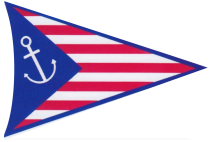


# PORTSMOUTH YACHT CLUB

Newsletter | March 2024 | Volume 126 Issue 1



## View from the Bridge Commodore Dan Gingras



January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 was another disaster day for Portsmouth Yacht Club as a spring tide coupled with a storm center drove water high into the clubhouse for the first time. Water was 17" over the deck, and approximately 13" up the side door opening onto the deck. Luckily this door held back most of the water with just a small amount leaking underneath. Unfortunately, it was enough to soak the carpets and submerge part of the dance floor. I was called by Soni Christensen early as the water rose and was able to drive through standing water near the Wentworth to get to the club as the water continued to rise, however as the water continued to rise, I was trapped on the island. I was able to recover some of the floating items such as propane tanks and some of the mooring balls which were secured. I immediately notified our insurance agent and called Insurcomm, a remediation company, to get the proper equipment in place to dehumidify the club and add heaters. I also documented as much as I could with photos for our insurance claim. At 16:13 Insurcomm arrived with a bunch of equipment, and Rear Commodore Whit Weller came to help remove some of the standing water with wet/dry vacs. We also put out a call for volunteers to begin cleanup on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January. The response was fantastic, and we were able to remove everything from the first floor and move it to the second floor. A very big thank you to all of the members who responded. Insurcomm also connected electric heaters to warm the building to help with the dehumidification. It is possible that we may find further damage as we open the club, since the water heater was flooded and there was substantial movement of the floor as waves flooded under the building. In addition, there was substantial water in the shed. The good news is that despite waves crashing into the building and damaging the porch windows, the new deck did not move. We did, however, lose the ramp to the side access to the deck.

We were not the only organization in the harbor who suffered some damage. The Coast Guard station had significant damage to their boathouse, so much so that it was rendered unusable. Maddie was contacted by the Executive Petty Officer Tim Leyland and forwarded me his contact information. When contacted he explained that their 32' rescue boat did not have a place out of which to operate and wondered if we might have some room for them. Realizing that this was a critical asset to the maritime community, I contacted Rear Commodore Whit Weller who worked to rearrange the dock to make space for their boat, and negotiated a contract with them to allow them to rent a slip from which to respond to emergencies. We all should be proud of PYC's work to insure that boaters will be safe this summer.

We're going to have a lot of work to do to get the club open and move all the equipment we stored upstairs back in place. I have no doubt that the PYC community will be there at Docks In to get things ship shape.

As always, I'm available for questions from members.

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

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### APPLICANT INTERVIEWS:

*Applicant interviews have been on hold during the off-season. We anticipate starting them again in April. Applicants waiting for an interview will hear from a member of the Membership Committee when scheduling starts.*

### SPONSORING MEMBERS:

*As approved at the 2023 Annual Meeting, each sponsoring member must attend at least one of the events required for application, with their applicant.*

*Sponsors, please provide your applicant with the 2024 Application Form that can be found on our website: [2024 PYC Application Form](#). This form can be filled out electronically. If filled out by hand, please print legibly.*

### WE HAVE RECEIVED 4 NEW APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:

**Neil and Sherri Clerk** of North Hampton, sponsored by Porter Davis and Doyle Skeels. The Clerks are a family of 6 that loves being on the water. Neil has raced one design boats since high school and continues to love sailing. Sherri and the kids prefer power boating, but equally love time away from land. They are excited to spend more time meeting people with similar interests at PYC. Neil has raced J24s, Lasers, IODs and Sonars. He is a member of the Corinthian Yacht Club Sailing team. Logan and Katherine have raced Optis, while Elizabeth and Alaisdair prefer keel boats. Sherri's preference is a Hinckley picnic boat whenever she gets a chance.

**Michael Leatherman and Yoshiko Araki** of Dover, sponsored by Lisa & Peter Amarosa and Grant Cumming. Michael and Yoshiko are enthusiastic about joining the PYC for the vibrant social community it offers with like-minded individuals who share their passion for boating and the water. After attending several events in 2023, they see the club as an ideal place to forge lasting friendships, engage in lively events, and be part of a welcoming community. They look forward to participating in the club's varied social calendar, contributing to the inclusive atmosphere, and embracing the community where the joy of boating and the warmth of companionship are intertwined. They have a 19' powerboat, *Flat Chance*.

