



Minutes
Cruising Club of America
Meeting of Members
September 13, 2022 1330-1430 hours Newport Harbor Hotel

1. Commodore Chris Otorowski called the meeting to order at 14:15 and apologized for the late start, which was due to a very compelling lunch-time presentation about the yacht Dorade by Pam Rorke Levy.
2. Secretary Molly Barnes confirmed that there was a quorum with 78 people in attendance in person and 31 via zoom.
3. The Commodore welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that Fall committee meetings and events thus far had been excellent and that we are all looking forward to the rest of the week.
4. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes from Annual Meeting of Members on March 5, 2022 as presented and posted on the CCA website. The motion passed unanimously. It was noted that all materials can be found on the meeting materials page (<https://cruisingclub.org/2022/meeting/materials>)
5. Treasurer Kathleen O'Donnell began by first noting that her written report was included in the posted materials. Kathleen then announced to station and post treasurers that station allocations would be distributed in the next two weeks.

Kathleen gave a summary of our financial standing. We have funds in the bank- \$285,000 in cash and money market. We collect approximately \$340,000 in dues each year. And we spend about one-third of that on our publications, which is in line with what we expect to spend. It is worth noting that mailing and printing expenses have increased and this year's 100th yearbook was more expensive than expected.

Kathleen noted that the 100th celebration and Gala will be a large expense, requiring us to tap into our investment funds (approximately \$150,000), but thus far, the expense is in line with the expected budget. She thanked Commodore Otorowski for his efforts to secure corporate sponsorship and mentioned that she will be following up with each of them. Kathleen noted that insurance is becoming more expensive and harder to get- with fewer options. She thanked Sandy Vietor and Steve Prime for their help in securing a policy with Chubb. Finally, Kathleen noted that she will be sending emails to committee chairs by October 1st, giving the YTD numbers for this year's expenses and asking for proposed budgets for next year. This budget request was delayed to accommodate the fact that many CCA members are on boats during the summer and are more difficult to reach. Kathleen and the Financial Affairs Committee will then have a proposed budget for 2023 ready for approval at the March meeting.

6. Secretary Molly Barnes noted that her report stands as submitted with nothing to add.
7. Historian Doug Adkins noted that his report stands as submitted with one addition. He is still inviting members to submit Sea Shanty proposals and will be displaying what we have thus far later in the week.
8. Fleet Surgeon Dr. Jeffery S. Wisch gave his report. Since reporting 6 months ago, most of his time has been spent on covid and the omicron variant has not made that any easier. For all the hard work with the covid task force, Jeff thanked: Commodore Chris Otorowski, Past Commodore Bob Medland, Vice Commodore Jay Gowell, Secretary Molly Barnes, Anne Kolker, Moe Roddy, Charles Starke, and Bill Strassberg. Jeff also thanked the membership for their cooperation during these challenging times. Finally, he noted that the Fleet Surgeon memo has been updated and is on the website, and his report stands as submitted.

Commodore Otorowski then added the Flag's appreciation for the work Jeff and the task force have done over the last couple of years and for the members who have observed the different rules we have implemented.

9. Fleet Captain Paul Hamilton noted that his report stands as submitted.
10. Vice Commodore Jay Gowell gave his report. He began by noting that covid not only cancelled planned cruises, but also stopped us from planning cruises. In the last few months, we have gotten that back on track and now have a full roster of cruises coming up (see more details later in the minutes). He thanked each of the cruise chairs, including Drew & Abby Kellogg, Howie Hodgson, Les Crane for taking on 2 cruises, Steve Calhoun & the Southern California station, and Jonathan Brewin.

