

Blooper

The Friendliest Little Yacht Club on the Bay!

PO Box 1604, East Greenwich, RI 02818 401-885-4414 www.westbayyc.org

Volume 35 Issue 5

June 2010

Commodore's Message

I know it is spring, because I swear I can see the dandelions growing as I look out the window. Well, my boat is now in the water, the boys from Thunder have already been calling me a "weenie" for my thinking it is still a little cold out there, we can actually find parking spaces at the local marinas (just watch out for the nails) and once again, Greg Fornal has sold his boat. Yes, spring is here indeed.



I am really looking forward to our summer schedule. Peirce has succeeded in keeping our member's attention all winter long with his informative and well-attended seminars, and our wonderful activities committee of Jo-Ann, Phyllis and Michele did their part by organizing great social events.

So now we turn our attention to floating activities. As you read this, our annual winter cruise will have begun in Belize, and our first Bay cruise is set for Memorial Day Weekend at Ida Louis Yacht Club in Newport. For those not ready to go for a full weekend, our first Moonlight Raft-up at Goddard will kick off that same weekend.

Membership held our Open House on April 24th. This has always been a fun event as in prior years this is the first time some

members come to say hello after the long winter months and we are able to welcome many prospective members. I hope you were able to make it this year.

In our quest to make the clubhouse more accessible, a committee led by Matt Aubee is looking into a new entry system. As a member, you should have access whenever you want, and we encourage all members to buy keys. However, there are quite a few of you who do not and we hope this will make it easier for you. We should have this resolved by mid-summer at the latest.

On our quest to make the Clubhouse more comfortable, we are again selling spots on the wall for our "Wall of Fame". Not only does it make our club look better with action shots of our member's boats, you will have the opportunity of having an action photo of your boat to use as a screen saver or picture for your home or office. You can get this free as part of an Admiral membership or for \$25. The proceeds go to our capital fund. Call or see me for more information.

Another new program we are starting is to "buddy up" our Board members with new Club members. If you joined our Club within the last two years, expect a call from time to time. We want to make it easy for you to enjoy all the different activities, rights and events available to you as a member, and we want to get to know you. After all, you joined for a reason and we want to help.

May is right around the corner. Take a look at our Club calendar at the end of this Blooper or at the Club website. We constantly update it with new events as you, our members, come up with them. Stay tuned for a few new family events as Rear Commodore Will Richmond and his committee of families put the finishing touches on several very family-friendly events and activities. There is something for everyone. Get involved, you won't regret it.

See you at the Club!

Tom Stocker
Commodore

Vice Commodore's Message



Improving WBYC's Family Orientation

In the Club's current strategic plan, we outline as a goal, *"Rebuild a family orientation while simultaneously maintaining successful adult events and programs."* One of my goals as Rear Commodore is to make this strategic goal a reality.

Earlier this year, I contacted 14 member families who have children to assess the Club's current family orientation and to generate ideas to improve.

I found that our members who were surveyed are generally happy with the Club's family orientation but when prompted, point out their desire for more child-friendly events. Almost universally, events like the Potter's Cove Kids' Cruise, the Halloween Party and the May Breakfast are cited as good examples of family-friendly events. Outside of these specific events, we can improve by creating events with more families in attendance. This

would help build friendships and bonds between families with children so they could plan future events together.

Based on these conversations, I made recommendations to three specific committees whose activities can bring our strategic goal to life. They are:

Cruising: Mark DerMugrditchian will be working with this year's Cruise Captains to incorporate events inclusive of children, especially on the shorter-distance cruises this summer.

Racing: Grant Brandon is investigating ideas such as awards that encourage the inclusion of junior crew members. Please also keep in mind that our neighbor, the Greenwich Bay Sailing Association, has active junior instructional and race programs.

Activities: JoAnn Grima will plan a family social event early in the summer to introduce families with kids to each other. The intent is to help families self-identify; knowing the other families with compatible children makes it easier to commit to participating and is the foundation for lifelong friendships.

Keep an eye out for future announcements from these committees. You're probably wondering what you can do to help... If you're reading this and have an idea, please act on it – The more people we have involved, the better we can be!

Activities Committee

It looks like summer has arrived and the boating season has begun!.....Are you ready? Set? Let's go!

Our May Breakfast was well attended with nearly 100 people streaming in an out for yet another scrumptious meal of eggs, waffles, fruit cup, and all the fix'ins. Many tables remained full with friends conversing, and members getting reacquainted after a long

winter. Thanks go out to Stew, Nathan, Sandy Fink, Michele, Marcy, Dave Lodge, and the many others who made it such a success!

Looking ahead —

Don't forget to mark your calendars and join us on Saturday, June 12th for the New Members' Welcoming Party. Keep an eye peeled for publications from Liz and/or Alicia on this important and happy occasion.

