



Dear Weekapaug Yacht Club Members,

November 7, 2017

**Please plan to join us for the
WYC's Annual Chowder Party
on Saturday, November 25, 2017 at 12 Noon**
No RSVP required; Boatique will be open for holiday shopping!

Speaking of holiday shopping and sailing, the **Weekapaug Yacht Club hopes to bring Radio Controlled Lasers to our club for the 2017-2018 Season**. Jim Myers of Intensity Sails will be providing us two loaner RC Lasers to check out during the chowder party. Via his website, www.IntensitySails.com, you can explore the purchase of an RC Laser at a prearranged price offered to us and all interested buyers. To get started Jim M. suggests the complete boat with included B sail \$299, a Carry bag \$75, and a Boat stand \$34.99. Buffums are down for a least one RC Laser, and we hope that you will also consider adding this to your holiday shopping list for the sailors in your family. RC Laser owners will plan to rally and sail on a variety of Thursday evenings in July & August 2018. The more the merrier - and if more invest, then we will create more opportunities for our fleet to sail together!

Read on for a glimpse of the diverse sailing background of the dedicated people that make up the Weekapaug Yacht Club Board today. We are sailors of all ages, and all abilities, and all backgrounds.

Jason Gefaell: Sailed in college, several Collegiate regattas a year. Experienced in Beetles, Watch Hill 15's. Race nights during the summer at American and Indian Harbor YCs. Taught sailing for several summers on Martha's Vineyard.

Susan Kelly: My sailing experience is almost entirely at WYC. I took up sailing in 2009, when my daughter started sailing Optis. taught myself how to sail on her Optimist. Today, you will find me racing in the WYC Beetle fleet, as I have for more than 7 years.

Bill Adams: I started taking sailing lessons at WYC (from Ted Sherman among others) when I was 14 and newly arrived in the U.S from Latin America. I eventually became a WYC sailing instructor and sailing master. I have always been a very active racer sailing Sunfish, Comets, and Beetles over the years. I also grew up doing a lot of bareboat chartering with my family in the Caribbean. Our family also owns a 38 foot Bristol sloop that we sail often to Block Island and other nearby New England locations.

Laura Silver: My sailing experience is limited to windsurfing and sailing a Sunfish in my teens. Since becoming a mother, my own sailing has not been an option. All three of my kids have learned to sail at WYC. Two kids are currently on in the WYC sailing program. Today, you will find me on the pond motor boating with my family and paddle boarding any chance I can get.

Ted Sherman: I have sailed at WYC all my life; I have raced Beetles, Comets, and Sunfish and still race with Dwight Ellis on occasion at WHYC. For about 5 years, I raced Atlantics at Niantic Bay. I currently help plan the WYC sailing calendars, run WYC regattas, and attend the annual ECSA meeting on behalf of WYC youth sailing to help promote our Nat Earle Opti Regatta and Mary Raftery Girl Power 420 Regatta.

Rick Wiatrowski: I've enjoyed my time on the WYC Board, but will be stepping down this Fall. Four kids on different regatta schedules is much busier than I ever expected. Last year I had two kids doing the same regattas, next spring I will have four kids in six different race fleets. (Good Luck, Rick! And thank you for your service to WYC and our Motorboat Fleet!)

Charlie Anthony: I grew up at the Weekapaug Yacht Club. I started racing Beetles and crewing in Comets for my brother. I sailed in Beetle regattas with Ted Sherman and Art Ellis and Team races at various local clubs. I was an instructor for two years under Ted Sherman. I later raced Lasers. I sailed with past Commodore Jim Slimmon on his Tartan 37' in the Off Soundings races. For the past 20 years, I have been the Harbormaster for the WYC. In the early 1990's I started hauling my daughters, Kelly and Blair, and their boats to various Opti regattas. In 1993 with Nat Earle, I helped host the first Atlantic Coast Optimist Championships at the Weekapaug Yacht Club, the first of many Opti regattas that the yacht club hosted.

