

Rich Wilson Finishes Vendee Globe



Richard Wilson, the CCA's 2004 Blue Water Medal Winner, achieved another great accomplishment this year finishing 9th in the Vendee Globe as the senior sailor at the age of 58 of a very distinguished entry list of sailors. The fleet started out with 30 boats with 19 dropping out at different times for an array of difficulties. Rich sailed the grueling 28,000 mile race in 121 days finishing on March 15 at Les Sables D'Olonne in France.

Rich's route took him down the west coast of Africa, through the doldrums, around the Cape of Good Hope and into the Southern Ocean below Australia and New Zealand, around Cape Horn, up the east coast of South America, through the doldrums again to the finish at Sables D'Olonne.

Long distance racing has been a passion for Rich who is a graduate of MIT and Harvard. Rich won the Blue Water medal for three voyages in his 53' trimaran, *Great American II*, to beat the record passages of famous 19th century clipper ships: San Francisco-Boston (1993); New York-Melbourne (2001); Hong Kong-New York (2003). His successful attempts were noted for thorough preparations, the skilled but conservative way he sailed his fast vessel, and the educational component he was able to generate for over 250,000 children who tracked his progress.

Rich's continued desire to use his adventures to educate is evident in his "SitesAlive" website that has 75 full-

continued on page 18



*Arrival of Rich Wilson (USA) aboard **Great American III** after 121 days 0 hours 41 minutes and 19 seconds*

Awards Dinner at New York Yacht Club

2008 Blue Water Medal

The 2008 Blue Water Medal was awarded to William (Scott) Piper III, M.D. for twelve years of adventurous cruising and voyaging in two boats, *Pipe Dream VI*, a J-40, and *Pipe Dream IX*, a 52' J-160, aboard which he has logged over 132,000 miles, for a total of 180,000 miles.

Now 69, Scott Piper retired a few years ago as an orthopedic surgeon. He graduated from Dartmouth, and later took his residency in New York City, he served in the Far East during the Vietnam War, and until not long ago practiced in southern



Florida. His wife Gillette, is a practicing psychologist. In remote areas, word of a doctor's arrival travels fast and on numerous instances Scott has performed emergency procedures. On one such occasion a few years ago, a young man was swept over a large waterfall, smashing numerous bones and almost drowning. Scott trucked him to a hospital, took over the emergency room, and performed successful surgery.

Scott has crossed the Atlantic eight times and the Indian and Pacific Oceans four times each. His routes have varied substantially, including high latitude crossings of the

continued on page 6

Oliver Blanchet/DPPP/Vendee Globe



From the Commodore



Barry Pickhall, pplmedia.com

Dear Cruising Club Members:

We are blessed by the spirit alive in our Club, the immediate warmth we feel when meeting old pals and making new friends in far off stations.

One such occasion chronicled in this GAM was the Utah Ski Gam during the first week of February that drew members from PNW, SOC, SAF, BOS, GMP, FL. Bill and Nancy Polleys organized and orchestrated, assisted by Alan and Vivien Harquail, Sham and Nina Hunt, and whoever was at hand. By day, the group of thirty divvied up into the Hot Shots, the More Mature, and the Most Mature Cross Country skiers. Après ski, they gathered at Club 220 to swap ski and sea stories, try “veritable” ski jumping



Barbara Watson

Ski Gam Chair Bill Polleys briefs the crew with the Commodore's help

via the computer, and fortify for the next event. Steve and Karen James gave us an illustrated talk on their cruise beyond Svalbard to eighty north. Another evening three generations of Polleys hosted dinner at home with story and pictures of racing to Bermuda by this year's runners up, the

Vice Commodore and Dave Brown. We even attended a rehearsal of the Tabernacle Choir. On it went with a last night banquet featuring raucous roasting by Ski Meister Polleys and trophies, some of dubious resale value! As the week ended and the snow deepened, voices rose to suggest doing it again. The Ski Meister is already planning. How lucky are we!

The Club Awards Dinner in January and especially the Awardees, Scott Piper and his cruise without end, Suzanne Huber-Curley and how she towed her husband, John Harries and Phyllis Nickel, Ron Trossbach, Skip Novak, Bill Langan, Nick Nicholson, Bob van Blaricom and their stories are featured in the following pages, and so suffice it here to say, we are proud of them and proud to know them.

It surprises me to find when visiting the Stations how few of us have ever attended a Club meeting. The Spring Meeting in Portland, Maine is an opportunity to see how the Club operates and to get to know the folks who devote themselves to it.

You will meet Chairman Frank Bohlen and the Club Membership Committee so you can hone your skill and advance your candidate to the New Member section in the GAM. Treasurer Ross Santy, Auditor Peter Chandler, and Malcolm MacNaught and Brad Willauer who steer our finances will be there, and you can chat up Chairman Bjorn Johnson, Chairman of the 2010 Bermuda Race and get the latest information on entering the race.

There will be Governors and Committee Chairs, members and guests. Check out the fun schedule on the website. We will gam with downeast boat builders and their huma', and enjoy lobsta' dinna', and culcha' hard by the Old Port Tavern where they say: “Strangers are just friends we've yet to meet.”

The sign up sheet can be printed off the website or the recent letter from our Secretary. Where would we be without the Secretary, the Webmaster, the Editor of the GAM and the Editor of the Yearbook? Steve, Dorsey, Chris and Jeannie. Meet them at the Spring Meeting and thank them for all they do for us.

Here in the GAM are the stories of recent activity, previews of coming at-

tractions, and news that the 2010 Winter Cruise has moved to the Abacos. The detail and updates appear on the website. Go to cruisingclub.org to check the new plan and sign up.

Then go to the Station websites so that you can time your next visit to Bermuda to include lunch with the Station, or to one east coast Station that plans its Spring raft up on 20 June – that must be Bras D'Or! Another Station has a clambake coming up, another a video clip articulating the story in this GAM of our own Rich Wilson rounding Cape Horn and finishing the



Chris Otorowski

Kathleen and the Commodore in Port Madison, Washington

Vendee Globe Race. There are twenty-six subjects listed on the website Home Page that are of import to all who go to sea: Cruising Guides, Offshore Communications, Safety, to name a few kept current by our Fleet Surgeon and other member experts. We are so lucky.

Kathleen and I visited London in January to attend the Awards Dinner of the Royal Cruising Club. The plan was to visit with Commodore Anthony Browne and Monique who would then join us and present the RCC Trophy at our Awards dinner in New York. Sad to add, Anthony's cancer took a turn for the worse. He spoke at the RCC dinner in a strong voice from his wheel chair to a standing ovation and died twelve days later. A good man and Honorary Member of the CCA, he will be missed.

Ross Sherbrooke



The CCA *GAM*
Published for the members
of The Cruising Club of America

www.cruisingclub.org

Editors: Chris and Shawn Otorowski

New Members Editors: Evans Wohlforth,
Bill Wohlforth

West Coast Correspondent: John Sanford

Photographer: Dan Nerney

CommodoreRoss E. Sherbrooke
Vice CommodoreSheila McCurdy
Secretary.....Stephen E. Taylor
Treasurer.....Ross C. Santy
Historian.....John F. Towle
Fleet Captain.....Daniel S. Dyer III

Rear Commodores

Bermuda.....Peter Cooper
BostonRobert Kiley
Bras d'OrHal Davies
ChesapeakePeter Gibbons-Neff
EssexA. Rives Potts, Jr.
Florida.....Herbert B. Barlow, Jr.
New YorkJames G. Binch
Pacific Northwest....Frederic T. Lhamon
San Francisco.....Steven M. Hunt
So. California.....Preston B. Zillgitt

Captains

Buzzards BayKinnaird Howland
Great LakesKenneth M. Campia
Gulf of MaineSusannah W. Homer

Please email CCA news, photos
and items of interest to editor Chris
Otorowski, ccagam@mac.com. Chris
Otorowski, 14979 Euclid Ave., NE,
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110:
206-842-1000.

Published semiannually for distribution
to members of The Cruising Club of
America.



Coming Up...Cruises and Meetings

Spring Meeting

2009 Spring Meeting
Old Port District, Portland, Maine
April 30-May 3, 2009

To our fellow members, the Gulf of Maine Post extends to you our invitation to come to Portland for the 2009 Annual Spring Meeting, April 30 through May 3. Portland's downtown, known as the Old Port offers wonderful architecture, deep maritime history visible on the cobble streets, and a vast array of sights and smells to pique your interest, as well as your taste buds.

The members of the Gulf of Maine Post are opening their homes, extending a welcome to those who want to meet new friends or revisit old shipmates. For others who want to feel the heart of the city, the area hotels offer a wide range of choices from economical to quite posh.

Registration begins Thursday afternoon and there will be lots to see and do in and around Portland over the next 3 days



Down East Fishing

including maritime history and art scavenger hunts, a visit to LL Bean, a cocktail reception at Phin Sprague's Portland Yacht, a Gary Jobson documentary on Maine boatbuilding, a visit to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute and a guided tour of Winslow Homer's Studio at Prout's Neck. And of course there will be lots of CCA business and story telling! Check out the CCA website for more details.

Susi Homer

Bay of Quinte and 1000 Islands Cruise

September 10-19, 2009

The Cruise remains oversubscribed for potential charters (sail or power) for the cruise, amidst a real shortage of available



yachts for charter in the region on either side of the border. Thus far, the Committee has received deposits from twelve members bringing their own yachts, and nearly an equal number remain highly interested in joining up.

Some of you have let me know of your interest in a crewed charter yacht. One such yacht, the MV *Trilogy*, has been fully sold out and committed. There is a potential for another, so if you are so inclined – and interested – and haven't yet contacted the Cruise Chairman, Jim Binch, please do so at your earliest convenience. He may be reached at

his e-mail address at: JBinch@aol.com.

The Cruise Committee is in communication with all committed and interested members. If there are any questions in the meantime, feel free to contact Jim or his co-chairs, Bob Medland and Dave Matheson.

-Jim Binch

Annual Meeting & Dinner

November 10, 2009
NYYC, New York, NY

On Tuesday, November 10th, there will be an afternoon meeting of the Governing Board and Committee heads at the New York Yacht Club, preceded by an informal luncheon for those attending the meetings. All CCA members (and spouses) are then invited to attend the annual meeting and dinner, which will be held at the New York Yacht Club, 37 West 44th Street, New York, on November 10, 2009.

The schedule of events is as follows:

- Morning Committee Meetings.
- 1230 hours – Buffet Luncheon in the Commodore's Room.
- 1500-1730 – Governing Board Meeting in the Commodore's Room.
- 1800 – Cocktails in the Model Room.
- 1900 – Dinner and Annual Meeting of the Members. (Note that spouses and guests are WELCOME at this dinner meeting).



Abaco, Bahamas Cruise

April 16-25, 2010

Cruising Club members are invited to say goodbye to winter and take part in the 2010 spring cruise to Abaco in the Bahamas, with stops including Marsh Harbour, Man-O-War Cay, Hope Town, Little Harbour and more. Bring your own yacht or take advantage of a special discounted charter offered by The Moorings for an Abaco-based sailing or motor yacht. Plans are being made to have a mother ship with captain, crew, and multiple staterooms if interest warrants.

The cruise will begin in Abaco, Friday, April 16, and disband Sunday, April 25, after a final party on Saturday, April 24.

Just 200 miles from Miami and 175 miles from West Palm Beach, the Abaco Islands comprise the northern most portion of the Bahamas. The boomerang-shaped mini-archipelago stretches 130 miles from north to south and consists of the islands of Great Abaco and Little Abaco and a necklace of cays, together forming one of the largest bodies of semi-protected waters in all the Bahamas and Caribbean – a nearly ideal cruising ground for small boats and yachts. For the most part, the water over the banks is enough for even deep draft vessels,



yet protected from heavy winds by the cays to windward in the usual trade winds and by Great Abaco Island to the west. Many call it a sailing paradise.

Springtime weather in Abaco can be delightful. Cooled by the prevailing south-easterly trade winds in summer and warmed by the surrounding waters and the Gulf



Stream in the cooler months, the Abacos are rarely uncomfortably hot or cold. Although the central Abacos are on the same latitude as West Palm Beach, spring temperatures average 10°F warmer than Florida - daytime highs in April average 81°, with overnight lows averaging 69° and water temperatures during the month averaging a comfortable 76°. Average wind speed in April is 8 knots, typically E to ESE, and rainfall averages of less than 2 inches.

