

PETTIPAUG
YACHT CLUB
and
SAILING
ACADEMY

FALL 2011

:: NEWS FROM PYC & PSA ::



PYC Storm Policy

TROPICAL STORM IRENE was a wake-up call that Pettipaug is extremely vulnerable to high winds and flooding. Members (including all schools) who store their boats and/or trailers at PYC need to be aware of important procedures when dealing with a weather emergency.

As a volunteer-maintained club, there is only so much a core group of volunteers can do to secure or remove PYC-owned property as well as the property of members who fail to take appropriate action when a potentially damaging storm is forecast. Such unsecured property becomes a hazard to properly secured boats, equipment and structures. Therefore, the **procedures listed on the following page** have been drafted that members who store their property at PYC need to follow when the **National Weather Service** has issued a storm warning for our area and/or the Commodore has e-mailed a **Storm Alert** to the membership. For this reason, members who store their property at PYC must **register their boat** and provide PYC with a current e-mail address.

Once one's own property has been secured, help securing PYC-owned boats, equipment, clubhouse and docks will be greatly appreciated.

The need to move ALL property off PYC grounds will depend on the nature and severity of the storm. Should this be needed it will be stated in the Commodore's e-mail. After the storm has passed emergency work parties will most likely be needed to clean up and get the club going again.

Register your boat

All boats stored at PYC during the season (*no earlier than March - no later than October*) must have a registration number so the owner can be notified if there is an issue with their boat, i.e. damage, blocking another boat, etc. A **Registration Sign-up Sheet** is posted outside in the bulletin-board case at the clubhouse. Once signed up, the Boat Registration Chairman will then attach a small decal with your unique registration number to the stern. A boat need only be registered once; the registration is good for the lifetime of the boat as long as the member is in "good standing." For more information, email Breck Lardner at brecklardner@sbc-global.net or call 860.767.8200.

Member boats must be removed from the premises during the off-season.

STARBOARD TACK



PYC Storm Preparation Checklist

IMPORTANT: A member is liable for damages caused by their property to club- or member-owned property if not secured properly.

Members' Boats & Trailers:

- All members must secure their boats, trailers and/or other personal property.
- Un-step masts, if necessary.
- Move light boats like Sunfish, Lasers, Optis, 420s, Blue Jays and Rowing Shells off PYC grounds. This includes private property being "donated" for club use during PSA's sailing season.
- Haul boats on moorings and remove from PYC grounds.
- Take canoes, kayaks, dinghies and other small items home.
- If a member is unable to remove or secure their property, he or she must contact a friend or Board member for assistance.

Members should not and cannot assume that volunteers and/or Board members will be able to deal with members' private property.

PYC-owned Boats & Equipment:

- Haul all motorboats and, if necessary, move off PYC grounds.
- Haul all Blue Jays and, if necessary, move off PYC grounds.
- Lash windsurfers on trailer rack and move off PYC grounds.
- Remove and break down windsurfer rigs from storage trailer and store in clubhouse.
- Move Optis and Lasers from PYC grounds and/or secure at PYC.
- Un-step masts, if necessary.
- Secure C420s to each other and to trees and/or move off PYC grounds.
- Push windsurfer rig box into the back marsh.
- Lash down all boat racks to trees, moorings or other anchoring devices.



- Lash down outboard gas tanks to Commodore's deck.
- Secure Opti dollies to a tree and/or move off PYC grounds.

PYC Clubhouse & Docks:

- Store picnic tables on clubhouse deck and store umbrellas in the Commodore's Room. Secure tables depending on storm severity prediction.
- Move plastic chairs into the Commodore's Room.
- Move barbeque grills into the Commodore's Room and secure propane tanks on clubhouse deck.
- Remove window air conditioner from Commodore's Room.
- Move trash cans and lids into the Commodore's Room or pump room.
- Store electrical equipment like hoists as high as possible and/or move off PYC grounds.
- Secure docks with extra lines and/or haul out depending on the severity of the forecasted event.
- Take down flag pole and lash to clubhouse railing.
- Shut off main electric breaker.
- Ensure all doors and windows are locked, including the heads.
- Secure all "cubby" doors.
- Remove and store on higher ground any items in the Opti Shed which may be damaged due to high water.
- Depending on the flooding and/or storm surge prediction, additional measures may be needed to secure and/or remove items in the Commodore's Room, pump room and other locations.



