Introducing the 2020 SUS Board of Directors

Joe DeFranco
President
SUSpresident1@gmail.com
Joined SUS in the summer of 1987. A powerboat skipper, I have enjoyed running my own boat in SUS and crewing on other members’ sailboats. I have served on the Board as director of Programs, Public Relations, Newsletter, and President (2012-2015). I hold a USCG Master Mariner Credential, a member of the USCG Auxiliary, and currently serve as Public Education Officer and Commander of the Norwalk Flotilla.

Karen Ferris
Secretary
kgferris@att.net
I grew up in upstate New York on a lake. It was there that my love of boating was hatched. I joined SUS three years ago and it has been an incredible life enhancing experience. Lake sailing, evening and weekend Sailaways on the Sound and unforgettable summers cruising the coast of Maine are now part of my nautical life.

Chip Munk
Treasurer
SUSTreasurer1@gmail.com
Joined in 1989. Sailing with SUS crew: double trans-Atlantic crossing, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, several trips to Maine, the Chesapeake. Sailing since age 3, I have logged 60,000+ miles, 200+ days offshore including over a dozen Bermuda trips, and sailing from Connecticut to the Caribbean, wintering over, and return.

Peter Luciano
Commodore
sloopquest@aol.com
I have been with SUS for over twenty years and served as Commodore since 2012. A resident of New Rochelle, I am a licensed USCG Captain, a Marine Surveyor and have sailed almost all my life. With over 70,000 miles at sea, I have sailed to Europe, 10 Bermuda races, 2 Caribbean 1500, and multiple trips to the Bahamas and the Caribbean with SUS members as crew.

Janet Steinberg
Vice Commodore
crewsails@gmail.com
I joined SUS 10 years ago and have been able to share my love of sailing with others, both as a member and on the Board. Sailing experiences with other SUS members have taken me near and far. It started with twilights on Long Island Sound and over the years has included cruising to Maine, The Chesapeake, Florida, Bermuda and the Bahamas. Quite simply, SUS sailing changed my life!

John Cravenho
Membership Director
SUSmembership@gmail.com
I am a sailing enthusiast who joined SUS in 2019. As Membership Director, together with Petra Schallenberg and Marie Taney, this Membership Committee team is dedicated to increasing membership, positive culture and level of fun SUS brings to all.

Ida Lowe
Newsletter Director
SUSmasthead@gmail.com
Born and raised in Colombia, I came to the US to go to college and stayed. I discovered sailing when I turned 50 and have been enjoying it since, particularly after I joined SUS in 2013. Being the Newsletter editor and maintaining the website keeps me enthralled with the SUS community.

Camille Platzek
Programs Director
cbreeze1572@gmail.com
I recently rejoined SUS after having back surgery which forced me to stop sailing for a while. I have fond memories of SUS during that time. The camaraderie made it special. I am also a member of the Westchester Power Squadron where I help with the parties and programs. As a board member in SUS in charge of programs, I plan to bring speakers that you will find interesting and enjoyable and encourage you to offer suggestions for speakers and topics.

Ronnie Ross
Public Relations Director
SUSpublicrelations1@gmail.com
This is my fifth year in SUS, and I am sorry it is not my 15th! Although I had done a fair amount of sailing in the past, I was more of an observer than a participant. SUS has given me an opportunity to expand my knowledge, my friendships, and my joy of being on the water. As Public Relations Director, I run the Meet-Ups and work hand-in-hand with membership to find and encourage new members to join. Tell your friends!!!

Aija Klebers
Special Events Director
aijaklebers@yahoo.com
I have been a SUS member since 2001 and, as a long time member, I have participated in most of the sailing and social events. During the past several years, I have held the position of Special Events Director. In this role, I have had the opportunity to work on the Board, interact with many SUS members who volunteer to help with special events, and to research new interesting venues for our special events throughout the year.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Click on event to get full details

Sat, Feb 29  SUS Winter Dinner Get Together
      @ 5:00 pm     The Crab Shell Restaurant, Stamford

Thu, Mar 5  Annual Meeting & Awards
      @ 7:30 pm     Ponus Yacht Club, Stamford

Sat, Mar 28  Meet the Skippers
      @ 1-4 pm     Sign of the Whale, Stamford

March Birthdays
Scott Schiller  3/3
Orrin Judd  3/5
Susan Strumer  3/8
Peter Luciano  3/9
Bob Kleid  3/14
Gary Geffner  3/16
Walter Roberts  3/21
Bill Draper  3/24
Janet Steinberg  3/27
Leisa Bell  3/28
Jim Malone  3/30
Maryann Ramos  3/30

