

# BELL 8

Fall 2024



# SEAWORTHY NEWS

ESSEX CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB

## VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



The fall season is winding down in Essex, and I hope you've been able to get out and enjoy some of these fabulous "Indian Summer" days we've been blessed with recently. Fall is my family's favorite time of year in town and at the club, and this year has been no exception. After we said goodbye to summer with an amazing Labor Day Pizza Truck party, we began with a Nott Island raft up, continued with Trivia Night, hosted our 2 annual regattas, hosted our 2nd Kids Movie Night, welcomed back the Jovial Crew for a night of Sea Chanteys, lunched, brunched, and Friday night dined, began Frostbite racing, and hosted our 1st ever Bourbon Night. To top it all off, on November 16th, we celebrated in grand style at the Commodore's Gala, where we toasted our members for a wonderful year, indulged in Chef Lori's latest culinary delights, and danced the night away to local legends Mass-Conn-Fusion. It was a 40th Anniversary party to remember, and we were so fortunate to hear from the many past Commodores in attendance on what the Corinthian means to them. I cannot

express enough gratitude to our entertainment committee all stars, led by Laurel Stewart and Stephanie Robinson.



Next weekend, we welcome you to our 40th Decommissioning, Annual Meeting & Awards on December 7th. We'll close it out with our classic Kids Holiday Party on Sunday the 8th. I don't know about you, but I am looking forward to kicking my feet up over the holidays and relaxing...though I doubt that will happen while chasing our boys through Disneyland over Christmas & New Years. Who ever said Commodores weren't gluttons for punishment?!?



*Bill Robinson*

**COMMODORE "24"**



## *Ship's Store*

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Have you checked out the Ship's Store recently? Laura Loew has been instrumental in keeping our inventory fresh and updated with a number of new items this year. From ECYC branded Yetis, Tervis Tumblers and wine glasses to shirts, ties, hats, belts, and flip flops, we've got at least part of your holiday shopping list covered. Stop on down before the Christmas rush and see what's new!



## *Liquor Lockers*

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We are still looking for about 15 mystery liquor locker renters who have yet to notify Jean of your locker number. A reminder that these lockers are available on a first come first served basis for \$25/year. If you have a post it note on your locker, PLEASE either fill in the sheet on the clipboard, or send Jean a note. We don't want to resort to cutting locks if we don't have to! Thank you for your help in resolving this.

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## **BOAT NAME TAGS**

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### *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!





## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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We welcomed the following 9 new and returning member families to the club this fall:

*Bob and Theresa Dryfoos*

*Cliff Haslam*

*Candace Holmes & Michael Hoinsky*

*Emily Jeffers*

*Jason and Jessi Kneier*

*Audrey Liounis*

*John and Sally Noonan*

*Sally Walker*

*Carter & Carla Gowrie*

We are thrilled to announce a surge in new memberships! Our commitment to providing exceptional dining, sailing experiences, wonderful events, and stunning waterfront views continues to attract discerning individuals. Our Essex Corinthian Yacht Club continues to be the premier destination club for those who appreciate the finer things in life.

*Rebecca Bliss, ECYC Membership Chair*

## *Vice Commodore's Update*

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Thanks to the success of this year's Vessel Safety Check Day and Not in Command lecture we are pleased to announce that ECYC will hold an Off Season Boating Safety Presentation. During this presentation we will take an in depth look at several boating incidents which occurred in or near the CT River and dissect the circumstances surrounding them. In observing these incidents and discussing them with the help of several key speakers including; Essex Marine Police Officer Balcourt, Saybrook Point Waterfront Director Kate Mosely and a representative from the USCG Auxiliary group, we can learn and adapt our own practices for the best outcomes. Please keep an eye out for more details and sign up information to come. We are aiming for an early February date to keep our minds on the boating season even through the cold days of winter!

*Joe Pelletier, Vice Commodore*

## **ECYC 40<sup>th</sup> Decommissioning & Annual Meeting**

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The 2024 Decommissioning and Annual Meeting will be at the Clubhouse on Saturday December 7th, beginning at 1600 hrs. Please make plans to attend and celebrate a very successful year. Annual awards and a reception will follow the meeting. Appetizers will be provided by the Galley.



