



THE HARBOR LIGHT



New Commanders, Andy Cummings JN and Howard Sklar AP-IN (L-R above)

From Andy:

I am very proud that you have chosen me, along with Howard Sklar, to be one of your Co-Commanders. I believe that Howard and I will make a great team and I am excited about taking on this role.

Most of you know me as your Squadron Educational Officer, a position that I have held since 2012. But please let me introduce myself. I started boating at the age of 8 behind the wheel of my grandfather's 18 foot runabout with a 35hp Owens outboard. (Yes, I am dating myself.) After a bit of a hiatus from boating during college and law school, I bought my first real boat in 1991 and enjoyed boating on San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento Delta until moving to Greenwich in 1995. My current boat is a 33 foot Bertram (Lucky Two). Indeed, I am a power boater, although I have dabbled (successfully and unsuccessfully) behind the tiller of a sail boat. I am a lawyer by training and professional background, although "semi" retired at the moment. When I am not boating, I enjoy SCUBA diving and taking pictures above and below the water.

I welcome your comments and ideas. Please don't hesitate to email me at AndyCummingsCT@gmail.com.

From Howard:

After attending Queens College in New York and the University of Maryland, I began my career with Proctor & Gamble Research and Development. I was responsible for a new industrial frying oil, "Frymax", which changed the way frying oil was used commercially. I left to open pizza and sub restaurants and finally came to NY with my wife, Marcia and our two children to manage the family business, Durotone, a leader in carpet and fabric cleaning, repairing, and the installation of home furnishing textiles. Currently I lecture on the subject throughout the USA.

As an avid fisherman, I joined USPS in 1985 to sharpen my boating knowledge and to be able to venture farther and farther from shore for that "elusive" fish. I had a twin engine 28-foot Grady White and spent most summer afternoons out on the Long Island Sound. Today, I fish the rivers and creeks in and around Charleston and Johns Island, South Carolina.

I have served in many leader positions in the Cross County Power Squadron, Westchester Sail & Power Squadron, and District 2. These include eight years as Commander of CCPS and District 2 Commander 2013-2014. In my new role as Co-Commander of America's Boating Club of Greenwich, I look forward to serving with Andy Cummings and meeting any challenges that lie ahead.

Introducing your New Officers

Co-Commanders: Andrew Cummings, JN and P/D/C Howard Sklar, AP-IN

Executive Officer: David Leisten

Educational Officer: P/D/C Susan Ryan, JN

Administrative Officer: Joe Grieco

Asst. Educational Officer: Frank Palmieri, JN

Treasurer: Mike Ryan

Secretary: Laura Fox

The Executive Committee includes the above plus Meg Kelley (AsstAdministrative Officer), P/C Bob Henry SN, P/C Vicki Malara P, P/D/C Andy Papademetriou SN, Karolyn Armstrong P.

Report from the Educational Officer, Susan Ryan, JN

A Sailor's Dreaded Chore – Climbing the Mast

Traditionally, the method for going up the mast has been in a bosun's chair – a wooden plank attached to a rope bridle. Now there are alternatives that have come onto the market. These use techniques and similar equipment to those used in traditional climbing but allow the user to climb unassisted and not require on the skill and attentiveness of a crewmember manning a winch at deck level.

One of the most popular is the ATN Mastclimber, which uses a bosun's chair and a pair of foot loops attached to a couple of ascenders. To use, a line is made off fast near the base of the mast and winched tight, the ascenders clipped on, and by alternately transferring your weight from foot straps to seat, the ascenders are slid up the rope. Descending is a reversal of the procedure. If you see it in action, it looks simple, but it does require a fairly high level of fitness to use, particularly if the mast is tall.

Some boats have a fixed set of mast steps, probably the ultimate in ease of use being fixed in place and ready at a moment's notice. But they add windage aloft and are apt to catch an errant halyard or flapping spinnaker.

There is another option: Yacht Mast Ladder by Kinleven Marine is a cross between a traditional rope ladder and fixed mast steps. The ladder is made to measure depending on the height of your mast. With the main sail removed, the ladder guides slip into the sail track and are hoisted to the masthead. The user then simply has to climb to the required height at their own pace.

