

2019 Portland Yacht Club Historical Summary

Racing

- Several race related seminars were held each week in March. Topics included boat prep, heavy air sailing, using wind and tide to predict favored course sides, race management and judging with instruction and guidance from Tim Tolford, Carter White and Steph Helms.
- A 2 day Sailing Instructor Course was held in May. This Level I course is required by most organizations where sailing instruction is provided.
- World renowned sailor, racing coach and author Dave Perry held a seminar on racing tactics and rules for members on June 29-31. Included were session on one design racing for J-24's and Etchells and coaching clinics for Junior Program Opti and 420 racers.
- The Thursday race nights continued with a variety of bands each night after racing
- Several PYC Members were entered in the Marblehead Halifax Race: Bob Kellogg and Geoff Emmanuel on Bob's Concordia Farr 44 Tamarack; John Wilkinson and his crew on Petronella, a Finn Gulf 41; Fernando Oliver and 6 crew on a Hinckley 50 yawl. All crew were over 60.; Chris Mooradian as part of a double handed crew on a boat out of Hingham Yacht Club. Tamarack finished a strong 3rd in her class
- After many years the Interclubs Regatta was rekindled due much to the efforts of Tim Tolford and his committee. This race also saw a resurgence of Ensigns where 9 were on the starting line for their class. There were many members who took honors in several classes including:
 - Richard Hallett-Ensigns
 - David Ruff and Jane Wellehan-Beneteau First 36.7
 - Ben Pollard-Etchells
 - Wayne & Michelle Smith-Cruising
 - Tony & Ann Blanchard-Sport Boat
 - Scott Smithwick-Racing A
- Maine Boats and Harbors September edition contained an article on Etchells Fleet 27 (out of PYC and second largest Etchells Fleet in America). It contained many pictures taken and submitted by Club Photographer Ann Blanchard which included several PYC members.
- The J-24 Downeast Regatta was sponsored and held at PYC on September 7th & 8th.
- Both the Etchell's Lobster Bowl Regatta and the Lightship Race were held on September 14th creating a significant need for volunteers to help with organizing and race committee. It turned out to be a wild and woolly ride for both fleets. Clear skies with stiff winds and chop all thanks to hurricane Dorian which was a hundred or so miles off shore. All participants were pretty well exhausted but managed to party and dance into the evening.
- Monhegan was described by Doug Coyle, PYC Race Officer as Epic with lots of enthusiastic racers this season. One club member contributed \$150 to be awarded to the first 3 new boats to participate. Each skipper received \$50. The donor who wishes to remain anonymous is planning on the same for next year with a bigger cash gift. The race started with very little wind, luckily the tide was ebbing and racers drifted out the Hussey with spinnakers up. What little wind at start soon dried up and it was a real duel outside with many boats in close proximity but no propulsion. And so it went for the first couple of hours until a big big change. The wind went from 0 to 25 in over 30 minutes!! Doug said the boat he was on rounded mark near Wood Island in the early afternoon!!. At 2am we were doing 8+ knots in 3 foot chop and at least 15 knots of breeze. Many boats finished well before sunrise.
- In October four teams from PYC headed to Miami to face off against over 80 teams from 20 countries in the J-24 World Championships. Representing PYC were:
 - Boreas* skippered by Finn Hadlock with Eliza Price trimming downwind
 - Mr Hankey* skippered by Andrew Carew with PYC members Stephanie Helms and Spencer Howe and former PJYC sailing coach Jeff Sullivan
 - Sea Bags Women's Sailing Team* crewed by Jess Harris, Katie Drake and Emily Carville
 - You Regatta* with Carter White at the helm and wife Molly on the fore deck

- Plans are underway for a race challenge series between PYC and CYC for 2020. Several races will be held to determine which club will have winter bragging rights.
- Etchells Fleet # 27 donated \$500 to the Race Committee and will make a contribution to the Staff Recognition fund. They have volunteered to assemble new floating marks and ground tackle for the 2020 season.

