

BELL 8



SEAWORTHY NEWS

Summer 2024

ESSEX CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



After an exhilarating Newport to Bermuda race at the end of June, I was glad to be back in Essex for the spirited 4th of July festivities. Racing aboard Blue Skies, skippered by EYC Commodore Bill Gunther, we finished 3rd in class and 8th out of 100 in the larger St David's Lighthouse division. For those who followed along, it was another challenging race, with several boats abandoned or sunk, and at least 1 dismasting. The boat and team performed admirably, leading the 100 boat division in 1st place for most of the race, but we ran into heavy squalls just 7 hours from the finish. The storm damaged sails and hardware, and forced us to sail away from our intended course, dodging additional storm cells while we tended to the repairs. We managed to hold on for a podium finish, but learning how close we came to winning upon our arrival to the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club dock was a bittersweet moment. No matter the outcome, it was an incredible adventure and I was proud to represent Essex and EYC. Many thanks to those that followed along and cheered us on!

Back at home, I was thrilled to see over 100 Corinthians at the 4th of July BBQ; my sincere thanks to our all star crew of volunteers who helped with setup, donated dishes, worked the grills, served, and cleaned up. Our family arrived a bit later in the afternoon, as we proudly represented EYC in the CT River Museum Boat Parade, complete with multiple cannon salutes by Pete & Deb Martin off the museum dock. I hope you are all taking advantage of the longer summer days, and enjoying our rotating lineup of Wednesday night dinner music. July & August are typically quieter months around EYC from an events perspective, as many are off on vacations or simply enjoying the club and our wonderful galley. As we head into late summer and beyond, look for more info around coming attractions like our Labor Day Party, kids movie night 2.0, and our signature Cross Sound Challenge regatta on September 21st. On August 11th, we'll be rafting up in Hamburg Cove, and on Sept 8th, we'll bring back our "dinghy beach" meet up on Nott Island. I hope to see you all around the club and on the water soon.



Bill Robinson

COMMODORE "24"



Galley

As you may have noticed, the summer season is our busiest time for the galley, with lunches Wed-Sat, dinners Wednesday & Friday nights, and brunch on Sundays. Table service is provided for dinners and Sunday brunch, but please do your part to help the galley staff and clear your table during self-service lunches (or any other time you feel inclined!). Also, please be courteous to your fellow members and remember that we do not take reservations for specific times or tables. Lastly, with so many wonderful new members among us, a reminder that ECYC is a 99% volunteer-run organization and depends on the support from our members and committees of volunteer members. ECYC's tradition of "all hands on deck" is critical to our club's existence. It is part of being a member of a Corinthian club and it allows us to offer a comparatively affordable experience relative to full service clubs with dozens of staff.

BOAT NAME TAGS

40th Anniversary Fundraiser

We are very happy to announce a new and fun way to celebrate our club fleet, with the opportunity to purchase an engraved boat name tag from ECYC! As we celebrate our 40th Anniversary this September, these commemorative tags will be affixed to the backs of our dining room chairs (see example), as a way to celebrate the boats of ECYC, both past and present. We do expect these to sell out quickly, and because there are only ~75 chairs, these are very much limited edition...(why do I feel like an infomercial pitch man right now??). In all seriousness, we will build a separate plaque if demand exceeds the number of chairs. At \$75/each, all proceeds above cost will go towards the ECYC Sailing Fund, which we rely on to keep our Ideal 18 fleet in fighting shape (sails, sail covers, repairs, bottom paint, rigging, etc). My thanks to Dan Rennie for leading the sourcing and design work through a local manufacturer. To place an order, please email our club manager Jean with your boat name, past or present, and we will submit them for processing in batches. *Please note that your boat name tag does not constitute chair or table ownership!

Entertainment Committee

Our Entertainment Committee is delivering on all the classic ECYC events we know and love, while also introducing fun new options at a variety of price points. Watch your emails and postings around the club for all the latest Entertainment happenings this year.





MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We welcomed the following 22 new member families to the club in May and June: Nicky and Al Appel, Donna Braha, Chris and Bill Clorite, Donna and Graham Curtis, Stefanie Elsperman and Nolan Sponsler, Reid and Dee Hanford, Jim and Cathy Hagan, David and Kathy Hajjar, Adam and Ashley Harris, Bobby Kokoruda and Pam Kegeles, Jonnie Marks and Bob Wallis, Bill and Donna Moeller, Mike Moran and Nancy Brault, Bruce Nohe and Karen Winston, David Raue and Lyse Brody, John Rogers and Andrew Corbin, Chris and Tricia Van Buiten, Rich and Jessica Varrato, Adam and Regina von Gootkin, Susan Williams, John and Judi Ward, and Scott Wisner. The new member reception in May was a great success! It has been a pleasure seeing our new members already enjoying the wonderful amenities our club has to offer. Thank you to the 22 volunteers who helped at our CT Spring Boat Show booth! It was a beautiful weekend enjoyed by all!

Rebecca Bliss, ECYC Membership Chair



NEW MEMBER'S Reception

On the Friday evening of Memorial Day weekend, we had the pleasure of welcoming our new members to our beautiful club. The weather was fantastic, and many club members joined in the great festivities. Lori and her staff provided delicious appetizers which were greatly enjoyed by all. Bill Robinson, Terry Stewart, and Rebecca Bliss had a wonderful time introducing everyone. Club members, new and old, had a fabulous time getting to know each other, and many had a wonderful dinner afterwards together. A picture-perfect evening!





Get Connected

Looking for a quiet place to work or connect while at the club? Make use of our wi-fi throughout the property for fast service.

NETWORK: EssexCorinthian

PASSWORD: DrunkenSailor1

RIVER ROOM: *Smart TV*

Thanks to the generosity of the ECYC members of Etchells Fleet 24, we can now enjoy a full slate of entertainment options while relaxing in the upgraded River Room area. With a Smart TV, simply select the appropriate app (Netflix, Disney+ , Hulu, YouTube TV, etc), provide your login details, and you can watch just like you were at home. Looking for traditional cable, news & sports channels? Try the YouTubeTV app for over 100+ channels and live sports on CBS, Fox, ESPN, TBS, etc. Many of us have been enjoying March Madness and the NFL playoffs earlier this year.

POOL POLICY

In a reciprocal agreement between Safe Harbor and ECYC, ECYC members have access to the Safe Harbor Dauntless Shipyard swimming pool (located by the Drift Restaurant) any day of the week, except Saturdays and Sundays.

In exchange, Safe Harbor members have lunch dining privileges at the ECYC Galley every day, except Sunday.

Pool passes must be obtained by signing them out at ECYC. Please return them after pool usage. They can be picked up at the Club Manager's office during office hours, or from the top drawer where the membership badges are kept. Only one pass is needed for each group. Please limit your party (no more than 6 people) to family members and/or other club members.

COMMODORE'S CORNER



Recognizing noteworthy member contributions in the Corinthian spirit. In a volunteer club like ours, there are dozens of examples each month, but we'll highlight 10 in each Bell 8. Send your nominations to commodore@essexcorinthian.org

BRIAN KING

Have you noticed the beautiful new flower boxes out front? After the January flood carried our old ones away, Brian built these at his shop and had them ready to go for our summer season.

PETE & DEB MARTIN

If you happened to catch the 4th of July boat parade earlier this month, you couldn't miss Deb & Pete. Dressed in their regal best, they fired our cannon on behalf of Commodore Robinson's boat as he passed by the large crowd at the River Museum. Deb has also been a huge help this year in coordinating our Wednesday night dinner music series, thank you Deb!

SUSAN MALAN & BOB WARD

At our first "Kids Movie Night", the kids were overjoyed when Bob "Ice Cream Man" Ward popped by to drop off all the makings for ice cream sundaes. If you know where to look, leftovers can still be found ;) And, have you noticed the beautiful new bar top in our River Room? Susan partnered with the local Craft Design & Build to install this gorgeous upgrade to our space downstairs. Thank you!!

TOM & PAT ATKINSON

Did you have a chance to try the ribs at our 4th of July BBQ? Many thanks to Tom & Pat for providing what was surely the culinary star of the show.

