



# Rockland Yacht Club Newsletter

February 2011

From the Commodore

**REMINDER: Membership meeting, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 3:00PM  
Julie and Rick Palm will illustrate their sailing trip around  
the world!**

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**NEWS FROM MEMBERS:**

Moira and Dick Bentzel are currently cruising in Honduras, having left Maine last fall. On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, they arrived in Guanaja, the Eastern most of the Bay Islands. It apparently is made up of a larger less populated island and a small one, Bonacca, where 85% of the population live. Homes are often built on stilts and are 2 or 3 stories tall. There are no roads on either island, all transportation is by water taxi. The area has a British connection, so English is spoken by many of the locals. Slaves were brought there from the eastern Caribbean and Jamaica. The Bentzels next planned stop was Roatan, the largest of the Bay Islands where they hoped to take diving lessons. Temperatures there are in the 80's with high humidity!

They have offered to answer any questions regarding any of the areas they have cruised, and I am sure about provisioning. You may e-mail them directly at: [equinox36@gmail.com](mailto:equinox36@gmail.com), or to me at: [mshiverick@yahoo.com](mailto:mshiverick@yahoo.com). We certainly are fortunate to have such adventuresome members of our club!

**RACING COMMITTEE:**

About 20 members of the committee have just had a most productive meeting regarding the racing program for 2011. See page three.

**PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

Jon Kuhl has called a meeting of those local members who indicated on their membership forms an interest in helping with facilities. They will brainstorm ideas about club improvements beyond the major renovations already in the works. Although the fireplace work has been delayed due to illness of the person hired to do the work, we have been promised it will be completed by the May meeting. The new carpeting is ready to install, to be done following the completion of the fireplace work.

## Member Profiles:



VICTORY CHIMES, in Deer Island  
Thorofare

### Rick Palm:

Rick was born in Brooklyn New York, where as a child he was interested in ice skating and football. He first became interested in sailing when he visited relatives in New London CT one summer and learned to sail dinghies and small boats. He attended Rutgers University in New Jersey. After their circumnavigation, Rick started a company in New Hampshire assembling computer cables. Although essentially retired, he is busier than ever, on the

Board of Broad Reach and the "Apprenticeshop, teaches woodturning, and other ventures. He says: "hardly retired!" Along with woodturning, he is interested in furniture building.

### Julie Palm:

Julie was born in Canton Ohio, and, as a child was interested in water skiing, camping, horseback riding and playing the flute. She attended Denison University in Ohio, then received an MBA at Dickinson University in New Jersey. She managed businesses in the biomedical industry and retired as a Senior VP for Charles River Laboratories in Wilmington, MA. She first became interested in sailing 30 years ago when she met Rick at work in New Jersey, and had to learn to sail if they were to have a relationship. Although no longer involved in her profession, she is most thankful to be able to apply her lifetime skills to her passions, mostly as a volunteer.

### As a couple,

Their 38 year old son, Ted, never picked up sailing as an adult, even though he sailed with them as a child. However they are hopeful their 7 year old grandson, Owen, will be influenced, as he wants to sign up for sailing lessons this summer. How about their 4 year old Eli, Rick and Julie?

Rick first became interested in the Apprenticeshop when they first moved to Cushing, as he feels strongly about creating opportunities for kids who aren't college bound, and who learn better outside the traditional classroom. He has been on the board since 2008 and served as the Interim Executive Director in 2009.

Living on their sailing yacht, a Tayana 52 fits their description of their most interesting places they have lived, but outside of Maine and Newfoundland, their most interesting places are Thailand and Fiji. They have also cruised from Grenada to Cape Breton.

Together, they manage the North American activities of the World Cruising Club. WCC recently bought the company that managed the Caribbean 1500 and they are working with the new owners to organize offshore rallies and seminars. They manage the Ocean Sailing seminars for WCC USA now. They will do a two day seminar in Annapolis in March and another one in Hampton VA in September. The seminars are very practical, interactive two day sessions that help people make the jump from coastal cruising to offshore adventures. They love helping people get ready to go, and share their passion for the open ocean.



2010 Race awards were presented at the December Holiday Party. Here, Patti Spalding and her crew on HAVOC, and Jim Cuthbertson on BADGER, are accepting their tied for third place awards for the Spring Tuesday night racing series

## Rockland Yacht Club racing plans for the summer of 2011:

**The Tuesday night series:** will run as in previous years starting June 14<sup>th</sup> and running 14 weeks through September 13<sup>th</sup>. Post race BBQ's welcome **all** yacht club members (not just racers), who are encouraged to join the festivities. They are invited to contribute a side dish.

### **OTB (outside the breakwater) races being proposed:**

**RYC SOLSTICE RACE:** Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. Results of this race will count for the Pen Bay Trophy, in place of the West Bay Race which will not be held this year.

**RYC Rockland to Castine Race:** Saturday and Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>. This is a new race which will be run as a pursuit race with various divisions for Racing, Cruising and Shorthanded participants. Members are encouraged to participate. If not, volunteers are always needed to help with logistics. The race will start in Rockland on Saturday, run down to Castine, where there will be an organized dinner at Dennant's Wharf, and then return from Castine to Rockland the following day. There will be a BBQ and an awards ceremony at our club on Sunday after the racing is finished.

**Downeast Challenge:** Weekend of July 23-24, hosted by RYC and a Marblehead Yacht Club

**Western Penobscot Bay Regatta:** July 30<sup>th</sup>, where cruisers and racers join with friends from the Rockport and Camden Yacht Clubs for a weekend of fun.

**Around Islesboro Race:** September 10<sup>th</sup>. A Pen Bay Trophy race

**Maine Rocks Race:** Weekend of September 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. An overnight shorthanded race.

**GMORA: Gulf of Maine Ocean Racing Circuit.** There is an increased interest in racing in Penobscot Bay and the GMORA racing circuit is excited to be able to bring their boats up to the Bay for two weekends of back to back racing. The Solstice Race, the Rockland to Castine Race, the Maine Rocks Race, and a Camden-Camden Race (July 16<sup>th</sup>) will scored races with GMORA.

The race group is hoping to sponsor and hold a **"learn to Race" seminar** early in this up-coming season. Details will be forth coming. A **"racing rules of sailing" seminar** is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday June 7<sup>th</sup> ay 5:00 PM. It is hoped that Carter White of Regatta Promotions will lead the seminar. The committee encourages any and all to inquire about these two programs, as they promise to be enjoyable and provide a good way to be introduced to sailboat racing in a relaxed way.