The Bahamas' number one industry is tourism, and Nassau and Freeport are the country's best known tourist destinations. Both Nassau and Freeport cater to mass

tourism, while Abaco seems to appeal to a different kind of tourist – someone who has been to the usual places and is looking for something off the beaten path. Abaco offers excellent marine facilities with an island twist, with marinas, moorings, yacht charters and small boat rentals widely available. Beautiful storybook anchorages abound, especially to the north of Green Turtle Cay.

Bringing your own yacht? You'll find most everything you need in Abaco: good provisioning, good restaurants, small hotels and B&Bs, experienced diesel and outboard mechanics, good medical facilities, boat



Little Harbor, Abaco

builders and boatyards, and more. But especially you'll find good cruising, which is what makes Abaco so popular with yachtsmen from around the world.

Circle your calendar and make plans now to take part!

For more information please check the web site.

Scotland Cruise

July 18-30, 2010

The CCA has been invited to join the Clyde Cruising Club for their Centenary Anniversary Cruise the last two weeks of July, 2010. Events start Sunday, July 18th with an opening party at Ardfern just north of the Crinan Cannal. Those sailing from the south can join in a feeder race on



Tobermory

Saturday from Rothesay on the Clyde to the Canal. On Monday, there is a race from Ardfern to Tobermory on Mull (40 n.m.). CCA members can join the race or just sail-in-company. Tobermory is a colorful waterside village with interesting shops, restaurants and a small local distillery. Tuesday the fleet will assemble in a sunflower raft up in Loch Drumbuie, five miles east. Wednesday's agenda is open and members might take a try at going ashore on Staffa to see Fingal's Cave and then anchor among the puffin rookeries in the Trenishes. On Thursday evening we are thinking of hold-



Castlebay



Castle Stalker

ing a CCA party for our hosts in Castlebay (50 n.m. west of Tobermory). Friday the 23rd, we rejoin the CCC for a beach party on the white sands of Vatersay, a few miles away, at one of the southernmost islands of the Outer Hebrides.

From there, it is open cruising for a week – for those happy with putting on a few miles perhaps Loch Boisedale on South Uist; the Talisker Distillery on Loch Harport, Skye; Dunvegan Castle in Loch Dunvegan; Portree or Plocton then running



Oban

with the tide down the sound of Sleet to Oronsay – or for those with more modest ambitions perhaps cruising the Small Isles – Rhum, Eigg & Canna then the Sound of Sleet. Whatever your plan, we all join up once again for a closing dinner on Friday, the 30th on the Isle of Kerrera looking over the harbour at Oban and McCaig's Tower.

We have organized the *S/V Corryvreckan* as our mothership for the cruise. See: <http://www.corryvreckan.co.uk/> It can accommodate ten. We should be able to manage booking members for one or both weeks of the cruise. Cost is approximately £750/week.

There are several charter operators in the area and we are developing a short list of those we think you might look at. Two members of the Royal West Highland Yacht Club, who are also joining the cruise, have volunteered to check out potential charters for us. If you are interested in joining us, please contact one of us. Let us know whether you are bringing your own boat, consider-

ing a bareboat charter or would like to take a berth on the mothership. We will put your name on the cruise list. We expect 200 boats to be part of this Centenary Cruise and so early planning will be important. Book your charter now!

This is going to be a wonderful opportunity to cruise some of the most beautiful islands in the world as guests of those who know them best.

Below are several websites that will give you a glimpse of how spectacular these cruising grounds are:

- www.visitscottishheartlands.com/areas/oban/index.cfm
- <http://sail.visitscotland.com>
- www.sailscotland.co.uk
- www.tobermory.co.uk/
- www.isleofbarra.com
- www.scotland-inverness.co.uk/barra.htm
- www.oban.org.uk

Co-Chairs

Tanner Rose: trose@stblaw.com

Les Crane: lcrane@IBL.BM 



Racing up the Firth of Lorne

Blue Water Medal from page 1

North Pacific and Southern Oceans. His voyages have included roundings of three of the world's great capes, Cape Horn, the Cape of Good Hope, and Cape Leeuwin on the southwest tip of Australia. While he usually sails with friends, some of his voyages have been done solo.



Scott Piper

He has been awarded 14 Parkinson Trophies (including one for his recent Pacific crossing) for transoceanic voyaging, and it appears he is due for two more that he has never applied for. In his cruising he has accumulated 126 foreign courtesy flags. He has also raced his boats in offshore races including the Transpac, the Newport Bermuda (doublehanded), and the Sidney Hobart Race.

He has also raced his boats in offshore races including the Transpac, the Newport Bermuda (doublehanded), and the Sidney Hobart Race.



Pipe Dream IX



Bob Drew, Scott Piper, Commodore Sherbrooke

Commodore's Awards

William M. Langan for outstanding service to yacht racing rule development, the Newport-Bermuda Race, and the CCA.

Lester E. Nicholson, Jr. for outstanding service to the Newport-Bermuda Race and the CCA over many years.

John Parkinson Memorial Trophy

Miles O. Bidwell, Jr.
Clinton G. Bush, III
Gregory C. Carroll
James E. Eaton
Denis A. Linton
Mark A. Myers
William Piper, III, M.D.
Richard Salsman
Peter O. Willauer

Fifteen Thrashes to the Onion Patch

Frank W Bohlen
Daniel P. Dyer, III

Charles H. Vilas Literary Prize

The Charles H. Vilas Literary Prize is awarded to Skip Novak for the story of his voyage in 2008 submitted to the 2009 Cruising Club News, "Witness to Change." Skip hosted a National Geographic film crew aboard his specially fitted out boat *Pelagic Australis* in January 2008 as they docu-



Skip Novak

Skip Novak and kids

mented the changes that global warming has brought to the Antarctic Peninsula. He drew upon his 20 years of Antarctic voyaging to complete the expedition with exemplary seamanship and with a keen eye and appreciation for this harsh yet fragile area. Skip Novak's story and his voyage provide great reading and help raise awareness of changes in the sailor's environment.

Royal Cruising Club Award

The Royal Cruising Club Trophy is awarded to Robert A. Van Blaricom for his trip from San Francisco to Prince William Sound in Alaska in his 32' sloop *Misty*, a



Bob Van Blaricom

cruise of some 2,000 miles. His story in the 2009 Cruising Club News, "Voyage to the Hall of the Mountain King" is most interesting and a helpful reference for others planning a trip to Alaska.

2008 Far Horizons Award

The 2008 Far Horizons Award is given to John H. Harries and Phyllis Nickel for their extensive cruising and voyaging, and some racing in *Morgan's Cloud*, a custom 56' McCurdy Rhodes cutter, which has been



Jack Towle

Far Horizons winners John Harries and Phyllis Nickel; Commodore Sherbrooke

owned since 1991, and lived aboard since 1996. In that time they have sailed about 100,000 miles

Morgan's Cloud has twice circumnavigated Newfoundland, and cruised to Labrador. She has been to Greenland four times



and twice departed Greenland to cross the Atlantic via Iceland.

In 2001, after wintering aboard in London, John and Phyllis cruised the East coast of England and then passed to Norway



Mindy Drew

Phyllis Nickel and John Harries



to spend the winter aboard in Tromso, 300 miles above the Arctic Circle. In 2002, they cruised the North coast of Norway gathering information for their on line Norwegian Cruising Guide. At the Russian border, they departed for Svalbard and spent six weeks exploring. That Fall they returned to Tromso to winter over for a second time.

In 2003, they passed from Norway to Greenland via the Shetlands and the North coast of Iceland. In 2005, John and Phyllis circumnavigated Newfoundland and returned to Maine to complete a major refit of *Morgan's Cloud*. Late this Fall they left Stonington, Maine bound for the Bahamas, they plan to return to Greenland in 2009.

For more information on their voyages, visit their web site www.morganscloud.com.

Richard S. Nye Trophy

The Richard S. Nye Trophy is awarded to Ronald C. Trossbach for bringing distinction to The Cruising Club of America.



Mindy Drew

Ron and Kathy Trossbach

These distinctions include his long term and continuing contributions to Safety at Sea programs, his statesmanship in the affairs of international yachting, his able seamanship and outstanding performance in long range cruising.

DID YOU KNOW...

THAT YOU CAN USE
GOOGLE EARTH
 AND VIEW **NOAA CHARTS**
 FOR THE EAST AND WEST
COAST OF THE US?



TRY:

<http://demo.geogarage.com/noaa/>



Past Commodore Bill Whitney and Commodore Ross Sherbrooke on the porch at the Captain John Farnham house in Port Madison, Washington, while guests of Tad and Joyce Lhamon

Rod Stephens Trophy for Outstanding Seamanship

Awarded to Susanne Huber-Curphey and Tony Curphey, a married couple and solo sailors, who live together while in



Mindy Drew

Susanne Huber-Curphey and Commodore Sherbrooke

port, but sail their own boats cruising around the world. Huber-Curphey sails a 1964 Rhodes 41 fiberglass sloop, *So Long*, and her husband Tony's boat, *Galenaia*, is a 1958 plywood 27-foot heavy displacement cutter. Susanne, 47, is from Germany, and is an architect, and Tony, 63, who is English, is retired. Their dog, Honey, sails with Susanne, and because of severe pet laws in some countries, can change their cruising plans.

The couple were on a passage from Bunbury in West Australia with their destination



Lautoka, in Fiji. This non-stop voyage was to take them via the Great Australian Bight, south of Tasmania, and through the Tasman Sea west of New Zealand.

On the 29th day out of Bunbury, in gale force winds from the northeast, Tony noticed that *Galenaia* was taking water from aft. Upon inspection in heavy seas, he saw that the transom-hung rudder was cracked above the waterline, and that the skeg was broken. At their noon radio schedule, he

discussed the situation with Susanne and asked her to stand by on the radio every hour. He then rigged three lines over the transom, hoping to stop any movement of the skeg.

Susanne, becalmed for four days, was now 150 miles ahead of him. In the afternoon, Tony told her, "If I have to be rescued, I would rather it was by my wife rather than authorities responding to an EPIRB deployment." He later said, "We decided that she would make her way back to me, and in fact my brave, lovely wife had already changed course and was heading back towards me".

The next morning the gale had gone but rough and sloppy seas remained. Tony launched the Avon inflatable dinghy, and with wet suit, mask, and snorkel, he went in the water to inspect the damage. He discovered that the whole fore and aft length of the skeg, about a meter and a half, was broken away from the hull and leaning to port and that the rudder had snapped just above the waterline. The water influx required pumping once an hour.

The wind vane steering was still working, and the trim-tab attached to the lower half of the rudder worked, so *Galenaia* got under way. On the 28th of March, two days after she turned around and 31 days out of Bunbury, Susanne and *So Long*, with the aid of GPS and regular single sideband radio contact, made a visual sighting of Tony and *Galenaia*.

Susanne suggested towing, her thinking being that if the worst happened and *Galenaia* began breaking up, Tony at least would be on the end of a line. That would make it easier for him to get aboard *So Long* if he had to.

In late afternoon with a big swell running, and with masts coming perilously close together, the third attempt was successful and Tony got a heaving line across to *So Long*. Between them, they had about 80 meters of 16 mm nylon towline. According to Tony, "the whole episode was quite nerve wracking".



They decided to head for Port Nelson, at the northern end of the South Island of New Zealand, about 650 nautical miles distant. Their main intention was to get north as quickly as possible to get out of the paths of the frequent cold fronts and gales which cross the Tasman Sea at that time of year. The weather during the tow ranged from calms when Susanne would motor, and up to force 7 or 8. Most of the time both boats had sails up, and both were using their wind vane steering. At one time *Galenaia* in very light weather managed to get the tow line around her keel. It was cleared with no further damage done.

Under the threat of another gale which might have proved too much for the damaged *Galenaia*, King Neptune smiled, and *So Long* towed Tony and his boat into Nelson harbor eight days and 650 miles after taking the tow in the Tasman Sea. They arrived on a Saturday afternoon, but Customs and harbor authorities were forewarned and after clearing, *Galenaia* was lifted out of the water. According to Tony, "I was finally able to embrace my heroine after thirty-nine days at sea, the last eight of which we were only 80 meters apart".





News from Stations & Posts



Bermuda

Members of the Bermuda Station held luncheon meetings in the Prince Albert Room of the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club in September and December. The December meeting was so well attended that Officers



Shelagh Tasker dressed in Arctic gear leaving Newport

might have to look for a larger room if the trend continues.

When Jon Brewin left it until the end of November to sail his “new” J160 *Big Bear* (previously *Aquarius*; originally *Medallion*) south for the winter, he quickly realized why his was practically the only sailboat still floating in Newport Harbor. The good news was that on the day he left the temperature finally got above freezing, the bad news was that the wind went into the south and cold rain pelted down on *Big Bear* and her crew of Jon, Shelagh Tasker, Peter Remsdale and Jim Burnett-Herkes. Apart from completely filling the chain and sail lockers with sea water the first night out due to a leaky sprit-pole fitting, the trip to Bermuda was fairly unremarkable. With only light SW winds, the Gulf Stream was flat and “the bear” arrived in Bermuda in good nick.

