

Commodore's Report for the AGM 2024

Good afternoon, and welcome to the 2024 Annual Meeting of the best club on the planet!

Where else could you have what Storm Trysail has to offer for yearly dues amounting to less than the cost of 75 gallons of gas? That's about what Matt needs to drive here and back! Or less than the cost of 6 jugs of Mt. Gay? We're likely to go through that much this weekend! What we lack is a clubhouse to maintain, a pool, tennis courts, real estate taxes... What we don't lack are great partner Clubs and 100 dozen members sharing the same passion!

Speaking of great partner clubs, I'd like to thank our Eastern Yacht Club hosts: Commodore Peter Frish, Vice Commodore Alan McKinnon, Rear Commodore Larry Erhardt, the team of Jarod (GM), Christina, and Soniya, and our own Station Captain and Governor Clarke Smith!

Getting back to members sharing the same passion, I'd like to acknowledge and thank the past commodores with us today: Butch Ulmer (OL); John Storck, Jr.; Dick Neville (OL); Rich duMoulin; Nick Langone; Lee Reichart; Lenny Sitar; AJ Evans; and Ed Cesare.

I'd also like to thank our team: Andrew, Ty, Rick, Bud, and John, all the Governors, Station Captains, and Committees, as well as our consultants (and friends) Kate Somers (social media/website/AV), Scott Goetz (Sponsorship), and Sharon Bernd (accounting). But most especially our Executive Director without whom we'd still be asking Where's Waldo... Whitney Simon.

Aside from the plethora of events in which our members sail, let's take a quick look at the 2023 events for which our burgee was on the OA: Lauderdale to Key West, Down the Bay (Chesapeake), Block Island Race, Block Island Race Week, Ted Hood Regatta, Shearwater Regatta, Great Lakes IOR, Long Island Sound IOR, The Astor Trophy, The Bitter Ender, and The Wirth Munroe Race! In addition to those, we assisted: The Annapolis to Newport Race; The Mills Trophy Race; Monhegan Island Race; and the Beach Point Junior Overnight. Those are just the sailing events! Then there were six Safety at Sea and Jr. Safety at Sea events. Each of these offered opportunities for Storm Trysail members to be involved... they were, and we thank them all!

While 2024 doesn't look significantly different, it does have a few new things which we are excited to announce: adding to our encouragement of teams in major events and working with Station Captain Steve Taft, we will be adding a STC Team Trophy to the St. Francis Big Boat Series; in partnership with New York and Chicago Yacht Clubs there will be an ORC Educational Series of which you will hear more shortly; soon after this weekend each member will receive a copy of the updated Member Handbook; and, you will also receive as a benefit of membership a link to the first Storm Trysail edition of Seahorse Magazine. If you are not already aware of its offerings, we think you will find Seahorse provides excellent information and interesting news on international performance sailing.

The success of any (sailing) event lies with its management. Whether it's general event organization or the on-water coordination and race conduct, experienced and qualified volunteers are the keys to that success. In addition to the Seahorse subscriptions, we have

budgeted for two other enhancements this year. The first is that we will be providing gap funds in support of station activities. The second is in acknowledgement that we have been very fortunate to have long-term dedicated teams of members with significant experiences ranging from ID Checkers to International Race Officers and Judges, and all things in between. One more initiative we are getting off the ground this year is Race Management Training. If you responded to the request to update your member profile for the 2024-25 Member Handbook, you saw the question "Are you interested in obtaining Race Officer certification?" We are pleased with the level of positive responses and have coordinated with USSailing to offer online Basic Race Management Courses as another benefit of STC membership. As soon as USSailing opens the event, emails will be sent to the positive responders with the intent of securing 15 commitments for the first one scheduled for the evenings of March 4, 5, & 7, with our own Taran Teague and Bruce Bingman as instructors.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray