



**Minutes**  
**Governing Board Meeting, Cruising Club of America**  
**Tuesday, September 5, 2023 via Zoom**

1. Commodore Otorowski called the meeting to order at 1600 hours and welcomed attendees. He noted that the summer is a quiet time for CCA business as many members are out enjoying their boats. Even so, planning for the cruises and the upcoming fall meeting continued apace.

There were 31 people in attendance to start, constituting a quorum, ultimately reaching 32 participants including Commodore Chris Otorowski, Vice Commodore Jay Gowell, Secretary Molly Barnes, Treasurer Kathleen O'Donnell, Historian Doug Adkins, Membership Chair Ernie Godshalk, Fleet Captain Paul Hamilton; the following Rear Commodores: Peter Balasubramanian, Peter Becker, Steve Calhoun, Bev Crump, Ernest Hamilton, Somers Kemp, Atle Moe, Richard Schaper, David Utley, and Tom Wadlow; the following Elected Governors: Gretchen Biemesderfer, Rowena Carlson, Dennis Durgan, Hans Himmelman, Mary Alice O'Neill, Buddy Rego, Chris Terajewicz, and Jonathan Wright. Invited guests in attendance were: Post Captains Ray Collum, Peter Driscoll, and Dick Waterman; Webmaster Michael Moradzadeh; Communications Committee Chair James Phyfe, Events Committee Chair Anne Kolker and Fall Meeting Chair Gretchen McCurdy.

2. There was a motion made and seconded to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2023 Meeting of the Board of Governors as presented. Doug Adkins, in his role as Club Historian, thanked the secretary for the thorough minutes as they make the historian's job easier. **The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.**

3. The Commodore called upon Gretchen McCurdy to give a report on the upcoming Fall Members Meeting in Lunenburg. Gretchen announced that as of today, there are 82 members registered for the event, up from even one month ago. There was some concern last week about the schedule for the committee meetings (different committees meeting simultaneously) that led to a few changes that Gretchen hopes will meet the needs of the various committee chairs. Gretchen asked if anyone on the call had any lingering concerns about the schedule as it stands. Hearing none, Gretchen offered a recommendation for the board to consider.

Noting that scheduling has become more complicated than it used to be as a result of more committees, more individuals- including Flag Officers- who want to attend multiple meetings, and especially trying to accommodate participation via Zoom from people across numerous time zones. Gretchen encouraged the board to consider appointing one person to be the committee meeting scheduler for the fall meeting and the annual meeting. This person could then maintain a standard committee schedule, publicized well in advance, and allow the station volunteers to focus on the hospitality aspects of the gathering (including securing an adequate number of rooms and appropriate tech support for the meetings). Another suggestion was to consider having committee meetings spread out over two days and possibly

to only have them in the morning or afternoon (depending on the location and to accommodate at least the geographical opposite side Bermuda/Eastern Canada vs. Pacific coast for example). The Commodore encouraged Anne Kolker, Events Committee Chair, to look into developing this. Anne noted that she had the exact same problem for the annual meeting and suggested that perhaps people who are on multiple committees prioritize or rank the meetings they would like to attend.

The Commodore noted that for the annual meeting in March 2024, we are currently planning to have a few meetings on Thursday afternoon, including Safety at Sea, with the bulk of the committee meetings on Friday followed by the Awards Dinner Friday night.

Gretchen then asked about receiving some of the registration funds so that they can pay some of the bills in anticipation of the meeting. Kathleen asked Gretchen to submit a budget and then she will forward the money.

Gretchen noted that because the meetings are not in a conference center with their own technical people, they have hired a technical team to manage the WIFI, cameras, screens, and OWL. Finally, she reviewed the schedule that begins with a reception at the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic starting at 5 pm on Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup>. The Bluenose 2 will also be alongside for tours. On Friday, there will be committee meetings and the meeting of members from 3:30 to 5:30 pm followed by a seafood dinner at 6:30 with a special guest speaker that Steve James is working on. On Saturday, there are currently 47 people signed up for a sail on Bluenose 2. Gretchen noted that the Bras d'Or Lakes Station is encouraging people to dress casually and leave their Sunday best at home.

The Commodore told a good story about the movie, Captains Courageous, and encouraged all of us to watch it in anticipation of the Fall meeting. He thanked Gretchen and her team for all their work and encouraged us to go to Lunenburg, which will surely be beautiful in September.

4. Vice Commodore Jay Gowell gave his report. He began by highlighting the upcoming cruises. There are 130 people and 18 boats starting the Mallorca cruise soon. While there are 114 people and 23 boats registered for the Guadalupe cruise in March 2024, there is still room for more. Jay called upon Steve Calhoun who noted that there are 16 boats, 10 of which are charter boats, and 64 people registered for the Sea of Cortez cruise and they are hoping to have 85-90 people in the end. Steve noted that even though they are no longer holding boats, there are still charter boats available for this cruise. WHO noted that there are two international cruises within 90 days of each other and suggested that we try to spread them out a little more in the future. There was also a question of whether the Bermuda Race limits the number of people who will sign up for a cruise in May during the race years. Somers Kemp noted that for 2024, they are starting to plan a post-race cruise, which can be a really fun way to get to know the Bermuda islands. Jay noted that Les Crane continues to work on plans for the Sicily/Malta cruise. There are 33 boats that have expressed interest in the Scotland cruise in July 2025 and plans are underway for New England to Kinsale Island in June 2025. Depending on the level of interest with the Irish Cruising Club, the Scotland cruise may turn into two cruises that overlap some with each other. Jay noted that plans are underway for a cruise in the Medeterranean in the fall of 2025 and the Caribbean in winter 2026.

