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MCYC Fun at the Boatyard BBQ





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A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMODORE



Our 50th Anniversary Season is officially underway! Boats are in the water and the weather is warming up. The Past Commodores Council, headed by Linda Simon (*Avanzare*), hosted a terrific Boatyard Barbecue at Coneys. We had an excellent turnout of MCYC sailors, along with a few prospective new members.

Following that, MCYC had a strong showing at the Waterfront Festival. We had a constant stream of members manning our tent. Our festival membership incentive gained us five completed applications handed in.

Next was our terrific Memorial Day Weekend cruise, planned by our Fleet Cruising Captain, Stan O'Marra (*Frankie Anne*), and orchestrated by Port Captains Karla and Bill Marrero (*Optimistic*). Stay tuned for articles and photos highlighting all the weekend's activities in the next issue of *The Masthead*!

As I write this, we're planning our next adventure, the journey to Liberty Landing for the SailGP Races. The weekend will include a group cocktail hour and dinner, a trip to Surf City and, of course, viewing the Races. Look for Masthead coverage of that cruise, too!

These are just a few of the fun-filled outings that make the club so special. We'll also have the long summer cruise, a terrific racing program, the big raft-up, our fundraising race and party, and great land events to look forward to.

As I've said, there's nothing like having the wonderful MCYC camaraderie to enjoy our shared passion. From sailing as a group, to the social land activities, our members make our club truly awesome. Here's to more memorable times ahead!

Calm seas and a prosperous voyage,
George



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THE NEXT
GENERATION
OF SAILS

TRANSOM TALES: THE NAMING OF *AVANZARE*

By Linda Simon and Brad Simon (*Avanzare*), Past Commodores

The year was 1984, and we were expecting our first child. The first thing we insisted on was that we buy a boat because we believed if we did not get one then, before parenthood, we might never end up getting one.

We found what seemed to be the perfect boat at Coneys Marine: a 27-foot Bristol, with a full keel and a hull that was at least 3/4 of an inch thick. We figured this yacht could sail through a rough day at sea and it would not be upset.

Now comes the prospect of having to pick a name for our soon-to-be-born child and a name for our new boat. To make a long story short we decided on Shawn for our child, and after much deliberation, we decided on *Summer Love* for the Bristol.

Fast forward a couple of weeks, and as Brad was leaving for Chicago for one of his business trips, he told Coneys about *Summer Love* and asked them to paint it on the stern. The next night while at dinner in Chicago at a very upscale Italian restaurant named *Avanzare*, he asked the waiter what the name meant and he said, "It means planning ahead." Its literal translation is to advance mentally, similar to *Avante*, which is the actual motion of moving ahead in anticipation.

Wow!, we thought. What a great name for a boat. We are always thinking about the next time we get on the water or in many cases thinking about the next boat. *Avanzare* was the perfect name. The next morning, we called Coneys and told them about the name change, but we were told that they already painted *Summer Love* on the Bristol. One of the few times that a boatyard finished the work on time.

A number of years later, a "hundred-year" storm ripped through Lloyd Harbor and took *Summer Love* to a new location by the road. By the time the salvage company got it back into the harbor, our yacht was pretty much destroyed.

Now comes along our next boat, a 30-foot Catalina and the perfect stern for the name *Avanzare*. We must admit we did copy the exact font and script that the restaurant used. She is a strong and surprisingly quick boat and has lived to tell many a story. We already have the name for the next *Avanzare*, which will be *Reef 'n Madness*. We'll write about that Transom Tale when the time comes!





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Tales from *Tiger Lily*

By Eliot Levine (*Tiger Lily*), Past Commodore

We thought it might be nice to report on some of our adventures, so others might join us or seek their own adventures to nearby places less traveled.

Last year, along with fellow Huntington Yacht Club members Pam and Craig Mullers (*Virgin Princess*), we did a modified river cruise to places along the Long Island Sound and some points East. We always dock, and then either Uber or get a car to travel inland, with good eating along the way.

The furthest point East we went to on this trip was the sleepy town of Watch Hill, Rhode Island (not Fire Island). Our plan was to visit this gem by the sea by staying at two of the six slips at the town docks, and fall across the street to the Olympia Tea Room, with dinner at the Watch Hill Yacht Club. Making reservations well in advance of these trips is always a must. As it turned out, the Club had an event, so we stopped in at the Tea Room and enjoyed very good New England clam chowder.

The next day, we had lunch on the veranda of the five-star Ocean House Hotel. It is one of the oldest hotels by the sea, overlooking Block Island and the waves at the seashore below. Taylor Swift's house is a few steps away. All great!

