



2022 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

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Block Island Community Sailing has a Season with Growth and New Program Offerings.

Block Island Community Sailing, (BICS) Block Island's nonprofit adult / family sailing organization has had a season of growth with increased membership, added additional sailing staff, and a now has a new accreditation as a US Sailing advanced sailing school now offering "Basic Cruising", "Bareboat Cruising", and "Coastal Navigation" courses. This distinction is the result of our Head Instructor Vinny Tiernan and Sailing Program Director Henry duPont completing US Sailing's rigorous "Cruising Instructor Training and Evaluation Course" hosted by BICS last July.



Vinny Accepting His Instructor Appreciation Award

Vinny, and our woman's program instructor, Alexa Lee booked over 100 sailing lessons last summer for island residents and visitors alike in our keelboats and Henry provided larger boat sailing instruction and skippered sunset cruises for our members and friends on "Mischief" our Cape Dory 28-foot coastal cruiser.

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, 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:

2022 Thursday Night Sailing Series

This event is a 10 weeklong sail racing series 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 24th 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 Ted Merritt, Russ Certo, Ron Steele, and Elizabeth Moss and Sadie Flateman. 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 Bob Closter sailing his J/24 "Island Spirit" Second place honors goes to Co Skippers George Davis and Todd Crouch sailing a Colgate 26 "Slapshot". And 3rd place going Vinny Tiernan, Mary Cerulli, and Russ Certo sailing "Oh Behave" the BICS Soling.

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 16th 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 miles in length, from the start/finish line set about a half mile south of the 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 Southely winds between 5 and 8 knots. The Race Committee consisted of Henry duPont, the Regatta Chairman, and Dean Surette as the oncourse race official. Marty Schulman, also provided his 32 foot sport fishing boat to ably serve as the Race Committee boat. Less than an hour into the race, the course was shortened to 4 miles because the race committee felt that the full course would not be sailed within the event's time limit.



Chuck and Jill Townsend and crew finished first in the cruising Class

Top honors in the Spinnaker Class go to Bob Closter sailing "Island Spirit" his J/24, second place to Henry duPont sailing "Oh Behave" the BICS Soling, and third place honors went to Steve Wadsworth sailing "Squian Dubh" a Flying Scott.

Chuck Townsend sailing his new J/100 "T Squared" did a "horizon job" on the cruising class, finishing in first place. 2nd place went to Don Coxe and his Freedom 40/40 "Blue Moon" and third place went to Ray Torrey sailing the BICS Cape Dory 28, "Mischief".

Special thanks go 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.

2022 BIYC Around the Island Pursuit Race

On Sunday, Sept 4th, the Block Island Yacht Club hosted the ninth annual Around the Island Pursuit Race. This Regatta was promoted and managed by BICS and sanctioned by the Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association as a "points" regatta on their Offshore Racing Circuit. This year the regatta had 12 yachts competing, with 1 from the mainland, representing the Duck Island Yacht Club.

The race conditions featured SW winds from 7-11 knots, the 17 mile course sailed in a counter clockwise 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-skipped 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 3 hours, 13 minutes. Second place went to “RUSH” a Tripp 26 skippered by Henry duPont from BICS, and third place went to “Island Spirit”, a J/24 skippered by Bob Closter also from Block Island.

The winning yacht in the Cruising Class, was “T Squared” a J/100 skippered by Chuck Townsend of Block Island, who beat the next boat in his class by 15 minutes! Second Place went to “Wisper” a Watch Hill 15 skippered by Michael Rock, of Block Island and third place went to “Simplicity”, an Alerion Express, also from Block Island.

Honorable mention goes to Block Island Community Sailing’s Cape Dory 28 “Mischief” a 45-year-old coastal cruiser sailed by Co Skippers Mary Cerulli and Ray Torrey who came in 4th in the Spinnaker Class, and “Mallorca” a J/30 sailed by Jim Fiorato in the Cruising Class.



