

# 2012 Portland Yacht Club Historical Summary

## Entertainment Social

- The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual New Years Day Open House was again conducted from 1200-1600 with ample supply of Bloody Mary's, Artillery Punch and a non-alcoholic punch prepared by Phil Sargent and members supplying a cornucopia of delicious appetizers. Approximately 75 members enjoyed welcoming the New Year (12 hours late as most of them were fast asleep when it actually arrived). Per usual custom there was Cannon Fire over the Bay to announce the incoming of 2012 (not sure what the tide was doing at that time).
- The annual Chile/Chowdah night was held on February 3, 2012. Over eighty members, guests and children ate up approximately 10 gallons each of vegetarian chili and fish chowdah prepared by Phil & Cindy Sargent.
- Two new events were added to the winter calendar
  - A Bridge and Cribbage Competition was inaugurated on Feb 15 for all interested members. Results to follow.
  - A St Patricks Day dinner with all the fixin's, Irish music and Harp beer was held on St. Patrick's Day. Certainly a time for the "wearing o the green".
- The traditional Easter and Mother's Day Brunches were held on the appropriate days
- Cannonball & Commissioning were held on may 19.
- The Commodore's Cocktail Party was again held as a "dock" party and was graced with the arrival of schooner Bowdoin with tours for any interested member. The docks were filled to capacity with sumptuous appetizers.
- Decommissioning ended the official boating season and luckily we were spared the effects of Hurricane Sandi which created severe devastation in the NY/NJ area.
- Early December brought Santa to the Annual Children's Christmas Party and kicked off many private parties at the club.

## Physical Plant-House & Grounds

- **Flag Pole**-Our venerable flag pole in need of repair was taken down to determine what could be salvaged and what needed replacement or fixing. A few parts of the original pole that stood at the Merchant Wharf site of the Club in the 30's still remain. This was towed to the present Club House site by member Hal Moore in the mid 1940's.
- **Pond**-In early spring the pond was drained and excavated along with removing much scrub growth. According to one source there were eels found that measured in feet not inches. Hopefully Sean has taken them for a special Italian Fiesta Night. The removed soil will be dried and then remixed with the other grassy area and reseeded for a more beautiful lawn area and a cleaner more inviting pond.

## Membership

- **Like Taking Photos?** Ted Oldham, who describes himself as a "semi-retired architect," has taken on a monumental project: photographing every building in the city of Portland. Inspired by a similar effort from 1924, Ted set out to make this visual history as a guide for future Planning Boards as they make decisions about historic preservation and other built-environment issues. For more details, [click here](#). (Thank goodness for digital photography-film would be mighty expensive)!
- **NEW E-MAIL ADDRESSES**-PYC continued its progress with the computer age with the creation of our own Domain Address. This allowed for direct communication to staff and Board Members. It also enhanced the ease of communication amongst the staff and Board members.
- **New Members**-Twenty memberships slots opened as a result of 11 members moving to Senior status and 9 resignations. The openings were filled by three members returning from Leaves of Absence and 17 new members. Welcome aboard to all.
- **Member Jerry Graffam** published his debut novel, **The Lighthouse Society**, a mystery & suspense thriller that takes place in Maine.
- **Mylan Cohen, MD**, was recently honored by his alma mater, the University of Vermont Medical School, with the Distinguished Academic Achievement Award.
- **Necrology**

- Solveig Hennings — Former member — December 16, 2011
- Shirley Noyes — former member — April 2012
- John Seidel — former member — April 2012
- David Bergson — former member — April 2012
- Brian Kroot — August 2012
- Susan Hudson-Wilson -October 2012

## Education

### ➤ **OFFICER APPOINTMENTS**

Commodore Jennifer Yahr is pleased to announce that, with the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Maya Cohen has accepted appointment to the new post of Education Officer. This position was created by vote of the membership at the recent Annual Meeting. Maya has been very involved with the Education Committee, in part because the Committee has been chaired up to now by her husband, Dr. Mylan Cohen. She had been representing the Committee to the Board. Previously Maya has served as Membership Officer and House Officer.

To accept her new post, Maya resigned as Membership Officer. The Board voted to appoint Mark Steege to that position. Mark is a professor at USM. Members since 1996, he and Lisa live in Gorham. They sail *First Sight*, a Sabre 38.

- A Racing Rules Seminar was held in April that was helpful both to new racers and those for whom a refresher is always welcome. A sponsored beverage from a region north of England was featured.
- The Women's Sailing Program was held again in July.
- A seminar on weather was conducted by well known weatherman Dr. Lou McNally in August.

## Race

### ➤ **RACE MEETING Sunday, January 29, 4:00 PM**

Recently Commodore Jennifer Yahr invited all Club members, even those who have never raced, to participate in an examination of the future of racing at PYC. "Racing has been an important part of the Club almost since our founding," she wrote. "...The Board of Directors is committed to a Race Program that fits the interests of our members. We do not want to (make changes)...without having input from racers. Today's reality may call for a restructuring of the the program. We are not sure. We would like to know more," she concluded.

There may be some thoughts on paper in advance of the meeting. So, even though advance registration is not required, it would help distribution if we have an idea of who is coming. Just send an e-mail to [manager@pycme.net](mailto:manager@pycme.net)

Subsequent to the meeting the Board elected Stephanie Helms to the position of Race officer. Her experience in both racing and sail making will stand her in good stead in this role

### ➤ **Americas Cup**

Tom Ehman, Vice Commodore of the America's Cup Committee provided an overview and perspective of this years Americas Cup challenge and defense. Proceeds from the event went to the Junior Yacht Club.