Chuck Delamater: I started sailing at the WYC when I was about eight years old, first in Beetle cats and then Sunfish. I also crewed occasionally in Comets and Blue Jays. There was then a long hiatus, but I came back to sailing while working in Hong Kong in the early 1980's. In partnership with friends, I owned a 28-foot sloop and later a 33-foot sloop which we cruised in the area and raced occasionally as well. Since Hong Kong, I have owned a number of sail and power boats up to 40'. I continue to race Beetles, crew in Watch Hill 15's regularly and occasionally on other boats and am now racing Lasers whenever I can.

Bill Boll: Started sailing at WYC at age 8 in Beetles, moving on to Comets, Sunfish, Super Sunfish, and Windsurfers over the years. Was a WYC sailing instructor for 4 seasons. Raced at the University of Vermont and in the summertime at WYC until graduation. After that I focused on New England regional Sunfish and Super Sunfish racing participating in the Sunfish Worlds for three years. Later I raced Windsurfers all over the U.S. before coming back to WYC to race Beetles about 15 years ago. Our family has had a Beetle at the WYC each summer for 55 years.

Kristin Revill: I grew up in a sailing family in Weekapaug and spent every summer day as a kid sailing, boating, and messing around on Quonnie Pond. My best memories of childhood are racing Laser II's on Saturdays in the third pond with my Dad. I raced Sunfish and Laser II's on and off the pond through high school and was an instructor at WYC throughout high school and college. My family did bareboat charters in the BVI many times growing up and we've continued the family tradition with my two children. I try to crew every summer in the WH15 fleet and occasionally on a J/105. I have two children currently in the WYC program, one in Intermediate Opti and one in Recreational Sailing.

Past Commodore Heather Cady: I grew up in Mystic, CT and sailed and boated recreationally in Mystic, Stonington, Mason's Island, Groton Long Point and Watch Hill throughout my childhood and teen years. During that time, I completed several sailing and power boating courses through the U.S. Coast Guard Academy under the tutelage of Rear Admiral Richard Rybacki. I returned to sailing at WYC 12 years ago through my children's involvement in WYC's sailing program. I subsequently sailed two years with what was then WYC's "Mighty Mamas" program and also completed one summer of WYC's Windsurfing class. My two children both sailed on WYC's Opti Race Team and 420 Race Team. My son, Charlie, was a WYC sailing instructor this past summer and currently sails on the Princeton University Sailing Team. My daughter, Beatrice, sails at WYC on the 420 Race Team and previously sailed on the Rye High School Sailing Team.

Rear Commodore Charlie Warner: I learned to sail on C-Skows on a lake in Michigan. I raced Sunfish with my sons in the 1970s and went to two National Championship Regattas. I raced Beetles for the first time in 2002 when I came to Weekapaug. I chartered and skippered a yacht in

the British West Indies for spring vacation in 2005, and I owned and sailed an Alden 44 yacht from 1999 to 2004. I have been the WYC Beetle Fleet Captain since 2005.

