

The Bristol Yacht Club MAINSHEET



Bristol Yacht Club and Neighbors at Sunset on August 19 (Photo: Kyle Norton, <https://kylenorton.com/>)

To Penobscot Bay and Back: A Report on BYC's 2023 Maine Cruise

The Second BYC trip to Maine began for our intrepid sailors the weekend of July 28 – July 31, with most boats sailing to Onset with an early morning departure through the canal and then an overnight passage to Penobscot Bay. Boats joining this year's expedition were *SISU* (Petaja), *Boondoggle* (Devin), *Skylark* (Dochoda), *Sea Rose* (Dimson-Doyle), *Zebulun* (Winter), *Blue Moon* (McKay), *Grace* (Norton), *Sand Dollar* (Lippman) and *Rachel J* (Murray/Warner). *Sand Dollar* started the journey a little later than others from its home port of Kittery, ME. Unfortunately, our fearless leader, Brian Fitzgerald, had to abandon the voyage before reaching the canal as *Saratoga II* had a mechanical issue.

We were all guided on our overnight journey by an amazing full moon that set around 3:20 a.m., which helped guide the evening journey. Depending on the overnight day, some boats had clear sailing while others encountered a "shelf" cloud with a wind shift coming from the north at 25 knots. *SISU*, *Boondoggle*, and *Sea Rose* were able to keep each other within AIS range throughout the journey overnight. All boats arrived safely in Camden, ME, on Tuesday, August 1, for our first gathering. Drinks and appetizers were shared in our private room at Barren's Distillery, with sailors sharing their stories of their journey. It was a great first night to start the next stage of the cruise.

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RACING AWARDS DINNER - FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Join us for the 2023 End of the Season Award Dinner. Awards will be announced for the Wednesday Millard Series, Thursday J/22 Fleet Racing, Commodore's Cup, and Sid Clarke Race.

The dinner will be prepared and offered by Chef Vic. The menu will include baked scrod/chicken francaise, fresh vegetables, rice, a full salad bar, and dessert.

The cost will be \$30 per person

The bar will open at 5:00 pm, with dinner at 6:00 pm and the awards ceremony at 7:00 pm.

Registration closes on Wednesday, September 13 at noon.

REGISTER HERE



SEPTEMBER 2023



Summer is Not Over! Hard Stop.

Summer does not end until September 21, and beautiful weather, great sailing, and fun events at the BYC are just over the horizon. Do not stop! That said, Labor Day Weekend is a good point in time to look back and reflect on the summer thus far. Although it went too fast, it has been a great one at the Bristol Yacht Club.

With the advent of Vic's Galley, we have seen yet another uptick in the use of the Clubhouse and people spending time together on shore. The House and Social Committees have been running like a well-maintained four-stroke outboard! And the cruisers have been – well – everywhere!

This past week, the Club hosted the J/30 North American Championship Regatta. While I was unable to attend due to my vacation, all reports are that – notwithstanding wind and weather challenges — it was a spectacular event that was perfectly executed. And, in BYC tradition, it was welcoming to all, particularly the participants. Mark Rotsky reported receiving universal thanks and praise from participants for a great event. The outstanding work of the Race Committee, Waterfront Committee, House Committee, and Social Committee working together demonstrated again why BYC leads the way in supporting sailing on Narragansett Bay.

On the theme of our commitment to sailing, EBSF faced some challenges over the course of the summer, but rose to those challenges and conquered them. The board members and a collection of volunteers stepped up and executed an excellent season of youth sailing. They followed that up with the most successful fundraiser in EBSF history. Once again, our Club is leading the way and supporting the future of sailing on the Bay!

This month, we saw a crowded fleet of volunteerism come together – like coming into the leeward mark in a one-design regatta. In that crowded fleet, the shout-out goes to EBSF board members and volunteers including, but not limited to, the following: Casey Henchman, Caroline Levesque, Stephanie Boutilier, Jen Barry, Christine Wilkes, Paul Norton, Richard Feeny, Bob Millard, Paul Redman, Kristen Brown, June Bjerregaard, Chris Bjerregaard, Ken Martin, Brad Haverly, Leslie Lippman and Cathleen Whelan. They taught more than sailing to the students – they taught resilience, character, perseverance, and teamwork. Thank you for your hard work and a great summer for youth sailing.

Summer is NOT OVER!

- Joe Whelan, Commodore

Commodore's Corner



Lost & Found

The BYC front hall closet is filled with lost and found items: BYC vests, umbrellas, backpacks, T-shirts, shoes and more. Please check out the front hall closet shelf and hangers for your lost items and take them home with you.