Jay then thanked the Commodore and Shawn Otorowski for the incredible work they have done to organize this fantastic centennial, which was followed by a big round of applause.
11. Commodore Chris Otorowski began his report by noting that this week of festivities would not have been possible without the work of the Essex Station- Dennis Powers, Brin Ford, Mindy Gunther and the rest. He also thanked Steve James who has taken on all of the work of the awards, including the planning of the morning seminars on Wednesday and lunch in addition to the awards gala. He and Karyn have been working hard on that. Chris noted that it has been very much a team effort and that we are a club that is dependent on volunteer effort.
12. The Commodore noted that there are written reports from most of the stations and posts and encouraged those who did not submit reports yet to do so soon so that Molly can add them to the collection on the website. He then invited Rear Commodores and Post Captains to add to their reports if needed, none did. Please refer to the materials on the website for those reports.
13. The Commodore reminded us that Mark Grosby, chair of the Archives Committee, and Mystic Vice President Chris Freeman, will be giving a presentation Thursday morning (9/15/2022). He is undertaking the daunting task of sorting out what to do with our digital archives and how to make our archives more accessible and searchable. Molly Barnes noted that the scanning of the yearbooks was almost complete and that we are in search of a 1924 yearbook if anyone has

one. The Commodore noted that we have also scanned *Nowhere is Too Far* which will be available on the website. It is an historical year so it has been fun to make our history more accessible to the membership.

14. Awards Committee Chair Steve James noted that his report stands as submitted and the 2022 awardees will be announced as appropriate.
15. Bermuda Race Foundation served as the organizing authority for the 2022 race for the first time ever. We are functioning and everything is going well and we are looking forward to 2024. Vice Commodore Gowell noted that they are very excited about this new set up and also that they are looking for an historian for the Bermuda Race.
16. Bonnell Cove Foundation President Joyce Lhamon noted that the committee had a meeting yesterday morning, that they will be reviewing grant applications in October instead of the normal time. She noted that the foundation will make their announcements in March. Joyce thanked all members who have contributed to Bonnell Cove and noted that her report stands as submitted.
17. Bermuda Race Organizing Committee chair Mark Lenci reported that the Bermuda Race was conducted successfully this year, marred by a tragedy. He hopes the US Sailing investigation will be completed by mid-October so that they can learn the details and act accordingly. One notable success was that the BROC was able to give everyone 100% credit for their deposits for the cancelled 2020 race. Going into the 2024 cycle, we are looking healthy and also will be seeking people to fill some key positions, most notably deputies who will go through the 2024 cycle and take over for 2026. Mark noted that we were very successful on sponsorship which means we need more volunteers to help with sponsor obligations- so there will be a forthcoming call coming out to the club membership.

The Commodore added that it was very interesting for him to be a part of the start and finish of the race, noting that it is an incredible organizational feat to pull off the race including the inspections and safety items. It was only made possible through tremendous volunteer efforts.

18. James Phyfe gave the Communications Committee report. The Committee is responsible for all communications in the club both internally and externally to the greater sailing public. James noted that he just took over a couple of months ago and reminded us all that the publications and the systems that support them are all excellent. He went on to note that in the coming months, the committee will be reviewing the mission of the committee to help guide strategy and effort going forward, especially as it relates to what we do outwardly. James invited feedback and noted that his written report stands as submitted.
19. Doug Bruce, co-chair of the Cruising Guides and Charts committee, reported that everything is going well. It looks like there may be a banner year in terms of sales of the printed guides, noting that the Nova Scotia Guide in particular (edited by Wilson Fitt) has almost doubled its annual sales in the last 3 months. He announced that there have been 6000 users to date of the digital Maine guide, which has the potential to be a real inflection point for communication with the outside world. Based on the responses we are getting from the users; we may want to continue with more digital guides in the future while keeping up with our paper guides.

20. Anne Kolker, chair of the Events Committee, noted that there will be events! This is our first in-person meeting since the annual meeting two and one-half years ago.

The Commodore then noted that the NYYC Commodore, Paul Zabetakis, sent an email stating that the CCA has a collection of the finest blue water sailors around and that he looks forward to the opportunity to do some cross-burgee events.

