

THE ESSEX CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB

March 2009

A View from the Bridge

As this edition of Bell 8 goes to press, our Club is strong and all should be proud. Membership is actually up over last year. The economy is down but not your Club. The stock market is down but not your Club. The auto industry is down, and who would know better than me, but our Club stands strong.

Entering our 25th anniversary year, much planning has been done and this will truly be a great year for all members. We will start with **Caribbean Night on March 27, 2009**. The party will start with hors d'oeuvres from 5:30 pm—6:30 pm compliments of ECYC, then Music by JA/MAX from 6:30 until 10:30 pm, and ACC will be offering dinner as usual. Everyone has been raving about ACC's new menu, so we will sit the first 80 people who sign up for this event. The sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the main dining room or you can call Elaine at 767-3239 to reserve your spot. This is a great event, so sign up early—you don't want to miss this one!

The second Sunday of March, the 8th, is the start of Frostbiting (and don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour). Let's cheer our boats on Sunday afternoons. We have some of the best sailors on the Connecticut River. Remember you also have one of the best views on the lower Connecticut River. Come use the Club as often as you wish.

In closing, I thank you for supporting your elected Club leaders and the activities and events they have planned for the calendar year 2009, the Club's Silver Anniversary year.

Enjoy!

Lewis I. Davidson-Commodore

Try It Out!

In keeping with our efforts to provide a more environmentally-friendly publication, all ECYC members who have email addresses will begin receiving *Bell 8* and the *Schedule of Events* via email or download from the ECYC website starting with the April 2009 issue. Sending *Bell 8* and *Schedule of Events* electronically saves money and valuable natural resources, all while delivering the latest issues to you *instantly!*



Try it out with this month's issue! Simply log onto our website at www.essexcorinthianyc.org or at www.e-c-y-c.com. Then click on **Bell 8** in the left hand gray side bar, under the Current Issue heading click on **March 2009**. It's easy, it's in color, and it's at your finger tips!

The website also has a photo gallery, galley menu, membership applications and much more!



What's This? See page 2 under **What's New** for more details!!

Membership Committee

We are pleased to welcome four new members into ECYC.

Welcome Aboard to **Anthony and Catherine Gazikas, Valerie Votto, Stephen and Jan Sinatra, and Jeffrey and Heather Weiss.**

We are however sorry to lose four members: Cynthia David, Robert Martin, Michael Tagatac, and Lauren Wilcox. Most are hoping to rejoin when the economy picks up. We are still looking for new members and ask everyone to think of friends, neighbors and business associates who would make good members.

Jane M. Pfeffer, Co-Chair, Membership Committee

House Committee



The interior projects have been completed. Thanks to so many volunteers for their efforts and good nature! Exterior projects will begin as the weather warms. These projects include: Painting the front entry and porch areas, installing shutters onto the front windows, lowering the flag pole—scraping and painting and installing new halyards as needed, grading and installing paving stones to the right (south) of the front porch, painting the upper deck areas (as needed), especially where the new decking is being installed. All hands will be called on deck as the time gets closer. Skip Haskins, House Committee Chair

What's New



In honor of our 25th Anniversary, we have designed a new logo which will be on the front of white tees that we are ordering. These **25th anniversary tees** can be ordered through Elaine Kyle, our Club Manager, and not the Ships Store. The price will be \$7.00 plus tax. The tees will also have **09.09.09** on the back which is the formal 25th anniversary date for ECYC. We are promoting these shirts to be worn throughout the year to really make this a huge event for ECYC and promote ECYC throughout the Town of Essex, the boating community, and throughout the lower Connecticut River Valley. Sizes will be small, medium, large, X-tra large, and XXL-tall. Order yours Today!

Spring—Safe the Dates

We have been busy planning ahead for 2009. Please note all events are subject to change as we proceed through the year.



- March 27 Caribbean Night
- April 11 ECYC Commissioning and Reception
- May 2 Kentucky Derby Party and Meet & Greet
- May 23 Arm Chair Cruise
- May 30-31 Shakedown Cruise—Cockles Harbor

Caribbean Night

Friday, March 27th

Always a sell out event— sign up early. See details at the Club.



