



Happy February — the month we celebrate St. Valentine’s Day, great Presidents, and Black History —celebrations that are critical, optimistic, and forward-looking. Just what we need! Valentine’s Day as we know it is largely fiction, compliments of Chaucer, but what a nice chance to celebrate romance. Presidents’ Day is a celebration of great leaders – oh my, we need that now. And Black History Month is a chance to reflect on the true change agents of the last three hundred years. So, what will the future bring? Great romance, leaders, and change? I hope so. But enough about that.



Commodore’s Corner

Your Board has spent quite a bit of time recently talking about volunteerism, led by a great volunteer Rosemary Alden. What is the right equation? Should we require members to donate time? Or should it be pure volunteerism? It gets complex, but one thing is clear; nothing makes you feel more a part of the Bristol Yacht Club than volunteering. It is transformative, taking you from guest to owner, visitor to family member. So sign up and do something – you will not regret it!

The BYC truck is broken. We need a new one. For those of you who attended the Annual Meeting in November, you may recall I mentioned that the truck had failed inspection, and we may need to get a new one — a development that took place after we submitted the budget. The cost of repairing the current truck is \$4,000 to \$5,000, about the value of the truck itself. And we spent a similar amount just over a year ago. Spending more money on the current truck now does not make sense. Instead, we will likely buy a new, stripped-down truck. Between the current reserve (\$10k) and the sale value (\$5k), we can make a significant down payment. This will be enough such that the annual cost of a loan for the balance will cost little more than the maintenance costs. And once the note is paid off, we will have a low mileage new truck that should last 15 plus years with very little expense. It is a good long-term investment.

Speaking of volunteers, we need some. We are looking for three volunteers that have human resources experience. We have done very little on that side of our operations, and I want to form an ad hoc committee to help with a few tasks to keep us sailing smoothly. Send me an email if you are interested.

