

MRYC *Tidings*

FALL 2007 VOLUME FOUR ISSUE FOUR

MYSTIC RIVER YACHT CLUB'S *2007 Annual Meeting*

By Philip A. Shreffler

The yearly changing of the guard occurred at the Club's Annual Meeting on October 27th. For the year 2007-2008, Kevin Miller was elected Commodore (the second time that Kevin has generously offered his time for that important position). Elected as Vice Commodore was Tony DeLima and as Rear Commodore Forrest Cramer. Reelected as Secretary was Virginia Secombe as

was Gerry Leger as Treasurer. Jessica Morrissey, Philip Shreffler, Catherine O'Brien, Pam Gibbs and Dom DeGaetano were elected as Directors.

Following an important change in the Club's By-Laws, the position of Fleet Captain was created, and Michael

Cavanaugh was elected to undertake this captaincy. It will be the duty of the Fleet Captain to oversee all of MRYC's on-the-water activities.

Last year, a new honor, the MRYC Order of Merit, was created and presented to Holly Phelps for her service to the Club above and beyond the call of duty. This year's Order of Merit award was framed and presented to Philip Shreffler and Tina Kelsey.

The most important recognition, though, went to Past Commodore Bob Davis for his remarkable devotion to the Club as Commodore over the past year. Bob was presented with a framed and specially-embroidered Club burgee by way of modest thanks.

Following the formal meeting, and evening colors, was a lavish pig roast—planned and executed by Holly Phelps and Kevin Miller—attended by about 120 people, 20 of whom were welcome friends from Mason's Island Yacht Club. ♦



MRYC's Officers: (left to right) Fleet Captain Mike Cavanaugh, Commodore Kevin Miller, Director Jessica Morrissey, Treasurer Gerry Leger, Director Pam Gibbs, Vice Commodore Tony DeLima (foreground), Rear Commodore Forrest Cramer (background), Secretary Virginia Secombe, Director Catherine O'Brien, Past Commodore Bob Davis, Director Philip Shreffler (not pictured, Director Dom DeGaetano).

View from the bridge

By Kevin Miller, Commodore

Welcome to Our 2007-2008 Season.

On a winter night in December 2003 a small group of area yachting enthusiasts met in our kitchen to cook up the formation of a new and exciting enterprise. We quickly settled on the name for this great undertaking: the Mystic River Yacht Club or MRYC for short. Jerry Fand, with his lifelong artistic background, volunteered his talents to produce what is now the MRYC burgee, the most suitable and attractive club flag in the area. This flag, the symbol of our membership and our commitment to the boating community, has flown over many events during the past four years. The Mystic Shipyard owners and their staff have contributed significantly to the beginnings and continued success of MRYC; their generosity and foresight have helped assure that success. Certainly we owe a lot of thanks to the Shipyard for providing us with such a spectacular building and location for our growing number of waterfront activities.

Where do we go from here? Our number one focus is to increase our membership, which will allow us to expand and enlarge our activities in every aspect of boating such as power boat cruises, sailboat cruises, sailboat racing and even kayaking. Our next area of focus will be to provide all of our members with an improved club facility that we all will be proud of, a place to meet and relax, enjoy the pool, have occasional dinners on our waterfront deck and invite our friends and families to enjoy the many events that we host annually.

As Commodore for the next year I will be asking for your help to participate in our events, join a committee or at the very least support our growth and the



Commodore Kevin Miller

commitments we have made to the boating community in our area. Our past season has provided a few new programs, such as successful parent-child sailing classes and numerous themed gatherings. We are constantly appearing in area boating publications and newspapers touting our achievements and keeping the public aware of accomplishments. I am excited about the changes in our board of governors and officers and am looking forward to working closely with everyone to continue the development of new programs for MRYC and to sincerely address the ideas and concerns of our membership. I am proud to serve my second term as Commodore of the MRYC and would like to thank everyone for their support. ♦

www.Mysticriveryachtclub.com



MRYC Members in National Publications

By Philip A. Shreffler

It's always exciting when MRYC members make appearances in respected major magazines. In the past few months this has happened not once but twice! Bob Lally's article "Bigger is Better" about the pleasures of large boats was published in the October 2007 issue of *Sail* magazine (page 77). And in an article on charity sailing events by Gary Jobson in the November 2007 *Cruising World* (page 45), Past Commodore Bob Davis was not only mentioned in connection with the Leukemia Cup Regattas but was actually pictured along with Jobson and Karen Davis at the New York Yacht Club's Newport Station. Congratulations to all! ♦



