



MAINSHEET

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BRISTOL YACHT CLUB

OCTOBER 2025

CLUB NEWS AND EVENTS

BEN AND ERIC HALL HONORED



L-R: Lars Guck, Ken Madeiro, Eric Hall, Ben Hall, Phil Kinder, Peter Levesque, Paul Redman

Bristol Yacht Club honored two of its members on September 12. Ben and Eric Hall were inducted into the National Sailing Hall of Fame for their many contributions to Sailing.

Perhaps best known for founding Hall Spars in Bristol; Ben and Eric's sailing, racing, and engineering expertise are recognized around the world. Listing their many accomplishments could fill a book, and you can read more by clicking this [LINK](#) to the Sailing Hall of Fame's website.

Peter Levesque donned his emcee cap for the evening and shared several sailing stories and the many endeavors that Ben and Eric have been involved in over the years. Fellow Club members, racing teammates, and former Hall Spars employees Ken Madeiro, Lars Guck and Phil Kinder added stories of their own that elicited a lot of laughs and "wows!"

Commodore Paul Redman along with Race Committee Chair Bob McLaughlin introduced the "Ben and Eric Hall Extraordinary Achievement in Inshore Sailing Award", a perpetual award sponsored by the Bristol Yacht Club and presented it to its first recipients, Ben and Eric Hall.



TGIF October 10

Come enjoy a buffet dinner of Beef Stew or Vegetarian Stew, Mixed Greens Salad, Rolls and Apple Crisp

**Registration deadline
Monday October 6**

Here's the [LINK](#) to Register



The BYC Ship's Store will be open for in-person shopping during the TGIF on October 10. It's a great opportunity to do some pre-holiday shopping, and will showcase jackets, sweatshirts, and watch caps for the upcoming cooler days and nights.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



The Annual Volunteer Dinner was held on September 29 at the Club, and in keeping with tradition, featured a pig roast. Members of the Executive Board, Committee Chairs, and various committee members were in attendance and shared in the night's events.

Commodore Paul Redman recognized and thanked the many groups that perform a variety of duties, organize events, and pretty much make our Club one of the best on the bay.

The "Golden Pig Award" is handed out every year to the member who goes above and beyond to volunteer in a myriad of ways—often in a number of areas. This year the Golden Pig was awarded to Paula Tecca for his help launch driving, and for providing accounting guidance to EBSF. That's Paul above, with Susan Grandpierre, Junior Sailing/Instructional Chair and Paul Redman, Commodore.

Bristol Yacht Club is always looking for volunteers to help keep our Club active. If you are interested in volunteering, or joining the board, reach out to any of the members. A list of all committees and committee chairs can be found via this [LINK](#) on the BYC website.

Will Pierce: Four Decades of Frostbite Service



We honored Will Pierce's forty years of service to BYC and our Frostbite Fleet at this year's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. His service was driven by a love of water, sailing, and the camaraderie he found at our Club.

We all know the value of a dedicated race committee. Imagine decades of standing on the Frostbite Shack in the middle of Bristol Harbor on Saturdays from October through March. All this service as a valued member of our frostbite team, not a member of BYC.

Will's love of the water and sailing began right here, rebuilding docks and crewing on his father's S Boat PANDA,

now PAPOOSE, raced by fellow frostbite sailor Adam Langerman. This love continued to grow, while working with his dad, and running safety boats for frostbiting in the 1980's. Will followed in his father's footsteps for 15 years as Frostbite PRO for Penguins, Lasers and now Aeros. He also built "RC Shack #2", and the penguin marks we use today.

The most notable story from the evening came courtesy of Bob Hamel, who recalled the day in 1987 when Will loomed large over his cold, capsized, waterlogged body. Will pulled him out of the water into the workboat with a simple "grab and lift", then waded in the chest-deep icy North Harbor water to rescue Bob's Penguin.

Our fleet has been blessed to have such a dedicated, knowledgeable volunteer. Will "stood tall" in body, kindness and support of BYC and our Frostbite Fleet for more than four decades.

