

Winter Sunset over Bristol Harbor (Photo: Brian Fitzgerald)

# Progress Report: Strengthening the Partnership Between the Bristol Yacht Club and the East Bay Sailing Foundation

In July 2021, the joint BYC/EBSF Focus Group published a report that summarized the current state of and recommended improvements to the working relationship between the Bristol Yacht Club and East Bay Sailing Foundation (EBSF). (You can read that original report <a href="https://example.com/here.">here.</a>) The goal of the Focus Group was to take

a high-level look at the EBSF and its relationship to BYC, determine whether it was the right organizational structure and relationship, and consider how the relationship could be improved.

Since then, significant progress has been made in implementing the report's recommendations. Changes have been made to EBSF's governance, organizational structure, operating processes, financial management, and course offerings. In the future, these changes will allow EBSF to focus more on longterm planning and operate more efficiently. The changes will also improve communication between the two organizations and ensure that both BYC and EBSF resources (e.g., buildings, equipment) are used and maintained appropriately.

Recommendation	Status	Owner
EBSF Bylaws should be reviewed, updated, and ratified	Complete	EBSF
Staggered terms for board members to ensure continuity	Complete	EBSF
and avoid burnout		
Add an Audit Committee with a role like the BYC Audit	Complete	EBSF
Committee		
Invite the BYC Vice Commodore to serve on the EBSF	Complete	EBSF
Board		
Create committees of volunteers reporting to the Board	In Progress	EBSF
to manage finances, fleet maintenance,		
communications, fundraising, curriculum, and staffing		
Modify Bylaws to eliminate requirements for EBSF Board	Complete	EBSF
members to serve on each committee		
Include contributions to EBSF from BYC on separate line	Open	EBSF
items in the EBSF financial statements		
Collaborate with Chief Steward on the development of a	Complete	EBSF/BYC
Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)		
Seek the assistance of SMEs to ensure EBSF	Ongoing	EBSF/BYC
operations stay within the rules required by the IRS for a		
501(c)(3)		
Collaborate with the BYC Executive Committee on	Open	BYC/EBSF
establishing a vision and long-term funding model for		
EBSF		
Collaborate with the BYC on a set of rules pertaining to	In Progress	EBSF/BYC
the use of EBSF assets		
EBSF/BYC Bylaws should be reviewed to ensure they	Complete/NA	EBSF/BYC
are in sync with each other		

Collectively, these changes will allow the staff, members, and students of both communities to collaborate more smoothly.



## A Busy and Fun February at BYC

Commodore's Corner

It is February. How can that be? Soon we will begin to talk about Spring, but I have not skied enough! Too much fun, not enough time. And so, it goes.

February is shaping up to be a very busy month at the Club with a packed calendar of events. In particular I would encourage everyone to consider attending the TGIF dinner on February 24 when we will have a terrific guest speaker from Roger Williams University. President Ioannis (Yannis) Miaoulis of Roger Williams University. Yannis – as he is universally known – will share with us his thoughts



about the future of Roger Williams and the future of higher education. Yannis is an entertaining person with high energy and full of good cheer. I hope everyone can make it.

In recent weeks we have been taking a deep dive into our insurance program and we will continue to do so as we come upon our annual renewal. Insurance is one of those quiet costs that have significant impact on the Club. Last year's insurance bill for BYC and EBSF was \$83,000. We are hoping to begin to make some downward improvement, while at the same time retaining excellent coverage.

## **February Highlights at BYC**

- Soups On Saturdays Every Saturday from 3:00 PM 7:00 PM
- Trivia Night Saturday, February 4 from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
- TGIF with Bring-Your-Own-Dinner and a Guest Speaker on BYC's 2023 Cruising Plans - Friday, February 10, 5:00 PM -9:00 PM
- Cruise Committee Meeting Thursday, February 16 at 7:00 PM. Anyone interested in learning more about or helping to lead a cruise as a day captain is welcome to attend this meeting.
- TGIF with Appetizers and a Guest Speaker, the President of Roger Williams University - Friday, February 24, 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- Remember that the BYC Ship Store is open all winter with a full inventory of in-stock items. Visit <a href="https://www.bristolyc.com/ships-store">https://www.bristolyc.com/ships-store</a> to shop.

To that end, we are looking for an addition to the ad hoc insurance committee. If you have experience with commercial insurance and you are looking for that perfect excuse to volunteer for your beloved BYC, please send me an email.

That takes me to this month's volunteer shoutout. Keeping with the theme of groups of volunteers that work behind the scenes and make great contributions to the Club, this month's shoutout goes to the ad hoc insurance committee and the editors of this publication – your *Mainsheet*.