*Above: Holly Phelps' spectacular decorations--before the onslaught
Below: Commodore Kevin Miller's presentation to
Past Commodore Bob Davis*

MYSTIC RIVER YACHT CLUB'S *Summer Cruise 2007*

By Jane Bonner

The MRYC cruisers left the Mystic River on Friday, July 27th, 2007, despite predictions of rain, nasty thunderstorms and hail. Cathy and John Mauritz on *Catherine Elizabeth* and Jim Murphy on *Elixir* headed to Block Island, while Richard Walter and Meg and Thomas Gross on *Indigo*, and Jane and Roger Bonner on *South Wind* steered a course for Point Judith, but sailing conditions were so good that they continued on to Sachuest, Third Beach, on the Sakonnet River.

The next morning, with the exception of *Elixir*, we all sailed to Cuttyhunk Island where we met up with Pat and Wally Lohr on *Sea Bear*. After indulging in the Raw Bar offerings of chowder, clams and shrimp, hiking around the island, and relaxing by swimming off our boats, we had our evening's full moon serenade by John on his bagpipes.

The next port of call was Vineyard Haven, Martha's Vineyard. The crews of *Indigo* and *South Wind* explored the island; we found Pat and Wally shopping in Edgartown, and then took the local bus to the spectacular colored cliffs of Gay Head now called Aquinna. In the evening Cathy and John celebrated their wedding anniversary at La Grenier's, a lovely French restaurant. So far the weather was beautiful, the wind fair and the seas calm; as usual the weathermen got it wrong.

On Wednesday August 1st, *Sea Bear* and friends motored to Nantucket, *Catherine Elizabeth* continued to Wood's Hole, Massachusetts, and *South Wind* and *Indigo* sailed back to Cuttyhunk, to join members of the Stonington Cruising Club for a Lobster Bake on shore-yet another perfect sailing day!

If it's Thursday, it must be Newport for two nights. A brisk breeze of 17-plus knots blew us into the harbor. *Catherine Elizabeth* rejoined the MRYC fleet for what was to be a bustling weekend, as it was the Annual Folk Festival with Linda Ronstadt and the Allman Brothers. Even in the extreme heat, everyone went ashore to explore Newport's sights and sounds including showers and meals at the



Left, Richard Walter's
INDIGO;
Below, The Bonners'
SOUTHWIND



Seamen's Church Institute. However, the excellent breakfast could not compete with Richard's homemade egg and bacon sandwiches with home fries, and coffee brewed in his new pot from Vineyard Haven. Our wonderful cruise was coming to an end on Saturday when we all left for home.

A perfect nine days on the water were spent with great friends and delightful weather! We were sorry that Gene and Susie Bartley, who led us on last year's cruise to Narragansett Bay, could not join us.

Next year we hope that even more MRYC boats will join us for the Annual Long Cruise 2008!

Anyone interested in cruising should attend meetings early next year to help plan the destinations for 2008! ♦

Shelter Island Wine Cruise

OUR THIRD ANNUAL...

By Joan Gannon

It was a clear, bright and warm September weekend, a great start to our first trip with the MRYC. The wind was not in our favor—there was none to take us across Long Island Sound to our destination at Shelter Island. That wasn't going to dampen our spirits or curb our excitement; we just started *Miracle's* engine and motored through Plum Gut past the ever familiar Coffee Can Lighthouse and into

was on our own that night; we ate on our boat and others went into town.

On Saturday, we all met at the Greenport ferry at 1000 hours to take the short ride to Greenport. There we waited in front of a maritime museum for our bus to take us on a tour of the vineyards. A few of our members took the high-speed ferry over from New London to meet us and spend the day at the vineyards. While waiting for the ferry my sister and I



Photos above: the Mystic River Yacht Club wine cruisers enjoying lunch at the Lieb Winery in Long Island, NY.

