

# The Masthead

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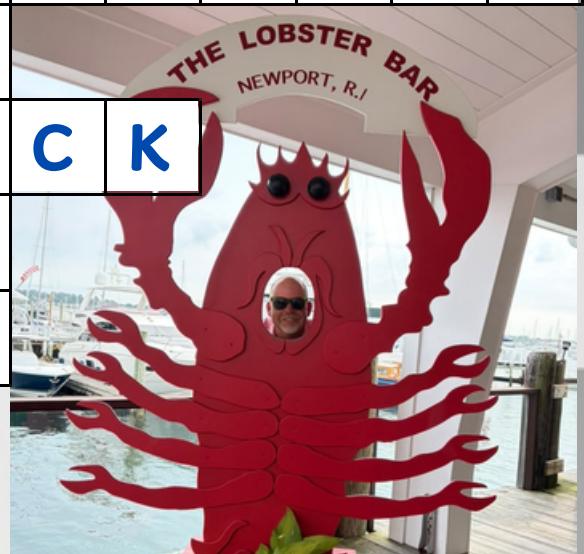
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# A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMODORE



Wow, time flies when you're having fun. I hope everyone has had an enjoyable season so far. It has certainly been a busy one.

Since the last *Masthead* issue, we've packed in a Club Raft-Up, two Club Cruises, our Masthead Race and the BB/GG BBQ.

Our first Club Cruise to Port Jefferson had to be rescheduled to the end of June. While that shifted our overall boat count, it didn't dampen anyone's spirits.

The summer cruise to Block Island was well attended, and while I'm sure a few stories will find their way into this issue, we all know that what happens on a Masthead cruise tends to stay quiet (unless there's a good Bent Anchor story worth telling).

This year, with the launch of our WhatsApp group, members who couldn't make the trip got to follow along and live vicariously through those who did. If you haven't joined the group yet, now's a great time.

The Masthead Race went off without a hitch. Thank you to Ed Dicken (*Hat Trick*), Race Captain, for all the race and race committee work. We had 10 boats competing. We also owe a big thank you to Stephen O'Reilly, Vice Commodore, and Rear Commodore Vivian O'Reilly (both from *Water Music*), who went above and beyond to make our race party, and charitable event, a great success. (Check out complete coverage of the Race and Party, including photos, in the next issue of the newsletter.)

I know this is the time of year when the boatyard winter storage reminders start rolling in, but let's not rush ahead. There are still plenty of warm days and good sailing left in this season. Let's get out on the water over the next few weeks, and make a few more memories before we haul out.

Stay safe on the water.  
JP Nel



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# Summer Raft-Up

## WELCOME ABOARD RAFT & MINGLE:

Hot Dogs, High Masts and An Early “Bent Anchor” Contender!

By James Robinson (*Genesis*), Cruise Captain



Sometimes the weather makes the schedule — and this was one of those weekends! After Saturday’s winds forced a last-minute postponement, Sunday rewarded everyone with a spectacular first official day of Summer 2026 and near-perfect conditions for the Annual Raft-Up.

Some 11–12 boats joined throughout the day for an afternoon of swimming, socializing, hot dogs with all the fixins, salads, charcuterie boards, and even a few fancy charcuterie boards.

Our Commodore also made the traditional trip to the top of the mast, providing a terrific vantage point for photos of the assembled fleet — complemented by some great drone shots from above. And whoever aboard Tradewind looked skyward and yelled, “Is he building a nest???” earned some well-deserved bonus points!

But perhaps the most important development of the afternoon came from a certain dinghy operator who can now personally attest that the emergency kill switch on his outboard works EXACTLY as designed!

Also, apparently, everyone was having such a good time that leaving the raft-up proved harder than expected. In fact, some boats were so reluctant to leave that... well... one actually came back!

Not intentionally, of course.

Ya know — tie-up port side, tie-up starboard side, tie-off the stern... heck, do a three-pointer and park your vessel along the bows! Whatever floats your boat!

