



SINGLES UNDER SAIL, INC.

THE MASTHEAD

Volume 38 Issue 3

April 2024



*Ned Dimes Marina
Photo by Ida Lowe*

BULLETIN BOARD UPCOMING ACTIVITIES


Singles Under Sail
Meet the Skippers
 Saturday, April 6
 2-5 PM
US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 72
50 Calf Pasture Beach Rd, Norwalk
FREE ADMISSION
Complimentary light bites & soft drinks

 **SUS PROGRAM MEETING** 



Join us to hear David Tunick relate his exciting solo sailing across the Atlantic!
Thursday April 18 at The Hampton Inn
26 Mill River St, Stamford
Meet SUS'rs for dinner at 5:30 in the restaurant Villa Italia
Meeting & presentation start @7PM
SUS members FREE—Non-members \$15
...and there is a nice bar to hang out in after the meeting

AFTER WORKING ON BOATS PARTY



April 28 @ 5:30 pm
 Station House
232 East Ave, Norwalk, CT



CAST OFF PARTY - Sat. May 4, 2-5 PM
 Join us to celebrate the beginning of Boating Season!
Cedar Point Yacht Club, 1 Bluff Point, Westport
 Camaraderie, great nibbles, delicious desserts!
SUS Members \$30/ Guests \$45 BYOB
 Payment link to follow

Welcome renewing Members!

Len Ances	Alison Merlo
Cliona Becker	Camille Platzek
Virginia Cameron	Joanna Romersa
Teresa Cotteral-Lagana	Julie Rosenhein
Gale Egan	Cynthia Scanlon
Luisa Heluk	Petra Schallenberg
Annie Itin	Angela Shepard
Tom Kane	Tove Simonsen
Domenico Loschiavo	Rick Takatsch


April Birthdays

Clare Vermont	4/10
John Cravenho	4/12
Lael Burns	4/15
Terry Cotterall-Lagana	4/21
Cherie Flavin	4/23



President's Message—Aija Klebers

WE WANT YOU!



Singles Under Sail is a club supported by volunteers. When you joined and completed the application, you checked an activity, based on your interests, where you would help. The choices include education, programs, finance, public relations, membership, special social events, newsletter, and website/IT. Each of these areas can use your help during some part of the year.

Currently we need a **Special Social Events Director**. Annie Itin did a great job, but she is relocating. THANKS, Annie, for your contribution! This position is a good opportunity to get to know everyone while planning fun events. The director also needs assistance so please volunteer to help at one or two events.

How about helping with **Education**? Help with the MOP/DOC instruction classes? A Program Meeting where you can share your expertise?

Our **Programs** have included speakers, demos, music, and other areas of interest to SUSers. We try to have at least 4 programs per year. Do you have any ideas for a Program Meeting in the fall? Currently the position of Programs Director is open. Consider it.

Everyone enjoys reading our **Newsletter**, *The Masthead*, each month. Contributions from all SUSers are essential, articles about your own experiences, cooking on boats, or any other topic of interest to SUSers, and PHOTOS!! Send them to susmasthead@gmail.com.

If you have any **IT** skills, we can use your help with our Membership Database (Microsoft Access) and our Website (WordPress).

Volunteering does NOT end with these categories. Each Spring, crew volunteer to help Skippers prepare their boats to be launched. Come to the Meet the Skippers event on Saturday, April 6th from 2-5PM. It is being held at the US Coast Guard Auxiliary building at Calf Pasture Beach Park in Norwalk. Skippers will be there to introduce their boats and plans for the coming sailing season. Sign up on their worksheets, and then get invited to sail with them this summer.

There are so many opportunities to be an active and helpful member of Singles Under Sail.

Thank you for helping!!!



CALLING ALL WORKER BEES!!

It is time to call a couple of skippers to offer help getting their boat ready for sailing season.

It is fun to do and a great way for the skippers to get to know you and invite you sailing.

Contact information can be found here:

[Skippers-List-by-boat-1.29.2024.pdf \(singlesundersail.org\)](#)

REMINDER, if you have not renewed, please do so before Meet the Skippers on April 6.

Pay your \$100 Membership Dues for 2024: <https://buy.stripe.com/8wM3fc1oH6ir33GeVo>

- Only credit/debit cards accepted.
- Wait for online "Thank you for submitting your membership renewal" to confirm your transaction.