In a couple months, once the season is over, we will donate all remaining items to a charity, so please make a point of claiming your stuff soon.



EBSF Finishes the 2023 Season with a Bang!

Awards Barbecue and Gala Event

The East Bay Sailing Foundation ended the summer sailing program with two well-attended spectacular events in the evenings of Thursday, August 17, and Friday, August 18. On Thursday, we celebrated the accomplishments of the junior sailors

who participated in the instructional sailing program with their families and instructors. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and many vegetable shish kabobs (courtesy of Cathleen and Niahm Whelan assembling the kabobs late into the evening on Wednesday night) were grilled and served by Paul Redmond, Chris Bjerregaard, and Chris Boutilier. Volunteer board members and parents of sailors contributed a delicious spread of salads.



EBSF closed the 2023 season with an award BBQ on Aug 18. Paul Redmond, Stephanie Boutilier, and Chris Bjerregaard were among the many volunteers who helped prepare and serve food at the event.

The second event on Friday Aug. 18, spearheaded by Paul Norton, new EBSF Development/Fundraising Chair, was a fundraising gala with dinner, dancing, and a silent auction followed by a live auction. The live auction featured BYC's own auctioneer extraordinaire, Ralph Kinder, with a guest appearance by Joe Brito. We were fortunate to have beautiful weather and outstanding attendance. The food, music, and auction were excellent. The silent auction saw active bidding for great packages, including a dinner at the New York Yacht Club, a holiday door decorated by Christina Flower Co., two Lotuff leather handbags, a beautiful basket from Beau and



In 2023, EBSF provided 151 kids and 50 adults with sailing lessons and instruction.

Bob Millard introduced and acknowledged the staff and instructors with heartfelt appreciation for their commitment and cohesive work effort, resulting in an exceptional summer experience on the water for many young sailors. There was very impressive student participation in the sale of 50/50 raffle tickets.

Awards were given with candid and sometimes hilarious personalized comments by the instructors. The evening was particularly poignant regarding the friendships and alliances that developed over the summer among the junior sailors and their instructors — as evidenced by the 20 v 20 game of soccer that spontaneously evolved on the lawn. One of the most rewarding experiences of learning and competing on the water at a young age is that friendships among kids while sailing often last a lifetime, enhancing the Club atmosphere through camaraderie.



EBSF 2023 Staff (some of whom are pictured here) included 19 instructors. Of those, 13 were returning teachers and 6 were young people whose families are BYC members.

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Storm Planning at BYC: What Every Member Should Know



Minor Storm, Bristol Yacht Club Pier, Dec. 23, 2022



Minor Storm, Bristol Harbor, Pier, Oct. 2, 2020

These photos give an indication of what a minor storm can do to Bristol Harbor. This raises the question: Is BYC ready for what is coming given climate change, sea level rise, and stronger storms? The BYC Waterfront Committee formed a Resiliency Sub-Committee to look at this issue and get a better answer.

The first time most members would have heard of this effort was the presentation by Pam Rubinoff and Thaïs Fournier from the URI Graduate School of Oceanography held on April 14, 2023, after a Friday night dinner. They presented an eye-opening view of what effect storms could have on BYC.

The Resiliency Sub-Committee, led by Brian Fitzgerald, has taken that information and examined its impact on our facilities. The details of this will be published in the next few months.

However, given that we are at the peak of hurricane season, one issue did jump to the top of the priority list. We must inform our members of impending storms and ensure they know what is expected of them if a storm is likely to hit Bristol. We have created a BYC Storm / Hurricane Members Communication Plan to address this gap. It consists of four levels of warnings, each with different member responsibilities. The links below will give you a complete description of each warning level and associated member responsibilities.

1. BYC Storm/Hurricane Watch - (Early Warning / Heads-Up) - Level 1 - [Link](#)
2. BYC Strong Storm Warning - (Take Action) - Level 2 - [Link](#)
3. BYC Major Storm / Hurricane Warning - (Take Action) - Level 3 - [Link](#)
4. BYC Major Storm / Hurricane Imminent - (All Hands on Deck) - Level 4 - [Link](#)

These warnings will be e-mailed to all members as soon as the weather forecasts indicate they are necessary. They are also posted on the BYC website, where they can be accessed at all times. The variability of forecasting makes it impossible for BYC to always send out these notices. It is your responsibility to watch the weather.

