



Rockland Yacht Club Newsletter

January 2011

From the Commodore:

REMINDER: To those of you who have not yet sent in your membership renewal. Forms must be postmarked by December 31st to be eligible for \$50.00 drawing!

The Holiday Party at Amalfi was a tremendous success with over 75 members and guests attending! The social hour afforded time and opportunity to mingle with old friends and new. We hope the several new members felt welcomed! Bruce did his presentations with amusing anecdotes from past season. The Yankee Swap was great fun with three or four gifts being swapped many times!

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND A HAPPY BOATING SEASON IN 2011!

Commodore:

Maryjane Shiverick
(207) 215-6162

Vice Commodore:

Al Hodsdon
(207) 453-6016

Rear Commodore:

Doug Pope
(207) 273-4155

Secretary:

Beth Pope
(207) 273-4155

Treasurer:

Gary Cran
(207) 594-9435

Past Commodore:

Alan MacDonald
(207) 324-5867

Nominating:

Mike Sodano
(207) 594-5272

Membership:

Helen Kuhl
(207) 975-2375

Hospitality:

Judy Turner
(207) 324-5867

Activities:

Robin McIntosh
(207) 236-9702
Doris Smart
(207) 593-9064

Cruise:

Steve Pierce
(207) 975-2833
Jody and Don Abbott
(207) 846-9691

Race:

Jesse Henry
(207) 594-9816
Heidi Burden
(207) 749-2954

Planning:

Jon Kuhl
(207) 975-2375

Facilities:

Bob Spencer
(207) 236-4853

Web Master:

Ed Neisingh
(207) 594 7724



From Race Chair Jesse:

Never have we seen such a show of champagne, cocktails, extravaganza, blue blazers, syndicate heads with open tabs at the bar, glitter and hors d'oeuvres! Evening gowns, name tags, and all that silver! The flashes were popping from the paparazzi's cameras, sending beams of light bouncing off the polished silver and streaking across the room! Amalfi On the Water hosted the crowd in its main dining room looking out and over the very harbor that we race on in our series! It was a night to remember!

The special awards given were as follows:

RYC Volunteer of the Year: Aaron Trembly for his time and boat for RC Boat use.

RYC Major Comeback: EXTRA BEAT Great to see them back on the course!

RYC Most Mysterious Crew: BADGER, The Thomaston Men's Choir. They disappear after the racing!

RYC Sexiest Boat: SANS COULOTTES: Looks like a party about to begin.

RYC Rookie of the Year: Adam Yanchunis, for Race Committee work

RYC Most talked about boat: IN BOX Is it a box or a boat?

RYC Best Disabled Boat: Patty Spalding on HAVOC, racing with her foot casted!

RYC Attendance: OLD NAVY for every race for the past 5 years!

RYC Confused Starts: John Hanson and crack crew on FIERY JUBILEE,

RYC Perseverance: Molly Mulhern on RIPPLE. The little boat just keeps on going!

The Rockland Yacht Club Golden Mermaid Award is presented each year to the skipper of the boat with the lowest combined season points, the America's Cup of the Rockland Yacht Club racing. The award this year was presented to Doug Roth on OLD NAVY. The glory, fame, advertising contracts, and bragging rights that come with this Trophy are legendary!

The last award of the evening, the coveted RYC Racing Chef Award, went again this year (the 3rd year in a row) to Val Bemis, who with the help of Vanessa and Violet, again provided the reason for the racers to return each week to the club house after a night of racing. The racers would arrive, side dishes in hand and join their fellow racers for a BBQ organized and prepared by the 3 v's. Thanks to their dedication and hard work on our behalf, and for making each race night so much fun! By the way, cruisers also welcome!

Cruising Plans for 2011

The Cruising Committee has been busy planning a full cruising season for the coming **NEW YEAR**. Here is a run down on present plans, so save these dates on your cruising calendar!



ICEBREAKER CRUISE June 4-5 Great early season warm up! Usually a good turn out.

