



## 2024 Season Fall / Winter 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 of learning, volunteerism, and the satisfaction of supporting a true community benefit program.

### Directors:

John Doolittle  
Henry duPont  
James Gallacher  
Ted Merritt  
Al Skinner  
Ray Torrey  
Chuck Townsend

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

BICS Web Site by  
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### Block Island Community Sailing had a full season of summer sailing and looks forward to our Winter sailing programs.

Block Island Community Sailing (BICS), Block Island's nonprofit adult / family sailing organization, has had another season of member participation with US Sailing accredited sailing instruction for their "Basic Keelboat", "Basic Cruising", and "Bareboat Cruising" courses, and a full season of racing events. In addition to sailing lessons and free boat use by our qualified members, BICS offers afternoon and evening family charters on our Cape Dory 28 with USCG licensed Captains. BICS is also the home for the Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (PHRF)



One of our Winter Sailing Program charter guest crews onboard at Cooper's Island Beach Club in the British Virgin Islands.

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 Offshore Regatta, and the BICS 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 and after race parties needed to run a well-managed event. A brief description of each of our comprehensive sailing program activities follows:

### 2024 Keelboat Sailing Lessons

BICS offers the nationally accredited US Sailing "Basic Keelboat" sailing instruction curriculum, with beginner lessons scheduled at 9:00 and intermediate lessons scheduled at noon, every weekday, sailing out of the New Harbor Boat Basin. Our US Sailing Certified Sailing instructors have introduced over a hundred adults and their families to the joy of sailing in our Raven 24 sail training vessels, leading to sailing proficiency certification. Special mention this year to Bill Brakefield and Lisa Myette, and also to Amanda Leaseburge and Tyler Sarlie for achieving their Beginner Sailing Proficiency Certificates. BICS makes learning to sail in larger, more comfortable keelboats inexpensive and fun! To learn about our sailing program, to schedule an introductory lesson, or to purchase a discount sailing lesson plan for 2025, please visit our website at [www.sailbi.org](http://www.sailbi.org)

## Cape Dory Afternoon and Evening Sunset Sailing Charters

Last summer BICS experienced an expansion in the growth and popularity of our Cape Dory family sailing cruises with over 30 charters booked! These 2.5 hour sailing excursions start by casting off our mooring on our Cape Dory 28, “Mischief”, and hoisting sail for a relaxing sailing cruise out of the Great Salt Pond and into Block Island Sound. “Mischief” is a fully outfitted coastal cruiser with accommodations for 6 passengers including a galley and a head. Our cruise guests are welcome to bring snacks, like a cheese platter, and their favorite beverages aboard. The cruise finishes with a sailing tour of the Great Salt Pond before lowering sail and returning to our mooring. BICS is the only sailing club on Block Island to offer sailing charters with US Coast Guard Licensed Captains. To book a family afternoon or evening sunset cruise on “Mischief” next Summer, go to our website at [www.sailbi.org](http://www.sailbi.org)



A fun family sunset cruise on “Mischief”

## 2024 Thursday Night Sail Racing 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, in 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, Elizabeth Moss, and John and Kathi O’Reardon. Each of the Race 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 was awarded to Bob Closter sailing his J/24 “Island Spirit”. Second place honors went to co-skippers George Davis and Todd Crouch sailing a Colgate 26 “Slapshot”, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went Joe Harris, Dr Tom Warcup, and Russ Certo sailing BICS’s own Olympic Class Soling “Oh Behave!”.

## Mary D Fund Benefit Regatta

Block Island’s historic Mary D Fund Benefit Regatta, a popular fundraising event in the 1990s, was sailed yet again on Saturday July 15th in Block Island Sound. Five boats entered the regatta which was hosted by Block Island Community Sailing. The course this year was windward-leeward, 13 miles in length, from the start/finish line set just north of the Great Salt Pond entrance channel up to the “R6” Bell buoy off of Coonymous Point, and back downwind to finish at “1 BI” the North Point Buoy.. Race conditions had Southely winds between 5 and 8 knots. Henry duPont, served as the Regata Organizer and on-the-water Race Committee Official. The race conditions were challenging because of the current at the “R6” windward mark in light air. Mercifully the wind filled in on the way back to the finish line.



