

# Blooper

**The Friendliest Little Yacht Club on the Bay!**

PO Box 1604, East Greenwich, RI 02818 401-885-4414 [www.westbayyc.org](http://www.westbayyc.org)

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## Commodore's Message

Can someone please turn the Air Conditioning on!! Wow!! The heat and humidity has wasted no time in reminding



us about August in Rhode Island. It is hard to believe that it is August and summer is coming to a close. For us racers, summer series ends and you have a quick month of racing in the fall and then it's already time to put the boat to bed for the winter. Wow time has really flown by!!

Last month I discussed what the Board was working on and spoke about strategic planning. After the Blooper went out a few members approached me to discuss strategic planning. I was happy to hear that they fully supported the direction the club was moving in. That got me thinking about the phrase I always end every blooper article with "Don't forget this is your club. Get Involved!!"

What does this tag line really mean? In my mind two types of yacht clubs exist. Yacht Club A is a smaller club, but has a growing membership. The club has a clubhouse and

most members keep their boats in the local area. The club doesn't own a marina or docks; and they don't have a restaurant or professional staff running the club year round. The club is completely run by volunteers from the membership.

Then there is Yacht Club B. It has a medium to large membership base. The membership consists of people from all around the world. Some members have never been to the club, but want to be a member. The club offers full marina services and slips to its members. They have a pool, a restaurant and bar. A professional staff runs the club year round. The board and committee of Yacht Club B is made up of volunteers from the membership.

In my example above one common theme is expressed. Even though both clubs are different, both clubs' boards and committees are run by volunteers from the membership. Both clubs are dependant on their members volunteering to make the club the best it can be. We expect the same at West Bay Yacht Club. We need your talents.

We have an extremely talented membership who volunteer countless hours every year. Many do it without even thinking twice. Some examples that stand out in my mind are:

The back room – Mark Kane and Stew Stewart really stepped up and led the construction of the back room to be a functional space for the club to use. The room looks as if it was always there. Many other people were involved in the project, but I was very impressed with the leadership that Mark and Stew took during that project.

It doesn't have to be a large project like the back room for you to get involved and lead. Marcy Feldmann every year plants and maintains the garden in front of the club. She makes sure that the flowers stay watered and weeded every week as if it was her own garden.

I cite these two examples because it's very easy to look around and see things running smoothly when in fact there is much to be done. Next time you're at the Club, ask around how you can make the Club yours by getting involved. Whatever your interest or talent, there is likely a committee that could use a hand.

The flip side of the phrase is the reason we all joined in the first place. West Bay Yacht Club has so much to offer. Between racing, cruising, and social activities, there are dozens of ways to get involved.

So, in consideration of what I've said, remember: It's your Club – Get involved!

Greg Fornal  
Commodore

### *Education Committee*

Fall is near with an expected easing of our busy summer cruising and racing schedules. We want to fill some of that time for you with our Man (Crew) Overboard recovery demonstrations.

The plan is to demonstrate ways to return to the MOB/COB (under power and under sail) and to get him/her attached to the boat. The MOB/COB will be a dummy or some floating, inanimate object (for safety considerations).

Next will be demonstrations of methods for recovering the COB from a position alongside to the deck of the boat. These exercises will be conducted with real people - at a pier or at anchor (again for reasons of safety). For shorthanded crews, getting the person back aboard is often the most difficult part if conditions are too rough to use a stern ladder or if the person is incapacitated.

The program will be on a Saturday morning (date to be announced; watch the onelist) and will be preceded by a discussion/orientation meeting in the clubhouse.

Peirce Brawner  
Education Chair

### *Cruising Committee*

It's hard to believe the season is drawing to an end, especially for those Members who have school-aged children. Don't despair, though! There are still several cruising events scheduled right into October!



WBYC Members logged many miles during the two-week Summer Cruise this year! Grant and Jennifer Brandon deserve our many thanks for organizing the cruise, and being the Cruise Captains for the first week (July 25- August 1st). Grant

laid out an ambitious itinerary for the trip down to Fisher's Island, with lots of fun stops along the way. Does he ever slow down, Jennifer?

Dave and Leanne Pickering were Cruise Captains for the second week, venturing out to Cuttyhunk and the Elizabeth Islands. Read on for the full report.

