

The Horse Shoe Crab

March 2, 2013

Motto: Of Crabs, By Crabs, For Crabs

Greetings from Commodore Batchelder

I write this newsletter with a heavy heart, as my father passed away earlier this week at the age of 87. On behalf of my mother and sisters, I want to thank the many members who have reached out to us since hearing the news of Batch's death. In times like these, having an extended SHYC family means the world to us. At the end of this newsletter, I have added a short tribute to my father, and our family welcomes anyone who might be in Chatham next weekend to join us for the funeral and reception.

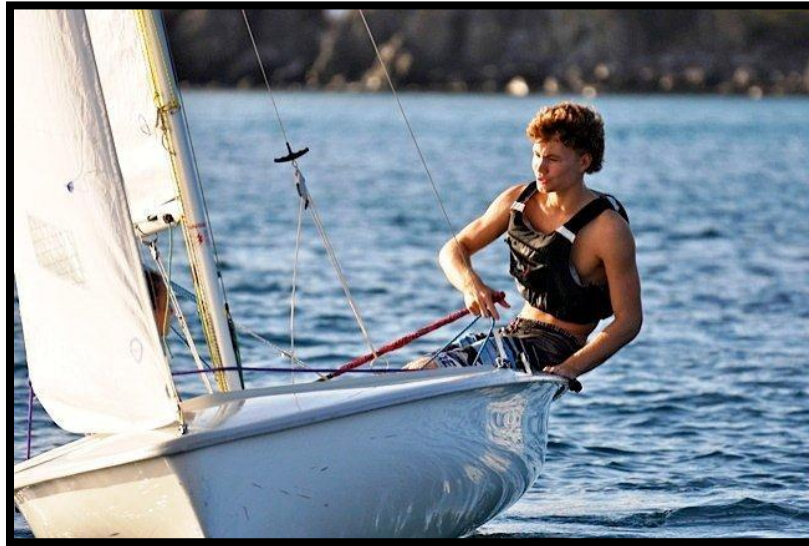
Exciting News on the Coaching Front

As you know from prior newsletters, Sailing School President Heather Earl has been leading our search for new head coaches of our Optimist and 420 race teams. We were looking for candidates with significant racing and/or coaching experience, who would work well with both our advanced and intermediate race team members, as well as our returning coaches. We are pleased to announce our two new coaches, who come to us very highly recommended.

The new Head 420 Coach is Ian Barrows, who will be a freshman at Yale in the fall. Ian is one of the top junior sailors in the world, with an incredibly impressive sailing résumé. He is from the United States Virgin Islands, where he attends the Antilles School. He has raced in several different class boats in regattas around the world, including the 2008 Opti Worlds, where he placed second, the 2009 Club 420 Nationals, where he placed 14th out of 152 boats in his first major 420 regatta, and the 2010 Youth Olympics, where he won the Gold medal (see photo below of Ian in the middle on the medal stand).



Ian (shown below in a 420) also finished second in the 2011 Laser Radial North American Championships and has a lot of team racing experience. He is a very pleasant, bright young man, who has coached at both St. Thomas Yacht Club and Pleon Yacht Club in Marblehead. He is following in his older brother's footsteps to Yale, where he will be on their Varsity Sailing team.



The new Head Opti Coach is Tomás Alejandro Bisi (pictured below), who goes by Tommy. Tommy is from Argentina, where he has coached since 2009 at San Isidro Sailing Club in Buenos Aires. Tommy was a top Opti sailor in his youth, and has spent the past year working closely with his older brother Robby in the “Train for Gold” advanced Opti clinics. These clinics are state of the art, and Tommy is well-versed in the latest coaching techniques. His older brother will be close by in Newport this summer as the FAST coach. Tommy's coaching background includes working with beginner and intermediate sailors, as well, and his versatility will come in handy this summer. Tommy is 23, and has a college degree in Sound, Recording and Music from the Buenos Aires Music School.



We are excited about this new international team of coaches, and look forward to welcoming them to the Club this summer.

Returning Staff

We are equally excited to report that we have a great complement of our staff returning from last summer, including, as we previously reported, Trude Goodman as Program Director, Greg Cassidy as Race Team Coordinator, Jane Frye as Head Instructor, and Ben Patten as Head Steward. We will have profiles of all of the staff in an upcoming newsletter.

