La Bella Vita, Serenity & Sha Ka Ree in Oyster Bay

Photo by Ida Lowe
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Club website & Facebook page  
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* Board Member

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**BULLETIN BOARD**

**Welcome Renewing Members**

Jim Booth  
Len Lipton

**PROGRAM IDEAS WANTED!**

- **Do you know someone who would be a great speaker for SUS?**
- **Do you know a topic you'd like to know more about?**
- **Put on your thinking cap and then email Terry at tlagana@yahoo.com**

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Thu, Sep 17 @ 7:00 pm TBD**

**Program Meeting**

**End of Season Party**

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**August Birthdays**

- Cynthia Scanlon 8/3  
- Reggie Lynde 8/22  
- Gale Egan 8/5  
- Marie Taney 8/26  
- Gene Celentano 8/11
**President’s Message—Terry Cotterall-Lagana**

**SUS is Blessed Again**

SUS has a rich history of bringing people together, creating life-long friends and giving single adults the opportunity to take in the beauty of the sea and sky from the deck of a boat in the water. What an idea our founders had! I’ve heard it described like this: You have a boat and I have a boat and we are always looking for crew so that we can go sailing at the same time.” Then someone said “let’s start a sailing club!” And like the genesis of all great inventions, SUS was born.

Through the hard work, organizational skills and generosity of many, and even in spite of a pandemic, SUS continues to thrive. We had our first successful social distancing challenge at the beach BBQ and all who attended it had fun. Over the weekend, 5 Boats sailed to Oyster Bay for cooling off at the anchorage and a refreshing swim.

SUS has also had the benefit of many boat owners who with skills and hospitality welcome members and friends aboard their boats. Past Commodore and friend Charley Raymond was such a man. He was a great leader, a fun and jolly genius, a welcoming giant of a man with a forever smile on his face and an always twinkle in his eyes. “C’mon, c’mon” he would beckon whether welcoming you to sit at his table for a drink or a snack or helping you aboard his beautiful 42’ Mistral.

Charley “crossed over the horizon” and sailed to his eternal rest in the summer of 2017. In his last will and testament, he remembered SUS with a very generous bequest of $15,000! We have received the check from his estate and have deposited it into our SUS account.

I knew nothing about this until last Thursday when I received an e-mail about the distribution of funds. My next inclination was to call his beautiful wife, widow, and my friend Carolyn. She, like Charley has an easy laugh, a welcoming spirit and is one of the best listeners I have ever met, probably because she cares so much about getting to know a person. On Friday, we had a long conversation, remembering Charley, talking about our many years in SUS, and finally discussing what she thought would be an appropriate way to celebrate Charley’s generosity. Her immediate response was “if it’s possible and if it’s allowed, I think Charley would love a party – he loved it when everyone was together.”

So, with overwhelming gratitude, we are starting to plan a “Celebration of Charley’s Life” event in his honor as soon as the Corona pandemic is over and we can “Party Like Charley”. We’re thinking a band, great food, big bash! Look for news in future Mastheads and plan on joining us!!!

Terry

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**Vice President—John Cravenho**

**Welcome Lenny Lipton back to SUS**

On Sat. July 25, Janet, Maureen and I enjoyed a wonderful sail on returning member Lenny Lipton’s boat, Snap Roll, Freedom ’38 out of Norwalk. We went over to Sand City to meet up with other SUS boats. We spotted Gene Celentano’s Cloud and Peter Luciano’s La Bella Vita at anchor, and Bob Lussi’s Phoenix on a mooring.

Welcome back Lenny!
**Vice President’s Report—John Cravenho**

Often people fear change, but I embrace it as the only way to bring about improvements. Well, the pandemic has presented a challenge to that belief, and SUS has tried to meet the challenge to keep activities and events going. We hosted Zoom Happy Hours, with members (and some former members) joining in from all over, happy for the break in their lockdown, to “see” and chat with other SUS’rs. Many Skippers got their boats ready and are now in the water, including new skipper member, Cindy Bunt who owns a Catalina 27’, and returning member Lenny Lipton who sails a Freedom 38’. Bill Draper has moved his boat closer to us to Noank, providing yet another opportunity for SUS members to crew this summer. SUS Skippers are following social distancing protocols, limiting the number of crew on board, wearing masks in marina areas and within cabins, doing personal provisioning, fewer overnights, etc.

Rising to the challenge of hosting onshore activities, Ronnie volunteered to hold a Club picnic at her neighborhood association’s beach in Ridgefield, held on July 16th. As usual, Ronnie went all out to ensure everything was planned and organized for the pleasure and enjoyment of all attending. Every detail was taken into account to ensure the safety of the participants following COVID rules, proper use of the facilities, lowest-cost provisioning, preparing delicious food and safe methods to distribute it, all with the help of Teresa Nilla, Karen Ferris, and Tom Zagaroli.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all of us to thank Ronnie for all the work she does on behalf of SUS. Since joining SUS, I have noticed that Ronnie stands out as someone who is very giving, looks for ways she can help and takes on big projects to successful completion. In my view, she is a role model for all of us.

John

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**Commodore’s Corner—Peter Luciano**

**Sailing at Night**

In my opinion, sailing at night with the stars overhead and a fair wind is the ultimate sailing experience. Long Island Sound calms down a bit with less boat traffic, and on a clear night you can see a trail of phosphorescent jellyfish behind the boat. It is my experience that people on the boat tend to talk less and just get caught up in the beauty of night sailing. Another advantage is that you can reach more distant harbors by sailing through the night. I have made Block Island from New Rochelle in one day by sailing all night long.