The *Mainsheet* editors, Marti Schwartz, Pat Crawford, Cindy Elder, and Mike Martel serve as editors, contributors and general support for the *Mainsheet* and Barbara. Look around at other clubs and see what their newsletters look like. No one has the *Mainsheet*! Thank you team *Mainsheet*.

The insurance committee has been madeup of John Bell, Peter Maloney, me (until I kicked myself off), and it has been led by Jim Sallinger (the insurance brains behind the operation). Each year the committee has met and deliberated over insurance options and premiums and kept your assets well protected.

In the year leading up to the fire, the committee had the good sense to recommend a major increase in the house coverage to Commodore Ruth Souto. Ruth had the good sense to accept that recommendation! The results are there for everyone to see. Thank you insurance committee!

Finally, two Friday nights ago I stopped by the Club for a drink toward the end of the evening. Among the last to leave the bar were me and Past Commodore Jim Dollins. Jim gave me an hour that was a perfect combination of stories from years gone by, and a pep talk. It was uplifting and reminded me, with great clarity, what a great club we have. Thank you Jim!

- Joe Whelan, Commodore

## Registration Opening Soon: US Sailing's Basic Race Management Class at BYC

Elevate your race management skills or prepare to become a US Sailing Certified Race Officer

BYC Member John Mooney will be offering US Sailing's Basic Race Management class at the BYC Clubhouse on Wednesday, March 1 from 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM and Saturday, March 4 from 9:00 - 1:00 PM (lunch included).

According to US Sailing, a Club Race Officer is expected to be able to properly run any race normally conducted at his or her local sailing organization, including organizing the race committee, writing sailing instructions and scoring the event. Responsibilities include:

- Choosing courses to give competitors the best possible races
- Adjusting the course in response to changing conditions
- Starting and finishing the fleet
- Scoring the event
- Ensuring the safety of competitors and the race committee

A link to register for the class will be provided in future weekly emails or interested parties can email <u>John Mooney</u> or BYC Race Committee Chair <u>Bob McLaughlin</u>



## **EBSF News**

## Check Out EBSF'S New Powercat!



This beauty will be launched in February. It will go to Brown University and be used by their Sailing Team until June. Then it will come home to Bristol Harbor and EBSF. We will be having demonstrations of its capabilities over the summer. Stay tuned!

## Don't Forget About EBSF's Wetsuit Recycling Program

EBSF is collecting old wetsuits for recycling, in collaboration with Terracycle, a company who recycles just about anything. We want your old wetsuits in any condition: they have a second life as playground padding. Used wetsuits can be left in the green hoop tent next to the Mercuries, or contact Richard Feeny at Richard@feenysail. com to arrange a pickup. This opportunity comes through our Foiling First program and Sail GP.



## **EBSF** is Hiring!

We are looking for qualified individuals to join our summer team! We are currently interested in hiring a Program Assistant, as well as a Head Race Coach. Please contact Trish Sellon with any questions at

 $\underline{program director@east baysailing foundation.org}$ 

## The Ocean Race has Started!

Cheer on 11th Hour Racing,
Charlie Enright (a past EBSF
graduate), and his team as they sail
around the world in the amazing
Ocean Race (formerly Volvo Ocean
Race) This race will send these
professional sailors from Alicante,
Spain in January to a grand finale
in Genova, Italy in July. And once
again, Newport, Rhode Island will
get a visit from the teams in May.
Leg 5 of the race will start on May
21 from Newport Harbor.





### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

# TGIF with guest speaker presenting BYC's 2023 Cruising Plans. This is a bring-your-own-dinner event.

Our guest speaker will be BYC Fleet Captain, Ralph Kinder, who will deliver an overview of the Club's 2023 cruising plans, including the Club's annual summer cruise, a week long in-bay cruise, and several weekend cruises. The Chart Room will be open from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM. The presentation will be delivered at 7:00 PM.

Attendees should bring their own dinner. The Club will provide silverware and dishes. No registration is required.

### **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

# TGIF with appetizers and a special guest speaker, the President of Roger Williams University

Please join us on Friday, February 24 for a Friday Night Dinner with Guest Speaker Ioannis (Yannis) Miaoulis, President of Roger Williams University.

Yannis became RWU's 11th president in August of 2019. He will share his thoughts on the future of RWU and the future of higher education. Prior to becoming the President of RWU, Yannis was the president of the Boston Museum of Science and before that he was the youngest dean ever at Tufts University, beginning his Deanship in the school of engineering at the age of 32. His bio is <a href="https://www.rwu.edu/who-we-are/president/biography">https://www.rwu.edu/who-we-are/president/biography</a>

Yannis grew up in Greece sailing and fishing. He is an avid fisherman and boater, and he is an excellent cook. He is also a dynamic leader and an engaging member of our community.

