

BLUE WATER LOG

Commodore's Corner

Dan Power

At our recent Annual Meeting at the South Shore Country Club in Hingham, Blue Water Sailing Club's 2014 season wrapped up successfully. I'd like to thank all of the volunteers in the club who gave so generously of their time this year.

Off-Water Events

- Peabody Essex Museum: JoAnn Pinkowitz, Pat Dieselman
- America's Cup Seminar: Mark Gabrielson, Paula and David Levine
- Harvard Pub Nights: John Flannery
- BVI Cruise: Mark and Cynthia DeVine
- Trans-Atlantic Passage Seminar: Jose and Magnolia Venegas, James and Betty Bennette
- Sunapee Ski Weekend: Suzanne and Mark Struss
- Passamaquoddy Cruise Seminar: Stephen Lee, Roy Mayne
- Boatwise Radar Course and Social Hour: Beverly Simpson, Edward Colbert
- North Shore Pub Night: Bob Kessler, Brian Schanning
- Spring Dinner: Michael and Dorothy Martindale, Peter and Betsy Dempsey
- Fall Annual Meeting: Victoria Rizzi, Mary O'Donoghue Jordan

On-Water Events

- Memorial Day: Betsy and Paul Fermano
- July 4th South: Glenn Connell, Kem and Tom Vassallo
- July 4th North: Chris Aubin and Len Thibodeau
- Southern Cruise: Aedan and Bernie Gleeson, Art Auclair and Wayne Haubner
- Women's Cruise: Susan Patton

- Passamaquoddy Cruise: Stephen and Deb Lee, Roy and Martha Mayne
- Labor Day North: Bob and Mary O'Donoghue Jordan
- Labor Day South: John and Jennifer Edwards
- Columbus Day South: Peg Palmer

I'd like to thank Brian and Susan Schanning, the winners of this year's Commodore's Award, for their dedication to Blue Water Sailing Club. Between Susan's work as our Communications Officer and Brian's work as webmaster, essentially all of the Club communications and outreach is done by these two exceptional volunteers. They've also led numerous seminars and cruises. I am very grateful to them for their hard work.

And I'd like to thank Michael and Marcie Handler, winner of this year's Kingman Award, for everything they've done for the club. Mike was the Membership for many years, guiding new members to the club, and has also planned cruises and seminars, and created the KidSail program.

Congratulations to all of these hardworking people for their contributions to the club, and I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the 2015 off-water and on-water events. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of being your Commodore.



Dan Power at 2014 Annual Meeting



Winter Events / Seminars

Cynthia DeVine

The BWSC 2013-2014 Winter Event series started off on December 1, 2013. Jo-Ann Pinkowitz arranged a private tour at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Ma. BWSC members attended a docent-guided maritime exhibition tour and a self-guided "Impressionists on the Water" tour followed by lunch in the Garden Restaurant.

The Winter Seminar series began on January 4, 2014 with a presentation on the history of the America's Cup and the Sailors from Deer Isle, Maine held at the Constitution Inn in the Charlestown Navy Yard. Forty-one BWSC members attended the event chaired by Paula and David Levine and presented by our very own Vice Commodore Mark Gabrielson, who authored *Deer Isle's America's Cup Crews; Humble Heroes from a Down east Island*. The presentation also included an excellent find, a vintage film of one of the very first America's Cup races produced circa 1899.

Several Winter Pub nights were offered in response to members requests for more and varied social events. The first two Pub nights were held on January 16 and February 20 at the Harvard Club of Boston, hosted again this year by John and Donna Flannery.

The third Pub Night hosted by Brian Scanning and Robert Kessler was held at the Salem Beer Works in Salem, Ma on April 10. Ongoing reports continue to find these gatherings enjoyable and a great way to keep up with BWSC members during the off season.



The first week of February found BWSC in the British Virgin Islands under sunny skies with breezy winds and, believe it or not, fairly quiet anchorages

to the delight of many. Cynthia DeVine assisted by Sunsail and two local BWSC members, Bonnie Dehner and Mat Brock explored the BVIs with 28 other BWSC members and had a fabulous time!!