Membership

- Charlie Whittier was recognized as Member # 001 having been an active full time regular member since 1958.
- Coffee Klatch continued with attendance ranging from 5-15. About once a month a guest speaker was invited to discuss various topics of interest to Club members as noted below:
 - Dave Fenderson was honored at the Coffee Klatch on his 85th birthday, Included was a picture of his old Uniform which still hangs in the Chief Engineers stateroom on the USS Casson Young (named for WWII Medal of Honor recipient-posthumously) which was a Fletcher Class WW II destroyer and now museum moored on the pier next to the USS Constitution. Dave was the final Chief Engineer when the ship was retired and his name is still on the door.
 - USCG Commander of the Port, Portland joined the Klatch on May 24 to share his knowledge and experiences as well as hints of how to best enjoy and be safe on Casco Bay.
 - Member and former "Wine Peddler" Ross Ketchum shared his knowledge and insights in wines from around the world based on his career and professional experience.
 - Ted Bernard, PC and Charlie Whittier shared their experiences with the Maine Maritime Museum.
 - Former member and co-creator of the New Years Day party, Frank Hale shared his experiences while sailing as 2nd Mate on the USS United States with trans Atlantic passages and other voyages throughout the world.
 - Charles Baird who was the 2nd mate on the El Farrow before its ill-fated voyage which claimed 33 lives including 5 Maine Maritime grads in a hurricane off Puerto Rico shared his insights into the tragedy.
 - Long time member Peter Mills shared his experiences as Director of the Maine Turnpike Authority for the past seven years as well as running for Governor twice and serving seven terms in the State Senate
 - Doug Minion (on the PYC Membership wait list) shared his experiences as a former Navy fighter pilot and currently flies A-300's to and from Europe as a Senior Pilot for American Airlines.
 - Gere Thompson shared his and Bear's experiences cruising on several vessels spending several winters cruising the Bahamas, completing a 3 year cruise doing the Great Loop. They are now planning to pocket cruise on a trailerable boat on the lakes and canals of the Northeast.
- Members Steve and Elaine Titcomb are cruising their Gozard 36 S/V October in the Bahamas for the winter. While there Steve joined the Bilge Town Rats on his guitar for a concert at the Hope Town Inn & Marina on Elbow Cay, Abaco. This was a fundraiser to sponsor Bahamian youth who go to other islands on service projects. Also in attendance were members Craig and Carolyn Fillman.
- Eleven new members were welcomed to the Club on New Member's Night on May 2nd. Members of the Board reviewed their respective responsibilities and PC Phil Sargent, Club Historian provided an overview of the 150 years the Club has existed.
- The Club welcomed guest and Portland Oregon YC Past Commodore Doug Foster to PYC where he and Commodore Yale exchanged burgees. PYC Oregon has been in existence since 1911.
- Gregg Marston left PYC under a canon salute on his Alden 44 Querencia headed to the Azores. Crew included Greg's son, Jake, member Peter Stoops and friend George Darling. In July they were on the leg to Portugal
- Bill Oliver was recognized for his 12 years as a member of the Falmouth Harbor Commission. He was

replaced on the Commission by Chuck Sanders, PC. Having a PYC member on the Commission is important as harbor rules are evaluated and sets an example of PYC's continued stewardship of the Falmouth waterfront.

- Member Denny Denham made a late summer fishing trip to their condo on Grand Bahama Island. Denny's fishing was interrupted by hurricane Dorian (second most powerful Atlantic hurricane in history). Denny successfully weathered out the storm with only minor damage. Once the storm cleared he remained for several days to assist in support efforts including delivering food and water to those displaced. He was featured in a story on WCSH Channel 6. Both Grand Bahama and the Abacos looked like a nuclear blast had occurred the damage was so widespread and total.
- Volunteer Appreciation Night was held on Nov. 1st to thank and celebrate the many members who volunteer hours and hours to many club, duties, functions and activities.
- Peter and Connie Bingham sent pictures of their visit to the pyramids in Egypt.
- At the Annual Meeting the Volunteer Spirit Award was presented to Pam Fridlington. Pam was instrumental in the design and publication of the 150th Anniversary book combined with being an active member on the decorating committee and designing logos for the Monhegan and the 150th Anniversary.

150 Anniversary

- April 26, 2019 marks the 150th anniversary of the creation of the Portland Yacht Club. Many events and activities are planned to make this a celebration throughout 2019. Much of the planning has been in the works for two years under the leadership of Kristen King, PC who chaired a large Committee that is listed below. Included are:
 - Special casual Happy 2 Hour on April 26. the actual date the Club was founded
 - May 10 was a special Cannonball Celebration/Ceremony kicking off a year of events to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of PYC. 174 Members joined in the Celebration
 - An Anniversary book for each member
 - Custom 150th burgee and Banner
 - 150th clothing and other items with the 150th burgee
 - Committee-Pam Fridlington, Sandi & Ed Berry, Ann Blanchard, Phil Sargent, PC, Jen Yahr, PC, Bill Richards, Carol Dean, Dave Witherill, Leigh Palmer, PC, Susan Gilpin, Michele Smith, Steph Helms, and Bernard Willimann

House & Grounds

- New large ceiling fans were installed in the great room to better distribute warm air when it is cold and cooler air when it is hot.
- Old Powerhouse Road will be closed temporarily for the Portland Water District to install new lines to two new houses built on the upper part of the road. The serious potholes caused by the winter weather will also be repaired. When closed access can be made from Ramsdell Rd and across the field to the parking lot. That solution assumes that the field is not a mire given over 17 days of rain during the month of May. Guaranteed spring will arrive by July 4th.
- Talk about fireworks. July 4th saw a lightning strike take out the clubhouse alarm system, Dock House telephone, anchorage WI-Fi and Dock Cam. All were up and running within a few days. Several boats were also hit. PC Ward Graffam's waterfront home in Camden was struck with extensive fire damage. It took four fire departments 90 minutes to bring the blaze under control.
- John and Corey Goodrich donated a painting to PYC in honor of John's father's long term maritime legacy. The picture by Don Lesley was commissioned by John's father and long time member Jim in memory of his father a Great Lakes sea captain. Jim was a graduate of the Michigan School of Naval Architecture. He eventually became President of Bath Iron works. Following his retirement he became Under Secretary of the Navy in the Reagan administration.

