



Volume XLI No.4 • A Publication of Masthead Cove Yacht Club • September 2019



**THE SUN SETS AT SHELTER ISLAND
ON ANOTHER GREAT CRUISING SEASON**

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Commodore, Brad Simon
Avanzare

Ahoy me Mateys, and welcome to the Fall Edition of *The Masthead*.

I am happy to report that our club has enjoyed a very active Summer.

Starting with the Spring New Member Brunch, then our Backyard Barbeque (with a distinctive Cinco de Mayo twist this year), right into our Annual Memorial Day trek to Saugatuck which had a very "Groovy" Summer of Love theme. June started out with the Commissioning Raft-Up in Lloyd Harbor, complete with Dark & Stormy's and JP's hot dogs. A couple of weeks later we met for dinner in Port Washington and then it was off to Liberty Landing where we enjoyed watching the Sail GP races on the Hudson River. The 4th of July was followed by the always-welcomed Summer Cruisec. Once again, our Cruise Captain JP Nel and his various Port Captains did an outstanding job of keeping everyone safe, fed and lubricated. In August we held our MCYC Annual Masthead race and party, where we raised \$7,500.00 for Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories to help with their continuous cancer research.

On August 17, we had our Midnight Cruise to Nowhere, which started with some nice wind but then changed to kicking on the Iron Sail as we watched the full moon rise.

Our Race Captain George Link created what I believe will be a new Annual event, The Pirate's Race. Many MCYC members joined in the race and then joined in the paddled scavenger hunt in Lloyd Harbor with bottles of Rum (what else would you reward a Pirate with) to the winners. A day in the Sun and the Cruise to Port Jefferson finishes up our "posted" club events.

However, the best is yet to come!! According to the calendar, Summer might be over but for those of us that have decided to keep our boats in the water or have picked a later hauling date, the Fall offers some of the best sailing. The weather is still warm during the day and there is normally a good amount of wind. But the days get cool quickly as the sun starts to set, so bring some warm clothing.

We do have some important events coming up and I hope you will be able to attend:

October 6th is the Decommissioning Party. November 2nd is our Annual Membership Meeting. This is an important meeting for the nominations and election of Officers and Directors and for the transaction of other business.

December 7th is our Change of Watch Dinner. This once again will be held at the Northport Yacht Club. This is a fun filled evening bringing together old friends and new members, great food and drink and the ever so popular "Bent Anchor Award". Invitations will be sent out soon so please keep an eye out for the invitation and quickly send back your RSVP.

Once again it is time to drop the sails and come into port. I hope you all enjoyed this season and had some fun times to reflect back upon while sitting by the fireplace this winter. Time now for my Dark and Stormy.

See you at the upcoming events.

Brad

Unfettered

by Pam Humbert, *Morgana*

Bound by life's obligations, we worked through our week while Morgana waited, tethered to her mooring. Come week's end, I released the mooring's pick-up stick and pennants, calling back to my husband stationed at the helm as they splashed into the water, "We're free!" Grinning like truants we set out under full sail into a blazing sunset. Hours later the anchor dropped with the satisfying sound of clinking chain in a favorite gunk-hole. Cocktails were served and cozy conversation came easily under a starlit sky. Playing for us in the background was the calming music of water lapping against the topsides and the halyard tapping gently on the mast. Feeling relaxed we looked at each other and our hearts rejoined as one. Our snug bunk welcomed us and rocked us gently to sleep as the water's music played through the night. We stirred as dawn broke and the birds took flight. Soon, the fish were jumping and the smell of fresh coffee perking added to our awakened sense of wellbeing. We glowed that afternoon as Morgana sailed joyfully in the breeze toward home. I called back to my husband after picking up the stick and cleating the pennants, "We're secured!"





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One of the Best and Most Stressful Trips in my Boating Experience

The Cruise to Liberty Landing by Peyton Harrison, *Resolute*

It started with Fog on Thursday. Real fog, one quarter mile or less visibility. It lifted a bit when we arrived at Pt. Washington, making mooring easier. Dinner at Louie's was attended by 50+ members.

