

January 2017 Storm Trysail Club Newsletter

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January
Newsletter



Vol. 79, No. 1 January 2017

In This Issue...

Commodore Sitar's Address to the Annual Meeting

Upcoming Events

Quantum Key West Race Week

January 15-20, 2017

Contact: *Bill Canfield*

(340) 626-0239

keywestraceweek.com

Key West Race Week Members Party

January 17, 2017



Contact: Whitney Kneisley

Pineapple Cup Miami-Montego Bay Race

Start - February 3, 2017

pineapplecup.com

Storm Trysail Hands-on-Safety at Sea

SUNY Maritime College, Ft Schuyler, Bronx, NY

May 20, 2017

Contact: Lisa Schinella

seminar.stormtrysailfoundation.org

Block Island Race

Stamford Yacht Club

Start - May 26, 2017

Awards Party - May 28, 2017

Contact: Whitney Kneisley

(914) 834-8857

Down the Bay Race

Start - Annapolis - May 26, 2017

Awards Party - Hampton Yacht Club - May 28, 2017

hamptonyc.com

Block Island Race Week

June 18-23, 2017

AJ Evans, Chair

Contact: Whitney Kneisley

(914) 834-8857



Storm Trysail Club Commodore Lenny Sitar. Photo Credit: Howie McMichael

Good Evening, I would like to thank Commodore Lee Reichart for his outstanding service to the Storm Trysail Club. I know that these past two years have been full of many challenges. To look back, we had the Rating Rule controversy: the Commodore arrives in England after the Transatlantic Race and has to play ping pong with the RORC Flags; US Sailing trying to take over the Safety at Sea Seminars; a change in our Executive Director position; the list goes on and on. However, Lee managed all these situations with aplomb and the help of many other members and most of these issues have been resolved. Thank-you, Lee.

I have just finished swearing in the new Flag Officers and Governors. I think this is the first time this process has been used. I know that a few of the Club Officers have held these positions probably since before I was born! However, I feel that all these positions are very important to the operation of our Club. With this importance comes great responsibility and I feel that this "oath-taking" represents to the membership that we, as Flag Officers and Governors, take our positions of trust seriously.

With this concept in mind, it will be one of my missions to have a more active Governing Committee. I have proposed to the current Governing Committee that we establish a relationship between each of them and the Club's committees. I will request or appoint a board member to be the liaison between the Governing Committee and each committee. I want to have more active Governors which I feel will benefit the

Did You Know?

You can find a video history of Block Island Race Week, written and produced by retired STC Executive Director Marcy Trenholm, archived Newsletters and more in the Members Only section of stormtrysail.org.

While you're there you can update your Member Profile, pay your dues and propose a friend to membership in Storm Trysail Club!

Have you forgotten how to log onto the protected club site? Call Whitney at (914) 834-8857.

- Lee Reichart, Editor

have more active governors, which I feel will benefit the Club in the future.

I also plan to increase the membership on our current committees, my goal is to have each committee appoint a Vice Chairman. There are many committees that have had the same leadership for years, we are all growing older, some chairs may welcome a break. Therefore, if we can have some succession planning I feel that this will become another great asset for our Club. I would like to extend an open invitation to all members who are interested in seeing our Club grow and prosper help me make us an even more successful Club than it is.

In addition to the changes I mentioned, I intend to create additional committees:

1. **Cruising** - As our senior member numbers increase, I feel that some members may not be able or inclined to race, however, they still enjoy the fellowship of other like minded members. This life change amongst our members presents an opportunity for the Club to serve our membership better.
2. **Insurance** - Currently we have a one man committee, which functions well, but I feel it is important that it be expanded to fully appraise the Governing Committee of potential risks and how our insurance coverage mitigates such risks.
3. **Long Range Planning** - We need to plan the Club's future. We need to look at where we have been, where we want to go and most importantly what we want our future to be. We, the members, must design our future and not leave it to fate.
4. **Governance** - We need to view our Club as a business and we must insure that the standards of our Club are high. We want the best for our Club. We are currently admired by many other clubs both "brick and mortar" and "paper". We want to continue to attract members who exemplify

continue to attract members who exemplify our high standards. The Governance Committee will also be charged with reviewing our by-laws with an eye to identify needed changes. The committee will recommend changes to the Governing Committee, which, will keep the membership appraised. Of course any by-law change must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the Regular and Senior members voting in person or by proxy at an Annual Meeting. (Article XIV, *By-Laws*, Section 1.)

