

# PORTSMOUTH YACHT CLUB

Newsletter | August'26 | Volume 128 Issue 4



## View from the Bridge Commodore Chris Clement



Shipmates,

Following an exceptionally warm July, August has arrived with much of the same summer weather, busy docks, active waterways, and a full calendar of events. It has been wonderful to see the Club bustling with activity as members enjoy the very best of the boating season.

I would like to thank all those who participated in our July events and welcome the many new members and families who have joined us throughout the season. One of the most rewarding aspects of this summer has been seeing new faces at our social gatherings, races, and cruising events. Your participation strengthens our community and contributes to the welcoming spirit that has long defined Portsmouth Yacht Club.

### *Commodore's Reflection*

As we enjoy the height of another New England summer, I would like to recognize the people whose efforts contribute so much to the success of Portsmouth Yacht Club.

First, my sincere thanks to *Steward Wendy Rolfe, Russ Smith, and our dedicated staff* for their diligence, professionalism, and continued support of club operations. Their hard work behind the scenes ensures that our clubhouse, events, and member services consistently meet the high standards we all appreciate.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

#### **AUGUST**

August hosts: Tom & Barbara Archibald,  
Karen Fay

- 8/1(S) PRESENTATION & POT LUCK DINNER** - Canceled
- 8/3(M) Cruise Kick Off Party in Rockland, ME**
- 8/7(F) GRILL NIGHT W/ TEAM TRIVIA** (see pg 6)
- 8/8(S) DAVE MOWERS MEMORIAL RACE** (see pg 5)  
PYC Race Committee and PSA
- 8/12(W) CAST AWAY ISLAND GRILL NIGHT** (see pg 7)
- 8/19(W) STAFF APPRECIATION NIGHT** (see pg 8)
- 8/23(SU) WOOD ISLAND EVENT** (see pg 9)
- 8/28(F) MEXICAN NIGHT – Las Olas** (see pg 10)

#### **PRIVATE FUNCTIONS**

**8/10 (M); 8/31(M)**

**Members, please use outside walkway**

Follow up-to-date information on the  
**PYC Calendar**

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continued from pg 1

I encourage all members to attend *Staff Appreciation Night on August 19* as a way to personally thank Wendy, Russ, and our staff for their commitment throughout the season. Their contributions often occur behind the scenes, but they are essential to providing the exceptional experience we enjoy as members. A strong turnout will be a meaningful expression of our gratitude and support.

I would also like to thank our membership for taking pride in our facilities. The care shown in keeping our clubhouse, kitchen, docks, and grounds clean and welcoming reflects the strong sense of stewardship that has always been a hallmark of Portsmouth Yacht Club.

Finally, I would like to recognize our *Board of Directors* for the countless volunteer hours they devote to the governance and long-term success of the Club. Their leadership, commitment, and willingness to serve ensure that Portsmouth Yacht Club remains a thriving organization for current and future generations.

As summer enters its final full month, I encourage everyone to take advantage of the many opportunities to enjoy the water, participate in Club events, and strengthen the friendships that make our Club so special.

I look forward to seeing you at the clubhouse, on the docks, and throughout the month of August.

Respectfully,

Chris Clement, Commodore [Commodore@PortsmouthYC.org](mailto:Commodore@PortsmouthYC.org)

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The following applicants have been interviewed by the Membership Committee and placed on the PYC Wait List:

- Leif and Margaret Honda
- Jane Armstrong & James Rosenfield

## 2026 FLAG OFFICERS

|                                       |                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Commodore Chris Clement               | <a href="mailto:Commodore@PortsmouthYC.org">Commodore@PortsmouthYC.org</a>         |
| Vice Commodore Toby Clarke            | <a href="mailto:ViceCommodore@PortsmouthYC.org">ViceCommodore@PortsmouthYC.org</a> |
| Asst. Vice Commodore Theresa White    | <a href="mailto:ViceCommodore@PortsmouthYC.org">ViceCommodore@PortsmouthYC.org</a> |
| Rear Commodore Steve Falzone          | <a href="mailto:RearCommodore@PortsmouthYC.org">RearCommodore@PortsmouthYC.org</a> |
| Asst. Rear Commodore Peter Amarosa*** | <a href="mailto:RearCommodore@PortsmouthYC.org">RearCommodore@PortsmouthYC.org</a> |

