

**Cruising Club of America**

**2021 Historian’s Log**

**Extended Version**

The year 2021 began with a world struggling to contain a pandemic. John Rousmaniere’s CCA Historian’s Log of 2020 reported the rolling cancellations of Club events during that year amid the worldwide epidemic of Covid -19, a global rampage not unlike the Spanish Influenza epidemic just prior the Club’s founding in 1922. However, New Year’s Day 2021 brought with it hope, the prospect of vaccines to eliminate the spread of the virus and the plans of governments to contain it with mandates and masking. However, cruisers were trapped in harbors around the world, unable to voyage and sometimes unable to go ashore. Yachts were separated from skippers and crews who could not travel to board them. Sailors were prohibited from crossing borders. But CCA members, ever adventurous, kept on the favored layline. Virtual monthly meetings continued until in-person gatherings made sense. Cruises were held with safety protocols in place to allow us to be with our shipmates. Yachts were shipped home from abroad. Some racing was accomplished.

The Annual Meeting launching the ninety-ninth year of the Cruising Club of America was held virtually and called to order by Commodore Robert Medland on Sunday, March 7, 2021. The Commodore welcomed all attendees and Anne Kolker, Events Chair, assisted by Mark Lenci, monitored attendees on the ZOOM link and at one point there were 189 present.

The CCA Annual and Fall Meetings allow those who so generously lead the Club to report on their work and give thanks to those who have helped them. Officer reports were called for and provided.

Treasurer Peter Chandler stated that the Club is solvent and financially strong, and its funds are well invested. The cancelling of so many events required significant effort in returning deposits and minimizing cancellation fees. Thanks were extended to Nick Kennedy for his assistance in dues collection and Jeff Eberle for his stewardship of Bermuda Race finances.

Secretary Jay Gowell read the names of 15 members who had sailed their final voyage since the Fall Meeting in October. A moment of silence was observed for our departed shipmates. Despite these losses, membership continues to grow modestly and now stands at 1,395. The oldest member was born in 1922 and the youngest in 1995. Grateful thanks were extended to Larry Somers for maintaining the mailing list, Michael Moradzadeh for his extraordinary oversight of the website and club database, Maggie Salter for her wonderful editing of Final Voyages and Vice Commodore Otorowski for his continuing support and guidance.

Fleet Surgeon Dr. Jeff Wisch gave a brief report on the pandemic and the importance of wearing masks and physical distancing. He urged us all to not succumb to “Covid Fatigue”.

Vice Commodore Chris Otorowski reported that as V/C, he serves as chairman of the Communications Committee as well as the Archives Committee and as interim Editor of *Waypoints* this year with the retirement of Dev Barker. He heartily thanked Dev for his commendable steering of that publication.

Commodore Medland added his particular thanks to the many members who have worked so diligently on club cruises, particularly Dave Curtin who worked on the CCA’s participation in Cork300, Les Crane and Jock Macrae who had organized the Mallorca Cruise and Gaynelle Templin, Dean Rau, and Sarah Lund who were organizing the Apostle Islands Cruise in 2021, all of all of which have been cancelled due to the pandemic.

Committee Reports, in part, included the following:

Membership Chairman Ernie Godshalk reported that 16 new members were elected by the Governing Board. This number represents seven Stations, one female and three Next Watch members, collectively with an average age of 61. He read the new statement of diversity, equity and inclusion included in the new Membership Guidelines and encouraged all members to propose qualified candidates, especially women and younger members.

The Awards made by the Cruising Club of America are an important and historic part of the Annual Meeting. The CCA Awards for 2020 are as follows:

Blue Water Medal: Randall Reeves for sailing his 45-foot aluminum cutter *Moli* singlehanded around Antarctica and then through the Northwest Passage in a single season. He is the first to accomplish the 39,000-nautical-mile ‘Figure 8” voyage.

Far Horizon’s Award: Stephen Brown for his five-year series of cruises through the Northwest Passage, Alaska, the Chilean Channels, South Georgia, Antarctica, returning to Maine and completing a circumnavigation of the Americas.

Rod Stephens Seamanship Award: Christian Charalambous for his courageous action in freeing the life raft of the overturned yacht *Showtime* at night between Hobart and Sydney, thus saving the four-man crew in the storm-tossed and frigid Southern Ocean.

