

2016 Portland Yacht Club Historical Summary

Racing

- PYC received as a gift a four minute black and white film of the start of the 1938 Monhegan and a thirteen minute color film of the 1939 Mohegan. This was donated by Baer Connard a close friend of Peter Bramhall and Bud Singer. For many years Baer lived across the street from Peter and Hope.

The 1939 movie takes place aboard Baer's father's 49 foot sloop Ursa. It is a wonderful look back in history of racing at a time when your side lights were put up on shrouds and lit by oil.

Both of these are available on the internet and bring back a time of sailboat racing in its glory days.

- Over the last several years the PYC Etchells Fleet has grown significantly to become the third largest Etchells Fleet in North America. They are a thoroughbred one design racer and hold weekly races on Tuesday night. An invitation was made to all club members interested in sailing on one of these to join a crew on Tuesday or go for a day sail with one of the skippers.
- PYC hosted the the 2016 Maine State Opti Championships. Nearly 80 sailors from across the state competed including 25 from PYC. For the second year in a row Hayden VanAlstine took First Place.
- The 82nd Monhegan was held the first week of August. It was dedicated to long time member Tim Hussey who had recently passed away at a young age. Twenty-one boats competed in a race that saw shifting and varying winds that ranged fro 7-25 kts with fast finish times for all.
- PYC was well represented across many classes at the Marblehead NOOD Regatta. PYC skippers and crew who placed well in different classes included Jamie Carter, Ralph Carpenter, Chris Morin, John Milborn, Ned & Betsy Semonite, Michael MacAllister, Molly White, Carter White, Erica Beck-Spencer, Jess Harris, Charlotte Kincaid, Carol Pickering and Katie Drake.

The two PYC J-24 Teams are now headed in different directions: one to the J-24 Northeast Regional Championships in Buzzards bay and the other to the J-24 North American Championship in Toronto.

- The J-24 Downeast Regatta was hosted by PYC the second weekend in September. This was the 30th anniversary of this well attended regatta.
- PYC and Etchells Fleet 27 held the 4th Annual Lobster Bowl Regatta. Below is a short summary of the event which included 4 races on Saturday in tricky and changing weather conditions:

With the exception of the nearly 200 lobsters eaten on Saturday night, everyone else attending the 4th Annual Lobster Bowl regatta had a great time. The Lobster Bowl is all about Drinking, Eating Lobster, and Sailing Wicked Fast, and all three were accomplished with great fanfare at the event hosted in Falmouth, Maine by Portland Yacht Club and Etchells Fleet27.

Regatta chair and Fleet 27 captain Chris Morin's head was spinning when - on Sunday night - he realized the 29 competing crews drank 2-1/2 kegs and 25 cases of locally micro brewed beer donated by Rising Tide, Baxter Brewing, and Shipyard; ate 15 pizzas supplied by Flatbread; over 100 pounds of steamer clams; 50 pounds of burgers and dogs...AND the 200 lobsters. His wife and faithful crew member Becki claimed after racing Saturday that she has NEVER sailed so fast in an Etchells as she did Saturday.

Membership

- Maine Maritime Graduate and Unlimited USCG Master License holder Dave Witherill is scheduled to conduct a basic course in Celestial Navigatyon for the Cumberland Rec Department in March
- Phil Sargent, PC and USCG 100 Ton License holder continued teaching a six week course on Coastal Piloting and Navigation sponsored by Yarmouth Community Services in February and March.
- New Members were welcomed to the club in April. This was one of the smallest incoming group of new

members in years. Two years ago we had 1 application awaiting action. At the end of 2016 we have 44 which is at least a 3 year waiting list.