Gardiner's Bay. By then there was enough wind to raise the sails and spend some time sailing to Greenport Harbor and eventually into Doering Harbor where we had moorings waiting for us at Shelter Island Yacht Club. This area was wonderfully picturesque with boats moored or docked in front of the beautiful mansions. It was too difficult to pick out a favorite, since each was special in its own way.

Approaching the SIYC we spotted *Catherine Elizabeth* skippered by Cathy and John Mauritz and their crew, Holly Phelps and Kevin Miller. It was nice to see their smiling faces greet and welcome us to SI. They had left earlier on Friday morning from Mystic with *In Dreams* skippered by Karen and Bob Davis and *SeaScape* skippered by Sue and Fred Allard. Everyone boarded *Catherine Elizabeth* for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. It was a perfect afternoon to relax and get to know our fellow members. Fred was a great sport and made dinghy runs to the other boats to pick up more wine and food and guests. Dinner

ventured into downtown Greenport in search of food. Greenport is definitely worth a trip back to spend the day shopping and dining. Starbucks was designed to blend in with the quaint and charming downtown area adjacent to a lovely town park with a beautiful carousel and a bandstand. The schedule of activities and concerts there was remarkable.

So the group of 17 of us boarded the "bus". Let me tell you about the "bus": it was a local school bus with windows that only opened partially. By noon it was in the 80s, and this bus had no air conditioning. Each seat had the names of the children that were assigned to that seat. We had fun trying to match own names to theirs and trying to see each other over the high backed seats. We laughed and made the best of it! It was amazing to see the luxury buses, trolley cars, Escalades, Hummers and limousines at the wineries. Some of the wineries would not let us in—I am sure it was the bus, not us. We didn't care, though; there

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It's Frostbiting Time Again!

By Michael Cavanaugh, Fleet Captain

Mystic River Yacht Club kicked off its Fall 2007 Frostbite Series—always sailed in JY15s—on Sunday, October 14th. And while there will have been more races than those reported here by the time this appears, at least we can get the flavor of the series that began in a very warm October and continues into a chillier November.

On October 14th, the first regatta of the season was blessed by excellent sailing weather. Westerly winds of 10 to 15 knots occasionally gusted to 20, challenging the fleet of JY-15s. Several sailors got to test the water temperature, but they all wore huge smiles planing downwind. A total of six races were squeezed in before the fleet and the race committee members were exhausted.

Winning the regatta by a single point in hotly contested finishes were Ted and Andrew Corning of the Conanicut Yacht Club in Rhode Island. In second place, from Ram Island Yacht Club, were Woody and Ann Bergendahl. And in third place was Clemmie Everett sailing with Dawn Grantham who was recruited from the parking lot about ten minutes before the start of the race.

On Sunday, October 21st, I felt as if someone needed to pinch me! It was 70 degrees, sunny and with sweet southwesterly breezes at 10 to 15 knots—a perfect day for our not-quite-Frostbite Regatta Series. The competition was incredible, and we had a little bit of everything happen: bumps, bruises, soggy bottoms and cracked fiberglass. These guys really want to win! We pulled off seven races, with the

seventh race being the difference in the standings for the winner.

Winning the regatta by a single point in hotly-contested finishes were Ted and Andrew Corning of the Conanicut Yacht Club in Rhode Island. In second place, from Ram Island Yacht Club, were Woody Bergendahl sailing with John Jaspar. And in third place was Matt Champney sailing with his son Zachary from the Ram Island Yacht Club.

A little storm named Noel departed just in time for the races on Sunday, November 4th, that were held in challenging but pleasant conditions. The average breeze was about nine knots out of the west, but we saw everything from zero knots to fifteen. The competition was a lot of fun to watch, especially having ten boats start and ten boats finish the regatta. We managed to pull off five good races using three different courses before the wind just plain shut off.

Winning the regatta with four First Place finishes were Ted and Andrew Corning of the Conanicut Yacht Club in Rhode Island. In second place, from Ram Island Yacht Club were Woody and Ann Bergendahl. And in third place in a tiebreak showing incredible improvement through the series was Matt Paige sailing with Bronson Conlin.