Please read the information about the four warning levels on the Club's website in detail and address any questions to Glen Petaja by e-mail at glenpetaja@gmail.com.

- Glen Petaja, Waterfront Committee Chairperson



Burgers, Beers, and Blues!

August got off to a great start at BYC with a sold out social event on August 5 — the Social Committees masterfully executed Burgers, Beers and Blues event. Close to 150 people enjoyed a fun filled evening of music, dancing, summer food and happy conversation with friends.



Grill crew (left to right):
Bill Toohey, Steve Barron, Ed Mansur,
and Bill Petrocelli



Live music was provided by the band Ghost Cat Rodeo.



As always, many volunteers rallied together to make this event happen. Thank you!!

COMMODORE'S BALL

Saturday, October 14, 2023,
6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvres, followed
by an elegant plated dinner.
Cocktail Attire; Jacket and tie are requested.

[REGISTER HERE](#) by September 27, 2023.





2023 ADVENTURE SAIL DAY

On Sunday, August 13, the BYC's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee and East Bay Sailing Foundation held Adventure Sail Day for the second year under the aegis of the National Women's Sailing Association (NWSA). This event has been a jewel in the crown of NWSA for over two decades, and BYC and EBSF were pleased to participate again this year.



Eight enthusiastic girls from East Providence Boys' and Girls' Club who attend Camp Crosby in Bristol had fun on the lawn of the club playing games, learning about sailing, and sailing the Cape Cod Mercurys with EBSF instructors Lola Silva, Mara Machado, and Arden Wilkes. Thanks to these fine instructors for hosting and instructing the girls so well! It took until 11:00 am or so for the storm clouds to pass far enough away to get started. Then the sun came out, and conditions were ideal. Patrick Monaghan led the group out in the whaler, but no towing or rescuing was needed. The girls had fun sailing out to Castle Rock and back in 8-10 knots of wind. Some were already experienced; three had taken advantage of the Club's EBSF scholarships and a scholarship from National Women's Sailing Association to learn to sail this summer— an excellent outcome from last year's Adventure Sail Day.



After the sail, the girls returned to the Club for a lunch of burgers and hot dogs cooked on the grill, although the ice pops seemed to be the highlight. Thanks to Susie Holloway for helping out and bringing floats for the girls to play on while swimming off the dock near the boat ramp. Thanks to Diane Kryston and Jody Underwood for doing much of the prep work, organization, and photography, and especially to Marilyn Dimson-Doyle, chair of the DEI Committee, who couldn't be there for the day, but directed us from afar (from a laptop on her boat in Maine). Before leaving, the girls were sent home with some nice swag from the Committee and NWSA's Adventure Sail Day. Overall, the day succeeded

in getting more kids on the water and sparking their interest in sailing. The girls made it clear that they hoped to come back next year and sail again.

— Jonathan Walsh, DEI Committee Member

Fri. 9/8 TGIF with BYC's Maine Cruisers

A contingent of intrepid BYC members cruised to Maine earlier this month, coming together at two separate socials. Having had near-picture-perfect weather in Maine (the delivery up was a different story), the cruisers are enthusiastic to share their experiences. Please join the cruise group for a slide show and discussion of cruising in Maine on Friday, September 8. This is a regular Friday TGIF evening with Vic's Galley open and serving dinner for those who want to dine. No prior RSVP is required. Dinner starts at 5:00 pm, and the cruise program will begin at 7:30 pm.





BYC's Newest Cruise — The In-Bay Cruise — Was a Huge Success!!

This year we had an alternative to the Long Island and Maine cruise for those who wanted to stay in the comfort of Narragansett Bay. From Aug 6 - 13 we had nine boats sail to Wickford, Newport, Dutch Harbor, East Greenwich, and the Kickemuit. Participants were Steve and Nancy Barron, Ralph and Nancy Olesen, Bob and Camille Hamel, Roland and Janet Gendreau, Brian and Carole McFarland, Mike and Joyce Sullivan, John Bauch and Marina Pascucci, Sarah Winsor and Keith Duncan, and Ed and Carole Mansur. Also, Peter & Susan Maloney joined Wickford by car.

It was a huge success, in part because we had great weather and sailboats were able to sail to each port rather than motor. No day required more than 2 - 4 hrs of travel time. We had wonderful dinners at Wickford On The Water, Stoneacre Garden and Lucia in Newport, BLU On The Water in East Greenwich, and we grilled burgers and had potluck at Dutch. In the Kicky we all joined for drinks and apps on *Gratitude*. Everyone had so much fun! We will definitely do this again next year.

