

Celebrating 67 years
1943 – 2010

the BoatHouse

October 2010
www.ogyc.org

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OLD GREENWICH YACHT CLUB

OGYC UPCOMING EVENTS 2010

OCTOBER

- Oct 03 Ideal 18 Fall Series
- Oct 10 Ideal 18 Fall Series
- Oct 16 Fall Cleaning
- Oct 17 Coffee with the Board
- Oct 17 Ideal 18 Fall Series

NOVEMBER

- Nov 07 Coffee with the Board
- Nov 13 OGYC Awards Ceremony
- Nov 20 The OGYC Annual Members Meeting

DECEMBER

- Dec 04 Children's Holiday Party



Commodore's Report

Will Morrison

September turned out to be the highlight of a great season. Just when I thought we were turning the corner to enter the season's end, we enjoyed a rich set of activities that represent the many facets of the Club – competitive races, a collegial party, fundraising in support of a core belief, and an illustration of solid planning by the Board.

For this article, I'll focus on the events surrounding USS America Regatta. Look to the rest of the issue to see the results from the Nominating Committee and the thoughtful report presented Treasurer Al Shehadi's at the Fall Members Meeting.

Call it the Annual Picnic or the USS America Regatta or the "Sailing for All" Silent Auction.

Call it whatever you want, but all accounts it was a huge success. Past Commodore Gene Fignar sent a note calling it the Club event "best event in years!"

The USS Regatta saw 44 entries, including 17 Lasers and 16 Ideal's – 81 skippers and crew on board altogether. Racers came from Larchmont and our area Clubs. This is the largest turn out that I can remember. Special thanks to Race Chair Tom Hagan for running a terrific regatta and arranging for the weather.

The Annual Picnic had an estimated 175 members and racers attend. Jonathan Asch and Aileen Hutchins did a great job organizing all the moving parts. But most remarkable was the terrific job that members Carol Bello and Rick Ewen did in serving up delicious picnic fare. They truly went above and beyond after the number of registrations doubled in the last two days!

Father Stephen Deluca lead a heart felt talk commemorating the victims of 9-11 and addressing the divisions among religions that drive fear and extremism. Many came up to Stephen and myself afterward saying it just the right message for the day and for the era.

(continued on next page)



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Commodore's Report *(continued)*

A first at OGYC, the Silent Auction raised funds for under-served kids in Greenwich to learn how to sail. Spearheaded by James Feuer and assisted by Leslee Morrison, the auction raised a remarkable \$2,750. Thanks to all who participated and especially those who contributed in both dollars AND in gifts. Public sailing education is one of OGYC great traditions.

The top gifts from members were the helicopter ride from Westchester Airport to NYC, a Tour of NBC studios, an Ilse Gordon etching of the Clubhouse at sunset, Acting Lessons by James Feuer, and several mentoring sessions.



The 2010 Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has been hard at work and has been successful.

The Committee has undertaken a double task this year.

The first is the traditional filling of positions of retiring Board members. Rear Commodore Aileen Hutchins and Membership Director Marc Lotti will be leaving the Board after successfully serving in their positions. The Committee has nominated Dee Dee Aliamo at Rear Commodore and Kim Crocco at Membership Director.

The second is that the Committee is looking to fill several critical supporting roles. These are necessary to institutionalize best practices and to distribute to work load across a broader volunteer team. Next on the search list is the critical role of marketing and communications lead. More about this later!

Thanks go to Dee Dee Aliamo, Beth Eaton, Peter Uhry, Kim Crocco, and Michael Burke, Chairman for their excellent work to date.

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Visit our website at: www.ogyc.org



Ideal 18/Mercury Corner

Lou Casolo, Education Director



2010 Education and Sail fleet Accomplishments

I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped this past year put out a very well received program. As you may know, the program success rides on the assistance of the volunteers and the participation by our members.

Sailfleet Haul Dates

Mark your October Saturday morning calendars as many hands are needed for this work. I'll supply the coffee and donuts. Bring plastic and steel bladed putty knives to remove the barnacles. Bring down the whole family, a job for everyone.