5. **Events** - We currently have three independent committees; an Entertainment Committee with Dan Jennings doing a superb job; a Race Committee headed by Commodore Dick Neville and various event committees each of which develops and handles its own sponsorship relationships. The Events Committee would bring the race, entertainment and event and sponsorship committees together. Their job would be to enhance our Club events for the benefit of Club members, guests and participants.
6. **Young Members** - Since we have growing numbers of Junior and Corinthian members, I propose a committee to run events designed for new members, especially the younger ones, for fun and to acquaint them with other members and committees.

That should be plenty to start! As I said earlier, all of the Flag Officers and Governors need the help of all of our members to make our Club successful. Recently I had a discussion with a senior member who told me that a member or two had asked him about what the Club offers and why they should continue to be a member.

I believe that in the past the Club was composed of a very elite group of yachtsmen, but that has changed and now we are somewhat different. With today's technology and our litigious society, it can be harder to find qualified prospective members because race committees often balk at sending boats out into potentially risky weather. So I ask each member to look for qualified candidates to sponsor, and when you do sponsor a prospective sailor remember our high standards. When your friend becomes a new member your job is not over. It is your job to introduce that new member to the traditions, opportunities and responsibilities of Storm Tossail Club.

opportunities and responsibilities of Storm Trysail Club membership.

And to those members who may question their membership, let me paraphrase JFK from his inaugural address - ask not what your Club can do for you - ask what you can do for your Club!

I want to thank the Nominating Committee and the membership for their vote of confidence in me to serve as your commodore for 2017 and hopefully 2018, which will also be the Club's 80th anniversary. Once again, thank-you, I hope to serve you well.

Lenny Sitar
Commodore

Annual Meeting

January 7, 2017, Stamford Yacht Club, Stamford CT.

New Officers and Board Installed

Lenny Sitar - Commodore - Lenny has successfully campaigned a number of racer/cruiser yachts in the Northeast, most notably and currently his J/44 *Vamp* for over 25 years with numerous victories, including the 2008 Northern Ocean Racing Trophy. As anyone who has

sailed with him knows, Lenny is an outspoken advocate of safety at sea. He routinely calls crew meetings before every offshore or overnight race to say, among other things: "You know why they call these lifelines? Because on this side there's life, and on that side there's none."

His passion for the club can be readily seen in his address to the Storm Trysail Club membership at the 2017 Annual Meeting. Lenny twice served as Commodore of the Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club, and is an active member of American Yacht Club, The Cruising Club of America, The New York Yacht Club, The Corinthians, and The New York Athletic Club. Outside of sailing, Lenny has had a successful career as a grocer/owner of a ShopRite and commercial property in Carteret, New Jersey. He lives with his wife, Claudia in Holmdel, New Jersey.





Commodore Sitar and Vice Commodore Evans onboard *Vamp*.

AJ Evans - Vice Commodore - AJ grew up sailing in New Jersey and has raced for over 20 years on Lenny Sitar's J/44, *Vamp*, in addition to countless other boats both near and offshore. Sailing on *Vamp* as a teen, AJ had the

opportunity to take charge of watches and deliveries under rough conditions offshore, leading quickly to STC membership.