Friday dawned with a gusty wind, and rain. *Resolute* and The Office left about two hours before the main armada was scheduled to depart. Tide was against us as we passed LaGuardia, and the proximity to departing and arriving jets was impressive. Just before the Hell Gate railroad bridge, a Department of Sanitation sludge tanker pulled right out in front of us. The smell of jet exhaust and sludge said "Welcome to the Big Apple". Thought it was not yet slack tide at Hell Gate, the passage was slow and uneventful because AIS prevented an encounter with a massive barge/tug combination. As we slid by Roosevelt Island, things began to get interesting; fast ferries, ships of all sizes, helicopter traffic, and sea planes. Trying to take in the incredible architecture, the AIS would beep, and I would look up to see a ferry/tug/sludge tanker bearing down on us. Right of way was a moot point, basically, just remain clear of these behemoths. By the time we got to the BMW bridges, things were less hectic because the river is wider. Rounding the Battery, we slowed down to allow the Staten Island Ferry to pass and now we could see up the Hudson. The Sail GP Catamarans were on the course, spectator boats were everywhere, ferries were crisscrossing the river and wind was blowing 20-25 knots out of the NNW. All of this under a beautiful cerulean blue sky. Impressive.

Making our way to the Liberty Landing entrance, I now began to stress about docking. When we entered the basin, I really got stressed; Sail GP support RIBs, jet skis, and of course New York Waterway Ferries were everywhere. I had to bump *Resolute* in and out of gear just to maintain the one knot needed to navigate the chaos. The wind abated slightly before we pulled into the slip, making for an uneventful arrival. Now we could relax. The rest of the day was spent watching the races, taking in the views of lower Manhattan and marveling at the parade of boats coming into and out of Liberty Landing. The Sail GP Cats would be brought in sideways by support RIBs, then lifted to the staging areas by massive cranes. Neat. More racing on Saturday, followed by a trip to lower Manhattan with JP Nel. We traversed the entire length of the Oculus transportation hub and visited the Titanic Memorial Lighthouse at the South Street Seaport (lighthouse points for *Resolute* and Nels' Belle II). Everyone departed mid-morning on Sunday to catch a favorable tide on the East River. We encountered the usual mayhem, supplemented by two massive cement barges. But now it was child's play, as *Resolute* was a seasoned veteran.

Many thanks to JP Nel, Dave Cordts and John Garvey for making the trip possible. I'm not sure I'll do it again, but if not, the sights, sounds and smells are seared into my memory.



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MCYC Race Party 2019

by Gary Matthesen, *Holiday*

Another race party is in the books with many “thank you’s” to go around. So much goes on behind the scenes to make this party a success.

Starting with the “wrap party” held at the new homestead of Bob and Liz Bergsten. After the initial tour of the extensive renovations, the wrapping began, which highlighted the creative skills of the “wrappers”. The men entertained themselves with before and after pictures of the sorely neglected house transformed in a magnificent one. Do I need to remind people of the great parties the Bergsten’s have held, including the “Captain Ron” night, a few cruise meetings and the appearance of “Where’s Waldo”?

The weather for the race was fortunately cooperative. I understand the start line suffered light air, but Brad must have broken out his wind magic, because the wind picked up and the race was completed in ample time for skippers, grinders and “rail meat” to attend the party.

While the racers were on the course, behind the seen activities were in progress. The venue was set for all, as crafty had Tom Conneely attended an event at Wyncote the night before and as they started putting away tables and chairs “No...leave them out”, we’ll use them tomorrow! I think it’s time to mention how in my two years of being Vice Commodore, Tom and Eileen have very quietly done much in support of the club events without much recognition. He has quietly followed through with securing the venue at Wyncote once a race date is established. They are always there from the start to clean up, often directing the “strong arms” where to set up, or break down heavy tables and chairs, doing much heavy lifting himself. When asked for his receipt for the ice, his reply was “no, this is my donation to the club”. He also does not mention that he has paid the rental of Wyncote year after year. We all owe a special thanks to the quiet couple in the background for their huge support of MCYC. Help started showing up, as I was stamping out fires, a bar appeared on the porch with iced drinks, raffle and door tables were set up, caterers arrived promptly and were ready to rock at our call to begin serving. The reception table handled the load of arriving party-goers with a cordial smile. I observed many people eating while still on duty, even refusing me when I offered to sit in for them to have a break.

Dr. Jon Ipsaro and Dr. Polona Safric, scientists from Cold Spring Harbor Labs arrived, both of whom are not only racing sailors out of Oak Cliff Sailing Center in Oyster Bay, but were charming and interactive with the club members, participating in the raffle drawing and giving a short and inspiring talk on their work.

