

# Blooper



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

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

Volume 38 Issue 11

November 2013

## Commodore's Message



Members,

November is here and the annual banquet is only a week away. We have a lot to celebrate. Our year has been spectacular! Take a look at what your Racing and Cruise Committee Chairs have accomplished this year. These programs have become the staple for others to measure by! Personally, I have never seen a time when I have felt that the future of these WBYC programs were so bright. Congratulations to those committees!

As we come off the water, you'll find the excitement continues with our holiday parties and socials. These are a blast to attend. We have so much fun discussing our previous summer activities and such. I think all of the planning for the coming year really starts there. Great stuff!

And last but not least, remember to drop by the club some Friday evening for game night. We have Poker and Chess nights

running all year round and the winter months are perfect time for starting a new hobby. Check your calendars. And as always, bring a friend or two.

Respectively Submitted,

Dean Travis  
Commodore

WBYC Calendar	
Date	Event
Thursday, November 07, 2013	WBYC Board of Governor's Meeting (7:00 PM)
Friday, November 08, 2013	Poker Night at WBYC
Saturday, November 09, 2013	WBYC Annual Awards Dinner at EGYC (6:00 PM)
Friday, November 22, 2013	Game Night at WBYC
Thursday, December 05, 2013	WBYC Board of Governor's Meeting (7:00 PM)
Friday, December 13, 2013	Poker Night at WBYC
Saturday, December 14, 2013	Holiday Party at WBYC (6:00 PM)
Friday, December 27, 2013	Game Night at WBYC

## Vice Commodore



Cheers WBYC Members,

Decommissioning... I think I saw more Facebook posts from my fellow boater friends talking about their "Decommissioning Experience". Many of the posts talked how it was a sad time for them. A few posts mentioned that it felt like "moving day". I know I can relate to the emptiness I feel when I think about not having the ability to jump on the boat, set sail, and head out for a day on the Narragansett Bay! But absence makes the heart grow fonder.

So to set my mind at ease, I turn to the settling task of a well planned decommission; knowing that a proper winter storage will help ensure that our boat will be ready to bring us new adventures in the spring.

I want to take a moment to thank all the members. Seeing you all over the summer always reminds me why we all enjoy boating so much.

Jay Eshleman, Vice Commodore

## Cruising Committee

Our official 2013 cruising season is now over. A moment of silence please...OK that's enough, because the fun and camaraderie we all have with one another did not end with the Wickford Cruise. Now all you party animals need to focus on our social calendar for the rest of this year and until our 2014 season begins.



Our Columbus Day Weekend Cruise to Wickford was a huge success. Cruise Captains Debbie and Bruce Airy put on a spectacular program with a huge deck dinner Saturday evening, an excellent restaurant visit to The Oak Tavern on Sunday evening and an outstanding brunch on Monday morning.

Twelve WBYC yachts converged on Wickford Marina on Saturday. Impromptu social gatherings of 15-20 cruisers at a time were the norm all weekend, either on a boat, on a dock or at the hot tub. A fun time was had by all. On the way home there was even an impromptu 'redneck raft-up'. There was so little wind, neither boat bothered to drop anchor or take its sails down first...and it lasted from Calf Pasture all the way to C1 at the mouth of Greenwich Bay. You can find pictures from this cruise on our Facebook page.



As I reflect on our summer cruising program I can say with confidence that the WBYC cruising schedule, participation and destinations are truly the best in the region. This is not new. Over the past years, this has been the norm for us and I am happy to report this year's cruising was another huge success. Thank you all who planned and participated. Without you we would be just another club which we are not. We ARE the Friendliest Little Club on the Bay!

See you on the water!

Tom Stocker  
Cruise Committee Chair

## Activities Committee



The annual trek to Wickford Marina was held over the Columbus Day weekend. The weather cooperated for the entire weekend. Many thanks to our cruise captains, Deb and Bruce Arey for coordinating a superb weekend. The cookout on Saturday was well attended with over 30 land and yacht cruisers. Dinner on Sunday at the Oak Hill Tavern was lots of fun, too. Thanks again, for a job well done!!

The annual meeting was held on 10/18. We elected the new Board of Governors for 2014, reviewed the past year, and voted on any necessary issues including the annual budget. All went very well.

