



BRANT BEACH YACHT CLUB

MARCH 2024

The Flag Bag

COMMODORE'S MESSAGE



As March draws to a close, I hope you're all enjoying the gradual transition into spring and the promise of longer, warmer days ahead. I trust everyone has been enjoying their winter pursuits. Personally, Pat and I have had the pleasure of indulging in skiing adventures in Colorado and Vermont with family, soaking up the sunshine in Florida, and exploring the vibrant offerings of our hometown, New York City, all while keeping our club close to heart.

Behind the scenes this winter, our Manager Antoine and our Social Chairs Jennifer and Kyle and their Day Chairs have been hard at work planning for a summer of fun. Our Membership Committee has been dedicating time to meeting with potential new members. And our Programs Committee has put together an incredible schedule with something for everyone. Don't miss the registration deadline – March 17.

One of the most significant projects, of course, is the long-awaited renovation of our main clubhouse. From a mere vision over two years ago, our main clubhouse renovation project is now taking shape. The Renovation

...continued

COMMODORE'S MESSAGE continued



Implementation Committee has been working closely with our architectural firm, Bishop & Smith, refining the design and preparing for the Township permitting process. Our Finance and Legal team are navigating through the financial intricacies, and progress is well underway. We look forward to

sharing more details with you in the coming weeks.

Our next edition of The Flag Bag will be dedicated to the Main Clubhouse Renovation project. We plan to present floor plans and elevation drawings, as well as financial details and a timeline for the project's progression. This will offer insights into many aspects of this pivotal project that will shape the future of our beloved yacht club.

As we look ahead, summer at BBYC officially begins with **Workday**. Please join us on May 11th. It's not just an opportunity to prepare our club for the season ahead; it's a chance for us to come together as a community. Let's reconnect with old friends, lend a helping hand, and lay the groundwork for an unforgettable summer together.

May Irish eyes be smiling for Saint Patrick's Day this weekend, and may the luck of the Irish be with you.

Fair winds and smooth sailing!

Commodore Mark Horowitz

SOCIAL CHAIRS' MESSAGE

Ahoy there, BBYC sailors and socialites!



As we bid farewell to winter and eagerly welcome the warmer days of spring, it's time to dust off those sailing caps and raise a glass to the season ahead. Fear not, though, and know that your Social and Committee chairs are working hard to prepare for the summer and plan a calendar of events and activities that promise to make this season one to remember.

From exhilarating regattas to relaxed dinners by sunset, from lively dockside parties to elegant dining experiences, there will be something for everyone to enjoy, and no one will walk the plank. So, let's raise anchor and set sail for a season filled with laughter, camaraderie, and perhaps a few tall tales of the one that got away.

We encourage you to stay tuned for updates and announcements as we finalize the details. We cannot wait to see you all out on the water soon. Here's to a splendid spring and an unforgettable summer at BBYC! *...continued*

SOCIAL CHAIRS' MESSAGE continued



For your reference, here is the list of Day Chairs for 2024:

Sunday: Jen and Nick Nicolini

Tuesday Ladies' Night: Janet Miller

Wednesday Juniors Night:

Christa Beshel, Liz Cuomo, and
Lauren Gardiner

Thursday Men's Night: Rich Rodriguez

Friday: Phyllis and Ray Carile

Saturday: Megan Breen Bennett and Adam Doren

Winter Chair and Sunset Saturday Chair: Susan Hannah

Jennifer and Kyle Stretch

EDITORS' MESSAGE

This month, the Flag Bag has a new layout that is tailored for viewing on mobile devices, yet is still printable for BBYC archiving purposes. Let us know if you like it!

PSC Janis Metz and PC John Prout, Editors

EXCELLENT BBYC REPRESENTATION AT THE LASER OLYMPIC TRIALS



Don Hahl, Andrew Puopolo, Chris Henkel, and Eric Reiting

This summer's 2024 Paris Olympics will feature 330 sailors competing in ten sailing events on various equipment. BBYC was very well represented in the Laser Olympic trials, with a phenomenal four of the thirty six US competitors hailing from our cove.