Thank you all, whether you were able to join the cruise for just a limited time, or able to be there for the whole adventure! Your participation is appreciated, and will be remembered fondly in the long winter months to come!

Upcoming events include: The Labor Day Cruise with Bill and Michelle Lilly; the Conanicut Cruise with Michael and Dawn LaRobardier; and finally, the Columbus Day Cruise with Sandy and Jo-Ann Grima as Cruise Captains. Don't forget to bring along your clam rake on the Labor Day Cruise!

Of course, our legendary Full Moon Raft-ups continue at Goddard Park. The next Raft-Up is scheduled for Friday, September 4th. Folks have been showing up a little later than 7:00, so you might want to plan your hors d'oeuvres accordingly.

September is a beautiful boating month, and the October air has a welcoming coolness that makes a day on the water especially nice. Why not get together with other members at these events and share the good times while we still can? Details for each scheduled event gets posted on the message board, or feel free to contact the Cruise Captains or yours truly, regarding any questions or suggestions!

Fair winds and gentle seas,  
Carol Ann Getter  
Cruise Committee

## WBYC's Week One Cruise – A late start, but a great time!

Belated greetings from Block Island. The planned cruise to Fishers Sound (Stonington, Fishers Island and Watch Hill) never materialized due to a heavier than expected work schedule during the last week of July throwing a monkey wrench into the best of plans. That said, one brave soul Steve Kapitany followed the agenda from Dutch Island to Pt Judith only to find he was marooned in Pt Jude for several days due to pea-soup fog. His attempts to navigate to Stonington were futile as a heavy weather inversion kept visibility to 100 feet or less making the voyage impossible. Jenny and I kept in touch with Steve



throughout the week and agreed to meet in Block Friday afternoon for an extended weekend. As all this “drama” was unfolding, back in East Greenwich, Dave Pickering was stopped in his tracks as he encountered engine problems delaying his scheduled departure until late Saturday afternoon. Others who also planned to join us that week were not able to so, leaving us down to a motley crew of Steve, Dave, Jenny and myself as we planned for an “epic” reunion in Block Saturday night. Believe it or not lady luck was with us as we motored off our mooring in East Greenwich Thursday night at 8PM. Arriving at Dutch at or about 10PM snagged an available mooring in the bright moonlit harbor and relaxed a little before fading away to the gentle splash of the waves on our bow. Both Jenny and I were up by 6AM and motor-sailed to Pt. Jude only to find by 9AM we had arrived at 1BI with a favorable breeze allowing us to sail on a close reach to the Great Salt Pond. By 10:30AM “the eagle had arrived” and secured a mooring in the “Pond”. That afternoon (Friday) we rendezvoused with Steve and later met for a

delicious dinner at The Finn reminiscing about our past and present lives as a gentle rain brought cool breezes to the upper deck. By Saturday afternoon the weather significantly improved with Dave (still in East Greenwich) promising to join us for dinner at Aldo's at 7PM. By 5PM it was unclear he was going to make it on time so we changed our reservations to 8PM. Jenny, Steve and I arrived at Aldo's at the appointed hour and proceeded to have a seafood feast, cell phones at hand, awaiting Mr. Pickering's call. The call arrived at 8:30PM informing us he had arrived on Steve's mooring and will be along shortly. We continued to feast and by 9:30PM Dave joined us for a late bite with terrific tales of sea monsters, lions and bear which was followed by great laughter. Sunday morning arrived all too soon and by 11:30AM we left Block headed back to East Greenwich arriving at 4PM. By 6PM we were back home greeted by our yellow lab Kimba reminding us that our adventures at sea may always be short lived, but oh how much fun it is to get away from time to time and how we look forward to doing it all over again!

Grant & Jenny Brandon

### **WBYC's Week Two Cruise - The BEST Weather of the Summer Yet!**

This year's Week Two Cruise met up with cruisers finishing the Week One Cruise at Block Island and included a celebratory dinner at Aldo's on Block Island! The food and ice cream there is amazing! The early morning brought heavy fog, however it lifted quickly as Week One Cruisers left for home ports and Week Two Cruisers got underway to Cuttyhunk. The winds were light and some had to power part of the way, but the seas were calm and the view was spectacular. As in past years, aboard Spray traveling at about 22 knots, I was able to get there early and secure a few remaining outside moorings for two of the

later arriving sailing cruisers. (powerboats DO have their advantages... :) After hiking around the island, we enjoyed the sunset, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. The peace and tranquility of Cuttyhunk is just what the soul needs to kick back, relax and take time to drink it all in....

