



**Minutes
Cruising Club of America
Governing Board Meeting
Via Zoom
Thursday, September 8, 2022 1600 hours (EDT)**

1. Commodore Otorowski called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. He noted that the objective today would be to finish in one hour with just a few updates and the approval of past minutes in light of the fact that complete reports are being collected for the upcoming Fall Meeting of Members next week.
2. 26 people were in attendance, constituting a quorum, including Commodore Chris Otorowski, Vice Commodore Jay Gowell, Secretary Molly Barnes, Treasurer Kathleen O'Donnell, Historian Doug Adkins, Membership Chair Ernie Godshalk; the following Rear Commodores: Carter Bacon, Rob Beebe, Les Crane, Pat Montgomery, Mark Myers, Dennis Powers, David Tunick, and David Utley; the following Elected Governors: Dennis Durgan, Jeff Gonsalves, Ian Gumprecht, Roddy Hearne, and Jonathan Wright; Invited guests in attendance were: Post Captains Paul Bushueff and Dick Waterman, Financial Affairs Committee Chair Chace Anderson, Fleet Captain Paul Hamilton, Judge Advocate Chis McNally, Fleet Surgeon Jeff Wisch, Webmaster Michael Moradzadeh, and Incoming Rear Commodore Bev Crump.
3. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes from the Governing Board meetings on April 13 and June 8 2022 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
4. We received an update about the upcoming Centennial.

Commodore Otorowski noted that we are three days before the start of the Centennial celebration in Newport and that preparations are going well. He noted that it has been a pleasure working with the committee members, including Brin Ford, Dennis Powers and Mindy Gunther. The Essex Station has had a lot of work to do because they are in charge of the hotel, reception, and all of the meetings on Monday and Tuesday.

Chris walked us through many aspects of the week's schedule, showcasing his extraordinary attention to detail. A couple of the many highlights include: We are expecting 240 people for the reception on Sunday. This prompted the committee to arrange for \$10 drink tickets that can be used on Sunday and Monday in order to reduce lines at the bars. The Committee has put together an excellent packet for all participants that includes the program, a medallion, a pin, tourist information for Newport, LED flashlight, masks, and a flag. We are oversubscribed with 210 people registered for Monday's dinner with Sir Robin Knox Johnston as a keynote speaker- this resulted in some overflow seating into the adjacent restaurant where there will be a remote feed. Chris also noted that Steve James has worked hard to prepare for the Award Ceremony as part of the Gala Dinner at Fort Adams.

Dennis Powers spoke about the schedule and map of meeting locations. He also highlighted that Mindy has done a tremendous amount of work in preparation for the meetings, including making about 25 posters

that highlight the history of the CCA. Ernie Godshalk noted that Fred Deichmann did a fantastic job scheduling all of the meetings, which is a very difficult task.

Commodore Otorowski mentioned that the scan of CCA yearbooks is nearly complete. The only one we are missing is from 1924. So now, with optical character recognition, you can search the online yearbooks. This is a remarkable upgrade to the CCA Archive. In addition, two other books have been scanned and will be added to the website: *Nowhere is Too Far* and *Desirable and Undesirable Characteristics of Sailing Yachts*, which was a CCA publication from the 1980s. Another book, *Adventurous Use of the Sea* will be available for purchase at the Centennial.

5. The Vice Commodore gave his report. He began by noting that Commodore Otorowski and Shawn have put extraordinary effort into the planning of the 100th celebration and thanked them for their work.

VC Gowell noted that because of covid, we not only cancelled our plans for cruises but also stopped planning for them. So while we were a bit behind where we normally like to be, we have made a lot of progress of late with a number of people stepping up to lead some upcoming cruises. There will be detailed reports for the Members Meeting, and Jay noted the following cruises and cruise chairs:

Caribbean, March 2023	Drew & Abby Kellogg
Mallorca, Sept 2023	Les Crane/Howie Hodgson
Baja, April 2024	Southern California Station
Scotland, June 2024	Jonathan Brewin
Sicily and Malta, Sept 2025	Les Crane

The Scotland details are still being developed but the rest are well underway at this point. So our cruise program is back on track! And given the ease of chartering boats and being in a similar time zone, they are looking at adding another cruise in the Caribbean in 2024 or 2025.

