



**Minutes**  
**Cruising Club of America Fall Meeting of Members**  
**Lunenburg School of Art, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia**  
**Friday, September 29, 2023**

1. Commodore Chris Otorowski called the meeting to order at 1530 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. He then thanked everyone who made the trip to Lunenburg. For their efforts in organizing and planning the fall meeting, the Commodore thanked Gretchen McCurdy and her team that includes Thelma Costello, Phil Wash, David Arenburg, Reg Goodday, Barbara Watts, Kathy Greenwood and RC Ernest Hamilton. There was a big round of applause to thank everyone for their work. Chris noted that this is a member meeting and a chance for people to give their reports.
4. The Commodore gave his report, noting that he has just returned from 2 weeks of a perfectly organized cruise in Mallorca thanks to Les Crane, Howie Hodgson and Jock Macrae. The Commodore of the Royal Cruising Club, Nick Shavas, and his wife Margy, and the incoming Commodore of the Irish Cruising Club, Alan Markey and his wife Helen, were all on board Aphrodite with Commodore Otorowski and Shawn, which was a wonderful way to continue to expand the CCA's relationship with other clubs around the world. The Commodore encouraged us to take advantage of opportunities to invite officers from our sister clubs and other international clubs to participate in our cruises and events as it is a great way to spread the word about the CCA. The Commodore then shared the medallion that was given to the CCA by the RCC in recognition of the CCA's outstanding service to yacht cruising. The medallion will be on display in the CCA trophy case at IRIS.
5. There was a motion made and seconded to approve the minutes from the March 4, 20230 Annual Meeting of Members. The motion carried.
6. Vice Commodore Jay Gowell gave his report. He began by saying that he wanted to entice people to think about joining the CCA cruises. The Mallorca cruise had 130 people and 22 boats, and was fantastic. He noted that there were 4 major events scheduled in 2 weeks, which allowed for exploring on your own between those events.

Next up is the Antigua/Guadalupe cruise- you can join for the first week in Antigua or the second in Guadalupe or you can do the whole thing. There are 25 boats and 120 people

currently signed up for this cross-burgee event with the NYYC. NYYC is handling the Antigua part and the CCA is overseeing the Guadalupe part.

There is the Sea of Cortez cruise in May 2024. There are 16 boats registered and there is still space if you are interested, but the boats are going to go fast. There will be a cruise around the Bermuda Islands after the race in 2024. And then there is the Sicily/Malta cruise in September 2024. Then we will be back to the Caribbean in 2025. Also in June 2025, there will be a transatlantic feeder cruise from Newport to Kinsale, Ireland in advance of the Scotland cruise in the western islands of Scotland in July 2025. Jay noted that there will be another Mediterranean cruise in fall 2025, another winter cruise in 2026 and then the Bermuda race again in 2026. Finally, Jay encouraged anyone with an idea for a cruise location to reach out to him, especially if you are interested in organizing a cruise to a place that you have visited and would like to go back to.