“Persistence”, a C&C 29 skippered by Jeremy and Heather Moore sailing upwind in great racing form

Top honors in the Spinnaker Class went to Block Island Community Sailing's Cape Dory 28 "Mischief" Sailed by co Skippers Todd Crouch and Chris Helios under its big blue white and red spinnaker. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place went to Jeremy and Heather Moore sailing "Persistence" a C&C 29.

Special thanks go to the New Harbor Boat Basin for being the event location sponsor.

## BICS Offshore Regatta

Our Offshore Regatta, which was held August 10<sup>th</sup>, is a mid-distance yacht race sailed around government marks in Block Island Sound. This regatta is on the Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association's Offshore Racing Circuit Calendar as a "points" race. four boats entered the regatta, which was hosted by Block Island Community Sailing. The course this year was a windward- leeward-windward course, 6.8 miles in length, from the start/finish line set about 200 yards north of the entrance channel up to the "R6" buoy off of Cooneymous Cove, and back to the start/finish line. Race conditions had Southerly winds between 6 and 10 knots. The Race Officials consisted of Regatta Chair, Henry duPont who organized and scored the event and on the water Race Committee members, John and Kathi O'Reardon.

Light air and some signifant current made the racing conditions chalanging with regard to which side of the course was most favorable, but Chuck Townsend, sailing his Lyman-Morse E33 led the way and took a commanding lead to the windward mark followed by Jeremy Moore sailing his C&C 29, Steve Wadsworth sailing his J/99, and Tom Merritt sailing BICS's own Cape Dory 28. On the leg home to the finish line, "Mischief" under her large spinnaker made up some time and caught the two spinnaker class yachts (on corrected time) which rounded the windward mark ahead of her.



"Mischief" a Cape Dory 28 skippered by Tom Merritt

Top honors in the Cruising Class go to Chuck Townsend sailing "Nimble" a Lyman-Morse E33 who also got line honors finishing 13 minutes before the next racing yacht.

Top honors in the Spinnaker Class go to Tom Merritt sailing "Mischief" BICS's own Cape Dory 28, who beat Jeremy Moore's C&C 29 "Perservetence" in second place by less than a minute of corrrcted time. Jeremy was was followed by Steve Wadworth's J/99 "Tripple Wiskey" in third. This regatta was followed by an after-race awards party graciously hosted by Becky Pappas and Tim Clark in their party tent at the Beachhead Restaurant.

## 2024 BICS Around the Island Pursuit Race

On Sunday, Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, BICS hosted the 12th annual Around the Island Pursuit Race. This Regatta sanctioned by the Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association as a "points" regatta on their Offshore Racing Circuit. This year the regatta had 8 yachts competing, with 2 from the mainland, including the largest yacht ever to register for this event, "Carthage Must be Destroyed", a very impressive looking Farr 53 racer / cruiser from NY, NY. The race conditions featured SSW winds from 7-10 knots at the start and freshining to 18 knots at the finish. The regatta featured



Kevin and Amy Carse and crew finished 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Spinnaker Class on "Screwball"



a 17 mile course sailed around the Island 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. Second place went to "Island Spirit" a J/24 skippered by Bob Closter from Block Island, and third place went to "Carthage Must Be Destroyed" who started last and passed everyone except the two top finishers.

The winning yacht in the Cruising Class was the lovely Alerion Express "Simplicity", sailed by Jim Fiorato Bill Cumby, and Ed Herran of Block Island

Special thanks to James Gallacher who served as Principal Race Officer and who ably started each racing yacht, on time, in the starting sequence. Henry duPont, the Regatta Chairman, provided race management, and event scoring, the New Harbor Boat Basin which provided the regatta headquarters, and Becky Pappas and Tim Clark hosted a terrific after race awards party at the Beachead.



Race Chair, Henry duPont awarding the Cruising Class Trophy to "Simplicity's" Co-Skippers and Crew

## **BICS Boats Raced in Mainland Yacht Club Regattas**

BICS Members sailed their boats in several regional mainland regattas this year including "RUSH", Henry duPont's Tripp 26 who raced with his crew, under the BICS Club flag, in the Off Sounding Club's Spring Series. "RUSH" finished 10<sup>th</sup> out of 29 boats who raced in Division 1 of the Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association's offshore racing circuit.