Jon stayed in Bermuda for several days and left for the British Virgin Islands on the night of the 6th of December when his daughter Libby stepped off the British Airways plane from London. On the way south from Bermuda *Big Bear* was caught by a cold front and spent one night with a double reefed mainsail and the jib wound part way up. However when, as predicted, the wind went into the east they were able to shake a reef out of the main, unwind the

jib and reach for BVI. This was the fun part of the trip with speeds frequently above 12 knots, several times surfing at over 16 knots and an incredible long ride at 19.1 knots when Jon caught both the top of a huge swell and a 25 knot gust of wind just right. Two of the crew were watching the GPS when this happened and verified the event. This was Libby’s first ocean passage and Jon says he thinks she is hooked and ready to go again.



Jon and Libby approaching the BVI

Sadly the Bermuda Station recorded the untimely loss of one of its members when Peter Hawkes died in January of this year. A note on Peter’s life and contributions will appear in the next edition of Cruising Club News.

We also have to record the passing of Ann Burton Brown, at the beginning of February. Ann was a person who did things. She supported her husband Warren’s passion for sailing and even crewed with him on an International One Design years ago.



Ann Brown in her garden

She accompanied him to Antarctica on *Palawan* and in doing so was only the second American woman to have done this. She sailed with Warren and her family on a long string of *Warbabies* over the years and even made a trip with some of her grandchildren

to Croatia. Ann did thousands of miles with Warren on cruises to just about every part of the world. She was always warm and welcoming to all of the sailors and friends who appeared on her doorstep while in tow by Warren or the children, no matter what the hour or level of sobriety. They were part of her huge and extended family who will all miss her tremendously.

– Jim Burnett-Herkes 

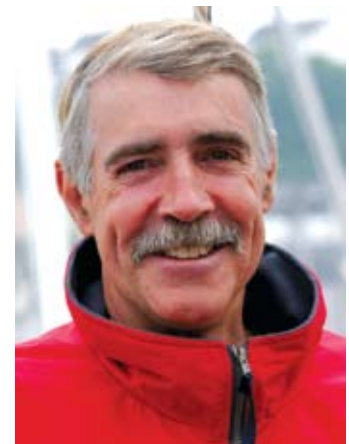
Boston

Sailings

Since the last issue of the CCA GAM members of the Boston Station have been sailing both far afield and close to home. Some did the sailing solo or short handed while others did it family style. Whether cruising or racing, the adventures are all memorable.

Rich Wilson

At 8:43 am EDT on March 10th Rich Wilson’s (BOS) *Great American III* crossed the finish line of the Vendée Globe at Les Sables d’Olonne in southern France. This



Rich Wilson

completed his solo circling of the globe by way of the Southern Ocean in 121 days 41 minutes and 19 seconds. His open 60 was the ninth boat to finish out of a fleet of thirty yachts sailing the 28,590 mile course. Out of the thirty entries, only eleven completed what is known as a race of attrition and the toughest sailing in the world; the majority of the skippers abandoned due to difficult conditions or gear failure. Among Rich’s past accomplishments are a win in the

Newport Bermuda Race and being awarded the CCA's prestigious Blue Water Medal for his amazing, record-breaking ocean passages.

Mory Creighton

Mory and Sarah Creighton report on cruising the coast of Maine as a family. "For a dozen years, we have cruised as a family for several weeks aboard our 36 foot sloop, *Narada* and our twin boys, Sam and Andy, have grown from infants to capable crew. As we head off, it takes about two days to shake the life ashore from our minds and then we are in cruising mode. Our world slows and our entertainment comes from watching birds, trying to catch fish, navigating, rowing, swimming and exploring islands.

Our boys are 12 now and they now can recall their favorite cruising spots: beaches in Penobscot Bay where rafts were painstakingly built and sea tested; the harbors where they had their first solo row; or islands with caves where skeletons of animals have been found. The forepeak aboard *Narada* is Sam and Andy's home away from home and resembles a small museum of rope work, shells, driftwood and other specimens. There, they learned the hard way that a live sea urchin is not an enduring crew member."

Ned Cabot

The summer's sailing started out well enough. After four years in storage in Salem, I re-commissioned my old Beneteau First 42 *Caracole* in early May for a brief cruise to mid-coast Maine with my son Brad. After visiting a few of my old haunts, I left the boat in Maine in the care and command of Brad for the rest of the summer and returned to Boston.



Ned Cabot at the Wasa Museum

However, my planned sailing adventures for the summer of 2008 on the other side of the pond aboard my J-46 *Cielita* had to be severely curtailed due to a broken ankle, the result of a horse falling on top of me. I had originally planned a grand, eight nation tour of the Baltic, which had to be put on hold for the 2009 season. But after being on crutches throughout July and August, I was determined to get in some sailing by the end of the summer. So in late August I assembled a hardy crew of experienced sailors to accompany me to my boat in Gluckstadt, Germany – crutches and all – for a couple of weeks of cruising in southern Norway, western Sweden and parts of Denmark.

We exited the Elbe and sailed north along the west coast of Jutland, stopping at Helgoland before making a night's passage to Kristiansand in southern Norway. We then cruised northeast along the lovely Norwegian coast to the mouth of the Oslofjord, where we left the boat in Tonsberg for a day while we took the train up to Oslo for some sightseeing and a crew change. From Tonsberg, we crossed over to the Swedish coast and cruised south for a few days, before making another night's passage down to Denmark and our eventual destination at Walsted's yard near Svendborg, where *Cielita* was to spend the winter. Despite the skipper's infirmities and the much abbreviated season, a good time was had by all, and many of the same crew are looking forward to the Baltic in 2009.

Chan Reis

Chan Reis (BOS) joined Robert Hale (NYS) for a mid-November passage from Stamford, Conn., to Ft. Lauderdale aboard Bob's *Rhumb Line*, a 58' Tiara, along with Bob's brother Frank. Chan reports, "A strong northerly off the Carolinas informed the decision to put into the ICW at Norfolk, whence we proceeded south, passing-up the usual "fun" associated with running Oregon Inlet. Hamstrung by an inoperable port trim tab, we found a backwater boat yard with a half a dozen most willing and able staff who replaced the cylinder and had us back in the water in under two hours. With days that averaged nine hours running, our passage took five days, the average for *Rhumb Line*'s north-south excursions."

Dan Dyer

Dan Dyer (BOS) gives the following report of what he termed a "wet, wild and fast" ride down south. Art Burke (BOS/

BUZ), Karl von Schwarz (CHE) and Dan Dyer (BOS/BUZ) raced *Denali*, a Nelson/Marek 70 in the Pineapple Cup, Lauderdale to Montego Bay Race in February. East, Northeast winds held in the 20 to 30 knot range for the entire 811-mile course. It was a rough fetch across the Stream to Isaac and sheets were not eased until the turn at the North end of Eleuthera. From there to the Eastern tip of Cuba was a blast reacher and water everywhere. It made us appreci-



Dan Dyer aboard Denali

ate what the Volvo guys are enduring week after week. Set an A2 at Cuba and were 258 miles to Montego Bay shortly thereafter - exhilarating.

Austin O'Keefe

On a late September day Austin O'Keefe and his first mate Laila were provided with suitable weather to sail *Tinker*, their Crealock 34 cutter, from Baddeck, out the Great Bras D'Or Channel and across the Cabot Strait for Newfoundland. Their destination was Ramea, a small cluster of islands one mile off the south coast of Newfoundland (The Rock); the 160 mile crossing was somewhat squirrely with heavy seas driven by a northwest wind. We found a berth on the wharf usually reserved for fishing boats, nowadays there is almost always space, as the fishing fleet is decimated and thereby lies the sad story of Ramea and the other outports of Newfoundland.

Tuesday, a wet day, was spent in walking the periphery of the main island, a well maintained nature trail with great views. Wednesday being fine, we set sail for the mainland, only a mile to the looming cliffs at the entrance to a long fjordlike Inlet called White Bear Bay. This bay is representative of most of the deeply indented southwest coast, remote, rocky, daunting and lonely but spectacularly beautiful. During the next two weeks, we visited three other outports along this coast named Gray River, François and Grand Bruit, each with its own special character and beauty. These are spectacular

locations, villages built into niches in the rock, with streams tumbling through them to the sea. Houses are closely clustered between cliff and sea with pathways between, stages out front, chapels and schoolrooms



The Rock

Austin O'Keefe

to the rear. A long day's sail took us from François to the island of St. Pierre. St. Pierre is a small piece of rock that France tenaciously retains in the western Atlantic, presumably more for political than financial reasons. Vive le tricolor.

Eventually, with perseverance and a developed tolerance for cold spray, we made it back, once more crossing the Cabot Strait at night in strong Northwesterlies. The autopilot was kind enough to hold out till we arrived at the entrance to the Great D'Or Channel and then gave up from exhaustion. This time we were not smart enough to time the current correctly and slowly motored up the channel to Baddeck.

The experience of sailing "The Rock" was all I had anticipated and more, challenging sailing, magnificent and humbling scenery, and shared enjoyment with my boatmates. But the enduring memory is of the outports and their people, tenacious and proud but inevitably time-limited. So set sail, go now, before this fascinating culture is no more.

Rick Burnes Winter Gatherings

During the winter months members have kept in touch through a series of shore-side events. On Thursday March 5th Boston Station held a well attended Mid-Winter Dinner at Henderson House with Rear Commodore Rob Kiley presiding. The Gulf of Maine Post continued their successful series of Potluck Suppers with a gathering on January 17th at the Portland, Maine home of Steven and Claudette Thing. Steven and David Pratt also discussed their plans for a proposed "Voyage of Exploration" to remote portions of the Canadian coast for 2011.

Events & Calendar Maine Mid-Coast Cruise Planned

The Boston Station of the Cruising Club will host a cruise along Maine's mid-coast during the last week in August, from the 23rd to the 30th. The dates were chosen to allow the best chance of children joining the cruise, since this will be after summer sailing classes, but before most schools start. There will be three scheduled rendezvous, approximate dates and places are:

- Penobscot Bay, Aug. 24
- Greenland Cove, Muscongus Bay, Aug. 27
- Sheepscoot River, Charlie and Gale Willauer, Aug. 29

Rats Club Lunches

The winter Rats Club Lunches of the Boston Station continue with the chance for members to gather informally in the off-season over a bowl of the best chowder. Upcoming lunches are on April 17 in Boston and May 15 at the Manchester Yacht Club in Manchester, Mass. For information, contact John Cunningham at jcarchinc@aol.com.

CALENDAR

- April 17**
Rats Club Lunch, Boston
- April 24**
Buzzards Bay Post Lunch, Beverly YC
- April 30 to May 2**
CCA Spring Meeting, Portland, Maine
- May 15**
Rats Club Lunch, Manchester YC
- May 23**
Boston Station Memorial Day Gam
- June 6**
Gulf of Maine Post Potluck Supper, Sedgwick, Maine
- June 27**
Gulf of Maine Post Potluck Supper and Summer Gam
- August 4**
Gulf of Maine Potluck Supper, Southwest Harbor, Maine
- August 23**
Maine Mid-Coast Cruise Starts
- August 30**
Maine Mid-Coast Cruise Disbands

– Bill Barton

Buzzards Bay



Marion, Massachusetts

– Bob Morris

Chris Otorowski

Bras d'Or

It's been a long winter for us all, but with the first hint of spring and temperatures finally above the freezing point, we are mostly planning launch dates. Some members are "between boats" so there is more incentive for them to search now.

Other members have nebulous, or perhaps definite cruise plans, but are not prepared to disclose them to public scrutiny just yet. As the function of the Station Historian is surely to record things after they have taken place, and not before they happen, I have no difficulty with this approach and can only say – read about the Station's many cruises in the fall GAM.

However, that said, Fred Voegeli (*Frisco*) and Rick Salsman (*Aisling I*) wintered their boats in the Mediterranean. Rick plans to leave Monastir Harbour, Tunisia in April,



Lunenburg

Dan Nerney

with an itinerary which includes Malta, the East coast of Sicily, Corfu and Ithaca in Greece, and following a brief return to Nova Scotia in June, will go back to take *Aisling I* to Turkey. Fred will cruise from Spain this year, perhaps visiting France and Italy.

The Station held its Winter Social, January 24 at the Blomidon Inn, Wolfville. During the meal, members stood to regale

us with stories of their most embarrassing cruising moments. As one person's embarrassment is another person's humour, we all found them very amusing!