If you require technical assistance, contact Ida Lowe: suswebmaster@gmail.com

Commodore's Corner—Peter Luciano

HAPPY APRIL FROM LA BELLA VITA



I hope you all enjoyed the Winter, attended the clubs' events and are starting to think about boating come Spring. Some of you, I am sure, went South for a week or two and visited some far away warmer ports. Some members went skiing, and the more adventurous members travelled to countries in Africa and Europe.

The club's Sailaways schedule has been completed and the ports of call for the Annual Cruise (July 27-August 11) will be available by the end of June. We have a full Spring schedule of activities including Meet the Skippers on Saturday, April 6th, starting at 1400 at the USCG AUX in Norwalk. Club events provide the opportunity for its members to get together before the sailing season is underway.

Some thoughts on safety during spring commissioning:

* I bring to your attention the fact that poppets or other devices that held the boat up during the winter months can come loose. Check them before starting out.

* Ladders are used for painting, waxing, or getting on and off the boat. Ladder rungs can break, wobble, or move sideways if not properly secured. First and foremost, ladders should be inspected for soundness and good construction. An old wobbly ladder should be discarded. When using a ladder to get on a boat, make sure that it is long enough and that it is tied off at the deck so it won't move sideways. When using a ladder to paint or wax the boat, make sure it is at a good angle and well footed. It is better to move the ladder often so that you don't have to over-stretch sideways which may cause you to slip or strain your arms. Some have found having two ladders with a large board placed between the rungs helps get the job done. I have also found that some waxes go on easier, last longer, and protect better. It might be better to spend a little more and save time.

* Walking around boat yards can be fun but be cautious. Avoid discarded poppets, pieces of wood, ladders and other potential trip hazards which are all around. Old extension cords can get frayed. Wire plus water equal potential electrical shock. At least once a year, I walk into something and cut my head open because it is just above my line of sight. Walk slowly and look up as well as down. Be careful when walking near a boat - some don't look below before throwing things over, like buckets of water from above! Keep your dog at home as puddles are attractive, and they may contain antifreeze which is lethal to dogs and extremely toxic to humans.

* Walking around the deck when the boat is on land (the hard) is different from when the boat is in the water. My boat deck is 10' above the ground. You can only fall 10' to a hard surface once. If you ever paid attention to "one hand on the boat and one for you", this is the time. Balance on a deck when the boat is on the hard is scary at best. Lifelines may be rusted and weak. Don't trust them to keep you from falling as the gate may be open and lines are only knee high. They were never designed to keep someone from falling off a boat on to land. Decks should be cleaned, and smooth surfaces waxed, best done after the boat is splashed.

* Prepping and painting boat bottoms is a necessary and potentially hazardous task. Before sanding, washing or painting, cover all your skin with appropriate protective clothing. Make sure that you have a good face mask - respirator type, not a paper dust mask. And check that your sander has an attached dust bag. I have observed yard hands using stand-up stick fans blowing the residual dust away from them. Spot sanding and washing down the boat bottom with fresh water does a good job of prepping. Often, we tend to over paint bottoms, more is not always better. Consider using water-based paint as cleanup will be easier. In any event, keep the dust and paint off your body and out of your lungs. IT IS TOXIC!

* Topping off wet batteries with **distilled** water is very important. At the same time check the battery connections, they are a major cause of battery failure and can cause a fire.

* Sometimes working on boats can get messy so wear old clothes. Bring some rags, gloves and eye protection.

MOST OF ALL have fun, make new friends, and let's enjoy the upcoming boating season together.

HAPPY BOATING in 2024. Captain Pete



USCG AUXILIARY



Earn Your CT Boating Certificate in One Day



Saturday April 27th

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Boat America is a safe boating class that offers an in-depth and interesting boating safety course, and provides the knowledge needed to obtain the safe boating certificate.

[Click Here for More Info >>](#)



Three Upcoming Classes Offered by America's Boating Club of Norwalk

America's Boating Course (CT Safe Boating Cert.)

Saturday April 13th - One Day Class

Saturday May 11- One Day Class

Practical On-the-Water Training

Saturday May 18- One Day Class

[Click Here for Info & Links to Register >>](#)











Information on Sailing Education Resources can be found on our website:

[Resources - Singles Under Sail](#)



And click on the button to check out *America's Boating Channel*, sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard and produced by United States Power Squadrons, the official showcase and repository for digital videos focused on boating safety and boater education.

HAVE AN SUS QUESTION? *Contact:*

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** Executive Board Member*