The Chart Room will be open from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM. The presentation will be delivered at 7:00 PM.

Appetizers will be provided. No registration is required.

Strengthening the BYC/EBSF Partnership (cont.)

In this article, please find several updates outlining improvements that have been made since the publication of the report.

### Followup from the Spring Meeting - Paul Redman

The BYC Executive Committee and Membership approved a \$13,600 cash contribution to EBSF as part of the BYC 2023 budget. This figure is 1.96% of the Club's 2023 Budgeted Income, 2.08% of the Club's 2023 BYC Operating Expense, and 13.36% of the Club's 2023 Budgeted Net Income.

The original Focus Group report looked at the comparative data presented in the Conneally report ("The Future of American Yacht Clubs: Building a Successful Junior Sailing Program"), which was referenced in the 2021 Focus Group report and which documents how much money other Clubs invest in their instructional sailing programs. Since the Spring meeting, it has become clear that the Conneally report, while helpful in other respects, is not a helpful comparative reference point for justifying BYC's cash contribution to EBSF because the data it contains is outdated, includes information from many clubs that are very different from the BYC, and is built on ambiguous data collection methods.

We believe the improved governance and financial management processes, the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), and EBSF's refined course offering – as outlined below – have laid a foundation upon which a more potent EBSF funding model can be developed.

### Formalized and Enhanced EBSF's Governance Processes - Bob Millard

The EBSF/BYC Focus Group Report highlighted that EBSF had historically lacked a strong governance process. As a result, the roles and responsibilities of Board members needed to be clearer, historical records needed to be updated, and meeting structures and processes needed to be more consistent. In response to this problem, the following changes have been made:

- 1. The election of EBSF Board members was decoupled from the BYC Annual Meeting. This simplifies the process of electing Board members for both EBSF and BYC.
- 2. New governance was established to select five EBSF Board members:
  - a. The Chairperson for the EBSF Board will be the BYC Instructional Chair, as elected at the BYC Annual Meeting.
  - b. One BYC Flag Officer will serve as a standing EBSF board member. This provides increased visibility and transparency to the BYC Executive Committee and ensures that all future BYC Commodores have a working understanding and relationship with the EBSF.
  - c. The EBSF Chair will appoint three additional Board members for (1), (2), and (3) year staggered terms to promote Board continuity. Two of the appointed Board members are to be members in good standing at the BYC, while the third appointed Board member will be a non-BYC member with a demonstrated interest in EBSF's mission.
- 3. Established a Finance Committee to assist and provide oversight to the EBSF Treasurer.
- 4. Established an annual insurance review.
- 5. General update to procedures including but not limited to:
  - a. Filling vacancies
  - b. Voting and quorum requirements
  - c. Committee appointments

- d. Check signing
- e. Appointment of officers

### Restructured EBSF's Leadership/Organizational Structure

In late 2021, the EBSF Board agreed to restructure itself to mirror the BYC Executive Committee. The EBSF Board now includes five voting members:

- The BYC Instructional Sailing Committee Chair
- A BYC Flag Officer
- And three Members appointed by the BYC Instructional Sailing Committee Chair

A Recording Secretary and the Chairs of seven newly formed EBSF Committees also attend meetings as non-voting participants. These committees include Fleet Maintenance, Communications, Fundraising, Adult Sailing, Governance, Finance, and Curriculum.

The Board meets monthly to discuss and vote on all important EBSF financial, operational, or similar topics. Meeting notes for previous meetings are voted on and available for review by anyone upon request from the Recording Secretary.

The current members of the Board are Richard Feeny, Instructional Sailing Committee Chair; Paul Redman, Vice Commodore; Kristin Browne, Past Instructional Sailing Committee Chair (3-year term); Brad Haverly, non-BYC Member (2-year term); and Bob Millard, Rear Commodore (1-year term).

This change has helped considerably to improve general operations. The process of recruiting additional volunteers to staff each committee fully is ongoing.

### Defined an EBSF Standard Operating Procedure - Susan Grandpierre

(You can access the Standard Operating Procedure document described below here.)

Susan Grandpierre and Leslee Lippman volunteered to develop the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) requested by the Focus Group that would outline how BYC and EBSF would work together to support EBSF instructional activities and foster a shared responsibility for BYC and EBSF facilities and assets. They interviewed EBSF Program Director Trish Sellon, BYC Instructional Sailing Committee Chair Richard Feeny, Adult Sailing Coordinator Peter Maloney, Chief Steward Chris Healey, and the Chairs of the House, Grounds and Waterfront Committees, Jane Guinther, Doug Kallfelz and Glen Petaja, respectively, to work out the best ways for EBSF staff and students to utilize the Club, and for BYC members to use EBSF's boats.

All agreed that EBSF staff and students should observe the same rules that govern how BYC members and guests use the Club, as outlined in the BYC Directory. Those rules became a key building block for the SOPs.

Participants developed other procedures to suit specific EBSF needs like how to use the launches, ramps, and floats, where to conduct swimming tests or capsizing drills, or where to park boats to reflect the new float configuration. They clarified the roles the Chief Steward, Dockmaster, and EBSF Program Director in BYC and EBSF operations. Some procedures reflect the changes to the Clubhouse since the fire: for example, EBSF no longer has the use of the upstairs rooms for meetings, and their space in the basement has been drastically

## It's Only A Name...

## Have you ever wondered how a particular boat acquired its name? Peter Canzone (Commodore 2007 - 2009) gives us the answer.

**Boat:** *Addendum,* a 34ft Ericson **Owners:** Ray and Angela Renaud

Why the name *Addendum*?

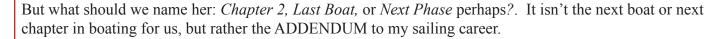
The answer is best described in Ray's own words:

"Hey Ray, good news, I sold your boat." It is supposed to be the second happiest day of boat ownership, but I felt like part of me had sunk. Well, a deal's a deal so there went *Aggressive* after 37 years of ownership and thousands of offshore miles. But I'll recover! Not a chance.

Months later I was still rethinking my decision to sell and realized that access to a sailboat is access to freedom. I have a Dyer 29, which I have taken as far as Bimini and the Florida Keys, but it was always connected to a hose. It's a great Bay boat, but the freedom to wander is missing.

Along came an opportunity: an Ericson 34 that had been damaged for more than its value. I made a quick review of the damage and with an "I

can do that" approach, the boat was repaired to my liking. Not like brand new, but more than adequate for wandering.



So after a summer of making repairs, two friends, Peter Maloney and Kris Wenzel, and I took her for a sea trial—and ended up in Norfolk. She's kind of deep in the keel at 6'6" and after digging a few trenches in the "DITCH", I decide to head offshore. Our next stop was Florida with Club member Dave Sherman as crew. Along the way we touched hulls with *Promise*, Janet and Rhonda's boat. From St. Augustine, Peter Maloney jumped aboard and the next stop was Marathon in the Keys. Now that was freedom.

So *Addendum* had given me the dream to keep on going. At the end of the trip, Peter Canzone, Dave Sherman, Peter Maloney and I sailed to the Dry Tortugas, toured Fort Jefferson, and returned to Key West. The final leg was delivering the boat for summer storage up the Caloosahatchee Canal to Glades, FL for summer storage, but that is another story best told at the bar during a Club happy hour.

So now you know how the name was chosen for the Renaud's boat . If you have a name you would like to submit, please email me, Peter Canzone, at <a href="mailto:americanart1@aol.com">americanart1@aol.com</a>.



Strengthening the BYC/EBSF Partnership (cont.)

reduced by the installation of air conditioning equipment.

EBSF Program Director Trish Sellon helped refine those rules and procedures and the EBSF Committee reviewed and tweaked them to best support EBSF needs. The result is a set of straightforward guidelines that should help future seasons run smoothly. We thank everyone involved, including chief shepherd Paul Redman, for making this a constructive and positive process.

The SOPs will be updated each spring by the Chief Steward and EBSF Program Director. EBSF Instructors and new volunteers will be trained in the SOPs, so they know how to use the Club to run a safe and fun program, teaching students seamanship, sailing traditions and how to be safe around the water.

### Improved Financial Systems - Bob Elder

EBSF's accounting procedures have been changed to reduce manual data entry while improving the timeliness and accuracy of financial reporting.

- EBSF's general ledger has been migrated from an outside Accounting Firm's (Accounteze) desktop QuickBooks to EBSF's licensed QuickBooks Online at the cost of \$75 per year.
- Online software license allows five interactive users and unlimited users with "read-only" report access.
- Bank Account and Credit Card Interfaces are live and validated with the Bank of Newport. ClubSpot and PayPal interfaces are in progress.
- All activity through 12-31-22 is included in the new QuickBooks Online GL
- Once Accounteze closes the 2022 books, we will compare their balances to the new GL. Should there be any variances, they will be investigated and resolved.
- Beginning 1/1/2023, QuickBooks online will be EBSF's primary General Ledger and Financial Accounting System. Accounteze will have access to the new GL to prepare annual taxes and other tasks as required.

