

2017 Portland Yacht Club Historical Summary

Racing

- For the first year the Race Committee offered an 'Introduction to Racing' to hopefully increase participation, remove some of the mystery and take the fear out of first-time racers. This is not the America's Cup.
- This year's Monhegan was fast with good winds. Several Cruising Class boats finished before midnight meaning it was not an "overnight" race.
- The J-24 World Championships were held in Port Credit, Ontario in September. There were 63 boats representing 10 countries. Several PYC members represented the Club well as follows;
 - "You Regatta" skippered by Carter and Molly White finished 5th.
 - 'Mr Hankey' skippered by Andrew Carey with Step Helms and Scott Carey aboard finished 34th
 - Jess Harris and Charlotte Kincaid were part of an all women crew finishing 39th
- Having qualified at the Regional Championships, Carter White and crew traveled to the St. Petersburg Yacht Club to compete for the Clifford D. Mallory Trophy which is awarded to the US Adult Sailing Champion. Competing first in a 20 race round robin regional series, Carter progressed to the 10 race finals. He won this rigorous national championship with 30 points well ahead of second place. In 2018 Carter will represent the US in sailing venues around the world

Membership

- The Thursday Coffee Group continued with good attendance (6-9 attendees per week) beginning in January and continuing through April. Also having continued success was the once a month Happy Hour held normally on the second Friday of the month. Most months saw 10-20 members with a variety of excellent appetizer supplied by attendees.
- Seventeen new members were welcomed with the usual agenda and an enjoyable evening of cocktails and appetizers. The club still has a substantial waiting list for 2018.

House & Grounds

- Many members will remember the large binoculars that used to reside on the front deck. A lot of us remember our children asking to be held up to them or spinning the wheel so they would move up or down. Over the years these became less that attractive and non-functional. Members George Bokinsky and Dave Robinson took it upon themselves to research their history.

They were Japanese binoculars from a World War II Japanese aircraft carrier and were presented to Vice Admiral Morton Deyo at the surrender of Okinawa. Admiral Deyo later became Commander of the port of Portland after the war and he donated them to PYC.

They have now been restored to their original Bristol condition and are a proud piece of PYC history and are displayed in the Great Room in a case crafted by member Rick Nellson.

- New lighting was installed in the parking lot to provide more security after dark. The lot was also sealed and re-stripped with slight increase in parking spaces.
- A freak November wind storm with gusts over 70 MPH did damage to the roof, moving the planned replacement of shingles from mid-year to January. No floats were in and no other damage occurred. Several boats did come ashore and Handy Boat had significant dock and float damage.

Junior Yacht Club

- PYC Junior sailor and daughter of members Bart and Christina Ladd was selected as one of two students in Maine to attend State Board of Education Committee meetings.

Management

- With Bill Richards return as Club Manager, all was in order and well organized as we have come to expect. Unfortunately, Bill has decided to re-retire by the end of the year. A search is underway for a replacement (not sure that can be fully accomplished). There were over 60 applicants which is being whittled down by a committee.
- At the Annual Meeting Vice Commodore Skip Yale (Chair of the Manager Selection Committee) outlined the recruiting and selection process for a new manager. Between July and December a pool of 90 applicants was whittled down to three. Member Pam Thomas was finally selected as the clear and strongest candidate. She brings a broad range of managerial experience including hospitality, resort management, sailing instruction, non-profit consulting, small business ownership combined with a knowledge and love of PYC. She will assume her new duties in mid January 2018.

Entertainment

- The Portland Country Club and PYC collaborated for a Progressive Rt. 88 dinner with different courses served at each club on June 16th.
- PYC hosted Cruises from Eastern YC and Boston YC on and July 9 and August 6 respectively.
- The now famous Annual Dock Party and Commodore's Cocktail Party was held on June 20.
- All the other regular annual events (e.g. New Years Day, Chili/Chowder, New Members Night, etc) were held without a hitch and great success. The monthly winter Friday Happy Hour was well attended from January to April.

Cruise

- The Shakedown Cruise was held at Dolphin Marina in Harpswell on June 23-24.
- Several other shorter cruise events were held with a weekend event at Sebasco and a lobster bake on Lower Goose Island.

Dining Room

- It was announced in March that a new Chef had been hired. A Committee had evaluated many resumes and narrowed the field to three finalists. They were interviewed by the Committee as well as preparing a meal of their choice for the group. Chef Stacie Bouin-Grondin was the final selection. She comes to PYC with education at Salve Regina University and the Connecticut Culinary Institute. She has worked in several Maine restaurants including Bintliff's, Hurricane, Finch's, and most recently the Small Point Club.
- The new Chef is off to a "rousing start". New members night had a variety of appetizers that satisfied everyone. Anyone who went home for dinner didn't take full advantage of the offerings. Cannonball had a record attendance and actually ran out of food. Mother's Day Brunch two days later was another delightful success.
- Summit Natural Gas is accessing the club via Ramsdell Road. This will eliminate the two large propane tanks near the Stewards shed and may open a couple of parking spots. It will save money and allow replacement of some heating and fireplace units that are old or not operational Possible future addition of heat pumps is now possible.
- Dining room policy of "kids eat free" continued on Tuesday and Wednesday. One child is free for each adult entree served.

Necrology

Tom Allen
Jean Anton
Jim Dodd

Audrey Gough
John Holmes Jr.
Charlotte Knapp
Gulden Lloyd
Donna Maietta
Sally Mitchell
Dottie Moore
Robbie Pawle, MD
Louise "Stevie" Reiche
Stephen Ryder
David Stanley
Fred Vail

Respectfully Submitted,

Phillips Sargent, PC
Club Historian