A veteran of ten Newport-Bermuda Races, he both competed in and chaired the 2016 edition, which was threatened by forecasts that daunted many sailors into not starting. He blames his participation in the STC transatlantic charter of the Stad Amsterdam for all the AARP junk mail he gets. AJ, who too often forgets to say no, serves on the Cruising Club of America's Bermuda Race Organizing Committee, the Youth Advisory Committee of the National Sailing Hall of Fame, and the New York Yacht Club Race Committee. In real life, AJ practices maritime and admiralty law in New York and New Jersey. He lives in Middletown, New Jersey with his wife, Toni.



Ed Cesare - Rear Commodore - Ed campaigns a Class40 under the banner of *Pleiad Racing*. *Pleiad Racing* has competed in three editions of the Atlantic Cup, three Ida

competed in three editions of the Atlantic Cup, three Ida Lewis races, three Vineyard Races and the 2014 Bermuda Race. In addition to his Class40 sailing, Ed frequently ships as navigator for a number of successful IRC programs. His resume includes 14 Newport-Bermuda Races, three Transatlantics and 23 Vineyard Races. Ed is an avid frostbite sailor and occasional keelboat sailor and team and match racer.

Ed has had a successful career in the venture capital business, most recently as the founding partner of Pleiad Capital. Pleiad invests in companies in the Wellness Economy - any product or service that enables a middle class aspiration to simply live better.



Ed currently serves as Vice Commodore of the Norwalk Yacht Club and is a member of the New York Yacht Club and the Royal Ocean Racing Club. He served on the Board of King School in Stamford Connecticut for ten years, four of those as Board President. He lives in Norwalk, Connecticut with his wife Christine. They have one grown son - Nick, and a new chocolate Lab puppy - Lucy.

2016 Awards Presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting

Newport - Bermuda Race Trophies

Boomerang Trophy to the Storm Trysail Club member who as captain has the best elapsed time while competing in the St. David's Lighthouse Division - **Peter Becker** Captain of *High Noon*. Elapsed time: 88:27:05

Mertz Trophy for the best performance by a Storm Trysail club member in the Newport-Bermuda Race - **Ken Read** Captain of *Comanche*. New course record: 34:42:53

William Snaith Memorial Trophy to the recorded designer of the yacht which finishes first on corrected time in the St. David's Lighthouse Division of the Newport-Bermuda Race - **Niels Jeppesen** Designer of *Warrior Won*

Season-long Excellence Trophies

Monte-Sano Trophy for Racing Excellence awarded to the Storm Trysail Club member whose racing record is the most outstanding at the local, regional and national levels, bringing recognition and honor to the Club - **Chris Sheehan** skipper of *Warrior Won*, winner of her class in the Storm Trysail Club's Block Island Race, winner of the Newport-Bermuda Race, St. David's Lighthouse Division, and the Northern Ocean Racing Trophy.

Richard M. Stimson Offshore Navigation Trophy awarded to a Storm Trysail Club member who has navigated a yacht with the best combined fleet positions

among the races entered - **H.L. DeVore** Navigator of *Warrior Won* for all the events and accomplishments noted for Chris Sheehan.

Awards Recognizing Club-Wide Excellence

The Hugh Kilmer Trophy - awarded at the sole discretion of the Flag Officers and Board of Governors to a member who has, during the current year, performed some noteworthy feat - Not awarded in 2016

Owen C. Torrey Memorial Trophy to the Storm Trysail Club member who in the opinion of the Flag Officers and Board of Governors has rendered Outstanding Service to the Club - **John Fisher** for his many years of service to the club as Commodore, Block Island Race Week Chairman and on shore guru, President of the Storm Trysail Foundation and Chairman of Key West Race Week.

