



2021 Fall Newsletter

BICS was incorporated as a nonprofit 501, (C), (3) organization in 2017 by Island sailing program supporters who were intent on making the sport of sailing fun, accessible and affordable to everyone. BICS promotes a welcoming environment that learning, volunteerism, and the satisfaction of supporting a true community benefit program.

Directors:

George Davis
John Doolittle
Henry duPont
Jacques Fiechter
James Gallacher
Tom Lee
Ted Merritt
Ray Torrey
Chuck Townsend

All donations to BICS are tax deductible as allowed by the IRS for charitable organizations.

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Block Island Community Sailing, Inc. (BICS), the Island's educational, nonprofit community sailing organization, has had a busy sailing season this year which was highlighted by our approval as an accredited US Sailing Keelboat Sailing School, the only one in Southeastern New England. BICS sailing program management has been working for two years to achieve this goal which was only made possible by:

1. the addition of new boats to our fleet including a Soling, which is a former Olympic Class 3-person sloop, and a Cape Dory 28 coastal cruiser.
2. US Sailing fully Certified Keelboat Sailing Instructors on staff, and
3. Adoption of the US Sailing Keelboat School curriculum and teaching program.

The road to accreditation approached the finish line when BICS hosted a US Sailing Keelboat Instructor's Certification Clinic at our sailing center the first week in June. The Clinic drew prospective keelboat instructor candidates from as far away as the US Virgin Islands and Coral Gables Florida. Both BICS Sailing Instructor Andrew Connelly, and BICS Program Director Henry duPont passed the course and received their US Sailing Keelboat Instructor certificates. During the first part of the sailing season, US Sailing reviewed our keelboat sailing instruction methods, curriculum, lesson plans, insurance, emergency action plans, sailing vessel suitability, and other requirements for accreditation. Accreditation was granted by US Sailing on August 18th, just in time for use this sailing season.



BICS strives to help our students to achieve their own US Sailing Keelboat Sailing Certification. Successful completion of the Basic Keelboat Sailing course by our students, which includes a practical sailing test on the water and a sailing knowledge written test onshore will grant the student sailor a US Sailing Keelboat Sailing Certificate which can be used to demonstrate keelboat sailing knowledge and proficiency when checking out a keelboat at other sailing centers around the world.

Another important addition to our sailing program was the adoption of a sophisticated on-line sailing management system which allows our members to book and pay for sailing lessons and other product offerings in advance. This system tracks our resources, revenues, and simplifies lesson cancelation notification when there is inclement weather. The system shows that our members booked over 100 sailing lessons and boat use events in our Raven 24s and Soling, as well as sailing lessons and our popular sunset sailing events on our Cape Dory 28.

And while the warm fall weather continues, BICS will continue to offer lessons and boat use to qualified members until at least the end of the month of October. See www.sailbi.org to see our calendar and to book a fun sailing experience.

In addition to sailing lessons and free boat use by our qualified members, BICS is the home for the Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (PHRF) on Block Island for which we offer a number of racing events including the Thursday Night Sailing Series, the Mary D Fund Benefit Regatta, the BICS Benefit Regatta, and the BIYC Around the Island Pursuit Regatta. BICS is the only sailing organization on Block Island to run regattas with US Sailing Certified Race officials and we provide all the regatta promotion, race management, and scoring required run a well-managed event. A brief description of each of these events follows:

2021 Thursday Night Sailing Series

This event is a 10 weeklong sail racing event in which the Island's most accomplished sailors face off against each other in around-the-buoys racing every Thursday evening. This event is specifically for keel boats which sail under the PHRF rules. Now in its 23rd year, the Series is run by Block Island Community Sailing as an advanced racing clinic, with coaching and a weekly newsletter on the Racing Rules of Sailing, boat speed techniques, and racing tactics.

The racing format is typically a windward-leeward course set in the recreational area in the northern section of the Great Salt Pond. The courses are typically about a mile and a half or twenty minutes long which allows three races to be run each evening. The Race Committee was run by BICS Director Henry duPont, who was assisted by BICS members Russ Certo, Ron Steele, Elizabeth Moss, and Erin Groll. Each of the committee members participated in setting the racecourse, timing the starts and finishes, and recording the scores for each race.

The Thursday Night Sailing Series 1st Place finish goes to Co Skippers George Davis and Todd Crouch sailing a Colgate 26 "Slapshot". Second place honors goes to Chris Helios, also sailing a Colgate 26, and third place going to John Seider sailing "Fellers", another Colgate 26.