This year's Halloween Party was on 10/26. The club was set up and ready to spook everyone but it appeared the most of the ghost and goblins were Red Sox fans and

stayed home to watch the game. We still had a good time with the 15 people that did venture down, anyway. Many thanks to Raleigh, Dean, Dave, and Jen B. for setting up during the day on Friday and a special thank you to the Crocker's (Dee, too) for creating the Haunted House on Friday night and Saturday. We really couldn't have done it without you. .

By now, everyone should have received their invitation to the Annual Awards and Appreciation Banquet to be held at the East Greenwich Yacht Club on November 9th. Please let us know ASAP if you have not received yours but would like to attend. The deadline has been extended to 11/4. We might be able to squeeze you in if it's a day or two after that. Just call us.

In December, we have our Holiday Party on December 7th. It's a Yankee Swap, so bring a wrapped gift (\$10-15 limit) for your child and one for yourself. It is also a potluck dinner, so

IF YOUR LAST NAME STARTS WITH

A-F, BRING AN APPETIZER,

G-L BREAD OR SALAD

M-T BRING AN ENTRÉE

U-Z BRING A DESSERT

OF COURSE, YOU CAN BRING WHATEVER YOU'D LIKE, TOO. The fun starts at 6:30 PM. We also need help decorating. Don't be shy. Give us a call. GOOD and WELFARE – It's nice to report that everyone is well and things continue to be good!

See you at the club,  
Jo-Ann and Phyllis

(401) 738-0272 (401) 219-1784

## Racing Committee



We've completed another successful season of racing at WBYC. First, I want to thank the members of the race committee. Peirce Brawner and John Budzinski were on the committee boat for virtually every race we ran. Celeste and Jim Wright were there for Monday nights with Celeste missing only the early part of the year after undergoing knee surgery. Jim, like last year, contributed another 1500+ photos of the action on the race course. All of Jim's photos have been posted to

the website on a weekly basis for everyone to see. Dean Travis, Grant Brandon, Kevin Ingle, and the sea scouts pitched in too. A special thanks to Grant for the use of *Estesea* for the committee boat for almost every race. It has served as a great, stable and luxurious platform from which to run a race. Kevin Ingle's *Windancer* and Dave Pickering's *Spray* (with a cadre of Sea Scouts) also served as committee boats during the year. Even an ancient J24, Dean Travis' *Incognito* was the committee boat for one race.

One more small group deserves our gratitude for their contributions to our Monday evening festivities. Without exception we all sprint from our workplaces to get out to the race course on time, and after a couple hours on the water everyone is hungry. JoAnn Grima, Phyllis Geisser, and Jennifer Brandon were there every week to fill our empty stomachs with something great. It wouldn't be a wonderful Monday night without dinner at the club. We finished off our season with another great day of racing with our Pumpkin Patch Regatta. When we first left the dock there was reason to wonder if any racing could be held as Greenwich Bay was smooth as glass. Just before the first gun the wind filled in and continued to build throughout the afternoon until we had a solid 15 knots at the end of racing. We got in the scheduled 3 races and finished the day with the fleet sailing home (at least for most of the fleet) to finish out in front of Norton's at the entrance to Greenwich Cove.

### Non-Spinnaker Class

1. *Pale Rider* - 3 pts.
2. *Coconut Telegraph* - 6 pts.
3. *Watawa* - 9 pts.
4. *Mojo* - 16 pts.
5. *Blitz* - 17 pts.
6. *Cosmo* - 18 pts.
7. *Obadiah* - 19 pts.
8. *Qing Long* - 22 pts.
9. *Vela Via* - 27 pts.

### Spinnaker Class

1. *Seaquest* - 3 pts.
2. *Thunder* - 6 pts.

Thanks to all the competitors and hope to see you all next year on the water!

David Lodge  
Race Committee Chairman

### West Bay Yacht Club Store

**Baseball Hat \$10.00**

**Men's and Ladies T shirts \$12.00**



Sweatshirt \$25.00  
 Men's and Ladies Polo shirt \$25.00  
 All Prices include club logo!