Good and Welfare—

Congratulations to John and Carol Anthony on the recent arrival of their new baby. Health and happiness to all! (They should definitely come to the new members party!)

Personally, Sandy and I just returned from a terrific cruise to Alaska. We had an awesome time! The scenery, weather, and overall experience was just beautiful! -And we have some great photos we look forward to sharing with everyone!

See you at the Club,
Jo-Ann

As always the activities committee is looking for help. Give one of us a call with any suggestions or recommendations!

Jo-Ann (401)738-0272
Phyllis (401)219-1784
Michele (401)398-2621

Education Committee

Last month we enjoyed and were enlightened by Ron Hopkins' excellent presentation on highlights of the newest innovations in Marine Electronics. He gave a comprehensive snapshot of the choices now in the market place with comparisons of old vs. new features.

As more of our boats go into the water we will be arranging our Annual Vessel Safety Checks conducted by the United States Power Squadrons. Those members who have taken advantage of this free program are universally pleased with the interaction and find the suggestions received quite useful.

If you would like to schedule an examination prior to our officially scheduling them, please contact me and I will arrange one to fit your schedule.

Here's to a Safe boating season ahead!

Peirce Brawner
Education Chair

Membership Committee

Membership would like to thank all who participated in our successful Open House event on April 24th!

Please join us in welcoming Walt & Kelle Quist, Henry & Debbie Richard, Andrew Brousell, and James and Kelly Archer. A hearty "welcome back!" to Sheila (Barrett) & Michael McGauvran, and Michael & Anne Grudzinski.

Be on the lookout for your invitation to the New Member Social on Saturday, June 12th starting at 6:00pm. This event is being held in honor of all our new members for 2010, and gives them an opportunity to meet with all of you, our current members. I hope to see you all there!

For any member interested in obtaining a clubhouse key, please give Stew Stewart a call at 401-497-8368.

The boating season is upon us and racing will begin in just a couple short weeks. Good luck to all who will be participating, and I look forward to seeing you at some

of the “after racing” dinners.

Alicia Eshleman
Membership Chairperson

-And if you are interested in upgrading your membership, don't forget to take advantage of all these extra benefits:

Captain's Club Membership - \$145.00 (upgrade cost only \$50) • Club Key (one time) • 2 - Captain's Club License Plate Frames • A Function Certificate for two adults each year • New Burgee Each Year

Admiral's Club Membership - \$195.00 (upgrade cost only \$100) • Club Key (one time) • 2 Function Certificates (good for two adults) each year • A New Burgee Each Year (w/Admiral's star) • 2 - Admiral's Club License Plate Frames • One Free Rental of the Club.

Cruising Committee

Belize 2010 – Cruise Report



At the end of April, seven WBYC members flew to Belize to kick off the Club's cruising season in the tropics. Dave and Leann Pickering, Rich and Judy Caplan, Will and Liz Richmond, and Peirce Brawner traveled to the Moorings base in Placencia and were met by friends Greg and Monica Grimes,

who traveled from Atlanta.



Belize is situated on the Caribbean Sea and enjoys the east trade wind found at that latitude. What makes Belize a unique and wonderful cruising ground is the fact that the world's second largest barrier reef lies about 30 miles off the coast to the east, so the hundreds of small islands contained within the reef are protected from the heavier seas outside but still enjoy the consistent 15 knot trade wind. The islands are roughly laid out along a more north-south axis, allowing for long reaches under the warm tropical sun. Add great friends, wonderful food, fantastic colors and wildlife and a sturdy sailboat to this mix and you have paradise!

Our nine sailors spent a week aboard a 46 foot catamaran sampling the best of the Belizean coast. Nearly every day was greeted with a bright sunrise over a calm sea. Evenings were marked by astonishing sunsets over the mountainous spine of the Central American isthmus. Nightfall brought us impossibly dark skies with infinite stargazing opportunities. From Belize, it is possible to see the Southern Cross and with a quick turn of the head, follow the Big Dipper to find Polaris in the same sky.

Because the majority of the islands off Belize are uninhabited, we enjoyed pristine beaches and snorkeling – many times we had an entire island all to ourselves! With the deserted islands comes a need for self-sufficiency with respect to food. Few

restaurants are to be found on the islands, so the crew more than rose to the occasion with our own version of the “Iron Chef” competition each night. Each couple was responsible for planning and preparing one night’s dinner – we ate as if on a dream culinary tour. Fish tacos, pasta bolognese, grilled red snapper, and grilled marinated chicken comprised the menus. These were complemented with fresh salsas from local produce and washed down with the tropical drinks you’d expect. One of the crew (name withheld by request!) celebrated a birthday on the trip with a surprise pirate-themed party thrown by the rest of the crew. Eight traditionally-clad Caribbean pirates were shown up by a very creative and contemporary Somali-style pirate played by Peirce! Fortunately no ransoms were demanded and everyone ate cake.



