



Minutes
Cruising Club of America Annual Meeting of Members
New York Yacht Club, Commodore's Room
Saturday, March 4, 2023

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 noting that it was our first in-person meeting in New York since 2020.
4. There was a motion made and seconded to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2022 Fall meeting of Members. The motion carried.
5. The Commodore gave his report. He began by noting that the CCA is a very interesting club with 1400 members spread across 11 stations all over the country and in Canada and Bermuda. We don't have a yacht club where we all gather for parties so the glue that keeps us together are our publications and getting together for cruises. All the things that we as officers and leaders do throughout the year is designed to keep that going and to plan ahead for the cruises, which is what we are all about.
6. Vice Commodore, Jay Gowell, gave his report. Jay began by noting that covid forced us to cancel our cruises and to stop planning, but now we have several excellent cruises in the works.

He thanked Drew Kellogg for planning the BVI cruise on a short timeframe and called on him to report. Drew began by saying that he "looks forward to seeing you all at the Bitter End Yacht Club next Sunday night." He noted that the winter cruise is now going to the British Virgin Islands, beginning next week with 8 boats signed up and several others who are already in the BVI who will join for different parts.

VC Gowell called on Les Crane to report on the Mallorca Cruise, which is scheduled for September. Les noted that while there are 130 people signed up on 22 boats, there are still boats to be had if anyone is interested.

VC Gowell reminded us that June of 2024 will be the next Newport to Bermuda race and that planning is well underway. Then in September of 2024, Les Crane is helping to plan another cruise in the Mediterranean, this time to Malta and Sicily. Les noted that they have found charter boats (over 40 ft monohulls, some catamarans and some smaller boats) that cruise participants can take from Malta to Sicily. As of now, 65 people are booked on 10 boats in addition to a couple of

members on their own boats and there is space for more. Les also noted that the September 2024 dates do not conflict with the fall 2024 meeting in October in Annapolis.

Steve Calhoun then spoke briefly on behalf of the two cruise chairs, Dan Gribble & Gary Davidson, about the Sea of Cortez cruise that is scheduled for May 3-12, 2024. The cruise will start in Loreto and end in La Paz, Mexico. There are charter boats available and they hoping to have all of the boats committed before August.

Noting that Cruise co-chair Jonathan Brewin was not on the call, Jay called on Barbara Watson who is helping plan the cruise on west coast of Scotland in summer 2025. Barbara noted that they have been in touch with the Royal Cruising Club, the Irish Cruising Club, the Clyde Cruising Club and the Ocean Cruising Club about a joint cruise starting on July 19, 2025, noting that this promises to be a big party.

Jay then noted that we are looking into adding more cruises in the winter and spring months. He is looking for people who might like to be cruise chairs, noting that we are looking into perhaps going to Guadalupe in Feb/March of 2024, some place in the south Pacific, like Tahiti, in the winter of 2025, and the Bahamas in the late spring of 2026. Jay invited suggestions for other locations for the club and reminded us that station cruises are excellent as well, noting that there are good planning resources on the website and offering his own help as well.