In the morning, we made way for Nantucket, with good winds and tides ahead. All of the sailors made good way and got into Nantucket taking reserved moorings in the harbor. Unfortunately, I had a starboard motor fuel pump fail and was kindly assisted by Boat US to go on one engine to FL Tripp Marina in Westport, MA across from Cuttyhunk. It's a beautiful anchorage and marina with great seafood restaurants right on the beautiful 5 mile Horseneck Beach. Luckily they had the part and I was underway



with Leann, Gracie and Ellie the next morning to join the others on Nantucket! It was bustling with

lots of activity and the most beautiful long and totally empty beaches you can imagine... One can walk for miles and miles and see nothing but deserted beach and sand dunes with no sign that man has ever been on the planet! They are amazing!

After three fantastic days on Nantucket, we headed back to Cuttyhunk with a few cruisers spending one night in Tarpaulin Cove on Naushon Island (part of the Elizabeth Islands). It has an exceptionally beautiful beach for swimming, anchorage and lobster clam bake on nearly totally deserted island! A definite stop for next year's cruise!

All the moorings were full at Cuttyhunk that evening so we anchored outside. After watching about 8 sailboats leaving at sunrise - Leann and I headed into the harbor and

picked up one of the open moorings as did others. Another great day of hiking and swimming was enjoyed by all while I took our dinghy over to a "secret cove" and dug some of the largest and best tasting steamers we have had in a long time! Yet another sunny day met at dawn on our last day as we all enjoyed the fresh morning air and hot coffee! Soon after we were all making way for our home ports having enjoyed clearly the best sunny week of weather of the summer!

Never been to Cuttyhunk? Didn't make it this year yet? Join us this Labor Day weekend as Bill and Michelle Lilly lead WBYC's Cruise to Cuttyhunk! Sea you there!

Capt. Dave Pickering

### **Ice Cream Social**

The WBYC Ice Cream Social was held on Saturday, August 1st. The weather was perfect, even if the wind was quite light. Potters Cove was a busy place! Yours Truly forgot the Harbor Burgee, so we raised the standard burgee and anchored near the entrance of the cove in the hope that it could be seen a little easier in that location.

Ah, but the trade-off was suffering the wakes of every passing vessel, and it was a continuous parade of vessels! We were joined by Jo-Ann and Sandy Grima aboard *Alchemy*, and the Areys and their guest aboard the *Lynda Sofia*. Kevin and Laurie Lockwood and their sons anchored close by a little while later, on *Slieve Mish*. A multitude of goodies were put out, but before we could start constructing ice cream delights, the Areys had to get underway. Just a few moments later, along came a huge wake that broke Juggler's ground hold. Let it be known: that crew from *Alchemy* can really move fast when they have the right incentive! We were happy our keel is only

3'10", as it bought us the time needed to get underway without having to suffer the additional indignity of going aground!

Before the crews were able to don their cutlasses, adjust their eye patches, and get into full mutiny mode, this Cruise Captain pre-empted the threat by throwing a half-gallon of ice cream at them. The distraction allowed us to slip out of the cove, almost unnoticed, and completely unscathed! Phew! A close call, but we all survived to tell the story!

There are two morals to this tale: #1, always do the math! Don't cheat on the rode you pay out; give it a *minimum* of a 7:1 ratio, and remember, a lot of wake activity is the same as experiencing rough weather to your anchor! So, when in doubt, pay more out! #2; a large quantity of ice cream needs to be completely surrounded in dry ice, not just laid on top of it, as the top layer of boxes will start to get soft, especially if left in the cooler for fourteen hours, or more.

As much fun as it was, and as pleasant and understanding as our rafters were, the next Ice Cream Social will be better if served in the clubhouse! But, don't let that stop you from taking a half-gallon or two out with you one of these fine summer days! Put it in a plastic bag to keep the cardboard from getting wet, completely covered in ice, or better yet, dry ice. You'll love it!