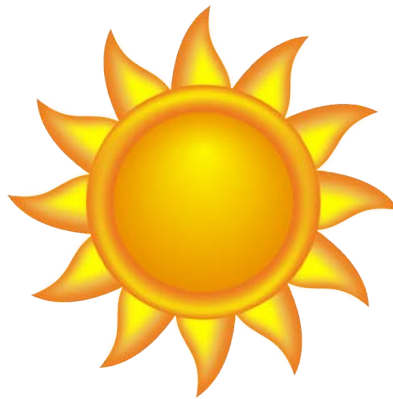
At the time of this writing I have no numbers of how much money was raised, but the silent auction was a feeding frenzy as people bid in excess of \$5,000 for the wet storage spaces of West Shore Marine and Britannia Yachting Center. I have to thank my friend Gary Schacker who gathered up all money, from entry fees, to raffle tickets, to race fees. The total must have been a stack thicker than JP’s upcoming deck of cards! Final results will be shared as they trickle in.

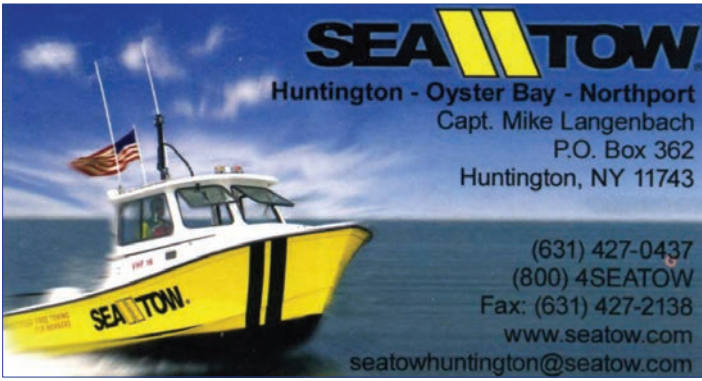
Again, I thank all of you who volunteered to help out, this party would not have been a success without your assistance.



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Babying Our “Babies” by Scott Gerber, *Late Harvest*

Like most of us, I care deeply for my boat. So, I often listen and act on proven experience of others to do all I can to insure innovative options that might help protect and provide for safe and trouble-free sailing.

Recently I came across an article in *Practical Sailor* about using diaper cream to coat the propeller to aid in preventing growth and adhesion of barnacles and other sea life that might impact its performance. “REALLY?!” I thought. But I decided it could be worth a try – and, at least, probably wouldn’t hurt.

So, I made a trip to the local drug store, proceeded to the baby-products aisle, where I experienced a real throw-back moment to when my two 30-something daughters were in diapers. Now, as a proud new grandfather, I’m mostly exempt from diaper duty! I picked up the heavy-duty formula and checked out at the register.

Although I felt a little silly to be doing this, I headed to *Late Harvest*, diaper cream in hand. I even offered to apply some to Ken Hecht’s *Lion*. He declined, questioning my sanity a bit.

Call me crazy, or call me cutting edge. Will *Late Harvest* cry? Or, will she be comfortably content with my new-found innovative treatment for the prop, setting a new standard of care for the yachts we love? Stay tuned for the bottom-line results!

Happy sailing! Captain Scott (AKA Diaper Cream King)



Aground at Rye Playland Beach

(to the theme of Gilligan’s Isle)

by: David Kessler, *Rash Decision*

Just sit right back and you’ll hear a tale
a tale of a fateful trip,
that started from Oyster Bay,
aboard this tiny ship.
The mate was a mighty sailin’ man,
the Skipper brave and sure,
four passengers set sail that day,
for a three hour tour,
a three hour tour.
The weather started getting rough,
the tiny ship was tossed.
If not for the courage of the fearless crew
Rash Decision would be lost.
Rash Decision would be lost.

The ship’s aground on the shore of this
Rye Playland Beach
with David,
and Linda too.
The neurologist and his wife,
no movie star,
no professor and no Mary Ann,
here on Rye Playland Beach.

(Ending verse)

So this is the tale of our Masthead members,
they’re here for a long, long time.
They’ll have to make the best of things,
it’s an uphill climb.
The first mate and his Skipper too
will do their very best,
to make the others comfortable
on the Long Island Sound.

A Cell phone, but no engine, or motor car
not a single beer
like Robinson Crusoe,
it’s primitive as can be.
So join us here next season my friends,
you’re sure to get a smile,
from four stranded castaways
never at rye playland again !



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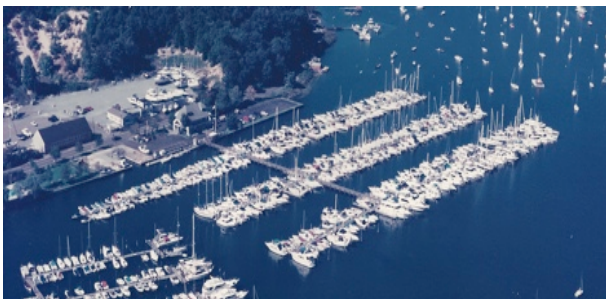
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Off to the Races

George Link, *Escape Plan*

It was a great day for the Masthead Race. Eleven boats entered, with three divisions, two jib and main and one spinnaker. The committee boat left the dock at 8am and headed out to set the race for the day and it seemed like the wind would cooperate. It was coming from the Northwest, so a start at Nun 6 was chosen. Unfortunately, soon after we arrived at Nun 6, the wind died. A one-hour postponement was issued and we waited for the wind to return. A new course was selected to allow for lighter winds, the winds finally returned, and at 12:00 the races were started. The first two divisions started and division three was started a few minutes later with manual horns after the ollie failed.

