

Celebrating 66 years  
1943 – 2009

# the BoatHouse

Sept 2009

www.ogyc.org

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OLD GREENWICH YACHT CLUB

## OGYC 2009 LAUNCH SCHEDULE

### MAY 22 (MEMORIAL DAY) THRU SEPTEMBER 7 (LABOR DAY)

Monday thru Thursday	9:00am – 9:00pm
Friday & Saturday	9:00am – 11:00pm
Sundays	9:00am – 10:00pm

### SEPT. 8 – OCT. 12

Sunday thru Thursday	9:00am – 7:00pm
Fridays & Saturdays	9:00am – 8:00pm

### OCT. 14 – OCT. 31

Monday Thru Friday	Noon – 6:00pm
Saturday & Sunday	9:00am – 6:00pm

### SAVE THE DATE

Autumn Meeting      Sept. 19 2009

A general members meeting will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2009 at 5:00pm at the clubhouse. The purpose of the meeting is to assemble the membership to hold a general discussion of the programs, policies and OGYC finances. All members are strongly encouraged to attend, as your Board of Directors relies on the participation and recommendations of the membership when making decisions that affect the future of your club.



## Commodore's Report

*Mary Rappa*

We have enjoyed a summer of cool parties, great fun, and warm camaraderie on the waterfront

Now, as the daylight hours diminish and the season changes, there are some things that require our attention.

It is every mariner's duty to keep a watchful eye on developing tropical storms originating in the Atlantic Ocean at this time of year. As soon as a tropical storm has been named, it has the potential to develop into a hurricane, which warrants serious attention and advance action to secure all vessels. A list of basic precautions that every boater should have completed well ahead of a potential storm is outlined in this newsletter. Please familiarize yourself with the timeline and the specific actions necessary to insure that you and your vessel are storm ready.

Beginning Tuesday, September 8, the launch service schedule is reduced and the park gate closes earlier. Members need to keep this in mind when making plans to go out on their boat or visit the clubhouse.

Summer is winding down but as autumn approaches some of the most beautiful days for boating, sailing and racing still lie ahead. The OGYC Club Championships (Ideal 18s) take place on Saturday, September 12, and the Fall Series and Ideal 18 Women's Sailing Program continue through mid October.

Mark your calendar and save the dates for two important upcoming events. The Autumn General Member's Meeting is Saturday, September 19 at 5:00pm, and the Fall Work Party is Saturday, September 26 at 8:30am. The club is dependent on the spirit of volunteerism and a full commitment from the membership to continue its purpose and insure our future.

Keep your eyes on the horizon!



## Who's Who at OGYC

### *Commodore*

**Mary Rappa**  
637-5661 rappas@optonline.net

### *Vice Commodore*

Open

### *Rear Commodore*

**Betsy Parker**  
637-8092 parkerelizabeth@sbcglobal.net

### *Secretary*

**Syd Uhry**  
637-9482 suhry@sbcglobal.net

### *Treasurer*

**Tom O'Connell**  
698-3432 oconnell123@optonline.net

### *Fleet Captain*

**Joe Stafford**  
622-6765 jstaff83@yahoo.com

### *Director - Race Committee*

**Will Morrison**  
698-2683 wdmorrison@gmail.com

### *Director - Cruising*

**Sheila Bennett**  
698-0443 sheilabennett@optonline.net

### *Director - Membership*

**Marc Lotti**  
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### *Director - Education Programs*

**Lou Casolo**  
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### *Fleet Chaplain*

**Rev. Steve DeLuca**  
637-3661

### *Club Historian*

**Joe Powers**  
637-0361 jpowers03@snet.net

## Race Corner

*Will Morrison, Race Chairman*

August is an odd month. It tends to be light on Regattas and wind, and heavy with thunderstorms, heat, and the occasional vagrant hurricane. This August has been no different. But through it all our racers have pressed on. The same number are still laughing at the end as there were at the beginning.

