

Welcome to the 2009 season at our Rockland Yacht Club:

The winter snow is flying. Some of our members are skiing, and some are on the beach in Florida, or sailing in the Bahamas. But 2009 is going to be a great season on Penobscot Bay for all of us.

We have all had the opportunity over the last year to use our new RYC clubhouse facilities for regular meetings, cruising kick-off parties, racing cookouts, our annual Lobster Bake, and other events. We know that having a real Yacht Club 'clubhouse' is a major advantage. Rockland Yacht Club members have always shared good times and boating experiences. We now have the common focus and friendly surroundings of our own clubhouse to bring us together for cruising, racing, socializing, planning and recounting adventures, or just gathering together in a comfortable place on a snotty day.

The current members of the Rockland Yacht Club are poised to make of our club whatever we want. Our mission is to expand the club in depth and variety of programs, activities, learning experiences, and services to our local boating community.... And, all the while, have a good time together.

There are going to be some exciting changes and enhancements to RYC activities this year. You will soon be hearing from the Program Committees as they announce their programs for the year. Our commitment is to integrate cruisers, racers, and social members in as many events as possible, on the water and in the club house..

In addition to the increased activities of the three program committees (racing, cruising, and social), Facilities, Membership, and Communications Committees are being expanded by Chairs; Charles Faukingham, Al Hodsdon, and Ed Neisingh.

One of our important objectives this year is to improve communication with our current members and prospective members through an effective combination of printed materials, email communications, and web-based information.

Our yacht club depends on the voluntary efforts of our members. RYC needs volunteers at many different levels. If you do not have time to join a committee, simply participate. Your participation in club activities makes them more fun for everyone. In all Cruising, Racing, Social activities, there are plenty of opportunities to participate. And if you want to volunteer or share your ideas with any committee including our expanded Executive Committee, just give me a call anytime.

Our current members are our best ambassadors to help us reach out to prospective members. With all RYC has to offer --- the great sailing on Penobscot Bay, combined with Rockland's boating and downtown community --- we have a great story to tell our boating friends. Invite them to make Rockland, their home port, and RYC, their friendly yacht club.

Wishing you and yours fair winds and friendly seas,

Alan MacDonald
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