## *Get Connected*

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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.

# 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](mailto:commodore@essexcorinthian.org)*

## ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

Entertainment's **Laurel Stewart & Stephanie Robinson**, and their subcommittee of **Ann Tillman, Sharon Tracy, Nancy Briggett, Gillian Nixon, Deb Martin, Dee Brennan, Maria Decker**, and **Yolanda Lowe** pulled out all the stops to provide us with an amazing Commodore's Gala. Thank you to this group and the entire entertainment team for all of your hard work this year!

## TIM BREWER

For his display of seamanship in leading the rescue of the crew of Dorian during the Cross Sound Challenge. The board and our entire community salute your leadership and Corinthian spirit.

## KAREN DIRENZO

For leading another one of her brilliant "Yoga on the Deck" sessions this summer

## RUTH EMBLIN

The Fall season is a busy one for our Regatta Committee and Ruth's leadership was on display, guiding our Race Committees during the Cross Sound Challenge and Thomas Clark Memorial Races.

## JEAN BREWER & KATHERINE BERRY

For their ace work as everyone's favorite bartenders at the Cross Sound Challenge party. You kept the Dark & Stormy's flowing when we needed you the most!

## ADAM VON GOOTKIN

Yes, he's our resident Gin extraordinaire, but we are thankful for his broad knowledge in helping us put together our first Bourbon Night. Perhaps a Gin Night and a Rum Night next??

## ADAM SCHIFFER

For volunteering his beautiful boat Symmetry for Race Committee work in the Cross Sound Challenge & Clark Regatta. We could not have done it without you, thanks so much!

## CLIFF HASLAM

For his impromptu jam session at our last Wednesday night dinner of the season. How lucky are we to have such a musical talent among us?!

## ROB & SUE WATTS

For sharing their adventures heading south this fall aboard High Cotton, with the EYC burgee proudly leading the way!

## TOBY DOYLE

for pulling off the Tri Club River Series Tri-fecta this year, taking 1st in all 3 races. With a Corinthian crew of Scott Beckwith, Cindy Gibbs, and Bill Robinson, Doyle's Flo had a dominant series to remember.

## JOHN FERNANDES

Last years Copper Drip Award Winner, taking his 6th or 7th pass with the powerwasher this year, keeping our exterior decks and siding looking sharp all year long.



## 2024 FALL *Club Events*

- Saturday December 1:* TREES IN THE RIGGING / KARAOKE
- Tuesday December 3* LADIES ON DECK
- Saturday December 7:* ANNUAL MEETING/DECOMMISSIONING
- Sunday December 8:* 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*



## *Kids Halloween* **MOVIE NIGHT**



# BOURBON ON THE BRIDGE



**LABOR DAY**  
**Pizza**  
**PARTY**

# SEA CHANTEY NIGHT





# 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY ESSEX CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB COMMODORE'S GALA







## *Thomas Clark*

### MEMORIAL REGATTA

A beautiful and breezy day on Saturday October 12th for our Thomas Clark Memorial Regatta - the second in the Tri Club River Race Series. Thank you to all of the competitors, our fabulous Race Committee, and all of our dedicated volunteers!





## *Ideal 18 Update from our Fleet Captain*

We've sailed through the summer and right into Frostbite season with some beautiful and warm fall days set against the picture-perfect foliage on the river. Shoutout to all the club members, skippers and crews who battled it out during racing season this summer and fall. We've seen some epic finishes and plenty of friendly rivalry.

I can't help but revel in the camaraderie and sportsmanship that filled our summer and early fall at the ECYC. The competition between Essex Yacht Club and our very own Essex Corinthians was fierce, yet friendly, reminding us all why we love this sport. Tuesday and Thursday nights were filled with as much fun off the water as there was on, with our club members hosting the sailors of both clubs for potlucks, cocktails, daily race results, and an end of the season barbeque.

Our club was well represented by on Tuesday nights with Jane Reilly, Cindy Gibbs, Jon Gibbs, Tijae Pelletier, Diane Stark and Tom Atkinson, who place third for the season. We also showed our presence in Spinnaker racing, Thursday nights where Greg Allard, Jon Gibbs and I regularly participated and took home a third place overall for that night as well.

