



Minutes
The Cruising Club of America
Annual Meeting of Members
New York Yacht Club
Friday, March 1, 2024

1. Commodore Chris Otorowski called the meeting to order at 1515 hours.
2. Secretary Molly Barnes confirmed that there was a quorum.
3. The Commodore welcomed all participants and noted that everyone should have received a copy of the agenda and reports on the website. (Please note that the reports are attached at the end of the minutes for reference.)
4. There was a motion made and seconded to approve the minutes from the Fall Meeting of Members, which was held on 9/29/2023 in Lunenburg. The motion passed.
5. The Commodore gave his report, which included a general summary of the accomplishments of the CCA during his tenure. Chris noted that it has been a team effort marked by members challenging both the high seas and the administrative processes that go along with having a club like ours. Some highlights include the creation of the Bermuda Race Foundation, which is now a healthy 501c3 entity that can accept donations thus insuring the livelihood of the race into the future; the development of the Long Range Plan; the Centennial event, attended by over 400 people; the Gary Jobson movie about the CCA; the publication of two books- Shiela McCurdy's upcoming History of the CCA and Tim Murphy's *Adventurous Use of the Sea*; development of a budgeting methodology; the decision to give honorary CCA membership to all Blue Water Medal winners, noting that Kirsten Neuschäfer was the first to accept; we have an engaged membership; the Bermuda Race itself is being updated thanks to the large committee of volunteers; the nominating committee has done a fine job engaging new leaders for the club; and there are a number of cruises organized and on the calendar for the next two years. Chris noted that this is just a short list of the highlights and that there are many more things the club continues to accomplish. The Commodore's report was followed by three cheers for Commodore Otorowski.
6. Vice Commodore Jay Gowell gave his report. He began by thanking the incredible group of volunteers who work hard on behalf of the CCA. He reminded everyone that he had participated in an outstanding CCA cruise in Mallorca by putting on a Mallorca cruise hat. He then changed hats 5 more times to highlight the following cruises: Antigua and Guadeloupe next week, the Sea of Cortez in May, Bermuda after the race in June and July, Downeast Maine in August, and the West coast of Scotland in July 2025. He encouraged everyone to check out the details of the various cruises on the website.

7. Kathleen O'Donnell noted that the Treasurer's Report stands as submitted. She highlighted her appreciation for outgoing chair Chace Anderson, incoming chair Peter Griffin, and the Financial Affairs Committee who helped her with the budgeting process. She also thanked Tom Post, chair of the Investment Committee, for his efforts in overseeing our Fidelity investment accounts which did well this year. She noted that as of today, 93% of members have paid their annual dues, thanks in large part to the efforts of Michael Moradzadeh, Nick Kennedy and Molly Barnes. In addition, she thanked Ernie Godshalk and the Rear Commodores for their help last year in collecting dues and also in conducting exit interviews to understand why members choose to leave the club. She noted that we are moving accounts to Bank of America, which should make it easier for cruise chairs to access funds for deposits and the like. Finally, she outlined the budgeting process, noting that new committee chairs and flag officers would receive an accounting of expenditures to date in June or July along with a prompt to begin thinking about their budgetary needs for the following year. Kathleen expects to discuss the budget at the fall meeting in the Chesapeake and to approve a final budget at the governing board meeting in December.
8. Molly Barnes noted the Report of the Secretary stands as submitted. She also reminded everyone that twice a year for the fall meeting and then for the annual meeting, Committee Chairs, Rear Commodores and Post Captains submit written reports. If you want to know what is going on in the committees, stations and posts, and if you want to notice all of the hard work done by the volunteers, you can find those reports posted on the website on the meeting page and then archived in the archived documents section. Molly noted that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Secretary and looks forward to moving onto their boat, Sila, in June, where she expects not to have enough connectivity to do the job.
9. Doug Adkins gave the Report of the Historian, noting that his report stands as submitted. In addition, Doug presented a thanks, an invitation, and a request. The thanks went to Commodores Otorowski and McCurdy who both helped him when he was in need of material for his column in Waypoints. He also thanked anyone who sends comments about his articles, as he is grateful for that as well. He then invited any member who has a topic that you would like the historian to explore, to send it to him. Finally, he had a request that any interested songbirds help themselves to the songbooks that he was recently given. He noted that they may serve as an opportunity for singing and bonding on cruises in particular.
10. Fleet Surgeon, Dr. Jeff Wisch, said his report stands as submitted. He reminded us that as Fleet Surgeon, he serves as an advisor to a number of initiatives and committees and is available to stations and members for issues that pertain to our health. He invited anyone to be in touch about health concerns as they relate to going to sea.
11. Fleet Captain, Paul Hamilton, said his report stands as submitted. The Commodore thanked Paul for his eleven years of service in the role.
12. The Commodore noted that each of the Rear Commodores and Post Captains had submitted written reports (those reports can be found on the Fall Meeting Section of the CCA website) in advance of the meeting and invited each to share a highlight or addition to those reports.

