



April 2022

NEW HAVEN YACHT CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOLUME CXXXX

ISSUE 4

MYSTERY YACHT IN MORRIS COVE MAY BELONG TO VLADIMIR PUTIN



A very large three-masted sailing yacht has been anchored in Morris Cove for two weeks. It's not clear who owns it or even what it's called. There's a large gold "A" on the transom. Brian Podestravka, a grad student from the Yale Russian Department, says he's puzzled. "I mean, there's just that big "A" at the back, an indefinite article; it doesn't say 'a *what*,' you know? I guess it could mean 'a *boat*,' but anybody can tell that just by looking at it."

If it's a boat, it's also a monster: over 400 feet long, it fills our whole mooring field. The vessel appears to be registered in Bermuda but Podestravka, who's been called in to translate, says the crew only speaks Russian.

"They say the captain and the officers went to New York a week ago. The fuel bunkers are nearly empty and the ship's visa card stopped working. I had a crew member offer me 300 Rubles to the dollar just so he could go to McDonald's one last time."

Without engine power a ship this size could have trouble leaving New Haven harbor. "They're hoping for a wind from the east, but even with that they're not sure to make it." Says Podestravka "I guess they've discovered that getting out is easier than getting in."

A spokesperson from city hall was livid. "Nobody invited them to New Haven; it's really an invasion — and now they say they can't leave. We haven't gotten any response from the owners, but behavior like this ought to be sanctioned!"

Maybe the big, gold "A" just stands for "asshole."

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEW HAVEN YACHT CLUB BOARD OF GOVERNORS, 2 MARCH 2022

ATTENDING OFFICERS:

Commodore: Drew

Vice Commodore: Stocky

Rear Commodore: Joe

Secretary: Cheryl

Treasurer: Frank

Membership Secretary: Carlo

ATTENDING MEMBERS: Debbi, Paul, Nick, Joan, Elizabeth, Gary, Raimund, Michael, Mike, Nick.

MINUTES: Commodore Drew called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. A motion was made and unanimously passed to accept the minutes of the February 2022 meeting minutes as published. The March meeting minutes are pending.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Moorings:

Carlo and Ray have been trying to figure out what we have in terms of inventory. He maintains that it is hard to differentiate the size moorings and chain because they are not connected to the mooring ball. He will need to factor a solution for this for next year. Overall, we probably have enough mushrooms except for the 400#. We need to purchase 3 more. Gauges for measuring chain would be helpful. Paul will be able to assist with having the gauges made. Chain was removed from the base of the mushrooms. Raimund has used de-ruster on some of the shackles. Opines on 'chain on mushrooms' versus 'off mushrooms' discussion ensued. Chain will still need to be stretched out and inspected annually regardless of whether it is on or off the mushroom. Raimund thinks leaving chain on is preferential. Early to tell until we try to get them ready to go in. The eyes on the mushroom tend to wear but can be repaired in many instances. It has been determined that we need nine 400# moorings, eleven 300# moorings, twenty-four 200#, moorings and three 100# moorings for next season. We need to also order the three 400# moorings, a barrel of 5/8" chain, and 2 spools of 3/4" pennant line. Supply chain issues may delay delivery. Carlo needs to place the order tomorrow to ensure prompt delivery. Approximately \$5,600.00 of supplies is necessary for moorings.

Yards and Docks: docks are alright and ready to install. Pile driver remains unavailable, but Nick has no concerns about structural integrity of the fixed dock for this season.

Beastie is still under maintenance. The cost will be \$231.

We may need to grind down metal rebar that is sticking out at the seawall during a work party.

Launch: we need to register 3 launches next year.

The new motor is in. We are not yet in possession of it yet though.

There is still a considerable amount of work that needs to get done on the new launch.

There are 2 returning launch attendants from last year. Joe will recruit from the sound school with projected interviews in April. Periodic fill in by former attendants is also a possibility. Joe has been doing some updating on the launch operation manual.

Website: regularly updated with events by Paul.

House and Grounds: need to get ahead of weed control early this year. Elizabeth is pursuing cleaning person for the club. There is no current job description for this position.

Social: Memorial Day picnic is fast approaching. The plan is to have an awards ceremony at the time of the picnic.

Cruising: no report

Membership: there are 5 new members. There are 3 potential members.

Race Committee: Mayor's cup is July 31st

Old Business: seawall repair needs to be addressed at a work party in the spring. Wooden planks and rubber edging have been purchased and will need to be installed. Nick will need to rent a hammer drill for 2 days. Work party assignments schedule will go out tomorrow.

New Business:

The plan is to turn the club water on at the splicing party April 2 @ 12:00.

Dinghy storage needs to be designated and organized. We could consider re-constructing the dinghy rack.