## 2026 APPOINTED

|                                      |                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Treasurer Doyle Skeels               | <a href="mailto:Treasurer@PortsmouthYC.org">Treasurer@PortsmouthYC.org</a>           |
| Secretary Beth Fraser                | <a href="mailto:Secretary@PortsmouthYC.org">Secretary@PortsmouthYC.org</a>           |
| Communications Secy Christina Weller | <a href="mailto:Communications@PortsmouthYC.org">Communications@PortsmouthYC.org</a> |

## 2026 DIRECTORS

|                  |                |             |                 |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Keith Bridge     | PC Dan Gingras | Nancy Oeser | Paul Urbanek*** |
| Peter Donahue*** | Jim Haslam     | Andy Smith  |                 |

\*\*\*New Board Member 2026

## 2026 STAFF

|                       |                                                                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Steward Wendy Rolfe   | <a href="mailto:Steward@PortsmouthYC.org">Steward@PortsmouthYC.org</a>       |
| Dockmaster Russ Smith | <a href="mailto:Dockmaster@PortsmouthYC.org">Dockmaster@PortsmouthYC.org</a> |



## From the Vice Commodore | [vicecommodore@portsmouthyc.org](mailto:vicecommodore@portsmouthyc.org)

As the setting sun viewed from the PYC deck begins moving back towards the Market Square church steeple, the club season is moving along.

Many thanks again to our fellow club members for creating fabulous events for our members and guests to enjoy. We hope you have been able to participate in some. If not, there are still many remaining on the calendar so sign up early and make plans to attend. We have tried this year to have different size events to meet the interests of different members. This year appropriate food left over from events is being donated to a local food bank.

In addition, some educational events are being hosted at PYC for the enlightenment of members and guests as we enjoy and learn about the Seacoast area and boating.

Several of your fellow members have taken on tasks to improve the appearance and operation of the club as highlighted in the Rear Commodore report. In the tradition of our club this is a very important part of the membership pride and responsibility and very much appreciated.

In this spirit a monthly reminder to please make sure you leave your club in great shape after you entertain your family and friends. Totally clean kitchen area including glasses and silverware, porch umbrellas lowered and secured, the closing check list found on the kitchen cabinets completed and double checked. In addition we now have a special dishwasher rack that fits martini glasses. Please be sure to use it.

If not sure what to do, please ask a fellow club member. Leave the club in the condition you would like to find it in when you arrive. It is not staff responsibility but rather ours.

As always we value your feedback in helping us continue the tradition of having a club that we can all enjoy together.

See you soon on deck,

Toby and Theresa

### NEWPORT BERMUDA RACE 2026

PYC member Vince Todd participated in this year's Newport Bermuda Race, with his kids as crew. The 46' *Inverness* came in 4th of 86 boats in the Saint David Lighthouse division, with an elapsed time of 4 days, 4 hours, and 48 minutes.



The Newport Bermuda Race is a 636-mile biennial ocean sailing competition from Newport, Rhode Island, to Bermuda. Established in 1906, it's the oldest regularly scheduled ocean race

and one of the few international distance races held almost entirely out of sight of land .



INVERNESS





## A View from the Rear | [rearcommodore@portsmouthyc.org](mailto:rearcommodore@portsmouthyc.org)

Summer at PYC is in full swing with member usage of the club, member-hosted events, and rental events. The fuel dock is busy and Russ continues to keep our pricing very competitive. In addition, he continues to manage our mooring reservation system. We are running slightly ahead of last year with reservations and continue to receive 5 Star ratings and positive feedback on Dockwa, our online reservation website. Russ has also continued to conduct safety training with our dock staff.