We look forward to Will's continued presence as we debrief on Saturday afternoons in the Chart Room.



-Dave Guinther
Frostbiting Fleet Captain



COMMODORE’S CORNER
PAUL REDMAN

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times” (Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities, 1859.) Though written more than a century and a half ago, those words capture Bristol Yacht Club’s Summer of 2025 with striking accuracy.

Many members have told me that our Social Events and Friday Night Dinner/Speaker programs have been the best. Racing, Cruising, Instructional Sailing, and Junior activities are all thriving. We are ending the season with strong participation across the board with solid financial results.

And yet, alongside these successes, we have also felt deep sorrow. Over the course of the summer, we mourned the loss of four active and beloved members. For many, including our staff, their loss has been profoundly felt. In time, however, shock and sadness give way to cherished memories: laughter, camaraderie, and the countless good times we shared. Traditionally, our Eight Bells observance is reserved for Commissioning. This year, however, we will extend that tradition to Decommissioning, as a mark of respect for those we lost this season.

On behalf of Chris and the Executive staff, thank you for your compliance in keeping bagged trash in the trash bin and disposing of loose recyclables in the blue recycle bucket. Prior to the sign being posted, the Club was charged with an additional \$90 fee on at least one occasion for contaminated recyclables. Since the sign went up, we have nearly 100% compliance, except for one member who disposed of an old oil container. It was spotted and removed by the staff before pick up. Good job, team!

Our standing committees are in full sprint mode, preparing this year’s budget. In addition, the Waterfront Committee has completed a bidding package for the 2027 replacement of the 25-year-old southern floats. The Grounds Committee has developed a landscaping plan to enhance the area along the new fence, as well as a plan to add solar lights to the western side of the parking area. The Ad Hoc Safety Committee, led by Vice Commodore Bob Millard, will conduct its yearly safety audit/review. The House Committee is awaiting final design specifications and will go out to bid for a new roof platform. The roof platform provides access to the kitchen vent for regular cleaning and maintenance.

In keeping with our By-Laws, I appointed, and the Executive Committee approved, a Nominating Committee. The Committee is charged with posting for our members’ review, its nomination for the Flag Officers, Secretary, Treasurer, the Chairs of the Standing Committees, two “At Large” members, and members of the Auditing Committee. The posting is required at least thirty (30) days before the annual meeting. Members of the Committee are as follows: Joe Whelan, Chair, Chris Bjerregaard, Ruth Souto, Jim Spiro and Rosemary Alden. If you are interested in serving on the Executive Committee, please reach out to Joe or any of the committee members.

-Paul Redman, Commodore

AT A GLANCE...
CLUB HAPPENINGS THIS MONTH

OCTOBER 3
TGIF
Mediterranean Night

OCTOBER 10
TGIF
Ships’ Store/BYC Photo Contest

OCTOBER 18
FROSTBITING BEGINS

OCTOBER 19
DECOMMISSIONING

OCTOBER 25
FROSTBITING STUFFIE REGATTA

OCTOBER 28
WOMENS’ SAILING MEETING



FROSTBITING BEGINS
OCTOBER 18

Everything you need to know about this year’s Season!

New This Year

We have switched to Clubspot for registration, fees, waivers and results.

Go to: <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/ri5hAM2wal> (short link, easier to remember: “bit.ly/Frostbite-25” (case sensitive)



Our long-time PRO Will Pierce has retired. This provides an opportunity for our racers and volunteers to take a more active role in BYC Frostbite Race Committee

Key Dates

October 18 – First Race

October 25 – Second Annual Stuffie Regatta (Another great event for both Aeros and Lasers)

December 13 – Last Race of Fall Series

January 10 – First Race of Winter Series

March 28 – Last Race of Winter Series

Please register now (and pay later)

Everything you need to register is here:

<https://theclubspot.com/regatta/ri5hAM2wal>

This is a new system. You may have questions, or we may have to tweak settings. So **PLEASE register NOW to allow us time to work out any issues.**

Using our new system you will pay race fees by purchasing “Race Passes” (either for entire series or for a day). The BYC fiscal year is October 1 through September 30, which is why we’re asking you to REGISTER TODAY and then purchase your race passes after October 1.