- a. For the Bermuda station, Les Crane noted that though RC Somers Kemp was unable to attend the meeting, he had submitted his report. Les highlighted the upcoming Newport-Bermuda Race, the shorthanded return race that he and Peter Becker are organizing, and the cruise around Bermuda after the race. Right now, there are about a dozen boats signed up for the shorthanded return, and Les encouraged any interested parties to be in touch.
- b. RC Bill Greenwood noted first that his report stands. He then highlighted that the Bras D'Or station was very pleased to have hosted a successful fall meeting in Lunenburg. In other exciting news, the station now has 3 members who are from Newfoundland. Bill, noting that the committee has begun working on it, invited us to mark our calendars for a summer 2027 cruise in the Bras D'Or Lakes.
- c. RC Nick Orem noted that the Boston Station report stands as submitted. He reviewed some of the elements of his report, including that 13 new members were elected to the station in the fall, and that there has been great turnout for some recent events with interesting speakers. The Commodore took the opportunity to remind everyone to keep the website updated with the events the stations and posts are hosting so that members from other stations who might be in the area can join.
- d. For the Buzzard's Bay Post, Ray Collum's report stands.
- e. For the Gulf of Maine, Peter Driscoll's report stands as submitted by Charlie Tarbell.
- f. Ned Jones noted that the Narragansett Bay post report stands. Noting that he is new to the role, he highlighted one upcoming event on May 18 when author Tim Murphy will be presenting his book and story about Jimmy Buffet.
- g. For the Chesapeake Station, RC Bev Crump noted that his report stands as submitted. He reminded everyone that all CCA members are welcome at their monthly luncheons which are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month (except July) at the Annapolis Yacht Club with no RSVP required. He also noted that the Chesapeake Station is hosting the fall 2024 meeting, also at the Annapolis Yacht Club, on October 16 and 17. There will be notices and information about lodging on the website, including details about a cruise immediately following the meeting.
- h. RC Tow Wadlow said the Essex station report stands as submitted, adding that the Essex station is in good shape, as demonstrated by having 64 of 80 members present for the annual meeting and dinner.
- i. Pat Montgomery spoke on behalf of the Florida station, noting that the report stands as submitted by RC Atle Moe. Pat noted that for the first time in a while, Florida has 3 new members. She also reminded us that Florida has 1200 miles of coastline and 70-degree weather!
- j. Bob Medland spoke on behalf of the Great Lakes Station, noting that RC Peter Balasubramanian is currently sailing in the Heineken Regatta. He highlighted several GLS members who are off sailing in distant places, thus making adventurous use of the sea. The Chicago Yacht Club has dedicated a trophy to a CCA member, The Wally Stenhouse Trophy which honors fresh water sailors who have moved to the salt waters.
- k. RC Peter Becker said his New York station report stands as submitted and highlighted a few upcoming events from the report.