**Norton's Discount Marine Store**  
 Always a Fully Stocked Marine Store Offering  
 Fantastic *Discount* Prices!

**2013 Board of Governors**

Commodore.....Dean Travis  
 Vice Commodore.....Jay Eshleman  
 Rear Commodore.....Ed Cure  
 Past Commodore.....Will Richmond  
 Secretary.....Raleigh Jenkins  
 Treasurer.....Jo-Ann Grima  
 Parliamentarian.....Marcie Feldman  
 Members at Large .....Celeste Wright  
 .....Joe Crocker  
 .....Matt Aubee

**2013 Committee Chairs**

Activities.....Phyllis Geisser & Jo-Ann Grima  
 Cruising.....Tom Stocker  
 Education.....Grant Brandon  
 Publicity.....Raymond Way  
 Website.....David Lodge  
 Blooper.....Andrew Brousell  
 Membership.....Greg Yates  
 House.....Raleigh Jenkins  
 Racing & Website.....David Lodge

**Store Hours:**

**Mon-Fri: 8:30am - 4:30pm**  
**Sat: 9:00am-3:00pm**  
**Sun: 10:00am-2:00pm**

Norton's is always looking for ways to ensure our customers save money while obtaining the items they need & want. We at Norton's we make it our goal to carry a great selection of cleaning solutions, safety & security items, mechanical & engine parts, electronics, wiring, hoses of all types & sizes, and a "boat-load" of other products for both sail and power boats alike.

In addition, we are a certified Volvo-Penta, Mercury, MerCruiser, and Yanmar dealer and always carry the items you need, when you need them. Please stop by and visit us, pick up a catalog, and remember – Norton's often meets or beats even *our own* listed prices!

Need something we don't have in stock? Their professional & knowledgeable staff will be happy to order it for you.



Columbus Day Cruise - Photo by David Lodge



*Sea Scouts Ship 1909*

# *Annual Pasta Dinner & Flag Retirement Ceremony*



## *Sunday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>*

*Flag Retirement Ceremony 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm*

*Pasta Dinner 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm*

*Don't miss this great opportunity to:*

- *Observe the Sea Scouts hosting a U.S. Flag Retirement Ceremony*
  - *Say thank you to our U.S. Armed Forces who will be present*
  - *Bring your American Flag that deserves to be retired with dignity*
- *Enjoy a delicious Pasta Dinner!*
  - *Pasta, meatballs, salad, desert & all the fixins'*
  - *\$10 adults, children under 6 free*
  - *Scouts \$8 (includes Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Venturers)*
- *Support Sea Scout Ship 1909 and discover the Seamanship & Leadership skills offered to all young men & women ages 14-21!*

*at the beautiful East Greenwich Yacht Club  
10 Water Street, East Greenwich (next to the new BLU on the Water Restaurant)*

*For more information please contact: Tom Stocker, Skipper - 451-9799  
Capt. Dave Pickering, Committee Chairperson - 742-5039*

## Reclaiming the Past, Igniting the Future

<http://www.sailingscuttlebutt.com/2013/09/12/reclaiming-past-igniting-future/>

The America's Cup will be forever a fascinating contribution to the legacy of racing sailing, and while its current incarnation as a multihull (foiled at that) event kindles mixed emotions in the hearts of die-hard devotees, its Golden Era – from 1958 to 1987 when sleek 12 Metres ruled the waters, succeeding the more elaborate J Boats – has few, if any, detractors. In fact, there is a passionately dedicated “club” of sailors that is keeping 12 Metre Class racing alive both in the Americas and in Northern and Southern Europe.

“We are always working to spread the word about the joys of 12 Metre sailing and the role that the Twelves played in America's Cup history,” said Vice President of the Americas Fleet Herb Marshall (Cape Cod, Mass.), fresh off a victory on American Eagle in a 12 Metre regatta that has become an annual tradition each August at Edgartown Yacht Club on Martha's Vineyard. “We have eighteen 12 Metres concentrated on the East Coast, most of them located in Newport, R.I. where the Cup was staged from 1930 to 1983, but there are others out there waiting to be resurrected or restored...or simply chartered, with less of the work and all of the fun to be had racing with other Twelves.”

Dennis Williams (Hobe Sound, Fla.), the owner of Victory '83, which finished second in its class to Courageous in Edgartown, said it “felt like a fun thing to do” when he decided to save another 12 Metre, Defender, after he saw it anchored on the Intracoastal Waterway, sitting ever so low in the water after its owner had died. “I knew it would either sink or get hauled and cut up for scrap, so I brought it to Newport. It had an engine in it and was a real mess, but we (Williams and co-owner Jim Gretzky of Newport) picked away at it, to the point that it will now again measure in as a Twelve.”

