

BLUE WATER LOG

Published annually since 1978, the *Log* is a prior year's archive of significant Blue Water Sailing Club educational events, cruises, social gatherings, and member contributions.

"The strongest storms make the best sailors."

Israelmore Ayivor

2023 saw BWSC fully return to its proud sailing and racing tradition of fellowship, camaraderie, and volunteerism. The devastating effects of the pandemic tested us all, and taught us many lessons while making us stronger. The Bridge, Board and Members are all to be credited for their passionate contributions in reclaiming and energizing BWSC in 2023.

As you read through the 2023 *Log*, I hope that you will join me in commending all the contributors. These fellow BWSC members are volunteers who, like you and me, lead full lives outside BWSC. Yet they find time to give of themselves and do so in order that we may all benefit and grow. Additionally, these volunteers benefit from meeting new members, working together and developing enriching friendships with new and old friends.

In this 2023 edition of the *Log*, you will be happy to see not only the tried-and-true summer cruises, but the evolution of several new and exciting cruises. Look out for the "Inaugural" Maine Train as well as Rear Commodore John Slingerland's comprehensive planning and schedule for Cruising the Canadian Maritimes in 2024/2025. Let's give these BWSC Volunteers the recognition that they deserve. Feel free to reach out to them personally for a job well done.

Welcome Aboard The 2023 *Log*,

Susan Greven Vayda
Log Editor and Club Historian

2023 Commodore's Report Len Thibodeau



It has been my pleasure to serve on the Bridge for the past three years and to be your Commodore this past year. Through the volunteer efforts of many we have grown our strong cruising program by adding a cruise to connect our southern and Maine cruises for those who wish to do both.

Our seminar program continues to present relevant and interesting programs, many of which have a Zoom component to reach a broader audience.



As life returns to normal after the disruption of the pandemic we continue to hold our monthly Board meetings via Zoom. It allows more of us to participate in club operations without the expense and time of commuting to a meeting location. This seems to be working well and will continue for now.

It was my pleasure to present the Russ Kingman Award to Lisa Goodwin who, although she has only been a member of our club for four years, has exhibited a high level of enthusiasm and spirit which is at the heart of our club. She has organized many events while rising up through the Bridge positions and will become Commodore for 2024.

The Commodore's Award this year went to Lynn Squire for her work updating our Operations Manual; no small task as it's a living, changing document. Our Treasurer reports the club finances are very sound as we enter our 65th year. We have realized a huge reduction in our insurance premium due to the efforts of our Board of Governors.

The highlight of this year's Annual meeting for me was inducting Stephen Lee as a *Life Member* of the Blue Water Sailing Club. This was a unanimous vote by the BOG in recognition of his dedication and diligence as our Treasurer.

I look forward to my continuing my membership in the Blue Water Sailing Club and its many activities.

2023 Winter/Spring Seminars

December 7, 2023

2023 Marion Bermuda Race Presentation

Bob Kostyla from the Marion to Bermuda Race Committee presented at the Jubilee Yacht Club in Beverly, Mass. Bob discussed how to prepare a boat & crew for ocean racing, as well as answered questions.

February 23, 2023

Preparing for that long distance cruise to N.S., BVI or The Horn...or just to the Cape of Maine

Log Entry 2/23/23

By Stephen Lee

Robert Rubadeau is the author of the best-selling book on cruising Bound for Roque Island. As he says "Stories are the endless currency of any old salt who has managed to not drown or worse. You can't swing a good story by the tail without hitting ten important lessons that were learned the hard way."

Robert is a prior member of BWSC and has talked in the past about *Expedition Cruising; What's in a survivalist's tool chest; Preparing your boat for high latitudes; The art of leadership and adventuring; No place is too far.*

"I would love to talk with knowledgeable sailors about what I learned on the Cape Horn voyage. Blue Water is a great organization with dedication and a mission to seamanship and extended, long range cruising."

His talk and video displayed what it took to mount a multi-month trip to visit Cape Horn. It is a great accompaniment to his book Bound for Cape Horn. First off, get someone else's boat! Thirty-six Blue Water members and their guests took this lesson to heart.



March 25, 2023
Northeast Ocean Race Symposium
Bentley University
By Roy Greenwald



In March of 2023 a committee made up of BWSC members Roy Greenwald, Vince Miccio, Brenda Miccio, Wayne Haubner, Art Auclair and Pat Dieselman conceptualized, organized, and ran the first ever Northeast Ocean Races Symposium at Bentley University in Waltham, MA. This event filled the void created when the Safety at Sea (SAS) program's classroom activities all went online. The concept was to produce an education and informational forum where sailors could hear from experts on an array of topics relevant to offshore cruising and racing. The topics were specifically selected so as to not focus on safety, since the SAS was still covering that. All three of the odd-year ocean races, the Marion Bermuda Race, the Marblehead Halifax Race, and the Bermuda 1-2 Race, were sponsors.



The program was a resounding success with 150 attendees, 8 presentation sessions, a panel discussion, exhibitors, and lunch. Roy Greenwald was the program moderator and BWSC members Anne Kolker, Chip Bradish, Bob Buck, and Lisa Goodwin all had roles or gave presentations. The program received terrific reviews from those in attendance and was so well-received that it was decided to offer it again in 2024. Once again, the same committee shall take the lead to produce the symposium.

April 29, 2023
Cruising the Canadian Maritimes
Marblehead Yacht Club
By John Slingerland

At the Marblehead Yacht Club on April 29, 2023, our Rear Commodore John Slingerland presented a 2024-2025 Blue Water Sailing Club cruise to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Over 150 slides were shown. There was a period reserved for many inciteful comments by BWSC members and others who had previously sailed Atlantic Canada. Chris Parker concluded the presentation with an interesting discussion of what to expect for weather routing the return.