7. The Commodore then called on the Treasurer, Kathleen O'Donnell, to make her report. She noted that she just completed her first year in the role, which was a baptism by fire with the 100th anniversary. Kathleen noted that her Treasurer's report stands as submitted and then went on to thank the Financial Affairs Committee and particularly Jeff Eberle for all their help with the books this year. Kathleen pointed out that they will be developing a 3rd budget this year with informational requests going out to committee chairs and stations in May or June so that she can have a budget prepared for discussion and approval at the meeting of members in October.
8. The Commodore called on Molly Barnes to give the Report of the Secretary. Molly noted that her report stands as submitted. She then highlighted the fact that she has spent a fair bit of secretarial time to systematize and document what happens in the Club Secretary role so that whoever takes over next will have an easier time figuring out what to do when. She also noted that the development of the style guide and guidance for the use of the burgee will be very helpful for the Club Secretary as well as those at the station level and looks forward to that work being completed.
9. The Commodore called on the Club Historian, Doug Adkins, to make his report. Doug noted that his report stands as filed. He thanked the Commodore and others who helped to get all of the yearbooks scanned as it has made it easier for him to go through them. He then invited any interested person to submit a limerick about our fellow CCA members. The Commodore thanked Doug for all of his history articles in Waypoints.
10. The Commodore next called on our Fleet Surgeon, Dr. Jeffery Wisch. He began by thanking the flag officers and the COVID 19 Task Force members, who have had a busy year. He noted that with positive indicators lately, we recently changed the CCA COVID policy, which is in Waypoints, noting that the CCA no longer requires proof of vaccination for participation in events. Dr. Wisch noted that he is looking forward to getting back into the usual functional role of Fleet Surgeon. The Commodore noted that Jeff and the Task Force, which includes 5 medically trained professionals,

worked hard on behalf of the CCA and led us through these last few years. There was a round of applause to thank Jeff and the Task Force.

11. The Commodore introduced the Fleet Captain, Paul Hamilton, who noted that his report stands as submitted.
12. The Commodore noted that there are written reports posted on the website from each of the Rear Commodores and Post Captains. He then called on each to make additional comments.
 - a. Les Crane, Bermuda, said his report stands as submitted.
 - b. Ernest Hamilton, Bras D'Or, said his report stands as submitted and went on to highlight the upcoming fall meeting of members hosted by the Bras d'Or Station in Lunenburg in September. While the details are on the CCA website, Ernest noted that the meeting will be on Friday September 29 so folks will want to arrive on Thursday. There are many accommodation options listed on the website and Ernest encouraged us to make reservations early because that is still tourist season in Lunenburg. Many of the suggested accommodations are within walking distance and there will be transportation from the Halifax airport to Lunenburg. He also noted that there will be both dock space and mooring space available, even though it is a bit late in the season. Registration details are not yet on the website but they will be soon.
 - c. Nick Orem was standing in for Boston Station RC Bink Bacon and noted that the RC's report stands as submitted. Nick highlighted the station cruise coming up in Mid-coast Maine. It will start on July 22nd in Portsmouth and end 8 days later in Booth Bay, and all are welcome to join. He also mentioned the Rat's Club luncheons that happen at regular intervals during the non-summer months.
 - d. Raymond J. Cullum, Buzzard's Bay, was not in attendance but his report was submitted.
 - e. Peter Driscoll , Gulf of Maine, was not in attendance but his report was submitted.
 - f. Dick Waterman, Narragansett Bay, said his report stands as submitted.
 - g. Bev Crump, Chesapeake, said his report stands as submitted. Bev noted that the fall cruise and the station's annual meeting were both well attended. At that meeting, Bev was elected RC, John Devlin was chosen as the Fleet Captain, and Drew Kellogg as Secretary/Treasurer. The annual holiday party was at the Annapolis Yacht Club. They also had a presentation of the CCA Movie. In the new year, there will be more cruises planned and anyone is welcome to attend the 2nd Tuesday lunches on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 12 pm at the Annapolis Yacht Club.
 - h. Tom Wadlow, Essex, said his report stands as submitted. Tom noted that the Essex station was very proud to play a major role in the Centennial.
 - i. Pieter de Zwart stood in for RC Atle Moe, and noted that the Florida station report stands as submitted. Pieter highlighted the Florida Station gathering in St. Petersburg this winter- the first in three years- and noted that they hope to do it again next year because it was a great success.