- Steve Barron, Cruise Committee Chairperson



Dinner at BLU on the Water in East Greenwich. Clockwise from bottom are Bob and Camille Hamel, Marina Pascucci, John Bausch, Mike and Joyce Sullivan, Ralph and Nancy Olesen, Carole and Brian McFarland, and Nancy Barron.



Ralph and Nancy Olesen overcame a little rain to enjoy a dinghy ride, demonstrating again the resilience of good nature of BYC cruisers.



Nancy Barron, Marina Pascucci, and Nancy Olesen showed an alarming lack of respect for rules while taking a little rest at Lucia Restaurant in Newport.



The In-Bay cruisers enjoyed a gathering at the East Greenwich Yacht Club. Clockwise from left is John Bausch, Joyce Sullivan, Bob Hamel, Ralph Olesen, Mike Sullivan, Nancy Olesen, Janet Gendreau, Nancy Barron, Camille Hamel, Carole McFarland, Marina Pascucci, Roland Gendreau.



2023 J/30 North American Championship Regatta

This last weekend, Thursday, August 24 through Sunday, August 27, Bristol Yacht Club hosted the J/30 North American Championship Regatta. Eight boats attended, with six traveling into the Bay from Annapolis, Boston, Marion, Hyannis, and Raritan (NJ). Each boat brought seven crew members and various support people. Once again, we delighted our guests. In fact, the boat from Marion, who participated in this event in Bristol 2008 but had not been in the water in five years, entered the Regatta with the unanimous support of his crew as soon as he learned the Regatta was happening at BYC again this year. They were not disappointed.



Saturday Race Attempt



Heavy Air Launch

Day one of racing brought lively breezes in the high teens with gusts over 20 knots. Three exciting races featured wild spinnaker surfing for those who dared fly them, close mark roundings, one man overboard with his spinnaker (both quickly recovered), and a different winner in each race. The day's races were followed by a BBQ dinner presented by Vic's Galley. Two special guests greeted the fleet: Rod Johnstone, who designed the J/30, and his son, Jeff Johnstone, president of J/Boats. Both entertained the diners with memories of the boat's origins and their early days of getting the J/30s into the race circuits of the day. The racers greatly appreciated the rare honor of having these gentlemen join them for the evening.

Day two was disappointing, with no official races completed due to a lack of wind. One race was attempted, but when the breeze fell to barely a puff, the race was abandoned by the Race Committee. However, the racers were here to race. So immediately upon the abandonment notification, a loud, synchronized vocal exclamation by all of the sailors was heard across the waters, and to everyone's surprise and delight, nobody immediately turned back. Nobody wanted to quit, and instantly, an unspoken agreement was reached between a number of the boats to keep going. ("YOU WANNA KEEP RACING?" "YEAH!!!, GO FOR IT!!!") Most just made it to the finish line, and even though it didn't officially count, it brought the fleet together in a way not often seen.

Despite the long day in the sun, the crews had a great time together talking about that. The lobster dinners prepared and served by BYC volunteers and led by Donna Glavin and the liquid libations that evening didn't hurt the attitudes either. The shoreside hospitality and gatherings were another one of the treats that our guests were looking forward to and enjoyed immensely.

Sunday, day three, and the last day of racing was Mama Bear's day—perfect wind speeds but with some big shifts to challenge the racers. The Race Committee skillfully managed the day's events so that three



Bow Wave

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Rod Johnstone, founder of J/Boats and Jeff Johnstone, president of J/Boats talked to the group on Friday night about the introduction and evolution of the J/30 fleet.

excellent races were held within the shorted, last-day time limit. The races featured many close starts, mark roundings, port-starboard crossings, and finishes. Great stuff!

A total of six races were run for the Regatta, which is particularly impressive considering none were held on Saturday.

Around 15 club members in three boats provided fantastic race management led by PRO John Mooney. That team was assembled by our Race Committee Chairperson, Bob McLaughlin, who was on one of the boats. Gathering and preparing all the required people and equipment was a huge effort, but it resulted in the flawless race course management that we experienced.