As they say in Vegas, “You gotta know when to hold ‘em and when to fold ‘em.” After years of frustrating fickle winds and hard to negotiate lobster pots in coastal Maine waters, there was an obvious sequel to Avocet’s recent 2017-2022 circumnavigation of the North Atlantic Ocean and Western Mediterranean.

Obvious to those with a passion for sailing and a thirst for adventure.

The Captain decided to go big, throw a pitch on the outside of the swing zone and probe the Blue Water Sailing Club’s promise to “head up to Canadian waters for more remote cruising,” Year Book 2023.

The Nova Scotia-Newfoundland trip, in my view, had never previously been structured properly. Consequently, the trip never garnered much interest. Only a modest group of die-hard members including the Feldman’s, Snow’s, Maull’s, Miccio’s, Sitver’s, McKay’s and a few others had been venturing north – their trips spanning over 30 years. Their trips are now mimicked recently by the Salty Dawgs – an organization designed to transport large number of sailors over longer distances.

With precious few exceptions, notably Wally and Cecily Feldman’s trip in the early 1990’s, everyone’s trips, attempting to cover both the Nova Scotia and Newfoundland coastlines and the required longer passages to get there and back, were compressed into one summer.

The trick in refurbishing a BWSC cruise for the working man (our Club has a few) and for the old farts like myself who can barely sail 20 miles in one day and make a cocktail party, was and is twofold. One: Find better, more reliable wind, fewer lobster pots and new, more remote anchorages. Two: Find the time. Time to explore these coastlines in a slower more thorough manner. Time to be able to sail it double handed. Time to set up an easy and elegant spot for crew to assist in a return passage home.

The solution was presented in this seminar. Do not compress everything into one summer. Make it two trips. After BWSC concludes its standard cruising choices in Maine and the Cape, launch the Nova Scotia cruise mid-August 2024 at the best time of year for that coastline. Winter the boats over in Cape Breton thereby unlocking the treasures of that area for off boat activities. Do the Newfoundland fjords the following year in July 2025 at the best time for that coastline.

Restart the Customs clock on the French island of St. Pierre 20 miles south of Newfoundland in the beginning of August 2025. The squadron is now positioned in a nice place to explore and land crew for the return passage home (630 nm). Early August is when the winds come out of the southwest and often go more west, northwest for the transit south... with plenty of time to spare before Labor Day.



Sagona Island, Newfoundland, SV Julia



Within the Club, the old guard initially suggested that this would likely be a cruise for just one boat (Avocet), possibly two. Blue Water Sailing Club, I was told, has cruises that are two weeks, two and a half weeks maximum. This was clearly going to be a heavy lift notwithstanding 150 slides – many of which show jaw dropping photos taken of the anchorages in Nova Scotia and the fjords in Newfoundland by prior Blue Water Sailing Club members named above.

The April seminar/slideshow was followed after haul-out in the Fall by eight posted blogs detailing the various aspects, potential pitfalls, strategies, philosophy and itineraries for the combined trips. All the branches of the Blue Water Sailing Club administration came into full swing like a powerful cavalry to the rescue: Marketing. Communications. Event calendaring and registering. The Log editor. The Event chairs. Through those actions taken by our volunteer members to promote this cruise, a number of boats are now registered for the cruise.

Given the need for broader options within the cruising part of the Club and the desire to generate more participation among our members, the proposed trip has already been a success. At the very least, the seminar and other actions described above are a demonstration of 1) how fun it is to get involved; and 2) how fun it will be to see how some play the new hand.

It's a club! Success or failure matters not.

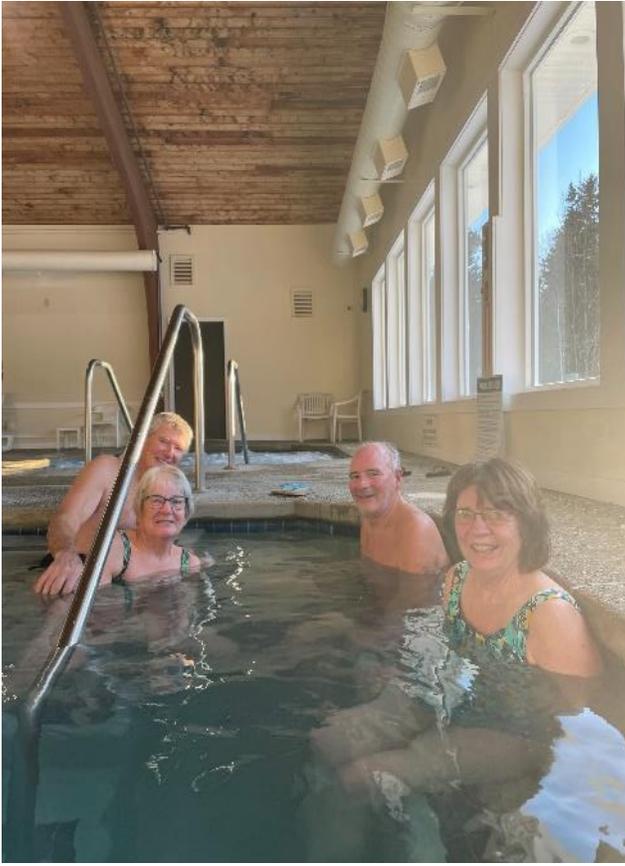
2023 Gatherings

February 7-9, 2023
Annual BWSC Ski Trip, Stowe, Vermont
By Ellie Scherr

The BWSC Ski Getaway was a great success. We all had a great time. Aedan and Bernie Gleeson had a fantastic adventure snowmobiling through the woods up north. Pat and John Dieselman, John and Lori Corbishley savored the natural beauty of the mountains. The rest of the crew, Martha and Win Sanford, Brenda and Vince Miccio, Tim and Maryann Lynn and the Scherr's all had several days of great skiing as the conditions were perfect!

Great sailing stories and plenty of laughter! Highly recommend it for anyone who enjoys the woods and mountains. Rumor has it that next year we may be heading to Killington!