Probably the highest profile event of the month was the YRA Long Island Sound Championships. OGYC sent out contenders to the PHRF and Ideal 18 starting lines. This author took the honors in the Ideal fleet. What was the secret? Invite last year's champion to be your crew! It was a tremendous asset to have Chris Tella on board pulling the strings and popping the chute.



Wednesday Vespers have been well attended by our regulars. It is satisfying to see Vitesse competing with the long boats in Division One. Tom O'Connell's boat was finally released from the boat hospital none the worse for wear. I think they give it an illegal drug. On at least one occasion Fin II was well out in front of the pack in Wednesday Vespers.

What is most noteworthy is the enthusiasm of the Ideal 18 sailors. Every Wednesday all five boats traverse Captain Harbor to the start line near Indian Harbor Yacht Club, make a good showing, and hoist their spinnakers to enjoy a speedy ride back to the club and a Chef Michael dinner. Repeat on Sundays, except that either RYC or OGYC is hosting the races in a central location, and Chef Michael's creativity has been replaced by other concoctions.

Our Race Management team has been doing a great job managing the Sunday YRAs. On the line you find Ethcells, Lasers, and of course, the aforementioned Ideal 18s. As of this writing, on the eve of the club's USS America and Stanley Birdsey Regatta and Picnic, we are looking at Glory supporting the PHRF racers and General handling the one-designs. Seventeen will be used as a pin boat shuttling between the two race circles. We are very gratified to have a solid fleet to handle regattas such as this as well as a set of increasingly skilled race managers to help assure the race is sailed fairly.

I would like to end with a question. Does anyone know why this column is called the Race Corner?

The Boathouse, the newsletter of the Old Greenwich Yacht Club, is published monthly, except for bimonthly issues January/February and November/December. Please submit items for publication to the Editor, c/o OGYC, PO Box 162, Old Greenwich, CT 06870 or by email to: echurchill@popcouncil.org. Items must be received by the 15th of each month for publication in the following month's issue. To submit photographs, email to the newsletter publisher at: gaines@optonline.net.

**Visit our website at: [www.ogyc.org](http://www.ogyc.org)**



# Ideal 18/Mercury Corner

Lou Casolo, Education Programs Director



## A word about boat maintenance

Lou Casolo, Director, Education Programs

I want to thank everyone who attended the three work sessions this past month to perform some late in the season repairs and general upkeep to keep the OGYC sailboat fleet well maintained with the goal of sailing fast.

An accidental pull-out of the main halyard from a Mercury mast requires some skill to reinstall due to the manner in which the halyard feeds into the masthead and out of the bottom sheave of the mast, including the obstructions within the mast, making for a three-person job. In some cases it may also require stepping the mast in order to remove the thru bolt obstruction where the shrouds connect into the mast to allow the main halyard to pull freely thru the entire mast if all goes well.

To avoid this project, which can take several hours and a low tide to reach the mast head from the pier, please make certain that the main halyard stopper knot does not become undone allowing the bitter end (the end of the line) of the halyard to be pulled up into the mast.

Another similar repair, only in the horizontal direction, is the pull-out of the outhaul from the Ideal 18 boom. A secure stopper knot on the aft end to prevent pull-out can eliminate almost a complete dismantling of the boom; there are a lot of internal parts that control the outhaul, and reefing lines that are difficult to access unless most of the boom fittings are removed.

Short lesson on accidental pull-outs: always look before pulling hard on a line. This will allow all of us to spend more time sailing and less time at the dock.



## Education

A sixth checkout ride and low tide tour this season was conducted for new members in August.

Gene Fignar's seminar on "what to do before the start" outlined many things a racer should consider before heading out on the race course. Understanding the tidal currents at the race of LIS and its effect on waters in our area using Eldridge tide tables and charts was a very helpful tip no matter if you're sailing, racing, or cruising.

## Ideal Fleet Racing

I'd like to congratulate the team of Will Morison at the helm and Chris Tella as crew for taking the number one spot in the YRALIS one-design championship race in the Ideal 18 fleet on August 8 and 9. There were 11 accomplished teams that sailed nine races in two days of racing. Happy to report that all five OGYC Ideals were on the line.