Sailing at night does present some added challenges. First and foremost, you need competent crew. I find you need at least two experienced night sailors and two skilled sailors on board. I sail with two people in the cockpit at all times - one can rest, but is readily available if needed. Two are below sleeping. I find four hour shifts work fine. Second, you need to make sure your boat lights are all working, red, green, white, steaming and anchor. Check that you have all safety equipment and it is current. Make sure to file a float plan with someone on shore. Check tides and weather and pick potential safe harbors, in the event of unpredicted bad weather. Have snacks and something hot available - temperature drops when the sun goes down. (Ask Tommy Z. how Cup of Soup brings you back to life on a cold night!) It is important that you keep a log at night, as keeping a log makes you focus on where you are and what progress you are making. Keep track of battery power in the log and never let your batteries get so low that they won’t start the engine.

If you are interested in sailing at night, contact me and we can go into more detail.

Hope to see you on the water in my new sailboat La Bella Vita.

Captain Peter A Luciano
A fellow sailor
As COVID guidelines and recommendations are updated, we become accustomed to life and sailing’s new normal. The weather has cooperated, and “impromptu” sailing activities are taking place. Some skippers have been sailing midweek and others on the weekend. Over the July 18-19 weekend, 5 boats, La Bella Vita, Serenity, Cloud, Sha Ka Ree, and Silver Eagle, met up at Oyster Bay (The Cove) for a “swim away.” The 80-degree water temperature and the land temperature even higher, made swimming a welcome refresher. We all had a chance to be in the water to catch up and cool off! The good weather aided social distancing and some of the crew slept comfortably on deck, with no overcrowding.

Going forward, managing COVID has become paramount, particularly when making social activity choices. If we listen to good science, exert individual and community responsibility, and strictly follow current guidelines, the outlook for more SUS sailing opportunities this season is bright.

As we navigate this new world, your suggestions are welcome. Together we have come up with creative solutions for SUS events and activities. With careful planning we will have a great season! Kudos to all the skippers involved for innovative ideas and flexible schedules.

Janet

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**Special Events Report—Aija Klebers**

**BBQ Review—B- aiming for A++!!**

Last week, the first SUS “Socially Distanced Event “ took place in Ridgefield, CT on the beach at Pierrepont Lake. Many thanks to Ronnie Ross for hosting and coordinating the event, and even arranging for perfect weather! After months of Covid isolation, everyone enjoyed the camaraderie. “Chef” Tommy Zagaroli once again handled the grill masterfully. And, helpers Karen Ferris and Teresa Nilla did a bang-up job. Laughter was heard, plans were discussed for future sailing trips and there even was a bonfire for the cool end to the evening.

The SUS Board met via Zoom the next day to debrief and analyze the BBQ and begin safe plans for the next party. We must follow State rules and regulations, CDC guidelines, and prudent safety precautions for our members. Each board member rated the party we just had, from an A to an F, and arrived at an average rating of B-. We are striving for an A, or higher!

Attendees were asked to wear masks, and in most cases they did. The BBQ was outdoors, which did lessen the concern about Covid droplet spread. We were asked to bring chairs and that certainly enabled the Social Distancing requirement. Masks did come off during periods of eating and drinking. As always at a SUS event, it was BYOB for beverages. Most brought their own stemware! Hand sanitizer was provided, and gloves were supplied prior to self-serving salads. There was music, (thanks to Teresa Nilla) but no dancing.

So.....what did not make it a potential A++ party? Some attendees apparently did not want to wear a mask. When we are together, we NEED to wear a mask, only lowering it when eating or drinking. It is a necessity to safeguard you and others...and a courtesy! We want to keep you sailing in the club, safe and sound!

If you are experiencing ANY of the long list of Covid-19 symptoms, be considerate. Don’t come to the party! There will be other parties in the future. If you attend, you will without a doubt be spreading the virus. Please, please do not come when you have symptoms, or if you know that you have potentially been exposed to the virus.

We are in this, and will get through this, together. Stay safe, stay well, and see you on the water and at the next party!

Aija
SUS sailing program is in full swing!!! Vice Commodore Janet has compiled a list of the 12 SUS skippers who have their boats in the water, and I will be sending out a list of harbors that are potential weekend day sails or overnight rendezvous. In addition, I have asked the skippers to let me know who is ready to start twilight sails or day sails. Understand, however, that we all must adhere to stated safety protocol. If you want to go sailing, contact a skipper, or, contact Vice-Commodore Janet at crewsails@gmail.com. Here is the list of SUS boats currently in the water.

**On Long Island Sound**
- LA BELLA VITA, Peter Luciano
- PHOENIX, Bob Lussi
- SERENITY, Terry Cotterall Lagana
- ESMERALDA II, B Spears

**On the Hudson**
- SHA KA REE, Cindy Bunt Gardner
- SILVER EAGLE, Gary Silberberg
- SNAP ROLL, Len Lipton
- TANTARA, Chip Munk
- BELLE, Roger Blaho

The full list of skippers and their contact information can be found on the SUS website. You must log in and click [https://www.singlesundersail.org/membership/members-lists/](https://www.singlesundersail.org/membership/members-lists/).