On February 15, Jose and Magnolia Venegas, hosted by James and Betty Bennette, delighted a rather large gathering of BWSC, Constitution Yacht Club, and Pelagic members and friends at the Constitution Inn in Boston as they shared their yearlong North Atlantic Circumnavigation sailing adventure tracing their family roots. Leaving in June 2012 with a crew of five family members they departed first for the magical isle of Flores, in the Azores, followed by the summer spent cruising the coasts of Portugal and Spain. Crossing back over the pond, Jose traced his ancestor's travels in the XVI century from Seville to Santa Marta, Columbia via the Canary Islands before heading back to Boston by way of the many Caribbean islands.



The Annual Ski weekend chaired by Sue and Mark Struss was held on Feb 28-Mar 1 at Mt Sunapee Ski Resort in Sunapee, NH. BWSC members braved the cold to alpine and cross country ski, as well as snowshoe along the many groomed wooded trails. Most of our group of 28 stayed at Dexter's Inn where the Innkeeper, John Augustine, and his troops couldn't have been more accommodating. The first evening reception we enjoyed a night of camaraderie in a quaint and cozy quintessential New England Inn along with games, comfy foods and an interesting pot trophy display. Saturday found us on the slopes and in the woods followed by



an après ski cocktail hour and a scrumptious dinner prepared at the inn.

On March 8, the Passamaquoddy precruise meeting chaired by Stephen Lee and Roy Mayne presented valuable information to a large crowd which no doubt contributed to a very successful summer cruise!

On March 29, 64 BWSC and Pelagic members attended a Radar course for cruising boaters presented by Captain Bill Hooper from Boatwise and chaired by BWSC member Beverly Simpson. Bill presented radar basics (components, types, limitations, how to decipher images on the screen and avoid pitfalls. The session was extremely well attended and despite the inclement weather many managed to get together after at Papagayo Restaurant for a shared social event!

On April 12, a required CPR class was arranged by Safety Officer, Gail Handler, and conducted by Junta Allen Kingsley.

The 2014 Spring Dinner Dance was held at the elegant Charter Oaks Country Club in Hudson MA on May 10th 2014. The event was hosted by club members Mike and Dorothy Martindale and Peter and Betsy Dempsey with music provided by Peter Leone. The Charter Oaks Country Club was a very beautiful facility for this annual event and the start of the 2014 BWSC Cruising season. The evening commenced with a fantastic cocktail and hors d'oeuvre reception, followed by a delicious dinner with announcements about upcoming summer cruising events dispersed throughout the meal. Much dancing and socializing rounded out a very delightful evening.

BWSC BVI Winter Cruise

Cynthia DeVine

This winter cruise took place the week of February 1 – 8. There were 28 members of the BWSC, including local (to BVI) cruisers Bonnie Dehner, and Mat and Patricia Bockh participating. The group was blessed to cruise the British Virgin Islands during the first week of February under partly sunny skies scattered with daily showers, squalls and 20-35 knot winds.

Our first night we anchored in Trellis Bay where local BWSC member Bonnie Dehner graciously hosted our group for happy hour onboard her Beneteau 47.3 before we all headed to the Loose Mongoose for a BBQ and Super Bowl viewing. What a fantastic start to our BVI trip!! (Despite the Boston loss)

Day 2 & 3: After a visit to the Baths and / or the Georges for beach combing, hiking, snorkeling, and swimming, we gathered in North Sound, Virgin Gorda where many explored the island by taxi, dinghy or foot. The new Yacht Club Costa Smeralda Marina geared for the mega-yachts is unbelievable!! Fortunately, though the hotel was still awaiting construction, the pool, restaurant and marina were open to all. The manager was very gracious giving many of us a tour of the facility. Sunset found the group gathered at Saba Rock for a very merry happy hour.



Chris Aubin, Dan and Elaine Kostishack, and Len Thibodeau at the Pirate's Den

Day 4: We departed for Jost Van Dyke, snorkeling off the Dogs and Monkey Point en route. Several anchored in Great Harbour venturing to Foxy's, a few to White Sands and Soggy Dollar and the rest settled in Little Harbour. What a fabulous island with great anchorages, hiking trails, restaurants and gorgeous sunsets!!