Big thanks go to our committee boats and the shore party crew who put together a wonderful post race chowder party. Keep track of the cumulative standings at www.mysticriveryachtclub.com or come on by in person to watch the races from the docks at Mystic Shipyard or by boat. ♦



MRYC FROSTBITE--THE START

THE 2007 MYSTIC

Mystic fall regatta



Above left: Spinnaker I Start -- (l to r) Salud, SeTherin, Crystal Slipper. Below, committee boat, Lobster Tales.

By Philip A. Shreffler

The Mystic River Yacht Club held its Third Annual Fall Regatta (an Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association-sanctioned event) on Saturday, September 22nd, on a mostly cloudy and warm autumn day with only the slightest breath of wind for the first half of the race. Twenty-three boats posted for the regatta, among them nine entries from the Coast Guard Academy, including a fleet of seven Colgate 26s.

With the breeze so light at the start, it was a struggle for some yachts even to get across the line, and just plain frustrating for others. Halfway up the first leg, a flat calm dictated anchoring and waiting for the wind to fill in. When it finally did—after more than an hour of racing to nowhere—the Race Committee on board Gerry Leger's *Lobster Tales* elected to shorten the course. And the race was on.

Finishing in the money in the Non-Spinnaker Class were *Irish Lady* (1), *Tie One On* (2), and *Splashdance* (3). In the Coast Guard Academy Colgate Class, *USCGA 8* took a first, *USCGA 4* second place and *USCGA 5* third. In Spinnaker Class 1, the top finishers were *Salud* (1), *Se Therin* (2) and *Crystal Slipper* (3). In Spinnaker Class 2, the winners were *Zig Zag Zoom* (1), *Looney Tunes* (2) and *Matador* (3). And in Spinnaker Class 3, *Ebur* took a first, and *Gem* a second.

The shore party at the MRYC Clubhouse was a particularly memorable event that drew praise even from non-Club members. Doing double duty as an Open House for those interested in Club membership, the bash featured great food, an open bar and smokin' live music from the band Smokehouse. During the course of the evening a raffle was held for a large model of America's Cup-winning 12-Meter *Constellation*—signed by Gary Jobson. The winners: Amy and Gerry Leger.



This was the first year that the Fall Regatta was sponsored solely by MRYC, and despite a somewhat uncooperative lack of pressure on the course, the success of the entire event certainly bodes well for its future as a fixture on the eastern Connecticut racing circuit. ♦

(Information for this article was provided by Michael Cavanaugh, MRYC Fleet Captain)

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MRYC Tidings

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are 129 wineries on Long Island. We enjoyed a nice picnic lunch on the grounds of Lieb Vineyards. Our bus driver was patient and took us from one winery to the next. We saw grapes growing everywhere along the road and wineries were close to each other: some large and all business, some small and quaint. My favorite was The Old Field Vineyard, a family-run farm for five generations. We walked down their driveway and were greeted by geese and chickens running around the farm. The vineyard owners were friendly and had home-made salad dressing, jellies and salsa to buy. The "bus" took us back to the ferry, where we made the return trip back to SI. It was much slower walking back to the SIYC, since most of us were laden down with purchases made at each of the four vineyards we visited.

Saturday evening was a special treat! We all got on the launch from our boats and were shuttled to the Shelter Island Yacht Club. This is a charming 100-year-old building that was added onto to create an elegant dining room and bar to accommodate its members. We had cocktails at the bar and then sat down to a wonderful dinner on the patio overlooking the harbor. It was a

great time sharing and laughing together. In the stillness of the evening, we could hear bagpipe music filling the harbor, thanks to John and Kevin.

Sunday came too quickly; it was time to make the trek home. There was wind this morning, only it was going in the wrong direction! So we said our goodbyes to everyone and motored home. This was an adventure that I am truly glad that we were able to be part of. I am looking forward to the Fourth Annual Wine Cruise in 2008 and hope that everyone will join us. ♦

MRYC crew on the ferry to Greenport, NY.