7. Kathleen O'Donnell noted that the Treasurer's Report stands as submitted. She began by thanking the committee chairs and officers who responded to her requests for the new budget process and encouraged others to get their information to her as soon as possible. She highlighted her hope that the members would vote to approve the change in bylaws so that the fiscal year would match the calendar year. She also noted that she anticipates having a balanced budget for FY 2024 to bring to the Board of Governors for approval at the December 6 meeting.
8. Molly Barnes noted the Report of the Secretary stands as submitted with nothing to add.
9. Doug Adkins gave the Report of the Historian, noting that his report stands as submitted. It includes a section entitled "Errors and Omissions." Doug noted that if you have been omitted or have noted an error, please note that section and my mea culpa.
10. Fleet Surgeon, Dr. Jeff Wisch, said his report stands as submitted and then highlighted two things. First, there is a medical section in the new Viking Route Crossing Guide. And second that the offshore wilderness emergency medical course will be happening in New York in November and is fully subscribed to.
11. The Commodore called upon Bruce Johnston to report on his recent participation in an ICOYC conference. The International Council of Yacht Clubs was formed about 22 years ago of 50 yacht clubs and the CCA is the first and only Associate Member because we are the only club that does not have a clubhouse. Bruce gave a report to the club, which he thinks was very valuable because the club has tremendous resources and put on an excellent conference. Bruce recommends that we work to integrate with their communications people, cruises, and their facilities. The 2024 fall meeting will be in Annapolis, which is one of their member clubs, and that will give us more opportunity to work with them. Ernie Godshalk will be attending the conference next May in Sweden and the Commodore encouraged anyone who is interested to consider attending one of these conferences as it is a great way to see what is happening with these clubs all over the world.
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, RC Somers Kempe said his report stands as submitted and mentioned that they are looking forward to hosting the Bermuda Race Foundation folks who are coming to Bermuda later this fall ahead of organizing a successful 2024 race. He concluded by saying that the station would welcome anyone who wants to come to Bermuda in the future.
  - b. Chace Anderson spoke on behalf of the Boston Station and noted that he and a number of others enjoyed great fun and some good sailing on the Boston cruise to Maine this summer.
  - c. Ernest Hamilton said the Bras D'Or station report stands as submitted. He went on to welcome everyone to Lunenburg as RC of the host station and on behalf of all its members and thanked everyone for coming.
  - d. For the Buzzard's Bay Post, Molly Barnes noted that they just cancelled the upcoming GAM due to unfavorable weather in the area.
  - e. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month 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 17 and 18. There will be notices and information about lodging on the website, including details about a cruise immediately following the meeting.
  - f. RC Tow Wadlow said the Essex station report stands as submitted adding that Ophelia postponed the fall cruise, which will be rescheduled for October. Tom also reminded members that the Essex station is conveniently located between Boston and New York and that all members are welcome to join station events when they are passing through.
  - g. RC Atle Moe said the Florida station report stands as submitted, noting that after a quiet summer, events and activities will start to pick up again in the fall
  - h. Bob Medland spoke on behalf of the Great Lakes Station, noting that RC Peter Balasubramanian and Governor Amanda Balasubramanian have been sailing in Europe this past summer. He also noted that the GLS was well represented on the Mallorca Cruise and that the station meeting is in the works for November.
  - i. RC Peter Becker said his New York station report stands as submitted. He noted that the NY station is moving forward and that they are very excited about the future.
  - j. Doug Adkins spoke on behalf of the Pacific Northwest station noting Dave Utley's report stands as submitted. The Commodore added that the Fall Meeting of Members will be hosted by the PNW in 2025. This will be a combined cruise and fall meeting in Bellingham, Washington, which is right in the middle of the San Juan islands.
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. Steve James said the Awards Committee report stands as submitted. He went on to invite members to tell Steve now about Transoceanic pennants and Parkinson awards in anticipation of the March meeting. He also announced that tonight's entertainment will be a presentation by Kirsten Neuschäfer, the 2022 recipient of the Rod Stephens Seamanship Trophy for playing a pivotal role in the successful rescue of a fellow 2022 Golden Globe Race competitor, Tapio Lehtinen
  - b. Vice Commodore Jay Gowell spoke on behalf of the Bermuda Race Foundation, noting that they had a productive meeting today with the Board and Race Chair Mark Lenci and Vice Chair

Andrew Kallfelz Everything is going well at the Foundation and with the Race preparation that includes a start area at Fort Adams with an exciting live show.