Day 5: The girls challenged some to race and race we did. Did I mention the 25- 35 knot winds gusting to much more? Well, they were a-blowing that morning. Wally, we almost had a pot trophy for you as we tacked in the Narrows one foot off a catamaran that was fishing and crossing our course! But, alas, after many, many tacks, the exhausted crews made the Bight at Norman's Island without



incident. Amazingly the anchorage was fairly quiet for mid-winter. No doubt an unfortunate sign of the economy. A few brave souls ventured to the Willie T while others snorkeled off the caves or the Pelicans and Indians before meeting up for a group dinner at Pirates on the Beach Restaurant.

Day 6: Before departing, Matt Brock and his wife Patricia lead us up the trails for a hike around the island. What magnificent views!! Did you know the island has no full time inhabitants! Later in the morning we sailed over to Peter Island. There was a surprisingly great drift snorkel along the all inside Peter Island Harbour Bay. It was a perfect night for our farewell potluck dinner. However, once again the morning squalls caught many of us heading back to Sunsail base. But no one was complaining!

Memorial Day – North

Betsy Fermano

We kicked off the summer sailing season in historic Marblehead at the Boston Yacht Club (BYC). For those sailing in, the BYC graciously provided some moorings (gratis), as did some of the local BWSC members whose boats were not yet in the water.

A few hearty souls gathered on a chilly, windy (but no rain!) Friday evening for cocktails aboard Betsy and Paul Fermano's boat, *Sailavee III*. Then Saturday brought clearing and sunny skies as six boats sailed in from Boston, Manchester-by-the-Sea and Gloucester. A number of participating BWSC boats were already on their moorings in Marblehead harbor.

Saturday afternoon we gathered at the CW Hood Yachts boatshed and yacht yard to hear Chris Hood speak about his boatbuilding legacy and career. We saw first-hand two of his handsome CW Hood 32 daysailers in various stages of construction and finishing. Chris was very informative and engaging, answered our many questions, and may have even scored a bit of business from some of our sailors.

That evening, cocktails and dinner were held at the Boston Yacht Club for nearly 40 members who either sailed or drove into Marblehead. We en-

joyed a beautiful spot on the harbor, a wonderful buffet dinner, and great camaraderie amongst our spirited group of BWSC sailors.

Sunday was a great day for hiking around and exploring Marblehead. Others took advantage of the good wind and sunny weather to sail the local waters off Marblehead, Salem and Gloucester. At the end of the day, we again gathered for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres on the porch of the Boston Yacht Club before heading off to various local spots for dinner.

Monday the sailors headed to home ports and we all reveled in what had been a fun and relaxing weekend.

July 4th – North

Christine Aubin

Friday was a bit soggy and neither Len and I nor Herb & Ruth Weiss nor Jack & Cil Westerbeke nor John & Pat Dieselman wanted to put on foul weather gear just to go to dinner, so we all hunkered down and stayed on our boats dry and warm while the remnants of hurricane Arthur passed by. The wind blew about 20-30 knots all night long, but we woke to beautiful sunshine on Saturday morning.

The Westerbeke's, DiDomenico's and the Aubin's greatly enjoyed the trolley tour and the Peabody Essex Museum showing the Turner exhibit and other nautical artifacts. We can't wait to go back again!



Later in the sunny and warm afternoon, 33 members (including two of the Power's children) gathered at Capt's Waterfront Bar & Grill for cocktails and dinner. The restaurant has a second story,



expansive view of Salem Harbor and the tall ship *Friendship*. It was wonderful to catch up with good friends while enjoying a wonderful meal and a beautiful view!

Friday's fireworks in Salem were postponed until Sunday night, but by then only the malingerers (the Aubin's and McLean's remained) so we enjoyed cocktails and snacks aboard *Breakaway* while watching the fireworks.

We would like to state that the first to arrive (Wednesday before) were the "Ancient Mariners," Herb & Ruth Weiss, aboard their new trawler. We spent lots of good hours with them before the weather deteriorated and the weekend even began. It was one of the highlights of "our" 4th of July 2014!