So, without prejudicing the judges, maybe — JUST MAYBE — somewhere amid the day’s docking, undocking, maneuvering and re-docking, we witnessed the emergence of an early candidate for the coveted MCYC “Bent Anchor” Award.

We’re not naming names. We’re not pointing fingers. And we’re certainly not suggesting that an attempted departure somehow turned into an unscheduled return engagement with the raft-up! We’re simply reporting the facts. The “Bent Anchor” Committee may want to keep this one on file.

Ya just never know...



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# THE B&B/G&G BBQ: A PERFECT EVENING!



By

Lee Stern (*Daddio*)  
and Scott Gerber (*Late Harvest*)



Taking a break from our usual great monthly gatherings at The Shamrock, Boys & Buoys/Gals & Gales hosted our special annual Barbecue on a beautiful Tuesday in June. Once again, West Shore Marina graciously offered their grounds and grills for the delicious burgers, hot dogs, side dishes – including Scott's famous grilled onions!

This year's outstanding chefs were Tom Mazzotta (*@Sea*), Bob Bergsten (*Santa Maria*) and Bill Marrero (*Optimistic*). There were also lots of beverages, and watermelon and cookies. Big thanks to those members who brought extra sweet treats for dessert, as well as everyone who pitched in to help with all the set-up and clean-up!



# The MCYC Summer Cruise: Bowling, Disco and a Little Island Resourcefulness!

By James Robinson (*Genesis*), Cruise Captain

Our Summer Cruise delivered exactly what a summer cruise should be: great destinations, plenty of laughs, a little adventure, and lots of memories along the way!

We kicked things off in Bridgeport, where neon lights, custom bowling shirts, and some surprisingly serious competition made it clear that this group doesn't take losing lightly! Apparently, even bowling brings out the competitive spirit in MCYC! A terrific group dinner followed, capping off a great first stop. Special thanks to Shirley and JP aboard *Nels' Belle* for serving as our Port Captains and getting the cruise started in style!

From there, it was off to Shelter Island/Greenport, where slip and mooring availability caused the fleet to splinter a bit among the various marinas. No worries — sometimes that's just part of cruising!

Then it was on to Block Island, where a change from the original itinerary turned into an extended stay for the week – and nobody seemed particularly upset about that! Even better, we connected with other MCYC members who had arrived on the Block a little earlier... and, in some cases, stayed a little later. Clearly, nobody was in much of a hurry to leave!

And why would they be? Our Block Island stay featured plenty of festivities, including a Disco Night (at Captain Nick's – ya' know, where they do the Pig Roasts!) that proved this group has some MOVES! Who knew??? And there was beach time, cornhole, breakfast at the airport diner, bike riding, a Buck-a-Shuck oyster-eating extravaganza, mudslides galore and even a bit of quiet rainy-day R&R on our boats.





There was also a little mechanical drama aboard *Late Harvest*. While perhaps not quite Bent Anchor material, the crew managed to blow their dinghy engine (ok, admittedly, that sounds so wrong – but that is what happened!!!), on an island, mind you! Most sailors probably would have shrugged, made do and waited until returning home to deal with it.

Not this Captain and Admiral!

With some impressive ingenuity and determination, they managed to procure a replacement engine and have it delivered directly to Block Island from the R.I. mainland! Now THAT is resourcefulness. Kudos to the crew of *Late Harvest* for demonstrating that a mechanical problem doesn't necessarily have to interfere with a perfectly good vacation! Truly an INSPIRATION!

Finally, a very special thank you to our Block Island Port Captains, Marilyn and Scott Gerber aboard *Late Harvest* – as well as ALL the cruise participants, who served as unofficial Co-Port Captains, planning terrific festivities throughout our extended stay, helping to make the week such a memorable one.

By the end, perhaps the best RECAP of the Summer Cruise was also the simplest: Nobody wanted to leave!!!

One last thing... NOTE! Fall is a great time for Mini-Cruises! Your couch will find you later. We have a few more Mini-Ideas for the tail-end of our cruising season. Let's enjoy every second!!!