- l. RC Doug Adkins began by stating that the Pacific Northwest station report stands as submitted. He reminded us that the PNW station will be hosting the fall 2025 meeting and encouraged all to join the PNW cruise that fall, especially those who have sailed in Scotland so that you can see how much warmer the rainy and grey Pacific Northwest is by comparison!
- m. Southern California RC Jim Eddy said his report stands as filed. He then reminded everyone that they are organizing the Sea of Cortez cruise in early May, noting that there are still some boats available and to look at the website more information.
- n. Chuck Hawley, RC of the San Francisco station, noted that his report stands as submitted with two addendums. First, the SAF will be co-hosting with the Saint Francis Yacht Club a presentation by Syliva Earl, noted oceanographer and Environmentalist, on March 27. And since submitting the report, SAF station member Ronnie Simpson suffered a dismasting during the Global Solo Challenge race, was successfully rescued, and is now safely on shore.
13. The Commodore noted that Committee Reports were submitted in advance of this meeting and then invited committee chairs to add to those reports if desired.
 - a. Mark Grosby submitted the Archives report but was unable to attend the meeting. Michael Moradzadeh, having attended the Archives Committee meeting yesterday, noted that they are in the process of reorganizing the archives and are headed toward using an external service such as Dropbox.
 - b. Steve James noted that his report stands as submitted with minor additions. First, the awards ceremony tonight promises to be a good one as all of the recipients are in attendance. Second, the Board of Directors voted to approve the Awards Committee proposal that Blue Water Medalists become Honorary Members of the CCA. One goal is to maintain closer relationships with these sailors rather than losing contact with them after the awards dinner. Steve announced that the first to accept this membership is Kirsten Neuschäfer. The Commodore thanked Steve for his tremendous work leading this committee.
 - c. Brad Wilauer announced that the Bermuda Race Foundation report stands as filed and then reiterated Commodore Otorowski's remarks that the Foundation was created thanks to the idea put forth by Commodore Binch and then the work put forth by Jay Gowell and Jeff Eberle. Brad then reminded us that the Bermuda Race Foundation is a 501c3 organization and invited members to support the BRF and thanked the donors who have already contributed.
 - d. Andrew Kallfelz began by noting that the Bermuda Race Organizing Committee report stands as submitted. He then highlighted the fact that the very large committee is very busy right now preparing for the 2024 edition of the race. They are expecting to have approximately 175 boats at the starting line on June 21st. He then noted the significant changes to the race this year. First is moving the start to Fort Adams, which adds only one mile to the race but is designed to make the start more exciting for the public with a live show event on land. Second is a change to the scoring system. The Bermuda Race will be the first ocean race to use the Forecast Time Correction Factor scoring. Andrew also thanked all of the committee members who are doing all of the work to support the race, both here and in Bermuda. Andrew invited us, if we are not racing, to be on the ramparts at Fort Adams where there is a special place for VIPs. And if that is not possible, he encouraged us to participate online.

- e. Bob Medland noted that the Bonnell Cove Foundation report stands as filed with an update. Yesterday the Foundation reviewed requests from 19 organizations for a total of \$139,000. The Foundation approved grants to 10 organizations for a total of \$50,000. Bob then reminded us that the Bonnell Cove Foundation is also a 501c3 and would welcome your continued support. He thanked all of the donors that make their work possible.
- f. Wilson Fitt, whose report stands as filed, was unable to attend so Doug Bruce spoke on behalf of the Charts and Guides Committee. Doug highlighted that the paper guides had a good year last year, bolstered by the new Viking Route Guide, edited by Bill Strassburg. It has far surpassed sales expectations. The online Maine guide, which has been up and running for the last year and half experienced a 140% increase in use this year. The plan is to extend the online guide to include southern New England, under the leadership of Dick Waterman.
- g. James Phyfe noted that the Communications Committee report stands. He then took a moment to note that all of the club's communications are going very strong and he thanked the various editors for their dedicated work on world class publications. He finished with a special thanks to Bob and Ami Green, who are stepping down from the job, for producing another wonderful edition of Voyages.
- h. Rowena Carlson noted the Environment of the Sea report stands with one addition. The pollution statement in the yearbook has been revised to emphasize the reduction of single use plastics. Rowena is continuing with the Environmental Moments in Waypoints and invited suggestion and questions for those articles as well as the ones in the Gam.
- i. Anne Kolker, Chair of the Events Committee, began by saying "this is the event!" She thanked everyone for coming and noted that participation is up this year from last year. She then announced that Deanna Polizzo will be taking over as Events Chair.
- j. Chace Anderson noted that the Financial Affairs report stands as submitted. Noting that the committee had a productive year, Chace highlighted the committee's work on developing a budget and thanked Kathleen, the Treasurer, for all her work. Chace then welcomed John Devlin and Nick Orem to the committee and thanked Peter Griffin for taking over as chair.
- k. Phil Dickey's Gam report stands as submitted. He then thanked Dorothy Wadlow and Dianne Embree for all their hard work, which includes writing bios for about half of the CCA members.
- l. Liz Baylis's report on Guest Moorings stands.
- m. Tom Post's Investment report stands.
- n. For the Long Range Planning committee, Tim Surgenor gave a presentation (see attached slide deck for details). Tim began with a reminder about who and what the CCA is: we are 1,400 people, brought together by our love of sailing and the sea, and also by our command experience and our character. The CCA is composed of very independent stations and posts around the world and as a club, we go to amazing places together on our cruises. And perhaps most importantly, the CCA has a positive impact on the blue water sailing community through the Bermuda Race, our guidebooks,