Last year a group made a full day of the event by hiking to Cape Split, an 8 mile round trip through woods to a spectacular (and very cold) tip of land stretching well out into the Bay of Fundy. This year the 2nd Annual Cape Split Hike took place in wonderful sunny, snowy conditions with a larger group of people who were duly impressed by the tidal rips as seen from cliff tops, rather than from water level.

We were saddened to learn that Vince Lambie passed away in January. Vince had been a member of BDO for many years, and despite recent poor health, had continued to cruise close to home until last year. He will be missed.

The Station's Calendar this year is as follows:

- Winter Social – January 24th
- Spring Business Meeting – April 29th
- Spring Raft Up – June 20th
- Fall Raft Up – September 30th
- Fall Social – October 17th
- Annual Meeting – November 18th

Visitors are always welcome to take part in events.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Rear Commodore</i> | <i>Hans Himmelman</i> |
| <i>Secretary/Treasurer</i> | <i>Wilson Fitt</i> |
| <i>Membership Chair</i> | <i>Alexander McMillan</i> |
| <i>Surgeon</i> | <i>Al Bishop</i> |
| <i>Historian</i> | <i>Iain Tulloch</i> |
| <i>Cruise Chair</i> | <i>Phil Wash</i> |
| <i>Shoreside events</i> | <i>Sam Rogers</i> |
- Iain Tulloch 

Chesapeake

The Fall Cruise of the Chesapeake Station began with a rendezvous in St. Michaels at the Higgins Yacht Yard. A short walk led us to Wickersham, a 17th century brick house carefully moved and restored by Tad duPont. Further down Talbot Street, we entered the St. Michaels Winery for refreshment and a sampling of the local wine.

Saturday, October 11 saw a ten knot breeze which allowed a decent race for the 'Sunny Gibbons-Neff' trophy. The anchorage for the night was in Broad Creek. These were comfortable warm days with pleasant sailing. The winner was Henry Gibbons-Neff sailing Prim, and, keeping things in

the family, R/C Peter in *Upgrade* got the gun but corrected second.



Marsie Hawkinson

Henry Gibbons-Neff (left) and Past R/C Peter Gibbons-Neff (right) at the trophy presentation at the Tred Avon Yacht Club

There was less wind on Sunday and the fleet came in to the Tred Avon Yacht Club in Oxford. The annual business meeting proceeded the social hour and sumptuous dinner to end the cruise.

Karl von Schwartz will be Rear-Commodore for the next two years with John




John Hawkinson

Some of the Chesapeake Station docked at Oxford, MD

Melchner taking over as Fleet Captain. Wal-ly Stone will remain Secretary-Treasurer.

Over sixty members and guests attended the Christmas Buffet Luncheon held on the third floor of the Annapolis Yacht Club overlooking the whole harbor. Old fashioned refreshments, plenty of good seafood and pleasant company led us through a splendid occasion.

– John Hawkinson 


Essex

We held our Annual station meeting on Tuesday, December 2 at the Essex Corinthian Yacht Club. This building has been used for our Annual Meeting since the 1940's. In the summer of 2008 the wrecker's ball

came close, however it seems that more condominiums were not needed, and the building was spared. At the meeting, Rob Moore was elected to Rear Commodore, taking over from Rives Potts. Rives did a spectacular job, for which we all thank him. We look forward to his continued involvement with the Steering Committee. There were a number of other changes – Past National Commodore Bob Drew will head up Membership, taking over from "Chip" Cooper; Bob will be assisted in his Membership duties by Tom Wadlow. The new Entertainment Chairman is Dick Holliday, taking over from Barnaby Blatch, our past "Booze Baron". Spence Leech will continue as Treasurer, but passed the duties of Secretary to Mindy Drew. Paul Hamilton remains as Cruise Director. The station thanked the outgoing Chairs and Committee members for all of their endeavors. Everyone looks forward to working with the new slate.

After cocktails, dinner, business meeting, and the customary telling of jokes, we watched Gary Jobson's recent video of the Antarctic cruise organized by the New York Yacht Club. In February of 2008, 104 NYYC members and guests spent 10 days aboard the *Corinthian II* in Antarctica. Since the ESS Technical Committee, which included your scribe, overlooked the presentation's need for speakers, the video was narrated, not by Gary Jobson, but by Dianne Embree, who had been on the cruise.

On February 12, 2009, we held our winter Pot Luck dinner at the Boom Restaurant at Brewers Pilots Point Marina, Westbrook. The restaurant, which is closed for the season, was opened for the event by Rives Potts, General Manager of PPM. As usual, it was well attended by about 40 people, and the food was superb. After dinner, Bob Drew presented the Vernon Merritt award for the station boat that goes farthest east to John and Wendy Richards for their trip east of Schoodic Point aboard their vessel *Windermere*. Rives Potts was awarded a plaque for 15 'Thrashes to the Onion Patch', after which he regaled us with some amusing stories from those races. We were fortunate to have Susannah W. Homer, Post Captain of the Gulf of Maine as a guest at our dinner. Susi told us all about the plans for the National Spring Meeting in Portland, Maine. It sounds like a good time, and many from ESS are planning to attend. Look forward to seeing you all there!!

– Jeb N. Embree, Historian ESS 

Florida

Social

The Station's Annual Meeting and Dinner took place at the Lauderdale Yacht Club on November 14th. Peter Grimm



Barbara Watson

Cinnie & Truman Casner, Steve James and Clint Bush

was thanked for making the arrangements. Thirty-five members attended the business meeting, sixty-eight members and guests enjoyed the dinner. The Rear Commodore's baton was passed from Skip Barlow to Paul Ives. Skip was thanked for his service to the Station and his guidance during the past two years.

The 52nd Wirth Munroe Race was run under the joint auspices of the Sailfish Club of Florida and the CCA on December 5th. Ron and Andrea Schaper debuted their new Sabre 402 *Endurance* with stalwart CCA members Sennett Duttonhoffer and Rex Herbert as crew. They have been racing together since the early 1970s. The Trophy Presentation and Evening Festivities took place at The Sailfish Club of Florida. In the PHRF Division A, Scott Piper sailing *Pipe Dream IV*, a Tripp 33 finished 4th (6th in fleet) and Ron Schaper on *Endurance* finished 6th (11th in fleet). Scott took the CCA prize as first CCA boat to finish.

The midwinter rendezvous, January 23rd and 24th, was organized by Pete Hoffman. A rum keg party and buffet was



Barbara Watson

*2008 Wirth Munroe Dinner
– December 5th – Sailfish Club of Florida
Rex Herbert, Sennett Duttonhoffer,
Andrea & Ron Schaper, John Antweiler*

held at Skip Barlow's home in Hobe Sound. Thanks, Skip, and also to all the ladies who helped. Several members attended by boat. Saturday night everyone moved north to the Riomar Country Club in Vero Beach where an excellent dinner was enjoyed by 45 members and guests.

Do not forget that visitors are always welcome to join the second Tuesday of the month Stuart lunch (last one in April) or the second Thursday of the month lunch in St. Petersburg (excluding June, July and August).

Cruising

Tanner Rose reports that after two wonderful summers in the Baltic, they will be sailing back to Scotland, visiting some of the places they missed in 2005 and 2006, most importantly, the Faeroe Islands and the Outer Hebrides. With regard to the lat-



Barbara Watson

2008 Florida's new RC Paul Ives is presented with his burgee from retiring RC Skip Barlow

ter, they will definitely visit Vatersay and Castlebay on Barra as these will be the locations of the CCC's beach party/picnic and probably the CCA's cocktail and dinner party midway through the Scotland Cruise in 2010. For more information on the cruise see the article in this issue of the GAM and stay tuned to the Member's Section of our website for updates.

Scott and Gill Piper report *Pipe Dream* will sail north to revisit Alaska, then south in late summer to San Diego. The *Baja HaHa* will get them to Mexico in the fall. Panama canal by year end. Then in 2010, a transatlantic for the CCA cruise in Scotland.

Tom Kenney plans to transport *Cherie*, via Dockwise ship, to Toulon early May. He will cruise the French and Italian coasts and Islands to arrive in Murter, Croatia,

about mid September, hauling *Cherie* at Marina Hramina for the winter. Email contact at kg4lxj@aol.com. Returning to Lunenburg, Nova Scotia for the remainder of the fall before heading south to Florida for the winter.

Jim Stoll emails that *Argo* got second overall in the Kings Cup Classic. The Thai king was an avid sailor in his younger days and his personal secretary comes to pass out the trophies. Check out <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLpmlifsSug> for more on *Argo*. *Argo* was in Maldives on the way from Thailand to Athens but is



Barbara Watson

Jack Wills, Bill Munroe and Charlie Munroe

now returning to Asia as the Navy was not able to give direct escort in Gulf of Aden and they don't really fancy loosing her to Johnny Depp and associates!

Closer to home, Pim Epler will be racing Abaco dinghies in Hopetown in March should anyone be cruising by.

Fred and Penny Bickley will cruise *Mango Latitudes* to the Yucatan and south returning to Florida before the hurricane season.

Dave and Susan Woolsey and Mary Logan will take *Circe* to the southern Bahamas for most of June and some of July. Not sure



Barbara Watson

Maryann and Nick Nicholson with Harry and Joan Robinson

just where, depending on conditions and where they find compatible kids!

Of course, the whole station is immensely proud that one of our own won the CCA's prestigious and world widely recognized Blue Water Medal! Look out for Scott



Barbara Watson

Jurgen Kok and Tanner Rose hard at work stirring the Rum Punch

Piper's special pennant with 16 stars representing his 16 transoceanic crossings!

Station Spring cruise

Harry Keith reports that the Florida Keys cruise will start Friday, May 8th in Marathon with a "bring your own meat" cook out on the big charcoal grill at Marathon Yacht Club. Two lay days are planned for a visit to Key West or to take a day to go out to Sombrero Reef for snorkeling. A Cuban dinner and the Rum Keg party is planned at the Keith's on Sunday night. A mother's day brunch will also be available at the Marathon Yacht Club.

The cruise from Marathon to Anglers Club (the final party) will be along the ICW on the bay side of the Keys. It is a distance of about 70 well protected miles. Depths along this route are shallow and in places could be impossible for drafts over 4.5 to 5 feet unless the tide is high.

On Monday, the cruise goes to a raft up on moorings or anchor off Lignumvitae Key. On Tuesday a short trip to anchor at the Upper Keys Sailing Club for an Italian night with proceeds going to their Junior Fleet. Some slips might be available there. On Wednesday, a short trip to Tarpon Basin



Barbara Watson

Malinda & Harry Keith with Milt & Judy Baker

for a quiet night and raft up surrounded by mangroves. The final dinner is planned at the Anglers Club on Thursday May 14th before the fleet disbands to start home on May

15th. Additional details and a sign-up sheet will be sent out about the end of March.

– Barbara Watson

Great Lakes

I asked Great Lakes Station member Skip Novak to give us an update on the important issues in the Southern Oceans and his most recent activities there. The following is Skip's report.



Skip Novak

Mess on *Pelagic Australis*

"As always *Pelagic Australis* and the original *Pelagic* had a busy season in the far south, scuba diving being a major theme from the *Australis*. She is currently in the middle of her last of four voyages to the Antarctic Peninsula, this time supporting divers who are specifically interested in filming leopard seals predated penguin chicks as they fledge into the sea end of season. The skipper Stewart Richardson reports that it is pretty lonely down there, as all cruise ships have departed and they are



Skip Novak

Atop Cape Horn at the Albatross Sculpture

possibly the only yacht still south – they are losing the light and the weather is tough.

"Not so for me, as I had the pleasure of a convivial dinner in Lake Forest with fellow Great Lakes station members Ken Campia and Rob Lansing in early March. I had just returned from a very active period in the early part of the season, repeating a Shackleton Traverse project (my third in a row) with a British expedition on South Georgia in October. Then, from the *Pelagic*

in early December, we supported a BBC documentary entitled "The Three Dogs," where we hosted Sir Robin Knox Johnston, the polar explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes and senior foreign affairs correspondent John Simpson from the BBC. This was a three part series and our brief was to take the Three Dogs down the Beagle Channel and out around Cape Horn, with Robin in charge. John Simpson had hosted the other two for a tour of Afghanistan and Ranulph was scheduled to take them on an ice walk in Baffin Island later in February. We spent a very active week filming from 0330 every morning until losing the light near midnight – with not much sleep in between – but it was a real joy being on the *Pelagic* again and realizing how small is beautiful for expedition cruising – the bigger the boat, the less creative you can be from a navigational perspective.

