

The Horse Shoe Crab

July 26, 2013

Motto: Of Crabs, By Crabs, For Crabs

Greetings from Commodore Batchelder

It is hard to believe, but our season is half over, or as I like to remind people, we still have a month left to enjoy Chatham! The Club has been as busy as ever, and it is great to see so many members involved in our activities. Here is a recap of recent activity and a preview of upcoming events. I look forward to seeing everyone at the 50th anniversary Luau this Saturday!

50th Anniversary Luau

Back in 1964, Doug and Barbara Wells organized our very first Luau, which included a piano player on a makeshift barge just off the beach! Generations of Yacht Club members have wrestled with greased watermelons, played tug-of-war, run races, and simply enjoyed the company of their fellow members on "Luau Beach," which we long ago christened as our own on Luau Saturday.



Tug of War, 21st Annual Luau, 1984 -- Can you name all or some of the 28 participants? Hint, the first person is a current member of the SHYC Board! A prize will be awarded at the Annual Meeting to the person

with the most correct answers. Send your entry to richard.batchelder@ropesgray.com.

John Forger has been running our Luau for many years now, and he is pulling out all the stops for this year's Anniversary event. We will have a three-piece band, and a DJ, so there will be plenty of music to go along with the traditional games. Inspired by the above photo which appeared on the rear cover of this year's Directory, tug-of-war is going to make a return, and we will have plenty of beachfront, thanks to a 0942 low tide. Please bring your family and "stay awhile." We will have water and soft drinks available, along with a grill, so pack your lunch and favorite adult beverages and join us for the 50th Anniversary Luau this Saturday from 1100 to 1630 (transportation available from SHYC to Luau Beach).



SHYC Sailors Rule the Waves

This summer our race teams have demonstrated that when it comes to winning regattas, we rule the waves. In fact, our sailors have entered six regattas to date, and we have placed first or second in both Optis and 420s *in every single regatta!* We previously reported the results from our Opti regatta, the West Dennis Invite, and Bass River Regatta. At the 90th Annual Edgartown Regatta, Alex Gonzalez finished second out of 52 boats in the Opti Championship Fleet, and Parker Loftus, with crew Geoff Owens, finished second in the 420 class out of 70 boats. Our five other boats in the 420 class also did well, with Kelsey Shakin and Olivia Gonzalez finishing fifth. At the Stone Horse Opti Extreme Regatta, Hayden Earl finished first in the Championship Fleet out of 82 boats (Jack Evans finished 13th), and Katie Evans and Katie Brooks finished in fourth and fifth, respectively, out of 26 boats in the Green Fleet.



Katie Brooks and Katie Evans after Stone Horse Opti Extreme Regatta. A picture says a thousand words!

This week was the Gill Regatta, which is a special regatta for all girls in the 420 class. Hosted by Hyannis Yacht Club, we are very pleased to report that Kelsey Shakin and Olivia Gonzalez placed first in this prestigious regatta out of 32 boats, and can certainly claim the title of the top girl sailors among all 45 member clubs of SM Sailing! Congratulations also go to all of our other girls who participated, including Maggie Royal and Grace Patten, who finished fourth.



Olivia Gonzalez and Kelsey Shakin, winners of the 2013 Gill Trophy. This is SHYC's first title in the 20-year history of the Gill Trophy. Congratulations Kelsey and Olivia!!

Looking ahead, this week we have the Wianno Opti Regatta, the Hyannis Regatta for 420, and next week we will be participating for the first time ever in the C.J. Buckley Regatta in Rhode Island for the 420 National Team Racing Championship. A special thank you to our fine coaches, Ian Barrows and Greg Cassidy with 420, and Tommy Bisi and Colleen Cassidy in Opti, for leading our teams this year.

Finally, we defeated Chatham Yacht Club 3-0 in our first team race of the season, and two of our Board members, Rear Commodore Matt Evans and Drew Carlson, finished fourth and eighth in the Stone Horse Laser Regatta in extreme conditions last Saturday. Way to go!



CYC and SHYC sailors before team race

Weekly Series

For generations, we have had series racing at SHYC on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. With the increase in the number of away regattas, we have scheduled the Tuesday and Thursday series to occur once each session. Last Tuesday, 11 boats competed for the July Tuesday Series in the 420 class, the largest turnout ever.



We have continued a Club tradition going back to our founding - the awarding of pennants - and blue, red, yellow, and green pennants are now adorning the walls of kid's bedrooms again this season.





Turnout on Sundays, on the other hand, has been off this year, due largely to the fact that many of our sailors are on the water over 30 hours during the week. The Board is considering ways to improve attendance while also recognizing that a day at the beach with your friends and family is also a nice way to spend a Sunday afternoon. Stay tuned for further developments, and we welcome all ideas and suggestions from members.

Informal Racing

One way to increase attendance for our weekly Series racing is to demystify it, and to that end, we are going to be hosting informal racing, with on-the-water coaching and encouragement, this Monday, July 29. We encourage all beginning and intermediate Opti sailors who would like to practice their racing skills to come out and learn the ropes. Races will start at 1330. Participants should arrive no later than 1300 to rig up their boats. Club boats will be available first come, first serve. Questions: Email Trude at programdirector@shyc.com.