- Joe Whelan, Commodore



FEBRUARY 2022



July 16 - 23

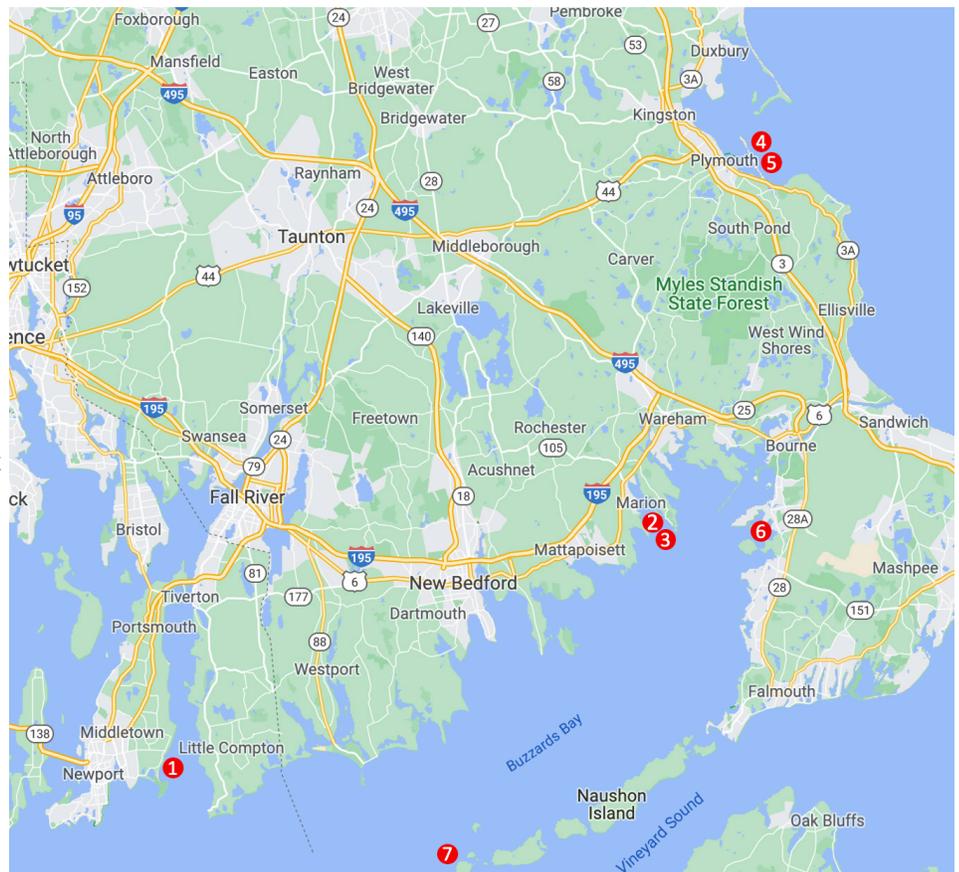
Start Planning Your BYC Annual Cruise

The 2022 BYC Annual Cruise has been scheduled for July 16 to 23. We will be heading east this year! The cruise will start from Bristol Harbor on Saturday, July 16, with the first stop at Third Beach in Middletown, hopefully with a few slip spaces in Sakonnet Harbor. Marion will be the next stop for two nights. From there, fair tides on July 19 will take us through the Cape Cod Canal and on to Plymouth, again for two nights. On the 21st, the squadron will sail back into Buzzards Bay to Red Brook Harbor in Cataumet, MA. Cuttyhunk will be the last official port of the cruise for the night of the 22nd. From there, it is back to the friendly confines of Bristol Harbor.

A shorter itinerary is being developed for any boats that wish to stay in Buzzards Bay for the trip.

Plans are being made for a mix of potluck, restaurant, yacht club, and your own dinners. There might also be a cocktail party or two during the week. More details will be posted soon on the BYC website. We are looking for day captains for the stays in Red Brook and Third Beach and assistants to the day captains for all harbors.

Joining a BYC cruise and helping out as a day captain or assistant are great ways to meet other cruisers and get familiar with these beautiful harbors. Please contact Fleet Captain Ralph Kinder for more information and to volunteer to help at 401-316-6386 or rkinder@gklfirm.com.



A Friendly Reminder:

Please follow COVID-19 safety measures at the Clubhouse.

Following the State of Rhode Island's latest COVID-19 guidance from December 15, 2021, all visitors entering the BYC Clubhouse must now show proof that they are fully vaccinated or wear a mask while in the Clubhouse. As defined by the Rhode Island Department of Health, being fully vaccinated means that the individual is two weeks out from a second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or two weeks out after a single dose of Johnson & Johnson. It does not include boosters. Thank you for your patience and support.



It's Only A Name...

Have you ever wondered how a particular boat acquired its name? Peter Canzone (Commodore 2007 - 2009) gives us the answer.

Boat: *Elixir*, Catalina 40

Owners: Lee and Robin McCaw

Why the name *Elixir* ???

The answer is best described in Lee's own words:

When we started with our first boat, every time we got on the boat, we commented on how relaxed and calm we were.

And then, four years later, when we were selling the first boat, *Tailwind*, and getting ready to get a new one, we were on Nantucket and walked by a store that sold old and replica bottles. We saw a bottle with the label *Elixir*, and we knew instantly that would be the name for our new boat.

We know that there are other boats named *Elixir*, but we have never seen one ourselves.

So.....Now you know how the name *Elixir* was chosen for Lee and Robin's boat. If you have a name you would like to submit, please email me Peter Canzone at americanart1@aol.com.



February House Dinner/Speaker

Friday, February 18 | Dinner at 6:00 pm | Speaker at 7:00 pm



Join us for a special preview of The Sailing Museum with Executive Director Heather Ruhsam. Situated in the newly renovated Armory Building on Thames Street in Newport, the museum will include displays celebrating the National Sailing Hall of Fame and America's Cup Hall of Fame.

[Click here to Sign Up](#)

or visit Social/Event Registration on the BYC website.

The Sailing Museum will showcase sailors and sailing nationwide through interactive exhibits that provide real-world applications of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) concepts that come alive through sailing. Visitors of all ages will discover the magic that happens when wind and water meet. The museum opens right here on Narragansett Bay in May 2022. Visit www.thesailingmuseum.org to learn more.



Opportunities To Race Have Never Been Greater for BYC Members

Racing sailboats runs deep in the DNA of Bristol Yacht Club. I can remember my first experience. It was the late sixties, and I was probably 15 years old with my dad and two younger brothers. It was the Wednesday Night Race Series, and my dad had signed us up to sail one of the Club Mercuries. Back then, the races started and finished off the club dock, and the boats being sailed were not big boats, primarily Mercuries, 420s, Sunfish, and the like.