Jay also mentioned that in the planning for the Caribbean cruise in March, a survey was sent to Next Watch members and the cruise was then designed with Next Watch in mind so it will be a kid-friendly cruise. Ernie Godshalk noted that it would be great to include Next Watch members on event and cruise committees.

Finally, Vice Commodore Gowell reported that the Bermuda Race Foundation is organized and functioning. It served as the organizing authority for the 2022 Bermuda Race. He noted that this is going to be a great thing for the race and for both clubs going forward and that the bylaws review process is nearing completion.

6. Treasurer Kathleen O'Donnell gave her report. First, she thanked the Commodore for getting sponsors for the Centennial as that has helped to offset the cost of the events. Kathleen then reported on the dues noting that we had a pretty high rate of unpaid dues. As of today, we are down to only 49 people who have not yet paid- a huge reduction thanks to the efforts of the Rear Commodores and Station Captains. Kathleen proposed that the Membership Committee, Secretary and Treasurer sit down to develop a clear system and policy for collecting dues. She specifically noted that email dues reminders alone were inadequate so we should develop a different plan going forward.

Kathleen noted that there had been some concern about the profitability of the Safety at Sea courses and stated that the profit was not as large as originally budgeted. Even so, those courses did make between \$20 and \$25,000. The Newfoundland cruise had no net loss, which is the rule for cruises. We have at present

\$182,000 and change in our checking account and \$73,000 in our savings. Kathleen noted that we have not tapped in to our investments for what we had budgeted for the Centennial. That included a plan to sell stocks to get cash, but she is hoping we won't need to dip into that, given the state of the market and also given the excellent registration numbers that the Commodore highlighted. Finally, Kathleen noted that the summer is not a great time to initiate the budgeting process since so many CCA members were off sailing but will have a proposed budget for the December meeting.

7. Ernie Godshalk, the Chair of the Membership Committee, gave his report. He noted that the committee posted 23 proposed candidates on August 23. The committee then reviewed any comments that were received before the posting period expired and is now putting the full list of 23 candidates forward to the Board for approval. A motion was moved and seconded to elect those 23 people to the membership and was passed unanimously.

The 23 new members are:

William Howland Gammell (Will)
Randall Scott Pepper (Randy)
William K. Rogers (Will)
John L. Youngblood (John)
Susanne Brown Crump (Susan)
Richard W. Rosene (Dick)
Jonathan D. Sauer (Jon)
Henry Ben Sheets (Ben)
William Lowe Wrightson
Nathaniel Bartlett Atwater (Nate)
Harold Guidotti (Harry)
Kenneth Johnson (Ken)
Michael Paul Paolucci
William Davis Reed (Bill)
Lane Geldard Tobin
Malcolm Ross Bullock (Ross)
Richard T. Azar (Rich)
Cliff F. Crowley (Cliff)
Michael Carlos Linhares (Mike)
James Walter Cole (Jim)
James Robert Hamilton
Michael Johnson
Eric K. Barto

The Commodore noted that even though registration for the Centennial is now closed, Michael Moradzadeh has set up a waiting list that might make it possible for new members to participate in some of the festivities. Ernie noted that there is a well-oiled process for welcoming new members to the club, including mailing paper letters, notifying the proposers soon, and urging the Rear Commodores to invite the new members to participate in the Member Meeting via Zoom.

The Commodore thanked Ernie and the Membership Committee for the time-consuming work they do to bring in new members, which is the lifeblood of the club. In turn, Ernie noted that it is really the dozens of people who proposed, seconded and wrote letters on behalf of new members that deserve the appreciation.