- j. Bob Medland stood in for Great Lakes RC Peter Balasubramanian, and said his report stands as filed.
- k. Peter Becker, New York, said his report stands as submitted. He highlighted the change of the watch as David Tunick very recently retired from his role as Rear Commodore and the entire station is overjoyed that David will be winning the Far Horizons Award tonight.
- l. David Utley, Pacific Northwest, was unable to attend but his report was submitted. Doug Adkins noted the PNW is planning a South Sound cruise for the first Sunday in May, ending in Takoma. Doug invited members from other stations to reach out if interested in joining. The Commodore reminded us that station cruises are a terrific way to engage in the club and encouraged organizers to make them widely known within and between stations. He also reminded us to use the website as a way to advertise and look for station cruises.
- m. Richard Schaper, San Francisco, was unable to attend but his report was submitted. Rowena Carlson highlighted the upcoming cruise in May to Benicia at the head of the San Pablo Bay.
- n. Steve Calhoun, Southern California, said his report stands as submitted and encouraged everyone to consider joining them in the Sea of Cortez in May of 2024.

13. The Commodore called on Brad Willauer, Chair of the Nominating Committee. He said the committee had met six times in the past year and submit the following slate for election:

OFFICERS:

Commodore:	Christopher L. Otorowski
Vice Commodore:	John R. Gowell
Secretary:	Molly P. Barnes
Treasurer:	Kathleen M. O'Donnell
Historian:	Douglas D. Adkins

GOVERNORS (Terms expiring in 2026):

Gretchen Biemesderfer (ESS)
 Spencer Kuhner (NYS)
 Mary Alice O'Neill (PNW)
 Buddy Rego (BDA)

There was a motion made and seconded to approve the slate as presented. There being no discussion, the Commodore called for a vote and the slate was approved unanimously with votes from those present in person, via zoom and via proxy in advance. The Commodore thanked the membership for their vote of confidence in the officers and welcomed the new Governors.

14. Committee Reports for this meeting (Written reports are provided separately):

- a. Archives Committee report was submitted by Mark Grosby.
- b. Awards Committee report was submitted by Steve James. Steve added that they are very excited to show off a year's worth of work tonight at the NY Yacht Club. Steve thanked Yuko and Hiro Nakajima for all their assistance communicating with our Blue Water Medal Awardee; there was a standing ovation to appreciate their contributions. The Commodore

thanked Steve and his committee for the hard work of selecting awardees and then planning all of the logistics of the award ceremony.

- c. Bermuda Race Foundation Committee report was submitted by Brad Willauer Brad noted that the foundation board is growing from 7 to 13 members. He reminded us that the foundation was created to take the oversight of the race out of the direct purview of the CCA and the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club and to backstop the Bermuda Race financially. The Commodore invited us all to support the foundation by making tax deductible gifts to the 501c3 foundation.

The Bermuda Race Organizing Committee report was submitted by Mark Lenci and Andrew Kallfelz. Mark highlighted that there are a lot of changes coming in the 2024 edition of the race.

They are moving the start back up into Newport Harbor, right off of Fort Adams. The committee is planning activities ashore at Fort Adams that will appeal to the general public. The committee envisions live drone video feed of the start, jumbotrons with an announcer, vendor booths, food & beverage, etc. The primary goal is to engage the general public to generate broad awareness and interest in the race outside the purely sailing community. Mark mentioned that on May 20-21 the Ocean Race will be happening there and it may be a good teaser for the kinds of things the BROOC is hoping to set up for 2024.

The BROOC is also setting up a whole new platform to manage the race and the associated registration in order to make it more pleasant to register and also to integrate more media coverage. They have also streamlined the qualification and rules to make it easier for CCA skippers and other experienced racers to register.

Mark highlighted that they are also looking at a new scoring method- not handicapping but scoring. In the past, they have used historical weather information and you could not tell you how you finished until after everyone finished. A leaderboard was meaningless and competitors could not evaluate real time how they stood against other boats. After some work with Stan Honey and the US Sailing technical committee, they are evaluating a "Forecast-TCF" scoring method. Each boat's optimal route will be calculated just before the race using expedition and the forecast weather. Boats' time will be calculated using VPP (Velocity Prediction Profile) and a TCF (time correction factor) will be generated for each boat.

Finally, he noted that registration opens in June.