Peter Driscoll gave a brief recap of the Maine Coast cruise, noting that it was a great success! One of the take-aways is that it can be difficult to reserve restaurants for cruises because there is not much incentive

for them to hold enough space for an unknown number of meals. Having a club credit card to guarantee reservations might be helpful from time to time.

5. The Commodore called upon the Treasurer to make her report. Kathleen noted that we have \$142,500 in the Key Bank account, although that will drop soon as the station allocation checks will be mailed this week and there are some reimbursements due to Les Crane for the Mallorca Cruise. There is \$54,000 in savings. Kathleen is about to make the final draw from Fidelity that was authorized by the board to cover the expenses associated with the 100<sup>th</sup> celebrations. Kathleen reported that there has been a little bit of difficulty collecting payment from one of the sponsors but that will be the final expense or credit associated with the 100<sup>th</sup>. She noted that the proposed budget has been sent to the Financial Affairs Committee for review. Kathleen also noted that we are moving our accounts from Key Bank in Maine to Bank of America. This change will make a lot of her job easier for many reasons, including the fact that BofA allows us to wire funds internationally to support the cruises.

Kathleen encouraged us to vote in favor of the bylaws change that will align the club's fiscal year with the calendar year, noting that if you are not going to be in Lunenburg you can vote by proxy. There was a motion and a second made to support the passing of the fiscal year bylaws change. This motion passed unanimously.

6. The Commodore called upon the Membership Chair to make his report. Ernie Godshalk noted that there were 20 candidates up for election and that we had received detailed information about each in advance of the meeting. There was a motion made and seconded to elect all candidates as proposed for membership in The Club. The motion passed unanimously. Ernie noted that the new member welcome process begins today with letters from the Commodore and the relevant Rear Commodores. This process is designed to engage new members in club activities while they are especially enthusiastic.

Ernie mentioned an upgrade to the nominating process that is underway. Thanks to Michael Moradzadeh's efforts, there will be a new button that will go live at the end of the month.

Vice Commodore Jay Gowell thanked Ernie and his committee for all their great work and also asked the Rear Commodores to note that we have had a 4.5% decline in membership from 2020 to 2023. We lose about 31 members each year to Final Voyages plus a few others for various personal reasons so we need to find at least that many each year to sustain The Club. We also noted that without new members, a 4.5% decline in membership will result in the need for dues increases. There was some discussion about the barriers to entry, noting that while the standards for admission should not change, perhaps they should be a little easier to articulate.

7. The Commodore called upon Communications Committee Chair, James Phyfe, to give an update on his committee's work.

The Communications Committee has been active on several fronts since the Annual Meeting in New York where an updated Committee mission statement was approved. The "About Us" page on [cruisingclub.org](http://cruisingclub.org) was updated to reflect revisions to the Club Mission Statement approved in March.

The Club also saw significant publicity surrounding the awarding of our medals, including the Bluewater Medal to Kenichi Horie of Japan.

Chuck Hawley has been leading a review of all articles posted to the website with participation of 15 or so other CCA members. Pat Montgomery is working on a style guide and put together an interesting compendium of marketing practices at some of our closest sister clubs.

Doug Bruce, Wilson Fitt and other members of the Charts and Guide Committee published a widely acclaimed Guide to the Viking Route, edited by SASC Chairman Bill Strassberg. That committee has also been discussing the possible launch of a virtual Cruising Information Service that would replace the chart loaning service that has seen less and less utilization as technology has put paper charts out of favor. The CCA Cruising Guide to Maine and Guide to the Viking Route were featured in two advertisements in Sailing Scuttlebutt in April and August respectively.

As elsewhere reported separately, Waypoints and Gam have been publishing on schedule, and the editors of our various communications channels have been meeting monthly to discuss priorities and challenges.

Lastly, the Committee as a whole has been working on taking the elements of our newly adopted mission statement and turning them into a Communications Strategy, which will be the subject of our upcoming meeting in Lunenburg.

Bruce Johnston (PNW) will be attending Fall Meeting and will serve as the CCA delegate to the International Council of Yacht Clubs at its next meeting.

8. The Commodore reminded us of the upcoming meetings of the Governing Board.
  - a. September 5, 1600 ET, Tuesday via Zoom
  - b. September 29, at the Lunenburg Fall Meeting
  - c. December 5, 1600 ET, Tuesday via Zoom

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1735 hours Eastern

Respectfully Submitted,

Molly P. Barnes  
Secretary, The Cruising Club of America