Your Waiver: This year your waver will be sent by email, you will digitally sign and be done. Once you have registered you will see “Orders” and “Waiver” at the bottom of your page. Orders will be \$0 until you pay your fee on/after October 1. After this date, the waiver will show that you have signed.

October 1: Purchase Race Passes by navigating to the SHOP section and click on “Merchandise”. Passes will appear on October 1—do not be concerned if you don’t see them when you first register.

NOTE: High School students race free, however THEY MUST REGISTER AND “purchase” a FREE High School Race Pass.

Documents

BYC Frostbite NOR, SIs and Frostbite Stuffie NOR are all on our Clubspot page. Check out the BYC FAQ.

Race Committee Duty

Flip and Dave will work with volunteers to fill our RC for the first four races (extra volunteers needed as the Frostbite Shack will not launch until after the fourth race.) That means we’ll need an RC boat and safety boat driver, a PRO, a mark set volunteer, and scorer.

During this 4-week period, we’ll set a schedule for Frostbiters to be “on call” in case we are short on RC for the remaining 5 weeks of the Fall series and for the 11-race Winter series. This year, all racers should be prepared to help on RC duty (or bring a friend/family member to stand in for you). NOTE: if you may be available to help at one of the first 4 Fall series races let us know and if we’re short we will call on you in advance to volunteer.

Looking forward to another great year of BYC Frostbite Racing. As always, let us know if any thoughts, suggestions or questions,

aero2896@gmail.com - Flip Myerson
dave.guinther@yahoo.com - Dave Guinther

BYC RACING NEWS



For the last 50 years, the Narragansett Bay Yachting Association has sponsored a regatta for three-boat teams representing any of the clubs on the bay. There is a spinnaker division sailing for the Swanson Cup and a cruising division sailing for the Bay Cup. Bristol Yacht Club has been on a roll, winning in 2023 and 2024. Our reward, in addition to displaying this beautiful trophy was to run the regatta this year.

The day of the regatta was rainy and cold with the wind in the lower teens. Twas a great day for racing! The RC, all dressed up in their foulies, took the trusty HERB and HERCULES to the starting area near Half Way Rock for the noon start. They were met by more than 30 boats sailing for six clubs.

Racing was on a windward-leeward course with each leg approximately one mile long. The RC wisely set a nice long starting line. Even so, the competition for the best spot on the line was intense. No major collisions but some louder than normal “conversations” ensued, and some boats were forced over the line before the gun went off.

The first race was just one windward leg and then back to the finish. In such a short race, starts, keeping clear air, mark rounding and boat handling were the key to a good finish. The RC on the HERB had their hands full as many of the boats finished within seconds of each other. Two more races followed. Each was increased to four legs.

In the end, the Bristol spinnaker team of AUDACIOUS, INCOGNITO and MISCHIEF were victorious over the team from Sail Newport. The cruising team of FIREBALL, HOPE and NAVAHOE took second to a fine team from Barrington.

Back at our dock, the sailors were all smiles despite being all wet. Ken Mederio summed it up best: “we were racing against some of the best sailors and boats on the bay and it was great fun.”

-David Schwartz



Women’s Sailing Collaborative Update

On September 23, 26 women gathered at the Bristol Yacht Club to define next year’s womens’ sailing program and to form a committee of volunteers in an effort to create a network of Narragansett Bay women sailors. An additional 10 women were not able to attend, but expressed interest in participating in future programs. The group was comprised of members from 19 various yacht clubs, 11 of them on Narragansett Bay. Discussions were held regarding new program ideas for the winter and next summer, and how best to connect with women at other Narragansett Bay yacht clubs to invite them to become part of the network, and to participate in these events. Plans to collect and distribute information about other area yacht club’s womens’ programs including those open to nonmembers are underway.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, October 28 at 6 PM at the Bristol Yacht Club to review our progress and the decisions made over the past month.

Please use this [LINK](#) to let us know if you want to be involved or invited to the next meeting.