There will be three more organized YRA races in September with the 1430 Ideal 18 start time.

The threat of thunderstorms this August resulted in a wait and see approach on many race days. In many cases the weather improved and we were fortunate to have light but sailable winds to complete most races.

OGYC continues to have a strong participation in IHYC's organized Wednesday night twilight racing, often with a few OGYC boats at the top on the fleet. On August 12 flying spinnakers became officially optional for Wednesday night racing.

Upcoming Ideal 18 racing includes the OGYC Championship Race on September 12 and the Stamford Denmark Friendship race at SYS on September 13. The entry fee is \$35/boat and all entries and fees shall be posted on line by 1800 September 5. The NOR can be found at

<http://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=291>. Ideal 18 racers will have to decide between YRA racing or this Denmark race as both events take place on Sunday September 13.





# Storm Warning

## Are You Prepared For Hurricane Season?

Members are responsible for preparing their vessels in advance of a storm. The Town shuts down beach access and Launch Service is suspended well before the wind and rain arrives. You can minimize potential damage to your boat if you take precautions in advance.

1. Check your bridles for wear and replace them if necessary.
2. Add chafe gear to the bridles.
3. Check that your chocks are smooth with no rough edges.
4. Be sure that your cleats are secured firmly to the deck of your boat.
5. Remove the anchor from the bow so it does not sever your bridles.
6. Remove items that catch wind; weather curtains, flags and radar reflectors.
7. Take down Bimini tops, roller furling, mainsail and boom if possible, or tie them down tightly.
8. Stow propane tanks, grills and other non-essentials on shore.
9. Attach a storm line to your mooring and tie it securely to the strongest point on your boat.
10. If you are going away, designate someone to secure your vessel.

The waterfront Staff will not be available to assist with your boat in the event of a significant storm. They will be securing the club's vessels.

**ADVANCED STORM PREPARATION IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH AND EVERY BOAT OWNER.**



# 2009 Nominating Committee

Mary Rappa, Commodore

I am pleased to announce that the following five members have volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2009. To serve on the Nominating Committee a member must have been a member in good standing for at least three years.

**William Bennett** – Past Commodore & member since 1978  
Phone: (203) 698-0443 Email: bennettb@optonline.net

**Anne Burns** – Past Membership Director & member since 2001  
Phone: (203) 869-0284 Email: aburnsogyc@yahoo.com

**Jimmy Gullotta** – Member since 2004

Phone: (203) 921-5010 Email: ashj4132@yahoo.com

**Al Shehadi** – Member since 2003

Phone: (203) 531-7711 Email: al\_shehadi@ntcicfunds.com

**Chris Tella** – Member since 2005

Phone: (203) 637-5701 Email: ctella@woodridgesystems.com

Please contact a committee member if you would like to volunteer, or nominate a member for, the 2010 Board of Directors.

The names of the nominees shall be delivered to the Secretary for publication in the October and November issues of the Boathouse Newsletter. The Election of Officers for the 2010 Board of Directors will take place at the Annual Member Meeting on Sunday, November 15, 2009 at 1:00pm at the clubhouse.

## Membership News

Marc Lotti, Membership Director

2009 has been a challenging year for many and our club hasn't been spared. In the face of adversity, however, OGYC has demonstrated that a great club with spirited and caring members perseveres through the most turbulent of storms. From our Life members that have stood by the club since its inception and share some wonderful history, to the children of our Regular members who will grow with the club in years to come, our culture of mentorship, seamanship, and volunteerism has shown through now more than ever. On behalf of all our members, we welcome our newest into this culture and our club as of May 1, 2009.