Commodore's Message

Cameron C. Taylor

My two-year tour of duty as Commodore is nearly over. It's been an enriching experience and one my wife, Stephanie, will attest has been way out of my comfort zone. But it's been a privilege working with a conscientious and caring Board of Governors and Officers who all recognize the unique gift we have in this little "playground" by the river. I started out as the new-kid-on-the-block and will continue to feel an outsider not being much of a racer or a sailor, but can proudly say that we – the Officers and Board – got a lot done and put in place several programs and procedures that provide a good foundation for further improvements in the years ahead.

Accomplishments

- Under Chris Manero and Paul Risseuw, the **Pettipaug Sailing Academy** flourished with all sessions filled to capacity, and Evening Instruction for wait-listed applicants and Windsurfing added to the program.
- Under Paul Risseuw and fellow instructors Steve Davis and Jim Crowell, PYC has a hugely successful behind-the-wheel and on-the-water **U.S. Powerboat Course** that is open to the public. It was helped nicely this year by a \$9,000 grant from U.S. Sailing and U.S. Coast Guard.
- Near single-handedly by Sandy Sanstrom, tasks requiring skilled carpentry get done, most recently the **new ramp** to the north docks.
- Under Vic Hoehnebart, **Work Party** attendance improved immensely, the club and grounds well-maintained and some big projects undertaken: dock pilings installed, lawn seeded and access road gravelled ... but if you ask Vic, only a small dent was made in his chore list.
- **Announcements & Alerts** for work parties, storm preparations and social gatherings moved from snail-paced (and costly) print to near instant (and free) e-mail "eblasts."
- Under Acting Race Chairman Bob Scholes and Fleet Captains Ed Birch and Priscilla Robinson, PYC's **One-Design** and **Handicap Races** saw a great improvement in participation with a club record of 18 boats competing in the Mid-Summer Regatta.
- First organized by Bob Scholes, the **12 Meter Newport Regatta & Post Race Party** with local yacht clubs is now a much enjoyed annual event.
- **Guidelines for Reserving the Club** and the **Use Agreement** were both updated, and donations to PSA by those who sponsored private parties more than doubled.
- **PYC's Website** had a major overhaul and an **online Calendar** now provides up-to-date listings of all our

events and private parties. (Look for the link at right on PYC's homepage.) Plus, PYC is on **Facebook** thanks to Chris and Corey Manero.

- Three **new Governors** joined the Board: Dave Courcy, Kathryn Ryan and Dave Fasulo, and next year Priscilla Robinson will replace retiring Bob Scholes.
- **November's Annual Meeting** – Thanks to Dave Courcy a change from a dinner to a catered Cocktail Party to shorten the meeting and keep costs down had a real benefit ... over 60 members attended. Plus, a slideshow was added to highlight the season's events.
- A much-needed **Storm Policy** and **Preparation Checklist** has been drafted ... and hopefully rarely needed.

Thank Yous:

- Paul Risseuw and Sandy Sanstrom for all that they do for the club; and personally to Paul for inviting me last September to see the swallows gather over Goose Island;
- Ed Birch for help with the *Yearbook*, chairing Membership with such esprit de corps, inviting me to crew for some memorable sail races ... and for his well-poured libations and Marsha's cookies;
- Vic Hoehnebart for proofreading my many error-filled e-blasts with an eagle-eye for accuracy;
- Marian Carson for making sure PYC's accounts didn't slip into the red during my watch;
- Chris Manero for suffering my somewhat energetic handshakes;
- Rev. Bob Taylor, PYC's Fleet Chaplain, for his inspired blessings at our Commissionings;
- Bill Plage and John Flory for establishing and maintaining a closer communication with the Rowers and the Board;
- Bob Scholes for his counsel, a fabulous boat trip to see vintage America's Cup yachts race in Newport, and volunteering halfway through the season to chair the Race Committee (while living most of the time in South Carolina);
- And finally, my wife Stephanie Taylor, for her patience, support and spectacular flower arrangements in the boxes of the Opti Shed that somehow last all season.

