



# BRIGANTINE YACHT CLUB



Vol. 74, No. 3

May 2020

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## From the Commodore John Bilotta

Dear BYC Families,

What strange times we are living in! First and foremost, I hope everyone is staying healthy, safe and sane. COVID-19 has certainly turned our world upside down as we deal with being limited in what we can do (and where we can do it) until at least May 15<sup>th</sup>. Please know you are all in my thoughts and I hope you are finding some moments of peace and joy despite it all.

I'm sure we are "all in the same boat" when it comes to looking forward to summer, specifically summer at the BYC. Rest assured, the flag officers and trustees have been connecting frequently as we deal with this unprecedented situation and plan against a range of scenarios. To that end, I'd like to share a few quick updates based on the information we have presently:

- **Spring Workday:** Workday will be postponed to a date that is still to be determined. It is likely that we will have to split up the work across a few days and create "shifts" so we can maintain some social distancing.
- **Ramps:** We will be lowering the ramps on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, so members can sail, kayak or paddleboard. We do ask that you maintain social distancing while in the yard and on the docks.
- **Sunset Bar:** Sadly, we will have to delay the opening of the Sunset Bar until June 26<sup>th</sup>
- **Sailing Program:** We will tentatively kick off the sailing program on June 27<sup>th</sup>. As of right now, plans are in place to run the program as normal, maintaining social distance to the degree we can. Rear Commodore Leo Parsio has been working hard behind the scenes with the sailing committee and will share additional updates as we learn more about what the State will allow us to do and when.
- **Social Events:** While we are still working through how our social event calendar will look this year given the pandemic, we are committed to carrying on our great Saturday night traditions. Vice Commodore Melissa Acton has many events lined up, and while they may look a little different, we know they will be as entertaining as in past years. There are still a few open dates, so please consider hosting a party or dinner.

I want to thank the chairs of the various BYC committees for Summer 2020:

Membership Committee Chair: Sarah Chaikin  
Nominating Committee Chair: Carrie Mulford  
House & Grounds Chair: John Ferguson  
Dock & Bulkhead Chair: Leo Parsio  
Finance Committee Chair: Stu Brereton  
Sailing Committee Chair: Michelle Verceles

Auxiliary Chair: Jean Munoz  
Junior Advisors: Samantha Cann  
Communications: Gale Donohue  
75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Jane Gibbons/Nancy Collier Owings

As previously mentioned, the Sailing Committee has been diligently working to get this year's program finalized. With everything I have seen from this committee we are surely strengthening our program this year for our competitive team, and, as importantly, for our more casual sailors. I do have to say that, as a parent, I know my children are not only learning how to sail, they are acquiring skills that will transfer to all parts of their lives: independence, critical thinking, responsibility, strategy, inclusion in a wonderful community, etc. What great life lessons to engrain into our children!

Participating on the various committees is what keeps our club vibrant. Folks give many hours of time and dedication to keeping the club moving forward and I would like to send out a special "thank you" to everyone who gets involved. I think the saying is "Many hands make light work" so, please consider reaching out to the Committee chairs so that the work feels less and we can all "play" more this summer. There truly is something for everyone to get involved with and it's a great way to get to know more members and make lifelong friends. Any members who are interested in participating on committees are encouraged to contact any of the flag officers (Leo Parsio, Melissa Acton or me). Whether you have a specific interest or talent, an idea or inspiration, or even a need you see could be filled, there's always a way for everyone to contribute to this great club.

For those that didn't know, the Brigantine Yacht Club was founded 75 years ago on June 7, 1945. The times were similar: Much like this year, that summer was one of great uncertainty with a world at war. Our founding is proof that great things can and will continue to happen despite adversity! As I write this, I'm thinking about what amazing people the BYC founders were and what a mark they left on the island. What they started on this little section of the bay that we call "The Club" is really more than just a club. As PC Hugh Braithwaite so eloquently put it: It's a magic castle. It's a truly special place where friends, new and old, come together and enjoy everything that life has to offer (with a little saltwater added). I, as well as many others, can say that we have made lifelong friends at this "Magic Castle". So, let's not let a little adversity get in the way of celebrating our 75<sup>th</sup>.

In order to commemorate this important day in our 75 year history, we will be bringing back a tradition with a Flag Raising and Memorial service honoring the Founding and past members of the club. This will be held at 10 AM on Saturday, June 6. with the rain date of Sunday, June 7. With this occurring outside, it will allow us to maintain social distancing guidelines for the safety of our members. The Brigantine Yacht Club Band will be recruiting previous and new members to perform patriotic music for the event. If interested in joining the band, please contact Catherine Herrmann.

Lastly, invoices for 2020 have been sent to all of the members. If you have any questions or haven't received it, please contact Treasurer Tom Parvesse. We ask that you make your payment to BYC by the due date as we have to maintain a steady cash flow to keep the club operating.

