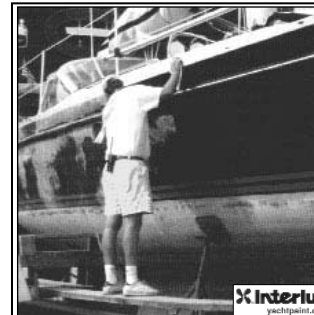


# NEWSLETTER

May 2003

## Calendar of Events

- May 26** Memorial Day Race
- May 27** Dollar Night
- June 1** New Members' Social – 1:00pm
- June 2** Monthly Board Meeting – 6:30pm



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### Rear Commodore

Sheldon Haynie 603-673-3832

### Board Members

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Keith Bridge 603-964-4065

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Sue Reynolds 603-964-2168

Leo Axtin 603-964-4115

Sheldon Haynie 603-673-3832

John White 603-427-0321

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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### Quartermaster

Mike Cherim 603-942-5595

### Treasurer

D. Frye 603-661-6261

### Secretary

Gil Gelineau 603-772-6641

### Fleet Captain

Sue Reynolds 603-964-2168

### Sailing School

John McCormack 603-661-3755

### Social

Chris Culver 603-436-3715

## Commodore's Message

The Club house and docks are looking ship shape, thanks to the many volunteers who worked hard last Saturday to ready the club for the summer season. The grounds were cleaned and mowed and the flower beds mulched. The dingy docks were set in place, repaired and rub rails replaced. The deck and railings were treated with a new coat of stain. Thanks again to all of you who helped out with these needed chores.

House chair **Captain Arsenault** has drafted a list of needed repairs and maintenance items that should be completed to the house by year end. Anyone interested in organizing and or helping to complete any listed task should contact Ernie A. at 433-0972. Your help is needed to maintain the club to standards we all expect.

We are in the process of obtaining bids and various permits to re-graded and pave the parking lot. Once everything is in order we will ask the membership for permission and hopefully it will get done this Fall.

The first race is Tuesday night May 27 followed by dollar night at KPYC and the new members social is June 01 at 1300. See you there.

Respectfully,  
 Keith



**Hello to everyone at Kittery Point Yacht Club,**

I am sorry for the delay in this cruising update. During the transition of editor of the KPYC Newsletter from Dunja to Sue this report fell through the cracks. I hope you find it entertaining.

As promised, here is the "Crossing from Hell" report, as mentioned in a previous update. To refresh everyone's memory, we had arrived in Miami on December 2nd. I had contacted Herb on Southbound II and set up a daily schedule with him. Day after day the reports from Herb were much the same. Winds consistently in the Northerly quadrant with a new frontal zone entering from the west every 2 to 3 days. This information I reported to over 40 cruising boats anchored in the Miami area waiting for a weather window to cross. During our wait there were several 24 to 36 hour windows, but not long enough for us, as our goal was to sail direct from Miami to Nassau, a 180 n/m trip. In order for a good window, first the Stream needs 24 hours to settle down, then you need another 32 hours to get across the Stream, the Banks and on to Nassau. I guess everyone has heard the saying "A little knowledge is dangerous", well let me say, a lot of knowledge can be just as dangerous. I had on board (1) NOAA weather out of Miami (2) local weather on TV and radio (3) Herb's daily reports from Southbound II (4) The Southwest, North Atlantic report (5) Sailmail wind and wave reports. And (6) all the want-to-be weather people on all the waiting boats with all their opinions. On 12/19 we tried a marginal weather window which proved to be a bad idea. Leaving before daybreak there was more wind than first reported, it was coming directly on the nose in the 20 kt range. We gave it a shot but once into the Stream the seas built up and our SOG dropped to a sickening 2.8 kts over the bottom. We returned to the Miami anchorage after a 27 n/m, 5 1/2 hour round trip to "nowhere".

