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NEW HAVEN YACHT CLUB NEWSLETTER

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CHEESE KNIFE FOUND



Two views of the cheese knife.

It's not unusual to find bits of metal in the pea-gravel at the Yacht Club. Snippets of stainless wire are common enough--nobody should go barefoot! A happier find might be a usable screwdriver bit or a shackle pin. For my part, I still rue the loss of a pawl spring that fell overboard when I rebuilt the jib winch on my mast. Last week, however, a truly exceptional bit of metal showed up: a cheese knife. It lay right in the middle of the yard. I might have walked past it half a dozen times without actually "seeing" it, so incongruous was this end-of-meal implement perched (if that is the word) on our boatyard gravel.

Because the knife was of European design, I immediately called my old friend Frommage, Subdirector of Criminal Inquiries for the Belgian Royal Navy (RET). I could see his mind already racing as he knelt beside the knife. At length, he spoke.

"We have here evidence of an unusual caper, but one not unknown to veteran officers in the Service of Inquiries. The position of object in the very middle of the yard, equally distant from all the boats, allows one to consider several hypotheses. Furthermore, the knife is of a banal sort; one might use it to serve almost any variety of cheese."

My friend settled his ponderous bulk into a fiberglass chair under the pavilion, the one that drifted over from Anthony's one day on a particularly high tide.

"Someone could have been eating American Cheese in the cockpit of *Anam Cary*, or sliced into a Babybel on *Balance*. We can't exclude the possibility of some malefactor eating cream cheese or chevre on Catnap. Emmental on *Entropy* is a possibility, or any of the *fromages d'Espagne* and we may say 'ditto' for *Eccho*."

The Subdirector paused.

"But the vessel with the dark blue hull..."

"You mean *Light Brigade*?"

"Yes, *Light Brigade*! This little sloop (a C & C, is it not?) gives my poor gray cells no end of trouble. Was it Lanark Blue or La Roule? Or that acidic cheese from Corsica they make with ewe's milk..."

"Brocciu"?

With the addition of the definite article in the Corsican language, it would be '*Lu Brocciu*'. Any of these cheeses might have been consumed aboard *Light Brigade* —or all of them! Perhaps with crackers! The criminals needed only to strip off the tarp covering to proceed with their dastardly plan."

"Are you sure we're looking at a crime? Couldn't it just be a picnic?"

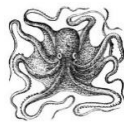
"That's what they'd have you believe, but do not be fooled! A pattern emerges! A mafioso might have gone from boat to boat, eating Parmesan on *Pharon*, Romano on *Raggtime* or Ricota on *Ramblin' Rose*! The cheese knife was left here—it was not simply "dropped," oh no! It was *placed* in the central alleyway expressly to confound us, to torment us! An ill-intentioned individual eating Swinton (or even Swiss) on *Summer Slopes* – this is child's play! But as he approaches *Tardis*, *Tevah II* or *Tom Foolery*, his criminal mind aspires to higher mischief. Consider the possibilities: Tomme or Tilsit, Tillamook or Toscanello. There's even an obscure Slovenian cheese called "Tolminc"? The mind boggles, my friend!"

His face glistened from the intensity of his concentration. There was silence for a moment.

"You know," I ventured at last, "It actually looks more like a butter knife."

"A *butter* knife?"

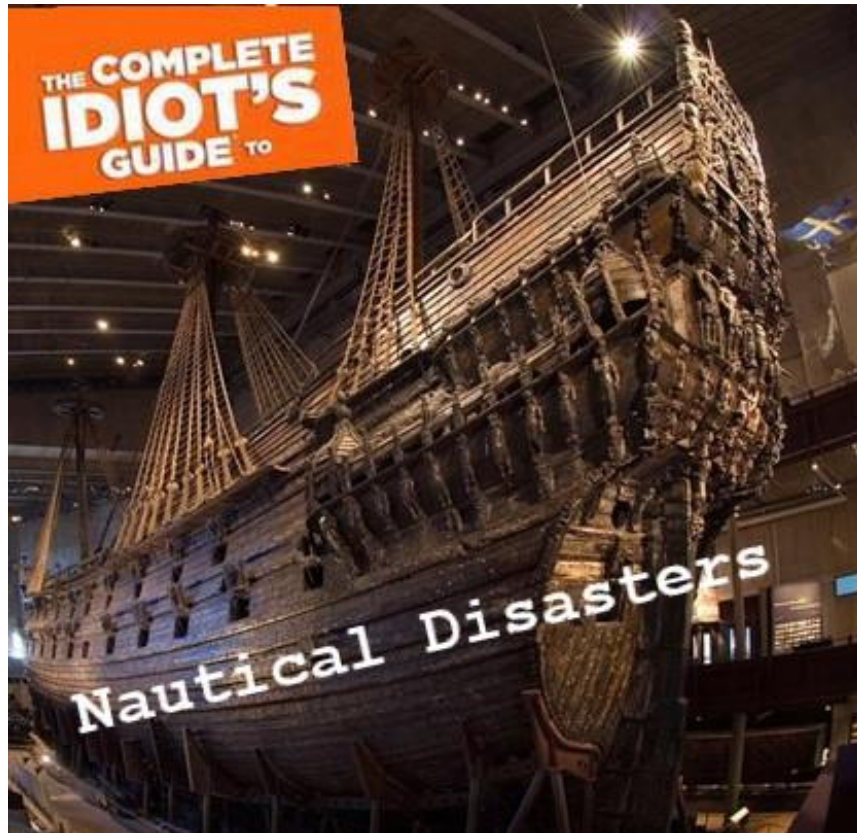
His voice was barely audible. Subdirector Frommagge gazed across the harbor to where the sun was setting behind the VA hospital in West Haven. He was still there when I left to go home.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

The Memorial Day approaches apace. The plan is to have an awards ceremony at the picnic.