periodicals and publications, through our Safety and Seamanship publications and training, development of technical standards, and awards given to recognize ocean sailors. That is our starting point. Committee work from 2021 to 2023 included pulling together previous planning documents, feedback from club leadership, and a survey of the membership. Committee conclusions start with “Steady as she goes” because they are not proposing any major changes. Tim noted that they have developed three goals for going forward: 1) Continue to build the CCA Community, 2) Maintain membership standards and return to slow membership growth, and 3) Increase awareness of the CCA among the blue water sailing community. Tim reminded us that if you are writing an article for a non-CCA publication or giving a presentation, please be sure to mention that you are a CCA member. Please refer to the slide deck for more details about each of the goals and possible implementation. The Commodore noted that this has been a massive project and thanked Tim and his committee for all the work.

- o. Ernie Godshalk’s Membership Committee report stands as submitted. Ernie highlighted two points. First is that the membership committee recommended 22 candidates that the Board of Governors in turn approved on February 16th and second is that James Phyfe has accepted the position as Membership Chair. The Commodore thanked Ernie for his work as Membership Chair, noting in particular his work to preserve the integrity of admissions standards.
- p. Jesse Terry introduced himself as the new chair of the Next Watch Committee. Noting that his report stands, he thanked club leadership for their guidance and support. He then highlighted the first two Next Watch events, a cocktail party last night at the NYYC and an upcoming event in Bermuda after the race.
- q. Quartermaster Steve Prime announced that after being squirreled away for a year and half, the St. David's Lighthouse Trophy is downstairs and available for viewing. The Commodore noted that Steve is an unsung hero for all the work that he does to care for and move the trophies around.
- r. Bill Strassberg submitted the Safety and Seamanship report but was unable to attend the meeting. Ann Noble-Kiley gave a brief review of the committee meeting from the day before. She noted that Brian Guck ran a fabulous meeting which was a great opportunity for all of us to get educated. Many individuals shared what is going on with rules, regulations, sailing incidents, the new statements on man overboard and the use of tethers, which will be on the website. The Commodore also thanked Ann for her work with the highly successful Safety at Sea seminars.
- s. The Technical Committee report stands as submitted by Jim Binch. Jim highlighted that this year’s Bermuda Race will be the first major ocean race in the world to use the Forecast Time Correction Factor scoring system. Jim noted that the great benefit of the system is that every skipper will know at the start of the race by how many minutes they have to beat or be beaten by the other boats in their class in order to win. Jim applauded the Technical Committee, the BROCC Technical Committee and US Sailing for stepping up and adopting this change now. Jim also noted that there has also been some discussion about using the ISO or STIX stability measure instead of the ORR SI that is used for the Bermuda Race. Because of some research done by the CCA Technical Committee, which is comprised of some of the most skilled sailors, World Sailing has agreed to review, modify and improve the ISO standards. Jim noted that the CCA is once again a major player in correcting the deficiencies in stability standards for world sailing