On shore, the tremendous amount of work required before and during the racing was tirelessly led by Kathy Rotsky. She and her teams from the Social Committee, headed by Carol Mansur, and House Committee, headed by Jane Guinther, kept the racers fed, plus managed the registration, crew weigh-ins, and other logistical challenges starting



Close Rounding

FINAL RESULTS:

1st Place with 8 points –
Jeroboam – Ken Deyett –
Beverly YC, MA

2nd Place with 10 points
– Blue Meanie – Steve
Buzbee – Raritan, YC, NJ

3rd Place with 11 points
– Blue Jacket – Sumner
Parker – Raritan, YC, NJ

4th Place with 17 points
– Nemesis – Mark Rotsky
– Bristol YC, RI

5th Place with 28 points
– One Love – Jamie
Gregory – Eastport YC,
MD

6th Place with 29 points
– Special Sauce – Garrett
Wafler – Constitution YC,
MA

7th Place with 32 points
– Heat' er up – Ryan
Scudder – Hyannis YC.
MA

8th Place with 39 points
– Good News – John
Cavanagh – Narragansett
Terrace YC, RI

the Thursday before racing started and running straight through Sunday's awards ceremony. These women lead by example, and their teams worked countless hours ensuring everything was perfect for a first-class event.

While the efforts of everyone involved are greatly appreciated, particular individual efforts must be recognized in no particular order;

Barbara Petrocelli did a great job in laying out our race booklet and staying after all content

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contributors to get the booklet pulled together and delivered on time. It turned out beautifully, and all the racers and sponsors loved it. It shared the cover of the first J/30 sales brochure from 1979 that J/Boats President Jeff Johnstone, provided us for this reason. We could not have asked for anything more.

On Saturday night, Donna Glavin put together a wonderful Lobster Dinner for all the racers, their guests, and BYC club members. She and a small group of dedicated Social Committee helpers did all the preparation and serving work with wonderful smiles and grace.

Susan Maloney designed and managed the acquisition of the beautiful and unique Regatta t-shirts that all of the racers received, as well as others who bought them through the Ship's Store. You cannot imagine how difficult this turned out to be except to note that she ended up personally delivering them to the Club the day before the event started.

Marilyn Dimson-Doyle handled all of our website needs. She designed and managed the website so everyone could register to race, buy shirts and meals, and stay up to date with the race documents, usually holding our hands to get us through it. She kept up with the ever-changing requirements we placed on her as we figured out and added to what was needed on the fly right up to and during the Regatta while cruising Maine for the last month— incredible commitment on her part.

Dave Guinther spent all three days on the water taking fabulous pictures of all the action and then scrolling the images on the big screen in the Club for the sailors to enjoy after each day of racing. Everyone loved that. Dave is also making the best pictures available for viewing and downloading.



Close Start



*Many volunteers pitched in to make the shore side activities for the J/30 Regatta happen, including (L to R) Chris and Terri Hughes, Donna Glavin, and Marsha Petaja....plus too many more to mention here.
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED!!*



Grrrrr!

Holley and Harold Knight generously brought their beautiful power yacht, *Two Knights*, to be the spectator boat on Saturday and Sunday, providing a very comfortable viewing on the racecourse for support people, sponsors, and anyone who asked. They were on station for all the activity (or lack thereof on Saturday) from beginning to end on both days.

Of course, Chris Healey was everywhere, as he always is. You think it, and Chris is on it, resolving any issues before people even knew they existed.

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The concept of hosting this event was brought to our Executive Board in mid-October 2020. With EC's agreement in place, the J/30 Board of Governors enthusiastically approved BYC to host the event on October 28, 2020. Since then, concepts were discussed, and the first of ten organizational meetings was held in September 2022. It's wonderful when almost three years of planning results in an event like we just had. Everyone involved got more excited as the date grew closer, and really stepped up towards the event date.

I can't tell you how many times our visitors raved about our Club's accommodations, our staff, and especially about our members, both volunteers and folks hanging around to experience the event. Everyone jumped to help our guests with anything, even if it was just to point them to the right person who could help. Our class president was here the whole time, posting photos and comments about the event on Facebook, and even the greater J/30 community returned compliments about our handling of the event.

I'm extremely grateful and proud of everyone who volunteered to help make this happen. Thanks to everyone.

- Mark Rotsky 2023 J/30 NA's Event Chair

Thank You to the Sponsors for the J/30 NA Regatta

- Mack Boring – distributors for Yanmar Engines
- Elite Beverages, suppliers of Comisario Tequilas
- Pivotal Brewing – Bristol Producer of the special regatta beer – “Four Winds”
- Ronstan International – Producer of high tech sailing hardware
- Blount Fine Foods – Warren RI seafood supplier
- J/Boats
- North Sails

BYC Safety Series

Safety is central concern aboard all boats, whether you are racing, cruising, teaching or learning sailing, or just hanging out on your mooring. With that in mind, I hope this article, submitted by BYC member Linda Burns, can be the first in an occasional series focused on how various members of the BYC community think about and ensure safety on their vessels. If you have something to share on this topic, please email byccomms@gmail.com. Meanwhile thanks to Linda for getting us started.