Did you know that our River Room Pub is a wonderful spot to informally hang out with fellow Club members? Did you know that many of your fellow yacht club members are also Uconn basketball enthusiasts? This past Sunday some of our Club members were disappointed that the Sunday game of their favorite women's basketball team (Uconn of course) would not be broadcasted on regular cable TV but was only available on pay channel ESPNU. Commodore Lewis reminded us that the game could be watched in our newly painted River Room Pub on our newly acquired big screen TV. True to his word, the game was on our Club's TV, and over a dozen happy folks watched the game sharing their enthusiasm with fellow Club members. And Ladies, be assured that the River Room Pub is not only for men—as the ladies also enjoyed the game. ECYC's River Room Pub—truly an asset to the Club—come on down and check it out! Betty Holcomb

Boating News

SPRING FROSTBITE SERIES

Frostbite Racing will begin on Sunday **March 8**, 2009 at 1:00 pm and will continue until May 3, 2009. All racing will be on Sundays except for Easter weekend, when the racing will be on Saturday, April 12. We will have both of our Ideal 18's in the water and available for members to participate in the Frostbite Series. Spectators will have a birds-eye view from the Clubhouse, so be sure to stop in for Brunch and cheer on our members. Both of our Ideals now have a blue patch at the top of their mainsail, so you can easily pick out our boats. The Essex Yacht Club Ideals have a red patch at the top of their mainsails.

Any member wishing to race as Skipper or Crew should use the sign up book at the Club or contact Elaine Kyle, our Club manager.

Bill St.John, Race Committee Chair



2009 ECYC ADULT SAILING PROGRAM

Our 2009 Adult Sailing Program will begin the week of **May 18th**. Sailing lessons will be offered in our new Ideal 18s.

Instruction will be offered on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Full day instruction will also be offered on Saturdays from 10:00am to 4:00pm. The evening instruction will be a

seven week course. The Saturday instruction will be a three week course. The cost for the course will be \$100.00 and includes all teaching materials and instruction. At the end of the course, you may qualify to use our Ideal 18s.

You may register with Elaine Kyle, our Club Manager or sign up on a posted notice at the Club. Classes will be based on sign up. Instruction will be provided by some of our top ECYC sailors.

ECYC's Roving Burgee Hunter

YACHT CLUB, YACHT CLUB – WHERE FOR ART THOU

In preparation for my trip to Jordan and Egypt, I researched what yacht clubs might be in the area according to my itinerary. Aqaba, Jordan perhaps? This lies between Saudi Arabia and Israel and is the only place that Jordan has access to the sea. It's a resort town where people come to enjoy a weekend holiday. Hotels include Ritz, Four Seasons just to give you an idea of the standard of vacations to expect here. Unfortunately we arrived too late to scout out the yacht clubs and boarded our boat, MS Monet for immediate departure. Our next port, Sharm El Sheik, Egypt had lots of promise to find a **yacht club**. A lovely harbor, beaches that stretched out along the coast and beautiful reefs for any water enthusiast to say WOW. But again our schedule brought us back too late for scouting. I decided to wait until Alexandria, Egypt because I was traveling alone and could make my own schedule. Alexandria is

named for Alexander the Great who conquered Egypt 332bc and made it the capital to serve as a bridge between the Mediterranean and the Nile. Today Alexandria has a population of nearly 4 million; 2nd only to Cairo. Having miles and miles of coastline along the Med has brought a variety of cultures making it much more "western" than other Egyptian cities. Here I found 3 yacht clubs – two right next to each other with the help of my personal guide, Engy who translated for me. The **Alexandria Yacht Club** was open but only a gentleman at the reception desk was inside and two ladies wrapped with scarves and jackets were outside enjoying the view. It was clear that nobody was expected today – or for that matter for a long time. There were no flags hung in any of the rooms. The gentleman was confused as to why I would want to leave our flag and take theirs. He suggested I visit the Greek Yacht Club – first door on the right. We did but again, nobody seemed to understand why I wanted to leave our flag and

take theirs. The next day, Engy took me to visit the gardens of the el-Montazah Palace – the presidential summer palace. It has its own harbor that wraps around a small marina and beach. The only person there was a maintenance man who was happy to show us around. We found out that this was a "branch" of the club and the main building is at the farthest point from where we were – about an hour's drive away. Although I didn't come home with a burgee, I came home with wonderful memories of Alexandria. At first glance, the tourist sees concrete and smokestacks – what happened to Ancient Alexandria? What happened to pharos and queens? Even today excavation continues. Just recently massive ruins of the Temple of Serapis have been found right next to the ruins of the ancient library established by Cleopatra. The harbor has even more secrets. Plans for an underwater museum are progressing with an opening date sometime in 2010. Slowly Alexandria drops her veil.

Joyce Metz.

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 Strafacci

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

GalleyAbby’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

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



Clubhouse open for Sunday Brunch and lunch during the week. See Calendar inside.

Bell 8 Seaworthy NEWS
THE ESSEX CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB
Novelty Lane, P.O. Box 759,
Essex, Connecticut 06426