Looking forward to Summer 2020!

## From the Vice Commodore☆☆Melissa Acton

Greetings from Quarantine-

Your trustees and your commodores are working to ensure that we will bring our membership the best, in accordance with what summer guidelines the governor enforces, as the restrictions ease. It may be the most unique summer of our lifetimes. We are ever changing and flexible. We will continue to adjust our sails. We've decided to put, as Paul Acton aptly stated, "a stake in the ground." If we need to adjust this timeline we will as your safety is paramount. We want to look forward to being together in our beloved Brigantine this summer.

Opening Weekend is currently being scheduled for the weekend of June 26th. We are looking forward to celebrating the BYC's 75th Birthday! This season, the season of Sail -A -Bration, will begin with a party being planned for Saturday, June 27th. Please thank the 75th Celebration Committee for continuing to plan despite the numerous challenges we are facing.

These anniversary celebrations will continue in July beginning with our home regatta the weekend of July 16th.

More events are being planned and there are a couple of open dates still to be celebrated. Open Saturdays are July 11, August 22 and 29 !!! Please contact me to set up a great socially distanced event!!!

We will continue to monitor the guidelines and communicate on how we plan to proceed.

Friday Sunset Bar Nights will look different, we are committed to your safety and will bring you the best opportunity for socializing that we can.

Be on the lookout for a message from Gale as there will be a VIRTUAL Sunset Bar this Friday, May 8th from 6 to 7:40 using Zoom!!! Looking forward to seeing all your faces!!!

## From the Rear Commodore ☆ Leo Parsio

COVID-19 / Coronavirus. How many times have we read that in the headlines? The Coronavirus has turned our world upside down and we are feeling quarantine fatigue. It's just been about a couple months and I can't go out to the grocery store without prepping like I'm about to walk on the moon. I mean come on, who hasn't seen on the internet the man walking through the stores with scuba gear, and an oxygen tank. If you are looking for a respite, the internet does not disappoint.

While we all have been ordered to 'stay at home', we keep looking to see when will it all end. The biggest questions are: When will this pandemic be over? When can I leave the house? What rules will be in place when they do? Will we still need to wear a face covering? Will we still need to stay 6 feet apart? While we don't know the answers to all of those questions quite yet, rest assured we are planning to open the club this summer. In fact, following the guidance from the Governor's six-part plan, we should be able to start our sailing season on schedule. Albeit, we may need to follow some restrictions as we start the season, over time normalcy should start to return just as the summer heats up.

Therefore, I am planning on our sailing instruction starting on schedule, which will be June 29<sup>th</sup>. We will also hold the moth regatta on June 20<sup>th</sup> although that is subject to change. The first MAYRA regatta is scheduled for July 2<sup>nd</sup> in Greater Wildwood. The governing body of MAYRA will let us know if there are

any changes to their proposed schedule.

I will continue to review the Governor's guidance but based upon what I see today, we can expect some level of preventative measures to be in place when we start the sailing instruction. With the weather as dreary as it has been, my kids can't wait to get back on the water this summer.

This crisis is very dynamic and we will respond accordingly, but I wanted to highlight a few plans that will keep us in accordance with the guidelines:

- We will break out the timing of the sailing instruction. Similar to our normal schedule, the beginner program will begin in the morning, with intermediates/advanced kids scheduled to the afternoon. However, to further isolate we are looking at implementation of a 7-day schedule. In addition, depending upon our sailor numbers we may have to offset instruction time with some groups going later in the afternoon. There will be more discussion on this topic but this is something we are looking at.
- Each grouping of kids will be assigned to their own instructor. This would keep groups under 8 and allows us to maintain the US Sailing recommendation of the student to instructor ratio of 7 to 1.
- Face coverings, we should plan on all the kids wearing face coverings. However, they do not need to be those N95 masks. Instead I would recommend wearing Lycra neck gaiters. Many other kids use them to protect their faces from the sun and it would be easier for kids to wash and re-use them and are comfortable to wear in the humid weather.
- Securing safe spaces within the club. Being outside, the virus cannot live very long however, we can't have the kids in the sun all day so we will set aside space within the club by utilizing the both upstairs and down. These areas will be limited to groupings as I indicated above but when there is a transition to go outside, the instructors will coordinate the effort to keep the groups isolated.
- Kids will be washing their hands on a periodic basis. This would be in addition to bathroom breaks or eating their lunch/snacks.
- Instructors will be required to sanitize the club periodically as well. This means an old fashion, wipe down using soap and warm water. Door knobs, tables and chairs will be the primary focus, as well as anything else kids seem to touch.
- The little kids (beginners) will be the biggest focus as it is harder for them to adjust to new rules in behavior. The sailing committee will discuss in greater detail how to keep them from touching each other, instructors and other personal belongings but as we get closer, we will work with the parents ahead of time to help prepare them.

