Constitution Yacht Club

CURRENTS

Newsletter of the Constitution Yacht Club - February 2017

Hello and welcome to the first edition of Currents, the Constitution Yacht Club Newsletter. With the upcoming season in sight, we take this opportunity to learn new preseason boat preparations, and to highlight activities of those who have raced through the winter. We hope this newsletter will become a resource for announcing upcoming events, and for an engaged sharing of the various sailing experiences of the CYC and sailing community at large.

Boat Preparation

Projects for RockIt 2.0

by Lance Ryley

It's never too early to start thinking about the next racing season, and like most programs, most improvements to the boat are designed to keep the boat in its best racing shape. New sails, bottom paint, upgraded lines and equipment are, to be sure, part of a well-thought-out racing program, and RockIt 2.0 is no exception. However, in addition to some of these changes, focus this winter is on making sure RockIt 2.0 can make it to the starting line, whether that is in Boston Harbor, Marblehead, or Block Island. To that end, some small engine projects are happening even as the snow falls.

Water Pump Upgrade. Even a small diesel like the Yanmar 1GM10 in RockIt need to be kept cooled, whether it is a closed, fresh water system, or a "raw water" system, as on the 1GM10. Maintaining the water pump, impeller, and seals is extremely important; however, many owners neglect regularly servicing their water pumps due to the difficulty of accessing them, lack of proper tools, or the scarcity of spare parts. Enter the SpeedSeal (www.speedseal.com), a replacement cover for engine water pumps. The cover is made of 1/4" naval brass with an integral nitrile seal that replaces the need for paper or rubber gaskets. The true magic, though, is the knurled

thumbscrews that replace the existing cover bolts. This convenience makes it easy to remove the cover, whether it is in an emergency situation or just part of your routine maintenance. At a cost of only $70, this piece more than pays for itself in terms of convenience and ease of use.

Exhaust Elbow Upgrade. The exhaust elbow on most diesels is a deceptively simple part. Most people know that the mixing elbow on a diesel engine mixes salt water from the cooling system with the hot exhaust gases to cool them before they exit the boat. One can imagine that because of its environment - hot gases and salt water - that the mixing elbow can have a life span that is much shorter than that of the engine it services. In fact, if the weld inside the elbow breaks and allows salt water directly into the exhaust stream, the engine can experience extreme damage from salt water being ingested back into the engine itself. While an engine repair is expensive, the elbow is not cheap either. For the 1GM10, a Yanmar elbow costs around $150 (elbows for larger engines can cost upwards of $300) and still only has a 3 - 5 year life. For around $120, you can purchase a stainless steel mixing elbow (www.exhaustelbow.com). This elbow will far outlast the stock elbows and cost less to boot!

To summarize, getting the latest instruments, sail technology, and high-tech lines may help you beat your competitors around the course, but you can't win if you can't get to the starting line

Racing

Recap of the CYC Jack Roberts Memorial New Year's Day Race

by Phil and Yolande Haydon

Picture courtesy of Lisa McKerracher

Benjamin Franklin famously wrote, "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." Not necessarily true if you're a canny CYC sailor, at least as far as taxes are concerned.

Apparently some years ago Boston tax collectors would walk the area docks on New Year's Day and recorded boats docked in marinas for taxation. How to avoid this? Don't be at the docks on New Year's Day. And hey - while you're out there, why not race? And thus was born the CYC New Year's Day Race. Of course, the authorities eventually changed their tactics, but the race goes on!
The 2017 The 2017 Jack Roberts Memorial New Year's Day (NYD) pursuit race attracted eight entries - four in jib and main and four in the spinnaker fleets. The fleet consisted of a mix of boats, including cruisers,

offshore and racing vessels. With temperatures in the low 40s and conditions blustery with winds from 5-30kts the Fleet Captain selected rogue race course number two, taking everyone from the start line between Pier 6 and red buoy 14, round green 13, up to red 12 before returning to the start line. Navigation was made more interesting by the tanker anchored in middle of the harbor, requiring an important navigation decision, particularly on the return from red 12 to the finish line: the shorter course involved short tacking on the leeward side of the tanker, close to east Boston, while a longer windward course was available. A few boats took the shorter, east Boston side of the course, which in the end would pay dividends.