# Memorial Day Weekend Cruise: "The Red, White & Blue Coastal Classic" – TWICE!

By James Robinson (Genesis), Fleet Cruise Captain

Well... Mother Nature apparently had other plans for our first cruise of the season!

What was supposed to be our "Red, White & Blue Coastal Classic" turned into something closer to the "Gray, Wet & Windy Coastal Washout!" With plenty of wind, rain, and generally uncooperative weather throughout Memorial Day Weekend, much of our ambitious itinerary — including some of our traditional outdoor festivities — simply wasn't meant to be.

But, as is usually the case with MCYC, bad weather doesn't necessarily mean a bad time!

A great group still made the best of the weekend, and Sunday evening's Bob Nelson Comedy Show provided plenty of laughs for the MCYC table. Thankfully, despite sitting together as a rather obvious group, we managed to escape without being heckled too badly! Apparently, Bob found easier targets in the audience.

So, while our first big weekend of 2026 didn't exactly unfold according to plan, we still managed to share some laughs, enjoy each other's company, and officially get another MCYC cruising season underway.

Sometimes you just have to take what Mother Nature gives you...and find the comedy in it!

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL!

In addition to our Port Jeff Land Cruise, some sailors just had to get out on the water for a RW&B Coastal Classic do-over. So, a few hearty souls got off their couch and boarded their boats on a somewhat grey day in late June for "Memorial Day Weekend 2.0."

We had a very nice sail over, enjoyed walking around town and had a great group dinner at Ruvo, joined by a few folks who traveled by car. So, over parts of two weekends, MCYC made our mark on Port Jeff!



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by Vivian O'Reilly (*Water Music*),  
Rear Commodore

Ahoy, MCYC members! Although we're winding down our sailing season, there's still some cruising, raft-ups and land-based events ahead. So, now's the perfect time to freshen up your wardrobe with some high-quality Masthead apparel. And you can show your club spirit wherever you go after the season and all year long!

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# Sunshine Corner

By Barbara Dicken (*Hat Trick*),  
Sunshine Columnist

Hey, Masthead Cove! Are you wondering, "What's the latest buzz?" Well, here it is!



**A new generation of MCYC sailors is born! Big congrats to the following members on the arrival of their grandchildren:**

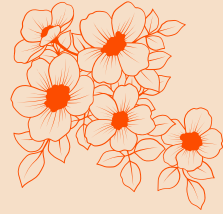
Liz and Bob Bergsten (*Santa Maria*)  
Rich Correll and Ginger Bourguignon  
(*Loki*) – on their great-granddaughter!  
Karen and Tom Gatto (*Smiling Tiger*)  
Kat and Curt Lee (*Risky Sunsets*)  
Ursula and Stan O'Marra (*Frankie Anne*)  
Mary and Allan Pearlman (*Marbella*)

## Wedding bells!

Congratulations to Barbara and Ed Dicken (*Hat Trick*) on their daughter Alexa's engagement!



**All the best on their new boat, *Half Step*, to Lois and Russell Dunn, in addition to their current boat, *Ripple*.**



Sending wishes for **fair winds and following seas** to:

Shang Ching (*Shang*)  
Rich Correll (*Loki*)  
Scott Gerber (*Late Harvest*)

**Condolences** to Ursula and Stan O'Marra (*Frankie Anne*) on the passing of Stan's mother.

**What's happening in YOUR world?! We want to know! Please send your updates to [sunshine@mastheadcoveyc.org](mailto:sunshine@mastheadcoveyc.org) so we can celebrate your happy occasions and support you in your challenging times. And give us the scoop on news you hear about other members, too!**



As always, we're delighted when we have additions to our MCYC ranks! So, we're pleased to announce that Shang Ching joins the club with a 38-foot Jeanneau named *Shang*, which he keeps at Gold Star. Please look for Shang on the water and at our land events, and give him a warm Masthead Cove hello!



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