

Blooper

The Friendliest Little Yacht Club on the Bay!

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Commodore's Message

Spring is in the air. The tulips and daffodils are blooming. Finally time to get the boat ready for the season. The time has come. I know I have a laundry list of tasks still left



to complete on the boat. I guess I will be burning the candle at both ends until the early May to get the boat in the water. I feel every boat owner goes through the same cycle every spring. The list is much longer than time available to complete. I have noticed it gets worse as you get older.

All committees at the club are hard at work to offer the best programs on the bay. The board is working on balancing our budget and ensuring we stay fiscally strong during this current economic downturn. If you have a boat and plan on using it this year, please do so. I know a lot of people are cutting back on luxury or nonessential expenses, but if you have a boat, why not enjoy it? During this economic state, I realize that everyone is doing their best to keep their job, but remember...all work and no play is not a balanced life!

If you have a boat and are working on getting it in the water, hopefully you have been able to take advantage of some the great bargains that are currently happening. Because Boater's World is going out of business, they are offering discounted prices on products we use every year getting our boats ready for the season. However; I'm very sorry to see Boater's World go bankrupt, and I wish all the best to all Boater World employees and that they find a new job very quickly.

Don't forget this is your club. The more you get involved the more the club can evolve and build upon you experience.

Greg Fornal
Commodore

Education Committee

We graduated 14 very enthusiastic children from our Kids' Winter Program – a lot of fun for all.

Our next education effort will be directed toward those partners or crew who have not had boating safety training. It is a basic course that provides an overview for those who come aboard and who may be called upon at one time or another to man the helm, or even take over for the skipper in an emergency.

The intent is to provide the bare essentials in a relatively short time period to those who have not yet undertaken more formal training.

This course requires purchased study material that we will obtain ahead of time at a small cost per set. That means that to present the course we must have a firm commitment from interested people. Therefore, in addition to this notice, we will be sending an e-mail communication to all members asking for a reply to determine interest. Classes would be at the club on Wednesday evenings at a time most convenient to the participants.

Peirce Brawner
Education Chair

Cruising Committee

An exciting cruising season has gotten underway with the long-planned trip to the British Virgin Islands, with Dave & Leann Pickering as Cruise Captains! The trip began April 19th, and continued through May 2nd. We are all looking forward to the cruise report and anticipating many stories



of adventure!
Welcome Home!

A mistake in the published Cruise Calendar was brought to our attention. The Second Half of the

Summer Cruise will be August 2 – August 8, with Dave & Leann Pickering as Cruise Captains. On August 8, Captain Dave will commence the Victory Cruise to Fall River, MA. In all, three weeks of continuous cruising down to Long Island and up to Battleship Cove are possible. Feel free to join the summer cruise at any point for however long you may, but please contact

the Cruise Captains to help them plan mooring/docking/restaurant reservations.

Not to worry though, as each monthly edition of the Blooper will reiterate the cruising schedule for the month. Of course, reminders of each cruise and any last minute changes will be discussed on the WBYC Message Board.

The month of May brings us the Memorial Day Cruise, beginning May 23-26, with Jim & Sharon Ward as Cruise Captains. Jim and Sharon will be kicking off our WBYC's 'National Waters' Cruising schedule on their S/V, Space Cat. Watch for future details regarding the resolute destination on the message board, or feel free to contact Jim.

Thank you Jim & Sharon for your hospitality!

There are no scheduled Raft-Ups for May, as some of us are still engaged with boat preparations. Of course, that doesn't mean that someone may not take the initiative to have an impromptu gathering of the hulls somewhere, sometime this month! Please check the message board regularly to make sure you don't miss a good time!

Vice Commodore Tom Stocker kindly supplied the Cruise Committee with a Cruise Captain Checklist. These checklists are convenient, comprehensive, and available through your Cruise Chair, Carol Ann Getter. Please take advantage of so much thoughtful work and ask for one to read over. If you have ever considered becoming a Cruise Captain, but were not sure where to start, this is the form for you!

In other news of note to cruisers, the Jamestown Press recently published an article regarding a small sandwich shop applying to open at Dutch Harbor Marina. Great Idea!

As always, Nathan Shapiro, Tom Stocker, or Carol Ann will help you in any way possible to keep things as stress-free as possible...it's the WBYC Way to Go! So, let's get going places and have some fun!

Carol Ann Getter, Cruising Chair
S/V Juggler

WBYC's First Week in Paradise!

By Sunday night, all had arrived at the Moorings Base in Tortola, British Virgin Islands, and were busy provisioning our boats, getting dive gear, phones, food, etc. We all attended Chart Briefings, given by Moorings Skippers as well as boat briefings for each of our own individual yachts. On Monday morning we departed for the "Indians", an outcrop of rocks that look like an Indian headdress. There were moorings for the taking which were close to rocks and coral gardens to enjoy some fantastic snorkeling! After a few hours there, we headed off to "The Bight" on Normand Island, where we enjoyed some drinks at the VERY casual "Pirates Restaurant" and some of us ventured over to the Willy Thornton floating bar / restaurant as well.

Tuesday morning we made a beautiful 25 mile sail, with 15-20 knot winds, with mains and jibs flying, up the full length of the Sir Francis Drake Channel to Gorda Sound, where we picked up a mooring at the Bitter End Yacht Club / Resort on Virgin Gorda. We loved it so much there we stayed three nights, enjoying great restaurants, scuba diving, sailing on lasers, walks around the small islands and beautiful white sandy beaches. We rented cars and made a day trip to the "Baths" and enjoyed more white sandy beaches, snorkeling, and quite a hike amongst the giant boulders that make up the Baths!

We then headed on an adventurous 20+ mile sail, wing on wing for some of it, to Little

Harbor on Jost Van Dyke, where we enjoyed more dinghy exploring adventures in Great Harbor, visiting shops and the famous Foxy's while others scuba dived. We discovered the now famous "Bushwacker" frozen beverage, at Harris's Restaurant whose ingredients will surely find a way onto my boat for the summers raft-ups and cruises!

We made way back to Road Town and the Moorings Base to change crews and pick up another boat! Those of us who are staying on for week two are REALLY looking forward to yet new islands and more adventures! Catch the Week Two BVI Report in next months Blooper!

From about 2,000 miles south of WBYC,
Captain Dave Pickering

Club Cleanup May 2

The Club's annual spring cleanup will be on Saturday, May 2. Please come on down to the Club for the morning and get it shipshape for the busy season ahead. All the needed cleaning supplies will be provided, we just need a few hours of your time to make sure the facilities are ready for the season. Remember the saying that many hands make light work? We can confidently say that at WBYC many hands make work fun! You've put countless hours into getting your boat ready to launch, doesn't YOUR Club deserve the same?

Clubhouse Reminder

Please be sure to close the restroom door when you are finished using it. The new lock system will reset itself if left open too long. When the lock resets, it cannot be used until it is reprogrammed.

Activities Committee

HAPPY SPRING EVERYONE! It looks as though "OLD MAN WINTER" has left us for yet another year. He sure was a busy guy, wasn't he? The Spring social calendar is proving to be a very busy one. On March 29th, we had our 3rd Annual Wine Tasting. Many thanks to GeorgeAnn for making this event a success. Thank you, Nathan, for setting up the Club, also. We had great music, great wine, and great conversations. Mark "the Wine Guy" of People's Liquor Warehouse in Apponaug shared his knowledge of different wines with us. People's donated a gift basket which was won by a guest of Scott and Marie Zaminer. Lucky Doreen!

1ST ANNUAL ITALIAN NIGHT Our 1st Annual Italian Night was held on Saturday, April 18th. Actually, after peeking in the "archives", Gene and Mary Briggs hosted one over 20 years ago!! Does anyone remember that far back? We served approximately 30 hungry guests a terrific Chicken Parmesan Dinner with all the fixin's. The only complaint we had was that everyone ate too much. Oh, well!