**Geoffrey and Jessie Gilton** of Rye, sponsored by Peter Paul and Wayne Semprini. Geoff, Jessie, and their three kids have lived on the seacoast for thirteen years. They were drawn to the seacoast to be near the ocean and it's many outdoor activities. Jessie grew up sailing on Long Island Sound and has been sailing in the Caribbean and Turkey with Geoff. Geoff was a member of the Boston Sailing Club when they lived in Brookline MA. They plan to purchase a powerboat in the future.

**Jeff and Genie Smith** of New Castle, sponsored by Paul Urbanek and Randy Bryan. Lifelong residents of Concord, NH, the Smith's loved the NH Seacoast, spending summers at their cottage in Rye. With their children grown, their plan was to retire on the seacoast. They moved to New Castle full-time in 2017. They were inspired by their water access to the back channel, and frequently explored the waterways in their kayaks and Boston Whaler. As their love for boating grew, they joined friends and became members of Freedom Boat Club and enjoyed having access to larger boats. In the summer of 2024 they will both be retired and have been looking for more social activity in the area. They enjoyed their time visiting PYC and were warmly greeted by other members. They feel they would be active members of the PYC and look forward to joining.

### 2024 OFFICERS

Commodore Dan Gingras  
Vice Commodore Theresa White  
Rear Commodore Whit Weller

[Commodore@PortsmouthYC.org](mailto:Commodore@PortsmouthYC.org)  
[ViceCommodore@PortsmouthYC.org](mailto:ViceCommodore@PortsmouthYC.org)  
[RearCommodore@PortsmouthYC.org](mailto:RearCommodore@PortsmouthYC.org)

### APPOINTED

Doyle Skeels  
Secretary Beth Fraser  
Communications Secy Christina Weller

[Treasurer@PortsmouthYC.org](mailto:Treasurer@PortsmouthYC.org)  
[Secretary@PortsmouthYC.org](mailto:Secretary@PortsmouthYC.org)  
[Communications@PortsmouthYC.org](mailto:Communications@PortsmouthYC.org)

### 2024 DIRECTORS

Keith Bridge  
Soni Christensen  
Christopher Clement

Robert DeMaria  
Steve Falzone  
Bill Gosselin

Jim Haslam  
Elaine Perry  
PC Roger Wells



## From the Vice Commodore | Theresa White

The Social Committee has been busy planning the social calendar for the upcoming 2024 season. I am happy to say the planning meeting was well attended, and I would like to thank all of those who came. There was a lot of positive energy and enthusiasm at the meeting along with fresh new ideas. Several first time hosts have volunteered, and others from afar have contacted me to take on past favorite events. In addition to our calendar planning a big thank you for all of you who volunteered to be our monthly hosts.

We are looking for new members to sponsor a few of our planned events as noted in our calendar.

We need sponsors for the following events:

- TBD-March Dinner with Speaker
- May Opening & October Closing Party
- July 4th BBQ
- "Grill Night" in July & August
- Past Commodore Party
- Holiday Party in November while introducing new officers for 2025

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if you would like to sponsor and/or participate in an event. Details about upcoming events to follow in the Vice Commodore's report in the next newsletter.

This year we are introducing a "Summer Series Grill Night" with music for all members to enjoy. The evening is a member sponsored event where the sponsored member will work their

magic on the grill. The menu will be posted monthly at the club. We are actively looking for local musicians to entertain us. If you know of someone please feel free to share.

We have several Dinner/Speaker events planned. In June we will have Fox Point Oysters out of Little Bay give us a presentation on oyster farming in the Great Bay Estuarine system (menu to be determined). Author Dennis Robinson will join us in September to talk about his latest book "1623".

We have officially made it through the darkest weeks of the year, and can now look forward to those longer, brighter days ahead.

Mark your calendar for the Spring Work Party April 13th, Docks In and Pot Luck on April 20th, and the Kentucky Derby Party hosted by the Ladies Committee on May 4th.

I look forward to seeing everyone for a fun filled season ahead.