## Cruise

- The two week summer Cruise began on 7/14 following the Commodore's Dock Cocktail Party the evening before.
- Several mini-cruises were held along with a fall cruise

## Junior Yacht Club

- **Orange Bowl Success**-PYC junior sailors and graduates continue to shine on the national stage. Charlie Lalumiere was among 559 racers participating in the Orange Bowl International Youth Regatta in late December. Sailing in a very competitive 420 class (only 11 points separated the top three teams) of 79 boats, Charlie and crew Elizabeth Pemberton finished second by just five points after ten races. Congratulations Charlie and Elizabeth!
- The Juniors took home many honors in Opti's, 420's and Laser's at the Northeast Championships

## Waterfront

### ➤ **LAUNCH STUDY**

The Waterfront Committee continues to study the possibility of a new, larger launch for the 2012 or 2013 season. The Committee set several criteria for a new vessel, including (1) it must carry at least 24 passengers (to make up for the loss of capacity in the existing launches), and (2) it should be built wholly, or at least mostly, in Maine.

The group has refined the possibilities to two:

- Crosby Launch (similar to what Handy Boat uses)
- Mid-Harbor Launch (similar to our launches)

Skip Yale, Waterfront Officer, reports there are several steps still ahead, culminating in a special Membership Meeting to consider the final recommendation. That recommendation will also include how the launch will be paid for. Stay tuned.

A Special Membership Meeting was held on Feb. 9 to discuss the launch purchase as well as finance options and how it would impact costs to members (dues, assessment, etc.). With barely a quorum in attendance the vote to purchase a new launch passed. The cost is slightly over \$100,000 and will be paid for with an assessment of \$100 in 2012 and 2013 for regular members. The Initiation fee will be increased by \$100 in 2013 and an additional \$100 in 2014 so all future members will share in the cost equal to current members.

In late April the Board voted to name the new launch the James M. Churchill in honor of the first Commodore of the Portland Yacht Club in 1869. The launch is expected to be on station in June.

So much for expectations. First the Coast Guard would not certify it because we needed to replace a plastic pump with a metal one. Other duplicate launches have been certified with the pump we had. Then the CG said the plans did not meet specification, but other launches with these plans have been certified. Once all this was cleared up a new CG Inspector came on the scene and demanded a stability test using 55 gallon drum barrels filled with water. Once that was passed, they questioned the laminate thickness.

Finally this was resolved and the Certificate is being issued just in time for Monhegan, 2 months after we began the process. Amazing considering there are 7 other duplicate launches in service in the northeast with certificates issued on the first go-round. It seems that CG Inspections are like politics-**LOCAL!!!**

- In late September the club dinghy was used by a visiting yachtsman while they dined at the Sea Grille. After dinner they tied the dinghy to their stern to return it to the dock. Upon arrival it was no longer tied. After searching they were unsuccessful in locating nor was our staff over the next few days. If not found they will replace it. **:Moral-"If you can't tie good knots tie lots of them"**. Quoted from Gary Jobson America's Cup tactician and skipper.

"And the lost shall be found". The dinghy was wedged part way underneath the dock and wharf at Handy's. Alls well that ends well.

## Staffing

- A new position of Part-time Activities Assistant was added to the staff. This position will work approximately 300-350 hours per year between April and October providing administrative support in the planning and implementation of Race, Cruise, Entertainment and Education events, thereby freeing the Board member to focus on new ideas, strategy and other Club responsibilities.
- On an August Weekend, one of our launch drivers did something that may have prevented a serious loss of life. Ben Morse, in his second year as a launch driver, was on the water when he was momentarily blinded by a laser beam. He was able to pinpoint the source as the Falmouth Town Landing. Once ashore he called police. The officers arrived in time to catch the bozo who had shone the light at Ben. It turned out that this same jerk had directed his "plaything" at the cockpit of a plane heading for the JetPort.

## Annual Meeting Summary

- Commodore Jennifer Yahr, Kristen King, David Robinson, Erik Greven, Maria Chambers, Maya Cohen, Jonathan Singer, Dean Marvin, William Newberry, Chris Morin, Mark Steege, Skip Yale, Stephanie Helms, Bill Richards, and Tim Tolford.
- Dues for 2013 were set at the same level as 2012: \$1,525 for Full members, \$762.50 for Senior members. Prevailing economic conditions argued against a dues increase.
- The restaurant made money this year as costs were down, income was up as was the numbers of units sold.
- We were pleased to put our new launch into service in spite of bureaucratic problems, just as we lost the Waldron for the rest of the season.
- Membership is full, 26 on the waiting list
- 2012 exceeded expectations, the Club ran a \$50,000 profit.
- Dan, Dorothy, George, Eleanor, and Margaret Holt are the 2013 Volunteer Spirit Award.
- At a special membership meeting, a proposal to establish a Portland Yacht Club Foundation was defeated by a wide majority.
- Dues were set at \$1,625 for Full membership. After approving a By-Laws amendment to permit the Board to set Senior and Intermediate dues (which formerly had been defined as half the Full dues), the Senior and Intermediate dues were set at \$500
- The following were elected to the Board for the 2013 season:

Commodore ----- Kristen G. King  
Vice Commodore ----- David Robinson  
Rear Commodore ----- William Newberry  
Secretary ----- Timothy Tolford  
Treasurer ----- Howard Coon  
Cruise Officer ----- Maria Chambers  
Education Officer ----- Kurt Johnston  
Entertainment Officer ----- Molly White  
Food & Beverage Officer ----- Skip Yale  
House Officer ----- Jonathan Singer  
Junior Program Officer ----- Christopher Morin  
Membership Officer ----- Mark Steege  
Race Officer ----- Stephanie Helms  
Waterfront Officer ----- Dean Marvin

Respectfully Submitted,

Phillips Sargent  
Heritage Committee Chair and Club Historian