KAREN DIRENZO

Karen led our first "Yoga on the Deck" session in June, a fun and new event that we'll be bringing back this month. Karen has owned and operated a specialty yoga & pilates practice in town since 2016 - how lucky are we??

THE GRILL MASTERS OF 2024

Chris Morano, Ken Soudan, Tom Atkinson, and Terry Stewart manned our BBQs for several hours, making sure the 100+ in attendance at the 4th of July BBQ all had full plates.

PETER DECKER

Pete generously sponsored lunch for our Coast Guard Auxiliary partners and attendees during the Vessel Safety Check and Suddenly in Command presentations earlier in June. Afterwards, the Auxiliary remarked that in all the years they've been presenting at area clubs & organizations, they had never been treated to such a fine meal. Thank you Pete!

CINDY GIBBS & JANE REILLY

For representing ECYC in fine fashion, finishing on the podium with a 3rd at our 2nd annual Women's Invitational Regatta in May.

LAURA LOWE & THE SHIPS STORE

Laura has been hard at work this spring and summer, restocking our inventory, and helping to bring in new Yeti tumblers and Tervis tumblers, both of which are selling out quickly!! Thank you Laura!

MATT MELIUS

Big thank you to Matt for stepping into the Fleet Captain role this year, and among his many other responsibilities, coordinating with EYC for a renewed and refreshed Tuesday / Thursday Ideal 18 series. For members looking to get "certified" on the Ideals, this series is the perfect opportunity, so we encourage you to get involved.



2024 FALL *Club Events*

- Tuesday August 6:* LADIES on DECK
- Monday September 2:* LABOR DAY PARTY
- Tuesday September 10:* LADIES on DECK
- Wednesday September 11:* Last Wednesday Night Dinner of the Season
- Wednesday September 18:* TRIVIA NIGHT
- Saturday September 21:* CROSS SOUND CHALLENGE & PARTY
- Saturday October 12:* SEA CHANTEY NIGHT
CLARK MEMORIAL RACE
- Saturday October 26:* HALLOWEEN PARTY
- Thursday November 7:* BOURBON NIGHT
- Saturday November 16:* COMMODORES GALA
- Saturday December 1:* TREES IN THE RIGGING / KARAOKE
- Saturday December 7:* KIDS HOLIDAY PARTY

Subject to change: other events may be added. Note: Details for each event including times and registration requirements will be sent to all members via email in advance and on our website



Peter Martin, Matt Melius, Bill Robinson, Joe Pelletier (aka Jack Sparrow) & Peter Decker



THE ROBINSON & BRAY FAMILIES & FRIENDS



DEB & PETE MARTIN



GRILL MASTER TOM ATKINSON





ESSEX RUM CHALLENGE

Thank you EYC for hosting the 2024 Essex Rum Challenge and congratulations to our club Ideal 18 sailors for representing and bringing home some trophies! Tom Atkinson and Terry Stewart took home the win with Cindy Gibbs and Jane Reilly grabbing third place over 4 races in challenging CT River conditions. Thanks also to Janet Dorrance for the on-water photos that also included ECYC members Jon Gibbs and Terri Allegrucci and Jake Snyder with Greg Allard.





Eastern CT Women's Invitational Regatta

ECYC was thrilled to host the 2024 Eastern CT Women's Invitational Regatta yesterday with 10 boats of amazing female sailors representing 7 Connecticut Yacht Clubs. Shifty breeze and strong current made for a challenging day - just what these ladies love with lots of tight mark roundings and passing opportunities on every leg during the 6 races sailed. Thank you to all of the competitors, their supporting yacht clubs, and of course our fabulous Race Committee volunteers both on the water and on shore. North Cove Yacht Club, Pettipaug Yacht Club, Niantic Bay Yacht Club, Noroton Yacht Club, Indian Harbor Yacht Club, Frostbite Yacht Club.

Congratulations to all of our ECYC sailors including Cindy Gibbs and Jane Reilly (3rd Place), Tijae Pelletier and Katie Synder, Marilou Griswold and Sarah Dubois, and Judy Saunders and Laura Nunno.