"Immediately following that, I spent almost a month family cruising with my wife



Skip Novak

Little kids mess aboard *Pelagic Australis*


Elena and Lara, age six and a half and Luca age five, again from *Pelagic*. This was the first cruise with the kids where they could really engage with life on board. A vegetable crate perched on a dinghy floorboard spanning the cockpit served as a pedestal so they could steer down the channel, but Luca's main focus was driving the Zodiac with the 25 HP outboard. In him, I saw myself, 50 years ago, driving our dinghy with unbridled enthusiasm in Belmont Harbor... He could shift gears, drive to and from the shore, landing just right alongside – but luckily could not pull the starter cord!

"The Beagle Channel environs are a great place to have a real adventure with small children, without the dramas of going offshore and all that that implies. Instead, we picked berries and made jam, built fires on the beach and had "asados," took ambitious treks inland, looked for Yaghan Indian arrow and spear heads on the beaches (found some), baked bread, had the time and quietude to teach them how to play chess

(and lose cheerfully!). The weather was not great, but they weathered it.

“Plans are always afoot in the *Pelagic* world. *Pelagic Australis* partner Rob Lansing and friends are putting a group together for a ski/wildlife safari on South Georgia this coming October. And *Pelagic* is standing by once again for the kids for the Christmas break.”

Skip Novak

– *Kenneth Campia* 

Gulf of Maine

The GMP gather to “convert the winter into a season of sport, wherein those who have been afloat swap their experiences with each other, sharing them with their unfortunate shorebound clubfellows.”

Thus Winter gives the membership above latitude 43 ample opportunity during the months on the hard to reflect on the past, dream of the horizons yet to be explored, and then flesh out plans for the next season of coastal gunk holing or extended passagemaking. But in order to “... make adventurous use of the sea” we gather looking to enrich our individual experience by continuing the learning process attempting to keep abreast of cutting edge safety equipment and the newest boat building technology as well as lend our collective strengths in terms of preservation and conservation.

On October 18th, the Camden Waterfront Restaurant saw a record crowd of thirty-seven eager to hear Peter Passano speak of his voyage to South Georgia and beyond. Peter’s tales of voyaging farther South than most of us will ever go are made all the more intriguing by the fact that he has sailed many of the most extreme miles single handed. The perils and Peter’s resourcefulness were most apparent when he told of having been towed behind, fouled his arm while he attempted to clear a tangle in the line. His first attempt to free his arm proved futile and left Peter pinned in place at the stern of *Sea Bear*, unable to get to the steering or sheets to slow the boat. As the rotor was spinning, the line tighter every second, he had no choice but to pull the whole line with tangles and rotor back aboard. It is worth pondering how many of us would have either the presence of mind or the physical strength to survive that one!

Our club has many members who for one reason or another are rarely seen at our

gatherings, and sailing is a good reason. We have encouraged GMP members to send an e-mail to let us know of their travels. Recently browsing the CCA website, under the Boston Station, we found under People – Away at Sea: *Alpheratz* – Once Around. We last saw Greg Carroll on *Alpheratz*, which was refit at Maine Yacht Center in Portland under the eye of Brian Harris, during the Boston Harbor cruise last September. She is now in the Pacific, and the Ship’s log that Greg has posted is most interesting to read. Greg has now reached New Zealand.

Ted Brainard, II, father of our GMP member Ed, heralded the inception of the first ever, International “Green” Sailboat Yacht Design Competition. The Competition will require designers to incorporate green building materials, as well as green construction techniques. The Competition will commence June 1, 2009 and proceed for twelve months. The details are being finalized, however will accept only monohull designs.

November 15th was a foggy and rainy Saturday; however, the welcome for the twenty CCA members who came to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) was one of warmth and good cheer. Donald “Don” Perkins, President of the GMRI, met us at 1100 and took us on a most interesting journey through their lovely modern facility. The waterfront facility sits on a site that took the better part of five years to secure, however the process brought a number of concerned groups together. These groups and others use the facility as neutral ground to discuss the hard questions regarding marine resources and the Gulf’s ecology, facilitating the way to finding rational and balanced solutions.



Chris Otorowski

Boat Shed in Boothbay Harbor

The GMRI will host the group for a tour and luncheon on May 2nd, Saturday of the CCA 2009 Spring Meeting in Portland. The tour will outline the areas touched on above, however the focus will be on the business model and it’s success for implementation in other appropriate regions.

Our December gam at the Damariscotta Riverside Grille was again, one for the books. We were delighted to see Lev Davis, our most senior GMP member in attendance as well as Boston Station RC Rob Kiley and his wife Linda. We were joined by a number of members of the Offshore Cruising Club.

Saturday, the 17th of January found a merry group gathered at Steven and Claudette Thing’s lovely home in Portland for our Mid-winter Gala Potluck supper. Attending were Peter and Liza Chandler, former Commodore Jim and Ruth Harvie, Dick and Rocky Homer, Peter and Marina Dale Passano, Paul and Marty Rogers, Ross and Lucia Santy, Garry and Leslie Schneider, Phin and Joanna Sprague, Brad and Ann Willauer, and Peter and Karen Worrell.

While weather on Friday did not encourage skiers to head to the mountains, the



Doug and Dale Bruce

Antarctica residents!

gathering late February was a merry group, Dee Dee and Connie Conover hosted the GMP tradition at their condo at Sargarloaf. Attending: DeeDee Conover, Guest Karen



Vinalhaven

Deupree, Malcolm & Luli MacNaught, Paul and Marty Rogers, Garry and Leslie Schneider, Cheryl Strohmeier, Walter Wales, Pip Wick and his family including Mike and Jean Wicks (Chesapeake Station) and Chris and Shirley Wicks (Essex Station). At the last minute, Connie was unfortunately unable to attend, and DeeDee called him to listen to the group cheer him on – and let him know his presence was missed. We feasted on an array of nibbles before a potluck spaghetti supper. There was a superb sauce courtesy of PC Walter Wales, with salad and bread, a side of jambalya, and a feast of pies and ice cream. DeeDee was right – much more fun to potluck in a home than sit down at a local restaurant. All agreed that the future should be more of the same. We'll just hope that the weather next time is a bit more cooperative for superb skiing as well as eating.

Again, we find ourselves at the annual Maine Boatbuilders Show and again our thanks to Phin and Joanna Sprague for hosting a most successful gam. Both the show and the gam were very well attended. The Show is a fine thing that the Spragues have done for the past twelve years to the great benefit of all members of the marine trades in New England. In this year of economic grimness it has to be all the more valuable.

In addition to a large turn out of GMP members, we were happy to share a glass with past Commodore Bob Drew and his wife Mindy. Several years ago Bob was

kind enough to provide our Post with its elegant rum keg and feels that it is his duty to stop by at least once a year to make sure that it is being well cared for. Mindy makes

a great contribution to the Club with her work for the Bonnell Cove Foundation. Rear Commodore Rob Kiley was also on hand as was David Dickerson of the Essex Station. Bill and Lisa Reid were guests of our Post Captain, Susannah Homer.

The GMP is an active and diverse group of individuals, full of talent,

a passion for sailing and a gift for the fine art of service. The Gulf of Maine Post must at times recognize a few that stand out, Past Commodore Jim Harvie, Past Boston RC Brad Willauer, Phin Sprague, Peter Chandler, and our own Secretary, and



Phin Sprague of Maine Boatbuilders

more recently Historian, Gardiner "Garry" Schneider. Their brides, Ruth, Ann, Joanna, Liza and last, but by no mean least, Leslie contribute as much, and at times more, to make our little part of the Club a truly great group. We are all better for knowing them and can only express our humble thanks.

– Susi Homer and Garry Schneider

Chris Otorowski

at the Stamford Yacht Club for the annual meeting and dinner of the CCA's New York Station. Some others may have another snow depth, but 12 inches sounds about correct and I-95 was difficult to say the least. Well done to the brave ones.

Rear Commodore Jim Binch held the annual meeting and steak or sea bass was enjoyed by all. We still had to drive home!

February 27th saw thirty-seven gather at the Barnacle BBQ in Mamaroneck, New York. A very relaxed and cozy cocktail hour (plus) was followed by a fabulous BBQ Salmon dinner. If somebody did not get enough to eat or drink please tell me why. The presentation of the evening was a very informative and entertaining slide show by CCA Station member Fred Hallett. Fred, his family and friends sailed his 35' cutter *Fantasia* from Annapolis to England, to the many Atlantic island groups, to the Caribbean and home to the Chesapeake in over two years.

Most notable about the presentation was the detail about the miles sailed, locations of harbors, what to expect in each harbor and the prevailing best ways to get the boat speed and winds (or less weather) over a more than eight thousand mile cruise. Lastly a series of very helpful caveats on crew morale, safety, maintenance, and planning made Fred's story both humorous, serious and a great starting point for any ocean passage plans. Does Fred have some Navy training?

The New York Station will gather next at Stamford Yacht Club on March 27th to hear from NYS member Rich Du Moulin about his recent sailing exploits aboard tri-maran *Great American I* in a talk titled "Short Handed Sailing-Try It-It's More Fun". Hopefully, there will be no blizzards!

A New York City gathering is planned for April 17th aboard the square rigged vessels *Wavertree*, *Peking*, and *Ambrose* followed by dinner ashore. The movie by past member Irving Johnson "Onboard the *Peking*" will be shown. June will find us again at David Tunick's Clambake in Stamford, date TBA.

– Steve Frank

Pacific Northwest

At present, the PNW station has five members enjoying extended cruising. Kaspar & Trish Schibli will continue from a winter base in Oxford, MD to the Canadian

New York

On a very snowy Friday December 19th evening, twenty-eight hearty souls gathered



Chris Otorowski

Gil Middleton, Dan Schwartz and Rick Meslang

maritime provinces and are considering the Azores for their next layover. Tony & Coryn Gooch are in the Azores and are headed for the British Isles and Scandinavia. Chuck & Peggy Steward and Rod & Jill Hearn are in Mexico. Scott Fuller will do a delivery to New Zealand and then sail *Scoots* from Hawaii back to the Pacific Northwest.

This past summer *Aphrodite*, a Swan 46 owned by Chris and Shawn Otorowski, cruised the western and central Mediterranean including Mallorca, Sardinia and Sicily along with racing in the Swan Cup in Porto Cervo in September. Members Lee and Karen Hedge accompanied *Aphrodite* in Mallorca. Stops in Sicily included the Egadi Islands, Aeolian Islands, Palermo, Trapani, and Cefalu. *Aphrodite* wintered over in Malta and expects to cruise Greece and Croatia this summer.

The PNW Spring Cruise will be in central Puget Sound May 13-17 and the Fall Cruise will be in the area of Jervis Inlet, B.C. September 8-12. Fleet Captain Gary Coard has more information for those interested.

We are a boating club: eighty to ninety have boats and have grown by eleven in the last four years. Our membership dates

are reasonably spread out with the most members elected recently. We are continuing to grow, and expect to approach 100 members in the next couple of years. With an emphasis on electing younger members, which is in the best interest in the long term health of the club.

The PNW Station meets on the second Monday of each month October – June, generally at the Seattle Yacht Club.

– Doug Cole 

San Francisco

At our annual meeting in December, Bill Edinger was presented with the station's Cruiser of the Year Award for his family cruise to Hawaii and his courageous



Bill Edinger, Cruiser of the Year

seamanship on the return voyage. With the port arm of his trimaran severely damaged in a storm, Bill managed to bring his crew and his yacht *Defiance* safely home. It was also announced at that meeting that Bob Van Blaricom had won the CCA-Royal Cruising Club Award for his challenging cruise to Alaska on *Misty* and for the interesting write-up of that cruise for the Cruising Club News.

The New Year's Eve cruise to Clipper Cove was attended by an enthusiastic group of five yachts: *Truly Fair*, *Sea Chantey*, *Tuck-A-Roo*, *Delores E.* and *Sea Dancer*. Despite the fog and cold, a good time was had by all. Racing and cruising this winter were Peter Noonan on

his Swan 56, *Defiance*, who came in first in Class A (non-spinnaker) in the Marina Del Rey to Puerto Vallarta Race and Jerry Eaton who cruised from Trinidad to the Virgin Islands with family and friends. Jerry plans to continue north to Bermuda in mid-May with station members Wyman Harris and Walter Sanford and Nick Orem. Eventually, Jerry plans to sail *Blue Heron* to Maine for a summer of cruising. Also cruising this winter was Bob Bernheim who made a circular passage of southern Florida. He drove *Soft Touch* from Ft Lauderdale north to Stuart, then up the St. Lucie River to Lake Okeechobee, down the Caloosahatchee River to Ft. Meyers and Naples. From there he headed out to sea for a 125 mile run to Key West and eventually turned the corner and headed back north to Ft. Lauderdale. Bob reported unseasonably cold weather at the beginning of his cruise with ice on his decks.