Only one male and one female Laser sailor will be chosen to represent each country for the ILCA 7 (men's Laser Full Rig) and ILCA 6 (women's Laser Radial). In addition, each country has to qualify, and currently the USA Women's Laser has succeeded, but the USA Men's Laser is still uncertain. It's very rare for the USA not to have qualified by this point.

The process of determining which sailors will represent the USA started with five qualifying regattas held last year: two in Florida in the winter of 2023, San Diego in June, the ILCA North Americans in Long Beach, California in July, and San Francisco in August. Four of our Brant Beach Laser sailors decided to throw their hats in the ring. Andrew Puopolo and PC Don Hahl qualified in San Francisco, Chris Henkel qualified in Long Beach, and I qualified in San Diego. ...continued

LASER OLYMPIC TRIALS *continued*

The four of us traveled to Florida last month to compete in the eight-day Olympic trial that would determine who would represent the US. The regatta was held at The Miami Yacht Club on February 17-24, a relatively unknown club to me, as I am used to the likes of Coconut Grove YC, Coral Reef YC or Key Biscayne YC. The club is located right next to the Port of Miami, where the world's largest cruise ship, the Icon of the Seas, was docked.

Chris Henkel and I first spent a few days practicing at the US Sailing Center of Martin County in Jensen Beach. Afterward, we drove south to the Miami Yacht Club to have our boats measured and thoroughly checked, and met up with Don Hahl and Andrew Puopolo.

The race area was five to six miles offshore from South Beach in the open Atlantic Ocean, requiring a very long sail or a coach-boat tow. The first two days had a breeze out of the south. The second day predicted only lingering storms, but a severe storm rolled in mid-race. With heavy wind and rain, the visibility became very poor, and everyone's goal was just to survive. As I finished the race, I saw streaks of lightning on shore and then was hit by another storm as I sailed back through the inlet. Many competitors had to be towed in.

...continued



LASER OLYMPIC TRIALS *continued*

After the front passed, the wind shifted more out of the northwest and dropped the temps, bringing three days of racing on big rolling waves, some shiftier conditions, and a chance to shake up the results a bit. After the lay day, we had two more days of competition. The first of these had a slowly building southerly wind that brought more wind and waves. In the final day we switched race locations to get better wind, sailing just off South Beach, where we had a lighter first race and then, after an hourlong lull, a final race where the women started first, since the men's title was locked in by that point.

In terms of logistics, we were surrounded by an amazing group of male and female ILCA sailors and coaches. The Miami Yacht Club welcomed us with open arms (the club manager was excited to add BBYC's burgee to their collection) and offered ample parking for all our boats and coach boats, a nice snack bar, and two cats that walked all over the property and lounged on top of the tents. *...continued*



PC Don Hahl



Eric Reitinger

LASER OLYMPIC TRIALS continued

This was a marathon of an event. No other regatta in my memory has included 7 days of racing, lengthy sails or tows in and out, and two to three races every day. This event really did show who could perform their best every day and become a top Olympic racer for the USA. Among the BBYC contenders, none of us will be heading to Paris this summer, but we are proud to have made it as far as we did.

Eric Reitingen

Click [here](#) to view the complete results.



Chris Henkel



Andrew Puopolo

Photography by Lexi Cline

GRANDDAUGHTER OF A COMMODORE



Every summer since I can remember, I have been at the Jersey Shore living with my grandparents; and for just as long I can remember, belonging to Brant Beach Yacht Club. I went from Small Fries, to Sandpipers, to Seagulls, then to Cannonball, with sailing and tennis in the mix. For a long

time, it was just me, my older sister Carter, and my grandparents, Don and Judith Hahl, because my parents and I live near Chicago most of the year. After I aged out of the camps, I realized that I didn't have the same knack for sailing like my grandfather and I was concerned about how to connect with other BBYC kids, as my only activity was weekly tennis.

During this time, however, my grandfather became Commodore of BBYC. He always did a great job welcoming new joiners and making people feel included. I always loved watching him being involved with the club, meeting new people, and helping everyone out.