The Mayor's Cup is July 31st. It wouldn't hurt to practice your tacks and jibes!



This month: take the *Vasa* out for its first cruise!

- This splendid warship incorporates every refinement of ship-building technology available in 1628.
- There's nothing to worry about: the exceptionally high stern castle prevents broaching when going downwind.
- You can safely ignore those gusts! The stability of the ship was tested during fitting-out by having thirty men run back and forth across the deck.
- There's a big crowd watching from the bluffs! Might as well set the topgallants and royals!
- They'll expect you to fire a salute as you leave Stockholm harbor, so leave the gunports open and the guns run out on the lee side.

Ready? Set? Cast off lines! You're on your way!

Jensen sends us this:

NHYC Launch Service Guidelines for Members

1. Please follow the instructions given by the Launch Attendant.
2. State Law requires that children age 12 or younger wear a PFD while on the standing or floating docks and underway in a boat, this includes the launches. Please obey this law. For added safety, please ensure children age 12 or younger wear a PFD while on or around the seawall.
3. The maximum number of passengers allowed in the launch is 6 passengers.
4. Launch attendants will monitor Channel 68. Please hail Launch Attendant on #68 for transport from mooring to dock.
5. Please do not ask the Launch Attendant to assist you with lengthy repairs on your boat.
6. Launch attendants may assist you for a short period (less than 10 minutes) if there is no demand for launch service.
7. The launch will not operate in stormy conditions when thunder is either heard or lightning is seen. There must be a period of 10 minutes free of lightning and the sound of thunder before the launch is allowed to operate.
Please note: The launch may not be operating on the day of a storm.
8. Please do not tell Launch Attendants how to perform their job.
9. Launch attendants will normally not provide towing assistance outside of mooring field.
10. Please help to ensure that passengers on the launch do not impede the field of vision of the Launch Attendant, particularly when approaching a moored boat or the dock.

If there are any problems with the operation of the launch, please contact the Launch Chairperson.

Have a safe sailing season and thank you for your cooperation.



This is for anyone who needs to get a ECSA PHRF rating for the upcoming season of ECSA-sanctioned races, including NHYC Mayor's Cup.

Wayne

Dear ECSA Members,

The 2022 ECSA Membership/PHRF Certificate system is ready. Please [join or renew](#) your membership as soon as possible so we are ready to go!

The full 2022 ECSA Schedule is [posted](#).

New for 2022 is a **DOUBLEHANDED NON-SPINNAKER Division (DH non-Spin)** has been added to the **ECSA Offshore Circuit**. All boats registered in ECSA will receive a DH rating in addition to the traditional ratings and may compete in DH non-Spin races. DH non-Spin ratings for ECSA compensate for limited sail handling capabilities and reduced crew weight on the rail.

As a reminder, last year ECSA members could apply for **Recreational Credits** for Dacron or similar cruising sails, furlers, etc. Please review the PHRF Council's [2022 What's New Letter](#) and read the [2022 ECSA PHRF Regulations](#) for specifics.

ECSA is a member US Sailing's MVP program. You can save (\$10 for individual, \$5 for youth, and \$15 for family) on your US Sailing membership if you sign up through this program. ECSA earns points for members who sign-up through ECSA's MVP link, which are in turn used for adult and junior training, course materials, conferences, etc. Regardless if you are a current or prospective member of US Sailing, we encourage you to renew/ sign up through this [link](#).

Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association exists to promote adult and junior sailing participation amongst our forty member clubs. Our goal is to make everyone's time on the water accessible, safe, rewarding, fair and fun. Please [contact anyone on the Board](#) with suggestions to help you and your events.

If you are on Facebook, join our ECSA group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/279886569480145>

See you soon.

Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association



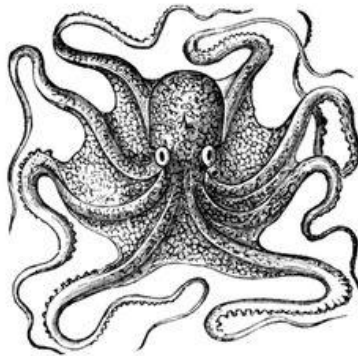
FROM THE POETRY LOCKER

Edgar Allen Poe's *To Helen* (1831) isn't really about sailing. It's a smooth expanse of liquid words on which the imagination itself sets sail.

Helen, thy beauty is to me
Like those Nicéan barks of yore,
That gently, o'er a perfumed sea,
The weary, way-worn wanderer bore
To his own native shore.

On desperate seas long wont to roam,
Thy hyacinth hair, thy classic face,
Thy Naiad airs have brought me home
To the glory that was Greece,
And the grandeur that was Rome.

Lo! in yon brilliant window-niche
How statue-like I see thee stand,
The agate lamp within thy hand!
Ah, Psyche, from the regions which
Are Holy-Land!



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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