Chet Noyes with birthday candle dessert

At our February Meeting, we honored our two longest term members, Chet Noyes, who has been a member for 46 years and who turned 91 on February 23, and Lloyd Rees, who has been a member for 59 years and who turns 92 this year. Bill Edinger showed a film of his passage from Hawaii and the subsequent help rendered by a container vessel and the Coast Guard. Rear Commodore Steve Hunt announced that CCA Commodore Ross Sherbrooke will be our honored guest at the April 8th meeting at the St. Francis Yacht Club. Meanwhile, the March meeting will be our traditional crab feed at the Pt. San Pablo Yacht Club and in May we plan to visit the Hawkes Ocean Technology facility in Pt. Richmond to view the construction of underwater exploration vehicles.



Sunset over Alicudi

Chris Otorowski

Walter Sanford

John Sanford

Cruising plans this summer include: Bob Van Blaricom who will start sailing *Misty* south from Valdez, Alaska about June 1 with station members Zia Ahari and Chris Parkman as crew. He plans to head to Bellingham where, after a crew change, his wife Jane and granddaughter Lacey will join the boat for cruising amongst the waterways of the Northwest. Wyman Harris and Gay will be cruising *Safari* in the Northwest including visiting Roche Harbor for the big Fourth of July celebration and then exploring the fjords in the River's Inlet north of Queen Charlotte Sound during July and August. Meanwhile, Roy Jennings is back building a boat; a 7'7" Joel White designed Nutshell Pram. His assistants are his two grandchildren Michael (13) and Jenna (11) Magner with occasional assistance from Tony Carter. It is hoped that the boat will be launched by Roy's 85th birthday in June. Last summer Michael and Jenna participated in the highly recommended Spaulding Wooden Boat Center's Youth Boatbuilding and Sailing Program.

Further cruising plans include: Bill Foss and Karen to return to *Détente* which is in Turgutreis, Turkey in mid-April and then

cruise down the coast to Kemer where the boat will winter. During the busy, hot summer months in Turkey, Bill and Karen will take a break and return to Charlevoix, Michigan. Jim and Debbie Gregory plan to take *Morpheus* south in late 2009 and eventually transit the Panama Canal, cross the Caribbean and up the East Coast in time to make the start of the 2010 Bermuda Race. Bob Vespa hopes to finish the restoration of *Scorpio* in time to leave for the Hawaii loop about June 1. John Swain and Pat are planning to sail *Lyric* to Southern California and cruise the Channel Island and maybe continue south to Mexico. John and Nancy Moore have sold *Break'n Wind* and bought a Corsair trimaran, *Mi Cohete*, (my rocket) which they will sail in the Puerto Vallarta, Riviera Nayarit area of Mexico this year.

Our first station cruise is scheduled for May16-17 up the Petaluma River to the basin downtown. On June 26-25 we will be heading to Montezuma Slough for our traditional barbeque. The annual ocean cruise to Tomales Bay will be September 11 to 13 and the final cruise will be the New Year's Eve rendezvous at Clipper Cove.

– John Sanford 


Southern California

The CCA Southern California Station celebrated its last meeting of 2008 at the Newport Harbor Yacht Club with ninety-eight in attendance. It was our annual pre-Christmas party, which ended an outstanding year under the guidance of our Rear Commodore Burt Zillgitt.

Highlight of the evening was the post presentation of a handsome plaque featuring the St. David's Lighthouse Trophy. It was presented to Peggy Lapworth, wife of the late yacht designer, Bill Lapworth. The signature trophy itself is awarded biennially to the designer of the winner of the Newport Bermuda Race, St. David's Lighthouse Division, which in 2008 was one of Bill's classic designed Cal-40s, *Sinn Fein*.

Our speaker for the evening was Ian Bums from Australia. Ian, a permanent crewman of Larry Ellison's *Oracle*, brought us up-to-date with photos and commentary on the happenings and tribulations of today's America's Cup.

A grand evening was had by all.

– Dick Lawrence, *SOC Historian* 

CCA Utah GAM

Rich Wilson from page 1

semester curriculum that is packed with offshore writing directed to school age children. This form of education from offshore has been a passion of Rich's for 20 years. Rich used newspapers worldwide to publish content for young readers and K12 schools by newspapers in education.



SitesAlive

Great American III

He had dozens of participating newspapers around the country including the Baltimore Sun, Denver Post, Detroit News, Hartford Courant, Providence Journal, Seattle Times, San Francisco Chronicle and the Winston-Salem Journal to name a few.

The Vendee Globe is a true ocean marathon. For the solo racing sailor it is the ultimate. In *Great American III*, a ten year old 60 footer and three time veteran of the Vendee Globe, Rich found his ride. He worked hard with a personal trainer in Marblehead to get in peak physical condition and obtained the help of a nutritionist since he had always had trouble gaining weight and he needed to be able to eat and burn 6,000 calories per day during the race. The training obviously paid off.

On the first night out after the start, no fewer than four boats experienced serious failures. Rich was quoted in the Boston Globe "It cannot be described, even if you're a sailor, what sailing these boats upwind in a sea is like. They take such abuse...



Great American III


SitesAlive

I was wearing a helmet all the time on deck and I would sometimes wear it down below in the cabin...It's like a continuous car crash...So often I could not believe the boat could survive, but it did..."

No stranger to long distance racing, Rich started in 1988 winning the Carls-

berg Singlehanded Transatlantic Race, 3,000 miles from Plymouth, England to Newport, Rhode Island. In 1990, he attempted to best the record of Clipper ship *Northern Light* from San Francisco to Boston and capsized in 65 foot seas with co-skipper Steve Pettengill, and was then re-righted after an hour. He succeeded in setting the record three years later in *Great American II*.

Rich's racing career includes numerous Newport to Bermuda races as both navigator and skipper of *Holger Danske*. Rich is a member of the CCA, New York Yacht Club, Eastern Yacht Club and the Storm Trysail Yacht Club. Congratulations Rich, you inspire us all!

– Chris Otorowski 

Awards Banquet at NYYC



Awards Table

Jack Towle



Walt Paul, Hank Strauss, Jim Binch

Jack Towle



Ron Trossbach, Mindy Drew, Jeb Embree and Kathy Trossbach

Jack Towle



Roger Merrill and Steve Taylor

Jack Towle



Mindy Drew, Frank Bohlen and Phyllis Nickel

Jack Towle



Scott Piper receiving Transpacific Pennant (14 stars!)

Jack Towle



Bob Darbee

Jack Towle



Susan Huber-Curphey receiving Rod Stephens Award

Jack Towle



Commodore Sherbrooke

Jack Towle



Where to get CCA Burgees



The **Sail Bag Lady** is the supplier of *CCA burgees*.
 There is a separate page for them on the CCA web site:
 CCA Burgees – sailbaglady.com;
 or call Bettina (the sailbag lady herself) at 203-245-8238.



Bob Drew, Ken Campia (receiving Charles Vilas prize for Skip Novak) and Commodore Sherbrooke

Jack Towle

Ski Gam



Bill Polleys explaining the glorious view from Deer Valley

The first CCA Utah Ski Gam happened in Utah. But there was no VHF on this cruise! So email served as the early morning wake up and daily mode of communication between organizer Bill Polleys and the skiers. All were welcomed at 0730 hrs Saturday January 31st, to the first day of a great “cruise” to Utah! And a fine day it was. That daily publication was also posted in the CCA Room 620 at the Grand Summit Hotel, Canyons, where the Saturday evening reception brought almost everyone together for the first time. The only sad note, on day one, was the injury to our Good Samaritan, Brad Willauer, whose skiing was curtailed. Whilst helping a terrified young girl on a steep slope, he had the misfortune to get tripped up by a ski pole and fall, dislocating his good shoulder. The only injury of the trip.

Sunday had almost everyone out in glorious sunshine at the Canyons. Skiers slipped easily



*Park City – February 2nd 2009
Nick Schaus, Alan Harquail, Bill Polleys,
Vivian Harquail, Bobbi Schaus, Gerry Clapp,
Steve & Karyn James, Peter Palette and
George Stoneman*

into two groups. The “bumpers and bombers” (aka fast and mogul skiers) led by the all terrain pilots Malcolm MacNaught and Scott McCulloch, while the “cruisers and groomers” skied with pilot Bill Polleys. A few, who had not skied for some time, enjoyed a lesson and soon were gathering momentum and catching the others. After which a gathering took place for the opening celebration, hors d’oeuvres and supper in the club room at GSH. The nightly meeting happened during the Superbowl Half time.

Monday, more sunshine and the skiers explored Park City, meeting at the bottom of the Payday 6 pack lift at 0930 hrs. Again, the all terrain folk were guided by Malcolm MacNaught and included the Commodore, Paul & Marty Rogers, Nick and Bobbi Schaus, John Robinson and Ross Santy, who just loved the bumps. His knees are excellent Lucia informed all! They sampled many of the non groomed bowls amidst a total ski area of 3,300 acres. Whilst the more leisurely groomers followed the Harquails and Bill Polleys. Lunch

in the sun at the Mid Mountain lodge, warm for February. Dinner was hosted in Room 620 and local Julie Keller catered a delicious buffalo chile with home made apple tarts. Sadly, Julie fell the next day and was unable to lead the enthusiastic mogul fans down the bumps. She was a world ranked mogul skier, so they would have had a work out – next year!

Tuesday, the skiers headed to the third local resort – Deer Valley – and sampled the 2000+ acres of ski terrain. Pilot Bill Polleys greeted the crew by the Carpenter Lift at the Snowpark base. The lodges are rather smart, no men’s rooms just gentlemen’s lounges, fresh flowers and gold faucets!

The party room was full that night for a special presentation by Karyn and Steve James on their extensive recent cruising from the Azores to Ireland, Scotland, Norway and finally 80°N and Spitzbergen.

Wednesday, Alan Harquail led a group to Alta whilst others spread around the other three resorts. Kathleen Sherbrooke along with Ross and Lucia Santy and Ann Willauer headed off to the cross country course. Some visited the Olympic Park and watched ski jumping. But \$235 for a 40 second and 5G bobsled ride seemed a little too much.

Cocktails and dinner at Scott and Mary McCullochs, Bill and Nancy’s daughter. Mount Gays were enjoyed with a wonderful view over the Park City Valley and another cloudless sky. The evening entertainment included a Bermuda Race presentation. Dave Brown introduced VC Sheila McCurdy who regaled everyone with history of the Bermuda Race and her observations of her 15th race this last summer. Pilots were Barbara Watson & Malcolm MacNaught.

Thursday, it was back to ski Deer Valley. For those who had expressed a desire for a complimentary lesson, Bill was glad to oblige. The plan was to ski light blues and work



Commodore Ross Sherbrooke gets a ski boot clip closer too!



*Park City – Lunch in the Sun –
February 2nd 2009
Dave Brown, VC Sheila McCurdy and
George Stoneman*

Ski Gam

on turn initiation, completion on shaped skis, and some work on edge control. The class met at the top of the Carpenter lift at 1000 hrs. Karyn and Steve James, Dave Brown and the “Misses,” Gerry Clapp, another instructor Sham Hunt, Peter Palette, his guest and brother-in-law George Stoneman and Ann Willauer. Brad “one arm” Willauer came too – skiing cannily and well, he survived the day.

The Deer Valley experience was complete with an above average late lunch, for 18 souls, at the Goldener Hirsch at Silverlake. A glass or two of wine, delicious cheese fondue and excellent weinerschnitzel were enjoyed. What a treat!

Thursday night is rehearsal time for the famed Mormon Tabernacle choir. Cocktails were served earlier than usual, in the party room, for those who needed a “fix”! Then a “dry” meal at the top of the Mormon headquarters with pilot – Vivian Harquail who organized the volunteer transportation. This was followed by the 360 member choir rehearsing in the famous “you can hear a pin drop” acoustics tabernacle that seats 10,000. The design is particularly remarkable because the roof was built with almost no nails, which were scarce in pioneer Utah.

Friday dawned overcast and snowing, after five “bluebird” days the visibility was down. Skiing was particularly good if you had good eyesight and goggles on the runs groomed the previous night before the fall began and above 8500 feet. First tracks on a small accumulation was easy for everyone. Free skiing at Canyons for most and down the hill perhaps a little earlier to the club room. There, some were found watching Commodore Sherbrooke’s interesting personally narrated DVD of Antarctica. And slaloming!