Williams explained that Defender was built for the late Tom Blackaller's 1983 America's Cup effort but never made it past the Defender Trials, as Dennis Conner's Liberty proved indomitable... that is, until it matched up against John Bertrand's winged-keel Australia II for the America's Cup and lost not only the oldest active trophy in international sport but also the USA's grip on the longest winning streak in sports history (26 challenges over 132 years). “Defender is a piece of history,” said Williams. “It should be a rocket ship, too, especially downwind, but it's still a rescue mission. I don't need two 12 Metres, so I'm looking for a new owner and more competition.”

While he searches for Defender's perfect match, Williams, whose Victory '83 was the British entry in the 1983 Challenger Series for the Cup, will continue supporting the International 12 Metre Class' overarching goal to preserve the beauty and historical significance of 12 Metres in sailing history. “It's pretty impressive to see the Twelves all tied up at the dock at Edgartown Yacht Club or on Bannister's Wharf in Newport (where Williams won the 12 Metre Worlds in 2009, after buying Victory '83 in 2008). We need to save as many of them as we can so that they are all out there, consistently on the starting line at all the big events.”

The next big event is the North American Championships in Newport over September 27-29, and there a healthy complement of Twelves – both owned and chartered – is expected to show, including NEW ZEALAND (KZ-3), Laura (KZ-5), and KZ-7 in Grand Prix Division for yachts built for the 1987 America's Cup; Courageous, Intrepid and Victory '83 in Modern Division for yachts built between 1974 and 1983; and American Eagle, Columbia, Nefertiti and Weatherly in Traditional division for yachts built between 1958 and 1970.

And if the past is any indication, plenty of America's Cup luminaries will seek out their roots to skipper or serve as crew once again on the illustrious Twelves. Last year, two of sailing's most famous America's Cup skippers, Ted Turner and Dennis Conner, reunited with their winning tacticians, Gary Jobson and Tom Whidden, respectively. Turner, an American media mogul and philanthropist who successfully defended the Cup in 1977 with Courageous, sailed American Eagle (which he owned and raced in the late '60s and early '70s to win most of the world's great ocean races), while Conner, affectionately known as “Mr. America's Cup” for having won the America's Cup four times (three times defending and one time reclaiming it after his famous loss in '83), sailed KZ-7 – the same fiberglass boat that he challenged was unfair against the slower aluminum hulls sailing in the Challenger Series off Fremantle, Australia in 1986/'87.

“Where else are you going to get opportunities like this,” asked Andy MacGowan (Middletown, R.I.), a veteran of four America’s Cup campaigns who sailed aboard Courageous when it edged out Victory ’83 to win in Edgartown, “where for relatively little money you can put together a campaign and compete in good, tight racing all the time?”

About the Edgartown Yacht Club regatta, MacGowan added, “I’m sure the Victory ’83 crew thought, ‘we’ll get ‘em tomorrow,’ but there was no tomorrow.” He explained that the fleet practiced in 30 knots on Friday and sailed four spectacular races on Saturday. On Sunday, however, the wind switched off, so racing was cancelled, and the standings from Saturday determined the winners. “We were so wiped out by Saturday, we could barely lift our beers off the bar (laughs); we were wondering who was going to be able to do what on Sunday.”

MacGowan, in his 60s, says he is fortunate to be asked to crew as much as he has in recent years but says the 12 Metres are quite accommodating to age that way. “It’s still strenuous to sail them, but it’s good ol’ basic sailing – the rigs are simple and the jibs aren’t that large.” He, also, is a cheerleader for the class and introduced one of the newest 12 Metre owners, Gunther Buerman (Newport, R.I./Rochester, N.Y.) to Twelve sailing a little over a year ago.

Now, Buerman is hooked.

“Long story short, I had stopped sailing in the early ’90s, after so many SORCs in the mid- to late ’80s and lots of Bermuda Races and J/24 sailing, and spent the next 20 years of my life coaching sports as my kids grew up,” said Buerman. “I crewed while Andy drove US-61 in the 12 Metre North Americans in 2012, and I enjoyed it so much. I forgot how fun racing could be, and I started asking around about the Twelves that were available to buy and was intrigued that you could buy one for 10% of what a new boat would cost to build.”

