



Rockland Yacht Club Newsletter

May 2011

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From the Commodore:

Spring is here, and with it comes preparations for getting out on the water. We will set the season into motion on the **21st of this month** with a General Yacht Club **Meeting at 4:00 PM**. I have promised to conclude the very informative meeting in plenty of time for the **Social Hour at 5:00 PM**. Doris Smart and her committee have planned a dynamite **Italian Dinner Night** for our Spring Fling. It will feature fun and a chance to meet and mingle with our newest members. See the attachment which has gone out with an e-mail, and will go out again before the meeting.

Cruising:

Our first cruise of the season will be the Icebreaker on June 4 & 5, so get your boats ready for that shake down cruise. It will go to an easy destination, to be announced by our Cruise Chairman, Steve Pierce, by Friday of that week, and will go where the wind blows. The above picture was taken on the Icebreaker Cruise in 2008 on board the Kuhl's boat, Kemo Sabe, after the renaming celebration. Pictured are Gary Cran, Rick Palm, Maryjane Shiverick, Jon and Helen Kuhl, Gust Stringos, and Norm, guest of Gary. Both Jon and Helen have dedicated many hours this winter on Club House improvements and revamping the Membership lists and getting the Membership book out for the 2011 season.

Racing, from Jesse and Heidi:

A busy summer is planned! We still have not given up the idea on a "**learn to Race Seminar**" held at the club for those of you who would like the idea of racing a little bit, but are not quite comfortable coming out to the starting line with guns blazing. Our thought was to have a very casual informative session starting with some basics in the club house on the chalk board, and then actually heading out on the water in a few boats to run a few no pressure scenarios, starting sequences, and right of way examples. If this might be of interest to you, please feel free to get in touch with us to let us know. If we feel that folks are really interested and would participate, this will help us make this happen.

The Tuesday night racing season will start on June 7th at the clubhouse as Carter White of Regatta Promotions in Portland gives us a "Racing Rules of Sailing" Seminar. Carter came to the club two years ago and gave us a very information seminar about the ins and out's of the updated racing rules. We are still on the same rules as last time, but all know that we can never stop learning about the racing rules, and so Carter has volunteered to come back and give us a refresher session. We hope to be able to provide this session free of charge again and we encourage all members, racers or not, to try and attend. It is planned for **June 7th from 5 to 7 PM**.

Tuesday night races start the following **Tuesday, June 14th**.

Outside the Breakwater races include a whole new race this year! What could be more fun for the weekend of **July 9-10** than a pursuit race from Rockland to Castine, dinner and fun at Dennett's Wharf Restaurant, and then a race back to Rockland the following day? We think the Rockland to Castine race will be loads of fun, and we have set it to work with the Camden Regatta, the following weekend.



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Both those races score for the **GMORA** series, so we can expect to have boats from up and down the coast attend. Also, our first outside the breakwater race is the Solstice Race this year, on **Saturday, June 18th**. Please look to the RYC website for more details on all of the above. And also, remember that even if you do not race your boat in our fleet, there is lots of opportunity for you and your crew to participate in many ways with the racing program. Maybe you want to check out what we are up to a little bit? You can come to our post race BBQs each Tuesday evening at the club, you can volunteer to help with race committee on Tuesday nights, or for our other summer races, which is a great way to learn more and check out the action. Just let us know you might be interested and we can make sure to keep you posted with ideas about how you might be able to participate! You can also volunteer to be crew for one of our racing skippers, that is another perfect way to get involved. Hope to see you all soon! Jesse and Heidi



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Member Profiles

Mike and Aleta first met in 1987 when Mike was inspecting the lab of the Maine Center for Cancer Medicine in Portland. After the exit interview, Mike lingered for some small talk with the Medical Practice Manager, Aleta. When she heard that Mike had a Porsche and a sailboat, the rest was history! By that time, Aleta had been interested in sailing for about ten years, but did not have a boat of her own. Interestingly, it was Aleta who encouraged Mike to join the yacht club in 1989. From then until now, he has held ALL yacht club positions, although he was Rear Commodore and Treasurer for only a short time. Here, there is another word to say about the lady behind the successful man. Aleta, and she is a true lady, has been constant support, not only for Mike, but the yacht club in general. She can always be counted on for help in the kitchen and elsewhere!



Aleta was born in Bridgton, Maine, the 5th of 7 children. She received her BA from the University of Southern Maine. After 30 years in her professional position; she retired, and in 2010 sold her Portland townhouse. She and Mike started building their present home in 2007 on land they bought a few years before, in South Thomaston. Their home overlooks a tidal bay where they enjoy watching all kinds of bird and animal life year around. Among Aleta's interests are gardening, cooking, and cultural history. In the early 90's she edited a yacht club cookbook which is a real gem!

Mike, it seems, is quite worldly, having attended colleges from Maine to New Mexico, and having spent one summer with his dad in Japan in 1963. Mike's parents were divorced early. His dad was an Executive for GE in Japan, after having served as a Marine Corps Officer during WW II. He owned a 44 foot cutter rigged sloop, the ANDREA GAIL. A noted yachtsman of the time, Carleton Mitchell, chartered the boat to do an article for "Sports Illustrated" on cruising Japan. Mike went on the 10 day cruise, at which point he caught the sailing bug! It wasn't until 1981, however, that he was able to buy his own boat, MICHELLE MARIE, (his daughter's middle names), a Pierson 26. Mike received a BS in Chemistry from New Mexico State, and an AS Degree in Business Administration from the University of Maine in Augusta. He served in the US Army from November of '63 to November of '66. He spent nine years as a Forensic Chemist at the State Lab, and 21 years as the Supervisor of the Lab Improvement Program, which involved setting up training programs for laboratory personnel, and inspecting medical and environmental labs for compliance with State and Federal regulations. He retired in 2000, but has a contract with Rhode Island to inspect a few environmental labs each year.

Their older daughter lives in South China, and has two boys. Their younger daughter was married last June, is a psychologist for the VA, and lives in Southern California. Both girls enjoyed sailing with Mike as kids, and the younger one crewed on overnights on a Down East cruise.

Many thanks Mike and Aleta for your dedicated and continuing support of the Rockland Yacht Club!