Junior Yacht Club

- As of mid-May there were still spots available in some of the PJYC programs for members and non-members
- Mid July will include an overnight camping trip to Cow Island for PJYC members
- Ted Bernard, PC donated a Memorial Trophy (Challenger Trophy) in memory of his son Charlie. Charlie was a well known Junior Sailor at PYC and won the Bemis Trophy for double handed sailing with PYC Junior member Stephen Churchill. They represented PYC in the Jr Nationals placing 7th. The trophy is presented to a PYC Junior sailor who constantly demonstrated the spirit of a challenger throughout the season. She was crew on a 420 that capped their season winning the Downeast Junior Sailing Association Regatta held at Bucks Harbor this year.
- The J24 Downeast Regatta was hosted by PYC on Sept 6-8.
- PYC Junior sailors outdistanced the competition in several events. Sandy Yale and Elsa Dean-Muncie took first place honors in Downeast Junior Sailing Association Regatta; Fin McLean won the Maine State Opti Championship and Skipper Sam Rooks and crew Kiernan Elliott won the 420 Class of Northeast Junior Olympics Festival.

Management

- Maintenance Manager Jimi Cullum won the Dirigo Bowl presented by GMORA for season results. Jim won it skippering his Pearson Commander, Fiddler's Green. The bowl will reside at PYC until the 2020 winner is announced.

Entertainment

- The monthly Happy 2 Hour continued through the winter with 20-30 members usually attending. It was moved to the 2nd Thursday to accommodate many members who are off to the ski slopes on Fridays.
- Chili/Chowder Night was another success with Bill Newberry's chili and a chowder cook-off. master Chef Joe Seremeth and his 3 1/2 year old son took overall honors. Michelle Raber and Michelle Smith took honors in their categories
- The first two weeks of May provided a busy social schedule. The new Member's Reception was held on May 2nd. Doug Welch, Exec. Dir. of Maine Island Trail Assoc. made a presentation to interested members on May 3, 2019 about his rowing expedition of 34 of the islands along the trail. On May 4 the Great Hat Contest was held with a Kentucky Derby Party. Mothers Day, May 12 was celebrated with the usual buffet brunch. The Past Commodores Dinner was held on June 10
- Decommissioning was held on October 20 with many members enjoying a final firing of the canon, hors d'oeuvres and cocktails
- The Annual Children's Christmas party was held on Dec 8 with the usual visit from Santa.
- Happy 2 Hour began on Dec 12 and will be held monthly throughout the winter

Dining Room

- Newly introduced for 2019 is the ability to pay a one time dining room minimum of \$500. While the total is more than the combined monthly minimums of \$100, there is not time schedule of when you use it. It can be used in one seating if desired. Once it is met, further charges are billed to the member. As with the monthly minimum, there is no refund for any unused amount.
- The dining room opened officially for dinners on May 21.
- Bess Walsh was hired as the new Dining Room Manager. She has a Bachelors Degree from Culinary Arts Institute.
- Dining room policy changes in schedules and reservations were required due to reduced staffing in late August and September. The Dining Room closed for the season on September 21st.

Waterfront

- Work was completed on Phase I of needed pier repairs in Jan/Feb. Lateral bracing was replace, tide pilings stiffened, replacement of some longitudinal supports. Phase II will happen in April doing all tie-down work and replacing broken cable and chain. All of this will stiffen the dock especially in extreme weather.
- In April as we tried valiantly to shed the winter (6 inches of snow the first week), Waterman's was back at completing the work begun in Jan.
- A new fiberglass flag pole was installed along with a new Member's dinghy dock.
- A severe mid-October nor'easter descended upon the water front doing significant damage. The ramp from the pier and two that connect the floats were sunk. Some damage to some floats. With the support of Smithwick & Mariners Insurance, Handy Boat, Dayton Marine and diver Mark Smith all equioment was recovered and properly hauled and stored within the week.

Necrology

Richard "Buck" Buchanan
Read Dickinson
David Fenderson
Dianne Gleeson
Richard "Dick" Henriques
Hoddy Hildreth
Blair Knapp
Windy Noyes
Roger Percival
Betty Ann Taylor
Jane Wellehan

Respectfully Submitted,

Phillips Sargent, PC
Club Historian