21. Chace Anderson notes that the Financial Affairs Committee is a relatively new committee charged with providing oversight on financial policies. For example, the issue of seeking third party sponsorship came to us and we recommended to the board of governors to pursue that. We hired a bookkeeper this year and have spent a lot of time on the budget and budgeting process.
22. Treasurer Kathleen O'Donnell noted that we have some CCA Guest Moorings that the club pays for, including Block Island. She reminded individuals who oversee those moorings to be in touch with Guest Moorings Chair, Liz Baylis, about the expense so that Liz can budget accordingly.
23. Commodore Otorowski noted that the Investment report, written by Tom Post, stands as submitted and added that his impression is that CCA investments are doing fine given the overall market.
24. Long Range Planning Committee Chair Tim Surgenor noted that the committee is just getting started. As an off-shoot of getting ready, we have studied the recent membership trends. The headlines are that from when we started pushing for younger members in 2016 until the pandemic, we had great growth in the club especially with younger members (increased by about 50%) and women (doubled in that time). The pandemic has changed that and so we are encouraging the membership committee and all of the members to continue to seek out new members. Tim noted that the slide presentation from yesterday's committee meeting is now included on the website with the other fall meeting materials.
25. Membership Committee Chair Ernie Godshalk began by announcing that the Governing Board elected 23 new members at the September meeting, thanks to the over 100 members who wrote letters on behalf of the candidates. This is an increase from 16 that were elected last time. There were 2 of those 23 members present, who then stood up and introduced themselves: Cliff Crowley and John Youngblood.

The Commodore added that every member of the CCA is a member of the recruiting committee. Chris then encouraged us all to keep a sharp eye out for potential candidates at the other yacht clubs where we belong. Bill Strassberg then reminded us that recruitment does not end there but includes follow-up for a year to help the new members become engaged in the club.

26. The Commodore noted that he attended a Next Watch event in Bermuda and thanked Alli Bell for the work she is doing. Her report is included online.
27. Safety and Seamanship Committee Chair Bill Strassberg noted that committee is made up of an incredible group of people who live at the intersection of seamanship and safety. Bill

highlighted a couple of things. First, that the content, data and testing that they do is meaningful both to CCA members and also to the cruising public at large. Likewise, the programs that we offer are not just geared toward ourselves but also have an important outreach element in terms of brand awareness around who we are and what we do. He encouraged all members to consider writing an article about a safety moment or for the School of Hard Rocks, or sponsoring cruising for couples or practice on your own boat seminars. He also mentioned an upcoming seminar (Thursday) on the learnings from the Practice on Your Own Boat programs that will include a chance to practice with Oscar on David Tunick's boat, Night Watch.

28. The Commodore began the next section by asking for a show of hands if you are a skier. He then noted that we are in search of a chair for the Ski GAM committee. Anne Kolker noted that there are three options being considered: 1) Using a travel agent to help sort out a package deal for a European Ski Gam. That would require a chair to at least pick the dates and agent. 2) An informal Ski Gam that includes going back out west to Deer Valley, Park City or Alta. 3) Going to Whistler where our Commodore has a place where we could meet up. That could happen informally unless we get a volunteer to organize it. Anne encouraged anyone who is interested to reach out to Chris, Jay or her.
29. Technical Committee Chair, Jim Binch, reported that the committee met with the new Executive Director of the Offshore Racing Association, which is the owner of the offshore racing rule which is the rule that the club has supported extensively and significantly over a long period of time. The organization is in good shape. The committee has zoned in on one particular area that he thinks the CCA and the technical committee of the club can make a difference to and that is that the rules themselves whether it's the ORC or the ORR Rules. How to measure boats has been solved with laser measurement systems, and we have international agreement on where to measure. So the one remaining area of frustration is the scoring system, or not knowing by how much you have to beat a boat that is next to you in order to still win after corrected time. The scoring systems are complex and impossible to figure out until after the fact so we are going to spend some time delving into that. One idea concerns creating a single number off of effectively a scratch boat calculated based on the expected weather for that race and the velocity prediction program for each boat in the fleet so that you end up with every boat having a number so that at the start of the race you know by how much you have to beat each boat. The thought is this would make it a lot more fun on the race course and would give the CCA another leg up.
30. Bob Darbee, Chair of the Trophy Committee submitted his written report and added a few additional comments. First, often people wonder why the CCA runs such a prominent race. Yet one of the founding purposes of the club is to encourage the design of secure, swift, strong boats for extended cruises and we think there is no better proving ground than 3-4 days in the open ocean across the gulf stream. This year we have introduced 6 new Bermuda Race trophies for the best performances by CCA members, which will be awarded each year at the awards ceremony instead of in Bermuda- a great addition to our permanent collection. Finally, all of our trophies are back from Bermuda and back in the display on the 4th floor at IYRS where anyone can visit them.

