



THE ESSEX CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB

December 2009—January 2010

Looking Ahead to 2010

At the Annual Meeting held on Saturday, December 5th, the following Officers and Board of Governors were elected for 2010:



Officers

Commodore	Skip Haskins
Vice Commodore	Don Shannehan
Rear Commodore	Terry Stewart
Treasurer	Tom Pinkowish
Secretary	Barbara Hall

Board of Gover-two year term

Debra Wallis	2010—2011
Tim Brewer	2010-2011
Helen Sant”Andrea	2010—2011

Governors—Previously Elected

Jane Pfeffer	2009—2010
Kit Schellens	2009—2010
Neal Stufano	2009—2010
Past Commodore	Lewis Davidson

Congratulations to our newly elected Officers and Board of Governors. They are looking forward to 2010 and welcome your ideas, support, and participation in 2010.

2010 WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITIES to help YOUR Club

ECYC has several committees which make our Club as enjoyable as it is! Your help on these committees is needed. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board, or please contact the Committee Chairs directly!

HOUSE (Chaired by Frank Hall and Ken Mikulski)...is charged with the responsibility for maintaining the building, grounds and waterfront of the Club.

ENTERTAINMENT (Chaired by Helen Sant’ Andrea and helping Helen is Susan Raible)...is charged with all Club entertainment and events (excluding those associated with Racing and other waterfront/boating events).

RACE (Chaired by Terry Stewart) ...is responsible for all racing events and regattas. This includes ECSA races and events as well as local (ie: Ideal 18) events. This responsibility includes Ideal 18 rigging, equipping, maintenance, etc. This committee shall work closely with the Fleet Captain. Also, the Race Committee is responsible for the ECYC cruises planned by, sponsored by or co-sponsored by the Club.

FLEET (Headed by the Fleet Captain, Jim Wallis)...is responsible for the care and maintenance of the Club’s small boats (ie: Ideal 18’s) and to oversee the proper yachting protocol of the Club. This committee will work closely with the Race Committee for the common good of the Club’s launches and boats.

MEMBERSHIP (Chaired by Jane Pfeffer) ...is responsible for proper membership application procedures and shall present all new member applicants to the Board of Governors with the committee’s recommendation for approval or disapproval.

GALLEY (Chaired by Don Shannahan) ...shall be responsible for the efficient and proper operation of the Club Galley. The Committee and the caterer will work together to implement and maintain the agreed upon contractual agreement to ensure proper food preparation and presentation to Club members.

WATERFRONT (Chaired by Rick Mazzarella)...is responsible for several direct waterfront activities (ie: Raft up’s) as well as the establishment of procedures for the Club moorings and other possible Club mooring locations. Also, are responsible for Club public relations.

BELL 8 (Betty Holcomb, Editor)...to help Betty with the monthly publication of the Club’s newsletter. Duties include gathering content, help take photos of various Club events.

SHIP’S STORE (Chaired by Jean Masson) ...is responsible for the proper management of the Club’s store, its purchase, presentation and selling of Ship Store items and goods.

Ship's Store

Thanks to all of you for supporting the Store this year! By year end, we will have sold over \$2000 more than we spent! And that doesn't even count the sales of fleeces in our Pre-Sale. Those expenses and sales will kick start us in January for another good year!

The Pre-Sale was very successful. We needed requests for 24 pieces in order to be able to order, and we received 31. They have arrived and are ready to be picked up at the Club. They are in the tall display case. See Elaine Kyle, Barbara Gisondi, Jean Brewer or Jean Masson for the key. Elaine is here Tuesday through Friday from 9 to 4. Barbara is frequently during the week and she and both Jeans try to be around on Friday evening and Sunday brunch.

We slashed prices to our cost on most clothing and all the 09/09/09 items. Reduced prices are still in effect. Check out the Store for great buys and good holiday gifts!

Again, thanks to all of you and best wishes for a wonderful holiday season! Stay tuned for exciting new merchandise in 2010!

Your Ship's Store Committee

SAVE THE DATES

December 27th—Sunday 12:00 pm to 4 pm. Holiday Brunch with Charles the Piano Man. No sign up needed but please call the Office 860 767-3239 to help the Galley with head count.

December 31— New Year's Eve Dinner Dance. Sign up Required. Details at Clubhouse.

Did you Know?

Thatchbed Island is the piece of marsh south of Essex Yacht Club that separates South Cove from the river. This little barrier island has been eroding away at a fast pace for many years.

The Thatchbed has been there since colonial days and at one time the northern reaches of South Cove were rimmed with wild rice. The Thatchbed itself was a blend of salt marsh grasses as the name implies. It stretched from just north of Hayden's Point and the north western corner went almost to the shore with a modestly narrow passage to Middle Cove.

Much of the cause for the erosion and breakup of the Thatchbed has been the invasive plants that have taken over much of the island. First came fragmite (a non-native species) and then Blue Indigo brush, also non-native. These aggressive plants don't hold the soil well and do not support wildlife as well as their natural salt grasses.

The brush at the south end of Thatchbed was torn up during a winter nor'easter a couple of years ago that caused a breakthrough, which has now eroded further.