The club was alerted by the PYC to a prospective dredging project of the harbor channel. Dredging of New Haven Harbor to make it 10' deeper has resulted in clearance for dredging and dumping dredged material into the borrow pit. Nick thinks it will not be a huge issue for the club. Our mooring field is on the south edge of the borrow-pit. Barges may have to navigate close to our mooring field. We may be able to designate a path and alter the configuration of the mooring field if we need to. We can assume that the dredging company is going to want to dump as much fill as they can into the borrow pit so that they

do not have to haul it into Long Island Sound. Silt from the spill may detract from our depth of water though. The Army Corps of engineers has a process that they must go through to notify the public, usually a public notice in the newspaper. We decided to contact Frank P to see if he might be able to contact the city engineer on our behalf regarding the dredging project with the city to determine the timeline and potential effects on the club. Drew will contact PYC. The oyster company stands to be affected. Base of the borrow pit was determined to be a “dead zone” for life.

Attached is a letter from the city of New Haven planning department. Frank is requesting permission of the board to investigate possibility of obtaining FEMA funds to mitigate the impact of a flood on the clubhouse and shed. We decided to contact Frank P to obtain more information to bring back to the board.

We discussed old flare disposal. Joe is going to call the coast guard to ask for direction on how to dispose of them.



NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN DEPARTMENT
165 CHURCH STREET, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510
TEL (203) 946-6378 FAX (203) 946-7815

January 21, 2022

Dear Resident or Property Owner:

As New Haven residents, we live in a coastal city. From New Haven Harbor to the Quinnipiac, the Mill and West Rivers, water shapes New Haven.

At times, certain areas of the city are at risk of flooding. The City is working to reduce flood damage throughout the community through new infrastructure, education, and improved standards for new development. Over the past few years, the City has implemented erosion control measures along the East Shore, repaired a severely damaged bulkhead along the Quinnipiac River, and installed new rain gardens in Downtown which ease the pressure on the overall stormwater system. To further mitigate Downtown stormwater issues, the nearly complete Downtown Crossing project includes a large-scale infiltration basin. Planning and projects related to climate adaptation and resilience continue to move forward within the City, including two living shoreline projects along East Shore Park and Long Wharf Park, to address the impacts of major weather events as well as forecasted sea level rise.

As your property or residence is located in an area of flood risk, and/or where flooding has occurred several times, I am writing with some timely reminders about flood damage prevention. Most of the flooding that has occurred in New Haven is from rivers, coastal waters, or overwhelmed drainage. If you have a concern, you may contact the City Plan Department or Office of Emergency Management to inquire about the source(s) of flooding near your property.

Depending on the cause of flooding that affects your property or nearby properties, the Building Department can assist with advice about how to protect your home, building, or its contents from flood damage. The Building Department will provide guidance prior to making improvements and advise you if a building permit is required. Options may include:

- Elevating your house above the flood level established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- Floodproofing your building if it is non-residential (such as a retail establishment, warehouse, or other commercial property)
- Relocating important utilities from the basement and elevating them on the property or within the building, such as the heating system and your circuit breaker or fuse box
- Eliminating or modifying places that water can enter your home or building such as basement windows, basement door, and utility openings
- Install floor drain plug, standpipe, or sewer back flow valve to prevent flooding related to sewer backups

Financial assistance for flood mitigation for property owners may be available from FEMA, depending on the project. Some flood insurance policies include provisions for helping to pay for building elevations after flood events. You may be eligible to apply for a FEMA grant to elevate your home or relocate from your home to an

area with lower flood risk. For more information on these grants, please contact one of the mitigation specialists with FEMA Region 1. The contact information for Region 1 is listed on the following webpage: <https://www.fema.gov/about/organization/region-1>

Because homeowners' insurance typically does not cover flood losses, the City of New Haven participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Property owners and renters may purchase flood insurance from a variety of agencies. This insurance is backed by the federal government and is available to property owners in high risk areas even if the property has not been flooded previously.

Because our community participates in the Community Rating System (CRS), you will receive a reduction in the insurance premium. If your area is not mapped as a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), you may qualify for a lower-cost Preferred Risk Policy. You may have already purchased flood insurance if it was required by the bank in order to be approved for a mortgage or home improvement loan. However, these policies usually only cover the building's structure and not the contents. It is advisable to also have contents coverage because flood damage often affects furniture and other items within your home. FEMA recommends that you not wait until the next flood to buy insurance protection. In most cases, there is a 30-day waiting period before NFIP coverage takes effect. You may contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and coverage.

If you are a renter, it is important to point out that you, too, have options for flood protection. There are several actions you can take to protect your personal property, including, but not limited to, elevating or storing items in waterproof containers to minimize flood water damage or relocate your vehicle if a flood event is predicted. A renter can also purchase a flood insurance policy to protect their belongings. Renters, located within or outside of a flood zone, have various policy options, and should contact an insurance agent.

