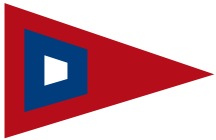


SPRING 2011

:: NEWS FROM PYC & PSA ::



PETTIPAUG
YACHT CLUB
and
SAILING
ACADEMY

STARBOARD TACK

Racing at PYC

By John Kennedy, Racing Chairman



Sailing Ideal 18s during the 2010 Hawkins Team Race with Essex YC, Ed & Marsha Birch of PYC (closest to the camera) head downwind to the leeward mark.
Photo by Vic Hoehnebart

If you haven't had a chance to be involved with PYC's racing activities now is your chance! And if you haven't participated in one of our **One Design Regattas** you have missed a great experience – mixing it up against a few other boats in the same class where micro climate tides and winds put real demands on tactics and sailing techniques ... a really different experience from racing in the “big boats.” And these short races are ideal as a family event. A good way to bond and teach your kids about boats and team work; and, of course, everyone learns the basics of making a boat move under sail in wind and current.

New to racing? We plan to continue with **Adult Race Training** which we began last year for those who might not have much experience in the little one design boats. The club has a few Club 420's, Blue Jays and Lasers available for short term “tryout.” So you see, you have absolutely no excuse for not giving racing a try this year! Please let us know if you are interested in trying your hand at small boat racing and if you are interested in attending a race seminar.

2011 PYC REGATTA SCHEDULE

Monthly One Design Regattas

May 21; June 18; July 23; Aug. 23; Sept. 17

Handicap Races

May 15 :: Commodore's Handicap Race

Jul 16 :: Mid-Summer Handicap Regatta

Sep 24 :: Charles Birch Memorial Race

Sep 24 :: Robin Starr Handicap Race

Oct 1 :: EYC Thomas Clark Memorial Race

Oct 8 :: EYC Thomas Willets Memorial Race

Team Race

Aug 6 :: Hawkins Team Race with EYC

Join the Race Committee Team

Learn the racing rules, so important to winning or losing, especially in small boats. Helping to run a race and watching what happens on the course is a great way to learn what works and doesn't work under different race scenarios.

Here's some things you'll learn:

- Preparing for a Regatta;
- Designing the Course;
- The Race Instructions & Skipper's Meeting;
- Setting out the Course(s) & Resetting them in a big hurry! (especially important for races on our fluky river);
- Signals & Flags;
- Starts & Finishes;
- Recording & Handicaps;
- And the sometimes fun – Protests.

Anyone who signs on to help the Race Committee this year will receive a copy of the great book by Dave Perry, *Understanding the Racing Rules*.

FOR ALL THINGS RACING AT PYC contact John Kennedy at kdesign@snet.net or 860-526-2232.



Impromptu 420 race on a cold, foggy spring afternoon at PYC between four schools with over 20 boats:

Daniel Hand HS (Madison), The Williams School (New London), Valley Regional (Deep River, Essex and Chester), and Xavier HS (Middletown).

Photo by Dayl Chapman & Tom Taber, Valley Regional Sailing Advisors

Commodore's Message

Cameron C. Taylor

Storing Boats at PYC

Members are advised that there is no extra fee to store their boats, but they do so at their own risk. From Commissioning, May 15, to Decommissioning, Sept. 24, claiming a spot is first come first served. There are no reserved spots except for PYC-owned boats which take up the area in the first lot between the small shed on the right and the rowers' racks, and the line-up of PSA 420s and Optimists between the two lots. Last year was particularly crowded. Most members are respectful once a boat has taken up residence, but there are no guarantees and your spot may be taken if it's empty for too long. *(Note: A small sticker with a PYC-number should be on your boat validating that your boat has been registered with the club. Contact Breck Lardner at brecklardner@sbcglobal.net to obtain a sticker.)*

Do not leave equipment of value in your boat or items that can be easily removed. Anything loose may disappear. Theft in general is thankfully rare, but there is no security service patrolling the premises.

PYC is not a "dumping ground" for unused boats

and trailers. The lots are for small-craft boats that members actually use and launch from Pettipaug. Boats and trailers known to be stored unused for the season will be pushed into the grass. An abandoned boat will be sold if the owner does not claim it within a reasonable period of time after notification.