The idea of collaborating is catching on and women from other clubs proposed events at their clubs. Becky Chwalk, Commodore of Barrington Yacht Club, offered to host a meeting of the group early next year.

-Susan Grandpierre



Proposed USCG Aids to Navigation Removal Reissued



After receiving a record-shattering 3,000 comments and a request from the New England Congressional delegation to delay removal of over 300 aids to navigation,

the United States Coast Guard has released a scaled-back notice, proposing 161 for removal. Another 71 aids are proposed for removal with supporting changes to surrounding buoys, e.g., lighting or sound additions or relocating remaining buoys.

Comments are due by November 15 and will only be accepted by email at <mailto:D01-SMB-DPWPublicComments@uscg.mil>.

An Interactive map of removals can be found via this [LINK](#)

-Brian Fitzgerald



Neptune’s Beach Bar Wrapping up a Wonderful Season

Saturday, September 20th, marked the last day for the use of our Beach Bar. Celebrating a most diverse season of activity the House Committee and members throughout every committee in our Yacht Club have worked together to share a very unique opportunity. Neptune’s Beach Bar truly brings together every person and every committee within this Club under a common cause. The goal has always been to provide easy access to coffee and snacks to sailors going out on the water for the day. We have made the effort to buy only the best ground coffee and serve it fresh, each Saturday morning. We have been down by the waterfront, in our MEMBER built Beach Bar all summer long. Folks from every committee and every part of the Club have wanted to participate in the process.

This year, a group of members who are talented artists, have been painting during the morning hours. We have beautiful scenes of the Bay and the Club House and the Beach Bar all on canvas, and for sale. The Ship’s Store has opened their doors to avail members passing by to stop in and buy that hat or shirt they have wanted for months. All this is happening with the freshest of treats baked and for sale by folks from every sector of our membership at the bar a few steps away. Neptune’s Beach Bar is truly a unique Community activity for our Club. To thank everyone for a wonderful season, the Beach Bar sold Irish Coffee and Mimosa’s for the first time, during our final day of the season. Everyone at the Beach Bar loved this new addition. More than 50 members came down to the waterfront to help us celebrate a great year. The House Committee wishes to thank every person who worked or visited the Bar this season. Neptune’s Beach bar is your most diverse community of members coming together to make Bristol Yacht Club all that it can be for every member.



-Rosemary Alden and Carol Gaffney



EBSF Fundraising Gala Was A Big Success!

With a tent on the lawn, and the Catnip Junkies playing Swing and NOLA jazz inside, guests danced and grooved to their spirited musical style. We can't thank Chris Healey enough for his support and guidance and especially for placing the bar out on the deck where the silent auction items were displayed. The Common Pub buffet was excellent. We are grateful to our supporters — donors and corporate sponsors, as well as over 60 volunteers, including adult sailing instructors; the folks who paint, clean, launch and haul the fleet; as well the EBSF Executive and Fundraising Committees. We are grateful to a whole constellation of people for their generosity — to Dr. Jay and Andrea Schachne; to our Corporate Sponsors: Quantum Sails, Starkweather and Shepley, Gilstein, Kinder and Levin LLC, and the Bristol Bagel Works.

We are grateful to live auction donors: Charlie Enright, Steve and Gloria Eddleston, Peter Van Erp, Chris and June Bjerregaard and Martha Brown for their interesting and exciting offerings. And our silent auction donors, too. Finally, we thank our guests for coming, for bidding generously to support our mission.



EBSF Director Emily Augello had a story to tell from last summer:

“On one of the final days of camp, we held a camp-wide Sailing Olympics. Four teams, all campers- ages 6 through 17 and their instructors competing in a series of events for Gold—or at EBSF, hoards of Jolly Ranchers and bragging rights. The final event was a sailing relay race off the Bristol Yacht Club dock in Blue Dragons—small, plastic prams. The rules were simple—every sailor on each team had to sail once; beginner Mercury sailors were required to sail with an older, more experienced buddy. Everyone had to leave the dock, round a mark about 200 yards away, and safely land back on the dock. That afternoon the classic Bristol sea breeze was building, and so were the waves. It was chaotic and loud—everyone cheering, BYC members on the dock watching the show.