The City of New Haven's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) are now available for public reference online at <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home> These maps can help you determine the flood zone in which your property is located. A paper copy of these maps is also available at the City Plan Department on the 5th Floor of 165 Church Street and the New Haven Free Public Library at 133 Elm Street. You can learn more about New Haven's flood damage prevention programs at https://www.newhavenct.gov/gov/depts/city_plan/flood.htm Also learn about the City's Office of Emergency Management at: https://www.newhavenct.gov/gov/depts/emergency_info/default.htm.

Thank you again for your time and assistance in reducing flood damage to your property. Your efforts make a difference and benefit our entire community.

Sincerely,



Aicha S. Woods
Executive Director of City Plan
City of New Haven
(203) 946-6380
awoods@newhavenct.gov

Important Contact Numbers:
Building Department: (203) 946-8045
City Plan Department: (203) 946-6377
Office of Emergency Management: (203) 946-8224

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and unanimously passed to adjourn at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl, Secretary



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Memorial Day picnic is fast approaching. The plan is to have an awards ceremony at the time of the picnic.

Get out your stop watches: the Mayor's Cup is July 31st



Race Management Seminar

Saturday, March 26, 2022, at Essex Yacht Club.

The seminar consists of one session on Saturday, March 26, 2022. Session is 8:00am to 4:30pm EDT. The session will be held at Essex Yacht Club, 13 Novelty Lane, Essex, CT. There is approximately 90-120 minutes of course pre-work required before the seminar begins.

Attendance is required to complete and pass the course. About ten days before your course begins, you will receive an email from US Sailing (notifications@instructure.com) inviting you to log into in the course through Canvas, US Sailing's online learning platform. Please click the "Get Started" link right away to complete your profile and access the course materials. There are a few short quizzes and activities you are asked to complete prior the first session. The lead instructor will email you with course information, including directions for course pre-work. US Sailing Course Registration fee: \$40. An additional fee of \$20 will be collected by the Essex Yacht Club for lunch. Participants are asked to call the club at 860-767-8121 to pre-register for lunch.

COVID19 restrictions will be in effect. Participants shall be masked in Club unless eating and are respectfully asked to be fully vaccinated. Registration closes March 23. Walk-In registrations are not allowed. For more information, contact: Mary-Lawrence Bickford.

TO ENROLL: <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/rules-officiating/resources/find-a-seminar/race-officer-seminar-calendar/>

NHYC-Sailing Seminar

Eight Signs that You Might Be Addicted to Sailing



- 1) Sometimes you find yourself thinking about sailing even when you're not actually doing it.
- 2) Sailing is already present in your family tree. Did you have an uncle or aunt who sailed? Some experts think sailing addiction is hereditary.
- 3) You make Freudian slips that turn around nautical terms. For example, you might say "tacks" instead of "tax," "mast" instead of "massed" or "boom" instead of "broom."
- 4) You wake up in the middle of the night with the odor of bottom paint in your nostrils.
- 5) In a department store, you misread "sale" as "sail."
- 6) A friend offers you a glass of port and you automatically look to your left.
- 7) You're willing to go sailing with almost anybody at any time of day.
- 8) You're sailing right now.

Wind-blown Pages

Your newsletter presents pages torn from nautical literature. *Master and Commander*, the first volume of Patrick O'Brian's Aubrey-Maturin series provides today's text.

'Trice up. Lay out.' The calls again, and the topmen hurried out on the yards. They cast off the gaskets, the lines that held the sails tight furlled to the yards; they gathered the canvas under their arms and waited.

'Let fall,' came the order, and with it the howling peep-peep, peep-peep from the bosun and his mates.

'Sheet home. Sheet home. Hoist away. Cheerly there, in the foretop, look alive. T'garns'l sheets. Hands to the braces. Belay.'

A gentle push from above heeled the Sophie over, then another and another, each more delightfully urgent until it was one steady thrust; she was under way, and all along her side there sang a run of living water. Jack and his lieutenant exchanged a glance: it had not been bad- the foretopgallantsail had taken its time, because of a misunderstanding as to how newcomer should be defined and whether the six restored Sophies were to be considered in that injurious light, which had led to a furious, silent squabble on the yard; and the sheeting-home had been rather spasmodic; but it had not been disgraceful, and they would not have to support the derision of the other men-of-war in the harbour. There had been moments in the confusion of the morning when each had dreaded just that thing.

The Sophie had spread her wings a little more like an unhurried dove than an eager hawk, but not so much so that the expert eyes on shore would dwell upon her with disapprobation; and as for the mere landsmen, their eyes were so satiated with the coming and going of every kind of vessel that they passed over her departure with glassy indifference.

- 'Forgive me, sir,' said Stephen Maturin, touching his hat to a nautical gentleman on the quay, 'but might I ask whether you know which is the ship called Sophia?'

