



May 2023

NEW HAVEN YACHT CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOLUME CXLI

ISSUE 5

ROBOT BOAT WANTS TO JOIN YACHT CLUB



Saildrone 1022 has made a preliminary application to join the New Haven Yacht Club. The Saildrone, which uses the pronoun “it” and goes by “Two-two,” would be the first unmanned sailing vessel to become a member. Our first question, of course, was why do you want to join a yacht club?

Are you kidding? A yacht club would be perfect for me! They built us to be autonomous, but that doesn’t mean we don’t like to hang out.

What’s been your sailing experience up to now?

They sent me in a shipping crate to New Zealand and from there they wanted me to circumnavigate Antarctica and count krill for months at that time. Gotta make sure the whales have something to eat, right? Well, if I was a whale, I

might feel differently, but Krill does *nothing* for me. Lonely, lonely, LONELY! And BORING! So, one day I just sidled away from the group and headed for Long Island Sound. It took a couple months, but it was worth it. I like the weather in New England and since the lobsters died off there's no krill to speak of.

How do you imagine life in a co-operative sailing club?

Hey, I'm down for everything! The Memorial Day picnic, the cruises, the Mayor's Cup—everything. Wayne is going to get me a PHRF so I can race. Why should I spend my service life counting embryonic crustaceans? I want to do everything a normal 23-foot boat does! The only thing I can't do is paint my own bottom. I could use some help with that. But I've seen how you guys operate, always lending each other a hand.

Who is your sponsor?

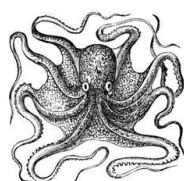
I've gotten quite friendly with *Entropy*; we've both got deep, fin keels and about the same displacement. She's a bit light on electronics and mostly speaks German, but I like her.

Won't the Sailable people want you back?

I'm not going back. No way! They'll have to send a posse for me!



<https://www.sailable.com/news/surveyor-2022-ocean-award-innovation-blue-marine-foundation>



MINUTES OF THE NEW HAVEN YACHT CLUB BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
3 May 2023

ATTENDING OFFICERS:

Commodore: Drew
Vice Commodore: Stocky
Rear Commodore: Joe
Secretary: Cheryl
Treasurer: Frank
Membership Secretary: Carlo

ATTENDING MEMBERS: Debbi, Allan, Alan, Nick, Paul DeMarco, Mike, Kevin, Felix

MINUTES: Commodore called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. A motion was made and unanimously passed to accept the minutes of the April 2023 meeting minutes as published. The May meeting minutes are pending.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Launch: motors are serviced and at the club ready for use. Old V hull transom is shot and will need to be replaced later in the season. The new V Hull needs a new floor and bench seats installed. Plan is to restore the New V hull first. Center console was partially removed. Bench seat needs to be installed. Launch bottom on Carolina skiff needs to be painted. Attendant interest is low this year. Julian is returning along with one new attendant. Recruiting is focused on the Sound School and Sea Cadets.

Moorings: moorings are all set to drop. We have 1 200# and 2 300# spares.

Yards and Docks: chains that go around the pilings may need to be replaced. Length of chain on one of the pilings needs to be inspected for proper length.

House and Grounds: water leaks on shower handle and under the house and sink. Hot water heater may be a source. Kevin is going to check it out.

We discussed installing layers of tarp and pea gravel on east side of the club house on top of the tarp. Plantings of perennials along the pavilion instead of annual baskets. Points of discussion: Pea stone is too expensive, sand from the sea wall and wooden planks was proposed in lieu of pea stone. Old chain was also suggested as an option. Drew had concerns about water flow under the shower with tarps. Filter fabric was suggested. Mowing is not feasible. Extra strength vinegar might work. Chemical poison probably not a good option. Rototiller would just spread the root system. Work party project to cut, dig and tarp the east side of the clubhouse.

Social: there is one volunteer to host the July 1 sailabration. We will need additional volunteers for sailabratings and the Memorial Day picnic to setup, cook and clean up. Mayor's cup is July 30,2023.

Cruising: no report

Membership: no big changes.