The changes above will make the life of a new EBSF Treasurer much easier and provide EBSF with the accounting tools necessary to manage their finances

### **Strong Daily EBSF Operations - Richard Feeny**

EBSF staff continue to improve the professionalism and timeliness of daily execution. Under the leadership of Tricia Sellon, who joined the



## EBSF Adult Sailing Classes - Registration is Open

Registration for EBSF's adult sailing classes opened on January 31.

Classes start mid-June with beginner sessions on both Tuesdays and Thursdays along with an intermediate session on Tuesdays only.

This classes are great for members of your race crews whose sailing experience is limited only to the port winch or friends you want to take cruising but who have limited sailing experience.

Based on the number of inquiries received so far, we expect these classes to sell out fairly quickly.

Register here.

EBSF team in 2022 as Program Manager, online enrollment in classes is now open; the EBSF website is being maintained with up-to-date news and class information; and the recruiting of new and returning instructors is much farther along than was the case in past years at this point in the calendar. Partnering with EBSF's newly appointed Communications Committee Chairperson, EBSF has launched regular email communication with students, their families, and donors. The EBSF Board is in the early stages of launching the Program's first professional development initiative to complement existing recurring fundraising events.

While the Program does not foresee any changes in its Adult Sailing Program, the decision has been made to reduce and simplify the number of class options offered to students in the 2023 season. Recognizing that sailing is a complicated sport and seamanship is an art, EBSF will exclusively offer four- and eight-week programs in 2023 at the Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, and Race levels. These longer programs will give students the time needed to master sailing skills while also simplifying the management of daily class execution. The Program will also participate in several youth regattas and clinics which are being organized by US Sailing at Roger Williams University.

### **Thank You**

A special thank you to those listed below who have put in hundreds of volunteer hours addressing the governance, finance, and operating recommendations documented in the 2020 Focus Group report.

Bob Elder Chris Healey Bob Millard Trish Sellon Richard Feeny Ralph Kinder Glen Petaja Lou Sousa Susan Grandpierre Leslee Lippman Paul Redman

Jane Guinther Leslee Lippman Paul Redman

Peter Maloney Carol Scanlon

### **BYC Racers Dominate in Florida**

Racing in Key West in the winter is always a win for all boats. But a special congratulations goes to Tom and Diana Sutton, who took second in a very stiff ORC class at the 2023 Southernmost Regatta sailed last week. Their J/109 *Leading Edge* was the slowest rated boat in the class, yet they topped all boats except for the professionally crewed Botin 44 *Interlodge*. They even corrected over the class winner in two races, a feat

only one other boat in the class did. While *Leading Edge* finished four points behind *Interlodge* after eight races, she finished 11 points ahead of the Mills 43 *Cool Breeze*. Racing under ORC was tight. In the two races *Leading Edge* won, she corrected over *Interlodge* by three seconds both times.

Leading Edge had a new titanium main, jib and A5 from UK Sailmakers Texas. "Both the new main and jib were perfect," said Tom. "You guys at UK Sailmakers have a great team."











## Save the Date: Shorthanded Racing Seminar

Thursday, February 9 6:30-9:00 PM

North Sails Portsmouth Loft | 1 Maritime Dr. Portsmouth, RI 02871

North Sails and Bluenose Yachts invite you to join us at the sail loft for an informative discussion on shorthanded racing. Topics will include boat preparation & optimization, crew selection & training, sail selection, boat design, and future trends in shorthanded sailing. North Sails and BYS staff will be there to answer your questions. Beer, wine, and light snacks will be provided. Please RSVP here.

# Eight Bells for Past Commodore Richard K. Boldt



Richard K. Boldt, Past Commodore at Bristol Yacht Club (1991-1993), passed away on Thursday, January 26, 2023, at the age of 80. Dick's strong working relationship with the Executive Committee, constant support for Club social events, and strong PR/Communiation skills made him an efficient and effective leader. As Past Commodore Ray Renaurd (1995-1997) observed, "Dick was a daily visitor to the Club who managed "by walking around" and ran a tight ship. He served the Club well." The BYC Community extends their condolences to Dick's family including his wife

Stephanie, who was a member at the Club for many years, and to his son Richard and his wife Brenda and son Cooper, all of whom are current Club members. Richard's full obituary is posted here.

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