Sprite Donation

Thanks to Anne Stetson and Mark Dibble for donating their beautiful Sprite, *Sandpiper*, to the Club. Our Sprite fleet dates to 1959, but it is a wonderful teaching boat, and we need your help in continuing this fleet. If you have (or know of) a Sprite to donate, we would love to take your tax-deductible donation to the Sailing School (and feature your Sprite in our next newsletter!).



Ladies Fashion Show

Once again many of our members participated in the Ladies Fashion Show at Wequasset, co-hosted with Chatham Yacht Club. Thanks to Sarah Wilsterman and her team for helping organize this great event, which in addition to building friendships between our two clubs, raises money for We Can, which supports Cape Cod women in life transitions with services that bring increased opportunity, self-sufficiency, and stability. Please visit www.wecancenter.org for more information on this worthwhile charity. 65 SHYC members attended, along with an equal number from CYC. Thanks to In the Pink, J. McLaughlin, and Midsummer Nights for providing the fashions, and the models, which included Kris Plumer (see below) among others.



Senior Luncheon

Attention Senior Members - please make plans to attend our popular Senior Luncheon at the Club on Wednesday, August 7. Lynne Roe and her team are ready to put on a great event and we look forward to seeing you at the Club.

Commodore's Ball

By now you should have received by email an invitation to The Commodore's Ball. This is one of the highlights of every season, and we hope you will make plans to attend. This year, in order to increase attendance among our Junior and Senior Members, we have reduced the cost of admission for them. Our Junior and Senior Members enjoy full Club privileges, from racing to socializing, so we hope to see many of you at the Ball. We will once again have the Ben & Jerry's ice cream sundae cart, and a live band. Special thanks to Susanne Taylor, for drawing the wonderful artwork on this year's invitation!



Blue Water Race

We moved the Blue Water Race this year to August 10, so that many of our new Junior members could participate before joining us for the Commodore's Ball. If you own a big boat, or know someone who does (whether or not a member), we would love to hear from you and see you on the water. Please contact our Offshore Fleet Captain, Bob Samuelson, at rjsamuelson2@icloud.com, and hopefully reserve some spots on your boat for our Junior (21 and over) members. They will make a great crew!

Progressive Dinner

Reminder, we still need dinner hosts for the Progressive Dinner, so please contact Lisa Patten, at elizpatten@comcast.net if you can host a group on August 24. Also, please contact Lisa to RSVP if you plan on attending this fun event.

Safety

Safety is always a priority at SHYC, so we wanted to let members know of a couple of recent developments. First, we have recently purchased a portable defibrillator, which will be located at the Clubhouse. Many of our instructors are CPR-certified, and two of them are trained EMTs. In addition, all of our instructors took a one-hour on-line course on head injuries before the season.

We have had three head injuries this summer of varying degrees, all involving a 420 boom. Thankfully, each of the sailors received prompt medical attention and is recovering fine. The larger issue, though, of head injuries is one that is being addressed throughout the sport, from the professional ranks, to intercollegiate and interscholastic programs, to recreational sailing. We have discussed various potential responses with other programs, and the topic was discussed at a recent SM Sailing meeting. This week, we have begun to add foam padding to the booms of SHSS-owned 420s. While this is not yet standard practice across programs, we wanted to be proactive and will experiment with this and other measures. "Bump-caps," which are essentially padded baseball caps (http://www.amazon.com/ERB-19400-Adjustable-Ball-Bump/dp/B004BG4KAK/ref=pd_sim_op_1) together with foam padded booms, is one potential response, and according to experts, is preferred over hard helmets, which actually might be counterproductive. We welcome your input and thoughts as we strive to provide the safest possible experience for our sailors, recognizing the inherent dangers in sailing and racing.



Staff Update

We have a terrific staff, and I wanted to thank Trude Goodman for her leadership as Program Director, Jane Frye as Head Instructor, Greg Cassidy as Race Team Coordinator, and Ben Patten as Head Steward, as well as the entire staff. The stewards have been working hard in many different capacities, and most recently have learned the art of driving piles under the tutelage of Mark Simonitsch, our SHE manager. Thank you for all your support, and let's keep the momentum going over the last half of the summer!



Ben Patten, Pete King, Matt Lacey, Mark Simonitsch, Geoff Owens, Clay Deadrick, and Jack Casady - our Pile Drivers Extraordinaire!

Upcoming Events and Reminder

Water Bottles

A reminder to all parents, please have your child bring a water bottle to Sailing School so that we can reduce the use of plastic cups.

Adult Fun Sails

Mondays & Wednesdays 1330-1530

Bring your life jacket and join the fun! All are welcome. Club Day Sailer boats.

Stitch and Chat

Monday, July 29 1300-1500

Bring a craft that you are working on and come by to shoot the breeze with other members! At Lisa Patten's home, 466 Stage Harbor Road.

Junior Entertainment

Monday, July 29 1800-2000

Bumper Boats and Dinner at A&W. Ages 12 and over. Drop-off and pick-up at the Club. Bring a towel! \$10 per child attending will be charged to member account.

Merchandise Sale

Wednesday, July 31 0930-1200

Drop by the pier to check out SHYC merchandise!

Best regards,
Richard D. Batchelder, Jr., Commodore
Elizabeth C. Patten, Vice Commodore
Matt Evans, Rear Commodore
Trude Goodman, Program Director