March 5, 2023
Florida Mix and Mingle

Diane and Manny Hontoria opened up their home to BWSC members for a wonderful Sunday afternoon gathering.



L to R are:
Liz & Ed Stott, Wally Feldman, Chris Aubin, Will Sirius and Sandy Miller, Len Thibodeau, Michael and Carol Crawford, Diane Hontoria (the host), Nancy Kritzman & Carl Kramer and Cynthia and Mark Devine. Manny Hontoria took the photo.



March 9, 2023
BWSC Pub Night, Newport, RI
By Linda Perry Riera

BWSC came together for a pub night at the Surf Club in Newport. Linda Perry Riera organized the fun evening for 21 participants who were counting down the days to their respective spring splash dates!





April 20, 2023
BWSC Pub Night, Beverly, MA
By Sue Struss

We all came out for a pub night at the Mission Boat House on the Beverly waterfront. We welcomed the new and the many longtime members. Good Times! Good Friends! Good Sailing!



BWSC Spring Social and Meeting
Danversport Yacht Club
By Pat Dieselman

On May 7th thanks to Steve Lee stepping up, our Spring Luncheon was again held at the beautiful Danversport Yacht Club. There were over 80 members attending on a perfect blue-sky day.

Tori Leuteman and Sue Cox were busy checking in everyone giving a special welcome to the new members who joined us that day. Cocktails and drinks were served while everyone tried to catch up with each other after the long winter's months passed us by. Of course, the talk was about upcoming boat plans and who had what medical operations during the winter. Some of us are getting old.

The dinner bell rang and it took some time to get us all seated. Our Commodore, Len Thibodeau, welcomed all of us and the leaders of the upcoming cruises gave a brief outline of the plans they had for the summer sailing season. The food and company were top notch. After dinner we all congregated outside for our group picture. See you all out on the water.





2023 Summer Cruises June 7-13, 2023

Cape and Islands Cruise

By John Garner

Sailing Cape Cod early in the season avoids crowds, promises a good breeze, and satisfies the itch to start the boating season. Thus the 2023 Cape & Islands Cruise was born.



While planning the cruise last February, there were three goals:

- Visit normally crowded Cape Cod harbors in the shoulder season staying more than one night so there's time to explore.
- Plan to use currents of Vineyard and Nantucket Sounds to our benefit.
- Use a text group to communicate updates real-time instead of relying exclusively on VHF rollcall.

The first port of call was Edgartown for two nights. Members left their homeports for Martha's Vineyard with brisk winds and light seas - it was a fabulous sail. The first night had the arrival of John and Chris of SV Christina, Eric and Jackie of SV Sconset, and Mike and Anna of SV First Light.

Mike's a new member so it was a great way to introduce him to members and share our experiences with the Blue Water Sailing Club. We opted to visit the Port Hunter for drinks and dinner in lieu of the usual drinks at 5 on the boat and had long conversations.

The next day we spent the day on our own. In the evening we met for dinner at Rockfish. We added one boat to the group, Mark and Sue of SV Thomasina. Thomasina was delayed from a large low pressure sitting off the coast of New England.

Thursday, we departed Edgartown for Nantucket for three nights. We left Edgartown by 10am with a favorable current to push us along. Light winds and seas made for a comfortable motor sail. Happy Hour was on SV Christina at the Basin Docks.



The next day we road bikes to Madaket beach and had lunch at Millie's. It was a fun Friday as we chatted at length about summer plans, family, and sailing. Win and Martha of SV Kitty Hawk and their guests sailed in to ACK after a spirited sail with a dousing of hail along the way.



Saturday the streets of Nantucket were void of massive summer crowds. Shopping, beach exploration, and more biking were on the schedule. We met up for pot luck dinner on the docks at SV Christina. It was a feast! An impressive meal of grilled meats and sides appeared as if carefully orchestrated by a caterer.

The next day would bring light winds and gentle seas. The current was favorable to push us to Stage Harbor, Chatham for our next port. Despite some the sketchy Chatham town moorings, Stage Harbor was enjoyed as it's a beautiful and well protected harbor. The seals and fish were jumping among the moorings. We took our dinghies to the head of the harbor and walked up the road to the town. Fred and Anne of Sea Hawk II joined us for dinner. We enjoyed long conversations and sushi at Bluefins and walked around to find an ice cream.

The final day of the cruise evolved on Monday as we scattered for home ports. Rainy weather was coming for the next few days so we all opted for home port shelter. Otherwise, we'd be facing the famous square waves of the sound.



All in all, we had some good sailing, a bit of motor sailing, and the opportunity to get to know one another quite well. We all agreed, a small cruise was a perfect start to the sailing season!





July 10-12, 2023
BWSC Women's Mini Cruise
Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island
 By Linda Perry Riera

Link to photos:
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/1Eme3s6PCa7aiXum9>

Boats and Participants

- Pochade - Cape Dory 30
 - Lisa Goodwin - Owner and Captain
 - Ingrid Beattie - crew
- Argon - 40' Tartan 4000
 - Linda Perry Riera - Owner and Captain
 - Yong Bader - crew
 - Oi Fortin - crew

Itinerary and Summary

• **Monday 10 July**

Argon departed Wickford Cove (North Kingston, RI) at approximately noon after waiting for morning rain storms to pass. We sailed mostly on a beam reach and close haul under cloudy skies in 8-14kt out of the SW 10nm. The view of the Newport Bridge as we sailed south between Aquidneck and Conanicut Islands was spectacular. Oi did most of the helming and Yong stayed busy trimming sails. We grabbed a mooring and met up with s/v Pochade at Conanicut Marina in Jamestown, RI. We all gathered in the cockpit of Argon for an evening visit with scrumptious appetizers and drinks.