Fair winds, and gentle seas,  
Carol Ann Getter  
Skip Williamson  
S/V Juggler

### **WBYC Labor Day Cruise to Cuttyhunk**

After Labor Day, Cuttyhunk quickly begins closing up for winter, so this is the last chance to enjoy the island's high-season charm and still have some chance

of finding services available. Services are often uncertain at best, so it's a good idea to bring everything you'll need with you ... food, water, booze, fuel, dingy, an empty holding tank, and maybe a few sticks of firewood for our beachside bonfire.

In past years, we've always found at least a few outside moorings still unoccupied when arriving by late afternoon on Saturday before Labor Day. Last year, moorings were \$40 per night (per boat, even if rafted) inside or outside the pond. Moorings are on a first-come first-served basis. In the event there is no mooring or raft-up available (or seas are calm and you don't want to pay the mooring fees), there are three anchorage areas.

Plan A: If the weather looks good and sea-state reasonable: The tides this year will be somewhat out of sync for best daylight transit on Saturday, so we plan to spend Friday night at Dutch Harbor, then leave around 8:45 am Saturday (9/5), on the turn of the tide, so we should arrive in Cuttyhunk by early-mid afternoon. We will be monitoring VHF channel 72. The outbound route from Dutch Harbor is south via the West Passage, turning southeasterly and clearing the Beavertail Red-Green buoy, then steering easterly to clear R2 off Breton Reef, and continuing easterly making for R2 at the mouth of Buzzards Bay. Keep a sharp lookout for fish traps that might still be in place offshore, west of the Sakonnet. From R2 (Buzzards Bay), steer for the southern tip of Peneske Island (RGN buoy "Middle Ground"), then turn more southerly, leaving all red buoys in the Cuttyhunk approach channel to starboard. For the return trip on Monday (9/7) tides will be more ideal. Leaving Cuttyhunk around noon should see everyone get a nice tidal push up

Narragansett Bay and home before sunset.

Plan B: Check the weather forecast during the week beforehand. If stormy or forecasted coastal seas are greater than 3-5 feet, we may stay at Dutch or take moorings at Conanicut Marina on the Newport side of Jamestown (launch service included) Saturday and/or Sunday nights if enough are available there. Advance reservations are highly recommended. The contact info is: Conanicut Marina Dockmaster, 401-423-7157 (VHF 71). This may also be the preferred plan if building coastal seas are forecast for Sunday and Monday.

If you plan to join us, or have any questions or suggestions, please call me at home (Sun, Tues, Wed, or Thurs evenings are best) at 401-398-2621, email to [willy@spsy.com](mailto:willy@spsy.com) or to OneList, or catch me at the Club Monday nights after racing.

Bill & Michele Lilly, "Mighty Moose"  
Cruise Captains

## *Activities Committee*

It appears that summer has finally arrived! Too bad the calendar shows that fall is right around the corner! Hopefully, you're all enjoying the season. We already started working on the rest of the activity calendar. Be sure to keep the following dates in mind:

- Friday, 10/16 – The Annual Meeting
- Saturday, 10/24 – The Annual Halloween Bash
- Saturday, 11/21 – The Annual Awards and Appreciation Banquet
- Saturday, 12/5 - The Holiday Party and Yankee Swap

The monthly Poker Night and Game Nights continue to be held on the second and fourth Friday of the month.

If you have an idea for an activity or want to help out, don't be shy, give us a call.

See you at the club,  
Jo-Ann, Phyllis and Michele

## *Race Committee*

Three *Huzzah's* to all *Skippers* and *Crews* for participating in this years' Summer Series. As in past years, competitors were offered the choice of racing in either the Outer Circle or the Inner Circle based on each boats individual PHRF rating. Total participation in both circles totaled twenty-eight boats with two Classes [S1 & Class A] in the Outer Circle and three Classes [S2, Class B & C] in the Inner Circle. And although not all competitors can be listed as award winners in their respective classes each *racer* raced hard throughout the season and won the hearts and minds of the race committee and fellow competitors. Line honors for each class in the 2009 Summer Series are extended to the following Skippers:



### Spinnaker 1

- 1<sup>st</sup> in Class – Charlie Kineke [Thunder]
- 2<sup>nd</sup> in Class – Matt Aubee [Velocity]
- 3<sup>rd</sup> in Class – Scott Damm [Hermosa]

