

– Fayerweather Yacht Club –
FOGHORN

Fayerweather Yacht Club
51 Brewster Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605
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fycct.org



December • 2020 • Volume CI • No. 12

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Vice Commodore

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Rear Commodore

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Antonio Ortiz

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Mike Roberts

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Club Manager

Dan Conroy

FYC Auxiliary

President

Debra Rosati

Foghorn Publisher

Kathleen Pierce

Kmpierce2013@gmail.com



FROM THE HELM

Dear Fayerweather members,

Dear Members: I want to thank you all for the opportunity to be the Commodore at Fayerweather Yacht Club this year. For various reasons I will not be running for Commodore in 2021.

We still have the holiday season to navigate our way through, until the next election at the Annual Meeting on January 12, but the main body of the year's workload and projects are complete.

The year began normally for two months but a week before the St. Patrick's Day Party the world started changing because of something we knew nothing about. COVID-19 was here. The party was cancelled for safety reasons and then we learned that we were going to be closed by the state the following Monday at 8 PM. Were you one of us that attended that night to experience our own night before "Prohibition" in action? Little did we know what we were in for, nor how long it would last.

In April we did the necessary work to have the Club designated as an Essential Business to allow the docks to open and in May we did the work necessary to open the club with outdoor drinks and dining. We created a new social program because of all the CDC and state limits on gatherings indoors and out. Masks, hand sanitizer, and floor arrows became the norm. Trying to meet the state requirements and the opinions of 100's of members to keep the Club functioning became a daily challenge for your Officers, bar staff and dock staff. Many of you applauded our efforts and a few were unhappy. The Flag Officers and Board were repeatedly faced with difficult decisions not knowing what was coming next and nothing to refer to that would help make them. The Fishing Committee, Dock Committee, Sailing Committee, and Hauling and Yard Committee, and the Foghorn Editor, all worked overtime to give you a club that was as normal as possible. We also had to retain the services of a new kitchen vendor. We ramped up the social schedule with weekly music and discovered we could safely provide music by having the musicians on the roof.

Through the year, in spite of COVID19, we were able to install the new gas tank and gas pump, repave the entire paved area, repair and replace most of the lawn and regrade it to alleviate the area that used to retain run-off water. We also removed the old rusty white fence and replaced it with the new black fence. Doesn't it look great? We also had the exterior of the building painted, and the rear bar exterior wall was newly sided. The mooring area received a complete overhaul with a reorganized dink rack system and a newly paved area. Some of the trim on both the sail house and Clubhouse was redone with Azac. We are also providing heat through portable gas heaters to extend the outdoor season on the bar deck. And...we were able to choose new carpeting for the

entire space with the help of the Auxiliary, which should be installed in March. All in all, it has been a very challenging year for all of us, but my hope is that you can see how much your Officers did to keep your home away from home as “normal” as possible, and even make improvements.

We want to wish you and your loved ones a Happy and safe Holiday Season and we look forward to seeing you all next year in a world with a vaccine that should let us get back to a much more normal environment. I’m sure your new Commodore, Board and Flag Officers will do all they can to keep you safe and give you a wonderful place to enjoy.

Andrew Cross
Commodore

Unclaimed Dinks: Are they yours?

The dinghies pictured have been in the Dink Rack for this past year and before. They do not have any identification as to ownership. One dinghy with cover has a stern name ‘*Lightning*’.

As identified in **House Rules, Yards and Dinghy Dock; Boats stored On Club Property**, 2. Any items left on Club property (including boats, moorings, gear or personal effects) after the storage period shall be assumed abandoned.

As we are now in the new season of storage, these dinghies and a kayak in the north yard along the fence will be deemed “abandoned” and disposed of.

If you are the owner of either of these dinghies or kayak, please contact Mike Roberts at m4_roberts@yahoo.com or Bill Selski at weselski@snet.net by December 15, 2020.