Theresa White, Vice Commodore [ViceCommodore@PortsmouthYC.org](mailto:ViceCommodore@PortsmouthYC.org)

### SAVE THE DATES:

*Details to Come!*

**MARCH POSSIBLE DINNER / SPEAKER  
EVENT**

**4/13 (S) WORK PARTY**

**4/20 (S) DOCKS IN & POTLUCK**

**5/4 (S) KENTUCKY DERBY  
PARTY**

*Sponsored by the Ladies Committee!*

*Details to come!*





## From the Rear Commodore | Whit Weller



*Cleanup Crew, January 14, 2024*

The preparations for the 2024 season are under way. There have been several significant events to report for January and February. But the first order of business is to say how pleased I am to have Maddie return as our club Steward and General Manager. Maddie has hired Adam Shapiro to be Dockmaster and the team has started to fill the staff requirement. Comm. Gingras and I have been working closely to bring together all of the aspects necessary to fulfill our wish to prepare PYC for the spring opening.

January brought a water event that caused some damage to the clubhouse. Dan and I worked diligently to clear the inundated floor of water. We wet-vac'ed and brought in a water mitigation and recovery company called Insurcomm to assist in de-humidification and moisture removal. We succeeded to remove most of the water in an attempt to save the carpet and floor from damage. The storm surge broke into the screen porch doing some damage to panels and screens, the fuel sump cover was lost and floated away down river and the entry walk way on the south side had the ramp washed away.

We were fortunate that our new appliances, both refrigeration and freezers were spared any harm. The clubhouse itself did not suffer any damage to the main structure which is due to the investment the membership made to tie the house undercarriage to concrete footings. A big thanks goes out to the 40 or more members who answered the call to move all the goods stored in the house to the second floor or out in the yard so we could dry out the carpets and floor. Comm. Gingras has contacted our insurance team and assessors have inspected the property. The good news is we believe we can pull all the pieces together and meet our scheduled opening for the first week of May.

The tank fuel tank replacement committee met with the engineering firm and reviewed plans for re-building the south walkway (probably Spring '25). An assessment has been done on necessary fastener and stringer repairs to some of our floats.

The United States Coast Guard, Portsmouth Harbor Group had damage to their boathouse and dock system during the Jan 13th storm. As a result they have asked PYC if we could rent them a slip until repair has been accomplished. We have finalized a lease agreement to let them use Slip "M" to dock their 32' Rapid Response Boat for the '24 season. Thanks go out to Capt. Jelmberg for making slip "M" available. The club membership and the USCG owe Jim a hearty thank you for his sacrifice for the USCG.

I will be convening a meeting with the House and Docks committee to organize repairs to the south boardwalk ramp and other house and dock repairs.

See you around the club!

Whit Weller, Rear Commodore [RearCommodore@PortsmouthYC.org](mailto:RearCommodore@PortsmouthYC.org)





## SAILING MISTRAL

*Update from Carl and Betsy Stevens*

February 11, 2024

Greetings PYC friends. We departed Canary Islands at the end of November and stopped in the Cape Verde Islands for refueling after several days of calm. Then it was off for our second Atlantic crossing with 2 friends helping as crew. The trade winds were fairly light. Nonetheless, we had some drama as expected. At one point during a night of shifty winds, when taking the main down, a gust broke the clew line holding the sail to the in-boom roller furling. The strain on the foot of the sail caused it to rip off the boom. Carl was able to sew up the tear, and we got the main back on the boom three days later when the conditions had quieted. Another time of anxiety happened when we noticed that a strand of wire on each of two different shrouds had parted. Fortunately, that was more towards the end of the crossing, so Carl re-enforced the two shrouds, and we made it safely to Martinique. Martinique had excellent yacht facilities, so we had the standing rigging replaced at a reasonable price. Currently, we are in Antigua working our way up the Leeward Island chain. We will be in the US Virgin Islands and British Virgin Islands in a couple of weeks for the month of March. Then we'll be heading to the Bahamas and up the East Coast. If any members happen to be in the area, email us so we can enjoy a sundowner together!



*Carl and Betsy (center), their 2 crewman,  
and the dogs arrive in Martinique*

([estevens@exeter.edu](mailto:estevens@exeter.edu)).

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>