

Blooper

The Friendliest Little Yacht Club on the Bay!

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November 2009

Commodore's Message

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Annual Meeting on October 16th, 2009. The format was a little different then before, but I think everyone enjoyed themselves, especially with all my Freudian slips!



Of course I can't forget the election on new officers. The slate of new officers (Tom Stocker – Commodore, Jay Eshleman – Vice Commodore and Will Richmond – Rear Commodore) was approved by the membership. Congratulations everyone! I do have to thank the George Ann and the Nominating Committee for all their hard work. The Club is in great hands for 2010.

We presented the current strategic plan [article follows] for the Club along with a 2010 budget. The Board and I felt it was important to present these to the membership. We have been working hard all year on creating a formalized budget for 2010 along with a way to track expenses going forward. As stated by our Treasurer (Jo-Ann) the club is in good financial

condition. Last year at the annual meeting she was nervous about the rest of the year, but this year Jo-Ann feels much better.

The strategic plan was discussed and presented to the membership. The five goals presented were read by a member during the meeting and a high level explanation was given by the board. Each committee member has been tasked with creating two tactical goals that are related to one of the five strategic goals. Speaking about committees, we have two openings for committee chairs in 2010. We need a Cruising Committee chair since Carol Ann has decided not to continue in this role. Our Publicity chair is also open due to Will moving on to Rear Commodore. We tried to talk Will into doing both, but as you can tell we were unsuccessful.

Greg Fornal
Commodore

WBYC Adopts Strategic Plan

During our recent Annual Meeting, Commodore Greg Fornal unveiled the Club's new Strategic Plan. As he explained, strategic plans are a "best practice" widely used by the best organizations in the world. Their purpose is to have common goals the

whole organization strives to achieve. They are generally intermediate to long-term objectives and are the step-off point for the current and following year's tactical/execution plans. This plan was adopted by the Board as a continuous improvement initiative to bring our Club to the next level.

The themes of our strategies revolve around membership retention, member participation and experience, and be true to our tagline, "the friendliest little club on the Bay".

Five key objectives were ratified by the Board during the June BOG meeting as our initial Strategic Plan.

1. *Reduce our current membership turnover ratio from 10% to 9% and increase overall membership levels by 2% per year.*
2. *Increase our historical conversion rate of first-year members into long-term members from our current rate to 95%.*
3. *Rebuild a family orientation while simultaneously maintaining successful adult events and programs.*
4. *Continue to build interest in active new leadership and participation in the strong programs we already have.*
5. *Ensure our tagline "Friendliest Little Club on the Bay" remains true while providing differentiation for our members.*

You can find a copy of our Strategic Plan with details on each objective posted on the Club website and on the bulletin board in the Clubhouse.

This Strategic Plan will be reviewed and adjusted annually prior to the Annual Meeting. Any suggestions comments or

adjustments should be communicated to the members-at-large or other BOG members.

Tom Stocker
Vice Commodore

Education Committee

What could be more realistic for MOB drills than a rainy, cold nor'easter blowing 20 to 25 knots and higher in gusts? The hardy participants on Oct 18th all seemed to have had a good time. Everybody, including the demonstrators, learned a few vital trial and error lessons which solidified in our minds the absolute necessity for developing a plan and proving its practicality before the real thing happens. That would be no time for on the job training. We learned that a plan that has not been proven by practice is no plan at all.

The really big lesson was to practice, practice, and practice on your own boat with your own gear. When you do, you will find the need for modifying your untested approaches to this vital subject – whether it be discovering the need for a new piece of equipment, discovering what will really work to return to and recover a person back aboard or discovering the arrangement and leads of various recovery lines so that they work as planned. Then think (and prove) how this will all work if you generally sail with only two people aboard.

The flavor of the day was captured through the excellent pictures taken by Jenny Brandon. Captains Grant Brandon and Dave Pickering contributed hugely to the learning experience. Volunteer swimmer Will Richmond, on that cold and blustery day, showed us what "hardy" really is.

The day was made more pleasant by Dave Pickering's kindness in providing hot coffee and muffins in the morning and pizza for

lunch. Here we ended with a critique and Lessons Learned.