No matter which option you choose, for peace of mind, wearing a safety line is still a good idea.

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Report from the Safety Officer, Andy Cummings, JN

Storm Surges

Often overlooked from a discussion of tides is the impact of a storm surge, an unusually high water level resulting from the winds associated with a storm. This impact might seem academic because one is not likely to be boating during a storm sufficient to create a storm surge. However, several important facts are worth noting.

Tide charts (either paper or electronic) are based upon predictive algorithms and thus do not include the effects of a storm surge. Storm surges can arise from far less than hurricane force winds and can last for several hours after the subsistence of the storm. The danger of deeper than anticipated water is not running aground but running afoul of bridge clearances.

Consider the high winds we experienced locally on the evening of Friday March 3rd and into Saturday morning. According to historical weather data, during this period, sustained winds exceeded 25 mph and gusts exceeded 45 mph and winds fell to about 15 mph by 6:00am Saturday morning. A National Weather Service advisory issued at 6:00am Saturday morning predicted the 9:00am high tide at Stamford Harbor to be 11.5 feet above MLLW, noting this tide to be 4.5 feet above normal. In contrast, my electronic tide chart showed this tide to be 7.8 feet above MLLW.

National Weather Service Watches Warnings & Advisories can be found on the NWS website (forecast.weather.gov) under the tab "Hazardous Weather Outlook."

THE Joy of Boating

Want to cruise on a boat somewhere in the world or perhaps on Long Island Sound but don't know how to begin? Contact our member Captain Joy Sherman joy@joyridecharters.com or 203-530-5037 and check out her website <http://joyridecharters.com>

Joy has put together over 40 charters in Cuba, Greece, Croatia, Thailand and the nearby Caribbean. You may choose your own destination and she'll make it happen. She'll have one or more catamarans full of compatible people (sometimes women only) with herself and experienced captains and give everyone a wonderful time for a very reasonable fee.

During the summer her day charters on the Sound include taking couples out for romantic trips, perhaps for a 'Pop the Question', groups for birthdays and anniversaries, and any other occasion – or just for a day on the

water. You may do as much/helming/grinding/catering as you want. Captain Joy fits in with everything.

During a recent trip with her in the Caribbean, I asked Joy how she'd become such a great boatsman. I wasn't surprised to hear she'd grown up on boats – at various times her family lived on a boat (she remembers being driven in their boat's Boston Whaler to school in the Bahamas), she was home schooled at times.

After high school in Waterford, CT, she went to the Rhode Island School of Design and obtained her BA in Fine Arts (Photography). . . met the crews in the Newport races. . . and unsurprisingly was drawn in 'to do the boat circuit' for several years. She began as a stewardess, then became cook, and then moved up to first mate. She'll still produce a healthy dish or two on a charter abroad.

She worked for her father's car and yacht dealerships, learning her good business and marketing sense with him. She then decided to get her captain's license – "just because I could". So what do you do with a captain's license? You buy a boat and start a business –she purchased a 1963 35' Pearson Alberg. It needed a lot of work, but her father's prior captain helped her with that - and began her day charters. All the while, Joy was working full time in management at Yale University School of Medicine and evenings took up getting the business up and running.

This past January she retired from Yale and is now working full time on her global charters. With 3,000 followers on various social media platforms, and her excellent marketing acumen, these sell out fast.

Joy's own joy is bringing the young into boating. When asked what photo she'd like to accompany this article, she chose this one of her with novice Cristina Samaniego. They had a week together in January and Cristina soaked up all she could from this expert captain. When asked how she handled any 'Captain Blighs' that might venture onto her boat, Joy smiled and said that during her safety briefing, at the start of any charter, she kindly but firmly, mentions 'Leave your ego on shore' and that applies to everyone. My own experience with her is that apart from handling any boating or logistical problem with a charter, her firm, quiet voice and obvious experience commands the respect of all on board. We are very fortunate to have her as a member of America's Boating Club of Greenwich.

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Explanation of the Photos

March 3rd Change of Watch hosted over 60 members at the Field Club.