Thurs. Night Sailing 1st Place Todd Crouch & George Davis

Mary D Fund Benefit Regatta

Block Island's historic Mary D Fund Benefit Regatta, a popular fund raising event in the 1990s, was sailed yet again on Saturday July 17th in Block Island Sound. Seven boats entered the regatta which was hosted by Block Island Community Sailing. The course this year was a windward, leeward, windward course, 12.4 miles in length, from the start/finish line set just west of the New Harbor entrance channel down to the "R6" buoy off of Cooneymous Cove, then up to "1BI", the North Point buoy, and back to the start/finish line. Race conditions had Southwesterly winds starting at 10 knots and freshing to 18 during the race. The Race Committee consisted of Henry duPont, the Regatta Chairman, Ted Merritt and John Doolittle. Marty Schulman, also provided his 32 foot sport fishing boat to ably serve as the Race Committee boat.

Top honors in the Spinnaker Class go to Henry duPont sailing his Tripp 26, "RUSH" to 1st place, and Briggs Whiteford who sailed her Colgate 26 "Miranda" to 2nd place. Top finishers in the Cruising Class were Bob Closter sailing his J-24 "Island Spirit" to 1st place, Chuck Townsendsailing his lovely Alerion – Herreshoff 26 to 2nd place, and Ray Torrey sailing the "new" BICS Cape Dory 28, "Mischief" to 3rd place.

Special thanks go to the Block Island Yacht Club for graciously matching the event registration fees effectively doubling the amount of funds raised by this event for the Mary D Fund this year and to the New Harbor Boat Basin for being the event location sponsor. As the word gets out that the Mary D Regatta is a fun, well-organized, and well sponsored event, the growth in year-on-year popularity will make it one of the Island's major fundraising events.

BICS Benefit Regatta

The Block Island Community Sailing Benefit Regatta, a medium distance race for larger yachts was sailed Saturday August 14 in Block Island Sound. Five yachts entered the regatta which was hosted by Block Island Community Sailing.

The course this year was a windward, leeward course, 6.4 miles in length, from the start/finish line set just west of the New Harbor entrance channel down to the "R4" buoy off of Southwest point, and back to the start/finish line. Race conditions had Southwesterly winds from 8 to 10 knots. The Race Committee consisted of Henry duPont, the Regatta Chairman, and John Doolittle and Elizabeth Moss. Ron Steele, also skippered his 28 foot sport fishing boat to ably serve as the Race Committee boat,



1st Place Spinnaker Class, Henry duPont and Crew

Top honors in the Spinnaker Class go to Henry duPont sailing his Tripp 26, "RUSH" to 1st place, and Briggs Whiteford who sailed her Colgate 26 "Miranda" to 2nd place. Top finishers in the Cruising Class were Chuck Townsend sailing his lovely Alerion – Herreshoff 26 to 1st place, Michael Rock who sailed his Watch Hill 15 "Wisper" to 2nd place, and Ray Torrey and Mary Cerulli sailing the "new" BICS Cape Dory 28, "Mischief" to 3rd place.

Special thanks Becky and Tim Clark at the Beahead for graciously hosting a terrific after race awards party and to the New Harbor Boat Basin for being the event location sponsor. Between the regatta entry fees and generous donations to support our offshore sailing program, Block Island Community Sailing netted over \$300 from this event.

2021 BIYC Around the Island Pursuit Race

Hosted by the Block Island Yacht Club and sailed on Sunday Sept. 5th, this Regatta was also sanctioned by the Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association as a "points" regatta on their Offshore Racing Circuit Series. A Pursuit Race is different from a typical yacht race because each yacht's handicap is applied at the beginning, with the smallest yachts getting a head start so that all the yachts, if well sailed, would finish the 17 mile around the Island racecourse at the same time. This year 12 boats registered, with 2 from the mainland representing the Duck Island and the Branford Yacht Clubs.

The race conditions featured SSW winds from 10-15 knots which meant that with an upwind start and finish, the boats raced around the Island, in a counterclockwise direction with the start / finish line set just outside of the New Harbor entrance channel.