- Barbara Petrocelli, Member-at-Large

Welcome Aboard MANDATE — The Safety Lecture

Excitement is palpable as guests arrive for an afternoon sail at *MANDATE*, a 58-foot Tayana sailboat. After all, spending time with friends sailing in beautiful Narragansett Bay is enjoyable – unless an emergency arises requiring those aboard to act quickly and competently to resolve the situation.

Things happen fast, and my Captain-husband, Dick Dennis, and I have implemented a safety protocol for our guests, whether they are first-time sailors or experienced off-shore captains – no exceptions.

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Before the Sail

We communicate the importance of safety before guests even arrive at *MANDATE*. Guests are required to wear rubber-soled shoes or sneakers. We also recommend bringing sun-screen, a sun-hat with a chin tie or clip, and a life-preserver if they have one. No smoking is allowed on the boat, and no alcohol is consumed during the sail.

Boarding *MANDATE*

MANDATE has a high freeboard, and we instruct guests, when stepping up to the boat from the tender, to step first on the rub rail, using both hands to grab stanchions, and then a second step up to hoist themselves onto the deck. We direct them as they board not to carry a bag, purse, or anything else in their hands or on their shoulders that would cause them to lose balance as the boats move in the waves. Bags are handed up, not carried up.

As they board, we immediately coach guests on how to move around the boat, where to step, and the importance of keeping one hand on a sturdy part of the boat at all times.

We show them where to put their hands – not the canvas bimini, for example, but on the lifelines, stays, structure poles for the bimini, and handholds below deck. We command them to go down the companionway backward while holding onto side rails when going below deck rather than trying to walk down the companionway as



*Linda Burns (right) briefs Laura and James Dennis on safety protocols and features on *MANDATE* prior to cast-off, Bristol Harbor, RI.*

one does on a staircase on land. We then give our guests a tour of *MANDATE* before reassembling on deck to hear the safety briefing and cast off.

Safety Briefing Before Sailing

Everyone assembles on deck, and I secure their full attention. Major points I address:

- **Life Jackets**

Dick and I wear life jackets whenever *MANDATE* leaves her mooring; we might be motoring because there is zero wind, but it is an ironclad policy between us. As Dick recounts, “Part of the deal with Linda to buy the boat [in 2011] was that I must wear a life jacket at all times the boat is underway. I adhere to that.” Our policy for ourselves and grandchildren is so strict that the first time one grandson stayed overnight on the boat, he asked, “Grandma Linda, do I have to wear my life jacket to bed?” “No,” I replied, glad he

got the message. All children must wear life-jackets, but adult guests decide for themselves; non-sailors generally stay in the cockpit. I inform the guests of the location of the life vests and offer anyone who wants to wear one the opportunity to do so. Most of our experienced sailor friends bring and wear their own life vests. (Off-shore, everyone wears a life jacket, and we tether ourselves to the boat at night and in rough weather.)

- **Chain of Command**

Dick is the Captain, and his decision is the one that we implement. We encourage guests to make suggestions and call the helmsman and Captain’s attention to anything they deem relevant to the boat’s operation, such as oncoming boats, lobster pots in the way, or a better sail trimming or tack. We emphasize, “If you see something, say something.”

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- **Communications**

We stress that communication requires both sending a message and acknowledging that the communication was received. To that end, we advise calling the person's name before saying something (or title "captain," "helmsman," or "red-shirt," if one cannot remember the person's name.) This policy is critical when maneuvering the boat and prevents problems from arising, resulting in excuses such as "I did not hear you."

- **Transferring the Helm**

We emphasize that one person is always in charge of the helm. If that person wants to take a photograph, eat lunch, engage in a distracting conversation, or any activity that would take his attention from helmsman duties, she must formally transfer the helm to another person, who then must acknowledge acceptance of the helm. "Dick, I am transferring the helm to you," I say. Dick responds, "I accept the helm." We have heard too many stories of sailors in a cockpit with everyone talking, looking, or doing other things, assuming someone else is watching where the boat is going, and undesirable things happen.

- **Man Overboard**

Guests become visually more serious when I review our procedures for man-overboard. I assign duties depending on the number of adults onboard. Say, there are four adults: Dick, Linda, Guest A, and Guest B. If Guest A goes overboard, then Guest B is tasked with never taking his eyes off of the overboard guest and keeps pointing to the last seen position of Guest A. Roles are reversed if Guest B goes overboard.