- d. Joyce Lhamon announced that the Bonnell Cove Foundation report stands as submitted with a couple of additions. The Foundation met yesterday and made 10 grants totaling \$51,000 for projects ranging from Maine to the PNW and from Canada to Belize-a huge geographic area. It is the generous donations of the CCA members that make it possible. At this time, we could not even support 50% of the applications we received, so we need your ongoing support. The Bonnell Cove Foundation supports the Marine Environment and Safety at Sea projects, so even though we could not meet all of the need this year, we still welcome applications from non-profits in your area that are addressing those themes.

- e. Charts and Guides Committee report was submitted by Doug Bruce & Wilson Fitt. Doug began by thanking the over 60 members who volunteer their time to work on the guides. He also encouraged people to try the new digital cruising guide to Maine and provide feedback. The Commodore noted that Charts and Guides have grown quite a bit in the last 3 or 4 years and the work is impressive.
- f. Communications Committee report was submitted by James Phyfe. James added that all members should be receiving the various publications and he specifically highlighted the most recent edition of Voyages Magazine that Ami and Bob Green just published. It is 170 pages of beautiful photographs and fascinating articles and represents about 4 months of full-time work. There was a big round of applause to honor their work. He noted that Barbara is nearly done with the Yearbook which will be coming out soon. There is new energy in the production of the guides and charts. Michael Moradzadeh, the Webmaster works incredibly hard behind the scenes to make it all function.

James noted that they have been working on a new mission statement for the Communications Committee so that it is no longer just about recruiting new members. The Mission Statement was recently approved by the Board of Governors in February and now the committee is shifting toward developing a strategy to meet the mission and document what we do in terms of communications for the club. Finally, in working with Pat Montgomery, the committee is looking to standardize and document some of our brand assets (the burgee, the logos, some of our writings) and create a style guide to help steer us.

- g. Rowena Carlson's Environment of the Sea Committee report stands as submitted. She then invited CCA members to bring any environmental issue to the committee for further exploration. She noted that they recently looked into the issue of recycling the winter shrink wrap that people use on their stored boats after Simon and Sally Currin noted how many boats they saw wrapped on the east coast. The culmination of that project is in the most recent edition of Waypoints.
- h. The Commodore thanked Anne Kolker for all her hard work in pulling together the various pieces of the annual meeting. Anne noted that the Events Committee report stands as submitted. She thanked everyone for attending this year and mentioned that many of the upcoming events have already been mentioned: the cruises, the fall meeting in Lunenburg and the fall meeting 2024 that will be hosted by the Chesapeake station.
- i. Chace Anderson noted that the Financial Affairs Committee report stands as submitted. Building on the treasurer's report, Chace noted that they have been working with the treasurer to refine the budgeting process and the preparation of the 2023 budget. Today we were able to compare budgeted to actual numbers, which has helped us further refine the process such that we hope the 2024 budgeting process will be easier, more efficient and more accurate. The second major initiative this year was to identify and develop best practices in the finance function throughout the CCA. With the help of Peter Griffin, we delivered a document this morning to the FAC, and it is now being shared with Pat Montgomery and the effort she is leading to share best practices among the RCs. Finally, Chace noted that the committee has asked itself if it is realizing its mission and concluded that they are making progress and are about half way to their goals. The Commodore thanked the Financial Affairs Committee and the Treasurer for the work they have done this past year.

- j. Guest Moorings Committee report was submitted by Liz Baylis.
- k. Investment Committee report was submitted by Tom Post
- l. Long Range Planning Committee report was submitted by Tim Surgenor. Vice Commodore Gowell noted that the Long Range Planning Committee had many meetings this past year, including sub-committee meetings. Jay noted that Tim has done a great job dividing the effort into manageable tasks. The likely next step will be to gather some data, so please watch for invitations to participate in your email. One subcommittee, chaired by Sheila McCurdy, created a new statement of who we are. Jay then read the statement:

The Cruising Club of America is a group of accomplished recreational offshore sailors bound together by friendship and the desire to foster the responsibilities, expertise, and skills needed for the adventurous use of the sea.

