

2020 Portland Yacht Club Historical Summary

General

- In early 2020, the earth was attacked by a world-wide pandemic called Covid-19. This began in China and rapidly spread throughout that country. From there it spread to other Asian countries and Europe, with Italy being the hardest hit. In late January it was found in the US. By late March, America had over 100,000 diagnosed cases in all 50 states, the highest of any country in the world. By June the US had over 100,000 deaths (more than the Korean & Viet Nam wars combined). World wide deaths were over 1,000,000.

Cities were closed down, schools closed, quarantines implemented, Canada/US border closed, all non-essential businesses closed (incl. restaurants, gyms, movie theaters, etc.) and many states issued orders to citizens to remain in their homes except for essential services (buying food, medical emergencies, etc.). All PYC member activities were shut down. Staff continued to work (many from home) while practicing a newly defined term of "social distancing" (keeping 6 feet away from others).

- The state of Maine came to a virtual standstill with no public dining or hotel facilities until early June and then restricted in the three most populace counties. Most employers began tele-commuting where ever possible. Schools (public, private and college) throughout the state were shuttered with remote learning to the extent possible. Daily reports provided number of new cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. The toll on the economy and financial system was almost immeasurable. Weddings were canceled/postponed, people entering from another state were required to quarantine for 14 days which decimated the tourist industry. Only businesses providing essential service were allowed to continue operating.
- We learned a whole new lexicon and way of life: Covid-19, community spread, contact tracing, no hand shaking, tele-medicine, ZOOM video, social distancing, positive antigen testing, mask requirements, senior hours at stores for those over 60 or others who may have suppressed immune systems, second surge, curbside pick-up, no touch delivery systems, etc.
- As the summer waned and people became "Covid tired". Some let down their guard. Students went back to school and people were having more contacts with other than immediate family causing more infection. An unbelievable surge hit the entire country with over 10 million total cases and 250,000+ deaths.
- Maine maintained its vigilance & guidelines and re-instituted ones that had been relaxed. The spread now came from the "community" and not single outbreaks. One example was a wedding in Millinocket where attendance and mask provisions were not observed. This resulted in over 170 new cases and 9 deaths.
- Much progress was made on vaccines with some becoming available in December. Distribution was predicted to take several months with medical personnel and first responders at the top of the list.

Needless to say it has and will make for a very different year for all US residents for the near-term and probably well into the future. More specific implications for PYC are outlined below.

Racing

- Monhegan underwent a series of significant changes. Two separate races starting on 2 days. The traditional 140 nm Monhegan started on Friday afternoon. The former Seguin Island Race was renamed the Seguin Sprint starting Saturday. Both races have the following classes: Racing, Jib & Main, Multi-Hull and Classic (boats built before 1968). Thirteen boars were entered in the Monhegan and 15 in the Seguin Sprint Class.

- Weeknight racing began in mid-June: Etchells on Tues: J-24s on Weds and PHRF on Thursday.
- Summer racing schedule:
 - June 27-Double handed race at PYC
 - July 4-Schooner Trophy Race at PYC
 - July 11-Pilot Race at PYC
 - July 18-Centerboard Regatta at CYC
- In collaboration with the US Sailing Assoc, a 1-day Race management Seminar was offered at a reduced price of \$35 to US Sailing members. Course included three 2-hour on-line sessions on consecutive days with approximately 6 hours of study/homework.
- PYC hosted the J/24 Fleet 43 Downeast Regatta on Sept 12-13.
- The Annual Lightship Race and Fall series were successfully held as normally scheduled.

Membership

- In January all members were invited to submit poetry for the First Annual PYC Poetry Contest . In February the following winners were announced in four categories;
 - On The Boat category "Our Sailing Season" by Cindy Sargent
 - Maritime category-"A Valentine Haiku" by Mary Clew
 - Evocative category-"A Rose For You" by David Clough
 - Casco Bay category-"Unnamed" by Anonymous

House & Grounds

- Completed a refurbishment of the bar area by spackling, sanding and repainting the ceiling.

Junior Yacht Club

- After much adjustment the Junior Sailing program was able to open with very different rules and regs to meet state standards implemented due to Covid-19.
- The program opened at the end of June as usual with excellent enrollment. Revenues exceeded budget. A tent was erected on the lawn east of the Clubhouse. That along with the Junior Room upstairs and the area above the work shed provided the required social distance during inclement weather.

Management

- January brought major unexpected changes to our management staff and structure.
 - Manager, Pam Thomas submitted her resignation. Combined with family responsibilities, wanting a professional career break and opportunity to do more sailing and travel led to this difficult decision for her. We wish her well in all future endeavors and will welcome her back as a member in 2020.
 - After 16 years of service, Ass't Manager & Bookkeeper Carol McEwen submitted her resignation. She wishes to pursue a career more in line with her Masters in Finance. She will be working much closer to her home in Saco and have more time with her 5 grandchildren. During the search for a new Manager, Carol continued to assist the Club in financial matters through a consulting contract with her new employer. While we will miss her attention to detail and financial accuracy, we understand and support her in this transition.
 - Bill Richards (member and twice former Club Manager) again jumped into the fray to help with a variety of responsibilities while the search for a new manager and bookkeeper was under way.
 - In early March it was announced that Kelley Rich had been hired as Club Manager. Kelley brings 18 years of non-profit management experience in addition to earlier roles in insurance and banking. She grew up in Falmouth, spent 22 years living on Chebeague Island, and currently lives in Yarmouth. She began working on a part-time basis as she transitioned from her prior job. She has been full-time with PYC since April 1.