Vice Commodore Mark Bullinger: I launched my interest in boating at the WYC. Much like kids today I learned the basics in a Beetle, but then moved on to Sunfish, which was the boat of my era. I did participate in Sunfish racing, but honestly it wasn't my thing. I sailed for the fun of it, sometimes with my father, and turned into a competent sailor. I once crewed on a Comet and it didn't go well. That summer I had a brand-new pair of kelly-green Puma Clydes - the height of suede sneaker fashion for a mid-70's suburban kid. Once out on the pond we got into some wind and started to ship a little water. To my horror (and the Comet owner's) the dye in my shoes ran and turned the inside of his boat bright green. As you might imagine the air around the boat turned as colorful as the bilge water - and I never returned to sailboat racing. For years, I drove a stink pot and avoided sailboats - both out on the water while skippering, and in terms of boating recreation. My sailing at that time was limited to helping with the family Beetle each spring and fall. And then five years ago, when I set up the waterfront recreation program at the Inn, I stepped back into sailing. At the Inn, we currently have three sailboats that I take care of and in which I often give guest lessons. They are a Hobie Wave, a glass Beetle Cat and a 14.5'-day sailor. I enjoy sailing, but don't have much leisure time to enjoy it. Through my daughter's participation and passion in the sport, I have become more attuned to the WYC operations as well as those of the clubs surrounding us. On a side note, I added two **RC Lasers** to the Weekapaug Inn activity roster four years ago. They are really fun and super easy to get on the water. First off, they are not kit boats - they are fully assembled and ready to sail right out of the bag. Once you have been briefed on the process of rigging, it only takes about five minutes to unpack the various pieces and rig the boat. The storage bag is excellent and has pockets and sleeves for every piece - mast, boom, rudder, keel etc. (which all just snap into place). What is more, the Laser is a very popular one-design radio controlled boat, so you can very likely find active fleets in your home waters. **RC Lasers** are durable, easy to maintain, have readily available parts and they are just a lot of hassle-free fun for all ages.

Commodore DeeDee Buffum: My midwestern parents relocated my family from Kansas to Rhode Island when I was 9. Today, I honestly can't imagine life away from the sea. My sailing resume is long and full, but here is a snapshot. I grew up in the Watch Hill YC junior sailing program, first as my brother HL's original crew in a Blue Jay, and then at the helm of my own Laser, which I sailed and raced endlessly each summer. From there, I moved on to two years of teaching sailing at the Sachem's Head YC in Guilford, CT. In 1984, I joined the staff of Sail Caribbean and spent four amazing summers as the captain of a boat full of teenagers, cruising through the Caribbean in multi-week sessions, teaching them to sail, to cruise, to windsurf, to snorkel, to dive, to cook, to clean, to manage a boat, to provision, and so much more. We cruised in small fleets through the BVI/USVI and everywhere from Anguilla south to Guadeloupe. Sometime around 1987, I met Jim Buffum and he introduced me to life in Weekapaug and to his favorite breed of sailing. I learned the thrill of speed on his parents 38-foot trimaran and got introduced to multihulls. Through our 30 years of sailing together, Jim and I have raced Laser 2s, Watch Hill 15s, Dart 20 catamarans, our Corsair F27 trimaran, our Corsair F31 trimaran and more. We've cruised New England, the Bahamas, the Keys, the West Coast of FL, the USVI/BVI, and did an epic family bareboat charter from St. Vincent to Grenada. I'll stop here for now, but know that I come from a sailing family, I married in to a sailing family, and I raised a sailing family. Today, I am following the Volvo Ocean race. Are you? And with me, I hope that you will also follow the 2017 Sydney Hobart Race and the American entry called Warrior Won. My brother H.L. DeVore is the navigator on Warrior Won. If you bump in to H.L., could you remind him that I was his original crew?

Read on... I promise it is almost over...

Six ideas on how you and your family can carry on the conversation about sailing in the WYC's Off-season:

1. Follow the Volvo Ocean Race, 2017-2018 www.volvooceanrace.com
2. Consider joining the VirtualRegatta.com fleet and Race your Virtual Volvo Ocean Race Boat (I'm PartyShoes from Westerly, RI) www.virtualregatta.com
3. Read up on Weekapauger Hap Fauth and his campaign for the next America's Cup
4. Follow Warrior Won in the Sydney Hobart Race at www.rolexsydneyhobart.com
5. Attend a U.S. Sailing event, or consider getting your U.S. Sailing Powerboat or Level 1 Sailing Certification at a club in a warmer climate
6. Purchase a RC Laser and start learning how to use it. Or if you already own one, then dust it off, and get it working! Read about RC Lasers here <http://rclaser.org>

**Thanks for reading all the way to the end. See you on Saturday, November 25th at 12 Noon!
Let's sip chowder and talk about sailing.**

DeeDee Buffum
Commodore