• **Tuesday 11 July**

Argon and Pochade departed Conanicut Marina under light SW winds and sunny skies midday Tuesday sailing

north up Narragansett Bay towards Bristol, RI. Argon practiced anchoring near Potter's Cove on the northeast side of Prudence Island and we all relaxed in the sun a bit before continuing on to moor at Bristol Yacht Club meeting up again with Pochade. The crews of Argon and Pochade were joined ashore by Martha Sanford for a fun dinner at SS Dion.



• **Wednesday 12 July**

We all met ashore in the morning for a long hike through Colt State Park. Both vessels departed Bristol early afternoon initially in low winds and hot temperatures. However, the predictable brisk afternoon breeze filled in and we had a jaunty sail south back to Wickford Harbor.



Quote from crew member Oi:

"For me it was about getting behind the wheel and understanding how to handle the boat in light and strong winds. The bonus was learning how to read the instruments and trusting them! Your boat and I adjusted to each other quite well; it was really a lot of fun from start to finish. I came away more confident in my ability to take the helm."



July 15-25, 2023
Southern Cruise Log Report
“The Take it Easy Southern Cruise”
Cruise Leader Lisa Goodwin



Potluck dinner at Win & Martha Sanford’s home Cuttyhunk

The Southern cruise got off to a tentative start with most boats opting to start in Newport, or other places, rather than Dutch Harbor.

July 16 & 17 - found the fleet together in Cuttyhunk. Win was busy in his “Welcome Whaler”, greeting the 21 boats as they came in, helping with moorings, and answering questions. The potluck dinner at the Sanford’s home was attended by 40 members and Pax’s ship dog, Gigi. It was a relaxing two days on Cutty with hiking, swimming, ice cream, and dinghying around.

July 18 – Weather forecast was S 5 – 10 kts with seas 1-2’ with early fog. Tides were favorable for the 11nm sail to Menemsha. A few boats waited out the fog by having breakfast at the Fishing Club. In Menemsha, the fleet rafted on the 2 inner moorings as well as had a majority of the outer moorings. Rich & Ellie Scherr led a dinghy safari down Menemsha Creek for swimming and beach combing. Afterwards it was sundowners on rafted boats “Christina” & “Dark Star”.





July 19th: Winds SW 5-10kts, seas under 2ft, patchy fog in am, favorable current all morning. As soon as the fog lifted the fleet headed to Edgartown. A few boats opted to stay in Menemsha for another night and meet us in Edgartown the next day. Then it was a BWSC Mad Marthas take over, as the club treated everyone to ice cream...yummmm.



Thursday July 20th: Day on own to explore Edgartown and surrounds. Many opted to go for a walk to Edgartown Harbor Light and do a beach clean-up, followed by lunch.



Thursday July 20th: It was a relaxing afternoon exploring the town and beaches. That evening many of us gathered in town to listen to a free concert. In addition to great music, we also had a celebrity sighting of Ted Danson and Mary Steenburger, who also stopped to enjoy the band.



Top Left: The Band
Bottom Left: Steve Shongut, Len Bertaux, Lisa Goodwin, Nancy and Jeffrey Fitch

Above Right: Mary Steenburgen & Ted Danson
Bottom Right: Len & Nancy Bertaux and Greg & Yong Bader

Friday July 21st: 13 boats took advantage of the beautiful day for the short 11nm hop to Vineyard Haven. A few adventurous boats opted to deal with the bridge and moored in the salt pond, but everyone else stayed in the inner or outer mooring field. A lot of the fleet chose to have dinner at Black Dog.



Saturday July 22nd:

Sunrise 0528 & sunset 2009, Wind W5kts turning SW, seas less than 1'0", high of 79 degrees.

Day was free to enjoy the island, with several taking the bus to Oak Bluffs or Aquinnah. Fred and Ann Kern, SV Seahawk, hosted the group for sundowners.



Photo: Sundowners on Fred & Ann Kern's (front right) catamaran Seahawk

Sunday July 23rd: Another lovely day for the fleet to leisurely continue to Hadley Harbor. For those arriving early, the afternoon was spent swimming and dinghy exploring. Len & Nancy Bertaux (SV Walkabout) hosted sundowners. Afterwards it was on to SV's Pax & Sarang (rafted together) for a scrumptious dinner of curry and rice made by Oi Fortin and orzo salad by Yong Bader.



Photo Above left to right: Lisa Goodwin, Nancy Bertaux, Martha Sanford, Sue Struss, and Yong Bader aboard SV Walkabout.



BWSC boats Kitty Hawk & Pochade (foreground) and Sarang and Pax (background)

Monday July 24th: The remaining boats in the fleet sailed to Popes Island in New Bedford. In the afternoon they enjoyed the New Bedford Whaling Museum, where they were given a private tour. For dinner the group dined at Carmine's at The Candleworks, where the club sponsored a myriad of apps and desserts.



Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Goodwin – Vice Commodore and Southern
Cruise Leader



July 26-August 1, 2023 Maine Train Cruise

This was the first Maine Train Cruise! John Garner and Lisa Goodwin led this “inaugural” cruise from Massachusetts to Maine just in time for the beginning of the August Maine Cruise. SV Christina and SV Pochade left Onset, just south of the Cape Cod Canal and enjoyed leisurely day trips. They arrived at Safe Harbor Great Island (formerly Great Island Boat Yard) where they greeted Maine Cruisers.



August 2-14, 2023 Maine Cruise By Pat Dieselman

The 2023 BWSC Maine Cruise started on Wednesday Aug 2nd with a kick off dinner at Great Island Boat Yard in Harpswell. There were around 35 of us gathered in one of the buildings with purchased food from Iris Eats located up the hill.



After dinner we were invited aboard Sue and Dave Patton’s Northern Bay “Serenity” for an Ice Cream Social.



Thursday Aug 3rd, we set sail to Robinhood Marina. We gathered on Wally and Cecily Feldman's Nordic Tug "Nomad" for cocktails and great appetizers. Predicted storms Friday kept some of us in Robinhood while others ventured out to make it through Townsend Gut over to Boothbay to wait out the storm.