Women's Cruise

The Women's Cruise was held in Maine again this year, from July 27 to August 2. Here the participants are at Seguin Island.



2013 BWSC Maine Cruise

Stephen Lee

The cruise began with get-together on one of the floating mooring docks in Northeast Harbor. *Salacia* was tied up next to Ruth and Herb Weis' new boat *Ancient Mariners*. Crowded as we were, we didn't sink the dock.

The first leg of the trip to New Brunswick was traveling to Roque Island, the start of last year's Maine Cruise. A few boats got into Lakeman Harbor, while the less adventurous anchored near the long, sandy beach on the island. The next morning, all set of early, catching the flood current in Grand Manan Channel, heading for North Harbor on Grand Manan Island. We had 14 boats at Grand Manan. Information had been sent to Canadian customs who sent three officers over from St. John to clear us. The first thing they did was pass us a cell phone to call CAN-PASS and get our clearance number. Then they checked our passports and welcomed us to Canada. The Harbormaster (wharfinger, in Canadian terms) met all the boats and helped us get tied up. His staff even took our trash for us. Second day was a bus tour of the island. We tried dulce, dried seaweed -- an acquired taste! Day three it rained and people did various activities like going to the island museum or the library.



Northern Cruise at North Harbor, Grand Manan Island

The cruise went on to St. Andrews on mainland New Brunswick. Currents around the islands are strong and swirly, but winds were favorable for a



very nice sail across the entrance to the Bay of Fundy and into Passamaquoddy Bay. The currents start to take control of your boat and then you are through the worst of it. The harbormaster greets you at the mooring and passes you the pennants. A reception that first evening with the St. Andrews Yacht Club was complete with lobster rolls. We had planned to race with St. Andrews and the Passamaquoddy Yacht Club on Saturday but conditions were pea soup fog, a starting line two hours away and the afore mentioned currents. We decided not to race, and went to the Kingsbrae Garden instead! The next day was brunch at the Algonquin hotel followed by doing laundry. Typical cruising juxtaposition.



Trading Burgees with the St Andrews by the Sea Yacht Club

Next stop, Eastport, with some boats going to Campobello Island for the day. With some shoe-horning, we got the boats in to the various docks available. Once again, early contact with the customs people and the harbormaster made the task easy. At 7 AM the second morning there, we all caught the currents and proceeded in a somewhat orderly fashion around Campobello Island into the Grand Manan Channel.

A 45 mile trip took us to Roque for a peaceful night. Several boats decided to continue southwest instead of stopping. They missed the best part of the trip. The next day was Jonesport and a dinner with the Port and Starboard Yacht Club (PSYC). We had a wonderful time mixing with this club. What a feast! A huge appetizer table. Then mussels, lob-

ster, sausages, corn on the cob, and salads. Dessert was blueberry dishes made with berries that had been on the bush three days before! We feasted. The PSYC had such a good time they want us to come back next year!

Labor Day – North

A small-ish group attended the Labor Day North cruise in Gloucester. Other boats in attendance Eviana, Kinsale, Arabella, Sea Angel, Winter Hawk, Salt Bulldog (LaBrie), Ipanema, Levanter, Devine Wind. They obviously had a good time, as the following picture suggests.



Cocktails aboard *Little Miss Magic*

Labor Day – South

Jennifer Edwards

The Labor Day weekend South sailing event was to Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard Island. Although there were only four vessels present at the event, the small number lent itself to time getting reacquainted with "seasoned" club members, as well as spending time with prospective new members. The members present included: Richard & Ellie Scherr, Arthur Auclair & Wayne Haubner, their guest, Jim Lundy, and prospective new club members Jeffrey & Sherri Travers with their children



BWSC at Scituate

Gabriel & Bella. Club hosts were John & Jennifer Edwards with their children Fiona and Rohan Edwards. Highlights from the weekend included: appetizer's and cocktails at the Edgartown Yacht Club, a lively scavenger hunt and prizes awarded to the children, a water taxi and ride in the antique livery to the Lure Restaurant, and the escorted tour of the Cape Poge Lighthouse and nearby Japanese Gardens sponsored by the Trustees of the Foundation on Chappaquiddick.