In addition to racing, recreational sailing this fall was met with great enthusiasm by our non-sailing members during our Labor day picnic fun sail. Thank you to all who made the day possible and fun filled for all that participated. Special thank you to: Terry Stewart, Jeff Going, Diane Stark, Laura Nuno, and Greg Allard for helping to make this event possible. It is my sincerest hope that we will be able to provide more of these events in 2025.

Sailing continues with Frostbite racing through the first week in December. For any interested in the opportunity to learn more about our boat by joining one of our winter work parties please email me at [fleetcaptain@essexcorinthian.org](mailto:fleetcaptain@essexcorinthian.org)

*Matt Melius, Fleet Captain*



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



The 2024 Cross Sound Challenge lived up to its name this year. Conditions were sporty, and for once we had plenty of wind and then some to make most racers happy. As you know, we dealt with a not-so-happy incident this year, more of which is described in Commodore Bill's section, so I will not go into details here. When we knew that everyone was safe, our PRO decided to continue racing. Several boats were still involved in assisting with the aftermath of the rescue and dropped out, but a good number of boats decided to race on towards the finish line.

***CLASS A Non-Spinnaker***

1. Petrel; Jon Gibbs ECYC
2. Prism; Joel Mangini DIYC
3. Mary Elizabeth; Timothy Pickering ECYC

***CLASS D Non-Spinnaker***

1. Rhumb Runner; Frank Flores EYC
2. Badger; Mike DeNameur DIYC

***CLASS B Spinnaker***

1. Reckless; Robin Durrschmidt NBYC
2. Snowbird; T. J. Buckley DIYC
3. Xcellent; Eric O'Sullivan TYC

Congratulations to all the winners, especially our two ECYC boats, Petrel, a well-known, successful veteran, and Mary Elizabeth, whose crew did very well for a first time entry.

My thanks to the ECYC Race Committee and the volunteers from DIYC who ran the regatta efficiently under challenging conditions. Thanks to Allan Schiffer and Pete Decker who provided us with the committee boats. We also thank all our generous sponsors who made our regatta and party special. Speaking of the party, the Entertainment Committee did a fabulous job as well! The party was very well received and brought the local sailing community and its supporters together.

In October we sailed the Tri-Club River Races, three memorial regattas, one each for EYC, ECYC and PYC. Once they were over, the sailing focus shifted to Fall Frostbiting, which is ongoing.

Most of the local PHRF boats, however, have now been hauled and winterized, going into their annual hibernation.

We are all looking forward to next spring when boats are splashed again, and the regatta racing season begins anew.

On behalf of the ECYC Race Committee, I wish you very happy holidays!

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



# *A note on the loss of DORIAN*



By *Bill Robinson*

*“This boat was a true force of nature. She was loved by many, loved many, and I truly believe she held out just as long as she could to get her crew to safety on this day.”*

*-D. Morano*

On Saturday September 21st, during the annual Cross Sound Challenge, Chris Morano’s classic Pearson 39 Yawl Dorian began taking on water as they approached a mark of the race course north of Plum Island (Chris will remind you he was leading the race at the time!). After a complete and thorough inspection, her expert crew of engineers and top level racers could not locate the source of water intrusion, and considering the extreme rate of ingress, they immediately went into may-day protocols and began preparing to abandon ship. While the Coast Guard was quick to respond, they were too far away and the crew instead switched radio frequencies to alert their nearby competitors. Within minutes, several boats were on the scene, including Gumdrop (NCYC), Madaket (NCYC), Fusion (DIYC), and Past Commodore Tim Brewer aboard Fathom. In extremely challenging conditions, with rough seas and winds gusting into the high 30s, all 6 of Dorian’s crew were rescued onto Gumdrop and Fathom, with only moments to spare before Dorian sank. The



entire frightening episode, from the time of the mayday call to the time Dorian went down, was estimated to be less than 15 minutes. The loss of Dorian was a truly traumatic experience for those involved, but a human tragedy was avoided due to the heroic efforts of Fathom & Gumdrop, along with the admirable seamanship displayed by Dorian’s crew, who displayed real courage under fire.