Members volunteer to achieve the CCA's goals by sharing experiences, organizing events on and off the water, promoting seamanship and best practices, and recognizing outstanding accomplishments by fellow members and the amateur sailing community. The Club's initiatives put particular emphasis on safety at sea education and training, exemplary offshore yacht design and construction, and environmental stewardship.

The CCA does not have a physical headquarters. The Club exists anywhere its members come together on land and sea. In popular sailing regions, members organize into stations which host local gatherings for members and guests.

The Club is known - since shortly after its founding in 1922 - for running the biennial Newport Bermuda Race and awarding the Blue Water Medal. More recently, the CCA has added the Young Voyager Award, Roderick Stephens Seamanship Trophy, and Diana Russell Award for Innovation to honor those who represent the best of the Club's priorities. The Club has published enduring books like *Nowhere Is Too Far*, *Far Horizons*, *Desirable and Undesirable Characteristics of Offshore Yachts*, *Safety for Cruising Couples*, and *Adventurous Use of the Sea*, cruising guides to the coasts of Maine, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Gulf of Saint Lawrence, and Labrador, and the annual publication of members' articles, *Voyages*.

There was a round of applause.

- m. Ernie Godshalk began by noting that he filed the Membership Committee report and continued with a few highlights. Twenty-four new members were elected last month. One is a woman, four are Next Watch (under 55 years old) and the average age of the new members is 62. That number of new members is not sufficient to offset deaths, resignations, and members who were terminated for not paying their dues. The Membership Committee asks all members to do two things: first, reach out to welcome and engage new members and second, propose qualified candidates to the committee.

Ernie went on to give a brief reminder of the Seafarer program, which grants dues waiver to members with serious medical or personal issues that prevent the member from participating

in the Club and/or for whom the dues are a financial burden. The confidential list includes 14 members from five Stations.

We are now tracking resignations more carefully than we have in the past. Nineteen people submitted resignations from seven Stations in the past couple of months. Three were accorded Seafarer status and two members reconsidered and withdrew their resignations after being contacted. Other reasons are listed in the report.

Finally, Ernie noted that the proposal process is outlined both in the materials for the annual meeting and also on the website. While it is a subjective process, he believes it is being applied consistently across the stations.

When asked, Ernie noted that the Ski Gam was organized about 15 years ago and had been held every year until covid hit. This year it was an informal gathering, known as the Disorganized Ski Gam. For next year, we are planning to do the same during the 1st week of February at Alta.

The Commodore reminded us that we have 1400 ad hoc members of the Membership Committee, noting that all of us have the responsibility to look for people who would be good candidates for the CCA. He then thanked Ernie, noting that he works very hard and does an excellent job leading this important committee. A round of applause from the audience followed.

- n. Next Watch Committee report was submitted by Alli Bell. Roddy Hearn noted that in addition to looking for any possible new members of the club, it is also our job as members to look for potential younger members of the club. He also encouraged all of us to consider the possible work week and childcare needs of the Next Watch members when scheduling meetings, events and cruises. Ernie Godshalk also encouraged us to seek out Next Watch members for leadership roles at the station and club level.
- o. Steve Prime noted that the Quartermaster Committee report stands as submitted.
- p. Bill Strassberg submitted the Safety and Seamanship Committee report. Anne Noble-Kiley noted that the committee, an outstanding group, met today. There is a lot going on and Anne highlighted the following: Dick York will be leading a group in nighttime MOB retrieval and there are a lot of other things in the works.
- q. Technical Committee report was submitted by Jim Binch
- r. Trophies Committee report was submitted by Bob Darbee. Bob noted that this year the club has 6 new Bermuda Race trophies, inspired by Commodore Otorowski. These six are the Commodore's Centennial trophies for outstanding performance by CCA skippers in six different categories. In addition to the awards being presented tonight, these are here on display in the Model Room thanks to the efforts of our Quartermaster who brought them down from Newport. Jim also highlighted the club's St. David's Lighthouse trophy, the trademark trophy for the race- presented since 1934. The winner of the St. David's division gets to take that sterling and gold trophy home and the cost for the 2024 trophy is \$12,500, which we are hoping will be underwritten by Bermuda Tourism as it has been in the past.