Friends and Family Day

The Blue Water Sailing Club "Friends and Family Day" was held on Saturday September 19th at MIT's sailing pavilion on the Charles River in Boston. The weather, camaraderie, competition, music, and food could not have been better, and a great time was had by all.

The event actually begun the day before, with a "mandatory" review on YouTube about how to properly rig the Firefly dinghies that would be used

for racing. Needless to say, everyone did their homework and the BWSC racers came across like all-American pro's when it came time to rig their boats!

The racing was both fun and competitive, albeit in somewhat lightish conditions that allowed some boats to be single-handed. A triangular course was set by our race coordinator, Bill Dobson, who showed infinite patience and good humor as we all re-learned the starting sound signals.



Four races were held altogether, and there were no protests – although Bill's draconian protest committee rules probably had something to do with that! To balance the racing, a very fun race was subsequently held in which pairs of boats had to go around the course together while holding onto a ribbon between the boats. To those that have not tried it, it is much harder than it sounds (and not recommended to attempt on our cruising boats).

The potluck dish competition was no less keen. In the face of a surprising amount of trash-talk, a special blue-ribbon panel was commissioned to judge the entries. This year's prize winner was Betsy Gabrielson, who has earned bragging rights until the next event!

This was the first time we have held a "Friends and Family Day", and the BWSC extends a collective thank you to the organizing committee, and to the MIT Sailing Pavilion for hosting us.

Columbus Day

Margaret Palmer

The *Autumn Colors of Narragansett Bay* cruise was enjoyed by four land couples, as well as six vessels and their crews. The foliage colors were a bit muted this year as we started off on a rainy cold Saturday sail to Bristol, but we didn't let that dampen our spirits!



Bob Hamel of Bristol Yacht Club, Mark Gabrielson for Blue Water Sailing Club, and Chuck McWilliams (pictured at the helm of *Makanaqua* in full foulie regalia earlier in the day) for Pelagic Sailing Club presided over a burgee swap. The Bristol Yacht Club bar provided a warm wonderful atmosphere for meeting other kindred spirits. By land we had Gabe and Betsy Gabrielson, Jay Wurts and Catharine, and Bob and Camille Hamel attending, with Anna and David Pomfret hoping to join in Dutch Harbor. The Bristol Yacht Club launch provided transport for 16 of 20 of us to a wonderful Saturday dinner on the Quitos restaurant waterfront porch in Bristol. All enjoyed the food, camaraderie and gorgeous sunset views.



Chuck McWilliams



Sunday brought a favorable Northerly, albeit cool and light, for the fleet to set sail for Dutch Harbor. Flagship *Makanaqua* is shown here easing down Narragansett Bay on her way to a lunch at Dutch Harbor.

The Shack (shown right) sold out of fish tacos quickly! But the pork, chicken and beef were just as good! Some enjoyed the walk over to Jamestown and

some live music.



Bob Oriol and Susan graciously donated *Dreamboat* to host the pot luck supper. Six boats attended the gala: Steve Rodri and his crew Brad and Dale aboard *Free Spirit*,

Aedan and Bernie Gleeson aboard *Lambay*, Peg Palmer with Chuck McWilliams and Deb and Bruce Herreilers aboard *Makanaqua*, Bob Oriol and Susan aboard *Dreamboat*, Dennis and Sue McKay aboard *Blue Moon*, and Michelle Tang aboard *Cha-Ching*.



We can't thank Bob and Susan enough, and all the wonderful food contributors as well. After a raucous game of Cards Against Humanity, we had to retire to our respective berths full of great memories, food and drink!

Monday we all departed on a calm sea. Michelle single-handed alongside *Mafanaqua* to Tiverton. Along the way the winds built and current ran strong in the Basin. Didn't the colors seem sweeter on the return? We have plenty of stories to share at future meetings! As we put the boats to bed, let's remember the wonderful season and great events with new friends.



Project Puffin

David Kettner

During the Maine Cruise in 2007, Caroline and I learned a little about the puffin colony that inhabits Eastern Egg Rock in Muscongus Bay. Every time we travel by that island we look for them. Recently I found an article in American Lifestyle, issue 66, published by ReminderMedia and written by Ellie Lawrence. The following is taken from that issue, with permission from the publisher.