Photos by Dan Rennie



ESSEX CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB
**CROSS SOUND
CHALLENGE**
SEPTEMBER 21
2024



There are a lot of regattas that beckon to sailboat racers during the summer season. Sometimes it is hard to select the right one from a list of multiple events on the same weekend, especially if you are looking to add to your catalog of ECSA points. We will make it easy for you - among all the ECSA daytime regattas what is better than a regatta that leads all the way across the Long Island Sound and back? Not just a basic course using a few local government marks, the ECYC Cross Sound Regatta is exactly what it sounds like, a medium-distance race across our local playground, the Long Island Sound. The race sets off from a starting pin near the Outer Light at the mouth of the Connecticut River and continues - yes, I am repeating myself on purpose - across the Sound to a turning mark close to the North Shore of Long Island. In the past, we have seen fierce competition between closely matched boats in all classes. Long Island Sound has many faces with its tidal and current changes, as well as varying wind and water conditions, which make this regatta so exciting for ambitious racers.

Prizes are waiting for the winners of each class, to be handed out at the Post-Race Awards Party. The River vs. Sound Trophy will be awarded to the top three River- or Sound-based boats with the best combined class scores of any three yachts using the ECSA Offshore Circuit Scoring System Matrix. The party is open to regatta participants, their families and friends, and anyone else interested in celebrating our rich heritage of sailboat racing. Enjoy food and drinks with in likeminded company, and cheer for your favorite crews. The party will be held at the Essex Corinthian Yacht Club on Novelty Lane in Essex, CT. Tickets are sold either during boat registration at [Yachtscoring](https://www.yachtscoring.com), at the door.

* or directly from the yacht club on our website [essexcorinthian.org](https://www.essexcorinthian.org)* Join us on September 21st!

Sponsors Wanted!

As has been tradition, we reach out to local businesses who wish to sponsor our regatta. If you would like to or know of a business wishing to become a sponsor, please contact us to request a sponsorship form with details.

Volunteers Wanted!

If you would like to help the Race Committee or Entertainment Committee run our event, please let us know so we can set up a time to meet!

ENTRY FEE

PARTY TICKETS

\$40/BOAT

\$20/PERSON

when purchased ahead

\$25/PERSON

at the door

CLUB OFFICE

Jean Little

ecyc@essexcorinthian.org

860 767 3239

RACE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Ruth Emblin

racechair@essexcorinthian.org

(914) 316-5811

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Stephanie Robinson

stephanieowenrobinson@gmail.com

Laurel Stewart

lcstewart14@comcast.net

RECIPROCAL YACHT CLUB VISITS

Australia & New Zealand



By LAUREL & TERRY STEWART

*Reciprocity is a fun and special benefit of our ECYC membership.
Our club maintains reciprocal relations with yacht clubs around the world.*

We recently experienced reciprocity during our recent trip to Australia and New Zealand where we visited six outstanding clubs in Sydney, Melbourne, Wellington, Bay of Island (NZ) and Auckland. On the way home during a layover in San Francisco, we also stopped by the Golden Gate and St. Francis Yacht Clubs overlooking the bay and the Golden Gate Bridge.

Yacht Clubs typically are located in a harbor's prime location, much like our club. They also share the Corinthian spirit of fellowship among yachtsmen and women, making you feel at home even though being far from home. Many offer outstanding galley operations, again like our club. As such, they are fun alternatives to local restaurants.

During our trip, we visited the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron for lunch and watched match racing for the Hardy Cup among 16-23 year old sailors from across the South Pacific. One member shared this was the training ground for Australia's and New Zealand's winning America's Cup skippers. You could see why!

We also stopped by the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, sponsors of the Sydney Hobart Ocean Race. This club is home to Australia's leading blue-water racing sailors. We were treated to drinks in the bar, heard amazing sea stories, some perhaps even true, and came away ready to join if we lived there! It felt like our own Black Seal after a race.