Then came 12/24 and a forecast for E/SE 15 kt winds diminishing to 10/12 kts on the other side of the Gulf Stream. These conditions were to continue for the next 48 hours. Herb did mention that he did want to make sure that the stalling front would actually stall and dissipate to allow all this to actually happen, but indications were favorable and all the different forecasts agreed (Looking back, I realized this was probably the kiss of death), but hey after 3 weeks waiting, anything looked good. At 6:15 am we hauled the anchor that Monday morning and headed out thru Government Cut and were greeted by 15 kt easterly winds. We set an offset course of 120 degrees to allow for the set of the Gulf Stream to make a land fall at North Rock (about 5 miles North of Bimini) and arrived at 3:35 pm. The trip across the Stream was slow due to the head winds and a bit lumpy, but not a problem. Once on the Banks we set our course for Mackie Shoals, 30.4 n/m on a course of 107 degrees. By 5:45 pm we were at a position of 25 degrees 45 north and 079 degrees 01 west. I tuned into Herbs forecast. What he said went over like a lead balloon! The update was for a new low to merge with the existing front and strengthen. Winds were to remain East and increase. Turning around was not an option. We could head for Bimini, but trying to find our way in in the dark did not give me a warm feeling, plus at \$2.50 a foot in a marina wasn't going to help the cruising kitty. So we decided to plug along and hope for the best. By 11:30 pm winds were E/SE 20kts. Out position at 1:45 am was 25 degrees 26 north by 078 degrees 25 west with winds now a steady 25 kts, on the nose of course! Our GPS showed our SOG now below 4 kts. We were nosing into 4 footers and were starting to look like a fire boat

pushing water into the air. I knew that in about 3 hours we would be arriving at Northwest Channel Light and entering the "Tongue of the Ocean". This is where the depth plunges from 12 feet to over 2,000 feet in less than a mile. At 4:35 am we saw Northwest Channel Light. As dawn started to break we entered out into th "Tongue". What we saw was pretty impressive as the winds were now 30/35 kts and the seas 10 to 12 feet. Every wave started to come over the boat as the bow would plunge into waves just about stoping the boat. We had a double reefed main and furled headsail up, but they would collapse as we would drop into the troughs and the whole boat shutter. We decided to alter course to Chub Cay which was only 13.9 miles away. It took us 6 hours to get in. Despite the ordeal we were able to check in with Customs and Immigration, pick the boat up as best we could then fall into bed for some much needed sleep. Next day the winds were still strong so we stayed right where we were. We got together with other cruisers and shared our experiences with each other over a few Bloody Mary's. Next day we sailed in calm, flat, smooth seas to Nassau. Hard to believe it was the same piece of ocean that we had gotten beaten up in just 48 hours earlier. We will give you the reports of our travels back to Portsmouth in up coming reports.

Best regards,  
Steve and Paula-S/V Adios

**Social Committee Report**

Hello everyone. I apologize for skipping a month on my report. In April we had our annual Jazz Brunch and we all had a fun time. I especially enjoyed it as I had a great event partner. Many thanks to Jane Homer for putting on this event with me. Also, thanks to all of those who came in to help out. Last Saturday was a very successful work day. Ernie did a great job of organizing the day and the club looks fantastic!

Our next event is the first Dollar Night on Tuesday, May 27. Yes, believe it or not, race season is finally here. Hopefully the weather will be a bit warmer by then. On Sunday, June 1 we will have the New Members Social at 1:00. his is a potluck event, so please bring a favorite snack or hors d'oeuvre to share. I hope you will all come out to welcome our new members. Watch your mail for flyers with more details.

Finally, I want to remind everyone that I am still looking for a replacement. I am hoping that someone will step up to the plate to fill the position of Social Chair. Yes, it is a lot of work, but also a lot of fun and there are always people to help. As a new member, it was a perfect way for me to meet so many of you and become involved in the club. I highly recommend the position to you new folks. I will always be around to help out.

Sincerely, Chris Culver-Social Chair

Up Anchor! Up Anchor!  
Set sail and away  
The ventures of dreamland  
Are thine for a day.

- Silas Weir Mitchell, Dreamland

**Racing Report**

Season kick off 5/15 at Red Hook for PSA racers see [www.sailpsa.org](http://www.sailpsa.org) for details. Intro to Racing seminar will be at KPYC 5/20 this is a good chance to get a sense of what it is about if you are interested.

First KPYC race will be Memorial Day Fun race 12:00 at 2KR to Gunboat to Isle of Shoals Buoy to finish at 2KR. Take your times and forward to Sheldon at [haynie@fi.com](mailto:haynie@fi.com) if there is no committee boat.

First Tuesday race is 5/27 and will be a Dollar Night as well. Come on down and have some fun whether you race or don't.

Respectfully submitted, Sheldon Haynie



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