Peter Williams and Jake Fiechter fly the spinnaker on “Mischief” the BICS Cape Dory 28

Special thanks to James Gallacher who served as the Principal Race Officer, who was assisted by Marty Schulman who also provided the Race Committee start/finish boat. Henry duPont, the Regatta Chairman, provided race management, and event scoring, the New Harbor Boat Basin provided the regatta headquarters, and Becky and Tim Clark for hosting a terrific after race awards party at the Beachhead.

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 regattas. “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 3rd and 4th in two Island regattas with BICS Director Ray Torrey and Mary Cerulli as co skippers and on Friday July 29th she set off to Mystic CT to sail in the Mystic River Mudhead’s “Mudnite Madness” overnight race which was coincidentally from Mystic around Block Island and back. Crewed by BICS Members Alan Skinner, Mary Cerulli, Todd Crouch and Henry duPont, “Mischief” finished 3rd in her class, and since she started and finished her sail from and to Block Island, she gets the distinction as the only boat to sail the course twice!



Al Skinner, Todd Crouch and Mary Cerulli race “Mischief” in “Mudnite Madness”

BICS Sailing Extends our Sailing Season to Warmer Waters this Winter!

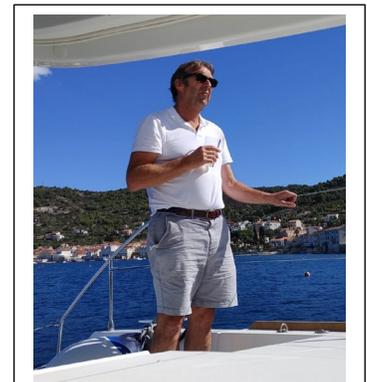
Block Island Community Sailing is now pleased to offer our sailing programs this winter in the British Virgin Islands, one of the most fabulous sailing venues in the Americas. We are now booking one-week sailing course / bareboat charter vacations which feature six days of BICS sailing instruction

aboard a chartered 46' luxury monohull sloop sailing from Tortola to Virgin Gorda and back, stopping at some of the most spectacular cruising harbors in the BVIs. The chartered yacht offers three private staterooms each with its own private head and shower. US Sailing Basic Keelboat, Basic Cruising, and Bareboat Cruising courses are offered while under way and those who complete these courses will receive US Sailing Certification for Keelboat Sailing and Bareboat Cruising proficiency which can be used to get their International Proficiency Certificate, (IPC) which qualifies them to charter a yacht without a professional captain and crew, almost anywhere in the world. The cost of a one-week charter, which includes a fully provisioned yacht is half the cost of the other sailing school programs operating in the Caribbean. We have already booked a few charter weeks, but there are plenty of weeks still available. For more information on pricing and availability for this terrific opportunity, visit our website at www.sailbi.org or write us at info@sailbi.org.



BICS Annual Meeting Saturday November 26th 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM at the Harbor Baptist Church

Our annual meeting this year features Guest Speaker: Alan Baines, a Yacht broker and boat dealer in Newport RI. He was formally one of the owners of the Swedish boatbuilder Najad. An avid cruising yachtsman, he has visited Croatia 4 times, between 2007 and 2022 for vacations, chartering and boat sales. He has also travelled extensively in Bosnia, including to Mostar, Sarajevo, and Srebrenica. Alan will describe his sailing adventures in Bosnia and Croatia, including a history of the former Yugoslavia, and the violent breakup into the current individual states in the 90's. Croatia has one of the most beautiful coastlines in the Mediterranean and is perfectly suited to charter vacations. Bosnia, while economically downtrodden, and mired in ethnic tensions, has some of the most spectacular scenery in the region. Just be careful of mines!



Alan Baines under way
Cruising in Bosnia and Croatia

The BICS annual meeting is open to our members, friends and anyone who wishes to learn more about our programs.

Now that Block Island Community Sailing is the only US Sailing Accredited Basic Cruising and Bareboat Cruising school in SE New England, we are helping put Block Island on the map as a center for sailing excellence. Our community benefit programs include special sailing instruction for ladies and seniors, and our new cruising courses introduce our students to the fabulous cruising lifestyle.

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 at info@sailbi.org for more information.

