

# PORTSMOUTH YACHT CLUB

Newsletter | OCTOBER 2023 | Volume 125 | Issue 6



View from the Bridge  
Commodore Roger Wells



*1898 - Celebrating 125 Years! - 2023*



Oh, my, I cannot believe that I am writing my October message for the PYC Newsletter. It seems like I did this yesterday for September. Time is flying. As I said in the last message, there were some good weather days but this was the rainiest summer that I can recall. Boating was sometimes at a total standstill, but the scheduled social events and other gatherings of friends at the Club kept chugging along thanks to the efforts of Vice Commodore Christensen, Rear Commodore Gingras, and Manager Maddie Flagg and her staff. And, of course, all the hosts and volunteers!.

Please attend the fun, but sad, Docks Out Work Party (and pot luck meal), which will take place on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Details will be forthcoming from Rear Commodore Gingras.

The Board of Directors and Flag Officers are preparing for the Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, so keep an eye on your USPS mailbox and your emails for the details of this important event.

Respectfully,  
Commodore Roger Wells  
[Commodore@PortsmouthYC.org](mailto:Commodore@PortsmouthYC.org)

**PLAN TO ATTEND THE  
PYC ANNUAL MEETING  
7 PM, THURSDAY OCTOBER 12**

**[DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE](#)**

**DOCKS OUT  
WORK PARTY &  
POT LUCK  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21**

**There is a lot of work to be done!**

**Work Party starts around 9:30.**

**Docks will start coming  
out around 1:00.**

**More details to come!**



## From the Vice Commodore | Soni Christensen

Thank you, thank you to all the Super hosts who sponsored 24 events this year. Every one of you prepared the most delicious meals and fun events ever presented. There have been many comments all year, and last year too, about the quality and uniqueness of the events. I truly believe that last season and this season have raised the bar immensely for host events at PYC. I thank all the teams of volunteers that helped as well. It couldn't have happened without you.

I have had the honor of being your Vice Commodore for the past two years. This experience has enabled me to meet and appreciate so many members that I would have never known. Thank you .

A special Thank You to Christina Weller for all her dedication and hard work preparing all the Event flyers and Newsletters. Its not easy, she is constantly reminding the Flag officers for their reports, and following up with the event hosts because their information needed some final touches. She is so valuable to the success of this Club.



*2023 Past Commodores Cocktail Party*

Finally don't forget Docks Out October 21. Bring something Yummy to share with everyone. Its definitely a club team effort to close down our Club.

Again thank you for allowing me this wonderful opportunity to be your Vice Commodore.

Warm Regards,

Soni Christensen, [ViceCommodore@PortsmouthYC.org](mailto:ViceCommodore@PortsmouthYC.org)

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## From the Rear Commodore | Dan Gingras

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We'll, it's time to start winding down. It's been quite a year... it started with trying to find a new general manager, a task that literally kept me up at night. Luckily I was able to lure Maddie back, and from there we were able to hire enough licensed staff to keep our launches running. The US Coast Guard had some problem getting the licenses processed, but ultimately all was resolved.

Then came December 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the significant damage to the deck and porch. We all know how that ended up being resolved, and I think we can agree that it was a significant upgrade to the facilities.

Many issues were resolved with little fanfare, including upgrading the equipment in the launches to comply with US Coast Guard regulations, enrolling our staff in a federally mandated random drug testing program, and having the USCG inspect our launches as Uninspected Passenger Vessels to insure that they complied with all federal regulations.

It's amazing to learn how many local, state and federal regulations our little club is subject to, and complying with them can sometimes be frustrating. It's also sometimes difficult to keep up with all the repairs and maintenance necessary to keep the club functioning. Some of those things included replacing the freezer, repairing leaks in the kitchen, adding a timer to the front spotlight, replacing some of the defective equipment on the launches, etc.

Frankly, it was a lot of work, but I enjoyed every minute of it. I'm grateful to all of you who recognized the work that was done.

I hope I'll see many of you at the closing work parties, and at Docks Out. In the meantime if you have any questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Dan Gingras, Rear Commodore [RearCommodore@PortsmouthYC.org](mailto:RearCommodore@PortsmouthYC.org)



*Thanks to PC Glenn & Barbara Michael, and PC Mike & Anne Coffey, who added a burgee from the Portsmouth Navy Yacht Club to the PYC Burgee Collection!*

*Check out our Burgee Collection in the clubhouse, or at [PortsmouthYC.org](http://PortsmouthYC.org) > [Burgees](#)*

## SAILING MISTRAL

*Update from Carl and Betsy Stevens*

Sailing along the southern coast of Sardinia we noticed a strange vision in the distance. It appeared to be a wall of white caps. I said, "Hmmm...must be the mistral starting out *there*. Interesting." Just a few minutes later the wall of white started to get closer. "Hmmm...it's getting closer." "Oh look. You can see the wind coming over the water towards us." Within seconds we were enveloped in 35 knot gusts. The Mistral arrived early from a different direction that was predicted. We dashed behind a headland, anchored, and waited for the wind direction to change. A few hours later we were able to head to the safe anchorage where we had first intended to go. We sat there safely for three days, while the Mistral howled. Now we know what we're facing when a mistral is predicted!



*Sailing up the east coast of Sardinia, Italy*

We just returned from a visit to Tunisia to see the ruins at Carthage, and now we're headed up the East coast of Sardinia. In September we will be working our way back to Gibraltar in order to head to the Canary Islands in November. From there we will cross the Atlantic again to the Caribbean for the winter.

*\*A mistral is a strong wind that blows down the French alps into the Mediterranean. It is rare to have such a strong mistral in July*

You can follow our journey at <https://forecast.PredictWind.com/tracking/display/SV-Mistral/>  
Visit our YouTube channel at <http://www.YouTube.com/channel/UCSs5FOQKwK3C-7LArkl2UKw>



*Bangor Packet at J/24 World Championships*

## 2023 J/24 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

*Congratulations to PYC member  
Emmet Todd!*

*Emmet was a member of the team  
racing "Bangor Packet" USA58,  
skippered by Tony Parker that  
placed 3rd overall at the J/24  
Worlds held at the Nautical Club of  
Thessaloniki, Greece, on  
September 9th.*