

Short Tacks



Newsletter of the Bristol Yacht Club, March 2009

Social Events Cindy Elder

Bluegrass March 7

Register now to attend the BYC premier of the Waylanders on Saturday, March 7th. The Chart Room will open at 6 p.m.; the performance begins at 7 p.m. Catch an early dinner on the town and join us for a great night of entertainment! Cover charge \$10. Please RSVP with payment by Feb. 28th. If you've misplaced the registration form included in the last mailing, there are more at the club.

Boys' Night Out Rescheduled for 3/28

The clams will be cooking on Saturday, March 28th, at BYC's Boys' Night Out Clam boil. This special men's event features a traditional clam boil for just \$30. Return the registration form with payment to the club by Saturday, March 21st. The Chart Room opens at 6 p.m.; dinner at 7.

Hop on Over to BYC'S Easter Egg Hunt

Circle Sunday, April 8th on your calendar for a special date with your children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews. BYC's Easter Egg Hunt will delight youngsters with hundreds of multi-colored, surprise-filled eggs, tasty snacks, special crafts, and a visit from Mrs. Easter Bunny. Our toddler's area will feature easy-to-find eggs, while older children will hunt for camouflaged eggs throughout the grounds. The chart room will be open for adults. Return the registration form with your payment of \$8/child (adults free) by March 28th.

Sailing School Bill Barlow

Registration forms for children's sailing lessons are available online at eastbaysailingfoundation.org and in this Mainsheet. Please register early. Email questions to: mail@eastbaysailingfoundation.org, or contact us via phone at 401-253-0775. We will publish adult registration details next month.

**COMMISSIONING is scheduled for
MAY 2nd at 6 PM. Save the date.**

Cruising David Schwartz

Racing Rules Seminar

On March 20th after TGIF, Ron Hopkins and Dan Davis, US Sailing judges, will explain the new 2009 racing rules as to what you can do and what to avoid on the race course. Space is limited so if you want to participate, send a five dollar registration check (made out to BYC), to David Schwartz, 48 Ballou Blvd, Bristol 02809. Full details at bristolyc.com/cruising/winter.php.

Cruising Plans

You can also get your summer cruising juices flowing by going to the cruising portion of the BYC web site where we have posted initial details of the first two cruises of the year. Memorial Weekend will feature a trip to Wickford. On July 17, the Annual Cruise will depart for points East. The focus of the trip will be a visit to Boston and the sights and sounds of the city. To get on the list for updates for either of these trips, e-mail david@gmtcomposites.com.

Movie Night 3/13/09

Riddle of the Sands (1979)

Simply the **best** small-boat sailing/adventure movie! The movie manages to capture the spirit and ambiance of Erskine Childers' 1903 novel: a pre-James Bond thriller which explores an invasion plot prior to WWI. Simon MacCorkindale and Michael York are perfect as Davies and Carruthers. With all the elements that made the book a classic, it is a must-see for all sailors.



Racing

Mark Rotsky

The 2009 BYC Racing schedule is on our website. This article notes some details and changes that should be highlighted. Skippers will meet on Wednesday May 20, followed by the Practice Race on May 27, and the first ever "Millard Series" race on June 3. We are proud to have named our Wednesday Night Race Series in memory of Robert B. Millard Sr. who, for decades, was one of our most devoted, enthusiastic, and successful racers.

Again this year, on July 1, we will encourage racers to join with East Bay Sailing Foundation students and parents for the Junior Pursuit race. This is a great opportunity to share the big boat racing experience with the next generation of sailors, while perhaps lining up some young crew who might eventually begin relieving your more "experienced" crew of the increasingly difficult (or so it seems) athletic tasks on your boat. We will not score this race, but it will count toward series qualification and for throw-outs.

The MOHOSA Worlds return to Wednesday night rather than Tuesday, but will be pushed back to August 5th. The MOHOSA Regatta will move to August 30 from its usual September date. We are planning new courses with finish lines in the vicinity of the Mt. Hope Bridge. This compensates for the earlier August as compared with June sunset, and will give us a shorter ride home after all races. We are hoping this will help make the MOHOSA Series more appealing to all entrants. In order to fit in the MOHOSA Wednesday Night Race, we have commandeered the end of the year "Fun/Make-up Race". With the Pursuit Race and our percentage based qualification system, a make-up race becomes unnecessary. So now the Wednesday Series season will end predictably with the final race on September 2nd and the Awards Dinner on September 25th.

One Design Racing

Excitement is brewing about One Design Racing on Tuesday Nights. There is support for a spinnaker program for Sea Sprites, and discussions about Laser, Mercury, 420, and even Penguin racing. Can the Penguin sailors still race without 5 layers of warm clothes on?

(continued at right)

So if you are interested in joining one of these fleets, or bringing in another fleet with at least 6 boats sailing regularly, please contact me so I can accommodate your group.

Race Management

We have committed and experienced people who run our Wednesday night races, but, to serve the new One-Design Tuesday racers, we definitely need more help. For many racers' "significant others" who are not comfortable racing, but who want to share the excitement of the event, Race Committee is an excellent way to participate, with slightly less stress. Every year members attend Race Management courses to improve their skills. This year we have the opportunity to bring an Introductory Management seminar to our club. That would be the perfect way to take the step into race committee work. You need not commit to every week, unless you want to. That's up to you. Start slow and build from there if you like.

Please contact me or anyone on the race committee if you are interested and we can get you started. Race management folks enjoy the experience. Find out if you might too!

Cruise Notes: from Frank Arnold

Yesterday, 1/28/09, the Queen Mary II reached Cape Horn at 9 am local time. Wind: NW at 35k; seas moderate (calm for this part of the ocean!); temperature 50; mostly cloudy. Cape Horn Isle (it is an island) is a dramatic hunk of rock rising from the sea nearly 1000 feet at the peak. We had a chance encounter with the National Geographic's **Endeavor** returning from the Antarctic. We gave each other "horn" salutes...very exciting. After a 270 degree rounding of the horn, we entered the Beagle Channel (named after Darwin's ship) toward the western leg of the Strait of Magellan, then to the Pacific. The seascape vistas, the glaciers, the huge peaks along the channels were spectacular. We have voyaged 7067 nautical miles south from Fort Lauderdale; now we head north. Best to all, Frank

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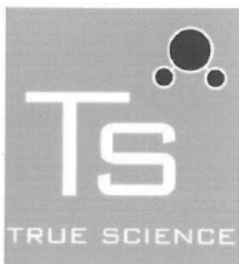
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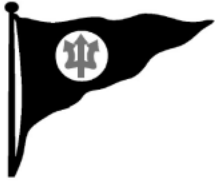
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