Wendy has been very busy coordinating staff schedules, filling in on the fuel dock when needed, as well as working club events and rental events with our members. She continues to keep the clubhouse looking clean, orderly, and well stocked. She has also been spending a lot of time working with members to address their needs, complaints, and thoughts. As such, we will be re-implementing the PYC suggestion box. It will be located on the table in the entryway. If you have any complaints or ideas on how to make the club better, please fill out a form and put it in the box. A Board member will respond to you. Our hope is that this will help free up Wendy so she can focus on other club tasks.

Thank you to Mark Bodi for his painting and patching efforts in the men's bathroom, front hallway, kitchen window, and entryway door. Thank you to Peter Amarosa for building the ramp to the deck side clubhouse door and rebuilding the larger outside grill after an unfortunate grill fire. He has also rebuilt and reshelved the linen and sound equipment closet. Thank you to Dan Gingras for acquiring the hand rail for the ramp and installing it with the help of Peter Amarosa. Thank you to Mary Pat and crew for redoing the garden beds in the front of the clubhouse. Thank you to Paul Urbanek for maintaining the outside grills with water in the drip trays and keeping the grill grates clean to prevent further flare up issues. If you are grilling, please do not leave your food unattended on the grill. There is fire suppression equipment mounted on the shed and a hose and water behind you.

Thank you to PC Dan Gingras and Captain John Sakovitz for piloting our PYC launches to bring the Mayor and City Manager of Portsmouth, Grand Marshals of the Parade of Sail, along with the head of Sail Portsmouth and their guests to visit the Tall Ship, *Oosterschelde*. This event took place on the evening of July 23, marking the official kickoff of the 2026 Sail Portsmouth Maritime Festival.

Please be aware that you are not allowed to tie up to the facedock to attend club events per house and dock rules, Section II, number 2, located on page 59 of the PYC Directory.

A reminder that we will no longer be ordering disposable Solo cups in an effort to cut expenses and unnecessary waste. If you require a portable beverage while at the club, please consider bringing your own travel mug, tumbler, or reusable cup. The PYC ship's store also sells these items.

**All vehicles parked in the club lot must have a PYC parking sticker window decal displayed on the driver's side rear window. The rear-view mirror hang tags are no longer valid. A reminder that the parking lot is for members only. If you are in need of a parking sticker decal, please see Wendy. Only one vehicle per membership should be parked in the lot at a time. Extra member vehicles or any guests should park on the road along the fence.**

Lastly, please be considerate of fellow members when attending an event. If you are able to leave spaces open in the parking lot for those who have mobility issues, please do.

Steve and Peter

### Victoria Yeager visits PYC

Victoria Yeager, widow of renowned test pilot General Chuck Yeager, visited Seacoast NH in June. Always looking for a chance to go for a sail, she contact PYC to see if anyone might offer her a ride. Keith Bridge generously took her out for an afternoon on *Merrywing*.



Victoria Yeager aboard MERRYWING

## Dave Mowers Memorial Regatta | Saturday, August 8



Dave Mowers Memorial Regatta will be held on Saturday August 8, 2028 at PYC. This race is in memory of Past Commodore Dave Mowers who, though a power-boater, was an active supporter of the PYC Race Committee and PSA.

The race is one of the 5 races that comprise the “Commodores Cup” series. The series is co-sponsored with Kittery Point Yacht Club (KPYC). Trophies are awarded at the end of the season to the best boats in the combined 5 races throughout the summer.

The race will start and end in front of PYC, and there will be great viewing opportunities from the dock and deck. The captain’s meeting will be at PYC at 8AM and the race will start at 11:30AM.