Nancy & Robert Andrighetti	Rebecca Belcher	Margot & Richard Bittenbender
Alisa & Kevin Buehler	Thomas Clark	Dennis & Virginia Doyle
Dawn Federman	Gretchen & Sean Foran	Glen & Lisa Graffeo
Suzanne & William Hegarty	Alejandra & Lawrence Klamecki	Keelyn Mulvey
Frances & Robert Schapperle	John & Rita Schoen	Lindsay & Richard Stafford
Denis & Katia Streiff	Kathryn & Michael Tiedy	

Several years ago, the club realized operational enhancements in the form of an independent member database through the contributions of member and past Commodore, John Ehlers. This database has been invaluable to our Membership Directors and Boards since its inception. Another technological enhancement that has been critical in club communications in recent years is the OYGC web site implemented by member Larry Furst and supported by Casey Fignar. The efforts of these individuals in making our club run more efficiently should be applauded. As technology evolves, we move forward in similar spirit, embracing the advancements that afford our club even more efficiency and reduce our operational overhead. Earlier this year, the Board

voted unanimously to integrate the benefits of these two independent systems which together, far outweigh the sum of their individual parts. Today we can process events and new member applications without paper in a fraction of time it once took. We can communicate club information and event notices electronically, without the costs of printing or postage. Event and merchandise payments can now be made online for your convenience. A membership directory that is always up-to-date is at your disposal and you can now update your profile with the information you want, when you want. A byproduct of the club's efficiency is a wonderful contribution to our environment and our volunteers. Less paper, reduced processing time, and less hassle will allow us to spend more time together instead of pushing paper. More sailing, more camaraderie, and more fun!



# Cruising Season Update

Sheila Bennett, Director of Cruising

## Block Island

While fewer boats sailed for Block Island than originally planned, the three boats that sailed east all arrived and departed according to their own schedules. In addition to the three boats from OGYC, cruisers from Centerport and Stratford joined us. While together on Block Island we covered a lot of territory. Activities over the course of the week included the following:

- A visit to the Bluffs for a refreshing swim in the surf
- The 140 wooden steps back to the top of the Bluffs
- Breakfast at Ernie's
- Scouting at 6:30 a.m. for soon to be available moorings
- Cocktails from the Spring House porch, overlooking Block Island Sound
- Fabulous dinners at Hotel Manisses, Eli's and Sharky's
- Emus and Llamas at the Manisses Farm
- Fresh Gelato at Aldo's and The Island Ice Cream Shop
- Playing How Many Can We Fit in the Mini Van with 2 Dogs
- Fresh pastries, breakfast sandwiches and coffee delivered each morning by boat to the call of "Andiamo"
- Visitors from the mainland for a day of touring
- Calling the Pump Out Boat at 7:00 am sharp to make the 'early' list
- The Painted Rock
- Block Island Grocery
- Fishing in Block Island Sound and clamming in the Great Salt Pond
- A fresh grilled striped bass dinner over a charcoal grill at the Block Island Boat Basin
- Several dinghy expeditions up the inlet from the Great Salt Pond to venture to Crescent and Benson Beaches
- Karaoke night at Captain Nick's



For those who were there... It wouldn't have been the same without you.

For those who weren't... We hope you'll join us next year.

## Labor Day Cruise to Manhasset Bay Yacht Club

A cruise has been organized for Labor Day Weekend to Manhasset Bay. Interested parties should send an email to [cruising@ogyc.org](mailto:cruising@ogyc.org), with Labor Day in the subject line. Contact me ASAP, as moorings will be going fast.

## Land Cruise to United States Sailboat Show in Annapolis, MD

A land-cruise is in the process of being coordinated to the United States Sailboat Show in Annapolis, Maryland on Saturday, October 10. This road trip will include the Sailboat Show and a Maryland crab dinner before returning home. If you are interested in participating in this fun cruise, email [cruising@ogyc.org](mailto:cruising@ogyc.org) with US Sailboat Show in the subject line. To date, there has been limited interest. A critical mass is necessary.

Watch the Cruising Website for additional activities.

Enjoy the rest of your summer season.



## Club Treasury Notes

Mary Rappa, Commodore

At the beginning of August, Dan Dylewsky notified the Board of Directors that he had "been thinking about it long and hard and think it would be best for myself and the club to offer my resignation as Treasurer at this time due to personal reasons. I want to thank you, the board and the membership for all the help and support shown to me during my time on the board."

Past Commodore Tom O'Connell has graciously stepped up and taken on the role as Treasurer for the remainder of 2009.