Next year's officers – Commodore Chris Manero, Vice Commodore Vic Hoehnebart and Rear Commodore Dave Courcy – will continue the commitment to responsible stewardship and raise the bar of excellence (and having fun) even higher.

Again, thank you ... it's been a privilege.

Fair Winds and Godspeed.

**Pettipaug
Yacht Club
Calendar**

Click here for the most
up-to-date schedule
of events, classes, races
and club reservations.

You must **Register Your Boat/Trailer** if it's stored at PYC during the season.
The Registration Form is located in the bulletin board cabinet on the clubhouse deck.



Vice Commodore's Report

Pettipaug Sailing Academy

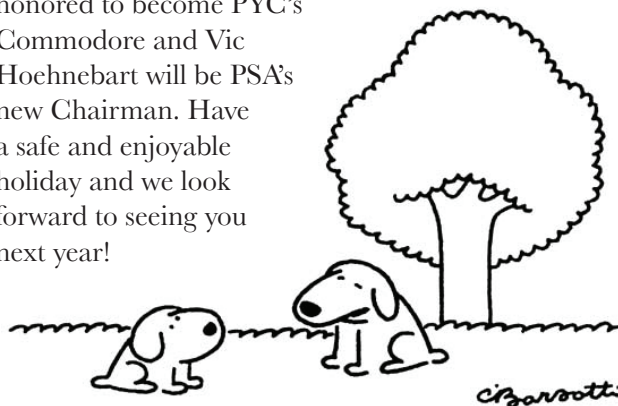
Chris Manero

First off, I would like to thank Paul Risseuw and our instructors for helping to make the last two years as your Vice Commodore and PSA Chairman such a great experience. I believe we made significant strides with improving the program through the experience and maturity of our instructors, the continued support of PYC's Board of Governors to fund programs such as 420 refurbishment, purchase of eight windsurfers, purchase of Wesleyan's 420s and most recently the purchase of four 420s from a school in New Hampshire.

Our investments in the club and PSA have come with a mixed blessing. On the positive side we have significant increased interest in our program resulting in record numbers of students. The downside is we are not able to accommodate everyone and have thus needed to have a waitlist for the last two seasons and we anticipate the same challenge going into 2012. Being unable to accommodate all students had never happened since PSA was formed. We have increased the number of instructors and we are now constrained by PYC's physical size and

our ability to ensure those who are attending remain safe and have an outstanding experience. Our end-of-year PSA events were very popular including a movie night and 155 students attending the Knot Island picnic and without losing anyone!

As we turn our attention to next year I will be honored to become PYC's Commodore and Vic Hoehnebart will be PSA's new Chairman. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday and we look forward to seeing you next year!



"My advice is to learn all the tricks you can while you're young."

Cartoon courtesy New Yorker magazine.

A PFD must be worn when using a PYC boat or windsurfer!

Before **Reserving the Club**, read the Use Guidelines and check the PYC Calendar for availability. Links are on PYC's homepage at pettipaug.com.



Rear Commodore's Report

House & Grounds

Vic Hoehnebart

A brief rundown on the past year's activities:

Due to river ice, storms and flooding:

- Replacement of dock and pier pilings by outside contractor – some broken by ice, others due to age
- Clean-ups of driftwood and debris deposited everywhere
- Straightening out of boats on grounds, many floated off trailers due to flooding

General repairs and maintenance:

- Repair and re-welding of two gangways
- Re-decking of north pier (by Sandy Sanstrom)
- Better organization of boats on land, some derelict boats removed

Miscellaneous improvements:

- Purchase of two additional picnic tables w/umbrellas and new grill for new sitting area at north end
- More controlled parking for cars using parking barriers with ropes between (to better preserve lawn)
- New traffic pattern for drop-offs and pickups of PSA students (also to preserve lawn)
- Development of new Storm policy to prevent damage to boats and club premises to a certain degree, including a temporary storage arrangement off site for club-owned motorboats
- Development of daily checklist and work list for Club Steward
- Addition of second bulletin board to separate club announcements and race results from member-posted "for sale" ads

Going forward:

There is still much to do, especially since so much of the efforts this year were spent on dealing with the ice, flood and storm damage. Many repair and maintenance items remain uncompleted but, hopefully, some progress can be made this fall and over the winter before the start of next year's boating season.