John B. Thomson, Jr. Trophy for Campaign Excellence to the Storm Trysail member whose program over a number of years has embodied the spirit of the Thomson/Infinity programs. - Not awarded in 2016

Program Profile - Chris Sheehan

Part 1 of a two-part series by the 2017 Monte-Sano Trophy Winner

Warrior Won's Two-Year Campaign To Win The 2016 Newport-Bermuda Race

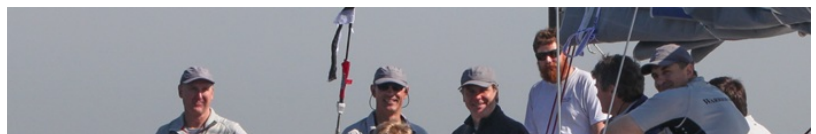
With The 2016 Newport-Bermuda Race And NORT

When I purchased my Xp44 *Warrior Won* in 2014, I set a long-term goal of competing in, and winning, several offshore distance races. After completing our first and quite successful season in 2015, it was time to turn my attention to the 2016 Newport-Bermuda Race. While I didn't yet know that the weather forecast nine months later was going to be horrific, I knew well-enough that planning, preparation and training were critical.



In December of 2015, I met with my "Core 4" leadership team of Chris Simon, H.L. DeVore, Ryan Zupon and Doug Lynn at Larchmont YC. The five of us decided that our major goals for 2016 were to win our class and division, the St. David's Lighthouse Trophy and the Northern Ocean Racing Trophy (NORT). Lofty goals for sure but I felt I owed it to my crew to make clear what the program goals were.

As a group we put together a roster of exceptional crew and a detailed punch list of winter work to review with Brewer's Pilot's Point. Chris Simon, *Warrior Won's* boat captain, worked tirelessly every Saturday throughout the winter to keep Pilot's Point on schedule, confirm that work was being performed to the highest standard and determine if additional work needed to be completed.





Bermuda Crew (L to R) Joost-Olan Sheehan (red hat), Doug Lynn (at helm), Chris Sheehan (standing), Paul van Dyke (seated), Roland Schulz (standing in black fleece), Chris Simon (with beard), H.L DeVore (back of head) Peter Carpenter (seated), Not in photo: Ryan Zupon and Andres de Lasa and Carter Holliday - a last minute addition to the crew. Photo Credit: Howie McMichael

By January, I had obtained firm commitments from the list of desired crew: Watch captains would be Doug Lynn and Paul van Dyke; Navigator, H.L. DeVore; bowmen, Ryan Zupon and Chris Simon and trimmers; Peter Carpenter, Roland Schulz, Andres de Lasa and my son Joost-Olan Shehan. DeVore, Lynn, Schulz, Carpenter, Zupon and van Dyke had competed in numerous Bermuda races as well as other ocean races over the past 10-30 years. I was fortunate to have such esteemed and accomplished sailors agree to be part of the crew.

The boat was launched in April and, as planned, we partook in the 2016 Edlu out of Larchmont and the Block Island Race. We finished 2nd in our class in the Edlu and 1st in our class in the Storm Trysail Club's Block Island Race. Things were going well. Next up was Bermuda.

By June 1st, the "Core 4" and I had spent hundreds of hours checking and rechecking our safety equipment, sheets, halyards, sails, electronics, winches, and meticulously going through the Newport-Bermuda Safety Committee checklist.

The entire crew took the time to familiarize themselves with the boat's emergency communication systems, crew overboard procedures, setting the storm trysail and storm jib, reefing, and backup tiller and drogue use. Additionally, they learned the location of all through-hulls, basics of the water system, diesel engine, electrical power, sail repair and location and use of all performance sailing hardware, and every piece of safety and emergency equipment. Fully 90% of the crew had

completed the Storm Trysail Hands-on Safety at Sea seminar and were newly certified in basic first aid and CPR.

"Safety at Sea" was top of mind as we heard the ominous forecasts from various sources: winds over 45 knots and seas 20 - 30 feet. These conditions would be far worse than anything I had experienced personally, but we were confident that we had an exceptionally well-equipped boat, excellent technology, and a hefty amount offshore sailing experience in a cohesive crew so that we could compete safely and effectively.