- c. Bob Medland noted that the Bonnell Cove Foundation report stands as submitted by Joyce Lhamon. Bob announced that Joyce has stepped down and Bob was elected as the incoming President of the BCF. He thanked Joyce for her dedication and efforts over the past few years to build the foundation. Bob announced that they reviewed 15 applications and approved 9 grants totaling \$46,000 at their meeting today. This brings the total awards to \$100,000 for the year and he thanked the donors whose generosity helped make that possible.
- d. Mark Lenci spoke on behalf of the Bermuda Race Organizing Committee, first noting that his report stands and that there are 266 days to go! He highlighted the efforts to develop the starting line extravaganza at Fort Adams, which will include Jumbo-trons, announcers, drones, drinks, food and will be open to the general public. He recognized Andrew Kallfelz for his work to create a live media show at Fort Adams that will also set the groundwork for a professional recorded program that they hope to use to build excitement for the next Bermuda Race. And he announced that there are 109 boats registered as of today, which is more than expected at this time, so if you are on the fence, sign up soon! The Commodore noted that it is an extraordinary amount of work to plan and run the Bermuda Race and thanked Mark, Andrew and the committee for all their efforts.
- e. James Phyfe's Communications Committee report stands as submitted. James noted that the Long-Range Planning Committee survey revealed that many people do not know what the various committees are doing and the importance of events. Therefore, they are looking at adding a section in Waypoints to highlight one committee per month so Committee Chairs should expect to hear from James and Julie Kallfelz about writing a short description of their committee and perhaps trying to inspire members to join.
- f. Doug Bruce said the Cruising Guides Committee stands as submitted and went on to announce that Jim Woodward has graciously volunteered to be the lead editor for the new Gulf of St. Lawrence guide. He also pointed out a few superstars of the committee: Bill Strassberg who just finished editing the new Viking Crossing Guide; and Tom and Jane Babbitt who are the editors of the online Maine Guide which had 20,000 users this year- double what they had last year. He also announced that Wilson Fitt is the new chair of the committee. **36:37 ON THE VIDEO**
- g. Anne Kolker said the Events report stands as submitted and she encouraged people to come to events and participate, noting that everything is posted on the website. Anne noted that the Annapolis Fall meeting will be the same weekend as the Navy football game and the Annapolis Boat Show ends the day before the CCA meeting so you may want to book your rooms sooner than later. The Annapolis Harbor Hotel is already taking reservations for CCA members.
- h. Chace Anderson gave the Financial Affairs Committee report. He first highlighted the recommendation that the members approve the change in bylaws to change the club fiscal year to match the calendar year, noting that the change will improve the budgeting process by shifting it to the fall instead of the summer when people are sailing. He also mentioned this year's budget- noting that it is standing still as of September 29<sup>th</sup>, which is a major achievement by the Treasurer and a huge benefit to the club for being able to plan the use of our financial resources. He noted one change in his written report- revenue went up slightly this year because even though there is a decrease in total members, there was an increased rate of paying dues.
- i. Phil Dickey, editor of the GAM, said his report stands. He then thanked Dianne Embree and Dorothy Wadlow who do such a wonderful job of writing and submitting new member bios

such that they are included in the first GAM that the new members receive. He also thanked the station historians for their contributions to the GAM and noted that the deadline for submissions is October 15. The Commodore added that Dianne and Dorothy have probably compiled bios for close to 2/3rds of our existing membership.