Saturday had some of us heading out to meet at Maple Juice Cove. Eight of our boats anchored and took dinghies over to David and Linda Yanofsky's beautiful home (past long time BWSC members) for a picnic on their lawn. It was great to see them again and them being so welcoming to us all.



Sunday was off to the Basin on the west side of Vinalhaven. Twelve of our boats chose to stay in Long Cove for the evening where we gathered on Bill Dobson's Gozzard "Lazy Jacks."



Notice the green boat? Well, that is BWSC member Joost Vlassk who with his wife Kiran Mundy have built a house on one of the small islands coming into Long Cove. We had a great night for another cocktail and appetizer party.

Off through the Fox Island Thorofare on Monday over to Stonington and ending up in Merchants Row's Camp Island. This anchorage is encircled by Bold and Devil Island. We had six boats joining us. Later in the day, Bill and I made the rounds to distribute Bill's famous Blueberry Buckle for everyone to enjoy.

Tuesday was scheduled for a lay day at Camp Island which was good for us because we had wind and rain all day and battery problems on "Lazy Jacks." In the morning we discovered that we were dragging and without any battery power; the windless was not functioning so the anchor would have to be brought up manually. Len and Nancy Bertaux came to our rescue on "Walkabout" and rafted up with us while John Slingerland dinghied over from "Avocet" to help Bill haul up the anchor. Later TOW US came to help us out with the battery problem and made a stopover at "Avocet" to check out a leak.





After all the excitement it was time to hunker down with a good book and relax. Wednesday was a clear day and the plan was to meet up in the Benjamin River. Most of the fleet headed to Castine so off we went where we fueled up then anchored in Smith's Cove where we had another great cocktail land appetizer party aboard Peter Forte and Starr Tofil's boat "Lockwood."



Lots of happy faces...

Thursday was the Big Day where we had 17 boats join us for a potluck cookout on the beach.





Friday was the day we all met for our Historical Walk Around Castine with Mike Coughlin, a docent at the Castine Historical Society and good friend of Paul and Sue LaVoie. We all met at the Castine YC and ventured out for an interesting tour. I never knew what an important role the town had in the maritime trade during the Revolutionary War. After the tour we presented a donation to the Historical Society.



Afterward we headed for lunch and an ice cream stop before some of us went back to our boats. A few stayed on shore to go to dinner at the local Pentagoet Inn and attend the band concert on the village green. Saturday it was time to head out and turn back for the last legs of the cruise. The next stop would be Cradle Cove at Seven Hundred Acre Island on the west side of Gilkey Harbor picking up moorings at Dark Harbor. Honalee had a great sail over from Castine and said they were “having a marvelous time.” Pochade was having a tacking duel with a J100 going into Dark Harbor. Never found out who won...The day ended with, of course, cocktails and appetizers on shore. A few of us went on to Rockland instead for the night and met up for dinner there.



Next stop on Sunday was Tenant's Harbor and meeting on Fred and Anne Kern's Seahawk in Long Cove for a "dessert before dinner" cocktail party. Blueberry pie was on the menu. On Monday the group left Tenants Harbor to sail over to Witch's Island on the west side of John's Bay. LazyJacks had to push on back to home port at Great Harbor Boat Yard to meet up for the Farewell Dinner in Boothbay on Tuesday. Even though this was the first time for many of the fleet staying in this harbor I understand they all agreed it was the best stop on the cruise. I am sorry I had to miss the lobster party; (cooked lobsters provided by South Bristol Fisherman's Co-op) on Seahawk.



Last day was Boothbay harbor for our Farewell Dinner at the Whale's Tale at the Carousel Marina. We had some time before the dinner and Fred and Anne Kern had complimentary passes to the Boothbay Botanical Gardens so the Kern's, Nancy Bertaux and I spent a couple hours walking through.



What a magical place...



Time to gather for our last group meet up at The Whale's Tail.



Thank you to everyone who joined Bill and I on the Maine Cruise. I had a great time meeting members I have not known and old friends to share memories. BWSC is truly the place for “GOOD TIMES, GOOD SAILING and especially GOOD FRIENDS.”

September 1-4, 2023
Maine Labor Day Cruise
Tory Leuteman, Cruise Director
SV Honalee, Sabre 34 MKII

Ten boats joined the Maine Labor Day Cruise, a record number! The original itinerary was Harpswell Harbor, the Goslings, with a final dinner at the Chebeague Island Inn. However, the Cruise Director, who sails by the “wind, weather and whim” philosophy, and who wanted to make sure all were happy, made some changes.

The first evening boats met up in Harpswell Harbor, a quiet, well protected harbor with plenty of room to anchor. The plan was to gather on the beach for cocktails, but the wind was up and Nomad offered to have everyone come aboard, so that's what was done. A good time was had by all and as BWSC tradition requires, the appetizers were delicious and plentiful.



The next morning, the Cruise Director began roll call with a good morning song at 0900, breaking the BWSC tradition of roll call at 0800. Significant winds were predicted so plans were changed, the group decided to go to Snow Island for the night. Potluck supper on the island was planned. Once at Snow, while the Cruise Director was napping, a bit of a coupe occurred. It was decided that rather than go to the island, potluck would happen on Honalee and Lockwood, who rafted together. The Cruise Director, not really caring where the eating and drinking happened, as long as it happened, quickly assessed the situation and agreed with the new plan. And then, had a stroke of genius (if I do say so myself): line the food up along the cabin top of Honalee, folks could move along, get their food, go up around the bow and find a spot on Honalee or Lockwood to sit and eat. It worked great and is highly recommended for future on board potluck suppers.



The third day brought very little wind and another change in plan. The Chebeague Island Inn was not able to accommodate the group for dinner. The Ledges Pub at Sebasco Harbor Resort said sure, come on in! So, off we went. The pub does not take reservations, but we warned them that we were coming and they were great! Food was good and the wait staff very accommodating. Kudos to them!