'A King's ship, sir?' asked the officer, returning his salute. 'A man-of-war? There is no ship of that name but perhaps you refer to the sloop, sir? The sloop Sophie?'

'That may well be the case, sir. No man could easily surpass me in ignorance of naval terms. The vessel I have in mind is commanded by Captain Aubrey.'

'Just so: the sloop, the fourteen-gun sloop. She lies almost directly in front of you, sir, in a line with the little white house on the point.'

'The little, small squat merchantman with two masts?'

'Well' - with a laugh - she is a trifle low in the water, but she is a man-of-war, I assure you And I believe she's about to make sail. Yes. There go her topsails: sheeted borne. They hoist the yard. To'garns'ls. What's amiss? Ah, there we are. Not very smartly done, but all's well that ends well, and the Sophie never was one of your very brisk performers. See, she gathers way. She will fetch the mouth of the harbour on this wind without touching a brace.'

'She is sailing away?'

'Indeed she is.'

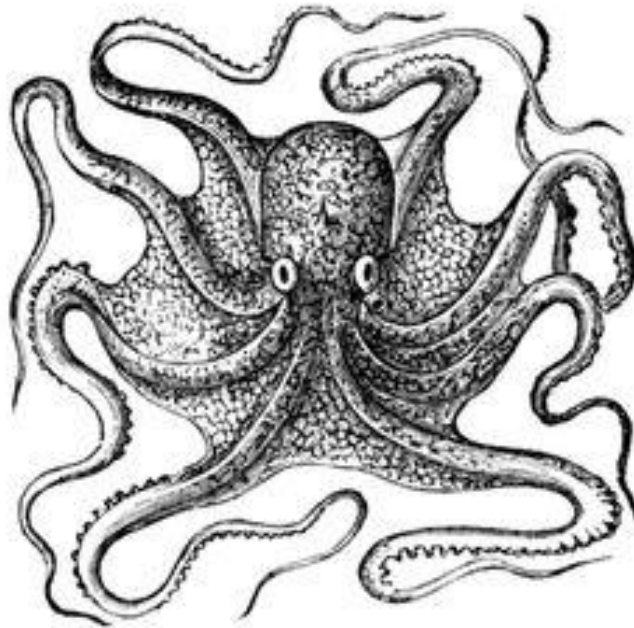
—Patrick O'Brian, *Master and Commander* (1970)

FROM THE POETRY LOCKER

Patrick O'Brian borrowed the poems composed by "William Mowatt" in *Master and Commander* from William Falconer (1732-1769). This month we present Falconer's *Description of a Ninety-Gun Ship*.

*Amidst a wood of oaks with canvas leaves,
Which form'd a floating forest on the waves,
There stood a tower, whose vast stupendous size
Rear'd its huge mast, and seem'd to gore the skies,
From which a bloody pendant stretch'd afar
Its comet-tail, denouncing ample war:
Two younger giants¹, of inferior height,
Display'd their sporting streamers to the sight:
The base below, another island rose,
To pour Britannia's thunder on her foes:
With bulk immense, like Ætna, she surveys
Above the rest, the lesser Cyclades:
Profuse of gold, in lustre like the sun,
Splendid with regal luxury she shone,
Lavish in wealth, luxuriant in her pride,
Behold the gilded mass exulting ride!
Her curious prow divides the silver waves,
In the salt ooze her radiant sides she laves;
From stem to stern, her wondrous length survey,
Rising a beauteous Venus from the sea:
Her stem, with naval drapery engraved,
Show'd mimic warriors, who the tempest braved;
Whose visage fierce defied the lashing surge,
Of Gallic pride the emblematic scourge.
Tremendous figures, lo! her stern displays,
And holds a Pharos² of distinguish'd blaze:
By night it shines a star of brightest form,
To point her way, and light her through the storm:
See dread engagements pictured to the life,
See admirals maintain the glorious strife:
Here breathing images in painted ire,
Seem for their country's freedom to expire:
Victorious fleets the flying fleets pursue—
Here strikes a ship, and there exults a crew:
A frigate here blows up with hideous glare,
And adds fresh terrors to the bleeding war.
But leaving feigned ornaments, behold!
Eight hundred youths, of heart and sinew bold,
Mount up her shrouds, or to her tops ascend,
Some haul her braces, some her foresail bend;
Full ninety brazen guns her port-holes fill,*

*Ready with nitrous magazines to kill;
From dread embrasures formidably peep,
And seem to threaten ruin to the deep:
On pivots fix'd, the well-ranged swivels lie,
Or to point downward, or to brave the sky;
While peteraroes swell with infant rage,
Prepared, though small, with fury to engage.
Thus arm'd, may Britain long her state maintain,
And with triumphant navies rule the main!*



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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