Many other boats - even entire divisions! - were dropping out. Regardless, during our internal discussions we never considered not starting. Furthermore, H.L. would be keeping a close eye on the storm and if the low pressure system spooled up into something catastrophic, we were prepared to do the prudent thing and either return to port or alter our course to avoid the storm. As it was, H.L. (who had been obsessively following the weather for several weeks), felt that there was less than a 50% chance we that would encounter the worst of the forecasted weather. (He had also been keeping the entire crew adequately informed via weather briefing emails every 12 hours for the seven days leading up to the start.) His demeanor kept everyone confident, calm and focused on the challenging adventure that was to come. We would not pass up this thrilling opportunity after so much preparation, and what a thrill it turned out to be.

Article written by Chris Sheehan, owner and skipper of Warrior Won

Editor's Note: In a later edition we will publish Chris' description of Warrior Won's 2016 Newport-Bermuda Race and her corrected time win in the St. David's Lighthouse Division.

New Members


Carina Becker, Junior -

Frank Boetas, Regular -

Ralph Carlton, Regular -

Brooks Daley, Junior -


James DaSilva, Regular - Marblehead Station - Jim's late start to sailing came by way of his future best man duct taping his Timberlands to a spray suit, grabbing a hat and winter gloves and hopping on a Rhodes19 during a blizzard in January '93.

A photograph of a man, likely James DaSilva, wearing a dark spray suit with reflective stripes and a dark hat. He is on a boat, with a body of water and a distant shoreline visible in the background.

Sailing year round for the past 24 years, he's raced in multiple dinghy and keel boat classes internationally, competed in 5 Newport-Bermuda (*Cygnette* class winner 2004), numerous Storm Trysail Club's Block Island races, 3 Marblehead-Halifax, 1 Gotlund Runt, Lloyd Phoenix Trophy, KWRW, BVI Spring regatta and races J70s and Lasers when not racing sunsets with his family aboard their CAL33 *Windswept*. Appreciative of the people he's sailed with over the years, Jim is also a trustee of www.sailsalem.org, fostering the opportunity of sailing to serve as a catalyst for those who are less fortunate.

Rick Fowler, Corinthian -

Robert Fox, Regular - Bob Started sailing while at Temple University in Philadelphia, he moved to DC for a job after graduation and put his name on a few bulletin boards in Annapolis and started out racing J/30's. He eventually bought a J/24 with some buddies that they raced competitively in Annapolis and occasionally up and down the east coast. He crewed in the

A portrait of Robert Fox, a man with grey hair and glasses, wearing a red and black jacket, smiling slightly. The background is a blurred view of a sailboat's rigging.

Annapolis to Bermuda Race learned how much he enjoyed offshore sailing, in 2005 he bought a J/42 and each year has competed in the Annapolis to Newport, Newport to Bermuda and/or Annapolis to Bermuda races. His son Conner, now 20 has been racing offshore with him for the past few years and they are planning to

sail to the Caribbean in 2018. Bob has 4 kids and lives with his wife in Arlington, VA, last year they bought a slip that came with a condo on Back Creek in Annapolis.

Alexander Gardner, Junior - Alex is 17 years old and lives in Darien CT. He has been racing on Long Island Sound for the past ten years as a member of Stamford Yacht Club's Junior Sailing team, the Stanwich School Sailing team and the Stamford Schools Sailing Team. He is an experienced racer in Opti's, Lasers, 420's, JY15's, Ideal18's and Big Boats. He has crewed for several Storm Trysail members on their Big Boat programs and competed in the Denmark Race, Cows Race, Gear Buster, Breakwaters and SYC's Weekend Series. He place 6th this year in the Ideal 18's North American Championship and was the skipper of the only junior team competing. He is currently a senior at the Stanwich School in Greenwich and will attend Fordham University in the Fall of 2017.



