



July 2021

NEW HAVEN YACHT CLUB NEWSLETTER

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NHYC MEMBERS URGED TO LOOK OUT FOR ‘THE GREAT SHIPPE’

Linena Longreach, president of New Haven’s 1647 Society claims she ‘has reason to believe’ New Haven’s ‘Great Shippe’ will re-appear this year, the 374th anniversary of its fateful departure. “It was a new ship, built in a new yard in Rhode Island,” explains Longreach. “Captain George Lambertson complained that it was *walty*, or, as you sailors say, “tender” and inclined to roll in a seaway. Nevertheless, the Colony freighted it with a valuable cargo, including a shifting quantity of wheat set high in the hold with lighter stuff underneath. The ship left the Long Wharf in the dead of winter, undermanned with an inexperienced crew. Why it was never seen again is a complete mystery.”



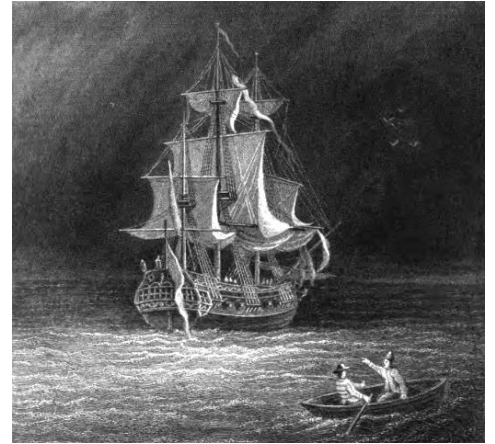
But ‘the Great Shippe’ was seen again, at least in spectral form, six months later. In a letter to Cotton Mather, the Rev. James Pierpont recounts the whole story:



Reverend and Dear Sir: In compliance with your desires, I now give you the relation of that apparition of a ship in the air, which I have received from the most credible, judicious, and curious surviving observers of it. In the year 1647, besides much other lading, a far more rich treasure of passengers, (five or six of which were persons of chief note and worth in New Haven) put themselves on board the new ship. In the month of January, cutting their way through much ice, on which they were accompanied with the Reverend Mr. Davenport, besides many other friends, with many fears, as well as prayers and tears, they set sail. Mr. Davenport in prayer, with an observable emphasis, used these words: ‘Lord, if it be thy pleasure to bury these our friends in the bottom of the sea, they are thine: save them.’

The tale is taken up in the WPA Writer's Project Guide to Connecticut, published in 1938:

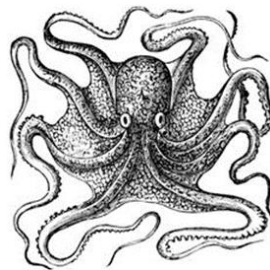
Day after day, through the hard winter and the spring, anxious eyes searched the seaward horizon. Other ships arrived, raising false hopes, but none brought news or had heard of 'The Great Shippe.' Then, on one bright June day, a joyous cry echoed along the waterfront. With every sail set, 'The Great Shippe' was running into port. As hurrying feet echoed along every street, a hush of awe crept over the waiting throng. The squarerigger was sailing free, *into* the wind! Not a man appeared on deck save a solitary figure at the bow who, with sword up-raised, pointed unwaveringly toward the sea. Suddenly the maintop snapped, hung an instant entangled in the shrouds, then masts and spars were blown away. The hull, still making straight for shore, shivered and plunged beneath the surface, enveloped in an enshrouding mist. When the cloud lifted, no sign of wreckage floated upon the quiet waters.



A further account of the disastrous adventure can be found here:

https://www.connecticutmag.com/the-connecticut-story/the-legend-of-the-ghost-ship-of-new-haven/article_1eaa998a-bcc3-11eb-b491-0f453023e151.html

Jesse Talbot's 1850 painting of the spectral ship can be seen at the New Haven Museum.



MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE NEW HAVEN YACHT CLUB BOARD OF GOVERNORS, 1 JUNE 2021

ATTENDING OFFICERS:

Commodore: Drew

Vice Commodore: Mike

Rear Commodore: Joe

Secretary: Cheryl

Treasurer: Frank

Membership Secretary: Carlo

ATTENDING MEMBERS: Debbi, Barry, Elizabeth, Nick, Paul, Wayne, Stocky, Philip

MINUTES:

Drew called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. There was an error in the May minutes on the cost of the seawall project. The correction is as follows: the cost of the sea wall project is ~\$600.00. A motion was made and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of May meeting as amended.

The minutes of the June minutes are pending.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: there is a new former member on #305. We have 45 full time members.

Launch: loss of cowl from one of the engines has been replaced and installed. Two of the new launch attendants will be training for 4 days in June.

House and Grounds: Nick sprayed the poison ivy from the corner of the patio to the open lot, along wooden fence, hedges in the front. The front porch roof needs to be addressed. Elizabeth is not sure how to proceed with diagnosis and treatment of the condition. There is possible water intrusion from the roof. Management can possibly be done by members who owe work parties. Care needs to be taken with working on the roof. There was a question about creatures living in the roof space. We may need to open-up the space to open-up the roof rafters. We must consider the magnitude of the undertaking, cost, and replacement. An access hatch install would be a better option to view the rafters. Vent installation access on left and right side is a possibility to get air flow in. Water is hard to find and trace. Mike has a cable camera that might work. Front porch roof to the house under the window might be another place to access a view. We should vent regardless.