We will continue to evaluate and communicate any changes but hopefully some of these restrictions never materialize.

As we do every year, I need to know how many sailors we will have in the sailing program. I understand some may be apprehensive right now, however, if this was any other year, minus COVID-19, would you be signing you kids up? If so, please email me at [lparsio@comcast.net](mailto:lparsio@comcast.net) Include the sailors name, age and skill level, (beginner, intermediate and/or racing team (aka BOLT)). This information is very helpful as it allows us to staff the program accordingly.

I will continue to work with my sailing committee in conjunction with our commodore John Bilotta and the Trustees' as we navigate through the challenges COVID-19 has presented. If anyone has any questions or recommendations please email me.

As for work day, we will not hold a work day in the traditional sense. I will be emailing various volunteers and give them a list of tasks that need to be done in the month of May. This will keep us social distanced but still get things done. Weather permitting, Steve Donohue and myself will lower the ramps on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Take Care and stay safe. But better yet, let's think Summer!

## **Treasurers Report *by Tom Parvesse***

On April 9th, the 2020 membership invoices were either emailed or sent out to all current members. You can now pay your BYC invoice using VENMO. If you have not received an invoice or have any questions regarding your invoice, please contact me at [parvesse@tmprefining.com](mailto:parvesse@tmprefining.com).

Please keep in mind that the club's cash flow is important early in the season because on June 1st, the loan repayments checks are sent out to the members that loaned the club money to build the new building.

## **Membership Committee *by Sarah Chaikin***

Brigantine Yacht Club welcomes new members!

Introducing two new families who joined in March of this year:

- Matthew and Sandy Grajewski joined because of their interest in both socializing and sailing, Matt is a crop sales specialist, and Sandy is a high school science teacher. Brigantine is their second home.
- Liz and Mark Colavita joined along with their 7-year-old twins, Luca and Lydia. In Mark's words, "There are several reasons that we would like to join. We like the Brigantine community and feel that by joining, it will continue to cement our roots in the neighborhood." Luca and Lydia hope to participate in the sailing program. We welcome these new members to our club!



## ***We're All in the Boat:***

*by GaleDonohue, Corresponding Secretary*

As we are rolling into the summer season, please take a moment and go to our website, [bysail.com](http://bysail.com) Member Login Section – Located in the upper right portion of the homepage. **Click on “Member Login” and enter the following password – BYC1040. (all caps).** You'll find the most recent Member Directory, Committee Handbooks (once they are completed!), BYC policies, and all the archived BYC newsletters. One stop shopping.

**Please open the directory and check your information** including your home and shore address along with pertinent information and please send any changes needed to [gcdonohue13@gmail.com](mailto:gcdonohue13@gmail.com). Thanks!!

## ***BYC's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning!***

As previously presented in the February Newsletter, this year we are celebrating 75 amazing years of sailing, socials, friendships and fun. Despite the challenges, presented by the Covid 19 virus, we are determined to do our best to commemorate and celebrate this special Anniversary. We are planning these events with the best interest of our members and their safety based on the guidelines at the time of the events.

Our celebration begins with the official **Flag Raising and Commemoration of the Founding** and Past members of our club. This event will take place on the actual Anniversary weekend, June 6, at 10 AM

(rain date June 7) As in many past Flag raisings, the BYC band will perform. Veteran and new members of the band are needed. Please contact Catherine Herrmann if interested.

[cherrmann2313@icloud.com](mailto:cherrmann2313@icloud.com) There will be a dedication of a commemorative piece during the morning events. This will be an all outside event. Social distancing will be expected.

On June 27, our celebration continues with an **Anniversary Party**, chaired by Sally Oliveri and Ruth Scholl [soliveri534@aol.com](mailto:soliveri534@aol.com) Based on the restrictions at that time, this event will be unique in how we socialize and stay safe. There will be updates as we get closer as to what that will look like. Flexibility will be a recurring theme this season and utilization of our outdoor space will be paramount in helping us maintain safe distances.