Gregory Gigliotti, Regular - Greg spent his early days racing on Long Island Sound aboard the Zeigler family's Nelson/Marek 49' *Gem* and later as the bowman on Bob Bayer's succession of Tripp 40's *War Stories* and *More War Stories*. His time racing offshore on monohulls culminated in earning Line Honors in the 100th Anniversary of the Newport-Bermuda Race as a crew member on the 66' Judel/Vroljik *Bella Mente*. As performance/cruising multihulls emerged a new class in offshore racing, Greg made a transition by purchasing the 62' Gunboat *Tribe*. Racing with a team of Storm Trysail veterans Greg has sailed with from the late 80's, *Tribe* has been an active participant in offshore racing and still holds the fastest elapsed time record for a multihull in both the Storm Trysail Club's Block Island Race and Stamford-Vineyard Races. Greg shares his passion for sailing by helping promote youth sailing as a member of the recently merged Board of SoundWaters/Young Mariners and manager of LISOT's Optimist Sailing Team.



Joe Goulet, Regular -

Hector McKemey, Junior - When Hector's family moved to Southport, it was a challenge to get him to sail. He had to

to Larchmont, it was only a matter of time before they began sailing. After having lost family at sea in the Atlantic Ocean in 2006, the McKemey family decided it was of utmost importance to begin to sail in memory of those lost and to continue doing what they had loved. At the age of 7, Hector joined the Horseshoe Harbor Yacht Club junior program sailing Optis. In 2010, he also joined the American Yacht Club junior program to learn to race more competitively. At JAYC, Hector sailed Lasers, competing all across the Sound and further, going to High School Nationals twice, and US Nationals once. At the same time, he began to be involved in the Junior Big Boat Program headed by Peter Becker. Having some previous experience racing his parents S-boat, Hector began competing with the Young American team in multiple Beach Point Overnights, EDLUs, 2 Strom Trysail Club Block Island races and an Around Long Island race. In 2016, Hector made the decision to skip Senior Prom and embark on the Newport-Bermuda Race with the Young American Junior Big Boat team. Now he instructs at Larchmont Yacht Club, teaching Optis, Lasers and Big Boats. He also competes on the University of St. Andrews Yachting and Dinghy teams.



Gary Martin, Regular -

Doug McKiege, Corinthian -

William McKiege, Junior -

Jay Nadelson, Regular -

Richard O'Leary, Junior -

Dawn Riley, Regular - Dawn Riley is one of the best-known sailors in the world. She was the first woman to manage an entire America's Cup syndicate. She was the first American, man or woman to sail in three America's Cups and two Whitbread Round the World Races. Dawn also was the youngest CEO of an America's Cup Team when at age 32 she founded America True. A record that still stands.

From an offshore perspective, the first deployment of a Storm Trysail was during a particularly intense Port Huron to Mackinac race in the 80s when a freak July snow storm brought sustained 40+ knots of wind. The Trysail was deployed a handful of other times over her career but perhaps most memorably onboard the Maxi *Morning Glory* in the Sydney to Hobart Race of 1996 and that boat went on to break at 21-year old elapsed time record.



A past president of the Woman's Sports Foundation, and past US Sailing Board Member Dawn is a much sought after motivational speaker. Currently she is Executive Director at Oakcliff Sailing, a non-profit, coaching and training center in Oyster Bay New York. Oakcliff has completely unique programs from corporate team building to a tuition based residential program for dedicated athletes trying to reach the highest levels in the sport. Oakcliff is *Building American Leaders Through Sailing*.

Gerard VandenBerg, Regular -

Safety At Sea Videos

Storm Trysail Safety-at-Sea Video Library Now Available

Created for the Hands-on Safety-at-Sea Seminar and narrated by Gary Jobson, this 10-video collection of videos can be yours for only \$40. And, with this life-time subscription, as new videos are added, you



can view them, too.

Click [HERE](#) to learn
more about the Storm

Trysail Safety-at-Sea

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today.