HATCHING PROJECT PUFFIN

Project Puffin developed in the early 1970s from the curiosity and concern of Stephen Kress, a young biologist at the time and birding enthusiast who came to the Hog Island Audubon Camp on the coast of Maine to teach. Upon learning that the Atlantic puffin, a once-flourishing species at Eastern Egg Rock, never reclaimed its stance on these coastal islands after being nearly wiped out in the nineteenth century, Kress was motivated to help these seabirds take back the habitat that was once theirs. Since there was no rule book to follow to do so -- restoring a puffin colony had never even been attempted before -- Kress embraced a little ingenuity in his quest to beat all odds.

The premise of his unprecedented experiment was based upon a puffin's natural homing instinct: since puffins return to their natal islands to breed like many other seabirds do, he wondered if puffin chicks would return to Eastern Egg Rock if they were transplanted there from another colony

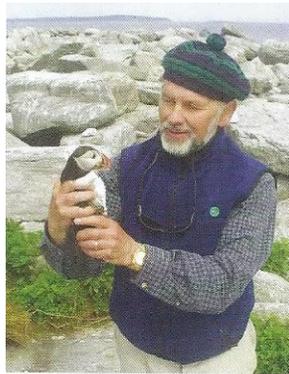


PHOTO: BILL SCHOLTZ

at a very young age. Putting this theory to the test, Kress and his team scooped up a half dozen two-week old pufflings from Newfoundland before they imprinted on the Canadian province, and placed them into artificial sod burrows on the boulder-strewn island eight miles off the coast of Maine. These biologists then reared the babies with hand-

fuls of fortified fish until their birds (now banded for identification purposes) reached fledging age and left the burrows to spend the next few years at sea. Uncertain about the outcome, the team continued to translocate chicks over the next four years, all the while keeping an eye out for their adopted offspring to return.

Puffins naturally spend most of their time on the open ocean far from land. With their waterproof feathers and superb ability to swim underwater, they are wonderfully adapted to spend months at sea and only return to land to nest. Puffins can dive underwater for up to a minute (though they typically only last a half minute); and they swim by using their wings to push them along-almost as if they were flying-while their feet act as rudders. When spring-time comes, the ten-inch birds pair up with mates and fly back inland.



PHOTO: SANDY FURTT

But it wasn't until 1977 that Project Puffin's seabirds began making their re-appearance at the seven-acre island. These young puffins were certainly a sight for sore eyes, but the researchers didn't celebrate the homecoming quite yet. The puffins remained apprehensive about exploring a nesting habitat that sported no other puffin. Since puffins are naturally social creatures that find security in being in large colonies, Kress came up with another innovative plan to entice his seabirds inland: carved, wooden decoys.

Positioned atop large boulders, these decoys caught the attention of curious young puffins who would come to sit next to and nuzzle up with the



wooden look-alikes. Billing the decoys as a sign of affection, the puffins started feeling at home at Eastern Egg Rock. The number of puffins visiting the island continued to increase every year, and in 1981, biologists saw the first fruits of their labor: four puffin pairs successfully nested beneath the boulders at the edge of the island. Kress' colony at Eastern Egg Rock has been growing steadily ever since.

PROTECTING THE PUFFINS

With now over 2,000 puffins nesting on five Maine islands, it's easy to claim Project Puffin as a success; however, for Kress, now sixty-eight years old and the director of the Seabird Restoration Program and vice president for Bird Conservation of the This page and following are for articles.

National Audubon Society, his work with Project Puffin is still far from complete. Although the researchers have successfully learned how to revive Atlantic puffin colonies to their historic nesting islands -- in fact, the innovative techniques pioneered throughout the life of Project Puffin have set the standard and now serve as a model for restoration projects around the world - Kress and his team are still entrenched in figuring out how to step out of the equation without jeopardizing the future for their newly colonized friends.

You can learn more at the project website: www.projectpuffin.org, and also adopt a puffin, which provides funding for continuing this restoration activity.