A discussion ensued about the process of bringing proposed members to the governing board for approval. Some expressed concerns that the board only acts as rubber stamp for the Membership committee's proposals. Others noted that the vetting done by the committee is significant and does a good job of privately eliminating candidates who are not qualified for membership. Some noted that it might be nice to know more about each proposed member before actively voting on the slate. A change to the process might require a change to the Bylaws. Ernie invited any member of the board to engage in a discussion with him about possible changes to the process.

8. Jeff Wisch, the Fleet Surgeon, gave a report noting that it has been 5 months since we last met and things have changed since then. While COVID- 19 continues to occupy most of his time as Fleet Surgeon, the landscape has changed. The most recent variant, Omicron, is far more contagious and it is also more evasive from the immune system resulting in more breakthrough infections. Vaccinations and boosters continue to mitigate against the risk of severe infections, hospitalizations, and death, however, are not as effective in preventing spread of disease. Recent evidence of this in the CCA was noted as infections were reported from venues including activities at the Bermuda Race as well as the Newfoundland Cruise, where there was about a 20% infection rate among CCA boats not including some additional infections from the RNYC. In addition, there have been reports from other Yacht Club cruises of 30 to 50% infectivity rates.

The CCA COVID 19 task force, after much discussion, decided it would be in the best interest of our members to require masking to protect your neighbor (as well as yourself) at indoor events for the Centennial celebrations. It is our hope that masking in addition to our vaccination policy will help mitigate the risk of having a super spreader event. As Commodore Otorowski put it, let's think of this as we would a tether. Good news is that we have better treatment now and we also have new boosters coming out that might be more effective in the future.

The Fleet Surgeon thanked members of the COVID 19 Task Force: Commodore Chris Otorowski, VC Jay Gowell, Secretary Molly Barnes, Bill Strassberg, MD, Charles Starke, MD, Anne Kolker, MD, Moe Roddy, RN, and past Commodore Bob Medland for their availability as well as hard and often difficult work.

Finally, Jeff noted that while we are all tired of COVID, it is not tired of us!

Several people expressed their appreciation for the work of the task force. The Commodore reminded us to upload our vaccination status to the website and if we have a blue bracelet, to wear it to the Centennial.

9. Commodore Otorowski asked if there was any old business to bring before the board. There was none.

10. Commodore Otorowski raised the question of the CCA becoming an Affiliate Member of the International Council of Yacht Clubs. He reviewed some of what he had covered in his memo to the board for this meeting. Ultimately, he recommended that we join as a way to put the CCA out there and continue to develop relationships with other clubs, noting that there is limited financial obligation. A motion to become an Affiliate Member of the ICYC was made and seconded. After some discussion and enthusiastic support from those who spoke, the motion passed unanimously.

11. The Commodore concluded with a few comments about sponsorship of the Centennial. In the process of seeking sponsorship, he learned that we have a quality brand. There are a number of important companies that respect the CCA for what it is. We secured a \$15,000 sponsorship from Safe Harbor Marinas. We also accepted an offer from Cruising World Magazine. They will be running a one-page ad,

though not an ad per se, about the Centennial In their November issue, along with reviews of the two books, and possibly an article about the history of the CCA, which is great publicity for us.

12. There was a question about going back to the practice of printing cards that include the schedule for upcoming cruises. There is no plan to print such cards given that all the information is on the website.

13. Mark Myers, Rear Commodore of the Chesapeake Station, noted that the fall cruise is a return from Newport with a potential stop in Philadelphia. Everyone is invited to participate so anyone headed south from Newport after the celebration is invited to participate.

14. David Tunick noted that there was one correction to the report about the Shorthanded Return race from Bermuda. There were actually 23 registrants and 19 boats participated. The Commodore then extended his congratulations to David for completing a solo transatlantic passage this summer.

15. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1810 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Molly P. Barnes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Molly P. Barnes
Secretary