### Class A

- 1<sup>st</sup> in Class – Nathan Titcomb [Morsmordre]
- 2<sup>nd</sup> in Class – Bruce Babcock [Frequent Flyer]
- 3<sup>rd</sup> in Class – Norman Lambert [Stormin Norman]

### Spinnaker 2

- 1<sup>st</sup> in Class – Carl Baer [Profasea]
- 2<sup>nd</sup> in Class – Paul Derrig [Parley]
- 3<sup>rd</sup> in Class – Jeff Sharkey [Magic Carpet]

### Class B

- 1<sup>st</sup> in Class – Mike Therrien [Schedule 80]
- 2<sup>nd</sup> in Class – Tom Assad [Lagniappe]
- 3<sup>rd</sup> in Class – Ken Thorsen [Thora]

### Class C

- 1<sup>st</sup> in Class – Dave McGhie [Wahtawah]
- 2<sup>nd</sup> in Class – Nelson Brinckerhoff [Serenity Now!]
- 3<sup>rd</sup> in Class – Mike Hackett [Teddy's Tub Toy]

Once again, congratulations to all the above *winner's* whom have also qualified to participate in NBYA's Champion of Champion Regatta on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Last but not least, the Fall Series will start on Monday August 31<sup>st</sup> and concludes on September 30<sup>th</sup> [Wednesday]. Join us as it is always an exciting series offering challenges not typically experienced during the Summer Series from EGYC & AHYC racers and Mother Nature just to name a few!

Sail fast & safe,

Grant Brandon  
Race Committee Chair

## **KEEP A SHARP LOOKOUT**

- Thursday, September 3 ..... Board Meeting
- Friday, September 4..... Goddard Moonlight Raft-Up
- Sat-Monday, September 5-7 ...Labor Day Weekend Cruise
- Friday, September 11 .....Poker Night
- Sunday, Sept 13 .....AHYC Dickerson Memorial Regatta
- Sunday, September 20 ..... Swanson Cup/Bay Challenge
- Friday, September 25..... Game Night
- Sat/Sun, September 26 &27..... Conanicut Cruise
- Monday, September 28..... NO Fall Series Race
- Wednesday, September 30..... Final Fall Series Race

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

## **2009 Board of Governors**

- Commodore .....Greg 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 & Blooper..... Will Richmond  
 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.*

**1997 Catalina 250 25 ft. wing keel sloop**, excellent condition, perfect for cruising or racing. 8.5' beam, 3.5' draft, 8 HP outboard with elec. start; 2 yr old roller furling genoa, self tailing winches, compass, depth, VHF, 2 Danforth anchors, fenders & dock lines, PFDs, seat pads, swim ladder; Cockpit seats 6 adults; cabin has double berths fore and aft, galley with sink, LP gas stove, and fresh water system, removable ice chest, ample storage, and enclosed flushable head. \$13,500. Call Dave Reid at 401-885-0972 (home) or 401-316-0430 (cell). 11/09.



*Obadiah and Thora starting the recent Fantastic Plastic Regatta*



*Raleigh Jenkins starting another race ...or is he duck hunting?*



*Dean Travis working on the Race Committee Boat*



*Showing off the latest in fender technology...*





Grant and Jennifer Brandon departing the Great Salt Pond on *Estesea*



Tarpaulin Cove, Naushon Island



*Thunder* charging to the finish in the Fantastic Plastic Regatta



Morning fog, Block Island

Many thanks to our contributing photographers, Dave Pickering and Elizabeth Richmond



Another beautiful Cuttyhunk sunset. Be sure to catch another one on the Labor Day Weekend Cruise!



*Contact Will Richmond to request electronic delivery of the Blooper and most other West Bay Yacht Club correspondence.*

[willrichmond@gmail.com](mailto:willrichmond@gmail.com)

*Electronic Blooper delivered 8-27-09*

PO Box 1604  
East Greenwich, RI 02818  
<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](http://www.westbayyc.org/officers.htm)

The latest Club Cruising, Racing and Social calendar is  
always at your fingertips electronically:

[www.westbayyc.org/calendar.htm](http://www.westbayyc.org/calendar.htm)