The ECYC Board salutes those who came to Dorian’s aid, and our hearts go out to the Morano family. In time and in collaboration with those involved, we’ll honor them in the hopes that others can learn from the experience, and that Dorian’s ECYC legacy is preserved.

For now, there is talk of a potential “Safety at Sea” seminar early next year, where our team will discuss lessons learned. Stay tuned for more details on that. For inquiring minds, NCYC’s Joe Carroll (skipper of Madaket and 1st hand witness) wrote a detailed account in NCYC’s October newsletter (scroll down to the “Mayday” article):

<https://www.northcoveyc.com/high-tidings/2024/9/25/high-tidings-october-2024>

## *Reported Boat Fire During Fueling in Old Saybrook Reinforces Important Boating Safety Issues*



**BY JOE DIRENZO**

As I write this safety note for 8 Bells, all of Connecticut's TV news bureaus are reporting on the boat explosion and fire in Old Saybrook. Multiple media outlets indicate that the event occurred when the vessel was refueling pier-side. This tragic event offers an opportunity to review some safety issues regarding fuel systems, as many of you start to pull your boats out of the water or ready them for winter if they remain in the water.

Refueling a vessel is a very routine function. However, it can be exceptionally dangerous. This is one evolution where the vessel's operator needs to be 100% distraction-free. To help facilitate this, the operator should ask any other passengers to depart the boat and move away from the area, leaving only the operator and the attendant. Let's review some obvious items regarding refueling safety upfront.

First, when was the last time you had your fuel system inspected? Seriously. A complete stem-to-stern inspection? This includes everything from the piping and motors to the tanks themselves. Do they show signs of wear and tear? Ensuring that the fuel transfer and holding system is fully maintained is imperative. Along the same line... are your ventilation fans fully operational? As several boating sites note: "When you need to refuel your boat, when should you turn on the power ventilation system? The power ventilation system should be turned on before beginning the refueling process. This will help to prevent any fumes from building up in the boat's compartment." (See more at: <https://storables.com/home-maintenance/when-fueling-a-boat-when-should-you-turn-on-the-power-ventilation-system/>)

Second, how familiar are you with static sparks? The presence of this type of discharge can cause fuel to ignite. To address this, I recommend a few steps. Start by ensuring you have a grounding wire attached. Consider, just during refueling, not wearing shoes with rubber soles. Why? Because these types of soles create static. Next, you should ensure that you maintain contact between the hose nozzle and filler neck to prevent static sparks. Further, the American Boating Association adds that "when fueling is complete, securely fasten the gas cap, then open up all windows and doors to ventilate" Walk around the boat and do a "sniff" test for leaks.

# *Reported Boat Fire During Fueling in Old Saybrook Reinforces Important Boating Safety Issues*



**BY JOE DIRENZO**

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Third, do everything you can to avoid spilling even a drop of fuel into the water. Ensure that you don't overfill your tanks. Listen to the sound as you start the refueling process. What you hear is different as the tank reaches near completion. Additionally, watching the onboard gauge can be another easy way to maintain situational awareness. Finally, always have an absorbent pad handy to wipe any drops off as you remove the nozzle.

The fourth and last issue regarding fuel and fuel systems is the ongoing debate about filling a tank before winter storage. Boats.net states: "when a boat's engine is left idle during storage, the ethanol keeps absorbing water until it reaches saturation, at which point the fuel undergoes what's called 'phase separation.' When phase separation occurs, the water/ethanol mix within the fuel settles on the bottom of the fuel tank. This layer of water/ethanol will corrode a metal fuel tank, and can get sucked into the fuel system when the motor is next run, which then requires injectors or carburetors to be drained and cleaned." You can find the whole article on whether you should fill a fuel tank before winter storage at Boats.net.

Refueling is routine....but extra care needs to be taken to ensure it remains that way.

## *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.

# IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT COMMUNICATIONS



## *The Essex Corinthian Yacht Club's Bell & 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 & 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.

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[www.instagram.com/essexcorinthianyachtclub](http://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](mailto: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.*