*The Cross Country Skiers
Ross Santry, Kathleen Sherbrooke, Ann Willauer
and Lucia Santy*

Ski Gam Chair Bill Polleys concluded by thanking everyone who helped, especially Vivian Harquail, pilots Alan and Malcolm, Commodore Ross and Kathleen, Nina and Sham Hunt, daughter Mary and hubby Scott, and his often under appreciated, by him, ever helpful wife, Nancy.

Bill felt sure that one of everyone’s best memories of this trip would be the talks and presentations. To Karyn and Steve James, he gave his sincere thanks for his vicarious visit to the high latitudes that he’ll never get to! The humor, the gentle “corrections” and smooth integration of the dual narrative was delightful. The sense of such a great cruise was awesome.



Bill Polleys and his thank you gift, with Nancy and Kathleen

Sheila McCurdy and Dave Brown were no less impressive. The fun of seeing an old classic do well (the boat, not you guys) is always a kick. But again the presentation was professional. He loved the discussion of the currents and tactics, or more to the point the strategy. You could feel why the Bermuda Race still stands apart in the pantheon of offshore



*CCA Ski Gam – Canyons – February 1st 2009
Luli MacNaught, Bill Polleys, Charlie Hewson, Ann Willauer,
Malcolm MacNaught, Barbara Watson, Alan Harquail, Marty
& Paul Rogers, Ross Santy and Commodore Ross Sherbrooke*

racing. Thanks to our star performers and to the pilot, Barbara Watson, who not only came up with this idea but recruited the speakers. She was also a light from the distance in helping him with this gam. A nod to Nick Schaus too for getting to the bottom of the mystery of the word “gam”.

The Jameses and McCurdy-Browns, along with the Commodore, were recipients of novel gifts. After some interesting ideas, Bill had to put everyone out of their misery – “it’s a boot snapper!” The Jameses tested theirs the next day and it really worked.

And a last hurrah for Commodore Ross. Great vision and leadership. Who else would have thought of cruising to the desert and mountains in the wintertime.

Finally, thanks all for allowing the committee to enjoy serving the group so much. He and the committee had as much fun as they did.

See you next year?

*Photos courtesy of Barbara Watson
and Bill Polleys*



*Park City – Steve & Karyn James and Barbara
Watson – Feb 4th '09*

Sailors for the Sea Aboard *Ocean Watch*

Led by renowned sailor Mark Schrader, the expedition will depart from Seattle in May 2009 and will visit 31 ports in 11 countries over the course of 13 months. After completing 25,000 of sailing in a clockwise circumnavigation of the Americas, the vessel will return to Seattle in June, 2010.

The steel-hulled, 64-foot sailing vessel *Ocean Watch* will have a full time crew of four including a journalist and a documentary filmmaker. Throughout the expedition, a Pacific Science Center educator will be on board to facilitate education activities. In addition, ocean and atmospheric scientists will join different legs of the expedition to conduct research on board *Ocean Watch*.

The Crew

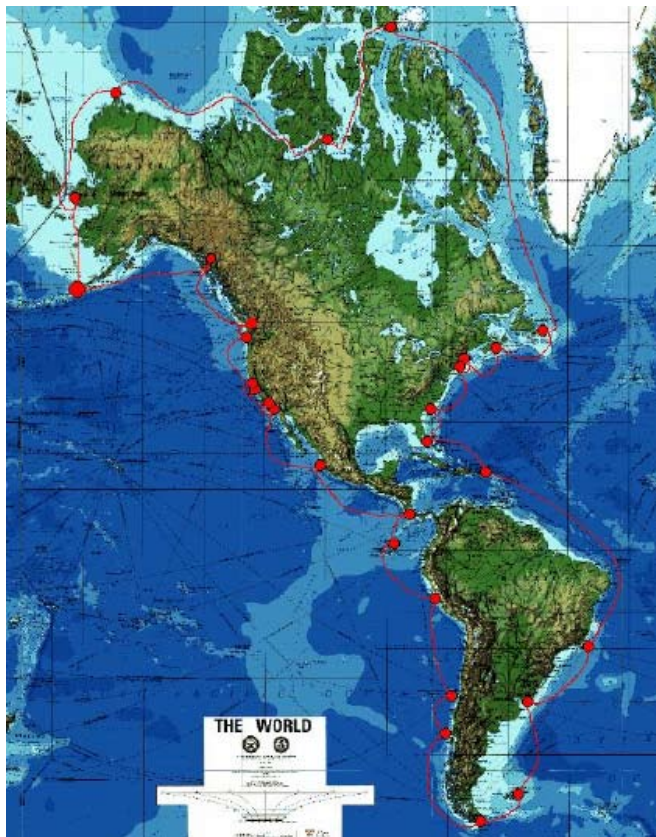
C. Mark Schrader, Project Director and Captain, is a Nebraska native, a 1969 Cal Berkeley graduate, married, small farm and business owner, and Washington resident. He was also a 1982 member of the First Team, has single-handed two circumnavigations of the world and was the first American to single-hand the circumnavigation of the world via the five Southern Capes (1982/3). He is a marine conservationist and wildlife advocate.

David Lee Logan, the First Mate, is in charge of yacht preparation and on board systems. He is also a Washington State native, married, and world traveler. He provided logistic and shore support for 1982/83 circumnavigation. Overall, he is a veteran ocean cruising and racing sailor, with five Pacific

crossings. He owns a cabinet and fine furniture manufacturing business in Seattle.

Long time marine conservation advocate Herb McCormick is a Watch Captain and education program coordinator. A native of Newport, Rhode Island, he is a graduate of Williams College. He is the former editor of *Cruising World* magazine and sailing correspondent/sports-writer for the *New York Times*. He is a veteran ocean racer: Newport-Bermuda, Pacific Cup, Transpac, Sydney-Hobart; cruised and raced from Alaska to Antarctica. He co-authored the book *Out There* on first BOC Challenge.

David Thoreson is a Watch Captain, cameraman and photographer. He is a 1984 Nebraska graduate and Iowa native who is married. He solo bicycled 10,000 miles around the US and Canada (1986-87). He has sailed below the Antarctic Circle (1992), twice above the Arctic Circle, and has had three Atlantic crossings.



In addition, he was the first American sailor in history to transit the Northwest Passage east to west (2007). He owns a photography gallery, and has a current traveling exhibit that features cultural and climate change issues.

SEATTLE – After three years of hard work and \$1 million, the Seattle-based sailboat *Ocean Watch* was finally christened on Tuesday.

For the first time, the 64-foot sailing vessel hit the waters of Ballard's Salmon Bay in a sea trial in preparation for its first-ever voyage around the Americas.

The *Ocean Watch* and its crew of four are due to set sail on May 31 to circumnavigate North and South America to bring attention to the health of the oceans.

"Everything that happens in that ocean affects what happens to us on land. We haven't been kind to that resource," said Captain Mark Schrader.

The crew will head north and sail through the icy Northwest Passage and near the North Pole. Then the vessel will sail down the East Coast down to South America and around Cape Horn. In all, they plan to

make thirty-one stops to raise awareness about the health of the oceans during their thirteen-month trip.

The voyage is a project of Seattle's Pacific Science Center, the University of



Washington's Applied Physics Lab, the Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean and the nonprofit Sailors for the Sea.

Ocean Watch is meant to be a floating classroom. And thanks to satellites and computers, anyone can learn right along with all the scientists on board.

"It's an unusual opportunity," said Dr. Kris Ludwig of the Pacific Science Center. "One of the treats about working on this is that ocean sciences is rarely taught in our schools yet. You can use it as a hook to teach anything from physics, biology, chemistry and geology."

"This voyage is all about increasing the number of ocean stewards nationwide, hemispherically and ultimately worldwide," said David Rockefeller, Jr. of Sailors for the Sea.

– Courtesy KOMO TV News

Watch the launch of *Ocean Watch* at <http://www.komonews.com/news/42244167.html>

Its not too early to start thinking about the Bermuda Race 2010

Under chair Bjorn Johnson and his 150+ volunteers, the 2010 Race promises to be another great adventure. It is one of the best offshore experiences anyone can have. Check out the website at www.bermudarace.com and start getting your boat ready for this flagship event of the CCA.



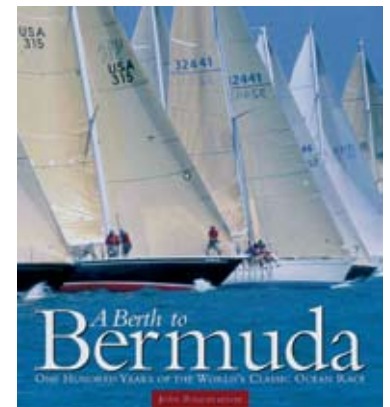
Start of 2008 Bermuda Race off Castle Hill

Barry Pickthall/PPL



Barry Pickthall/PPL

Laundry day at RBYC



*The must read for anyone racing to Bermuda.
"Berth to Bermuda"
by John Rousmaniere
available through Mystic Seaport.*

In Memoriam

Anthony Browne, RCC, 1/21/2009

Daniel Camejo, FLA, 8/30/2008

William P. Carl, CHE, 2/19/2008

Daniel B. Conron, NYS, 2/30/2009

M. Cranford Dalby, CHE, 10/1/2008

Reginald E. Francklyn, ESS, 11/18/2008

Walter W. Hoffman, SOC, 11/11/2008

Robert W. Hubner, NYS, 11/24/2008

Thaddeus C. Jones, M.D., SOC, 7/16/2008

John M. King, CHE, 8/17/2008

Vincent F. Lambie, BDO, 1/22/2009

Richard S. Marshall, PNW, 12/1/2008

Thomas D.C. Morris, BOS/GMP, 12/7/2008

Frederic M. Richards, ESS, 1/11/2009

William L. Saltonstall, BOS, 1/23/2009

Robert C. Seamans, Jr., BOS, 6/28/2008

Warren C. Smith, SAF, 10/7/2008

The annual CC News will continue to carry full remembrances with photos.



Welcome New Members



STUART BRADLEY ASH

Clarksburg, Ontario
Station: Great Lakes
Spouse: Susan
Yacht: Little Harbor 46
Proposer: Arthur English



Stuart Ash is a cruising and racing sailor of deep experience. He currently sails a Little Harbor 46, which he restored himself. He has many years of offshore and small boat racing, particularly in Etchells. He is known as a skilled sailboat driver and accomplished at all aspects of maintenance and systems. Stuart has several notable offshore trips under his belt, including a fast trip in a Newport/Bermuda race aboard John Thompson's Tripp 56 *Entrada*. In recent years, he has been found exploring the Great Lakes: Thousand Islands, Lakes Ontario Erie and Huron, Georgian Bay and the North Channel. Stuart is active in organized sailing as a member of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club, Royal Bermuda, the Thornbury Yacht Club and the New York Yacht Club. He has sat on the board of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club. We thank Arthur English for Stuart's proposal and look forward to seeing him at our next rendezvous.

RONALD ELLIOTT COUNCIL

Annapolis, Maryland
Station: Chesapeake
Spouse: Pamela McCallam
Yacht : Eastbay 49, *Heron*
Proposer: Gary Jobson



Ron Council has been on the water and around the waterfront for most of his life. He has sailed and knows the waters from the Bay of Fundy to the Leeward Islands. He has an extensive racing resume, including several Newport/Bermuda and Annapolis/Bermuda races and numerous offshore deliveries. In the 1960's, he was a volunteer coach and skipper of the U.S. Naval Academy's Luders 44s with midshipman crew both racing and cruising, including a Newport/Bermuda

race as officer-in-charge. He was a part owner of Annapolis Yacht Sales in the 1970's. His support for younger sailors has also surfaced through his activities as founding member of the Annapolis Yacht Club Foundation, supporting local sailors in national and international competitions. He has been a Life Member of the Annapolis Yacht Club and has sat on its Board of Governors. These days, Ron takes *Heron* to the Bahamas each winter. We are glad he is on board as a CCA member and congratulate Gary Jobson for his proposal.

Memberships: Annapolis Yacht Club; Naval Academy Sailing Squadron; Cruising Club of the Chesapeake; New York Yacht Club; Ocean Cruising Club.

CARL DOHERTY

Blaine, Washington
Station: Pacific Northwest
Yacht: Cal 34
Proposer: Thomas D. O'Brien

Carl Doherty has passed oceans of water under the keel in the over sixty years he has been active on the water. His five year transit in his Formasa 46 across the Pacific, through the Indian Ocean and on to Greece was only a highlight among a lifetime of maritime adventuring. Carl is known to many CCA members of the Pacific Northwest. He can

be found frequently cruising his Cal 34 up to British Columbia and Alaska. He is remembered as a Blanchard Senior Knockabout sailor in the 1960's. He has raced to Hawaii and in local races and is known as a formidable yet friendly competitor. Carl's wealth of experience is an asset to our sport and the Club. We are happy Tom O'Brien has made him one of us.