Many, many thanks to the cracker-jack crew we had—from poster creation to clean up--- We really couldn't have done it without you.

Be sure to include this event on your busy social calendar for next year!

Our annual MAY BREAKFAST is coming up in a few short days. We've lost count as to just how many we've had! But the early morning kitchen crew will be ready for you on:

DATE: SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2009
TIME: 8AM – 12PM (or so)
COST: \$7/ADULTS
\$4/KIDS
KIDS UNDER 6 – FREE

ON THE MENU:

The usual breakfast fare (scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, homefries)
Belgian Waffles (strawberries and whipped cream) made to order
Omelets (Michele's specialty) – Also made to order
Baked Goodies
Coffee, tea, juice

So join us for breakfast and then spend the rest of the day working on your boat! Sailing season is fast approaching!

ON THE SMILE LINE -- Congratulations to Chris and Jackie Hoell on the arrival of their new baby boy. We can't wait to meet him!

If you have any news you would like recognized on the smile line (cards of get well, birthday, condolences, or whatever you think is appropriate for the membership), let us know. We'll be happy to take care of it.

As always, we are looking for help. Don't be shy. Give one of us a call.

Jo-Ann, Phyllis, and Michele

Welcome New Members!

Chris & Lillian Chapman

Leslie & Joan Harnish

Rich & Judy Caplan

Would You Like an Action Shot of Your Boat?

WBYC wants to showcase our members' boats on our "Wall of Fame". You may have already seen the samples we've already put on our wall. We will be setting up picture-taking sessions on the Bay. This is a great opportunity for you to get professional pictures taken of your boat at a very affordable price and display it in our Club

for a membership year. If you have raced in a WBYC event within the last few years there is a good chance we already have a picture. Call us if you are interested. We are taking orders now!

Our guidelines are simple:

- Pictures are to be “boats in action” (it is not about the crews).
- You are renting a spot on the “Wall of Fame” for a membership year.
- Club will print and frame all pictures.
- Price is \$25 (including our taking a picture of your boat).
- Free summer picture-taking sessions on Greenwich Bay will be scheduled.
- Proceeds to be used for House Capital Fund.

Wall of Fame Committee Members

- Dave Pickering
- Jake Portnoy
- Charley Roman
- Nathan Shapiro
- Tom Stocker

Leukemia Cup Regatta

The Leukemia Cup Regatta is being held Friday and Saturday, June 5th and 6th, at New York Yacht Club in Newport. The legendary Gary Jobson (a lymphoma survivor) chairs the Leukemia Cup Regatta. Proceeds raised from the Regatta will help The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society cure leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma. Last year, the Rhode Island Chapter of the LLS raised more than \$224,000 at this event. This is a wonderful opportunity to have a fantastic time racing while serving a greater good.

For more information about both events visit

http://www.leukemia-lymphoma.org/regatta/hm_reg or contact Bill Koconis or Joyce Pastore at the

Leukemia and Lymphoma Society at 401-943-8888 or online at bill.koconis@lls.org

Race Committee

Ahoy Skippers and Crews alike! It's your Race Committee Chair with updates and information for your reading pleasure. I'd like to, once again, thank the following



individuals who took the time to attend the *second* Racing Advisory Committee meeting Monday night March 30th: Paul Finstein, Ken

Thorsen, Jake Portnoy, Tom Stocker, Matt Aube, Paul Derrig, Sandy Grima, Dean Travis, Rob Chappelle and Raleigh Jenkins. Thanks also to Jack Durr and Dave McGhie for participating via phone calls & e-mails. The following *new* resolutions were incorporated into the upcoming racing program:

1. The Committee would like to acknowledge and extend our appreciation to both Jack Durr (*Cricket*) and Dave McGhie (*Wahtawha*) for donating inflatable marks and associated rode and anchors to the racing program.
2. *Kudos* to Matt Aube (*Velocity*) for revising & modifying several Long Distance courses in the Racing Booklet to reflect more moderate distances of 8 and 14 miles. It was agreed at the meeting to leave approximately 50% of the existing courses in place and revise the balance.
3. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed to award at the après-race social following all Saturday LD races and the Friday night F³ Series *daily trophies!* Top three racers in each Class will be recognized with a trophy. Awards presented will be Event and Class specific (i.e.,

NEWPORT STORM, CLASS A - 1st PLACE, etc).