Immediately upon recognition that a guest or crew member has gone overboard, Dick takes over the helm. I throw all the cushions overboard toward the location of the overboard crew member to create a debris field to mark the location. At the same time, Dick activates the "MOB" button on the chart plotter that records the location where the guest went overboard. I get the throw line to extend to the overboard-guest and could activate the MOM (Man Overboard Module), which is automatically inflated and deployed with a tall pylon, light, reflective material, and other features to increase the likelihood of finding and rescuing the person overboard. If I go overboard, Guest A watches me, and Guest B throws cushions and gets the throw line ready. The task of the person who goes overboard is initially to wave his arms to indicate that he is conscious and breathing; if we don't see that signal, we do some drastic things with *MANDATE* to get to him quickly. If we see him signal, we maneuver the boat in a safer way. If Dick goes overboard, I take the helm, and the guests assume other duties. All of these scenarios are reviewed with guests before we leave the mooring.

Enforcement

Policies are of zero value if they are not enforced. We enforce our policies politely but firmly. No exceptions for former Commodores or experienced off-shore sailors or family members are made. Dick and I do not countermand each other regarding the policies during a sail. If need be, we revisit policies from time to time.

Other Safety Features

Beyond the scope of this article are topics of life rafts, medical bags and contents, fire extinguishers, emergency tillers, knife on the helm used to cut lines in emergency situations, checklists that we have for "abandon ship" and other scenarios, and safety precautions we undertake for off-shore sailing. We have tried to create a "culture of safety." We hope you find our protocol helpful.

- Linda A. Burns, First Mate and Admiral, *MANDATE*



The Maine Cruisers' first social gathering was in Camden at Barron's Distillery and Restaurant at the Lyman-Morse Boatyard.



SISU's crew in Onset. Clockwise from the top left: Evan, Sean & Kyle Petaja, David Guinther, Chris Burtner, Hardy Hartwell and Glen Petaja



Chris and Stephanie Boutilier and Marilyn and Alan Dimson-Doyle went hiking at the Holbrook Island Sanctuary.



Dave and Jane Guinther hanging out on the fore-deck of Rachel J with Gary Warner



Craig Lippman in Casco Bay, during the return. Fishing, but not catching.



Maine cruisers gathered on Rachel J in Northeast Harbor. Clockwise from the left: Leigh Sterflinger, Jeri Devin, Connor Devin, Glen Petaja, Gary Warner, Catherine Murray, Craig Lippman, Jim Rapinchuk, Jeff Lawton, Steve Devin, and Marsha Petaja

Continued from page 1. Maine Cruise

From Camden, most boats headed towards the Eggemoggin Reach, the Torrey Islands, or nearby Brooklin. Others headed to Belfast or Castine, or in *SISU's* case, North Haven, where they transitioned from their delivery crew to a cruising crew. The group's next gathering was planned for Friday, 8/4, but the weather didn't cooperate. The anchorage did provide safe coverage from the storm, but the rain didn't allow an opportunity to gather on the beach. Some boaters visited each other by dinghy, so at least some got to catch up with each other. The Eggemoggin Reach Regatta was scheduled for Saturday, and although we got to see these beautiful wooden boats lining up for the regatta, due to a "no wind" delay,

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most of our sailors moved on to their next port of either Northeast Harbor or Southwest Harbor before the start.

The final gathering was planned in Somes Sound, on Mount Desert Island, at Abel's Lobster on Monday, 8/7. A beautiful trip up Somes Sound, which almost splits the island in two, is described as the "only fjord on the East Coast." *Skylark*, *Sand Dollar*, *SISU*, and *Sea Rose* met for a wonderful dinner at Abel's, a restaurant with a beautiful view, great food, and a typical Maine character. A few other boats had begun the trip home or planned different routes. Those who gathered shared stories about hikes they had done or visits to other parts of Mount Desert Island, made easy with the free Island Explorer bus that goes all around Acadia National Park.

The following day brought strong SE winds and a rain storm, so all boats hunkered down in their various ports to wait out the storm. The next day brought brilliant skies, and again, the beauty of Maine was revealed. The pristine and peaceful harbors are truly one of a kind. And so many islands!!!