We also look forward to having Dave Courcy take over the duties of Rear Commodore this coming year and hope that he receives the same great support and assistance from the membership and volunteers that I have enjoyed these last two years.



New pilings and dolphins were installed at the north and middle docks along with a much improved ramp.



Tropical Storm Irene & Fall Work Parties

Thank You ...

Thanks to the members below whose contribution of "sweat equity" makes PYC enjoyable by many and keeps our dues low.

Ed Birch
John Bogaert
Charlie & Connie Brown
Will Campbell
The Courcy Family (Dave, Ann, Aurora, Steven)
Dave Courant
The D'Agostino Family (Karen, Ed, Alex, Mia)
Tom Deary
Garry & Jill DeLea
Bill Dunbar
Ann Easton
John Flory
Paul & Candace Fuchs
Joe Gibbs
Linda Hicks
Vic Hoehnebart
Rick Holloway
Chris Johnson
Doreen Joslow
John Kennedy
Breck Lardner
Fabrice Klein
John Laundon
Chris Manero
Jack MacElwee
Paul Mikulak
Dave Newbegin
Will O'Hearn
Alan Paradis
Peter Pielli & daughter Sloan
Bill Plage
Bill Platt
Paul Risseuw
Priscilla Robinson
The Ryan Family (Kathryn, John, Megan, Michael, Danny)
Tim Ryan
Sandy Sanstrom
Phil Schaller
Bob Scholes
Arnie & Jeremy Sholovitz
Cameron & Stephanie Taylor
Woody Wheeler
Roger Williams
Rosie Willis
Tom Taber with Valley Regional Sailing Team: Brian Shepherd, Paul Ireland, Sean Peterson, Roman Daniels
If your name is not included on this list and should have been, please accept our apology for omitting you. Let yourself be known and we'll make sure we include you in our next Thank You.



PHOTO CREDITS: ED BIRCH, DAVID COURANT, VIC HOEHNEBART, CHRIS MANERO, PAUL RISSEEUW, PRISCILLA ROBINSON, SANDY SANSTROM, LINDA SHEMWELL, STEPHANIE TAYLOR, TOM WALSH, JERRY WILSON.



Pictured (l to r): Instructors Kali Cika, Corey Manero, and Claire Looney; Paul and Mary Risseeuw; Instructor Rebecca Doane; PSA Director & Vice Commodore Chris Manero; Instructors Scott Auperin, Shaun Jaccoma and Nick Roberto.

It was a pleasure and honor for the Board of Governors, acting upon a motion made by Sandy Sanstrom, to vote to rename the Pettipaug Jr. Regatta, recognizing PSA Director Paul Risseeuw's extraordinary work and devotion to the Sailing Academy. To great fanfare and lots of hi-hip-hurrahs a banner officially marking the occasion was unfurled at the Regatta on 21 August 2011.

Membership

Ed Birch, Chairman

At the end of 2011 we have 320 paid up Senior members and 103 Junior members. There are also 12 Life members. Please be sure to pay your 2012 dues by April 1st. or your name will not appear in the 2012 *Yearbook*. The book goes to press the second week of April. Every year we have many members who are not listed in the book because they were late with their dues payment.

Membership applications are available at our web-site. Applications are also available at the club house and from the membership chairman at 860-767-7757. You must have a member in good standing propose you for membership with a second letter and two support letters. The application and letters will be voted on by the PYC Board on the third Monday of every month.