The Mercury fleet is being hauled and derigged on:

Sat. October 9th 10-2pm

The Ideal 18 fleet is being hauled and derigged on:

Sat. October 23rd 10-2pm

2010 Season Re Cap as discussed at the fall members meeting

- Hosted a family open house on Feb. 27th 25 people attended
- 5 readiness parties to prepare and launch the sail fleet
- Conducted at least 3 mandatory sail fleet annual meetings, 60 people attended
- Wrote and issued a sail fleet policy which was discussed at the Spring members meeting
- 66 sail fleet agreements were signed
- 5 low water tours and 5 Sail Fleet Orientation were provided to new users of the fleet



- June 5th conducted a Children's Boat Safety Class where 14 kids and their families attended, thanks to Bob Russell for teaching
- New for this year we conducted 10 Saturday Mentoring sailing days where 12 mentors volunteered more than once. This program was very well received by those that attended
- 10 Sunday Race Seminars with 11 volunteer instructors
- The woman's sailing program had another successful year with many events throughout the season
- On June 29th conducted OGYC's annual On-the-Water Race Clinic with Dave Perry; 15 people attended
- At least 77 different members signed out the sail fleet out during the season according to the log book
- Between May and Sept. 18th the number of days the sail fleet went out was 80 out of 120 or 66% of the time. This is a 19% increase over the 2009 utilization for the same period. This analysis does not account for inclement weather that may impact year over year numbers.
- In 2010 some portion of the Mercury fleet was checked by the members. GCS used the Mercs every afternoon from 8am-2pm through August 27th with at least 3 usually 4 boats per day and they did between 20-25 private lessons on them over the course of the summer one boat at a time.



A huge THANKS to Rick Ewen and Carol Bello for the FANTASTIC JOB they did feeding the 200 members and guests who attended this free event. It was just unbelievable. Thank you Jonathan Asch for organizing this huge event and lining up the free entertainment.

The Club Fall Clean is October 16th. It is very important to have enough help to put the club to bed for the winter, so please mark your calendar early.



Treasurer's report

Al Shehadi, Treasurer

The Treasurer's report at the fall membership meeting covered three broad topics: the club's year-to-date financial results; the capital planning process the board has recently started; and a few initial thoughts on the 2011 budget. A copy of the presentation can be found on the website.

<http://ogyc.org/MembershipMeetingReports>

2010 Year to Date Results (as of September 15, 2010)

The Club had revenue of \$224,127 year to date, a modest improvement over the \$212,596 in revenue this time last year. That's the good news. The not so good news is the budgeted revenue for the year is \$250,350 and we are not going to make that. My guess is we will come in around \$235,000 to \$240,000 for the year. Not what we had planned, but not bad given the larger economy.

Expenses continue to be a better story. This board has been very focused on controlling expenses since it became clear in the spring we would likely have a revenue shortfall. Year to date expenses were \$145,778, a substantial improvement over the \$181,995 in expenses this time last year. Expenses were down across the board, with launch being the biggest contributor. Barbara and I did a lot of budget planning for launch before the season started and the planning has paid off. I estimate we have another \$40,000 to \$45,000 expenses ahead of us, but still below budget. The reduced expenses should more than make up for the revenue shortfall and the club will finish the year in the black.

As of September 15th we have cash in the bank of \$170,403, a comfortable cushion if we need to weather another difficult year or have emergency expenses. I also presented an estimate of what the club's noncash assets are. The estimated value of the noncash assets is subject to debate and further refinement, but we have approximately \$650,000 in clubhouse improvements and the power and sail fleets. The clubhouse improvements are the club's responsibility so long as we have a lease with the Town but revert to the Town if the lease should ever be terminated, so they are qualitatively different from the sail and power fleets, which we own outright.

Capital Planning

The Club has accumulated substantial capital assets over the past 10 years (clubhouse improvements, 2nd launch, Glory, Ideals) and we need to plan better for their long-term upkeep. I won't describe all the details in the presentation other than we are starting to look at the age, condition and replacement cost of the house and sail and power fleets, and are taking a first shot at pro-

jecting likely capital expenditures over the next 10 to 20 years. I will post the results here when they are complete (it may be a while). I make no bones that this is a first cut and will take a few iterations to get right. I look forward to hearing your input when the first cut is complete.

2011 Budget Thoughts

There are a few general themes that you can expect to see reflected in the proposed 2011 budget. First, we have been too optimistic in the past, assuming "maximum" membership in projecting revenue. In 2011 I will project revenue based on the likely number of regular members and not the maximum number of a few years ago. Second, I think we have cut too much out of some of the "fun" budget items, such as race, social and education, and will restore funds to those areas. They are not major items, but their impact is disproportionate in how enjoyable the club "experience" is. With larger items such as launch and fleet doing better than prior years, we can restore funds to race, social and education without increasing the overall budget. Finally, we need to invest more in maintenance and capital improvements of the house and fleets. We are exploring contracting an outside vendor to handle the major maintenance on the power fleet, and will be increasing the amount budgeted for repairs and maintenance of the house. The clubhouse was redone almost 10 years ago and we will need to invest more in house maintenance over the next 10 years than we have the past 10 if we want the clubhouse to continue to be as attractive and welcoming.

I will present a full 2011 budget at the Annual Meeting in November. In the meantime, get out on the water and enjoy the last winds of fall.