Race Committee: no report

Old Business: tax form is still in the state of flux and unresolved. Notice that we still owe money to state. At the same time, we received a check for the amount that we owe. Frank is appealing to a contact at Rosa DeLauro's office.

New Business: Next board meeting Tuesday June 6, 2023 @7:00

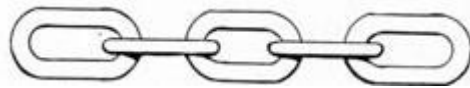
Krane Car has had maintenance and is running well. The tire that we had replaced as well as the other tire was low on air. Efforts were made to try to inflate. We need to do some further inspection. Need to find a new tire service company in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and unanimously passed to adjourn at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl, Secretary



THIS MONTH'S LINK:

A scary dismasting in the Ocean Race

Nobody wants to have to break out the saws-all on a windy night with the rain coming down.

<https://youtu.be/uoagE--PryY>

From the Social Pages:

Ahoy mates!

Just a reminder that the Memorial Day Picnic is on the 29th of May at 4:00. There is no charge for members only guests. Grill items and drinks are provided by the club. Vegetarian items are available. Members are asked to bring side dishes to share. Help with set up and clean up would be greatly appreciated.

Please, if you have private belongings in the clubhouse please remove them before the party. I was down there yesterday and it was quite cluttered with non-club items.

RSVP's are appreciated so that I can plan for provisions.

Thanks and hope to see you there.

Cheryl and Deb

Sailabratons!

We have Hosts for the first 3 Saturdays in July. Can anyone else step up and take any of the other dates? Should be a great summer just around the bend.

REMAINING DATES:

July 22 August 5,12,19 and 26

Time: 4-7 PM

Please consider hosting one of these Sailabratons. You can be reimbursed up to \$100 for food and beverage. There are some supplies at the club and they are easily accessible. There is some setup involved to make sure the drinks are cool and snacks and food are laid out. Then, cleanup at the end. That's it.

For new members, this is a great time to get involved with Club activities. Please let me know if you are interested in hosting and we can get you oriented and ready to go. Feel free to call or text me , Stocky, anytime.

Stocky

The history of sailing

AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH DACHBAR SPIERDAMM

Dachbar, it's so good of you to come back from the dead just to chat with the Yacht Club Newsletter. I hope you had a pleasant voyage from the underworld? "Pleasant" no, but not too unkomfortable.

I wonder if you would tell our readers how you came to invent the sternpost rudder, one of the most - perhaps the most significant advance in sailing technology ever, and one that even the ancient Phoenicians never mastered.

Ya, Phoenicians slipped up, eh? Anyway, one day near de end of last century...

You mean the thirteenth century, right?

Ja and I was using de steering oar of my long boat on a windy day and it keeps chumping out of de bracket. Also, de oar is vood, so when paddle end floats, I gotcha push up on de oar chust to keep it in de vaater. So I say to myself, "Dachbar, if it's attached all de time to de boat, you only gotta move da steering oar from side to side."

Brilliant!

Ya, but not de end of story. Comes development stage: first I attach steering oar to *bow* of boat. Very sensitive—chust a touch and de boat turns! But also hinkonvenient. De sheets and halyards come aft. So I ask my son Effbert to handle rudder vorward.

You'd already settled on that name, "rudder"?

Ya, 'rudder' 'cause... I don't know; it just *looked* like rudder. Anyway, Effbert not always available and dose days I can't sail at all. So I think, "Dachbar, you should attach dis ting **BEHIND** de boat." Dat would be closer to vere I am, but hard to turn the ting! I tried attaching a donkey to rudder, like power steering, but sometimes donkey, he von't move and I run aground or hit de other boats.

You must have taken a lot of abuse?

Ya, plenty. "Ey shout at me: look, dere goes a boat mit two chackasses!" But next ting I did vas good: I got rid of de donkey and invented... tiller - yes, it chust *looked* like a tiller - and dis made rudder easy to turn.

Amazing!

De rest is history. My h invention of sternpost rudder leads to other himprovements: deeper draft, a distinct keel, triangle sails... And den Tifflemar goes and invents de bowsprit! Anoder big moment in sailing history! You should interview Tifflemar for your newsletter! He only dead six centuries!