Before WW II someone tried to build a summer home – not an elegant one – on the island. The Thatchbed was also good trapping and hunting to snapping turtles and muskrats. I don't know how many coats had their start on the island.

Then, in the late 50's a developer (believed to have come from West Hartford) had a big idea. He had gotten options and proposed bulkheading the southern two thirds or so of the island and dredging the south end of South Cove. He was going to build a marina complete with full facilities including a restaurant. We won that battle ...

Today, the island has split ownership. Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection owns the southern portion that is eroding away. The northern portion is the Land Trust, who has tried to get DEP to allow preservation. DEP has taken the stand to let it "naturally" evolve. When approached about 20 years ago by Essex Harbor Management, DEP took the position that the island was not eroding away, but that South Cove was actually going through the process of filling in and would eventually turn into a swamp.

Watch nature at work as this barrier piece of marsh is washed away before our eyes

Submitted by Jeff Going

Club News

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

The year 2009 came to our wonderful Club and brought with it many wonderful events and remembrances. Each member has had the wonderful opportunity to visit with and enjoy other members. This enjoyment would not have been possible if it was not for the efforts of these many people. From the casting of a line to a fellow mate, to the fantastic 09-09-09 celebration, ECYC has become THE yacht club.

Yes folks, let us all be thankful for what we have and for what we have accomplished. For those who were not at the Annual Meeting, please read the following list of awards. Most awards could have been presented to several members, yet, those whose names are engraved, are owed a tremendous amount of gratitude:

- **Corinthian Award** ...Betty Holcomb for her continual efforts to publish Bell 8.
- **A. Justin Wasley Memorial Trophy** ...Jeff Going in "Celebration" for the ECYC yacht with the best ECSA racing record of the year.
- **Thomas B. Clark Memorial Trophy**... Jeff Going in "Celebration" for best Division II finish in the "Thomas B. Clark Miller-Coorse Regatta".
- **Sailing Achievement Award**...Jeff Going for his continued sailing success and accomplishments during the sailing season.
- **John Philip Sousa Award** ...Jean & Tim Brewer for completing the most impressive voyage during the year.
- **The Good Spirit Award**...Jim Sant' Andrea, who was "that spouse" who put up with the absences of their first mates throughout the year.
- **Cooper Drip Award**...Earl Fowler for always being around the Club and addressing (fixing) various items as needed.
- **The Founder's Award**...Susan Raible who has created an environment of spirit and good fellowship to the enjoyment of members throughout the year.

The Keel Award...Ed Birch, the unselfish sailor who gave time, effort, and expertise to represent himself and ECYC throughout the year.

...and the **Commodore's Award**...proudly presented to our 2009 Commodore, Lewis Davidson...Lewis has given our Club years' of unselfish dedication and energy for the improvement of the Club and for the enjoyment of the entire membership. This award only partially represents Lewis' dedication to our Club, and his dedication and supporting help given to others around him.



REMINDER: THE CLUBHOUSE WILL BE CLOSED DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY.

This is the time of the year that minor repairs are done and the Clubhouse is spruced up. It is a wonderful opportunity for all members to really get to know each other and have some fun while helping to make the Clubhouse sparkle for the upcoming year. Please call Frank Hall at fhall02@yahoo.com or at 860-767-2355 if you would like to join in the fun!

No experience necessary for most tasks!



2009 FLAG OFFICERS

Commodore—Lewis Davidson
Vice Commodore—Skip Haskins
Rear Commodore—Donald Shannehan
Treasurer—Tom Pinkowish
Secretary—Barbara Hall
Fleet Captain—Berke George
Fleet Surgeon—Howard Eisenstodt
Fleet Chaplin—Dan Taylor-Stypa

2009 BOARD MEMBERS

James Francis
Jane Pfeffer
Susan Raible
Kit Schellens
Neal Stufano
Terry Stewart
Frank Strafaci

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Bell 8—Betty Holcomb
Entertainment—Helen Sant’ Andrea
Galley—Donald Shannehan
House—Skip Haskins
Membership—Jane Pfeffer,
Lewis Davidson
Nominating—Jim Francis
Race—Bill St. John
Ship’s Store—Jean Masson
Waterfront— Len Mierzejewski,
Myron Stacks
Web Master—Skip Haskins

CLUB MANAGER.....Elaine Kyle
ECYC Office 860-767-3239
ECYC Fax 860-767-6569
ECYC email..... ecyc@snet.net
Website: www.essexcorinthianyc.org
or www.e-c-y-c.com

GALLEY Abby’s Catering Company
Office 860-227-4119
Galley phone 860-767-9950
Galley Fax 860-767-1704
Email.. abbyscatering@sbcglobal.net

**ECYC mailing address: PO Box 759
Essex, CT 06426**

**Please access our website for
newsletter(s), photos, calendar
of events, menus, membership
applications, committee chairs,
and much more!**



**A Huge Thank You to all 2009 Officers, Board
of Governors, and Committee Chairs/
Volunteers and Members! It has been a won-
derful year!**