At this point, all the BYC cruisers were on their own schedule, and some began the journey home while others stayed in the area to explore more islands and harbors. All will be back safely in Bristol Harbor by the end of the month. The wonderful part of the BYC Maine cruise is that all the sailors communicate with each other throughout, sharing advice and destinations via email and texts. You never feel alone out there.

Brian, thank you for all your support and organization to make this year's expedition a success for all. This is definitely an excellent addition to the BYC cruising options and has brought new sailors to explore the beauty of Maine and give them confidence in overnight sailing.

- Marilyn Dimson-Doyle, BYC Webmaster



EJ and Stacy Dochoda enjoyed some hiking on Mount Desert Island with friends.



Paul and Sherrie Norton



Continued from page 3. EBSF



Bleu, and multiple framed pieces of art, to mention a few. The evening was a great success by every measure. Attendees had a great time, and the event raised \$50,000, which will be used to pay for EBSF program costs and fund scholarships for students who would not otherwise be able to attend.

From 2-weeks to 4-weeks; Adapting EBSF's Programs to Better Serve Students

The 2023 season was certainly one in which we adjusted our sails. To start, we made scheduling changes

leading with 4-week sessions over the two-week sessions we have been running with for the past ten years. The primary driver for that change was to give students more time on the water and to develop more skills than can be taught and practiced in the short 2-week session. The longer sessions clearly resulted in greater skill levels and achievement for the students who signed up. Another positive result was the bonds formed between instructor and student. Our instructors were able to learn more about each student's strengths and weaknesses, giving the students more confidence to try new skills. Another evident benefit was the strong friendships that developed between students.

However, all the effects of the 4-week sessions were not favorable. Going into the season, we knew we wanted to reduce the number of students based on feedback from the BYC to make less of an impact on the club grounds, facilities, and membership. As such, we did



Fleet Captain Ralph Kinder did a great job as the auctioneer at the EBSF Benefit Gala.

anticipate that the 4-week sessions would likely reduce our tuition revenues, and it did — a bit more than expected. There were also some families for which the 4-week session was not a good fit due to the time commitment, increased cost, or both. The EBSF will evaluate what we experienced this season with the 4-week vs. 2-week sessions over the next few months before developing a plan for the 2024 program. We welcome your input and feedback based on your personal experience with the EBSF instructional program this season

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Eighty people attended the EBSF Benefit Gala on August 18. In addition to enjoying a lovely evening of dining, dancing and conversation, the group raised \$50,000 to support EBSF programs through ticket sales and proceeds from a live and silent auctions.



We were very fortunate this season to have an instructor staff that genuinely connected with the students. The staff, led by Head Instructor Maya Mills, focused on running a safe program, getting the students on the water, weather permitting, building confidence, and teaching solid sailing skills. Students came off the water happy and engaged. Happy kids – happy parents!

In addition to the youth program, we had another excellent adult sailing season led by Peter Maloney and his fantastic staff of volunteer instructors. The adult program again was sold out even before the season started. Also worthy of note is that we had a record number of J/22s chartered this season for the Millard Series, Team Racing, and One Design Racing.



EBSF Supporters, Staff and Leadership Team Members (L to R): Brad Haverly, Casey Henchman, Maya Mills, Kristin Browne, Joe Whelan, Cathleen Whelen, Ken Martin, Bob Millard, Paul Norton, John Duclos, Bob Elder, Stephanie Boutilier, Paul Redman, Matt Hayes, June Bjerregaard, and Chris Bjerregaard.

Strengthening EBSF for the Long Term

2023 has been a year of important organizational and operational changes for EBSF, all of which will help the program improve its offerings for students and relationship with BYC for years to come.

- EBSF's Bylaws have been reviewed, updated, and ratified.
- Working with BYC staff and committee chairs, a new operational guidelines "living" document was created to improve coordination and policy relative to the use of Club property and grounds between the EBSF staff, students/parents, and the BYC membership and staff.
- The organization's financial reporting tools, along with the quality and expeditious availability of our financial reporting, have been completely updated at the direction of Bob Elder.
- Important positions on the EBSF team have been filled; Ken Martin is our new Treasurer, Paul Norton is now driving Development/Fundraising, and Casey Henchman was invaluable this summer as a mentor and advisor to our head sailing instructor, Maya Mills.

New volunteers are essential to keeping EBSF vibrant, relevant, and successful. The organization's arms are wide open to you, your skills, and your passion – please join us!

- BYC Members June Bjerregaard and Casey Henchman and Rear Commodore, Bob Millard



"Summer has always been good to me, even the bittersweet end, with the slanted yellow light."

— Paul Monette

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