BI Community Sailing's own Cape Dory 28 "Mischief" sailed in the Stonington Harbor Yacht Club B.I.G. Jack Regatta sailed from Watch Hill to the New Harbor entrance with Roy Fowler as Skipper and Alan Skinner and Henry duPont as crew. "Mischief" sailed well getting 4<sup>th</sup> place out of 12 racing yachts. "Mischief" also sailed in Newport Yacht Club's Cliff Mitchel Regatta racing from Newport to Block Island on Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup>. Mischief was crewed by Tom Merritt, Alan Skinner, and Henry duPont who delivered the boat to Newport, attended the Skippers meeting at the Newport Yacht Club, had a pleasant dinner in town, spent the night on the boat, and after a 9:00 start, raced to Block Island.

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

Block Island Community Sailing is now offering our third year of our winter sailing program in the British Virgin Islands, one of the most fabulous sailing venues in the Americas. We are now booking one-week family sailing charter vacations which feature seven days of cruising with accredited sailing instruction aboard a chartered 45' luxury 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 head and shower. US Sailing, Basic Cruising, and Bareboat Cruising courses are available while we are under way and those who complete these courses are eligible to get their US Sailing International Proficiency Certificate, (IPC) which qualifies them to skipper their own charter 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 in March, and there are a few charter weeks still available in March and April. For more information on pricing and availability for this sailing vacation of a lifetime, call BICS at (401) 741-5136 or write us at [info@sailbi.org](mailto:info@sailbi.org).

### **BICS is putting Block Island on the Map as a Center for Sailing Excellence!**

BICS members fared well racing in the Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association Offshore Circuit scoring enough points to put our sailing club in 19<sup>th</sup> place out of 37 clubs which entered boats in ECSA Regattas. Our racing program goal is to field competitive boats and crews and to achieve more podium finishes to move up the ladder as one of the most competitive sailing clubs in the region.

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 to introduce our students to the rewarding "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 discount lesson packages. Please help us grow the sport of sailing on Block Island. Kindly visit us at our web site: [www.sailbi.org](http://www.sailbi.org) or email us at [info@sailbi.org](mailto:info@sailbi.org) for more information.

Special thanks to our BICS Volunteer of the Year awardee: Al Skinner for his exlempary service!

Special thanks to our commercial sponsors who donated generously to support our sailing programs:

**Sullivan Sotheby's Real Estate, The Beachead Restaurant, and the New Harbor Boat Basin.**

## **Block Island 2025 Sailing Events Calendar**

Published by Block Island Community Sailing

<b>Event</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Host Club / Sponsors</b>	<b>Dates</b>
<a href="#">BICS Winter Sailing Program in the BVIs</a>	Cruising	Family Sailing Charters	March - April
BICS / BIYC Summer Sailing Kickoff Event	All	BIYC / BICS / National Hotel	May 24 <sup>th</sup> 5-7 PM
<a href="#">Off Soundings Club Spring Series</a>	PHRF OS	Off Soundings Club, ECSA	June 13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>
<a href="#">Block Island Race Week</a>	PHRF OS	Storm Trysail Club	June 22 <sup>nd</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup>
BICS Thurs Night Sailing	PHRF	BI Community Sailing	July 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Sept 4 <sup>th</sup>
Mary D Fund Benefit Regatta	PHRF OS	BI Community Sailing	July 12 <sup>th</sup>
<a href="#">BICS Offshore Regatta</a>	PHRF OS	BICS / ECSA	August 9 <sup>th</sup>
<a href="#">BICS Around the Island Pursuit Race</a>	PHRF OS	BICS / ESCA	August 31 <sup>st</sup>
<a href="#">SHYC B.I.G Jack Watch Hill to BI Regatta</a>	PHRF OS	Stonington Harbor YC	September 6 <sup>th</sup>
BICS Annual Member Awards Picnic	PHRF	BI Community Sailing	September 6 <sup>th</sup>
<a href="#">Off Soundings Club Fall Series</a>	PHRF OS	Off Soundings Club, ECSA	September 12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup>
<a href="#">Cliff Mitchel Mem Columbus Day Regatta</a>	PHRF OS	Newport Yacht Club	October 11 <sup>th</sup>

Notes: All BICS and Off Soundings events are sailed under the PHRF Class Rules of the Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association. Join ECSA to support sailing in our region and to get your PHRF Certificate go to: [www.ecsa.net](http://www.ecsa.net)