In Melbourne, we visited the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron. This club hosted the sailing events of the 1956 Olympics. Did you know they raced 12 Meter's in the Olympics then? The day we visited, they were having their annual "Barristers" race where crews would bid to have a certain attorney on board. After the race, the attorneys would stage a mock trial for the fun of it. Their commodore saved me from buying a round, warning me to remove my hat when entering the bar. Whew.

During a stop in the amazing Bay of Islands on New Zealand's North Island, we were surprised to see someone from the Essex Yacht Club had been there first, evidenced by their burgee being on display. This rarely happens! We normally get there first!



Laurel and Terry Stewart with the America's Cup at the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron



Exchanging burgees with the Commodore of the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron



Salute Cannon and Grounds of the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron

Once we got to Auckland, we visited the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, current defenders and home of the America's Cup. Talk about a trophy display! Wow! The Cup is enclosed and protected by a casing that drops down automatically if you get too close. We chose not to test that. Two Louis Vitton trophies sit on either side of the America's Cup. Their ship's store was loaded with Emirates Team New Zealand apparel. The America's Cup is a big deal in New Zealand and we felt there were more sailboats than people in the country!

When we plan a trip, we google to see if there is a yacht club where we're going. If so, we check their website for hours and visitor requirements. Do they need a "letter of introduction"? If so, Jean can get you one. Do they require certain attire? Some required jackets at dinner. Another useful source is the Yachting Club of America website (ycaol.com). We the club office know in advance we're coming. You can also check our website to see if we already have a burgee from that club. Check out reciprocity on your next trip near a water body. You'll have fun!

Preparing For Hurricane Season



BY JOE DIRENZO

One of the many wonderful things about boating on the Connecticut River, surrounding rivers, and Long Island Sound is that the risk of a hurricane is significantly less than the Tidewater Virginia area south to Florida. June 1st starts hurricane season and local boaters know that the last hurricane to make landfall in New England was hurricane Bon in August of 1991. But just because we are not in Key West, and because the chances of a hurricane striking this area are not as high as other locations there is still a need to consider what you would do if a hurricane's track looks like impact is possible. These simple steps will save you a lot of stress in the days right before. Consider these six steps:

1. Actually have a written plan. After reading this article consider what needs to be for YOUR specific boat and write it down. What should you do three days before, two days before, one day before etc.
2. First consideration, where will your boat be located when the storm hits. There are some excellent "hurricane havens" to consider. If you can get it on a trailer and move it inland consider that approach.
3. If you can't move the boat.... secure it. Ensure lines are doubled, fenders deployed. Consider dropped the anchor. Making sure all the hatches are shut.
4. Go through the boat and remove all flammable items. If you have a gas cylinder, consider removing it plus anything valuable. Some people keep cash for tipping after fueling or mooring at locations not their own.
5. Make sure to check your insurance. Do you have a copy of the policy and phones numbers handy?
6. Finally, track the storm....know what quadrant the winds will be on relative to your boat. There is some wonderful track models used by local news stations, Weather.com, weatherunderground.com and Accuweather.com

Final item. Do not think for one minute that you should stay on your boat during the storm to "ride it out". Several people did that in the U.S. Virgin Islands during Hurricane Marilyn in 1995. There were 13 deaths, several thought they would "ride it out".

Hurricane season is something to respect and prepare for.



About the Author

Dr Joe DiRenzo is an ECYC Board member. A graduate of the United States Naval Academy and Naval War College, he served in both the Navy and Coast Guard including cutter command before retirement.

He currently teaches graduate courses for both American Military University and National University. He and his wife Karen have been club members for 4 years and reside in Essex.

DUNCAN COBURN SYME

In Remembrance

Surrounded by his family, Duncan Coburn Syme passed over the bar on May 2, 2024 near his home in Lebanon, New Hampshire. Duncan was a source of light and inspiration to many good friends, and was a member at ECYC since its founding in 1984.

Born in New York City on September 14, 1937 to Helen English and John Prescott Syme, Duncan spent his early years in Manhattan's Upper East Side. The family relocated to the banks of the Connecticut River in Old Saybrook, CT during WWII, immersing both Duncan and his older brother Lochlin Gates Syme into a life on the water, spending summers "messing about" in small boats exploring the lower Connecticut River and Long Island Sound.