This year's race was nicely competitive, with the fleet split into a couple of clear groups by the finish. Among the first group were John B, Eagle and Konik Morski. These vessels had predominantly sailed windward of the tanker on their return, appearing to get cleaner air. Most of the second pack, which trailed the first by about a minute, had chosen to sail on the Boston side of the course, where the impact of the Boston skyline on the winds, especially from the west, resulted in a light air patch with winds in the 5-10kt range. In this pack were three boats – Ye Old School, Slice and Prairie Gold – that were separated at the finish line by only 30 seconds. Only one vessel ended up flying its spinnaker, and Prairie Gold's distinctive Union Flag caused excitement for crew and onlookers alike as a wind gust almost took them to Castle Island!

Allan McLean and his crew on Eagle were winners of the spinnaker fleet in CYC 2017 New Year's Day Race while Jim Corbett and his crew on John B were first in the jib and main fleet. It was a great beginning to the 2017 racing season and all are congratulated for braving the conditions and for excellent seamanship.

Konik Morski

A special mention goes to Konik Morski, a Beneteau owned by Pauline Dowell, which competed in the CYC 2017 New Year's Day Race. Pauline and her crew are all legally blind. A couple of sighted sailors from Courageous Sailing were on board for navigational safety, but the boat was controlled solely by Pauline and her crew. Konik Morski sailed a superb race, coming in second in the spinnaker fleet. Maybe the rest of us can take a lesson from Konik Morsi's skills and pay more attention to the feel of the boat than to what the instruments say!

Education

Upcoming CYC Education Seminar Events 2017

by Phil Haydon

The CYC Education Series 2017 includes seminars intended to be of interest to both racing and cruising sailors. All events are scheduled for 7:00 pm at the Living Room Restaurant located at 101 Atlantic Ave Boston. Admission includes appetizers, a cash bar, and a dinner menu. All events are free to CYC members and are $10 for non-members. To register, go to www.cycboston.org/education/.

Seminar 1: Single Handed Racing Around the World
When: Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 7:00 PM
Where: The Living Room, 101 Atlantic Ave, Boston, MA 02110
Jonathan Green, Boston-based specialist in shorthanded sailing and winner of the 2013 Original Single Handed Trans-Atlantic Race (OSTAR), is part of the team that assisted Rich Wilson in his 2016/17 Vendée Globe campaign and his international school program, which has active participants in 62 counties. Jonathan will discuss the race, its history, the monumental effort just to get to the starting line and Rich's approach to taking on this Everest of sailing. With luck, Jonathan will follow in Rich's footsteps in 2020!

Seminar 2: Community Boat Building
When: Wednesday, March 15, 2017, 7:00 PM
Where: The Living Room, 101 Atlantic Ave, Boston, MA 02110
Community Boat Building's (CBB) mission is to bring real world experience and academic skills together to build not only a seaworthy boat, but also excitement for learning among low-income elementary school students in Boston Public Schools. Executive Director of CBB, Stockton Reece, will join us to discuss the background and goals of CBB and to explain how CYC members can support the program.

Seminar 3: Topic to be announced
When: Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 7:00 PM
Where: The Living Room, 101 Atlantic Ave, Boston, MA 02110

Sailing Tip

Removing a Wrap on the Winch

by Ed Marcus

When sailing upwind into a channel, an untimely wrap on the winch can prevent getting onto the opposite tack before reaching a leeward shore or a shoal. Try then to send a person forward to ease the jib halyard a foot or two. This will relieve the strain on the sheet and with a few tugs on the line the wrap might come out quickly.

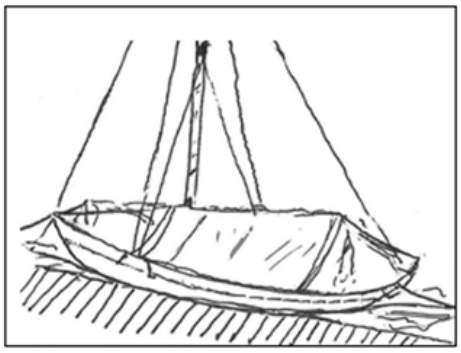

Illustration by Ed Marcus

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Dianne Olszewski	*Vice Commodore*
Peter Galipault	*Rear Commodore*
Dave Alexander	*Treasurer*
Lorna Preston	*Recording Secretary*
Lance Ryley	*Fleet Captain*

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Brian Sullivan	*Fleet Governor*
Mike Dreese	*Director – Emeritus*
John Chuang	*Director – Emeritus*

If you have an idea or want to contribute an original article for the next newsletter, then we would like to hear from you!

Please contact: EMarcus @cycboston.org