



MONOMOY YACHT CLUB

The Log

Betty Magnusson, Commodore

George W. Fisk, Editor

July, 2009

FROM THE FLAG

Boating season is here and if these rainy days leave us, we'll enjoy being on the water!

Save this date!!! August 16, 2009 at 5 pm

We are working with the US Coast Guard, Chatham Station to enable all boaters who use Chatham Waters to practice using their expired marine flares as a safety exercise. This will take place on August 16 at 5pm at Harding's Beach, 2nd parking lot weather permitting. We have a permit from the Parks and Recreation Commission for this safety exercise. We need members to help with parking and assisting the US Coast Guard with the exercise. Call Suzanne at 945-5052 to volunteer. Suzanne, John Bain and Harry Cutts, who is active with the Coast Guard Auxiliary, are assisting the Coast Guard with arrangements. With guidance from the Coast Guard, we hope to make this exercise a needed practice for boaters of Chatham Waters. The Harbormaster's Department will notify the proper authorities in the area and the Chatham Fire Chief and Police Chief have the event on their rosters.

Bring your expired flares, participate and **volunteer** to help out. Expired flares that are not used will be collected for the Fire Department for their disposal procedure. Safety on our Chatham Waters is our high priority. In case of rain on August 16 the event will be held on August 23.

Thanks to all members for your participation.

Betty Magnusson, Commodore

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With the passing earlier in the year of Bernard Webber, the hero of the rescue of thirty two persons from the wreck of the Pendleton on February 18, 1952; and coincidentally stories in the Cape Cod Times about the refurbishing of the CG36500, the boat used in that rescue, we are reminded once again of the rich nautical history of Chatham and Cape Cod. As a group interested in boating and the sea it is important to keep these stories fresh so we will re-tell the story of the Pendleton (this was told in the March 2005 issue of the Log).

On the night of February 18, 1952, in the midst of a raging blizzard, the tanker Fort Mercer broke in two about 30 miles southeast of Chatham and the Coast Guard sent cutters to the rescue.

Shortly after this another tanker, the Pendleton, also broke in two. The Pendleton was closer to Chatham when it broke in two and the stern section with most of the crew floated towards Monomoy Island. The bow section was further east and the seven men aboard were lost. The rescue of the crew on the stern section fell to Boatswains Mate Bernard Webber and his crew of three volunteers who took a 30 foot motor lifeboat through 25-30 foot seas to the wreck. Going over Chatham Bar they were struck by a giant wave and lost their windshield and compass but they continued on to the wreck.

The Pendleton's stern was listing badly but Webber got his boat close enough to the wreck that the crew could climb down a Jacob's Ladder and drop into the boat. Thirty two men made it safely but the last man missed the boat and was crushed between the boat and the hull of the Pendleton.

Heavily overloaded with no compass and barely able to see in the driving rain and snow Webber guided the boat by sheer instinct over the bar and back to the fish pier in one of the great rescues in Chatham's history.

This story is more completely told in Webber's book Chatham: "The Lifeboatmen". Also the complete story of the two tankers and the Coast Guard's response is well told in the book From Highland to Hammerhead by Captain Charles B. Hathaway U.S. Coast Guard, Retired. This is a most interesting book with many stories of shipwrecks and rescues along the Cape. As you may have assumed the author, Captain Hathaway, is indeed Chuck Hathaway a long time member of Monomoy Yacht Club profiled in the April 2009 issue of the Log.

Normally the CG 36500 -was on display at Rock Harbor in Orleans. We assume that when the restoration is complete there will be notification in the newspaper as to where it will be displayed.

More history - Monomoy Yacht Club, a Peek at its Past by Past Commodore Bob Edwards (Deceased) as told to Past Commodore Dick Evans is available at \$5.00 a copy from "Stores". This is a handsome book produced by Jeff Hahner.

As you continue through the Log you will find the name Hahner several times. Bette and Jeff Hahner are a talented couple who have used their talents to benefit Monomoy Yacht Club in many ways. As Co-Chairs of the Entertainment Committee they have developed new programs and new venues for our enjoyment and the announcements have been works of art. Their names will come up in the report on the Clubhouse redecorating project and there is an enclosed announcement of an entertaining evening out. Again, thanks to Bette and Jeff.