Poweboat Course

Paul Risseeuw, Director

Pettipaug ran 12 one-day Powerboat Courses this summer, training a total of 118 students (12% of the national total) in hands-on operation of our powerboats. Steve David and Jim Crowell ran classes with up to 14 students, utilizing nine powerboats. Paul Risseeuw ran smaller classes for up to ten students. So everyone gets plenty of driving time.

Thanks to a **grant award** from US Sailing and the US Coast Guard, PYC purchased two used Boston Whalers and two new Evinrude outboard motors. We're planning a similar schedule of courses for 2012. Courses are open to twelve year olds and eighty year olds. Contact Paul Risseeuw at 860-767-1995 for more information.

Spring & Fall Work Parties manned by member volunteers is why PYC's dues are so low. Look for next year's schedule on our website, and plan on coming down to lend a hand.



Winners of the 2011 Charles Birch Memorial Trophy:
Jack MacElwee, Jeff Goings & Ed Birch (skipper)
(Named in honor of Ed's father, an active and passionate sailor,
and since its inception in 1971, the trophy has been won by Ed
10 times, five of which with Jeff on *Celebration*,
a well-tuned Morgan 24.)

2011 PYC Special Awards

Laser Trophy

For the season's best performance:

1st Place: Jason Harris
2nd Place: Pat Connelly
3rd Place: Ed Birch

Blue Jay Trophy

For the season's best performance:

1st Place: Sandy Sanstrom
2nd Place: Vic Hoehnebart
3rd Place: Megan Ryan

Capt. Walter Rowe Trophy

For volunteerism and outstanding service:

Marian Carson

U.S. Sailing Sportsmanship Perpetual Trophy

For doing the most to improve the sport of sailing at Pettipaug:

Sandy Sanstrom

The Lieutenant Royal E. Grant Memorial Trophy

For demonstrating marked improvement in sailing and racing:

Kathryn Ryan



A **special presentation** was made to Past Commodore Bob Scholes who retired from the Board this year to return to his roots in South Carolina. In appreciation for his many years

of service a personal pennant was custom-designed to recognize his three great passions: love for PYC (using PYC colors), duck hunting and the U.S.A. (Stars & Stripes). Two were made: one framed to hang on the wall; a second, ready to fly on one of his many "yachts."

2011 PYC Race results

May 15 :: Commodore's Handicap Race

1st: Sandy & Jason Sanstrom – 420

2nd: Vic Hoehnebart – *Blue Jay*

3rd: Chris Marrs – *Laser*

May 21 & June 18 :: One Design Regatta

Not raced – no wind

Jun 18 :: One Design Regatta

Not raced – not enough boats

Jul 16 :: Mid-Summer Handicap Regatta

1st: Vic Hoehnebart & Kids – *Harpoon 4.6*

2nd: Chris Moore – *Laser*

3rd: Bill Platt – 505

Jul 23 :: One Design Regatta

Blue Jays

1st: Sandy Sanstrom

2nd: Vic Hoehnebart

3rd: Bob Scholes

Lasers

1st: Chris Marrs

2nd: Logan Floyd

3rd: Jason Harris

Aug 6 :: Hawkins Team Race with EYC

PYC in 3 out of 4 races

Aug 20 :: One Design Regatta

Blue Jays

1st: Sandy Sanstrom

2nd: Vic Hoehnebart

3rd: Megan Ryan

Lasers

1st: Jason Harris

2nd: Ed Birch

3rd: Tanner Sowa

Sep 17 :: One Design Regatta

Blue Jays

1st: Sandy Sanstrom

2nd: Vic Hoehnebart

3rd: Kate & Tim Ryan

Lasers

1st: John Kolb

2nd: John Amendola

3rd: Pat Connelly

Sept 24 :: Charles Birch Memorial Race

1st: Ed Birch & Jeff Goings – *Morgan 24*

2nd: John Parunak – *Pearson Triton*

3rd: Doug MacDonald – *Pearson 30*

Sept 24 :: Robin Starr Handicap Race

1st: Sandy Sanstrom – *Blue Jay*

2nd: Vic Hoehnebart – *Harpoon 4.6*

3rd: Chris Marrs – *Laser*

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