The yacht was a Robertson-Caine 46 cat. She was spacious in every way, with four queen-size staterooms, five heads, and a forward single berth. Peirce braved the steep and tall ladders to his forward bunk and head every morning and evening with a smile and his usual sense of grace. The boat’s central area contained a spacious salon and roomy galley with an outside eating and gathering area at the stern.



Because the boat is a catamaran and much of the sailing is on a reach, we were able to sail faster than 8 knots many days. The boat’s relatively shallow draft was matched by the reef-protected island’s shallow water: on at least two occasions our depth sounder reported 0.1 feet of water under us – happily we never grounded. We were warned that the charts and soundings don’t carry the same accuracy we’re used to in the US, so we kept a watchful eye on depth readings and moved carefully with a bow watch in the shallower waters.



A remarkable aspect of the trip was the wildlife, both above and below the surface. At the Thatch Cay Resort, we saw some very interesting native Central American species: an agouti and a peccary, as well as iguanas. Our mammalian dolphin friends made appearances nearly every day to seemingly welcome us to join their fellow sea-dwellers below the surface. On our daily snorkeling outings, we experienced an abundance of interesting creatures: colorful starfish, barracuda, shark, remoras, sea

turtles, and all manner of colorful tropical fish. The dolphins weren't the only creatures looking to leave their watery habitat. Flying fish were common and one evening we were surprised to see shoals of little red shrimp off our stern, snapping themselves out of the water to avoid unseen predators. One afternoon, our cocktails were interrupted by the clang of something striking one of the scuba tanks lashed to the deck. We investigated and found a small fish had leapt its watery habitat into the unknown and was poorly rewarded by a collision with the tank. The poor fish lay stunned on our deck, so acting (we thought) in its best interest, Rich returned the fish to the water, only to watch it be promptly swallowed whole by whatever was chasing it. We aren't quite sure what rushed from the depths to feast on our little visitor, but we all quickly decided to take a few hours off from swimming. A more uplifting fish story came from Monica and Greg's excursion with Avadon Divers: This is the season for whale shark migration off the Belize coast and Monica and Greg were able to dive with these enormous (20 feet plus) but graceful creatures – a truly magical experience.



We're glad to have kicked off the WBYC cruising season with this successful venture. I think everyone on board wouldn't hesitate to return to Belize!

WBYC CRUISING CALENDAR 2010:

- 1) **Kid's Cruise to Potter's Cove**
June 26-27 Cruise Captains:

Bob & Julie LeBlanc

- 2) **July 4th Weekend Cruise**
July 2-5 Cruise Captains:
Nathan & Barbara Shapiro
- 3) **First Week of Summer Cruise**
July 24-Aug 1 Destination: Martha's Vineyard Cruise Captains:
Mark & Cindy DerMugrditchian
- 4) **Second Week Summer Cruise**
Aug 1-8 Destination: Buzzard's Bay
Cruise Captains:
Dave & Leann Pickering
- 5) **Victory Day Weekend Cruise**
August 7-9 Cruise Captains:
Dave & Leann Pickering
- 6) **Conanicut Island Cruise**
Aug 20-23 Cruise Captains:
Jay & Alicia Eshleman
- 7) **Labor Day Weekend Cruise**
Sept 4-6 Destination: Cuttyhunk
Cruise Captains: Bill & Michelle Lilly
- 8) **Potter's Cove Cruise**
Sept 25-26 Cruise Captains:
Dave & Gale Allen
- 9) **Columbus Day Weekend Cruise**
Oct 9-11 Destination: Wickford Cruise
Captains: Mike & Dawn LaRobardier

Raft Ups- **Friday Nights at Goddard Park from** **6:30 to 10:00PM:**

- 1) June 25th 4) September 24th
- 2) July 23rd 5) October 22nd
- 3) August 27th

Race Committee



Just a short note to remind each Skipper: Racing in any of the Summer, Fall and/or the Weekend Races requires the completion of the 2010 Race Entry and Release of Liability Form which can be downloaded from our

website at the following address:

<http://www.westbayyc.org/pdf/2010-Race-Entry-Form.pdf>.

Class splits have been [roughly] established and assigned to their respective circles.

They are as follows:

Gold Fleet [Outer Circle] – Three Classes: S1, S2 & Class A

S1> Velocity, Thunder & Thestral

S2> Cosmo, Frequent Flyer, Mojo & Stormin Norman

Class A> Spitfire, Vela Via, Mighty Moose, Obadiah & Mira

Blue Fleet [Inner Circle] – Three Classes: S3, Class B & Class C

S3> Schedule 80, Magic Carpet, Cloud Eight, Profasea, Parley & Challenge

Class B> Thora, Strange Times, Escape Plan & Liberty Belle

Class C> Serenity Now, Oh Bay Be, Tara & Snow Goose

Please welcome three new racers and their boats when you meet them at the Club or see them on the water Mira [a Hanse 320], Liberty Belle [a J-24] and Thestral [an LS-20].