The boats had enough wind to glide them around the course. The first two divisions had a 6.49 mile course and the third division had 7.92 miles. All Boats finished the race. It is worth noting that since we are an YRALIS qualifier race, the racing fleet is comprised of very skilled and competitive boats.

The corrected finishing order is as follows:

Division 1 (2, 3, 4 were separated by less than a minute)

- 1st Rascal/Schneider
- 2nd Nereid/Hendler
- 3rd Orion/Coon
- 4th Jumping Jack Flash/Posner)

Division 2

- 1st Veronica/Tella
- 2nd Avanzare/Simon
- 3rd Pirate Bey/Gerakaris
- 4th Serendipity/Ferina

Division 3

- 1st Brilliant/Kelley
- 2nd Rift/Maher
- 3rd Loki 4/Correll



I would like to give special thanks to Valerie Link (Escape Plan), Chris Helrich (Lulu), and Emily (crew on Tradewinds) whose help on committee boat was invaluable.



Special thanks to...
Christine Matthesen, MCYC
photographer, as she steps out
from behind the camera.



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Pirate Race

by George Link, *Escape Plan*

Nine pirate ships showed up to battle for the pirate trophy. Not sure if it was the Pirate Gods, or our Commodore, but somehow, we were blessed with wind! Not too light and not too strong.

A course was chosen of just over 3.3 miles. A staggered start was implemented, and the boats started the race at their respective time. The boats were instructed to announce when they crossed the finish line, since the honor system was being used. The first to cross the finish line was *Lion*, which was crewed single-handedly by Pirate Captain Ken Hecht.

As the boats finished, they made their way over to the club mooring for an after-race raft-up. The boats then circled the committee boat and showed off their best pirate spirit. Many of the boats went above and beyond, and it was extremely difficult for the committee boat to decide who has the most spirit. However, one boat stood out to all. The other pirate crews, as well as the race committee, agreed that the crew of *Tradewind*, led by Pirate Captain Lindsay Honorof had the most spirit and they won the Pirate Spirit award.

During the raft-up, there was a treasure hunt. Crews were handed a map that marked the location of the hidden totem. An "X" on the map marked the spot. They just had to find it. The names of mooring balls in the vicinity were given on the map to help guide the pirates to the location. There was also an area marked by a three question marks. This was in the opposite direction of the "X". The crews were told this was a gamble, and something may or may not be there. However, if there was something there it would be a shorter distance than the other mark. It was also stated to the crews that the person who "hands me" the totem wins. Many strategy meetings were held before the hunt began. The only other rule was that no engines were allowed.

The pirate fleet was split. Some went for the gamble while others hunted the sure thing. Damian Lopez with daughter Elena on *Celebration* used speed, stealth, and agility to bring back the first totem, sneaking it to me on the bow of the committee boat. By now the fleet had learned that the gamble paid off. As the totem made it way closer and closer to me, more and more pirates jumped in and converged on its last known location to team up and play a game of cat and mouse. Several battles were fought, however in the end, like true pirate fashion, deception won out. Helene Harrison of *Resolute* sneakily obtained the totem and hid it masterfully. She casually swam back to the committee boat, careful not to draw attention, while the now confused pirates tried to figure out where the totem was. She handed me the totem and was declared the second winner. The prize for each winner was a delicious bottle of rum and in true pirate fashion, the rum was shared with all participants. I would like to thank all of our participants for coming out and making this a very special and fun day. A list of participating boats will be below. I would also like to thank Bill and Karla from *Optimistic* for the use of their mooring ball as a hiding spot for a totem. I would also like to thank Valerie Link (*Escape Plan*) who helped on the committee boat as well as a lot of behind the scenes work.

Race boats: Nels' Belle II, Messin' About, Tradewind, Glory, Resolute, Lion, Lulu, Compass Rose, Legacy

Raft up/treasure hunt: Nels' Belle II, Messin' About, Tradewinds, Glory, Resolute, Liberty

Celebration (treasure hunt): Lulu, Compass Rose, Legacy



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