of a great 170-foot three-masted schooner and chat with their fellow members and friends. We had six new tables set up on the portside of the ship to seat the nearly 40 participants, with serving stations for food and drink on the starboard side. We put the tables on the port side because the ship was facing north, and that gave all attendees a beautiful view of the Mystic River and the colorful sunset over the Mystic hills.

There was very nice music playing from a portable boom box setup on top of the cabin area. The wonderful food and drink were supplied by The Riverwalk Restaurant from right next door to the yacht club. And what a delicious menu it was: tender beef in

burgundy sauce, chicken piccata, Penne Rigate Pasta, Stir-fried veggies, roasted potatoes, rolls, a large salad and all the fixin's and with wine and beer of every variety.

The evening started with drinks and animated conversation from all, as they toured the decks of the beautiful schooner. Then everyone settled down into the food line to fill their plates with the great selections from the buffet. Everyone dined and watched the sunset across the Mystic River. Many on-lookers wondered what all the fun and laughter was about, and when they heard that it was a MRYC special event they all wished that they had purchased tickets for it.

The evening went on later than scheduled because of the beautiful weather and joy of sharing these special moments with fellow members and friends. With a little luck and more great weather we hope to have at least two of these events during the next summer season, as Mystic River Yacht Club adjusts to its new great location in downtown Mystic right at Schooner Wharf.







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

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MRYC CALENDAR FOR 2013

MRYC 2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS (Subject to MUCH modification as events are added)

Jan 4 – Friday Social

*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 “private event” to eliminate the chance of a double booking.

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