Kelley has a rich PYC lineage. Her paternal grandfather was Frank Soule Sr. who was Commodore in 1953-55. Her maternal grandfather was Dick Chadwick who was Commodore in 1959-61 and then again in 1968. Her great, great, great uncle was "Whiskers" Bill Thomas who was the driving force and Founder of the PYC. Both of her parents grew up at the Club. Her father was Commodore of PJYC and her mother was a sailing instructor.

- The Clubhouse was effectively closed with limited entry at the side door near the liquor lockers for restroom use only until July 1.
- Michael Michalski joined the team as bookkeeper replacing Carol McEwen who had left during the winter.

Governance-For three years a Committee chaired by Rear Commodore Tony Jessen has been reviewing and evaluating the best options for club management. Revisions were made to the Board structure which now consists of the Flag Officers, Secretary, Treasurer and 4 Trustees. Operational Board Members will become Committee Chairs. They will retain participation in club events in PYC attire and be a critical part of club operations, communicating with the Board through their designated liaison and occasionally attend Board Meetings as necessary. 2021 will be the transition year toward our updated governance structure.

Entertainment

- All entertainment activities were suspended in March for the remainder of the year.

Dining Room

- As we passed certain criteria the dining room opened for take out and outside sitting. Effective mid-June indoor dining was allowed with reduced seating in the dining room, masks required until seated, the bar area was closed for the season, but personal liquor could be taken to the table with mixers provided by staff. Reservations were strongly recommended and required on Fri/Sat nights.
- Thursday night BBQ began with racing. Orders could be placed up til 1600 for pick-up to take to your boat. Or, you could order on your way back to your mooring to enjoy on the lawn with social distancing observed.
- Lunch was available on Saturday for curbside pick-up to take home or to your boat.
- Slowly but surely, the Dining Room continued to expand hours with lunches on a limited day basis beginning in July. The bar area also was opened to members. Social distancing (six feet) and masks were required when not seated at your table. Reservations were strongly urged for dinner, lunch or Thursday BBQ.

Waterfront

- The waterfront opened on time, but with significant restrictions on the use of launches. Only a limited number were allowed on each trip with masks required and social distance of 6 feet (except for family members who lived in the same household).

Commodore's End of Season Summary

Dear Members,

As we are now into September, I could have never imagined that the 2020 spring and summer season would have turned out as it has. First, in February, Kelley Rich joined us as our new PYC Manager, and then as we geared up for the opening of the 2020 season, everything got turned upside down with the onset of the virus. Things were looking grim and we feared we wouldn't be able to offer any services at PYC. However, with the

hard work of Kelley, our dedicated staff and Board, as well as the understanding and cooperation of our membership, we've been able to accomplish a lot so far. I know we are far from out of the fog on this, but we have a lot to be thankful for, and I hope you all have been able to enjoy the club in some way.

Unfortunately, we haven't been able to hold any of our outstanding entertainment events, but we have been able to accomplish a lot, especially given our circumstances and restrictions.

1st We were able to open the waterfront and provide launch service only 1 week later than originally scheduled.

2nd We were able to open the dining room to serve take out and outside dining, and soon after, added inside dining to the membership.

3rd We have been able to provide Tuesday and Wednesday One design racing and Thursday night PHRF racing as well as Pilot, Schooner and Monhegan races.

4th We were able to provide an outstanding and very successful Junior Sailing program.

I'm sure there are many things I'm forgetting, but to sum it all up, we are having an incredible season despite all of the obstacles we've faced. We are making the best of our current reality and are proud of what we have been able to offer. On behalf of the entire Board and PYC staff team, thank you all for supporting us through these challenging times.

Looking forward after the Labor Day weekend we have:

Dining room open Thursday through Sunday till September 26th

Downeast Regatta September 12th & 13th

Lobster Bowl September 19th & 20th

Fall Series Saturdays 9/19, 9/26, 10/3 & 10/10

We are on the last leg of our 2020 season and have an amazing staff team and dedicated board working hard to ensure everyone at PYC is safe, healthy, and able to enjoy our small slice of heaven for the rest of the season. We are counting on all of you for your continued understanding and cooperation to help us continue to meet that goal.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Kelley or me.

My best to all of you,

Skip Yale, Commodore

Annual Meeting-Due to statewide restrictions on meeting size, the Annual Meeting was held virtually on Zoom with members watching and participating on their computer, tablet or phone.

Necrology

Phil Baker
Norma Billard
Lewis Cabot
Gerry Clement
Rita Seidel
David Wheatland

Respectfully Submitted,

Phillips Sargent, PC
Club Historian