And then we come to **our Sail-a-bration Weekend in mid-July**. To kick off the events we will highlighting a visual history of the club with a **Photographic Exhibit and Contest** of “BYC Through the Years” on Friday night, July 17. This is being chaired and organized by long time member, Sue Ferguson. Sue needs your help with photographs old and new. Pictures that tell our story from on the water or on the land, monumental events or every day recreation, vintage or present day. Please email or drop off your pictures to Sue in the next few weeks. All photos will be returned. Please put your name, date, at least the year on your photos. Prizes will be awarded in various categories. Sue Ferguson 1201 Bayshore Ave. [setsailsue@comcast.net](mailto:setsailsue@comcast.net)

In addition, there will be an **Anniversary Slide Show Presentation**. Hugh and Carolyn Braithwaite are creating that and would appreciate your photos for consideration. Please send those via dropbox or email to [hugh@gobraithwaite.com](mailto:hugh@gobraithwaite.com)

On Saturday, July 18, the Sail-a-bration continues as the BYC brings back its historic Parade of the Fleet. Here’s a chance to strut your best along the bay in one of our commemorative 75<sup>th</sup> categories: Through the 70 Decades - famous figures, events or places, and through the 70 Decades, Nautical or Cinema. All vessels are welcome, sail, motor, oar or paddle. This event is chaired by Colleen and Peter Stahl. Any questions contact [collstahl@yahoo.com](mailto:collstahl@yahoo.com)

A **Family Barbecue** will follow the parade and an outdoors **Reunion Party** that evening.

On Sunday, July 19, BYC will host a **Regatta** for all fleets, to include present and past members. This will be followed by refreshments and awards. This event is being chaired by John and Dale Keating [DMKMASS@aol.com](mailto:DMKMASS@aol.com)

We are in need of volunteers for these events, please contact the individual chairs or the Anniversary co-chairs. Nancy Collier [nanckb1327@aol.com](mailto:nanckb1327@aol.com) Jane Gibbons [gibbons.jane@gmail.com](mailto:gibbons.jane@gmail.com)



## *News and Notes*

The Junior Sailing Program is accepting sailboat donations! We are in need of used, yet **decent sailable condition**, Sunfish, Laser, and 420 boats, trailers and sails. Contact Colleen Stahl with description of year, conditions, and known working parts to donate.

[collstahl@yahoo.com](mailto:collstahl@yahoo.com) 267-229-2552



**YEARS AND GOING STRONG!**

**BYC Friendships Know  
No Distance!**

**Kick Off the 2020 Season  
at the**

***Virtual Sunset Bar!***

**Date: Friday, May 8**

**Mix and mingle  
with your BYC friends!**

**6:00 to 6:40 Hosts are  
Brian and Carrie Mulford  
Gale and Steve Donohue**

**6:30 to 7:10 pm Hosts are  
Derrick Owings and Nancy Collier  
Melissa and Paul Acton  
Leo and Sheila Parsio**

**7:00 to 7:40 pm Hosts are  
Tom and Mary Parvesse  
Harry and Sarah Chaikin**



# Mix and mingle with your BYC friends!

**6:00 to 6:40 Hosts are  
Brian and Carrie Mulford**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77543392866>

**Gale and Steve Donohue**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87440076915?pwd=TDhMcDRuTUJOMURCT1RwSHc5WFRJQT09>

Meeting ID: 874 4007 6915

Password: 6Bx0bX

**6:30 to 7:10 pm Hosts are  
Derrick and Nancy Owings**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76596743003?pwd=L1NsRFk3aVRMTWY3WmZHWno5OHJwUT09>

Meeting ID: 765 9674 3003

Password: BARISOPEN

**Melissa and Paul Acton**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6899005124?pwd=VTlpcHUwblJvbWVWbIVzaWNsZ2V4UT09>

Meeting ID: 689 900 5124

Password: 0NhGRw

**Leo and Sheila Parsio**

<https://faavideo.zoomgov.com/j/16033070711>

Password: 7767

**7:00 to 7:40 pm Hosts are  
Tom and Mary Parvesse**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73334064689?pwd=K0NKOUFTcnh6NXRSSXIXcElhU1IBOT09>

Meeting ID: 733 3406 4689

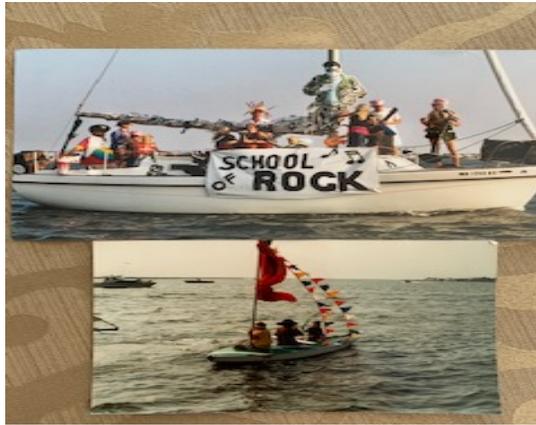
Password: 014430

**Harry and Sarah Chaikin**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74521844686>

## The Virtual Sunset Bar

- BYOB (unless you want a virtual cocktail)
- Jump into a Zoom group between the hours shown.
- Attend one Zoom group or several!



### **Brigantine Yacht Club**

Published six times annually as a source of information for BYC membership. Additional copies are available upon request.

To submit materials for publication, please contact:

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