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FROM THE VICE COMMODORE

Starting December 1st, we welcome *An EP Experience* as our new food service provider and preferred caterer for club events. Co-owned by Chef Kevin Neil and his wife Patrice, they bring over 15 years of culinary experience and an eclectic mix of locally sourced, farm-to-table cuisine for your dining enjoyment. I encourage you to stop by for lunch and/or dinner to meet them and taste what they have to offer. As a reminder, the kitchen is open as follows:

- Weekday lunch: Tuesday through Friday, 11:00 – 2:00 pm;
- Saturday lunch: 11:00 – 3:00 pm;
- Sunday brunch: 11:00 – 3:00 pm; and
- Thursday dinner: 5:00 – 8:00 pm.

Beginning in December dinner will also be served Fridays, 5:00 – 8:00 pm!

We remain at 50% seating capacity in the Penfield Room as well as the Upper Deck and the Bar. I appreciate how each of you continues to be respectful of your fellow members by wearing protective face covering while in the building (except when seated) and by following the one-way traffic flow to and from the bar service lines as well as the grill window. Please keep in mind that seating is limited to six at the round tables, and that tables may not be pushed together to accommodate a larger number.

With the holidays in full swing and the year-end in sight, please keep in mind the following:

- The kitchen will be open only for lunch on Christmas Eve (no dinner that evening).
- The club will be closed Christmas Day.
- The kitchen will be open for lunch and dinner on New Year’s Eve.
- Per our by-laws, chit cards cannot be used on December 31st.
- Drink tokens will expire on December 31st, and new ones will be available starting January 1st.

Last month EP Experience took orders for a Thanksgiving takeout menu, and they will do the same with a special Holiday menu for pick-up on Christmas Eve. Stay tuned for more information.

On behalf of myself, my fellow Flag Officers, the Board of Governors and our members, I wish to express our deep gratitude to Chef Vicki Robinson and Carol Scharn for the years of service that they have given in tirelessly preparing and serving our lunches, brunches, happy hours, and dinners, as well as in catering countless club events. These past 4-5 months have been particularly challenging, and yet Vicki and Carol – along with the rest of the FYC kitchen staff – have served us extraordinarily well with their usual aplomb. You have our heart-felt thanks.

May the holidays find you safe and well.
Bob Ellwanger, Vice Commodore





CAPTAIN JOHN BILSKI

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From the Rear Commodore

We had planned to have the heat lamps on and the fire pit roaring for our outdoor Bourbon and Cigar Experience, but Mother Nature had other plans. She gave us had a beautiful 70-degree day, which made for a very comfortable evening outside. Thank you to David Nemeth, Bob Ellwanger and Mike Mears for their expertise in creating this fun night. We had a sampling of 5 bourbons – Hudson Bourbon, Evan Williams,

Woodford Reserve, Eagle Rare and Elijah Craig, and Rocky Patel cigars. We all learned a little about whiskey, the history of whiskey and the differences between each brand. Thank you to Vicki for the delicious hors d'oeuvres, and Jack for being our personal bartender.

Kim Pugh

Rear Commodore

I can be reached at rear@fycct.org. Stay safe – Kim Pugh



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Auxiliary Corner

Hello Auxiliary members:

Thank you to those who came down to the club to vote on the carpeting and President's spending limit. Both items passed. It's great that we can support the club and help with the carpeting!

The Executive Board has decided that there won't be any elections in January. We are "freezing" the positions. The next election will be held in January 2022. The reason for the freeze was because this year we didn't really do anything, and it would be difficult for the nominating committee to reach out to people to fill positions and meet with them. The only change to the positions is for the Recording Secretary. Debi Conrad resigned, and Cindy Leighton volunteered and was appointed to fill the position.

Many thanks to Debi Conrad for all her help with the Auxiliary over many years, and for staying in there while we found her replacement! And thanks to Cindy Leighton for volunteering to fill the position. We look forward to working with her.

The Auxiliary will be putting up the wreaths and Penfield room Christmas Tree on Sunday, November 29, at 3pm. If you feel comfortable coming down to the club to help, we would love to see you.

I am sad to say there will not be a Christmas dinner. As much as we enjoy the fellowship and the lobster/steak dinner served by the Flag Staff, everyone's health and safety are more important.