Richard S. Nye Award: Peter Chandler for his twenty years of managing the finances of the CCA and of the Boston Station for the 13 prior years. His was the quiet and steady hand at the financial tiller.

Young Voyager Award: To the French couple Calypso Romero and Adrien Koller for a remarkable series of voyages and adventures in the Atlantic, Pacific, Antarctica, and Indian Oceans, all completed before entering their early thirties.

Royal Cruising Club Trophy: Simon and Sally Currin for their exploration of the rarely visited, often ice-bound coast of northeast Greenland, entering Scoresby Sound and visiting one of the two Inuit villages on this remote coast, “ a most interesting cruise of singular merit…”

Charles R. Vilas Literary Prize: Alan K. Forsythe for his article in *Voyages* entitled “The *Essex* and the *Easterling,* Two Whale Attacks in the Pacific”, two harrowing events separated by 144 years.

Circumnavigation Award: Jeanne Socrates for becoming the oldest person to circumnavigate solo, nonstop, and unassisted. She went eastabout via the Five Great Capes.

Awards Chairman Steve James, ably assisted by David Tunick, hosted a virtual awards ceremony at the conclusion of meeting. Awardees for 2020 and moderator/hosts gathered in virtual breakout rooms and conducted lively visits with the membership. Steve conveyed particular thanks to Bill Cook who has chaired the Awards Committee for the past five years.

Past Commodore Brad Willauer reported that the new not-for-profit Bermuda Race Foundation has been formed to enable the raising of tax-deductible donations and enhance the financial sustainability of the race. He thanked to Jay Gowell and Peter Chandler for their assistance in this important effort.

Bermuda Race Organizing Committee Chairman Somers Kempe filed a report stating that entries for the 2022 Race are being invited a year in advance and that concerns over Covid and its impact are being closely evaluated. Somers noted, with thanks, the successful effort to create the Bermuda Race Foundation, Inc. and the Race sponsorship efforts of Will Passano in Bermuda.

*Voyages* editors Zdenka and Jack Griswold were heartily thanked for their stewardship and hard work in editing this wonderful club publicationfor the past four years. They finished the 64th issue and handled the helm to Ami and Bob Green. Maggie Salter edited Final Voyages beautifully.

Webmaster Michael Moradzadeh gave a brief update on the Club’s Website. His goal is to develop ways to reach out to the sailing public more broadly in areas such as safety and seamanship, charts and guides, and environment of the sea while enhancing resources for members.

*Waypoints*. V/C Chris Otorowski, interim editor of *Waypoints*, emphasized that there is capacity and flexibility in this publication which serves as the Club’s most frequent communication vehicle.

*Yearbook* Editor Murray Beach and the Yearbook Committee, Michael Moradzadeh and Larry Somers, are preparing the 2021 Yearbook, attempting to streamline the process and coordinate the various data sources of the Club.

Safety and Seamanship Chair John Robinson described the difficulties posed by cancellations of training courses, emphasizing that Mark Lenci will need volunteers to meet the expected demand for SAS training once Covid restrictions are lifted. He urged members to take advantage of US Sailing online courses and complimented Michael Moradzadeh for providing better on-line access to posted SAS articles.

Archives Chair Mark Ellis noted that Mystic Seaport had generously scanned tabloid sized editions of the CCA News from 1962 to 1986, soon to be available online. Mark thanked Mark Grosby for leading the digital efforts.

Bonnell Cove Foundation President Joyce Lhamon reported that grants totaling $53,000 were made to organizations advancing youth boating, marine stewardship, innovative environmental protection devices and safety at sea equipment. Joyce extended special thanks to Frank Bohlen, Paul Rogers and Commodore Medland for their many hours of effort in support of the Foundation’s work.

Financial Affairs Committee Chair Kathleen O’Donnell stated that, with the budget established, the Treasurer will provide quarterly reports comparing actual results to budget. The guiding principle is breakeven operation and a continuing strong financial footing. Kathleen offered thanks to Peter Chandler for his help in transitioning to new accounting and computer systems.