- The Entertainment Committee will host a Craft Fair on November 27 for Members and their friends and relatives. This will provide an opportunity for those into "crafting" to sell their wares prior to the Christmas Season.
- Member Heather Sanborn was elected to the Maine House of Representatives. She will now be serving the Maine community in addition to managing Rising Tide Beer, a well known local craft brewery owned and operated by her and her husband.
- Dr. Rockwell (Rocky) Davis was honored by the International College of Dentist for his leadership, commitment and service. He has also served as President of the Maine Dental Association.
- The Annual Meeting was held on 12/15/16 with a large turnout of over 50 members due in part to By-law Changes and dues increases. All recommendations were passed as proposed. Out-going Commodore Dave Robinson passed the helm to Vice Commodore Bill Newberry with the following analogy of the challenges that PYC May face in the coming years;
 - Our Mission is our secure rigging
 - Our Officers and Board provide a steady hand at the helm
 - Our financial strength including capital commitments is the rudder that keeps us on course
 - Our community spirit is the inner strength that allows us to stay the course in turbulent waters
- Member Molly White was elected Vice President of the J/24 National Association.

Junior Yacht Club

- A Winter Social was held for parents and participants (current or potential) about the upcoming season. Topics covered included demonstrations, program content, pairing skippers and crew and meeting instructors.
- Emily Egan was welcomed as the new Junior Program Director
- As an addition to staff, the Junior Program offered opportunities to teenagers over age 14 as Interns. The Interns will assist the regular Junior Staff in coordinating the various Junior Program activities and events.

Management

- Over the past 12 months the Club has seen significant management changes including new personnel in the following positions: Club Manager, Waterfront manager, Head Chef, Dining Room Manager and Junior Program Director.
- John Redmond, Manager left the Club in November. The Board quickly replaced him with former manager Bill Richards. Bill commented that he is pleased to be back, but will not be returning the picture he received when he retired 2 years ago.

Cruise

- The annual Cruise Pot Roast Dinner was held on April 9th providing an advance look at the upcoming cruise events including a two week cruise in July.
- An aggressive cruise calendar has been scheduled with several short cruises and the traditional two week cruise in July. Events are planed to be family friendly with activities for children and adults. Events include a Shakedown Cruise on June 11 to Potts Harbor, a Summer solstice/Fathers Day Cruise on June 18, the annual 2 week cruise beginning, a family weekend at Sebasco, a surprise getaway on Labor Day and finally a weekend "Hang onto Summer" in September to Jewell Island.

Dining Room

- After 11 very successful years, Chef Shawn Lewis resigned in February to pursue another exciting

opportunity. Shawn leaves on a high note with the 2015 season serving 500 more meals than the prior season and generating an \$11,000 profit to the club. In his resignation letter, Shawn made it clear this was not an easy decision:

"I cannot thank the membership enough for allowing me the opportunity to Chef at the Portland Yacht Club. Many thanks for the support from the managers & membership during these eleven years - there will be so much that I will miss. Please understand eleven years in a work place where you are respected and treated as family, is a very hard thing to walk away from. Please let me know how I can be of assistance during this transition process. Shawn Lewis"

The Dining Room Committee immediately began a search for a replacement hoping to have a new chef on board by April 1st.

- In early April we welcomed Jim Turner as our new Chef. Jim brings a wealth of experience working in different styles of restaurants as well as owning his on BBQ restaurant. He was trained at California Culinary Academy in San Francisco, His first events which were extremely well received were New Members, Night, Commissioning and Mother's Day Brunch.
- Matt Fairbairn also joined us as Dining Room Manager. Matt has twelve years of experience working a variety of restaurants on the southern Maine coast. He has held positions from dishwasher to manager and everything in between.
- Problems plagued the restaurant as the summer progressed with the resignation of the recently hired chef and difficulty getting dining room and kitchen staff. This was complicated by early returns to college and school schedules. This required a reduced "open" schedule with no lunch service and Tuesday thru Sat dinners from late August on.
- In the absence of a full-time chef, Bread & Butter Catering has been hired to manage member events for the winter. Long time Junior Program Director Katie Franklin is a key member of the Bread and Butter management team.

Necrology

Lee "Tinker" Whittier
Phil Tuttle
Del Damboise
Millie Houghton
William Hall
Charlie Brown, PC
Tim Hussey
Frannie Warren
Dr. Irving Selvage
Phyllis Fenderson
John Payson

Respectfully Submitted,

Phillips Sargent, PC
Club Historian & Heritage Committee Chair