Welcome Renewing Members

Caryl Bate         Teresa Nilla         Marie Taney
Gene Celentano    Dorota Potorecka    Donna Wade
John Cravenho      Ronnie Ross         Ruth Waldman
Jane Deyoe         Petra Schallenberg
Orrin Judd         Peggie Schweizer
Aija Klebers   Michael Smith
Ida Lowe           Robert Spears
Peter Luciano      Janet Steinberg
Jim Malone         Susan Strumer
Chip Munk           Rick Takatsch

BULLETIN BOARD

Caryl Bate
Gene Celentano
John Cravenho
Jane Deyoe
Orrin Judd
Aija Klebers
Ida Lowe
Peter Luciano
Jim Malone
Chip Munk
Teresa Nilla
Dorota Potorecka
Ronnie Ross
Petra Schallenberg
Peggy Schweizer
Michael Smith
Robert Spears
Janet Steinberg
Susan Strumer
Rick Takatsch
Marie Taney
Donna Wade
Ruth Waldman

Welcome Renewing Members
The SUS Board has been busy getting ready for the Spring season – are you ready too? We’ve put together another great activity plan for the upcoming season- full of LOTS of sailing and land-based events. Come to our Annual meeting on March 5th and pick up your copy of the 2020 Activity Calendar.

We have had some well attended functions to get the year started thanks to Aija and Ronnie. Our next event will be a Winter Get Together at the Crab Shell (details in this issue), then the annual meeting on March 5th, and then our big event - Meet the Skippers at the Sign of the Whale on March 28th. La Buona Vita will not be represented at Meet the Skippers but look for La Bella Vita, her replacement, and say hello.

Skippers are starting to think about spring commissioning and will be more than happy for any helping hands they can get. Getting a sailboat ready for the upcoming season takes some effort but it also brings members together. Working on boats, in my opinion, is a labor of love, and sharing the day with others can and should be fun. It is also an opportunity to better understand what makes a sailboat move through the water. Power boats and sailboats have engines that can push the boat through the water. A sailboat can also move under the power of her sails, sometimes even faster than when under engine power. The combination of good sails and a smooth bottom can make all the difference in the speed of a sailboat. Paying attention to the bottom during spring commissioning pays off all season long. It is my belief that proper preparation before painting the bottom is key to a faster boat. Bob Lussi races Phoenix quite often and understands the need to focus on the boat’s bottom - ask him what he does to prep before he paints. One thing I would like to point out is that bottom paint is very toxic, and if you work on prepping the bottom, make sure you have proper gear.

La Bella Vita and I look forward to sailing with you this summer so check in with Janet early for the first All Aboard Sailing event in June.

Captain Pete

Commodore’s Corner—Peter Luciano

The 2020 Sailing Season Is Ready To Go!

The new season brings new initiatives, and we are excited to be attracting new members to SUS. We appreciate all of our members taking up the charge to introduce new members to the club and welcoming new faces at all of our events. In support of this effort, the Board has approved extending the incentive of $20 credit towards your next year’s membership fee for each new member you bring to SUS. This can be as simple as giving someone on the membership committee (Petra, Marie or John) or Board, the name of someone you know who may have an interest, and we will take it from there- no need for you to do anything else.

On February 16th we hosted an SUS meetup at Bar’Lees in Mamaroneck where some SUS members welcomed several prospective members, including a couple of female sailboat owners.

We are also reaching out to other boating clubs in an effort to potentially collaborate with them on joint meetings and other efforts that may gain us more recognition within the boating community as well as personal interaction with additional sailors.

All of your ideas are welcome- please do not hesitate to share with us.

A friendly reminder, if you haven’t done so, please renew your membership by sending a check or PayPal payment to Petra at this time.

John, Petra & Marie

Message from John Cravenho, Membership Director
The days are getting noticeably longer with the anticipation of Spring, now only a month away! The SUS Board and skippers have worked hard over the winter months, putting together a calendar for the upcoming season. These events and trips reflect the types of preferred (on and off the water) activities suggested by YOU – the members who answered our survey last fall! **Come to the Annual Meeting at Ponus Yacht Club - March 5** and hear about the upcoming SUS 2020 Calendar of Events. Printed calendars will be available for all.