Armed Services: Ensign, U.S. Navy 1942-44.



Lipari and Vulcano, Sicily

Chris Otorowski

SUSAN ELIZABETH McNAB

Seattle, Washington
Station: Pacific Northwest
Spouse: Robert Anderson
Yacht: Panda 38
Proposer: Roger Swanson



Sue McNab is one of the most accomplished sailors in a town of accomplished sailors. She attempted a Northwest Passage transit with Roger Swanson on his *Cloud Nine*. She was turned back by ice at Resolute Bay and has sailed with him on several adventures since. She obviously sailed in corners of the world most sailors never see and few could handle, including the North Sea, North Atlantic, Australia, Bali, and, of course, her challenging home waters in the Pacific Northwest. Sue gives back to the sport as Commodore of the

**Check out the Website:
www.cruisingclub.org**

The CCA website is remarkable for its clarity, ease of navigation and the wealth of information it contains. Dorsey Beard has done a truly amazing job in putting together a website that functions so well.

You can find out almost anything you need to know about the CCA, its cruises, officers, committees and members on the site and download important cruising information. Downloadable pdf versions of the GAM will be contained on the site in the future.

Rotary Seattle Mariners, a sub-chapter of the large Seattle Rotary group, and she is known for her capable and personable leadership style. We are proud to have Sue as a new member and vote thanks to Roger Swanson for this distinguished proposal.

Membership: Rotary Seattle Mariners and Seattle Yacht Club

JAMES P. MODISETTE

Penobscot, Maine
Spouse: Ruth
Station: Southern California
Yacht: Little Harbor 36 *Whisperjet*
Proposer: James A. Eddy



Jim Modisette is a long-time sail and power man with extensive sea time on both coasts. Out West, he has sailed from Alaska to Cabo; back East from Maine to Bermuda and Antigua to Bermuda. Among Jim's many nautical talents, he is known as an expert with diesel mechanics and electrical systems. He and Ruth have only recently relocated to Maine from California, but keep up their maritime connections in both areas and from their home in the Abacos. Jim is particularly distinguished for his contribution to organized sailing. He is past Commodore of the Los Angeles Yacht Club and instrumental in their move to their new clubhouse. He has been heavily involved in youth sailing: Commodore of INSA, a board member of the Southern California Youth Yacht Racing Association. In Maine, Jim is a parent advisor to the local high school sailing team, founder and chair of a non-profit that runs the community sailing program in Blue Hill and past race committee chair for the Kollegewidgwok Yacht Club in Blue Hill.

Plainly, Jim puts back more than he takes and we are honored by his new association with the CCA. Jim Eddy has done the Club a service with this proposal.

Memberships: Los Angeles Yacht Club; Kollegewidgwok Yacht Club

PETER W. POWELL

Bellevue, WA
Spouse: Molly
Station: Pacific Northwest
Yacht: Sunreef 62 *Blaze II*
Proposer: Lawrence P. Bailey



Larry Bailey's proposal brings a deeply experienced cruising man to the Club's ranks. With some four decades' activity on the water, the last two of which have been focused mainly on cruising, Peter knows his way around a yacht. Soon after catching the cruising bug in the early 1990s, Peter, Molly and their four children embarked on a two year voyage across the Pacific Islands to New Zealand in their Ron Holland 52 *Blaze*. That voyage earned Peter the Seattle Yacht Club's Moshulu award for noteworthy cruising exploits. *Blaze* encountered many CCA members along the way, all whom praised the Powell family's seamanship and good cheer. Having focused in recent years on coastal cruising, Peter and Molly acquired their new catamaran in 2007. They took delivery in Amsterdam, undertook sea trials in the Baltic and then embarked on cruises through British Isles, the Atlantic coasts of France and Spain, and the Mediterranean. Yet further horizons beckon. Peter and his salty family will be welcome additions to the Club.

Membership: Seattle Yacht Club

WALTER E. (“WALLY”) SANFORD

Tiburon, CA
Spouse: Ellen
Station: San Francisco
Yacht: J-105 *Alchemy*
Proposer: James E. Eaton



The fact that Wally Sanford has been racing and cruising since his tender years will come as no surprise: he's CCA member John E. Sanford's son. After extensive racing and cruising in the Bay area as a lad, Wally crewed aboard the family's Caribe 41 *Going Home* for major parts of their extended delivery from Chicago through the Great Lakes, around North America and on to San Francisco. In the intervening years, he campaigned aboard numerous boats in San Francisco Bay and offshore events, took the family's sloop on several offshore passages to the south, crewed on a 57' wooden schooner in the Pacific Northwest, and got a taste of the Caribbean in a chartered vessel. He served as watch captain and sailing master aboard Jim Eaton's Hallberg-Rassy 43 *Blue Herron* for her trans-Atlantic passage from the Canary Islands to St. Lucia. His consummate seamanship, eye for safety, and all-round good cheer impressed all aboard—as did his ability to catch and cook some of the finest fish the ocean has to offer. For the last six years, he has been campaigning his *Alchemy* in the highly competitive J-105 fleet in San Francisco. With his eyes and heart set on further offshore voyaging, Wally Sanford is will be an asset to the Club.

Membership: San Francisco Yacht Club

DR. STEPHEN J. SHERWIN

Hinson's Island, Bermuda
Spouse: Mary Beth
Station: Bermuda
Yacht: Corby 41.5 *Nasty Medicine*
Proposer: Stephen W. Kempe



Steve cut his teeth sailing dinghies, racing in and offshore and cruising with his family along the west coast of his native Scotland. The 1970s found him sailing his first command, a 25' Folk-

boat with no electronics and decidedly worn canvass. While they may have complicated some passages and kept him from the prizes, neither deficiency dimmed his ardor. He later rebuilt a 28' wooden sloop, which he trailored to Greece for Mediterranean cruising and a fun but ultimately failed attempt at the charter trade. After moving to Bermuda in 1989, Steve took up cruising and racing on this side on the pond in venues familiar to many east coast sailors. He's a veteran of five Bermuda Races on his own and others' vessels, as well as countless local events. He won the classic division in the 2000 Newport-Bermuda Race in Borderlaw, a 1965 Camper & Nicholson 44 that he had restored the previous year. He is also a tireless volunteer. He routinely dedicates his time and medical expertise to Safety and Sea seminars, serves actively as the Medical Officer of the Bermuda Sailing Association, of which he is Vice Commodore, and lends his expertise on medical issues as an advisor to many local yacht clubs. Kudos to Stephen W. Kempe for an inspired proposal.

Memberships: Royal Bermuda Yacht Club; Bermuda Offshore Cruising Association

Evans and Bill Wohlford have done an extraordinary job over the years writing the new members profiles based on information contained in membership folders but they are looking for volunteers to help pull the oars. If you are interested in getting involved in this part of the GAM, please contact Chris Otorowski, ccagam@mac.com.



Chart Loaning Service

The chart loaning service was established in 1991 to collect, store and distribute charts of northern European waters to be used by Cruising Club members who intend on sailing in those waters. In 2000 the service was expanded to include the Mediterranean and both coasts of Canada. Currently the collection contains over 1000 charts.

The charts are to be loaned out, to be taken on board and used. They are to be returned as soon as practical, made ready for use again by someone else. Should they be damaged during use, so be it. The collection will expand and be updated with contributions by users who fill in the gaps. Charts are available on a first come basis.

Check the CCA web site to identify who is the chart coordinator for various countries and areas. The chart coordinators are cruisers themselves. Don't wait until the last minute for they may be off cruising themselves.

CAROL VERNON

Newport, RI
Station: Boston
Proposer: Sheila McCurdy



The sea is Carol Vernon's profession and passion. She knows boats inside and out, in theory and in the most demanding practice. She is a naval architect and marine engineer (Carol is reported to be the first female graduate of the Webb Institute of Naval Architecture) who has participated in four America's Cup campaigns and countless other high profile projects. Long before now she could easily have constrained her involvement with the sport to a comfortable office and cherry-picked offshore passages, but she continues to maintain a very active career as a delivery skipper mainly because she just likes being at sea. A correspondent reports that when she was helping to design *Alinghi* for the 2003 America's Cup somewhere in the Swiss Alps she became acutely anxious about being away from salt water and at great expenses of money and time would periodically make the long trip down the Med for a weekend of sailing. That vignette provides context for the multiple transoceanic passages and many, many tens of thousands of offshore sea miles Carol has continued to log on vessels of all sizes and descriptions. Shipmates report not only the seamanship that Carol's resume would predict but the comraderie under tough conditions that this Club treasures. Sheila McCurdy has done the CCA another service with this proposal.

Memberships: International Yacht Restoration School; Museum of Yachting

THOMAS VESEY

Paget, Bermuda
Spouse: April
Station: Bermuda
Yacht: Freedom 44 *Jack Rabbit*
Proposer: Derek Ratteray



Tom Vessey's blue-water racing and cruising life exemplifies the CCA's best traditions. His experiences run the gamut from trans-Atlantic crossings (three of them) to local dinghy racing and nearly everything in between, including three Bermuda races both as skipper/owner and crew. Having spent some time working in Washington, D.C. as a journalist with *The Post*, Tom got to know the Chesapeake Bay well aboard his previous command, the Cal 40 *Mad Willy*. And he's made the crossing between Bermuda and the Caribbean and the US east coast more than all but a few of us. In recent years, he's been back more than once with *Jack Rabbit* for cruises in the Chesapeake or further Down East to Maine and Nova Scotia. Thanks to Derek Ratteray's proposal, he will be able to lend his experience and companionship (and perhaps his journalistic talents) to the activities of the Bermuda Station and the national club.

Memberships: Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club; Bermuda Offshore Cruising Association



Where to get CCA Clothing

Supplier of *clothing and accessories* with the CCA burgee is **Stars Signatures**. They have a catalog on the CCA web site (www.cruisingclub.org), Members Only section, from which one can place orders. Or call Atle at Stars: 888-627-8277. A large catalog is mailed to all members yearly.

The yearbook also includes these sources. Check the contents page.

Anyone with suggestions or comments concerning these two sources, please contact the Fleet Captain: **Dan Dyer**, fastrabbit1@cox.net.

Have you ever told a sea story or described a cruise you took?

Of course you have, and the CC News needs your stories, both old and new!

Please send your submissions no later than October 15, 2009 to TL and Harriet Linskey at CCNews@HandsAcrossTheSea.net and HarrietLinskey@GMail.com.

For photo and text specs, see the 2009 edition of the CC News. Our new mailing address is: 411 Walnut Street, #4218, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. Phone: 617.320.3601

The GAM exists to inform all CCA members about the activities of each Station and Post, describe the Cruises, past and future, and to post news items or stories relevant to the membership. If you have an article, photo, announcement or item of committee business that you wish to share, please do so by emailing Chris Otorowski, ccagam@mac.com. The deadline for the Fall issue is September 15.



Cruising Club of America
298 Winslow Way W.
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

PRESORTED
 FIRST CLASS
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT 5544
 SEATTLE, WA

Deadline for Fall 2009 Issue is September 15

Calendar of Events

- 2009** April 30-May 3 – Spring Meeting, Portland, Maine
 Sept. 10-19 – Fall Cruise: The 1000 Islands of the St. Lawrence River
 November 10 – Annual Meeting, New York
- 2010** January Awards Dinner, New York
 Spring- Cruise in Abacos
 Spring Meeting, TBA
 July – Scotland, Clyde Cruising Club Centenary

*Stations & Posts: Please email us your major event dates so members visiting your area can be aware.
 (Editor's email: ccagam@mac.com)*

*For the latest info, please check
www.cruisingclub.org*

Monthly Station Luncheons

- Bermuda:** Held quarterly; Royal Bermuda YC
Boston: “Rats” 3rd Fri. Oct.-May
Chesapeake: 2nd Tues., Annapolis YC, except July (Gibson Isl. Club), Aug. (Annie’s Rest., Kent Narrows)
Essex: 3rd Thurs. Sept.-June; Pilot’s Point Marina, Westbrook
Florida: Stuart 2nd Tues., Dec.-Apr., Stuart Y&CC;
St. Pete: – 3rd Thurs., every mo., St. Pete YC
Pacific Northwest: 2nd Mon. except July, Aug.; Seattle YC
San Francisco: 1st Wed. except July, Aug., Dec.; alt. San Francisco YC & St. Francis YC
Southern California: tba (see web page)