Excitement occurred when both boats entered the harbor to Watch Hill. While we were in the channel, we grounded out two hours after low tide. When the *Virgin Princess* tried to get off, we backed out, and stopped for fuel at Dodson's in Stonington, CT. Stonington is a quaint sleepy town with docks, moorings and a full-service marina with a few walkable restaurants.

We now turned our trip around, stopping at Essex Island Marina for a few days. We took the Essex Dinner train for a 19th-century slow ride up the Connecticut River. The next day we went to the Goodspeed Opera House to see the play "South Pacific," followed by dinner at the Gelston House. Essex has been revitalized with a few small shops and restaurants, as well as the Griswold Inn.



Our trip included traveling up the Thames River to Norwich, past the US Submarine Base guarded by the Navy, with gunboats – a place to avoid. We stopped at the two casinos, Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun.

On the way back, we were met with thick fog, so we traversed a ship-length apart under radar, missing ferries coming into and leaving New London.

We then stopped at Pilot's Point in Westbrook, a Safe Harbor facility which has good dockage, fuel and boat services. From this point, a short Uber ride can take you to the Water's Edge Resort & Spa. In fact, you can also visit any of these places by car or Uber.

We stop our tale at this point, leaving room for future articles.



MCYC's



S BBQ!

A great time was had by all at our annual Masthead Boatyard Barbecue. Congrats to Vivian O'Reilly (*Water Music*) for winning the 50/50 Raffle! Remember, you gotta be in it to win it, so make sure you enter the 50/50 drawings at future MCYC events! Big thanks to the Past Commodores Council for hosting, to Ginger Bourguignon and Rich Correll for grilling, and to Coneys for the venue!





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Help Grow Our Great Club – “Reel ‘Em In” for a Chance to Win!

By Karla Marrero (*Optimistic*), Membership Chair

Ahoy Masthead members! What a great time we had at our annual MCYC Boatyard Barbecue, where we had the chance to meet and greet potential new members and give them the opportunity to experience an authentic Masthead “embrace.”

With that in mind, we’re always looking to increase our membership throughout the year, so we encourage you to please reach out to fellow sailboat owners and convey the virtues of joining the club.

To help in that effort, we have provided current members with MCYC “business cards,” which you can share with other sailors who are interested in joining. These cards have a QR code which, when scanned, will bring them to the MCYC website.

AND... As a “thank you” for your work in sponsoring prospective members, we’re holding a **“Reel ‘Em In” Raffle!** Each time you “Reel ‘Em In” by sponsoring a new member who joins the club, your name will be added to a “fishbowl” for a raffle drawing. We’ll pick a name out of the bowl and the winner will receive **complimentary entry to our always-fun Change of Watch party!** The contest runs from the Spring Brunch, throughout the season and up until the October Decommissioning Party.

Keep in mind that the more new members you “reel in,” the better your chance of having your name selected and winning the grand prize! Many of you have already started the process. Can’t wait to see who wins!



The Duffys Join MCYC!



We’re delighted to wish a warm “Welcome Aboard” to Masthead’s newest members, Deb and Tom Duffy, who own a 44-foot Jeanneau Sun Odyssey named *True Love*. The Duffys live in Cold Spring Harbor and keep their boat at Oyster Bay Marine Center. We look forward to sharing good times and fun adventures, both on land and on the water, with Deb and Tom!



The Masthead Picklers: Life in the Off-Season

Barbara and Dave (Past Commodore) Cordts,
Better Together



How do you tell if someone plays pickleball? Don't worry, they'll tell you.

So, what do fun-loving, active, energetic Masthead sailors do when they're not on the water?



They spread the word and form a pickleball group, of course! Dubbed the “Masthead Monday Mashup Picklers,” we met on Mondays in the off-season for a couple hours of (somewhat) competitive play, and then headed to a pub for some refreshment, sustenance and camaraderie.

Pickleball is an addictive game. It's very social, a lot of fun and great exercise. Recent studies indicate that playing pickleball after the age of 50 may extend your life by up to 10 years. While some of the benefit comes from the fitness aspect, the social aspect of the game is even more beneficial. Almost everyone can play a very reasonable game in a relatively short time, and there are always a lot of laughs. Many in our group didn't even play just a year ago and are now Pickleball Ninjas. Ken Hecht, winner of the

Most Improved award, has been known to pull some mind-bending Matrix moves on the court when dodging balls!