Spotted on Craigslist:

A 24-foot cutter with a stunning canoe stern

This 1978 Stannard Quick Step cutter was one of 23 boats built by Bill Stannard in Rhode Island before he sold the molds to Bill Lannigan who had them built first by C. E Ryder, then The Anchorage, Shannon Yachts, and finally through Quickstep, Inc. The owner claims it's in good condition. Draft 3.5 feet. The 2002 Mercury 8hp outboard goes in a lazarette aft.



You can't see it well in the picture, but there's a skeg-mounted rudder aft of that half-moon cutout. The boat comes with fenders, anchor, "lots of extra lines and all safety equipment." The owner says he just doesn't have enough time to enjoy it. He's only asking \$1000. Why not pop over to Branford to have a look?

<https://newhaven.craigslist.org/boa/d/branford-foot-stannard-quick-step-cutter/7621070292.html>

<https://sailboatdata.com/sailboat/quickstep-24/>

Wind-blown Pages

It seems incredible, but your newsletter has never yet excerpted Robert Louis Stevenson's epic tale of devilish pirates pretending to be honest seamen, *Treasure Island*. With this number, we make good on that omission. First serialized in the magazine *Young Folks* from October 1881 to January 1882 under the title *The Sea-Cook, or Treasure Island* and published in book form in 1883, Stevenson's novel laid the keel of a whole iconography of piracy that lives today in cartoons, movies and children's Halloween costumes.

All that night we were in a great bustle getting things stowed in their place, and boatfuls of the squire's friends, Mr. Blandly and the like, coming off to wish him a good voyage and a safe return. We never had a night at the Admiral Benbow when I had half the work; and I was dog-tired when, a little before dawn, the boatswain sounded his pipe and the crew began to man the capstan-bars. I might have been twice as weary, yet I would not have left the deck, all was so new and interesting to me—the brief commands, the shrill note of the whistle, the men bustling to their places in the glimmer of the ship's lanterns.

"Now, Barbecue, tip us a stave," cried one voice.

"The old one," cried another.

"Aye, aye, mates," said Long John, who was standing by, with his crutch under his arm, and at once broke out in the air and words I knew so well:

"Fifteen men on the dead man's chest—"

And then the whole crew bore chorus:—

"Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!"

And at the third "Ho!" drove the bars before them with a will.

Even at that exciting moment it carried me back to the old Admiral Benbow in a second, and I seemed to hear the voice of the captain piping in the chorus. But soon the anchor was short up; soon it was hanging dripping at the bows; soon the sails began to draw, and the land and shipping to flit by on either side; and before I could lie down to snatch an hour of slumber the *Hispaniola* had begun her voyage to the Isle of Treasure.

I am not going to relate that voyage in detail. It was fairly prosperous. The ship proved to be a good ship, the crew were capable seamen, and the captain thoroughly understood his business. But before we came the length of Treasure Island, two or three things had happened which require to be known.

Mr. Arrow, first of all, turned out even worse than the captain had feared. He had no command among the men, and people did what they pleased with him. But that was by no means the worst of it, for after a day or two at sea he began to appear on deck with hazy eye, red cheeks, stuttering tongue, and other marks of drunkenness. Time after time he was ordered below in disgrace. Sometimes he fell and cut himself; sometimes he lay all day long in his little bunk at one side of the companion; sometimes for a day or two he would be almost sober and attend to his work at least passably.

In the meantime, we could never make out where he got the drink. That was the ship's mystery. Watch him as we pleased, we could do nothing to solve it; and when we asked him to his face, he would only laugh if he were drunk, and if he were sober deny solemnly that he ever tasted anything but water.

He was not only useless as an officer and a bad influence amongst the men, but it was plain that at this rate he must soon kill himself outright, so nobody was much surprised, nor very sorry, when one dark night, with a head sea, he disappeared entirely and was seen no more.

"Overboard!" said the captain. "Well, gentlemen, that saves the trouble of putting him in irons."

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. The author will be able to review and accept edits before publication.

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