As the year ends, I want to remind everyone that dues will be coming due. Please be sure to make out a separate check to the FYC Auxiliary, and don't combine it with the FYC dues. It would also help if it were mailed in an envelope addressed to the FYC Auxiliary. This expedites the process and avoids any confusion with the Club dues and mail.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Have a happy and healthy holiday!

Debbi Rosati, President fycauxpres@fycct.org

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Sailing Corner

2020 has been a challenging year. We were able to have a successful Wednesday night Race series with great competition. FYC was able to have one lady's night event with BRYC. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Sail Park city Regatta as well as the Ken Johnson Memorial race. There will be a Frostbiting series with BRYC using the Ideal 18's please look here for updates and schedules for those races.

2021 we are planning on reinvigorating the Sail Park city regatta. FYC is a member of Yacht Racing Association of Long Island Sound as well as the Eastern Connecticut Sailing association. With the wide membership, we will be having committee meetings starting in February to plan the event. If you are interested in helping with the Sail Pak City regatta, Ladies events or other sailing initiatives please feel free to email the Sailing chair at sailing@fycct.org



On Halloween FYC sponsored the annual Halloween race.

There were 6 boats registered, 4 showed up for the race. The race started at Black Rock Harbor entrance and ended in front of the Dock house. The 3 top finishers received a bottle of Mount Gay Rum.

En Charette
Wildfire
Brittany Anne

The race was followed by Lunch and drinks back at FYC.



The last race of the season will be the Wild Turkey Race. The day after Thanksgiving. The winner of that race will receive a bottle of Wild Turkey and bragging rights for being the winner of the last race of the year.

Next year we are planning to restart the ladies sailing program with multiple training and sailing events. Look for the dates and activities in the New Year.



Fair Winds

Sailing@fycct.org Michael Mears

Fishing Corner:



We are getting to the end of 2020. Everyone has had quite a year. For a quick recap, The Fishing Committee started with our Fish Fry back in February and then everything changed. We started picking up the pieces and did a curbside pickup with Mother's Day and along with the rest of FYC slowly started getting back into gear. As the calendar progressed, we were able to get into the kitchen and manned the FYC grill for a few weekends and was great to have the membership come down and enjoy some fresh air and feel a little more normal (and not the new normal).

Overall, we were able to pull together The Lobster Bake, Hunky Turkey, and a few BBQs to keep activities available for our FYC membership and had a good time with the Fishing Committee Crew. Thanks to the Crew and some of the new members to our team for another fun year of events while navigating some challenging circumstances. Shazam!

Our annual fishing contest is wrapping up too. The last day to weight a fish is 11/28/20. This correlates to the last day of blackfish season as well. We have some nice fish on the board and the blackfish is especially tight with (3) fish at 6.90, 6.87, 6.86, 4oz between 1st and 3rd! I know plenty of our fishing fleet have plenty of meat in their freezers as well. Thank you to everyone that entered and congratulations to all the winners, if you signed up via email while remote please stop by the bar to pay the \$25 entry fee if you have not already done so. We are still open on plans for a year end awards gathering so please watch your emails or check the fishing board. Awards will be gift cards to local tackle shops for 1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes and we will try to schedule a casual holiday get together depending on the ever-changing social distancing guidelines.



Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Hope you all enjoy the holidays!

All fishermen and liars, expect you and me....but I'm not so sure about you! Hope to see you at the club soon. Be healthy and stay 6 feet apart!

Keith Jamaitis ~ FYC Fishing Committee fycfishing@fycct.org

Dear Foghorn Readers,

It has been my pleasure to serve in the capacity of Foghorn Editor for four years – that's 48 issues!! Wow, how time flies! I thank Lee Yarosh for filling in for me a few times when I was unavailable and for doing the yearly "nomination issue", together we made this flow seamlessly.

I also want to thank the Flag Officers and Committee Members for their articles and wonderful photos. Each year was a new group of you, but everyone stepped up to the plate to help keep our membership "in the know."

I will miss working on the Foghorn and working with each of you. Have a wonderful Holiday Season!

Kathleen Pierce-Blagys