Traffic at PYC

The circular parking area at the clubhouse has been roped off to allow the newly-seeded grass to firmly root. Starting in late June, the area will be available for parking, but to discourage circling through this area, roped stanchions will be placed in the center of the field allowing for parking on either side.

During the Sailing Academy and to ease traffic, parents are advised as they enter PYC's grounds to drive around to the right, drop their children off at the south end of the clubhouse, and exit back up the paved portion of the access road.

Jetskis

Jetskis are not permitted at PYC due to a serious and reckless accident that occurred a few years back.



Heritage courtesy of 12MeterCharters.com.

12 Meter Challenge in Newport

On Saturday, June 18th, PYC will join Essex Corinthian YC, Essex YC and Niantic Bay YC in Newport for this annual 12 Meter event. Eight 12 Meters have been chartered with 114 participants. PYC with a crew of 15 will charter *Heritage* (US-23), a 1970 America's Cup contender and ocean racing champion. The regatta will be followed by a Post Race Party at the Museum of Yachting.

Sign up for **PYC EMAIL NEWS** at pettipaug.com.



PSA students learning how to rig a Blue Jay.

Photo by Vic Hoehnebart

Vice Commodore's Report (Pettipaug Sailing Academy)

Chris Manero

The board has been very busy making preparations and we are off to a great season. Once again we have had a record response and we surpassed our sellout date of April 28th last year by more than a month. We tried to make the enrollment process fairer for returning students and for those who were on the waitlist last year. Based on the response we will need to further fine-tune our process for next year. We have a large number of students returning from last year which quickly filled up our afternoon session necessitating adding another instructor this year.

We have a very experienced team of instructors returning with Corey, Kali, Nick, Rebecca, Scott and Shaun and we have added a new instructor, Claire, to help us during the afternoon sessions.

Our boats are ready-to-go as Paul and Woody have been busy this winter fixing more of our 420s and many thanks to them for taking this on. Due to the overwhelming response from our sailors and instructors last year, the board approved the acquisition of four more windsurfers which will be arriving by early June. With eight-plus boards our instructors now have enough boards for an entire class.

We are ramped up and ready for the year and we look forward to see you all!

US Sailing Powerboat Classes

Paul Risseeuw

Pettipaug is again offering Powerboat training for both members and non-members. These one day courses using behind-the-wheel, on-the-water training will teach you how to handle outboards. The techniques learned also work on much larger boats. This summer, PSA has received a grant from the US Coast Guard, via US Sailing that allows us to purchase some additional boats and new engines. The goal is to double the number of students trained. Last year we trained 81 for a total of 485 over the seven years we've run the course. It also qualifies you for your state Safe Boating Certificate, including Personal Water Craft. Contact Paul Risseeuw at prisseeuw@aol.com or go to the PYC web site for schedules and registration forms.



Photo by Frank Brault

One for the record books!

On April 21, 2011, Dave Fasulo, kayaker extraordinaire and PYC Board member, paddled solo down the Connecticut River from the Massachusetts border to Middletown (about 6 hours). He then met up with a friend and writer for *The Day*, Steve Fagin, and both continued down to Dock & Dine in Old Saybrook (another 6 hours). In all, about 70 miles in 12 hours. Dave says he thinks this journey in one day may be a first. Congratulations Dave! [BTW Dave's second edition of his hugely popular *Self-Rescue* (part of the *How to Climb Series* published by Falcon Guides) is due out June 1st and available through Amazon.com.]

Reminder: **MID SUMMER PARTY** July 16.