In addition to the many sailing events and social gatherings, there are two **ALL ABOARD SAILING EVENTS**. Every member who signs up for these will be able to sail! The tentative dates are June 20 or 21 and July 11 or 12 – watch for information when time gets closer. Mark your calendars - these events were extremely popular last year!

Boat preparations and boat splashing will soon be in full swing. Participating in preseason boat prep is an integral part of what SUS crew membership is all about. At the **MEET THE SKIPPERS EVENT** on March 28, each skipper will have a sign-up sheet so you can volunteer to help get boats ready for the season. Spending a morning or afternoon helping on a boat is the best way to get to know skippers and they to know you, and a better chance to be invited to sail with them.

Knowledge is key to safety on the water. Learning the fundamentals of boats and boat handling are the beginning of the journey. Each trip as crew on board is an opportunity to learn more and gain experience! Check out the flyer in this issue to increase your knowledge at the **SAFETY AT SEA HANDS ON COURSE** on May 16th.

If you are a new SUS member, attendance at a **MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION PACKAGE (MOP)** will be required before sailing on boats. This short meeting will help you understand how SUS functions. MOPs are usually held before a club meeting, so speak to a Board member to assist you in arranging this.

Now is the time to check your sailing gear. Are your sailing shoes, rain/foul weather gear and PFDs (personal flotation device) in good repair and functional? If in doubt, take your PFD to a marine store or get a skipper to help you check it out. If it is a self-inflating device, the canister may need to be replaced - check that expiration date.

Do you know someone who would enjoy being part of SUS? The club is actively seeking new avenues to attract members and boat owning skippers who are looking for crew. Spread the word!

**Lets Go Sailing!**

Janet

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**Vice Commodore—Janet Steinberg**

**Spring Is In the Air**

Huge sea lions spotted hanging out on a sailboat in Olympia ...

Click [HERE](#) for video

Submitted by Bob Spears
SUS Winter Get-Together

Saturday, February 29

Join us for drinks at 5 and dinner at 6. Just choose from the menu

THE CRABSHELL RESTAURANT
46 Southfield Ave., Stamford

It’s not sailing weather, so let’s get together, catch up with old and new friends, reminisce about summer 2019 and plan for summer 2020.
Join Singles Under Sail at the
Annual Meeting & Awards Ceremony
to see who this year’s winners are

♦ Neptuna Award
♦ Rookie of the year
♦ Lifetime Membership

Learn about exciting plans and find out about exciting plans for the upcoming sailing season.

Thursday, March 5 at 7:30 PM
Ponus Yacht Club, Stamford

Come after 5 and join your old and new friends for dinner or a drink before the meeting.

Paid up members, no charge. Non-members $10
Singles Under Sail
Meet the Skippers
Saturday, March 28
1-4 PM

SIGN OF THE WHALE
STAMFORD
6 Harbor Point Road
SUS Members - FREE ADMISSION
Complimentary Sliders, Pizza, Soft Drinks

NON MEMBER FEE—$15
(with food and soft drinks)
USCG AUXILIARY

ABOUT BOATING SAFELY

GET YOUR CT OR NY BOAT/PWC OPERATING CERTIFICATE!

ONE-DAY CLASS — SATURDAY APRIL 4

Calf Pasture Beach, East Norwalk

$50/Person in Advance - $60/Person at Door
(Textbook & Pizza Lunch Included)

Textbook and Exams in English or Spanish

For complete details click here!

SUNY Maritime - Safety-at-Sea Seminar on Long Island Sound 2020

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

The Storm Trysail Club to conduct a one day Hands-On Safety-at-Sea Seminar on Saturday, May 16, 2020

Building on the success of past seminars, this event will follow an interactive curriculum where attendees fire distress flares, put out fires, learn damage control, set storm sails, and rescue a man overboard among other activities.

The seminar will be supplemented by Storm Trysail's educational Safety-at-Sea Video Library produced by long-time Storm Trysail member Gary Jobson. This Video Library covers a broad range of safety-at-sea subjects and will be available to attendees online prior to the seminar as part of their fee.

By attending the seminar and viewing the Video Library, sailors will earn a US Sailing Offshore Safety-at-Sea Certificate.

Attendees can opt to earn an International Offshore Safety-at-Sea Certificate by viewing US Sailing's Online Offshore Safety-at-Sea course. This is in addition to the STF videos you will also watch. To get the Online Offshore Safety-at-Sea course you will pay an additional $75.00 to cover the cost of the course. A code with instructions will be issued to you by the STF office. You are expected to complete this online course prior to attending the seminar in person.

For full details, click HERE!