We thank you both for all you have done and are doing for Monomoy. It is gratifying to see members contribute so much talent, skill and time for the benefit of the Club!

The redecorated Clubhouse received raves from every quarter, A lot of work and planning went into this venture along with untold hours of volunteered time. Someone has to coordinate a project

of this magnitude and this was ably done by Regina and Jerry McDowell and Bette and Jeff Hahner.

These folks guided the project, kept to a timeline, stayed within budget and most remarkable kept the volunteers working and happy. The club owes the McDowells and the Manners a large thank you for a job well done! We are certain that they would agree that all the committee members and volunteers are also owed a big thank you from the Club!

The newly decorated Clubhouse is available to members for their private parties or events. Call Bill Jordan (508) 945-4455 for more info and reservations.

Barbara Arnold, wife of Bud Arnold passed away on June 13, 2009. Our condolences to Bud and his family. As has been said we do not regularly publish such notices, however, because of Bud's years of dedicated service to the Club it seems important that we do this.

The summer months are busy ones indeed for MYC: The "Tall Ships" trip is sold out, rendezvous are scheduled (more on these later) an evening out is planned and the picnic is on the horizon. Mark your calendars for Wednesday September 9, the annual MYC Beach Party! Hardings Beach is the place and 2 to 6 pm is the time for this annual, not-to-be missed fun event. More information will be coming in your July picnic flyer but for now.. .pencil it in today!

One long time ritual that has been getting fewer and fewer participants is the "Brown Bag" lunch. Every Tuesday at noon we gather at the Clubhouse with our lunch for fellowship and conversation. Let's revive this fun practice. Grab a sandwich and join us at noon every Tuesday.

While MYC has several forms of communication (the Log, the MYC website, e-mail), e-mail is clearly the most frequent, the most convenient, and the most timely. John Brooks, Chairman of E-mail Communications, has recently up-dated the club e-mail database, to find that about 50 members are currently not listed.

While it is recognized that some members do not have computers, and that some may be reluctant to have their e-mail address in the club database, please be assured that a) the database is secure. ... it is used solely for Monomoy Yacht Club e-mail communications and is not available for any other purpose; and b) the distribution of the e-mail message is hidden, so that the only e-mail address shown on the message will be your own.

If you haven't already (or if you are not sure you already did) please provide your e-mail address to John Brooks by sending an e-mail to him (cljonbrks@comcast.net) indicating you are providing your e-mail address. Be sure to include your name, since actual names are not always clear in the e-mail address.

The rendezvous season is off to a slow start, with the first one on the East side already "scrubbed" due to weather. The second one, including a cruise to the Wequasset Inn for lunch, became a "land" event because of rain and fog.

While some of the rendezvous are theme events and may have a beach party associated with them, most are raft-outs, where the boats anchor together for cocktails and shared hors d'oeuvres. Those that have attended them in the past agree they are some of the more fun events of the club.

If you have a boat, grab a member (or other) friend and come along. If you don't have a boat but want a ride with someone who does, call Dennis Schock (432-3128, dennisschock@msn.com) or Harry Cutts (432-1365, seaclusion@comcast.net), the respective Fleet Captains for the East and the South. They will arrange a boat for you. The boat owners are always anxious to have another round of hors d'oeuvres on their boat.

Check the MYC directory for dates and details, or hitch a ride with your favorite boat captain. And should you have suggestions regarding the rendezvous, the Fleet Captains are always looking for ways to improve these events.

Please note the following change.. .The East side R.D.V.U. scheduled for Wednesday, August 5th will now be on Thursday, August 6th. It will be a lobster roll beach party at Jackknife beach at 4:00. Come by boat or car, enjoy a lobster roll and coleslaw; catered by Chatham Fish & Lobster at a cost of \$17.99 per person. Please bring an appetizer and your choice of beverage. Remember to bring your beach chair. In case of a weather event, we will meet at the clubhouse at 4:00. Reservations and a check made out to Dennis Schock, P.O. Box 1393, Harwich, MA 02645 by 7/26/09. Hope to see you on August 6th. Any questions please call Dennis, 508-432-3128.