Rear Commodore's Report (House & Grounds)

Vic Hoehnebart

Various tasks done in Fall of 2010 and Winter/Spring 2011:

1. Rowers' & north dock gangways – transported to metal shop, welded/repared, brought back. (Paul Risseuw / VH)
2. New boat racks built to be used by Xavier H.S. C420 team in Fall/Spring and by PSA for Optis over summer (Sandy Sanstrom, Cameron Taylor and Rebecca Doane)
3. Driveway repairs & grading – section closest to River Road (contracted to Gene Robida / RED Construction)
4. Lawn repairs & improvements in parking area and south field – grading, power raking, addition of topsoil, fill depressions, seeding, & roping off repaired areas (contracted to Tim Smith / Landscape Management LLC)

Going forward:

1. New grass has had good amount of Fall and Spring season to get established. We intend to keep parking area roped off right until Independence Day weekend so that it is given every opportunity to establish a good root system and be able to survive the remainder of the busy summer season.
2. We hope to implement a drop-off procedure for parents and others dropping off or picking up PSA students; we will try to keep most of the cars off the lawn and carry out the drop-offs/pick-ups on the roadways.
3. We ask that you keep your speed on the driveways to a minimum – excessive speed is the primary reason that potholes and depressions get formed. Hopefully we will put a sign where the crushed stone begins close to the River Road entrance to remind drivers to slow down.
4. Due to the loss of a group of pilings at the north end of the north dock to ice, we are waiting for CT River Dock & Dredge to start the repairs. While they are here, we hope to do additional repairs that are needed to the piers leading out to the north dock & rowers' dock. Improvements to the water and electric systems on the north dock could then be started.
5. We have also begun the cutting of the poison ivy, bittersweet, and grape vines from some of the trees that line the driveway, as they have gotten way out of control (some of the poison ivy vines are over five inches in diameter!).

Again, thanks to all of the volunteers, both from this Spring (listed at right) and from last Fall. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!



Work party installing docks.

Photo by David Courant

Spring Work Parties

Thank You ...

Many hands make light work.

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

Ed Birch
Charlie & Connie Brown
Dave & Ann Courcy
Dave Courant
Mike Donahue
Tom Deary
Paul Dubey
John Flory
Paul Fuchs
Joe Gibbs
Vic Hoehnebart
Larry Johnson
Breck Lardner
John Laundon
Chris Manero
Paul Mikulak
Dave Newbegin
Will O'Hearn
Peter Pielli
Bill Plage
Paul Risseuw
Priscilla Robinson
Kathryn Ryan
Tim Ryan
Sandy Sanstrom
Bob Scholes
Cameron & Stephanie Taylor
Woody Wheeler
Roger Williams

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.



Lockers, Moorings, Membership

Ed Birch

LOCKERS at PYC are assigned every year at the first work party. The fee for a locker is \$5.00. The small lockers are for PSA sailors at no charge. If you have a lock on a locker, please remove it before the first work party on April 30th.

MOORINGS are assigned by the Essex Harbor Commission. Applications are available at the town hall or on line at the Essex web-site.

MEMBERSHIP applications are available on our web-site at : www.pettipaug.com 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 letter. The application and letters will be voted on by the PYC Board on the third Monday of every month.

PYC-Owned Boats

Pettipaug has sailboats that members may use. We have three classes of boats: Blue Jays, 420s and Lasers. Blue Jays are the easiest to sail; Lasers are for more advanced sailors. To borrow any of the boats you must be qualified by one of our adult instructors. Once qualified you may sign out a boat while the club is open during the day from 10am to 4pm, but note that you are responsible for any damage. Please review **2011 Rules for the Use Of Club Boats and Release & Waiver** (PDF) which can be downloaded at pettipaug.com.

BLUE JAYS

Burglar Cherry Bomb

420s (Boats are not named. The eleven boats are designated by number.)

PYC 1-11

LASERS (Boats named after donors.)

Carson Joffray Logan



Photo by John Laundon

Pettipaug YC Rowing

John Flory

The Pettipaug YC Rowing group (PYCR) welcomes three new members for 2011: MJ Agostini, Paul Garrity and Kay Clarke.

PYCR is now a USRowing-affiliated club and our website is listed on the main rowing website: www.row2k.com.

PYCR has leased a quad (a boat for four people each with two oars) to gauge interest in rowing a larger boat on the river. It could be useful both as different training for experienced rowers and as a way to take less experienced rowers onto the river. We will have it for three months starting around May 21. The lease may be extended into the fall racing season if there is sufficient interest."

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