Duncan's connection to the sea became a cornerstone of his identity. Despite living most of his adult life in Vermont and Hanover, New Hampshire, he never forgot his coastal roots. He owned a variety of sailboats throughout his life culminating with *Æthereus*, a Sparkman and Stevens designed sloop.



If you were lucky enough to know Duncan, you knew his philosophy that everything – including an Olin Stevens 27, could be improved upon. Naturally, he did just that. Reconstructing her aft end to stretch her stern counter out another three feet, he transformed the original sloop rig into a very stately 30 foot yawl, which he kept to a "10 out of 10" condition.

Sailing extensively along New England's southern coast with family and friends, Duncan was intimately familiar with the most favorable anchorages from Bell 8 east to Nantucket Sound.

Boundless curiosity and a lifelong pursuit of knowledge led Duncan to explore a myriad of additional hobbies and interests. He combined his innate sense of form, design and craftsmanship to bring his vision to life with unbridled passion and creativity, regardless of a project's size or complexity.

Duncan earned three degrees from Yale University, and later joined the innovative community of architects, designers and builders on Prickly Mountain in Warren, Vermont, where he designed the Defiant woodstove in 1975. Soon thereafter he co-founded Vermont Castings with his brother-in-law, Murray Howell.

Duncan was predeceased by his brother, Lochlin Gates Syme. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Syme, and his children: Meikle Hall, her husband Hamilton, and their children; Duncan and Fiona and her husband, Milton Guillen; Thayer Syme, his wife Anne, and their son Gryffin; Paul Dixon, his wife Debra, and their daughters, Elle and Maya; Ewen Syme; and Ceileigh Hammond, her husband Jabe, and their children, Jack and Lewellyn. He was also a "new" dad to Martha, Damian, and Steffen Olson.

Please take a moment to remember our friend. His contributions to our club community and the clubhouse itself are many, will live on as a reminder of his generosity and fellowship, and include: Initiating the tradition of the Commodore's half hull models displayed on our walls; Finishing the table at the top of the stairway; The pond yacht mounted under the main gable in the dining room; The members' nametag cabinet and drawers; The "electrified" Chelsea clock above the fireplace mantel; and of course, the iconic trophy case in the main dining room.

Duncan's family is planning a remembrance gathering of family and friends at ECYC on August 31, 2024. Further details will be provided to members.

*A celebration of Duncan's remarkable life will be held at 11 am on
September 7, 2024 at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Hanover, NH*

ECYC thanks Duncan's family for sharing this remembrance.

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT COMMUNICATIONS



The Essex Corinthian Yacht Club's Bell 8 Newsletter

is a quarterly publication issued by the Essex Corinthian Yacht Club of Essex, CT

For general questions on ECYC please refer to our website at

WWW.ESSEXCORINTHIAN.ORG

Email Us **ecyc@essexcorinthian.org**

ESSEX CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB

PO BOX 759 - ESSEX, CT 06426 *Telephone: (860) 767-3239*

Members are encouraged to submit articles & pictures of their club stories, sailing adventures/ mishaps to the Bell 8 editor

EMAIL: **communication@essexcorinthian.org**

OUR COMMUNICATIONS TEAM ACTIVELY MANAGES 2 SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS WITH OVER 800 FOLLOWERS! WE POST FREQUENTLY ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS, GALLEY MENUS AND OTHER NOTEWORTHY CLUB NEWS.

Follow along at the links below:



www.facebook.com/EssexCorinthianYachtClub



www.instagram.com/essexcorinthianyachtclub

Are you receiving club emails?

The dynamic duo of Jane Reilly & Stephanie Robinson have worked incredibly hard this year to freshen up our club communications, so that you never miss an important notice, upcoming event, or Galley update. The email subjects typically start with "From ECYC" so you can search your inbox to see if you are receiving them.

Want to be added or removed from the list?

EMAIL communication@essexcorinthian.org and we'll get you squared away

Please note that schedules may change at any time without prior notice. ECYC and the editor are not responsible for any errors or inaccuracies derived from information provided by third parties.