What I remember most from that race was getting completely soaked, the volume of water in the boat, not having a clue as to what was going on, and having an absolute ball. I was hooked for life! Fifty plus years later, my brother Bruce and I are still sailing Wednesday evenings in the Millard Series on our dad's old Pearson Triton with our own children. And we are still having a ball.

Fast-forward to 2022, and while the BYC racing program still maintains the same esprit de corps, the program has expanded significantly. In addition to the long-standing Wednesday Night and winter weekend Frostbiting Series, there are now several other racing events aimed at adults and kids:

The Millard Series PHRF Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (PHRF) is a handicapping system used for yacht racing in North America. It allows

dissimilar classes of sailboats to race against each other. The aim is to cancel out each class of boats' inherent advantages and disadvantages so that results reflect the crew's skill rather than equipment superiority. It's not a perfect system, and individual boat ratings are constantly debated and argued; however, it provides an excellent platform for both casual and serious sailors to compete and have an immense amount of fun.

The origin of the current Millard Series dates to 1956, when the club purchased 10 Mercuries to revive their junior sailing program. Using the Mercuries, the club started a series of adult races on Thursday evenings that started from a designated area off the club dock.

This series is consistently one of the top Yacht Club PHRF fleets in Narragansett Bay, with over 40 boats registered in 2021. You don't even need to own a boat to participate, as you can charter a J/22 from the East Bay Sailing Foundation (EBSF) at a very reasonable rate to join the fun. The races occur on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer



season. If you'd like to know more about The Millard Series, please contact Mark Rotsky at rotskybyc@gmail.com.



J/22 Fleet Racing

More like classic round-the-buoy racing than the Team Racing format, J/22 Fleet Racing offers the appeal of one-design racing. All the boats are the same, so the results are determined solely by the efforts of the crew and skipper, not a handicap formula. You can find this active fleet racing series on Thursday evenings throughout the summer season. J/22s can be chartered for this series through the EBSF. Nick Cromwell at nccromwell@gmail.com will be happy to answer any questions regarding the J/22 Fleet Racing Series.

J/22 Team Racing

Once only experienced by students and sailors at universities and other

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academic settings, Team Racing is now thriving at the BYC. As outlined by accomplished US sailing expert Gary Johnson, the cornerstones of Team Racing are teamwork, advanced tactics, quick boat handling, lots of team spirit, and rivalries.

Team Racing at BYC was set in motion when the EBSF purchased a fleet of J/22s in 2013 and allowed this exciting racing style to find a home. Although not exclusive to “younger” club members, Team Racing has provided a much-needed alternative and draw for Intermediate and Adult members in the 20-35 age demographic. J/22s for Team Racing participation can also be chartered from the EBSF. Team Racing is held on Monday nights throughout the summer. To learn more about the J/22 Team Racing Series, please contact Nick Cromwell at nccromwell@gmail.com.



Frostbite Racing

A “cool” way to spend a Saturday/Sunday during the winter. This hearty bunch of sailors, both experienced and novice, have discovered a great secret to surviving the winter months on Narragansett Bay — keep sailing! With a long tradition, BYC Frostbiting has experienced a renaissance over the past couple of years, under the stellar leadership of Dave Guinther and Adam Langerman. This winter, 32 sailors have registered for the Fall/Winter Series. Sailing in both Lasers and Aeros, there have been over 239 races started with 12 racers sailing in over half of them. You will find great camaraderie and a fleet of welcoming and sharing sailors. For more information, please reach out to Dave Guinther at dave.guinther@yahoo.com.

EBSF Jr. Race Team

The EBSF offers Opti Race Team and 420 Race Team classes. For children ages 8 to 17 who are interested in racing, the EBSF is an excellent place to start or expand sailing and racing skills that will last a lifetime. New and exciting for the EBSF in 2022 will be the introduction of foiling dinghies. With the generous support of the Brito Family and in association with the US SailGP racing program, the EBSF will be adding a new fleet of three Melges Skeets (adult size) and three Melges Nikkis (youth size). EBSF is now planning how to best manage and allocate the use of this dynamic new fleet and will share details over the next few months. Please visit the EBSF website at <https://www.eastbaysailingfoundation.org/junior-sailing> or contact Richard Feeny at richard.feeny@gmail.com to learn more. - continued on page 6





If you've never had the opportunity to experience racing a sailboat, or worse, had a less than positive experience when you did, it's understandable if you might feel a bit intimidated and somewhat overwhelmed about taking that first step. What's terrific, however, about being a member at the Bristol Yacht Club is the vast number of people who would love nothing better than to guide you through that first step or help you give it another try.