4. Three *Huzzahs* are extended to Tom Stocker (*mojo*) for revising Article XXIV of the Racing Booklet to read as follows:

Prizes per class will be awarded as follows: All series, races and classes will award a first, second and third place, regardless of how many boats register for a particular series or race. To receive a first, second or third place award, a boat must *qualify* in accordance with the qualification requirement for that event or series as determined by the Racing Committee (examples to follow): In order to qualify for a *Summer Series award*, a registered boat must sail and complete 9 of 12 races in the Summer Series to qualify for an award. If only three boats *qualify* in a Class for the Summer Series, first, second and third place awards will be recognized, etc. For a *Weekend Race Award*, a boat must be registered, start and finish without disqualification in order to qualify for an award. If only three boats are registered, start and finish without disqualification in a particular class, first, second and third place awards shall be recognized, etc.

Last, but not least, our next meeting is scheduled for Monday night April 13th at 7PM. Feel free to give a call or send an e-mail should you have any questions or comments regarding any of these changes.

Regards,

Grant Brandon
Race Committee Chairman

KEEP A SHARP LOOKOUT

Saturday, May 2..... Club Cleanup Day
Sunday, May 3..... May Breakfast
Thursday, May 7..... Board Meeting
Friday, May 8Poker Night
Friday, May 15 Racing Skipper's Meeting
Sunday, May 17.....Tune-Up Regatta
Friday, May 22 Game Night
Sat, May 22-Mon, May 24..... Memorial Day Cruise

*Find an up-to-the-minute calendar on our website
<http://www.westbayyc.org>*

2009 Board of Governors

CommodoreGreg Fornal
Vice Commodore..... Tom Stocker
Rear Commodore..... Jay Eshleman
Past Commodore..... George Ann Redden
Secretary Phyllis Geisser
Treasurer..... Jo-Ann Grima
Parliamentarian..... Marcie Feldmann
Members at Large..... Joe Landi
.....Chris Pegge
..... Nathan Shapiro

2009 Committee Chairs

Activities.....Phyllis Geisser, Jo-Ann Grima, Michele Lilly
Cruising Carol Ann Getter
Education..... H. Peirce Brawner
House Mark Kane
Membership..... Alicia Eshleman
Publicity..... Will Richmond
Bloopers TBD
Racing..... Grant Brandon
Website Peter Lussier

FOR SALE

Note: Submit new and renewal ads to willrichmond@gmail.com. Ads will run for three months. (Expiration date on end of each ad). Please limit ad to 75 words or less.

8'-8" Baltic Inflatable Dinghy with plywood floor. Includes oars, air pump, patch kit, carrying duffel, and seat. Capacity 3 adults. Good condition. Includes 5hp Nissan 2-stroke outboard (outboard needs work) Selling for \$800. Contact Will Richmond at willrichmond@gmail.com for info or pictures. 7/09.



Above Left, Peirce Brawner displays the graduation cake for the Children's Education Series put on by the Club; Above Right, A lighter moment from the Children's Education Series



Above, fun moments from the Club's recent "That's Italian" Night



Above Right, the West Bay Burgee flies proudly over the Caribbean Sea; Above Left, a BVI sunset



Contact Will Richmond to request electronic delivery of the Blooper and most other West Bay Yacht Club correspondence.
willrichmond@gmail.com
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<http://www.westbayyc.org>

VERY important links to your Club website.
Need to get in touch with a Club Officer or Committee Chair?
www.westbayyc.org/officers.htm
The latest Club Cruising, Racing and Social calendar is always at your fingertips electronically:
www.westbayyc.org/calendar.htm