So, who are these Masthead Picklers? Barbara & Dave Cordts (*Better Together*), Mona & Ken Hecht (*Lion*), Wendy & Gary Schacker (*Exhale*), Heidi & Chris Helrich (*Lulu*), Rick Puccinelli (*Liberty*), Kat & Curt Lee (*Risky Sunsets*), Lisa & Grant Coneys (*Coneys Marine*), and occasional guest appearances from Ginger & Paul Dara (formerly *Relentless*).



The most recent adventure for the Masthead Picklers was Sleep-Away Pickleball Camp in Saugerties, NY, near Woodstock. Think “Dirty Dancing” meets Pickleball. We stayed in rustic, comfortable cabins overlooking the beautiful Catskill Mountains. Dave's famous Traveling Tiki Bar was set up in the Cordts' room. There were cocktails, cheese platters, random ping pong games, hikes, more cocktails, and some amazing meals in the dining hall. Heidi made some wonderful custom T-shirts for the group and Lisa presented the ladies with lovely pickleball gift bags. After dinner the first night we all gathered back in the cabin to play “99,” an easy but energetic gambling game. Everyone brought the requisite 3 dollar-bills to gamble, except for Grant, who was floated the 3 bucks. Of course, Grant won the first hand and then proceeded to take home the big money at the end of the night. That just doesn't seem right! Everyone enjoyed the game and vowed to play again the next evening.

The next morning, Grant introduced us to Platform Tennis, which we somehow thought would be a good thing to play just before taking pickleball lessons. Different ball, different bounce, different court, different surface, different paddle. It could only help, right? Over the next two days we received hours of pickleball instruction and drills. We all got our butts kicked and were popping Advil and Aleve like Chiclets. The guys compared notes the next morning about waking up screaming in the middle of the night with leg cramps. At the end of the second day, we were completely exhausted. One pickler after another sheepishly declined a second night of “99” in favor of crashing early!

In the end, we all had a great time and learned a lot. We were anxious to put our newfound knowledge and skills to work on the court and vowed to do more drilling! We said our goodbyes and hit the road for home. Rumor has it, Heidi & Chris are putting a pickleball court on *Lulu*’s foredeck for the coming season! See you out there...or on the court!

BTW, if you haven’t had a chance to check it out, don’t hesitate to reach out to one of us. We’d be happy to share the joy, so you can become a Masthead Monday Mashup Pickler, too!



The Sunshine Corner

by Valerie Link (*Escape Plan*),
Sunshine Columnist

Ahoy, MCYC! We’re delighted to bring you another edition of our good-vibe wishes and the latest member news. Like what you see? Then, **we need to hear from you!** Please reach out with your happy and not-so-happy news, as well as what you’ve learned about fellow members. Send your updates to sunshine@mastheadcoveyc.org so we can share them with everyone!

“Golden” Milestone Congrats to Jackie and Dan Martin (*Whirlaway*), who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

Congratulations to Mary and Allan Pearlman on the purchase of their new boat, *Marbella*, a Beneteau 423.

A big “bravo” to Kevin Merola (*Gratitude*), Treasurer, whose son Chris has written, produced and directed “[Lemonade Blessing](#).” The movie will debut on June 5 at the Tribeca Film Festival in Manhattan and run through the 15th.

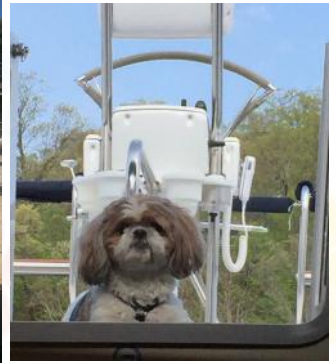
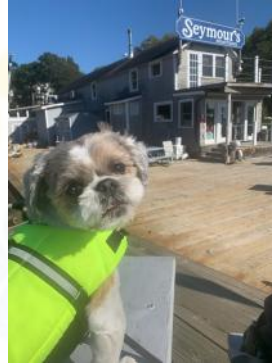
Heartfelt condolences to Linda and Brad Simon of *Avanzare* on the loss of Linda’s mother.

Good vibes and warmest wishes to associate member Francesca LeClaire (*Messin’ About*).

MCYC'S FOUR-LEGGED FAMILY MEMBERS

You might have seen them during a raft-up, or cruising along the Bay. But they're not just any Masthead sailors. They're canine crew!

Meet **Cooper**. He sails with Karla and Bill Marrero on *Optimistic*.



And this is **Jojo**, who enjoys time aboard *The Reach*, with Kat Allen and Max Shlansky.

If your furry friends spend time with you on your boats, send a photo or two to editor@mastheadcoveyc.org or text to 917.225.2977. Don't forget to include your pet's name!



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