The Maine Labor Day Cruise was a wonderful ending to the official BWSC cruising season. It kept the BWSC tradition: “Good Times, Good Sailing, Good Friends.”



Blue Water Sailing Club Annual Meeting October 22, 2023



BLUE WATER SAILING CLUB

Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Sunday - October 22th 2023

AGENDA

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| • Welcome | Jack Savage |
| • Call to Order by Commodore | Len Thibodeau |
| • Members we lost | Len Thibodeau |
| • Annual Reports and Approval | Len Thibodeau |
| • Clerk's Report – 2022 Meeting Minutes | |
| • Treasurer's Report | |
| • Secretary's Report | |
| • Communications Report | |
| • Membership vote of approval | |
| • Introduction of New and Transitional Members | Sue Struss |
| • Recognition of service: | |
| • Officers, Governors, Committee chairs, and appointees (Group Photo) | Len Thibodeau |
| • Cruise program and leads | Lisa Goodwin |
| • Lands events, seminars, and cruise leads | Jack Savage |
| • Induction of new life member | Len Thibodeau |
| • Presentation of awards: | Len Thibodeau |
| Russ Kingman & Commodore's trophies | |
| Offshore Racing recognition | |
| • Outgoing Commodore's Remarks | Len Thibodeau |
| • Election of Officers & Governors, transfer of flags (Group Photo) | Len Thibodeau |
| • Incoming Commodore's Remarks | Lisa Goodwin |
| • Adjournment of Business Meeting | Len Thibodeau |
| • Pot Trophy | Steve Lee |
| • Brief meeting of new Board of Governors | Lisa Goodwin |

everyone for their help in planning; Steve Lee, Pat Dieselman, Sue and Mark Struss, Brenda and Vince Miccio, Lynn Squire, Sue Cox and Star Tofil. Jack was pretty proud to announce that he chose the color of the napkins.

Len Thibodeau, Commodore

Len was pleased to be able to use his meeting gavel as he called the meeting to order at 2:06 pm.



In Memorium

After Len welcomed everyone to the meeting, he announced that we lost **Andrew Bohm**, a new member this past year, and asked for a moment of silence in memorium.

Annual Reports and Approval

RESOLVED: Len made a motion to accept the three Annual Reports: Clerk's Report, Minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting, Treasurer's and Secretary's Annual Reports. Wally Feldman moved the motion and Vince Miccio made the second; the motion was approved unanimously.

On Sunday, October 22, 2023 Jack Savage, Rear Commodore, welcomed everyone to the Blue Water Sailing Club Annual Meeting at the Plymouth Country Club in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Jack thanked



Treasurer's Report – Steve Lee

Len invited Steve Lee, our Treasurer for the past 12 years, to speak about the financial health of the Club. Steve commented about how he became Treasurer back in 2011 while enjoying a dark and stormy with the then Commodore, Mark Devine, who asked Steve if he would like to be Treasurer. The rest is history!

Steve discovered after a few years of getting to know the process, he wanted to improve the Club's website as the existing system was costly to maintain and unsupportable for the most part. Steve, having experience with computer systems was able to recognize its flaws. With Doug Robinson's support, a programmer type, they worked together to research new club management systems. Club Express was born. After some hesitancy Wally Feldman and others applauded the move.

In 2016 yearbook costs for maintenance were reduced from \$4,800 to \$2,800 per year. Additionally, thanks to John Slingerland, Steve and John researched the Club's insurance options as premiums kept increasing. The effort was worth the work; our insurance premiums dropped from \$3,000 to \$800 per year.

Steve in closing, encouraged members to volunteer, he suggested that if you get involved by sharing your skills the Club benefits. Join the Board of Governors, it is an easy way to get to know people and help the Club at the same time. Steve commented that we are entering our second decade without raising dues, unheard of in today's climate! The cash position of the Club has increased by 25% over the past 12 years. We are in a very good financial position, ready for the next 65 years!





New Members - Sue Struss, Membership Chair

As names were called, Sue asked the new members to stand. She thanked all new members for attending and encouraged them to continue to participate in Club sponsored events. Sue mentioned that hosting a pub night is a great way to get involved. She thanked Jason and Jessi Kneier, new members, for volunteering to host a pub night in Connecticut this coming winter. Stay tuned for details in The Beacon Newsletter.

In closing Sue asked the members of the Membership Committee: Martha Sanford, Yong Bader, Linda Perry Riera and Mark Struss. to gather for a picture, thanked them for their support and gave each volunteer a bar board with the BWSC seal burned into it.

2023 Highlights

Commodore Len Thibodeau was happy to announce that the Club, this year, returned to something that was more normal. As in the past couple of years, we were unable to hold in-person seminars or cruises due to Covid.

Len mentioned that our seminar events are now held in person and on Zoom. He commented that it was during a winter seminar that he and his wife Chris attended that introduced them to the Blue Water Sailing Club. It happened that they were looking for a boat and saw that BWSC was running a diesel mechanics course at a local yacht club. After attending and meeting some of the people, they joined BWSC. They have volunteered to run weekend and weekly cruises and joined the Board of Governors. Eventually becoming a Flag Officer and Commodore.

This year we had a well-attended Cruising season with over 20 boats in Maine. We also had BWSC members participate in the Marion to Bermuda and Marblehead to Halifax races. Len proudly stated that we are both a cruising and racing Club.

Recognition of Service

Len recognized the service of the Blue Water Sailing Club Officers and the Board of Governors who served this past year.

Appointed Positions

Len recognized volunteers who have been appointed to BWSC positions over the past year and thanked them for their service.

Cruise Leaders Recognition Awards

Lisa Goodwin, Vice Commodore, recognized the cruise leaders that volunteered this past season. Each volunteer was thanked for their service.

