

The Horse Shoe Crab

November 2, 2012

Motto: Of Crabs, By Crabs, For Crabs

Greetings from Commodore Batchelder

Hurricane Sandy Update

I am pleased to report that the Club survived Hurricane Sandy without any damage. Many thanks to former Commodore Tom King, Steve Keenan, and Mark Simonitsch for making sure we were prepared for any eventuality. Our thoughts go out to members in hard hit areas, and hope that life will return to normal soon.

Changes in Sailing School Leadership

Last June, Drew Carlson left Fay School after 19 years to take on a new job as an educational consultant in Boston. The job does not allow him to be in Chatham full time during the summer, so unfortunately he will not be able to return for another season as Sailing Master. Needless to say, he will be greatly missed, but together with the Vice Commodore, Rear Commodore, and Sailing School President, I have been working with Drew over the past couple of weeks on a transition plan. I asked Drew to share some reminiscences with you, and I added an appreciation on behalf of all members.

Letter from Drew Carlson

Dear Members,

After 30 years of employment at Stage Harbor Yacht Club, it is with sadness that I announce that I will not return to work for the summer of 2013. After a long career at Fay School which offered summers off, I have transitioned to a year-around educational consulting position at Howland, Spence & McMillan in Boston.

When my three brothers and I joined the Sailing School in the early 1970s, we were taught by a group of instructors who lived to sail and loved to teach kids knots, terms, parts, knowledge and most importantly, the art of sailing. To me they were not merely role models, but legends. With Chief at the helm – my greatest mentor – I soon found myself with a job, prying 8-year-olds from their mother's leg, coaxing them toward the water, and showing them what life is like "messing about in boats." I received my end-of-summer's pay, a windfall \$100, and quickly wrote Chief to express interest in returning for a second summer. The rest, as they say, is history.

Although the programs at the Club have grown, the essential instructor/student dynamic remains unchanged. With a focus on safety and fun and a location second to none, our program rivals any in the country. With the right blend of tradition and innovation, a top-notch staff, a dedicated Board, and amazing volunteers, there may never have been a better time than now to be a student at Stage Harbor Sailing School. I would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to all the staff that I have had the honor to work with and train, and in particular to Trude for her steadfast allegiance to the Club. I am also deeply thankful to all of the students, families, committee volunteers, Board members, and in particular, to the wonderful Commodores who have mentored and supported me, and who have given so much to the Club. I am excited to transition to a volunteer position at the Club to support the Board, staff and programs as we embark on the next new chapter for Stage Harbor Yacht Club. I have been working closely with Richard on a transition plan, which I am sure will be seamlessly executed. On a personal note, I would like to extend thanks and appreciation to Richard, my best friend, for his steadfast counsel and support through this transition. Under his strong leadership, the Club is poised for great things. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the entire membership for all of your support over the years. It has been an honor to serve the Club. The Crab Marches On!



An Appreciation

When Drew and I were writing the 75th anniversary history of the Club, we were in awe reading and learning about the contributions of the true giants in the history of the Club, including founding members Fritz Hovey and Marian Maclay, boat designer F. Spaulding Dunbar, longtime Treasurer Mel Webster, Commodores Doug Wells, Ted King, Grant Wilson, and Bob Bainbridge, volunteers Phyllis Mason and Judy Hoyt, and of course Chief Hovey. We can now add the name of Drew Carlson to this pantheon, as no one other than Chief has devoted more time and energy to the Club than Drew. For 30 of the past 36 years, Drew has been on the staff at the Club, the last 15 as Sailing Master. His contributions, however, should not just be measured in terms of years of service, but in the countless Seamen, Mates, and Skippers who developed a love of sailing from him, and in the many instructors he inspired and mentored.

When Drew became Sailing Master in 1998, he obviously had very big shoes to fill, as Chief had held the position for 35 years. Drew soon began to put his own stamp on the Sailing School. He increased time on the water and effectively utilized a staff that ranged all the way from 14-year-old volunteers to college-age Senior Instructors. He expanded the curriculum to include Hermits and Intro to Opti classes, added a Wednesday Shore School, introduced the Steward program, and presided over the successful introduction of race teams. This past year he led the push to add an O'pen Bic class, which is now firmly established. He was active in the Pier Acquisition Group that spearheaded the acquisition of the neighboring fish pier and buildings, and has served as a member of the Board of Directors of both SHYC and SHSS. He put together the calendar and Directory each year, and worked on countless other tasks for the Club on a year round basis. All the while, Drew was a force to be reckoned with on the race course, whether in his Day Sailer "Mar Reina" or more recently in his Laser. His tenure as Sailing Master will be remembered most for his ability to successfully navigate the fine line between fostering innovations while maintaining important Club traditions. Any parent who recalls – as Peggy and I certainly do – the pride of having your Seaman come home with news of passing knots, or your old Mate passing into Skippers, has Drew to thank for keeping alive and well our wonderful Sailing School.