- j. The Commodore noted that Tim Surgenor is doing an exceptional job leading the Long-Range Planning committee. He thanked Tim and his committee along with Alli Bell for their excellent work with the survey of the membership. Tim gave a wonderful presentation of the data earlier today. The Commodore noted that the survey is a great source of both statistical data and qualitative comments. Tim expects to have a formal report prepared for the March meeting.
- k. Ernie Godshalk said his Membership Committee report stands. He noted a few highlights from his report. There are 20 new members who were elected at this month's Governing Board meeting. We launched the new member welcome process with letters and emails from the RCs, as a way to engage our newest members while they are especially excited about joining the CCA. Ernie thanked Dorothea and Dianne for their efforts with new member bios. Ernie noted that the total number of members is declining, as is the number of proposed members so he encouraged all of us to submit more names. In an effort to make the proposal process easier, last night we launched an improvement in the process so when you go to the "Propose a Member" page on the website, there is a link. That link takes you to a simple form that you complete (which includes reminders about the confidentiality of the process and the various steps). Once you hit submit, an email is sent to the relevant Station Membership Committee Chair, thus launching the process more easily than in the past. The Commodore noted that we want to focus on a gradual increase in membership (1-3%) every year to stave off dues increases and to offset the loss of members. He went on to remind us that everyone is a member of the membership committee and that it is everyone's job to be on the lookout for prospective members. We have been hovering around 1400 members, which is comfortable, but increasing that a little will make it more comfortable for us to be able to continue to provide the services to our members.
- l. The Commodore noted that Alli Bell was just on the Next Watch Committee call but was unable to attend the meeting. He reminded us that Next Watch has regular Zoom presentations, about once a month.
- m. Bob Medland noted that the Nominating Committee will be meeting tomorrow and will have a report for the March meeting
- n. Bill Strassberg announced that the Safety and Seamanship report stands as submitted. He highlighted that the committee is busy and does a lot that functions as important outreach for the club. He highlighted the Safety for Cruising Couples and the Practice on Your Own Boat programs as two of the ways we fulfill our mission and get our name out, earn good will, and teach really good sailing. The feedback we receive has been phenomenal. Bill noted that everyone has the opportunity to help grow our programs by becoming active in their own communities- learn how to run a Practice on Your Own Boat program or do a Safety for Couples program. The Commodore noted that this committee is made up of some extraordinary leaders in US Sailing and World Sailing and that the depth of knowledge around sailing safety is second to none. He then led us in a round of applause of the great work done on this committee.
- o. Bob Darbee built on the written Trophies Committee report by noting that the big thing right now is updating the digital inventory of the CCA trophies (and the cases used to transport them). They were worth approximately \$500,000 last time we inventoried (approximately 5 years ago), and Bob suspects it is the most significant tangible asset of the club. In the past,

when controls were a little looser, we may have lost some items. We are about to address one of those losses. In 1950, the crew of the schooner *Mistress*, provided a trophy for the Bermuda Race. Because there are not s many schooners in the race anymore, the trophy was repurposed to go to the navigator of the boat taking line honors. Unfortunately, the Schooner *Mistress* Trophy disappeared somewhere along the way. We are in preliminary discussions to replace the trophy in memory of a previous recipient of the trophy who had a significant impact on the Bermuda Race. Thes discussions include replacing a trophy and an endowment to underwrite its expenses going forward. The Commodore thanked Bob for his decades of service on behalf of the CCA.

- p. Julie Kallfelz, Editor of Waypoints, noted that her report stands and added a few comments that came out of the Communications Meeting earlier in the day. She reminded us that Waypoints is a primary source of timely news in the CCA and thanked everyone for submitting articles and information to be published. It is news submitted by members and for members so continue to submit news, stories, points of interest, photographs, reminders, anything! She noted that the survey data suggest that members believe Waypoints is useful and Julie is trying to make it an even more useful and digestible tool by making it more concise and user-friendly.
  - q. Barbara Watson, editor of the Yearbook, noted that she is working with the printers to have final numbers for the Treasurer. She thanked the Commodore for overseeing the project to scan all of the past yearbooks and thanked Michael Moradzadeh for posting the current one on the website. Barbara hopes that all of the yearbooks will eventually be available on the website for reference. Vice Commodore Gowell thanked Barbara for the fantastic work she does and then encouraged all members to check that their boat information is still correct and current and consider submitting a photograph.
14. The Commodore called on Bob Medland to speak to the recent Mallorca cruise. In short, Bob said it was truly outstanding and it seemed like everyone had fun with no significant mishaps. In an impressive show of organization, Les Crane sent the financial results just days after the cruise ended. In his letter, Les asked each participant if they wanted the surplus returned to them, donated to the Bonnell Cove Foundation or donated to the Bermuda Race Foundation.
15. The Commodore introduced an action item to change the bylaws. This recommendation comes to us with the support of the Governing Board and the Flag Officers. The Commodore then read the following proposal as submitted: It is recommended by the Treasurer with unanimous support of the Financial Affairs Committee that the first sentence of Article XX (Fiscal Year) of the By-Laws be deleted and in its place the following be substituted: The fiscal year of the Club shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31 of each year. There was a motion and a second to approve the bylaws change as read by the Commodore. There being no discussion, a vote was taken and the amendment carried unanimously.
16. Gretchen McCurdy made a few announcements about the evening schedule.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:38 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Molly P. Barnes  
Secretary, Cruising Club of America