Diving in headfirst is always an option, but you can also just put your toes in first to test the water. Try crewing on a boat with an experienced skipper, chartering an EBSF J/22 with an instructor, or volunteering on a race committee to observe the action up close. The top priority for all BYC racing venues is simple, safe, fun, and fair racing. All are welcome. If you're interested or just curious, we will find a way for you to experience the fun and excitement of racing sailboats at your comfort level and pace. I think the odds are high that you'll have a ball and maybe, like me, find yourself hooked for life.

- Bob Millard, Rear Commodore

One-and-Done: What's That?

Have you ever considered joining a BYC Committee but thought it might be too much of a commitment? What if you could volunteer to help on a one-and-done basis, (i.e., you volunteer to help at one event, and then you are done)? Several BYC Committees are now looking for members who are willing to help on a one-and-done basis for our upcoming 2022 season. We would love your help!

Many of our Club activities happen because our members pitch in. Those members want to get to know each other as sailors and as friends, and they are happy to help run events while making some great friends along the way. Some members can dedicate many hours, but for others – let's be honest, for the majority of members – life is already busy, and a long-term commitment to volunteer is not going to work.

That is where one-and-done comes in. Could you volunteer to help at one activity per year? If so, we would love your help. Many hands make light work, and who knows what new friends you will make. Say yes to one-and-done: Reach out to the Committee Chair(s) listed below for those Committees where you would like to help on a one-and-done basis. Thanks.

Grounds — Doug Kallfelz
House — Jane Guinther
Instruction EBSF — Rich Feeny
Junior Activities — Susie Holloway
Membership — Alan Dimson-Doyle
Race — Nick Cromwell
Social — Carole Mansur
Waterfront — Glen Petaja
Communications — Barbara Petrocelli
Audit — Evan Granoff
At Large — Rosemary Alden



- Rosemary Alden, At Large Member



March Dinner/Speaker Event, Sponsored by the DEI and House Committees

Friday, March 11, 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Captain Donald Lawson is the US Sailing DEI committee chairman and an accomplished racer and offshore sailor. You are invited to join the BYC House Committee and Captain Lawson at a special dinner and speaker event on March 11 to learn about Donald's lifelong mission to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion across the US sailing community. Through all of his work, Captain Lawson seeks to level the playing field by making sailing available to people who didn't envision that sailing could become their hobby or even their career.

Donald will also share his quest to sail around the world and be the fastest person, the fastest American, and the first African American to circumnavigate the globe nonstop.

[Click Here](#) to Learn more about Captain Lawson

This event is being co-hosted by the DEI committee and House. The DEI committee has worked hard to secure the speaker, and this is an introduction into the work of the committee. Further details on the dinner menu and a registration link will be provided within a few weeks.

- Jane Guinther, House Committee Chairperson
- Marilyn Dimson-Doyle, DEI Committee Chairperson



A Quick Update from Ben Hall on Winter Sailing In Florida:

Nan and I just got back from the A Cat Midwinter Championships in Key Largo. 41 boats. No wind the first two days, but got in 5 races on Sunday in 12-15 kt winds. I finished 3rd in the Classic division (non foiling boats). After a slow start in the first three races I won the last two.

In mid February we go up to St Pete for the NOOD regatta... should be a 35 boat fleet. Then in April we head to Houston for the A Cat World Championships and the Admirals Cup. I am in charge of the overseas charter boats and will be making 42 trophies for the two regattas...so pretty busy We should have an 80 boat fleet with sailors from 9 different countries.

This picture is how we travel to regattas...RV towing two A Cats. So instead of fighting cold, snow and ice....we sail all winter. Good times!



- Ben Hall, Member



All EBSF Programs Are Open For Enrollment



Please consider registering soon, before any classes fill up and to take advantage of 2021 pricing, which will be available until March 21.

[Learn more here.](#)



The Bristol Yacht Club Team Race Squad represented the club well on the road and at home, with multiple podium finishes during the 2021 campaign. If you're interested in getting involved and learning more about team racing, please fill out this Team Race Interest form: <https://bit.ly/3gb-TrrS>

If you've got questions about our team racing program, please reach out to TR Chair Amanda Callahan, acallahan@rwu.edu.

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