Charts and Guides Chair Doug Bruce reported that CCA-branded editions of our four Canadian Maritime guides continue the tradition of offering updated and detailed cruising information. He also reported on the forthcoming book *Essential Passage Planning Guide for the Viking Route*. He thanked the many members, forty in fact, who support the efforts of the Committee and extended particular thanks to Max Fletcher in his work to digitize the guides and Mike Moradzadeh for his design consultation. Chart loaning continues to be available through the website.

Events Chair Anne Kolker reported that future events, including the Fall Meeting in Nova Scotia, remain uncertain, although the Lunenburg gathering is likely to be virtual. We turn our attention to the 100th Anniversary celebration with the hope that a more normal climate for gathering returns.

100th Anniversary. Vice Commodore Chris Otorowski reported on the 100th Anniversary plans, identifying the host hotel, “Newport Harbor Hotel”. Activities will include feeder gams, past Blue Water Medal winners, a gala banquet likely at NYYC’s Harbour Court Station, a possible regatta day, and publication of two books. The dates are Sept. 11-16, 2022. The Essex Station will host the Fall Meeting at the venue.

Environment of the Sea. Rowena Carlson recognized the great effort made by outgoing EoSC Chair Joe Harris for his focus on EoS education. Rowena will focus on “what can we do”, with an emphasis on climate change, pollution, and marine wildlife.

Technical Committee Chair P/C Jim Binch outlined changes in the leadership of US Sailing and the Offshore Racing Association. The Offshore Racing Rule will be applied for the 2021 Ensenada Race and will continue to be the system of choice for the Bermuda, Marion to Bermuda Cruising, Halifax, Transpacific, Pacific Cup and many other races. He later reported that ISO is considering increased standards for keels and hull-keel joints.

Stalwart Ski Gam Leaders Johnny and Po Martin filed a report stating that hopes remain high that we can return to the mountains together in February 2022.

Communications Chair V/C Otorowski gave thanks across the board to the many members who are involved in the Club’s outreach. Notably, the Communications Committee Report gave shout-outs to Haley Lhamon and John Rousmanier for work on the *Gam,* Doug Bruce for Charts and Guides, Roel Hoekstra for managing social media and Michael Moradzadeh for his stellar website maintenance. Thanks were also expressed to Zdenka and Jack Griswold for extraordinary issues of *Voyages,* Dennis Powers for marketing oversight assisted by John Burnham, Murray Beach for the Yearbook, Roddy Hearne for stewardship of “Next Watch” initiatives, and John Robinson for communications surrounding Safety and Seamanship. Thanks were also expressed to Jeff Wisch for his urgent and continuous communication of developments and policies related to the pandemic. Finally, V/C Otorowski commended Ernie Godshalk for overseeing and providing guidelines for the membership process.

Sadly, there were no cruise reports.

Each Rear Commodore and Post Captain submitted a written report and had an opportunity to briefly address how his/her Station and Post had adapted to the pandemic. All favorably reported active Zoom schedules with a remarkable variety of speakers and some reported socially distanced cruises. Notable efforts included the Boston Station’s Fall Gam at Cuttyhunk and the Pacific Northwest Station holding two “Non-Cruise Cruises” in the San Juan Islands observing careful distancing protocols and even holding their traditional in-person Annual Dinner in November and the Chesapeake Station holding a Christmas Luncheon for 27 stalwarts. Stations and posts uniformly reported innovative ways to gather virtually and share fascinating programs. The pandemic couldn’t keep ‘em down!

Finally, the election of Officers and Nominating Committee members was called for. With 455 votes in favor and an additional poll of Zoom attendees who added 27 additional ayes, the slate of nominees was elected.

Commodore Medland adjourned the meeting and made way for an entertaining and very pleasant virtual Awards presentation.

For Cruising Club members, the summer of 2021 was a repeat of a familiar story. More boats were launched for the season. The Newfoundland Cruise and the Apostle Islands Cruise both went by the wayside. The Fall Meeting was held for the second time virtually to the disappointment of all who had hoped to visit our friends in Lunenburg, but Canada remained closed. However, members did cruise locally and race when possible and the Stations and Posts so reported. That kind of socially distanced yachting endured.