Courses will be set based on the wind speed and direction, but they usually go out of the river, sail around some buoys, and then race to the finish in front of PYC. Most boats will finish by 2-4PM depending on wind and tides. Post-race social BBQ with chowder, hamburgers and hot dogs will take place followed by awards giving at PYC 4-8PM. All members are welcome to join in the activities. The race committee will be off the dock throughout the race. Members are encouraged to come to PYC with friends and family to watch the race start and finish in front of the dock, as there is always some exciting action.

Steve Knollmeyer PYC Race Chair  
[steveknollmeyer@icloud.com](mailto:steveknollmeyer@icloud.com)

*For those members who wish to attend the BBQ, they are welcome to join and pay a \$20 entry fee for food. Email Steve or show up at door! All are welcome!*



*MOWERS RACE finish line off PYC Dock*



*Aboard VELEDARE*





**GRILL  
NIGHT**  
and  
**Team Trivia**

**Friday August 7**  
**Dinner at 6pm**  
**Trivia at about 7:15pm**

**Choice of**  
**Salmon Burger or Chicken Breast**  
**served with Aioli and Brioche Bun**

**Assorted Seasonal Salads and Sides**  
**Dessert**

**\$30 per person**

*Seacoast trivia master, Lee Brooks, will host this customized session for PYC. Plan your teams of 4 – 8 people. Prizes will be awarded for top teams. You won't want to miss this fun event!*

*Hosted by Toby & Nancy Clarke and Crew*  
*Sign Up / Cancellation Deadline: July 31st*





**WEDNESDAY AUGUST 12 - 6:00 PM**  
**\$20 PER PERSON**

Hosted by: Liz and Geoff Pendexter,  
Holly Knox, Kari and Jeff Schmitz



# Join us as we head East PYC Staff Appreciation Night



Wednesday August 19th  
at 1800 (6pm)

Pot Stickers - Dipping Sauce  
Hosin Pork Tenderloin  
Thai Noodle Salad  
Crunchy Asian Slaw  
Fruit Skewers

25.00 per person

Kindly respond by August 12th

Hosted by PYC Flag Officers  
and Board of Directors



# *You're Invited to a Summer Soirée!*

Join us for a memorable evening cruise to the iconic

## **Wood Island Life Saving Station** off the coast of Maine **on Sunday, August 23**

Depart from the Portsmouth Yacht Club at 5:00 PM  
Return at Sunset



### **Your evening includes:**

- A scenic cruise aboard Utopia
- Admission to and museum donation for the Wood Island Life Saving Station
- Wine, non-alcoholic beverages, and a charcuterie selection

Gather with friends, enjoy great company, and celebrate summer with an unforgettable evening on the water.

Please RSVP by August 17.

**\$65 PER PERSON**



*We look forward to sharing this special Summer Soirée with you!*

*Your Hosts: Theresa White, Wendy Rolfe, Terri Lareau, Jackie Adams*

Space is limited to 59 guests.





The poster is decorated with various Mexican-themed items. At the top, there are two sombrero headbands with colorful pom-poms and flowers, two pineapples, and a large sombrero with a colorful band. A string of colorful triangular flags hangs across the top. On the left side, there is a small sombrero, a sombrero on a blue clock, a carrot, and a large cactus in a red and white patterned bowl. On the right side, there is a sombrero, a red flower, a carrot, and a large cactus in a red and white patterned bowl. At the bottom, there are two large cacti in red and white patterned bowls, a sombrero on a smiling orange fruit, and various vegetables like carrots, peppers, and limes.

# MEXICAN NIGHT

*Catered by Las Olas Taqueria*

*Hosted by Anne & Mike Coffey and Crew*

**Friday, August 28th**

**6:00 PM Happy Hour | 7:00 PM Dinner**

*Attendance limited to 90 - Sign up early!*

**Margaritas, Mexican Beer, or BYOB**

**Chips, Guacamole, and Salsa**

**Taco Bar with Chicken & Steak and all the Mix-Ins**

**Mini Chicken & Steak Burritos**

**Ice Cream for Dessert**

**\$37 pp**

*Sign Up or  
Cancel by  
August 21st*