Last, but not least, racing begins in earnest Monday night June 7th. The Inner Circle start time is 1815 hours [in the vicinity of Sally Rock] while the Outer Circle start time is 1825 hours [in the vicinity of Warwick Neck]. Looking forward to seeing everyone next week and if questions arise between now and then call

me on my new cell at **401.864.5049** or send an email to grant_brandon@yahoo.com.

Have a great series, sail fast and most importantly have FUN!

Grant

Keep a Sharp Lookout

Monday June 7...Summer Series Race#1 (6:15/6:25)
Friday, June 14.....Poker Night
Saturday, June 19...New Member Social (6-10 PM)
Saturday, June 19.Rainone Solo/TwinRace(12 Noon)
Friday, June 25...F3 Race #1-Host:WBYC(6:15 PM)
Friday, June 25.Game Night
Friday, June 25...Raft Up @ Goddard Park (6:30-10)
Fri-Sat, June 25-26.....Kids Cruise to Potters Cove

2010 Board of Governors

Commodore..... Tom Stocker
Vice Commodore Jay Eshleman
Rear Commodore Will Richmond
Past Commodore Greg Fornal
Secretary Phyllis Geisser
Treasurer..... Jo-Ann Grima
Parliamentarian..... Marcie Feldmann
Members at Large Bill Lilly
..... Matthew Aubee
..... Nathan Shapiro

2010 Committee Chairs

Activities..... Phyllis Geisser, Jo-Ann Grima,
..... Michele Lilly
Cruising.....Mark DerMugrditchian
Education H. Peirce Brawner
HouseStew Stewart
MembershipAlicia Eshleman
Publicity & Blooper..... Jennifer Brandon
Racing..... Grant Brandon
Website Peter Lussier

FOR SALE



1985 Merit 25 "Magic Carpet" with North 3DR sails. Comes with extra sails, 2 hp Nissan, trailer, custom main and tiller covers, all interior cushions, anchor, rode, VHF. This is an easy way to start racing this spring in a competitive boat that's set up to race. Selling for \$5,600. Call Jeff at 401-884-5178. 7/10



8'-6" Baltik Inflatable Dinghy with plywood floor. Includes oars, air pump, patch kit, carrying duffel, and seat. Capacity 3 adults. Good condition. Selling for \$500 OBO. Contact Will Richmond at willrichmond@gmail.com for info or pictures. 7/10.

Note: Submit new and renewal ads to j-brandon@cox.net. Ads will run for three months. (Expiration date on end of each ad). Please limit ad to 75 words or less.



I WANT YOU to join the West Bay Yacht Club 4th of July Cruise. Yes, It is not too early to start thinking about this fantastic cruise. This year we are planning to go to Bristol to see the fireworks (July 4th 9:30pm) and the Bristol Parade on July 5th (this is their 225th year it is bound to be fantastic). <http://www.july4thbristolri.com/home.htm> > We plan on arriving in Bristol Saturday July 3 and leaving Monday July 5, after the parade. There will be much to do in the area. Check out the links that I have attached. Space is very limited in the Bristol area, but we have secured some moorings at the Bristol Yacht Club. <http://www.bristolyc.com/> Time is of the essence. People who want to cruise with us, please contact the club IMMEDIATELY. Please contact: Club Steward - Chris Healey at (401) 253-2922, or through the Yacht Club web site (About BYC/Contacts). Please let him know that you need a mooring reserved for West Bay. As you contact him, he will need the size of your boat and the draft. Moorings are only \$40 per night - What a bargain!!! More Information will be forthcoming. Please let me know if you will be joining us for this fantastic cruise and have made reservations. Nathan and Barbara Shapiro Moon Dance 401-822-1744



The Board of Directors and Membership Committee of the

West Bay Yacht Club

Cordially Invite You to Our

New Members Welcome Party

On Saturday, June 12th at 6pm

RSVP by June 5th to
Elizabeth Richmond
richmondea@gmail.com

\$5.00 per person
New Members Complimentary

Please join us for a delicious dinner with friends new and old, BYOB please.



*Contact Jennifer Brandon to request
electronic delivery of the Blooper and
most other West Bay Yacht Club
correspondence. j-brandon@cox.net
Electronic Blooper delivered 4/23/2010*

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
The latest Club Cruising, Racing and Social calendar is
always at your fingertips electronically:
www.westbayyc.org/calendar.htm