- t. Bob Darbee, Chair of the newly formed Trophy Committee, began with a history of how the CCA manages its trophy collection. For over half a century, it was housed in the New York Yacht Club. About 7 years ago, the collection was moved to IRYS in Newport. This move added a level of complexity as now the trophies need to be shuttled back and forth more, which Steve Prime has been doing. Also, the collection has grown substantially and is the CCA's most valuable tangible asset, valued at over \$500,000. The Awards committee has been responsible for determining what kinds of awards should be presented to whom, but the management of the trophies themselves has been less clear. The Governing Board recently approved the creation of a separate Trophy Committee to be responsible for the physical trophies. This committee is made up of the Trophy Chair (Bob Darbee), the Chair of the CCA Awards Committee, the chair of the Bermuda Race Awards Committee, the Quartermaster, the CCA Treasurer, and the CCA Vice Commodore. The Committee arranged to have the trophies here for the awards dinner tonight and is working on plans to ship and insure the relevant trophies to Bermuda for the race.
- u. Ami and Bob Green, the editors of Voyages Magazine, noted that their report stands as submitted. Ami noted that they thoroughly enjoyed the past three years of editing the magazine and were delighted to turn it over to Dan Biemesderfer. They also thanked all of the writers who have contributed to Voyages over the years and Bob highlighted Dave Curtin who works diligently to include obituaries for the Final Voyages section.
- v. Julie Kallfelz, editor of Waypoints said her report stands as submitted and also noted that she never lacks for great content to include. She appreciated both the regular submissions and the ad hoc ones, as well as Dave Curtin's attention to detail with Final Voyages every month. Julie noted that they have been measuring readership and open rates, which are both great, and that they are working on making Waypoints a little shorter and easier to navigate. Julie thanked Elizabeth Gowell who will be stepping into edit Waypoints for now and invited anyone who might be interested in the role going forward to contact her.
- w. Webmaster Michael Moradzadeh said his report stands as submitted with a couple of additions. He said that the website had a successful transition (bringing software up to date) with the assistance of outside support. He has been following up with some changes to the help pages and also launching a brand-new Member Forum, principally driven by Charts and Guides who wanted to be able to have people share cruising tips. The Commodore thanked Michael for his ten years of service to the club.
- x. Barbara Watson noted that her Yearbook report stands as submitted. She went on to thank Michael Moradzadeh who makes her job much easier by generating several sections of the yearbook from the website. The rest of the yearbook is done by hand and this year Karyn James and Vice Commodore Gowell both volunteered to do a lot of proofreading, which was greatly appreciated.
- 14. The Commodore called on Vice Commodore Jay Gowell to talk about the cruises. He gave another quick review of the upcoming cruises and encouraged everyone to explore the details on the website, especially noting that the Baja Cruise in May still has boats available and promises to be an interesting cruise in the wake of John Steinbeck.
- 15. Ernie Godshalk gave a quick pitch for Bob Rubadeau's book, *Bound for Roque Island: Sailing Maine and the World*. Ernie noted that it would be a great addition to your reading list in anticipation of the Downeast Cruise and invited people to purchase the book from him.

16. The Commodore introduced our distinguished guest, Rebecca Roberts, the Commodore of the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club.
17. Bob Medland, Chair, began by reminding us that the other members of the Nominating Committee are Commodore Binch, Commodore Willauer, Ernie Godshalk, and Gretchen McCurdy. He went on to state that the Nominating Committee is pleased to recommend for Commodore- John R. Gowell, for Vice Commodore- A. Chace Anderson, for Secretary-Pat Montgomery, for Treasurer- Kathleen M. O'Donnell, for Historian- Douglas D. Adkins, and for Governors for a term expiring in 2027, Bras D'Or- Bernard F. D. Prevost, Boston- Catherine Reppert, and San Francisco-Sally L. Honey. There was a motion made and seconded to elect the slate as listed. Commodore Otorowski called for a vote from those present and then confirmed with Secretary Molly Barnes that proxy votes had been counted and all were in favor. The motion to elect the slate of candidates passed.
18. Commodore Otorowski noted that the club is in great hands with the newly elected officers. He then thanked the retiring officers and governors for their service to the club: Commodore Chris Otorowski, Secretary Molly Barnes and Governors Hans F. Himmelman, Jeffery P. Gonsalves, and Rowena Carlson.
19. Newly Elected Commodore Gowell reviewed the new committee appointments. Ernie Godshalk, the new Fleet Captain, will also be the chair of the new Cruise Resources Committee. James Phyfe is stepping into role of Membership Committee Chair. Julie Kallfelz will be the new chair of the Communications committee. Elizabeth Gowell is taking over Waypoints and Dan Biemesderfer is taking over Voyages. Jesse Terry is the new chair of Next Watch. Bob Darbee has been overseeing the trophies, and now he has a committee to help him with that. We have a new committee on Interclub Relations that Chris Otorowski will be chairing. Peter Griffin will be the new chair of Financial Affairs and Deanna Polizzo will lead the Events committee. Jay thanked all the volunteers who are new and those who are taking over new roles.
20. In closing, Commodore Otorowski thanked the membership for the opportunity to lead the club, noting that it was a real honor and great fun for him and Shawn.
21. Commodore Gowell noted that the collection of activities- that include committee work, publications, awards, our events and our cruises- is our clubhouse. It is what brings us together as a club. Jay thanked everyone for making the effort to attend the events and cement our relationships.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Molly P. Barnes
Secretary, The Cruising Club of America