The Vice Commodore added that the CCA has a nice relationship with IYRS and noted that the President (Jay Coogan) has invited all CCA members to come and enjoy the display and the library that houses a lot of great CCA materials.

31. Ami Green submitted a report about Voyages Magazine. She added that like the magic of this centennial, Voyages is successful because of volunteer effort. It is all about what the members have done and what they want to share with the membership. She encouraged people to submit articles for inclusion.
32. Webmaster Michael Moradzadeh gave his report. We are making some highly visible changes to the website. Initially the website was intended to serve just the members and now it is aiming to advance the science of sailing to the public at large. So you will see more changes now that we are getting more articles with photos, most notably from Chuck Hawley. We will continue with member support activities and expect some additional technical changes behind the scenes. The Commodore took a few minutes to thank Michael for the incredible service he does for the club.
33. David Tunick noted that there was a late addition to the reports about the Shorthanded Return Race from Bermuda. He thanked Les Crane and Peter Becker who co-chaired the committee. Two women won the 2-handed race and the youngest participant was 18. More details are included in the report.
34. Barbara Watson noted that the Yearbook Report stands as written with this addition: as long as the Treasurer gives me the same budget, the book will continue as it is! The Commodore also thanked Barbara for producing a special 100-year anniversary edition of the Yearbook.
35. Each of the Cruise Chairs spoke about their various cruises. Bill Bowers gave a report on the Newfoundland cruise, noting that it was a great success and RNYC Commodore Moya Cahill was a terrific host and is here to celebrate the Centennial. Vice Commodore Gowell spoke on behalf of Drew and Abby Kellogg who are chairing the Caribbean cruise in March 2023. Les Crane told us about the Mallorca cruise upcoming in September 2023. Steve Calhoun described the plans for Baja in spring 2024, noting that the cruise co-chairs are now Dan Gribble and Gary Davidson. Les Crane returned to tell us about Sicily and Malta in the fall of 2024. Vice Commodore noted that Jonathan Brewin is working on plans for a Scotland cruise in the summer of 2025. The Commodore noted that the next place tentatively on the list is Croatia. Details about each of these cruises can be found in the written reports for this meeting and on the cruise pages on the website.
36. Dennis Powers noted that it is a tradition at the end of Essex station meetings to ask for the station historian's report. He called upon Jeb Embree, who was the historian for 17 years, to present what turned out to be a wonderful tale.
37. For new business, the Commodore announced that at last week's Governing Board meeting, the board voted to submit an application on behalf of the CCA to become an Affiliate Member of the International Council of Yacht Clubs. It is a group of nearly 40 senior clubs around the world and the CCA has been invited to apply to become the first Affiliate Member. The tangible benefits of this will be more exposure of the CCA all over the world and opportunities

to connect with these clubs. And we will be able to attend the Commodore's Forum to exchange ideas.

38. The Commodore highlighted the remaining elements of the Centennial celebration for the week. In particular, he noted the CCA's presence at the Sailing Museum and the fact that 25% of the national sailing hall of fame inductees are or were CCA Members.

39. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 15:40.

Respectfully Submitted,

Molly Barnes
Secretary, CCA