Lisa mentioned that this year a new cruise was born. It is called the *Maine Train*. BWSC members joined together to make their way from the Cape and the Islands to the start of the Maine Cruise. John Garner and Lisa led the event this year. Lisa is hoping that more members from the south will join next year. She asked members to think about helping out with cruise planning or activities. She suggested the following:
*Pick a specific activity on a given day of the cruise.
*Select the harbors that we visit on a cruise.
*Keep everyone informed about activities while on a cruise.

Seminar Leaders Recognition Awards

Jack Savage, Rear Commodore, recognized the volunteers that hosted Land Events this past year.
*Ellie and Richard Scherr hosted the Winter Ski event at Waterville Valley and mentioned that they have agreed to host the event again next year.
*Pat Dieselman and Steve Lee hosted the Spring Luncheon held at the Danversport YC.
*Manny and Diane Hontoria hosted the Florida Social.
*Linda Perry Riera hosted a pub night in Newport.
*John Slingerland presented an in-person seminar about the 2024 Canadian Cruise that he will be running.
*Steve Lee organized a Zoom seminar presented by Robert Rubadeau based on his Bound for Cape Horn book published in 2020.
*Vince Miccio helped Jack navigate the reporting website at a very late hour the day before he had to give the food orders to the Plymouth Country Club for this annual meeting, huge help overall.
*Roy Greenwald ran the Northeast Ocean Race Symposium last March. Many BWSC members spoke and helped organize the event. Jack commented that it was very professionally run.



Life Member Inductee

Len briefly described the criteria for appointing a Life Member. He asked the board their opinion of the idea, and the feedback he received was 100% in favor that Steve Lee be elected as a Life Member.

The BWSC Constitution states that to be appointed as a Life Member one must have been active within the Sailing Community for at least 20 years, have served on the Board of Governors and have made a unique contribution to the Club. Only in exceptional cases are Life Members elected within BWSC. Steve Lee has been an active Club member since 1995 and our Treasurer since 2012. Through the years he has made continual contributions to the Club.

RESOLVED

Wally Feldman made a motion to elect Steve Lee as a Life Member of the Blue Water Sailing Club, several people made the second. The motion was unanimously approved.

Commodore's Award

Len stated that the Commodore's award began in 2000. The purpose was to recognize members that go above and beyond the call of duty" and is awarded at the discretion of the Commodore. Len mentioned that this year's appointee volunteered to manage one of our three governing documents within the Club. That is the Constitution and By-Laws that are published in the Yearbook each year. The third document is the Operations Manual that is a living and breathing document that is continually being updated to reflect how our Club actually functions.

Since our Club leadership changes yearly, it is imperative that processes and practices are documented to enable a smooth transition from year to year. This year the BOG created a new position called the Operations Manual Maintainer, OMM. Lynn Squire volunteered to take this responsibility. No easy task, as it requires many hours of work between meetings to coordinate proposed changes with the BOG in preparation for BOG votes at monthly meetings.

This year's winner of the Commodore's Award is Lynn Squire. Lynn has been our secretary for years and has made continued contributions to BWSC that are "above and beyond the call of duty."

Peter Forte accepted Lynn's award in her absence.

Russ Kingman Award

Len described the Russ Kingman Award, a Chelsea Ships' Clock, that shall be presented by the Board of Governors on an annual basis to an individual or couple who has demonstrated a "Spirit of Volunteerism" as a member of The Blue Water Sailing Club. The award is to be presented in memory of Russell Kingman, deceased member, and past Commodore, who always showed a real concern and sensitivity to the importance of volunteerism in the club. This award is to honor members who contribute their time and energy to the many tasks in our organization that allows us to continue to be the "Blue Water Sailing Club."

Lisa Goodwin has exhibited a high level of enthusiasm and spirit which is the heart of our Club. Lisa has offered her skills in seamanship and safety by holding a hands-on seminar using borrowed equipment from the Coast Guard Auxiliary of which she is a member. Lisa volunteered to take on the role as Safety Officer of the Club, a role that has been vacant for the past few years. She is always on the lookout for potential new members and works to ensure that those that attend our seminars or cruises leave the event with a positive experience.

The Russ Kingman Award was presented to Lisa Goodwin, for "Spirit of Volunteerism."





Off Shore Upcoming Events, Roy Greenwald

Roy stated that the Club is one of three sponsors of the Marion to Bermuda Race. Beverly YC in Marion, The Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club of Bermuda, and the BWSC. The race was pretty challenging this year with 32 starters, 11 of which were celestial, 3 retired and 19 boats finishing. The winner was Boudicca, a 66’ yacht from Jamestown, RI that set a new record, completing the 645 nm course in 2 days and 17 hours.

We are attempting to boost participation for the upcoming 2025 race and hopefully will have more BWSC members racing!

Len recognized BWSC boats that participated in either the Marion to Bermuda, or Marblehead to Halifax races. Southern Cross, Peter Lacoste; Sconset, Eric Pierce; Serena, Brian Johnson; Hotspur II, Ronald Wisner; Meridian, Murray Beach; Mahina Kai, Wayne Hauber.

2023-2024 Slate of Officers & Governors

Dennis McKay, Nominating Committee Chair

Len presented the new slate in Dennis’ absence. He made a motion to accept the 2023-2024 slate as presented. Vincent Miccio moved the motion and Peter Forte made the second. Motion passed unanimously.

Newly appointed Positions

Len then introduced members who have volunteered for the Commodore appointed positions.

Transfer of Flags

Len introduced the new Flag Officers of the Club.

Rear Commodore, John Slingerland

Vice Commodore, Jack Savage

Commodore, Lisa Goodwin

Past Commodore, Len Thibodeau



Outgoing Commodore Remarks

Len Thibodeau stated that it was an honor serving as Commodore. Although he did admit to having more fun as Rear and Vice Commodore than he has had being “in charge.” He commented that the Club is in very good shape. He also mentioned that next year’s slate of Officers are very good so we all can look forward to a great upcoming year.