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The October 2, 2021, Fall Meeting of the Cruising Club of America was hosted by the Bras d’Or Station and broadcast on a virtual basis from Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. Committee meetings were held earlier and the General Meeting was then called to order by Commodore Robert Medland. He expressed his appreciation to Rear Commodore (BDO) Bernard Prevost and his committee for diligently coordinating the event and he also expressed thanks to the Events Committee chaired by Anne Kolker and to Vice Commodore Chris Otorowski, Secretary Jay Gowell, Webmaster Mike Moradzadeh and the Zoom Host for the meeting David Tunick. Further recognition was given to Peter Chandler who is coming off watch as CCA Treasurer and has provided invaluable guidance to the Club, the Boston Station and the Bermuda Race Organizing Committee. Plans for the Annual Meeting in March 2022, the Bermuda Race, Club and Station cruises and the Centennial Celebration are all well underway, but the pandemic may require an update of the Club’s Covid policy. He then called on Secretary Gowell for the roll call.

Secretary Gowell reported that there were 61 members in attendance via Zoom and that he held 205 proxies, thus providing a quorum for the meeting. Jay indicated that membership stands at 1,399 up from 1,394 despite the loss of 30 shipmates in 2020 and another 10 since the Annual Meeting in March, the names of whom were read and a moment of silence in their memories was observed. There have been 52 new members elected in the past twelve months. The average age hasn’t changed much from the report in March but female members now number 116.

Treasurer Peter Chandler pointed out that with the cancellation of so many activities there has been seen a decrease in expenses and increase in net income allowing the Club to invest in the 100th Anniversary Celebration by supporting of two books commemorating the event. He thanked Jeff Eberle for supervising the Bermuda Race finances and Nick Kennedy the difficult work of dues collection.

Fleet Surgeon Dr. Jeff Wisch referred the membership to an extensive Covid report which is available on the website and noted that a Covid Taskforce has been formed to provide guidelines to the Club for dealing with the pandemic.

Commodore Medland closed the Officer Reports by giving heartfelt thanks to the many members who have made numerous sail changes in adjusting to the shifting winds of the pandemic. He also noted that the CCA is, happily, on a secure mooring with strong financials and able leadership, poised for its second century as an important and influential world leader in the adventurous use of the sea. Committee Reports followed.

Membership Chairman Ernie Godshalk reporting that 14 new members were elected by the Governing Board last week. This reflects a decrease from last Fall’s total of 36 new members and represents six Stations, seven Next Watch members and an average age of 55.

Next Watch Chair Drew Plominski filed a report outlining the efforts of the committee to attract younger members and develop activities to keep them engaged.

Bermuda Race Organizing Committee Chairman Somers Kempe stated that to date 124 entries have been confirmed, a larger number than in any prior cycle. Sailors want to cross the Gulf Stream again.

100th Anniversary Chairman V/C Otorowski reiterated the dates and plans for the Celebration on September 11-16, 2022. Reservations are still available at the Newport Harbor Hotel.

The new editors for *Voyages* Ami and Bob Green thanked their predecessors Zdenka and Jack Griswold and stated that they are looking forward to their new roles.

The *Gam* and *Waypoints* have both been steered by interim editor Chris Otorowski who urged members to step forward to take the reins of these two important Club publications.

The Yearbook’s editor Murray Beach has also stepped down and V/C Otorowski expressed thanks to Tony Will, Mike Moradzadeh, Commodore Medland and Jay Gowell for their assistance in completing the Yearbook. Volunteers for editing and other assistance were invited.

Communications, led by V/C Commodore Otorowski, sited the numerous important examples of outreach from many quarters including Marketing, Cruising Guides, Website, social media, Safety and Seamanship, Membership, Next Watch, and the CCA publications *Voyages*, *Waypoints,* the *Gam* and the *Yearbook.*

Safety and Seamanship Chairman John Robinson noted that 13 Safety at Sea courses have been scheduled and that every effort is being made to support the required training for the 2022 Bermuda Race. John also described a new safety initiative, the ‘School of Hard Rocks”, which encourages members to share personal experiences wherein unwelcomed outcomes might have or did result from poor safety protocols.

Archives Chairman Mark Grosby filed his report stating that he had accepted leadership of the committee and thanked his predecessor, Mark Ellis.

Joyce Lhamon, President of the Bonnell Cove Foundation reported that The Spring Newsletter featured the NW School of Wooden Boatbuilding and the building of the vessel *Clean Bay,* a zero-emissions workboat. A grant was made to the Center for Coastal Studies which examines the relationship of sharks, seals and fish off Cape Cod beaches.