Teenagers who couldn't care less about where their phone was in that moment were totally locked in. Seven-year-olds who normally shied away from the big breeze were grinning ear to ear, sailing confidently with an older buddy. Our 6' tall 420 sailor crammed into a pram way too small for him, trying not to sink and laughing his way around the course. On the dock, teammates acted like a pit crew—bailing boats, fixing sprit pole tensions, shoving boats off as hard as they could. Siblings sailing together and not fighting. Instructors hyper-competitive yelling out helpful tips to their team.

It was loud, chaotic, messy—and absolutely perfect. The best possible ending to our summer. Everyone, across ages and levels, coming together and loving the sport we all share. That's why we do what we do. But we didn't get to that moment in our program by magic. It takes a heavy lift to have a well-run instructional program—boats that are safe and well-maintained, sails that aren't full of patches, dollies that don't buckle when you're hauling up the ramp. It takes dedicated instructors, safety equipment, and hours of preparation and planning.

And looking ahead to 2026, we are dreaming big: We want to expand youth racing opportunities, so more kids experience the thrill of competition. We want to continue building our women's programs, connecting sailors across clubs and across the Bay. We want to invest in new sails, new dollies, and complete the refit of our beloved 70-year-old Mercury fleet, so our sailors have the tools they need to succeed.

Most of all, we want EBSF to remain a place where anyone—child or adult, beginner or racer, can find their place on the water. Because sailing isn't just a sport. It's a lifelong skill, and it's a community.”

Following Emily, Joe Brito stepped into his role as auctioneer par excellence, and led the exciting main event: the live auction and “Fund the Mission” call, enticing the gathered guests to give generously. Around 8:15 PM the skies opened up in a torrential downpour, but Joe kept on going! When he finished, the band took over and the dance floor was full; it was at the driest place in the tent. At last, everyone checked out and we learned the financial results of the evening.

Total revenues pledged were \$61,975. Live auction items sold for \$10,100; Silent auction: \$4765; and Corporate sponsorships: \$2500. Joe Brito challenged bidders to fund the mission and coaxed \$34,550 from the gathered guests. We are deeply grateful to Joe and to our guests for their generous support of our program. These people are our strongest supporters and advocates. They believe as we do, that new sailors are critical to the sport of sailing, and to the future of the Bristol Yacht Club. We are grateful to them for supporting what we do.

—Emily Augello and
Susan Grandpierre



BYC Hosts RWU School of Law Students



On Saturday, September 13, the BYC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee, in collaboration with Dr. Safie Sagna, Director of Diversity and Outreach at the RWU School of Law, hosted a group of first year law students that are first generation college and graduate students at an Open House and sailing event at BYC.

A great time was had by both members and students with many of the students sailing for the first time in their lives. There were lots of smiling faces after their sail, with many of them interested in taking sailing lessons next summer.

Thank you to the members who graciously shared their

boats and love of sailing with these students. If you are interested in learning more about the BYC DEI committee or future events, please contact Marilyn Dimson-Doyle.



BYC's Annual Clam Boil Social Committee Update

On September 13, a total of 83 guests enjoyed a New England tradition that started with New England Clam Chowder, and was followed by a New England Clam Boil, or Barbequed Chicken dinner. Chief Chef, Bob Hamel led a great team of volunteers who set up the room, prepped and assembled the boil and served the feast.

Volunteers included Shirley and Kevin Slattery, Roland and Janet Gendreau, Courtney and Vincent Rios, Vincent Pezzullo, Denise Asciola, Carmille Hamel, Joyce Sullivan, Susan Hagan, Teri Hughes, Mary VanDeventer, and Cathy Flanagan.

The evening was topped off with our traditional Klondike Bars served by our very own Commodore, Paul Redman.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 19. Decommissioning ceremonies will begin at 3 PM. Be sure to check your Monday morning emails for more details.



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