New Treasurer

Len introduced our new Treasurer, Peter Forte, who acknowledged that he had big shoes to fill taking over for Steve Lee. Len thanked Peter for volunteering.





Incoming Commodore Remarks



Lisa enthusiastically announced a significant milestone. **Blue Water Sailing Club's 65th Birthday is this year!** Lisa acknowledged Past Commodores in attendance and asked them to stand. Len Thibodeau, Peter Forte, Stephen Ricci, Roy Greenwald, Susan Patton, Pat Dieselman, Eric Pierce, Thomas Devins, Paul Hodess and John Dieselman. She thanked all these people for keeping the Club running strong for 65 years.



Lisa urged members to volunteer with seminars and cruises.

Incoming Rear Commodore Remarks

John Slingerland is looking forward to meeting new members and getting to know better those he has already met. John thanked Len for his work at the helm and his support this past year.

Rear Commodores are in charge of land events, please email rearcommodore@BWSC.org, if you have suggestions regarding seminar topics or can help in running an event.



There are many events coming up thus far: November 17, Pre-release screening of the documentary film of Buddy Melges' life. February 8-11 Waterville Valley Ski getaway. Richard and Ellie Scherr are hosting. Zoom event, David Nutt, a boat builder and circumnavigator from Boothbay, Maine. Captain, Cheryl Barr who wrote two of the four cruising guides on Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, which John referenced in his April Seminar on Cruising to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. March Wildcat Ski event, stay at the Glen House at the foot of Mount Washington. Lisa Goodwin, Greenland and Iceland adventures. June 21-23, Linda Perry Riero is leading a Women's Mini Cruise South.



John spoke about the Canadian Cruise he is running August 2024. He has heard from several people that would like to crew so if you're interested in being a skipper or crew let John know.

Outgoing Commodore Gift

Lisa Goodwin, Commodore, stated that it is a tradition of the Club to give the outgoing commodore a gift. Len was presented with a fancy way to hold his outboard motor on his boat. Lisa called it "jewelry" for SV Breakaway from Edson.

Len thanked Lisa for the gift and is looking forward to getting rid of his old worn out outboard motor bracket that has been used far too long!

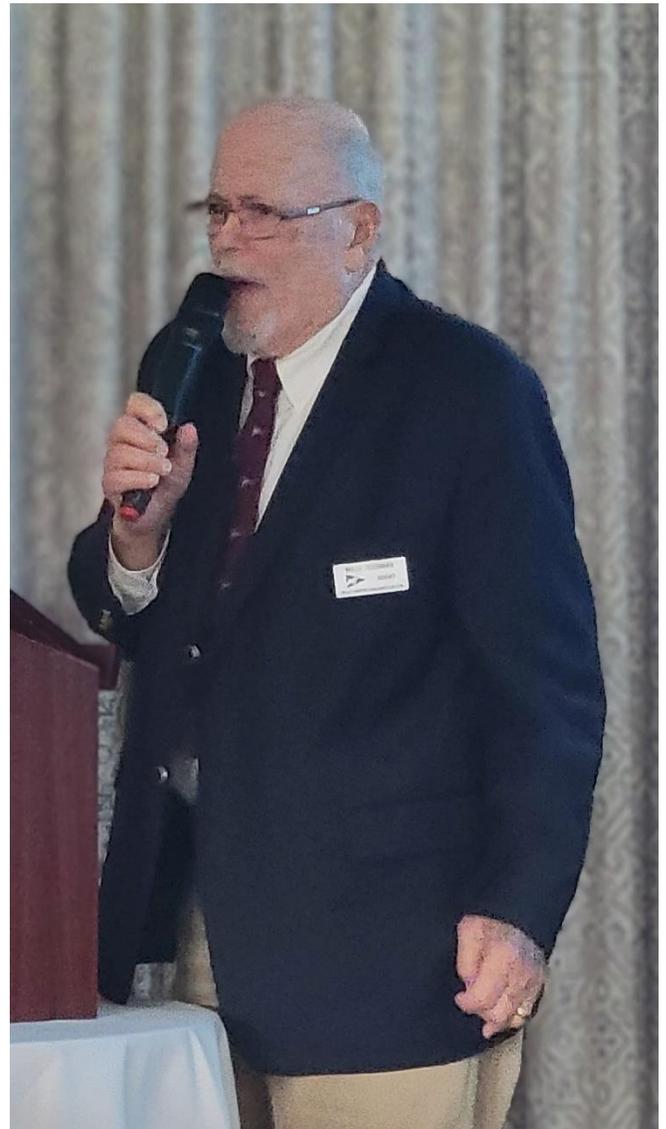


The Business Meeting was adjourned by Len Thibodeau at 3:14pm.

Pot Trophy Award Presentation Wally Feldman

Wally announced that The Pot Trophy Winner for 2023 is **Jeff Fitch**.

Jeff Fitch allowed his ailing anchor windlass to be disassembled without first securing the anchor. The result was 250 feet of chain going overboard, requiring slow and painful manual retrieval by hand. An auxiliary award for "Aiding and Abetting" was presented to Mark Struss, who presided over the disassembly.





Introducing 2023 BWSC New Members

Suzanne Struss, Committee Chair

Ingrid Beattie

Jerry Callen and Katy Petersen

Stephen Coulter and Joan McGrath

Mike and Jayne Giles

Jessi and Jason Kneier

Peter and Angela LaCoste

Lee and Carolyn Libelo

Michael and Anna McDonnell

Michael and Jeanne O'Reilly

Christopher Ryan and Nancy Smith

Edward and Jesse Storey

David Tesar and Donna George

Richard Tubman and Peggy Burns

Thomas Wanderer and Sara Mannix

In Honor of Member We Lost in 2023

Andrew Bohm