The winning yacht in the Spinnaker Class was "Screwball", an Aerodyne 38 co-skippered by Keven and Amy Carse, from Clinton CT who started last and passed all of the boats to finish first in a circumnavigation time of 2 hours, 43 minutes. Second place went to "Island Spirit", a J/24 skippered by Bob Closter. from Block Island, and third place went to "RUSH" a Tripp 26 skippered by BICS Member Henry duPont also from Block Island.



1st Place Cruising Class, Chuck Townsend and Crew

The winning yacht in the Cruising Class, was “Nimble” an Alerion / Herreshoff 26 skippered by BICS Director Chuck Townsend, who in a tacking duel to the finish beat the next boat by seven seconds! Second Place went to “Blue Moon” a Freedom 40, skippered by Don Coxe, and third place went to “Wisper” a classic Herreshoff Watch Hill 15 skippered by BICS Member Michael Rock.

The Block Island Yacht Club held a festive after-race awards party at the Beachead’s outdoor tent venue where the top three skippers in each class were each presented a trophy by the BIYC for their sailing prowess.

BICS Director James Gallacher who served as the Principal Race Officer, assisted by Bill Penn who also provided the Race Committee boat. Henry duPont, the Regatta Chairman, provided race management, and event scoring, the Management Team at the New Harbor Boat Basin provided the regatta headquarters, while Becky and Tim Clark hosted a terrific after race awards party at the Beachead.

BICS Boats Raced in Mainland Yacht Club Regattas

BICS Members sailed their boats in several mainland yacht club regattas this year including “RUSH”, Henry duPont’s Tripp 26 who sailed with his crew, under the BICS Club Flag, in the Off Sounding Club’s Spring and Fall Series races as well as in the Storm Trysail Club’s Block Island Race Week and the Stonington Harbor Yacht Club B.I.G. Jack Regatta. “RUSH” is currently ranked 7th out of 26 boats in Division 1 of the Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association’s offshore racing circuit.

“Mischief”, the BICS new Cape Dory 28 had a busy racing season placing 2nd and 3rd in two Island regattas with BICS Director Ray Torrey at the helm and on Friday October 11th she set off to Newport to sail in the 37th Annual Newport Yacht Club Cliff Mitchel Memorial Regatta from Newport to Block Island. Crewed by BICS Members George Davis, Jake Fiechter, Mary Cerulli, Al Skinner, and Henry duPont, “Mischief” got a good start on Saturday morning in Northeasterly Winds 15-20 kts. with gusts to 25 and seas from 4-6 feet, she held off most of the other racing yachts getting a 3rd in her class and 5th over all in a fleet of 16 boats.

“Mischief” also took part in a Cape Dory Sailboat Class rendezvous which was held in Wickford RI on July 17th. Members Russ Certo, Jake Fiechter, and Henry duPont sailed our coastal cruiser across Block Island Sound and up Narragansett Bay to meet up with a dozen other Cape Dory yachts for a terrific get-together of owners of this classic cruising class.

BICS Sailing this Fall

And while the warm fall weather continues, BICS will continue to offer lessons and boat use to our members until at least the end of the month of October. See www.sailbi.org to see our calendar or call Henry at 401 741-5136 to book a lesson or a pleasant evening sail on the Cape Dory 28.

And lastly, our BICS Adult Sailing Program would not be possible without the generous contributions of many of our Directors, Members, and supporters including Sailing Instructor Andrew Connelly, who worked hard to make sailing lessons fun this summer. John Doolittle, George Davis, Todd Crouch, Ted Merritt, and Alan Skinner who helped us launch and maintain our boats. Rita Draper, who graciously allowed us to use the Narragansett Inn for the Keelboat Clinic Classroom. Michael Rock and Megan McClellan who helped us move our boats to, and back from protected moorings in the Hog Pen during Hurricane Henri, James Gallacher, Bill Penn, Russ Certo, Elizabeth Moss, John Doolittle, Erin Groll, and Ron Steele for serving as Race Committee, and countless others, too many to mention, who donated so generously to our programs!

Block Island Community Sailing is the only Island sailing organization which sends our boats to race in mainland regattas, helping put Block Island on the map as a center for sailing excellence. Our community benefit programs include sailing special programs for ladies and seniors. You can help us bring the joy of sailing to Block Island by joining BICS as a member, donating to support our charitable community benefit programs, or volunteering to help us work on our growing fleet of sailboats. You can also provide the gift of sailing to family and friends with gift memberships and lesson packages this holiday season.

Visit us at our web site: www.sailbi.org or contact us info@sailbi.org for more information.