Commodore Medland asked Larry Glenn to report on the possible acquisition of the Haskell property in Bras D’Or Lakes, a natural treasure with significant links to CCA history. Additional news on this initiative should be available in Waypoints and the Bonnell Cove Fall Newsletter.

Charts and Guides Chair Doug Bruce noted that a new Maine Cruising Guide is on the way, thanks to the help of 20 contributors, primarily from the Gulf of Maine Post. Bill Strassberg continues his work on the Viking Route Guide and Wilson Fitts expects to complete an updated and enhanced edition of the Nova Scotia Guide this fall. This committee benefits from the contribution of about 60 members.

Events Chair Anne Kolker’s report was given by V/C Otorowski who shared that the Annual Meeting in New York is scheduled for March and plans for four upcoming cruises are underway: 2022 in Newfoundland, a winter 2023 Caribbean Cruise, Mallorca in the Fall of 2023, and a 2024 Baja Cruise.

Environment of the Sea Chair Rowena Carlsen emphasized the important of making sure Club events are conducted in an environmentally conscious manner. The focus currently is on single- use plastics and she encouraged CCA members to join Sailors of the Sea and to follow their “Green Boating” guidelines.

Investments Chair Tom Post and Commodore Medland announced the positive results of that Committee on behalf of the Club and that the investment account now stood at $1.6 million.

The Stations and Posts each filed reports, cruises were noted and virtual presentations were highlighted. Gatherings such as GMP’s “Fenders over the Side”, Boston/ Buzzards Bay/Narragansett Bay’s “Follow the Wave” Mini Gams with gatherings at Third Beach and Dutch Harbor, the Essex Station’s mini-cruising in Maine, the Bras d’Or Station’s cruise of Nova Scotia’s Eastern Shore, the Chesapeake Station’s cruise including Tangier Island, and the PNW’s “Non-Cruise Cruises” in Admiralty Inlet and the San Juans allowed us to gather on the water. Racing was limited but that didn’t keep Jim Quanci and Robb Walker of the San Francisco Station and SoCal’s Brendan Huffman from bringing home class honors in the Singlehanded Transpacific Race. Needing more nautical miles, Jim singlehanded back and Rowena Carlson joined Robb for the difficult leg home to San Francisco. The Transpacific Yacht Race saw two more SAF sailors, Michael Moranzadeh and Dave MacEwen team up to help win the Transpac Team Trophy for the St. Francis Yacht Club. Hiro Nakajima (NYS) crossed the Atlantic in *Hiro Maru* to compete successfully in a blustery Fastnet Race. Finally, Carl Buchan of PNW won the International Masters Regatta to add yet another sailing Championship to his long list.

In New Business, Ernie Godshalk reported that Ali Bell has succeeded Drew Plominski as Next Watch Chair. Jeff Eberle reported that $150,000 had been committed to the NBR by the Bermuda Tourist Agency. David Tunick reported on planning for a jointly sponsored (RBYC, NYYC, STC and CCA) shorthanded race to return from Bermuda after the Bermuda Race. Future events were reviewed, and Commodore Medland adjourned the meeting at 1830 hours.

Following the Fall Meeting, Awards Committee Chairman Steve James hosted a lively presentation by 2019 Far Horizon’s Award winners Peter and Ginger Niemann. Following this Bernard Prevost and the Bra d’Or Station hosted a very pleasant virtual social gathering. It was a good Fall meeting thanks to the redirected efforts of so many.

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In the months following the Fall Meeting, the hopes of abatement of Covid were dashed. The Omicron variant roared forth, bringing even more cases than in the initial stages of the pandemic. Vaccines were approved for younger and younger people, but the highly transmissible disease did not retreat.

As 2021 ended, the CCA continued to plan for the celebration of its Centennial. Looking back, in November of 1921 the origins of the Club were launched aboard William Washburn Nutting’s storm-battered *Typhoon,* fresh from that year’s two Transatlantic passages to England and back. Nutting had returned to New York in late November with guidance from British yachting luminaries and hatched a plan to establish an American version of the Royal Cruising Club. Thus were sown, one hundred years ago, the seeds of the Cruising Club of America. It endures today, hearty and robust, varied and strong, unique and admired for its members’ exploits and their adventurous use of the sea.

End