Buerman bought KZ-3 NEW ZEALAND (formerly called Wright on White by a past owner) with the intention of returning it to exactly how it looked, graphics and all, when it was launched in 1985 as one of only three fiberglass 12 Metres ever built. (Its sister ship was KZ-7, which faced off unsuccessfully with Dennis Conner’s Stars & Stripes ’87 in the Challenger Finals for the 1987 America’s Cup.)

“I got all these books from New Zealand and spent a lot of time looking at its history,” said Buerman. “This was my first boat with a wheel (instead of a tiller), and I didn’t know which way to turn it. It was like a race car.”

Buerman explained that NEW ZEALAND was optimized for big breeze in Perth, where it blew 25 knots every day, but when he brought it here, it had to “Newportized,” which he explained as undergoing moderate keel modification.

“These Twelves are great fun to sail, and they are beautiful and majestic in terms of size,” said Buerman, who has been on a winning streak at his first local regattas for this season. “And I guess you could say I’ve been blessed by having good people on my crew to help me through the transition of not having a clue.”

Buerman looks forward to the 2014 12 Metre Worlds in Barcelona, where four or five other Grand Prix Division Twelves are expected to show up. “I’ve never been there,” said Buerman. “All this is new to me, even the venues.”

Pine Brothers, makers of Pine Brothers Softish Throat Drops, has come aboard as the 12 Metre America’s Fleet sponsor for 2013 after having sponsored the 12 Metre North Americans in 2011 and 2012. The company’s unique “soft drop” throat lozenge was first introduced in 1870 as America’s first-ever commercially produced cough drop and is a favorite of sailors everywhere. Pine Brothers reflects the passionate spirit shown by the 12 Metre fleet, which works to not only perpetuate 12 Metre racing but also combine racing with charitable efforts when possible.





Columbus Day Cruise - Photo by David Lodge



Columbus Day Cruise - Photo by David Lodge





Game Night - Photo by Grant Brandon



Fall Racing - Photo by David Lodge



# West Bay Yacht Club

"Friendliest Little Yacht Club on the Bay"

Location: Norton's Marina & Shipyard  
Foot of Division Street, East Greenwich, RI

## 2013 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Return To:

**WBYC Membership Chair**  
P.O. Box 1604  
East Greenwich, RI 02818

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT \_\_\_\_\_ APPLICANT \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE—HOME \_\_\_\_\_ WORK \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDREN'S NAMES & AGES \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

YACHT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SAIL/POWER \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS/MAKE \_\_\_\_\_

YACHT LENGTH \_\_\_\_\_ MARINA \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSORED BY: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

**Please contact Mr. Greg Yates, our Membership Chair to discuss the WBYC Membership options and cost. He can be reached by email at: [greg@h-bpackaging.com](mailto:greg@h-bpackaging.com). Thanks for your interest. We look forward to hearing from you!**

### SAILING INTERESTS: Circle your interests

Club Cruising	Series Racing	Committee Boat	Other
Race Own	Race Crew	Weekend Cruising	Cruiser Races

### PREFERENCES FOR CLUB PARTICIPATION: Circle your preference for participation

Activities (Social)	Cruising	Publicity	Education
Racing	Membership	Series Racing	

### WILLING TO HELP AS FOLLOWS: Circle your preference

Prepare/bring food for club functions    Decorate/Cleanup for club functions    Clubhouse maintenance    Other

I/We understand that the West Bay Yacht Club is a self-help working club and I/we agree to help and participate in various club functions.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Visit us online at [www.westbayyachtclub.org](http://www.westbayyachtclub.org) or on facebook



Contact Andrew Brousell to request electronic delivery of the Blooper and most other West Bay Yacht Club correspondence. [abrousel@yahoo.com](mailto:abrousel@yahoo.com)  
Electronic Blooper delivered 11/1/2013

PO Box 1604  
East Greenwich, RI 02818  
[www.westbayyachtclub.org](http://www.westbayyachtclub.org)

VERY important links to your Club website.  
Need to get in touch with a Club Officer or  
Committee Chair?

<http://www.westbayyachtclub.org/2013-wbyc-officers.html>

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

<http://www.westbayyachtclub.org/wbyc-club-calendar.html>



Photo courtesy of David Lodge