March 11th at the Greenwich Police Station we graduated 39 students from our Safe Boating Class. Photo shows all the teenagers during a breakout session led by Frank Palmieri. This was only half the class!

The Holiday Party was held at the beautiful Field Club and attracted over 70 members. Webmaster Rich Malloy put together this collage of his great photographs from the event.

The Darien Squadron joined us in January at the Greenwich YWCA. Author Erik Hesselberg regaled attendees with stories of steamers traveling from the Connecticut River down to New York and back. Joe Grieco produced his best refreshments, and David Leisten tended bar as always.

Captain Joy introduces Cristina Samaniego to the helm of a catamaran in the Caribbean.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Watch your inbox for details or contact GreenwichSquadron@gmail.com

April 19 7pm at the Greenwich YWCA 259 East Putnam Ave, Greenwich: Rick Delfosse 'Cruising Round the World; Latest Adventures in Fiji.'

May 17, Sept 20, Oct 18, Nov 15 7pm at YWCA: Speaker meetings; topics tbd.

June 2 7pm chez Andy and Julie Cummings 17 Tomac Ave, Old Greenwich, Commander's Summer Cocktails

SUMMER PROGRAM

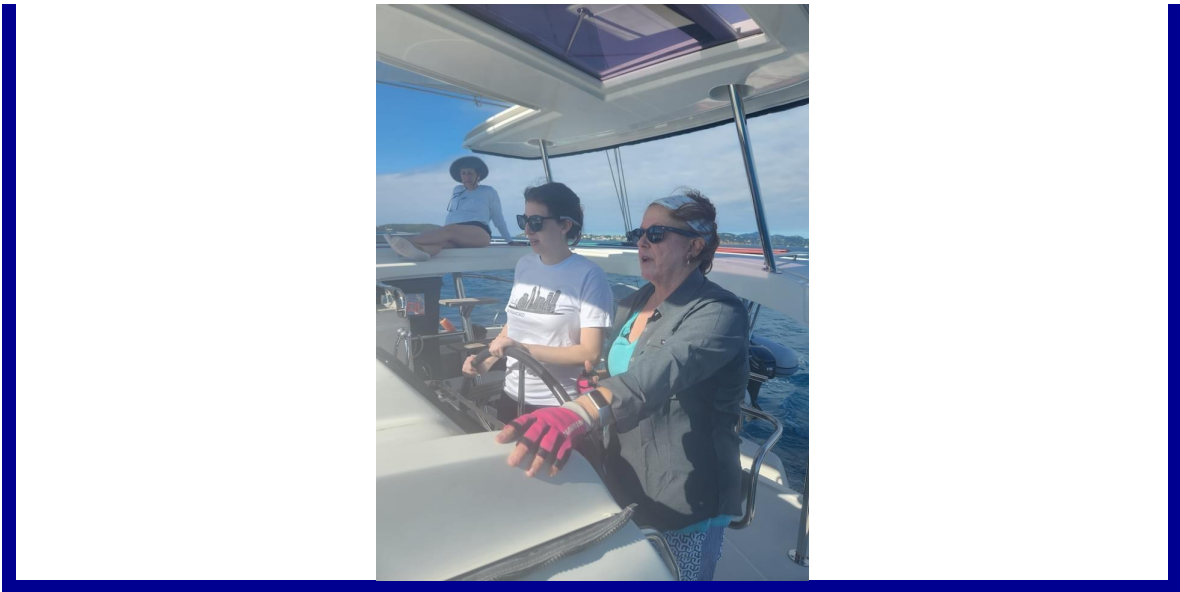
We will again offer our weekly sunset sails and monthly raftups as weather permits.

July 23 4pm Lobster bake at Greenwich Point.

PARTNER in COMMAND: Saturday June 24 9am - 12noon. Andy Cummings gives basic instruction on how an inexperienced crew member can take over the helm of a boat and get help should the skipper become incapacitated. This includes hands-on instruction on his own boat docked at the Water Club.

December 15 Holiday party at the newly built Innis Arden Country Clubhouse.





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