FIREWORKS CRUISE July 2-4 Crotch Island off Stonington and second night at Bar Harbor

THE CAMDEN FUN WEEKEND CRUISE July 16 – 17. This has become a tradition with a cruisers race on Saturday to Pulpit Harbor for a raft up lunch, then a race to Camden in the afternoon for dinner at the Camden Yacht Club. There are special prizes of paper cups for the winners. If your cruiser Commodore can handle this, so can you!

LADIES WEEKEND CRUISE Thursday, July 28 -31. Thursday will be a lecture conference day guided by one of our new members, Gayle Elfast. Gayle is a licensed boat captain with a special interest in teaching sailing skills to women. The cruise itself will start on Friday and will be a chance to put the knowledge and skills to practical use, either as a skipper on your own boat, or a crew on a boat skippered by a more experienced female captain.

THE WEEK CRUISE August 6 – 13. We will again head for Roque Island.

A CHILDREN'S CRUISE August 20 – 21 Gather up your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews or whatever young folks you can invite, for a weekend of fun activities for the kids.

LABOR DAY CRUISE September 3 – 5.

PICK UP CRUISES throughout the summer. Meet at the club or phone or e-mail and let members know of your plans, so that others planning to sail can meet up at any specific harbor for walks on shore or evening get togethers.

Lets have a wonderful, safe, and enjoyable cruising season!



Some Members of the Cruising Committee
Judy Turner, Jody and Don Abbott, and Alan MacDonald

MEMBER PROFILES



Mike Sodano and Steve Pierce

Steve Pierce, Cruise Co-Chairman

Steve has been obsessed with modes of transportation from the time he grew up in Attleboro, MA to the present. Speed has also been high on his list. His first craft was a crude raft he built as a child, then progressed to a small rubber raft used to study the river and pursue his interest in herpetology. (the branch of zoology pertaining to reptiles and amphibians) It remains an interest of his today. From rafts he went to go-karts, motorcycles, and cars. He entered UMASS Amherst to study herpetology, but his interest in race cars was stronger than his interest in studying, so he left college and got a job in a jewelry factory and bought a sports car. He soon met Jennie and got married in October 1976. Two years later he went to race driving school in Quebec and got his racing license. However, Jennie was pregnant and due about the time the racing season was to begin. They decided it made more sense to invest the money they were going to spend on racing into moving to Maine and buying a house. Charles was born in 1978. They moved to Kingfield, then to New Vineyard where they now live. Son Jonathan was born in '81. In 1987 he went back to college to become a teacher. He graduated from U-Maine in 1991 with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and a Bachelor of Science in Education. There were no teaching jobs, so he applied for a chemistry position at the Public Health Lab

in Augusta. He now does blood alcohol and drug testing there and occasionally testifies as an expert witness at OUI trials, which he finds challenging and interesting.

His interest in sailing was stimulated by reading about Tania Aebi's "Maiden Voyage" around the world. He and Jennie bought a MacGregor 26 and learned to sail the hard way. They trailered it to various places and one winter as far as the Florida Keys! They bought their current boat, a Hunter Legend 40.5 in 2004. RYC members are impressed with his sailing skills, as he single hands it quite regularly!

Don Abbott, Cruise Co-Chairman

Don grew up in Winchester MA, then went to Deerfield Academy and on to Dartmouth for 2 years, and finished undergrad at BU. He was in the first class (of 16) at the University of MA Medical School in Worcester. After that, he moved to Maine to do a Family Practice Residency at Maine Medical Center. Don was in private practice in Yarmouth, Maine until 1992 when he left to work at UNUM. He left there to start his own consulting company in Disability evaluations in 2001 where he is still CEO. They have 16 employees and over 100 consultants nationwide and have contracts with most of the major disability insurers.

He started sailing when he was 8 years old in Marblehead, MA. His Dad had a 54' Alden ketch, appropriately named "Fearless" as you had to be to go sailing with them. He bought his first boat when he was a resident in Family Practice, a Lightning that he bought with the money he received from a Mead Johnson award for Family Practice Residents. Don and Jody's current boat "Snowy Owl" is a Sabre 38.

Don also enjoys making model boats when he has time. They hope to take this summer off spending a lot of it cruising the coast of Maine. His major sailing interest is now cruising, although he has done a lot of racing in the past.