Suggestions were made that we try to repeat this program next year.

Peirce Brawner
Education Chair

Activities Committee

Be sure to attend the Club's upcoming Annual Banquet on Saturday, November 21 at Nino's on Lake Tigue in Coventry. Cocktail hour starts at 6pm and dinner at 7. Please RSVP before November 8th.

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

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee will be working on some exciting projects through the end of the year and into next year; including rewriting our brochure to be given out to prospective members, budget setting, and strategic planning for future membership offerings. If this is up your alley and you'd like to share your ideas, we are looking to add 2-3 individuals to our already creative crew. Please contact me with your indications of interest and/or any questions you may have regarding this role. This has minimal time requirements and is pertinent to the success of our club. This is a perfect way to help the membership grow with new ideas.

Please be on the lookout for communication regarding the Tiered Membership which will be included as an insert for this year's yearbook and in the December Blooper.

Alicia Eshleman

Cruising Committee

WBYC Labor Day Cruise Report

What a weekend, with great weather for the most part! After a very comfortable passage over flat seas on a gorgeous day, *Alchemy*, *Executive Decision*, *Festival*, *Mighty Moose*, *Sevenoaks*, and *Spray* converged on Cuttyhunk Saturday afternoon to mostly find that the inside moorings were already fully occupied. Only *Alchemy* arrived early enough to get lucky and moor in the pond. Activities for the weekend were quite laid back. The nameless duo did their annual clam hunt on Saturday's afternoon low tide, but only six steamers were found and extracted from the mud, then the dingy motor became useless (fortunately just upon their return). After midnight Saturday, a fair weather gale blew in from the northeast, kicking up the chop in the outside harbor. Then there was much excitement around 2:30 am when a 50' sailboat dragging anchor through the mooring field bore down on and became entangled with *Executive Decision*, who had to temporarily & unhappily drop their mooring to avoid major damage. The 50' boat was backing down into the wind, but continued sliding forward, across my bow and colliding with a sailboat on the next mooring to my portside. The dragger eventually managed to back out of the mooring field, hauling anchor and disappearing into the night ... and no one was able to get the boat's name. Morning light saw another outside sailboat lying alongside the beach, having chafed its mooring line. More of the same had occurred in the inside harbor as well, where the anchorage holding ground is always dicey in a blow.

As the morning wore on and the wind died down somewhat, *Spray* was able to find an inside mooring, so we all moved and rafted in the pond. Lunch ashore at Bart's Cart turned out to be the main group activity of

the day, since the stiff breeze put the kybush on our planned evening shoreside campfire. We ended up sharing boat drinks, a movie (with JiffyPop), and leisurely dinner onboard instead.

Sleeping-in late after an uneventful Sunday night, Monday morning relentlessly arrived and our fellow cruisers began peeling off and heading for home. Another beautiful day for traveling, even if a bit too light on breeze for the sailors.

Bill Lilly
Cruise Captain

Yearbook Advertising Opportunities

Advertise your business, your love for your children, your appreciation to the race committee, your crew, your skipper or anything else within the bounds of good taste – for all the Club to see! Dean Travis (travistechnologies@yahoo.com) and Raleigh Jenkins (raleigh52@verizon.net) have graciously agreed to help sell advertising space in the 2009 yearbook. Please consider helping make this publication self-supporting – ad rates are very reasonable and opportunities exist for everything from full-page placements down to one line mentions. Get in touch with Dean or Raleigh soon – time is running out!