On a personal note, Drew has been, and will always be, a great friend, and I am pleased that he will continue to be available to me and future leaders of the Club for advice and counsel. It is fitting that the title of Sailing Master, held so ably by Chief and Drew for the past half century, be retired, as they are truly irreplaceable, and that a new model of leadership for our Sailing School take their place. I thank Drew for working with me on this new model, and for all his support. On behalf of the entire membership, thank you Drew for all you have done for the Club, and we look forward to seeing you on the water this summer.

New Leadership Team

I am excited to announce our leadership team for Sailing School for next summer. Trude Goodman will be Program Director, Greg Cassidy will be Race Team Coordinator, and Jane Frye will be Head Instructor. Together they have 31 years of experience working on the staff, and each has made significant contributions to the program over the years. As you can see from their bios below, Trude, Greg, and Jane are exceptionally well suited to take on their new responsibilities, and we are very fortunate to have them on board in this important transition year.

Trude Goodman – Program Director



As Program Director, Trude will have day-to-day responsibility for the Sailing School classes, from Hermits to Adults. She will supervise the staff, and work closely with Greg and the coaches who will have primary responsibility for our racing teams. This will be Trude's 18th season on the staff, the last 11 as Head Instructor. She brings a wealth of experience, knows all the kids in the program, and has the temperament and judgment to be a successful Program Director. Trude will report directly to Heather Earl, President of the Sailing School. Trude received her BA in psychology from Trinity College and MA in Education Leadership at Teachers College, Columbia University. She has been a middle school English and history teacher since 2003, and currently teaches at The Chapin School in New York City. Trude is also chair of the alumni board of City Year New York. Please join me in welcoming Trude to her new role.

Greg Cassidy – Race Team Coordinator



Greg Cassidy will serve as our first-ever Race Team Coordinator. Race teams were first introduced as part of the Sailing School curriculum in 2005, and have grown in popularity ever since. Greg will be responsible for coordinating all of the various participants in the program – racers, coaches, Fleet Captains, and parents – into one, cohesive group. Last season alone, our Opti and 420 race teams went to 18 separate regattas. We want to maximize our performance both on and off the water, and run an efficient and safe operation. Greg is ideally suited to this new task, having participated as a member of the Optimist and 420 racing teams, and coach of the 420 race team. This will be his 9th season on the staff. Greg will report directly to Matt Evans, Rear Commodore, and will work closely with Trude, as well as the Fleet Captains. Greg is currently a senior at Providence College, and will graduate with a B.S. in Biology. Greg has been a member of the Varsity Sailing Team at PC each year, competing in regattas around the country. He will be entering medical school at St. George's University next fall. We look forward to having Greg in this important new position.

Jane Frye – Head Instructor



Jane Frye will be our new Head Instructor. This will be Jane's 7th year on the staff, and her promotion to Head Instructor is a reflection of her strong teaching skills and leadership abilities. Jane works well with children and parents, and is held in high esteem by her fellow instructors. Jane will report directly to Trude. Jane is a junior at the University of Colorado Boulder, majoring in Communications with a minor in Atmospheric Science and Technology, Arts, and Media. This coming spring she will be studying in Dunedin, New Zealand. Jane is ready to have a great year at the Club, and we congratulate her on her promotion to Head Instructor.

Other Sailing School Developments

We expect most of the staff from last season will return, and will provide a complete listing once the staff is finalized in the spring. In the meantime, Heather Earl is leading the search for two outside coaches for the 420 and Optimist race teams, who will work closely with our returning coaches. Unlike in the past where we have relied primarily on college-age sailors as outside coaches, we are expanding our search this year to include professional coaches in their thirties, who have more experience in coaching all abilities. The professional coach is a relatively new phenomenon in junior racing circles, and we are excited about the prospect of being able to provide our young racers with this level of coaching right here in Stage Harbor. Stay tuned for more developments.

Key Dates for 2013

While fall is still here, it is never too early to start planning for next summer, so we wanted to share some key dates with all of the members.

- June 17-21 Opening Work Week
- June 23 Opening Meeting
- June 29 New Member Cocktail Party at Batchelder's
- July 5 19th Annual Opti Regatta
- July 7 9th Annual Day Sailer Regatta
- July 13 All Member Cocktail Party & Auction at Bartlett's
- July 27 50th Annual Luau
- August 3-4 Chatham Yacht Club Regatta
- August 10 Commodore's Ball at Hoyt/Goddard's
- August 17 Junior Hovey Cup and Hovey Cup
- August 18 Annual Meeting & Awards

Thanksgiving Gathering

This is a reminder that all members are invited to come by the Club for hot cider by the fire on Saturday, November 24 from 1600 to 1730. See you there!

Sincerely,

Richard D. Batchelder, Jr.