Dues and Fees

At the Thanksgiving weekend joint meeting of the Board of Directors of the Yacht Club and Sailing School, the Board set dues and fees for the upcoming season. On the dues side, the Board approved a modest 5% increase in dues for Family members from \$850 to \$900. This is the first dues increase voted by the Board since 2008, when the Board raised dues by 25%. The Board also voted to keep dues for Adult members at \$650. Dues for Senior members will increase from \$375 to \$400, and Junior members will remain at \$50 for ages 21-25, and \$100 for ages 26-30 (dues for grandfathered Junior members ages 31 to 35 will remain at \$250).

The Board approved an increase in the initiation fee for Family members from \$2,500 to \$3,000, but lowered the initiation fee for Adult members from \$2,500 to \$1,500. The Board believes that having separate initiation fees for Family and Adult members makes sense given the fact that Family membership includes privileges for children ages 6 to 20. The initiation fee is waived for Seniors transitioning directly from another membership class and for Juniors transitioning directly from being under their parents' membership.

The Board also approved a \$25 increase in Sailing School fees for all classes except O'pen BIC and Adult classes, which will remain the same. The Board approved the following increases in Race Team fees:

- Intermediate Opti Race Team by \$25 to \$375 per session with both sessions at \$550;
- Advanced Opti Race Team by \$50 to \$500 per session with both sessions at \$750;
- 420 Intermediate Race Team (new in 2013) \$600 per session with both sessions at \$800;
- 420 Advanced Race Team by \$100 to \$700 per session with both sessions at \$900.

The Board believes these increases, which are the first in several years, are necessary to support our Sailing School programs, provide competitive salaries to our talented and dedicated staff, and help fund capital expenditures, such as our recent purchase of six new 420s.

You will be receiving in the mail next week a statement for your dues. Please return it with your payment to Meservey's Accountancy at your earliest opportunity, so we can replenish the Club treasury! Stay tuned to this space for more information on Sailing School registration, which will be billed separately from dues. If you are eligible for a change in membership class (e.g., from Adult to Senior or Family to Adult), please note that on your statement when you return it to Meservey's (to expedite the billing process, we used last year's membership class as a default). We will then confirm the proper membership class and make any adjustments necessary in your invoice. We appreciate your cooperation.

Tribute to "Batch"

Richard Batchelder first came to Chatham in 1949 to teach in the Chatham Public Schools, and in many ways, he never left. He met Martha, a fellow teacher, in 1955, and they were married for 57 years. Batch was close friends with Mel Webster, who joined SHYC in 1936 shortly after its founding. Once Batch and Martha had a family and began to spend more time in Chatham in the summers, they joined SHYC in 1968 at Webster's invitation. As Batch recalled in a 2005 interview, "Chatham has always been our anchor to windward. No matter where we lived, we always looked forward to coming back each summer. Chatham was always home."

Batch and Martha, and soon their kids, Anne, Amy, and Richard, got very involved in all aspects of SHYC. Batch himself loved to sail, and he won the Sunday Senior Series four times racing *Batch Button*. He also often crewed for his children, and really enjoyed racing in Nantucket Sound in a strong breeze. Batch and Martha also loved to sail their catboat, *Quintessence*, and in later years they could always be found watching their grandchildren race on Sunday afternoons.

Family was central to Batch, and he and Martha donated The Batchelder Trophy in 1982 to honor family participation in Club activities. Batch was instrumental over the years in helping the Club with its relations with the Town, and in 1986, he successfully negotiated the purchase of the former Old Mill Boatyard to the Town, thus preventing its development in a way that could have harmed the Club's long-term interests. For his many contributions to the Club over the years, Batch was awarded the Club's second highest award, the *Limulus Polyphemus* Award, in 2010.

In the last few years, with Parkinson's disease taking its toll, and confined to a wheelchair, Batch still managed to come to the Club for Opening and Annual Meetings, and very much enjoyed attending the new Senior Luncheon. The last time he was at the Club was for the 2012 Annual Meeting, when he was able to see his son, Richard, become Commodore.

Visiting hours will be at Nickerson Funeral Home, Crowell Road, Chatham, on Friday, March 8, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. The funeral will be held at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Main Street, Chatham, on Saturday, March 9, at 11:00 a.m., with a reception to follow at Eastward Ho! Country Club. All are welcome to attend.

Batch, may you rest in peace.