The refrigerator at the club ceased to function just in time for the Memorial Day Picnic. It has been replaced with a new model.

Social: Memorial Day picnic was well attended and enjoyed by all. Sailabration will start after July 4th. New members are generally asked to volunteer to host a sailabration.

Racing: Board needs to discuss whether we can do a social event after the Mayor's Cup. The race is the last Saturday in July the 31st. Participation has been low over the past few years. We agreed that there is a benefit to having social events after. Logistics of cost benefit analysis tabled until next board meeting.

Website: up and running. Paul is keeping the site up to date. He is looking at obtaining an IEP camera that would show a view of the shoreline.

Cruising: June 26 is the first cruise to Charles Island. It is a four-hour round trip. There is room for 2-3 boats at the town dock where there is ice cream.

Yards and Docks: all in good shape. Robb pressure washed the docks, and they look better. Nick inquired about applying Thompson's seal on the entire dock. It would protect the dock. White oak is not pressure treated. Newer planks are pressure treated lumber. In theory this is not necessary, but it does help with waterproofing the wood. Concern is that it can make the planking slick. Drying time is two hours, three hours before you can walk on it. Frank suggested that we consider more research before moving forward with this project. It was decided not to proceed with this project. There is a section of dock that requires some repair brought to attention by Barry.

Moorings: update on entangled moorings. New member prefers to add a braided line to his mooring set up. Nick suggested a method to integrate the two which was acceptable to all. There is a free mooring available but needs to be picked up.

Raimund untangled the 3 moorings and Julius separated 203 and 213.

Old Business: Gas company update. Frank is waiting for the gas company to re-connect with the club. The video cable is about 8 inches deep. There is a water pipe down about 4 feet. There is a French drain that surrounds the house. Nick talked to the construction foreman about interference with existing lines. They plan to run new gas line in old gas line so there should be no issue. Security cameras lost service and needs to be addressed. Paul and Mike to coordinate remediation.

New Business: Barry brought up that the depth of the water at the sea wall was an issue during the big boat launch. Talking points ensued as follows: Unfortunately, the tide was exceptionally low during the launch. He brought up dredging as a solution to some of the water depth issue. He maintains, as do others, that dredging is a normal part of the operation of the club to maintain depth. He suggested that the board need to consider applying for a new dredging permit. His concern over the loss of ability to launch larger boats and to some extent smaller boats if we do not address this matter.



Next Scheduled Meeting: 6 July 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made and unanimously passed to adjourn at 9:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Robin-Amendola



Upcoming events:

June

27 Spring Race Series #2 (1330 start)

July

4 Independence Day Cookout and Race

6 Board of Governors Meeting

11 Summer Race Series #1 (1330 start)

25 Summer Race Series #2 (1330 start)

31 Mayor's Cup Race (Noon start)



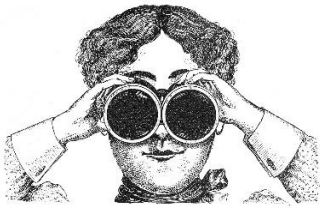
Long Island Sound

Geophysical Feature

N 41° 20.020' W 72° 08.141'



We turned south off I 95 and found it right away. It's really the only body of water separating the south coast of Connecticut from the north coast of Long Island. That makes it very convenient. Because it's an estuary, fresh water from rivers mixes with salt water that's there all the time. There are tides, but you can't really see them. The day I went the ocean was calm in the late afternoon. It was calming and peaceful. It smelled salty. The water came right up to the shore. We plan to go back.



Spotted on FB Marketplace:

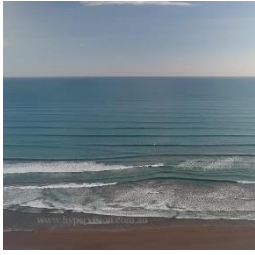
The owner claims this 1978 Oday 23' will bring you joy. It has a fold-down table for lunches or sunset dinners and a new porta potty, still wrapped in plastic. The boat features electronic upgrades and electrical features too numerous to mention here.



The owner is asking \$4050, which includes an 8 HP Johnson 2 stroke engine, but will sell it for less without. For an extra \$1000 you can leave it in the marina until November. The boat seems to be in New Haven, but your newsletter doesn't know exactly *where* in New Haven. The link below will reveal all.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/268091676899079/permalink/1443327862708782/?sale_post_id=1443327862708782



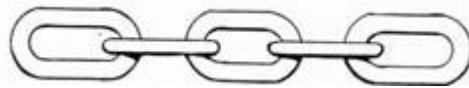


Long Island Sound

Geophysical Feature

N 41° 20.020' W 72° 08.141'

It's a good place to play Pokémon and relax. There are shells on the beach.



THIS MONTH'S LINK: how to tie a clove hitch on a dock cleat without even bending over.

Some of our launch attendants have been practicing this. Be sure to compliment them on their effort and skill. Perhaps there should be a context at the July 4th picnic?

<https://gfycat.com/unsightlyashamedemperorpenguin>

(Thank you, Raimund, for the link!)

MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

If you are interested in sharing a story with other club members in a future issue, please send it to Bob. The content and focus of the story are up to you. Submissions should be limited to 500 words. The author will be able to review and accept edits before publication.

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