Race Committee

Three *Huzzah's* to all *Skippers* and *Crews* for participating in this years' Fall Series. Total participation in the big circle totaled twenty-four boats containing two Spin and three Non-Spin Classes. Although all competitors will be listed in the 2009 Yearbook in their respective classes each *racer* raced hard throughout the four race series and won



the hearts and minds of the race committee and fellow competitors. Line honors for each Class in the 2009 Fall Series are extended to the following Skippers:

Spinnaker 1

1st in Class – Vinnie McAteer, *Divided Sky*
2nd in Class – Nathan Titcomb, *Morsmordre*
3rd in Class – Peter Allstrom, *Anser*

Class A

1st in Class – Mike Therrien, *Schedule 80*
2nd in Class – Tom D'Albora, *Coconut*
3rd in Class – Chris Hoell, *Spitfire*

Spinnaker 2

1st in Class – Dave McGhie, *Wahtawah*
2nd in Class – Paul Derrig, *Parley*
3rd in Class – Jack Colby, *Pickle Dish*

Class B

1st in Class – Ken Thorsen, *Thora*
2nd in Class – Jeff Sharkey, *Magic Carpet*
3rd in Class – Ray Perrotta, *Obadiah*

Class C

1st in Class – Nelson Brinckerhoff, *Serenity Now!*
2nd in Class – Mike Hackett, *Teddy's Tub Toy*
3rd in Class – George Schietinger, *Tara*

I would like once again, to congratulate all racers who participated in NBYA's Champion of Champion Regatta on October 4th. WBYC was well represented by the following Racers: Bruce Babcock (*Frequent Flyer*), Ken Thorsen (*Thora*), Kerri Bamford (*Cloud Eight*), Mike Therrien (*Schedule 80*) and Dave McGhie (*Wahtawah*). And, last but not least, the Pumpkin Patch Race was held on October 17th with twelve brave souls racing 13 miles for line honors including the following Class winners:

Spinnaker 1

1st in Class – Carl Baer, *Profasea*
2nd in Class – John Lavin, *Dirty Harry*
3rd in Class – Tom D'Albora, *Coconut*

Class A

1st in Class – Mike Therrien, *Schedule 80*

2nd in Class – Tom Stocker, *Mojo*

Sea Sprite 23

1st in Class – Dave McGhie, *Wahtawah*

2nd in Class – Bob Catani, *Bramasole*

3rd in Class – Dana Mennillo, *Perseverance*

Sail fast & safe and look forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Awards Banquet on Nov. 21st.

Grant Brandon

Personal Notes

Congratulations to Jay and Alicia Eshleman on the birth of their daughter Jillian on September 25th.

Please keep Jo-Ann Grima in your thoughts and prayers as she recovers from surgery.

KEEP A SHARP LOOKOUT

- Thursday, November 5 Board Meeting (7:00 pm)
- Friday, November 13 Poker Night
- Saturday, November 21 Annual Banquet
- Friday, November 27 Game Night

*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
- EducationH. 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, 2 stern observation seats, walk-through transom with ladder; Cockpit comfortably 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 head. \$13,500. Call Dave Reid at 401-885-0972 (home) or 401-316-0430 (cell). 11/09.

Partnership Opportunity: I am looking to purchase a bigger boat, and I’d like to take on a partner to keep the costs down. The boats that are currently on my short list are the Catalina 320, Beneteau 343 and Jeanneau 35. The partnership would require a financial commitment of between \$400 and \$700 per month depending on the age of the boat purchased. If anyone is interested in a sharing agreement please call to discuss further. Mike Hackett 401-885-0026. 12/09.



Scary and friendly crews alike showed up for this year's Pumpkin Patch Regatta. *mojo's* grim foredeck crew scared competitors while *Schedule 80* sported a more welcome sight. If you'



A growing fleet of Sea Sprites allowed for a class start at this year's Pumpkin Patch



Jo-Ann Grima discusses the budget at the Annual Meeting



Michele Lilly and Jake Portnoy at the Annual Meeting



Peirce Brawner, center, leads the COB classroom lecture (left photo); Classroom theory put to the test (right photo)



Jo-Ann Grima and Jim and Sharon Ward enjoying dinner at Tavern-by-the-sea, Wickford Cruise



Late night in Wickford: Joe and Darlene Landi and Michael and Dawn LaRobardier recharge after a tough day



Taking in the great Columbus Day weekend weather during the Wickford Cruise



Tom Stocker making sure king Neptune is aware of *mojo's* new name

Special Thanks to our photographers: Jake Portnoy, Darlene Landi, Elizabeth Richmond, and Jenny Brandon



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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PO Box 1604
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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