- s. The Commodore next introduced the editors of Voyages, which is often called the National Geographic of Sailing, Ami and Bob Green. Ami noted that they submitted their report and began by thanking the writers who have contributed to Voyages in the past. Ami also thanked Dave Curtin who has worked closely with Bob to write and organize the Final Voyages, a sobering task. There was a round of applause for the great work done on Voyages.
 - t. The Commodore noted that we are entering a major applause zone, as he introduced Julie Kallfelz. She began by noting that the Waypoints report stands as submitted. Julie noted that the success of Waypoints is largely a function of the contributions of the members who share information about events, topics of interest and club policy. Julie noted that being the editor has exposed her to members she did not know previously and to the many extraordinary things that they are doing. Julie mentioned that they have been doing some statistical analysis, and know that more members are opening Waypoints than in the past. They are now working on making the large quantity of content even more interesting, valuable, and digestible. There was a round of applause for Julie's hard work.
 - u. The Commodore then introduced our Webmaster, Michael Moradzadeh, who noted that his report stands as submitted. Michael stated that in the last six months, he has developed and shared a toolkit to help various club and station leaders utilize the various functions of the website. Most notably, he highlighted the mailing tool that allows leaders to use bulk mailing to send simply formatted, administrative type emails to the most current version of their officer, member, and club wide mailing lists. He thanked Nick Orem especially, who has been utilizing the toolkit well. The Commodore thanked Michael for all that he does for the club every day, which was followed by a round of applause.
 - v. Next, Barbara Watson noted that the Yearbook report stands as submitted. She then reminded everyone to update the website as soon as possible because the Yearbook is soon to be published, using the data from the website.
 - w. Secretary Molly Barnes took a moment to talk about the Committee and Station reports. As the collector and collator of the reports, she knows that they are a very valuable resource to get a sense of what is going on in the club. She noted that people work hard to write them, they are posted on the website, and that it is well worth the 10 minutes it takes to read them. Also reading the committee and station reports might give you an idea of what each committee is doing and what ways you might like to be involved with the CCA in the next 12-18 months.
15. The Commodore asked if there was any old business to discuss. Hearing none, he moved on.
16. The Commodore asked if there was any New Business. Anne Kolker stood and made an announcement. She invited everyone to check in at the reception table in the entry tonight. She noted that they are doing table assignments by lottery to facilitate getting to know new people, so table assignments will be distributed at the check-in desk.
17. The Commodore made a short report. He began by reminding us that the CCA has joined the ICOYC, the International Council of Yacht Clubs. Shawn and Chris are going to the European meeting in Switzerland in March where there will be 48 different clubs represented. The CCA will be making a presentation as a brand-new Affiliate Club Member. Chris is hoping that the ICOYC

contacts will be valuable to CCA and specifically that the ICOYC will open up more cross-burgee cruise opportunities for members in the years to come.

The Commodore noted that his goal as Commodore is awareness. He observed that a lot of experienced bluewater sailors do not know about the CCA. So one of the things we are trying to do is raise general awareness through Scuttlebutt, sponsorship of the Centennial, and our own publications to help us expand the universe of people who know about us.

He also highlighted that it is great to be back on track with more club cruises. As previously mentioned, we are trying to add some more exotic locales. In the past, there used to be more cruises to more exotic places, so we are thinking about different cruise opportunities to explore some new horizons under the CCA burgee.

The Commodore thanked us for coming to the meeting and noted that he looked forward to seeing all of us at the cocktail party, dinner, and awards ceremony presentations tonight.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1635 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

Molly P. Barnes
Secretary, Cruising Club of America