That year I was introduced to the Junior Board. Hoping I was going to be able to be just like my grandfather, who was on the "actual board," I enthusiastically joined. The first day came, Monday night, 7:00 p.m. at the Junior Clubhouse (as the previous South Harbor building was known.) I walked up the stairs and was happily greeted by the Junior Commodore of that year.

...continued

GRANDDAUGHTER OF A COMMODORE continued

I was able to learn about volunteering opportunities within the club and learned about the charity that the Junior Board was raising money for that year. I had always wondered who organizes the breakfast, and puts all the baskets together, and who runs the Duck Race. And that's when I learned it was the Junior Board, which made me eager to become a member.

Through the years, the Junior Board has given me the opportunity to connect with kids my age and make connections to the community. It has even given me an outlet to lend a helping hand to various charities.

This being my seventh summer of Junior Board, I have slowly climbed the ladder and am now positioned to be the Junior Commodore along with one of my best friends, Keira DeCroix, in the Summer of 2025. And to my joy, I think I am turning out to be just like my grandfather!

Callie Flanagan



TEAM LBI

This summer BBYC will once again host the Team LBI Optimists, a talented and dedicated group of young racers who spend their summer engaging in full training days and competing in high level regattas around the country. The mission of the team is to commit LBI's top Optimist racers, expose them to high level coaching and a rigorous training schedule, and attend several United States Optimist Dinghy Association (USODA) National level regattas during our eight-week summer. Team LBI collectively works together so everyone improves their racing skills, and we are elated to call BBYC our home!

In 2023, Team LBI Sailors finished in top places in Red, Blue and White on the LBIYRA Circuit; 3rd place Overall at US Nationals; 1st Place White Fleet at NJ States; 1st place

White and Blue Fleets at Island Heights Junior Olympics and Top 5 in Blue and White fleets at USODA New England Championship.



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TEAM LBI continued

Our 2023 Team LBI sailors have qualified to represent the USA at the Lake Garda Meeting in Italy; Nieuwpoort Regatta in Belgium; the US Development Team and the USODA Team Trials. All of our members sail year-round, training and competing with the Coastal Elite Race Team in the Fall, Winter and Spring.



For the Summer of 2024, Team LBI looks forward to the return of Koky Gutierrez, one of the nation's top Optimist coaches, to work with our team.

BBYC/Team LBI members will include: James Chaytors, Grant Chin, Landon Chin, Isla Chin, John Sahadi and Jack Van Orden. In addition to local regattas, Team LBI plans to represent Brant Beach Yacht Club in the USODA National Championship in Sandusky, Ohio, as well as at the New England Championship in Newport, Rhode Island.

We can't wait for summer!

Sarah Chin

JANUARY CHILI COOK-OFF



Hosted by
Susan Hannah and
Andrene Townsend
at the South Harbor



FEBRUARY GAME NIGHT



**Hosted by
Jennifer and Kyle
Stretch
at the South Harbor**



SAILING OFF SICILY

Editor's note: A new generation of BBYC sailors is using their skills to charter larger sailboats (okay, yachts) around the world. With the proper ASA certifications or a sailing resume demonstrating equivalent experience, a typical 35 to 50 foot yacht with three or four cabins, a galley, one or two heads, an auxiliary motor and an inflatable dinghy can be chartered bareboat (without a crew) for \$2000-\$6000 a week. The British Virgin Islands are perhaps the most popular destination, while the Mediterranean, South Pacific, and Southeast Asia are more exotic and adventurous.

Sherry Roth started sailing only two years ago and has delved deep into bareboat cruising as well as advanced to become BBYC's Sunfish Fleet Captain. She previously wrote about the joys and trials of getting ASA certified. Here is her account of bareboating in the Aeolian Islands in the Mediterranean Sea, off the boot of Italy.

With my International Proficiency Certificate in hand, I was rigged and ready to serve as First Mate for our October trip to Sicily. We've officially started a tradition of Fall sailing somewhere foreign and exotic to experience a centuries-old tradition of traveling by boat to ancient seaports. ...continued



SAILING OFF SICILY continued

We traveled with my friends, the Tait family, with whom I had experienced my inaugural sail to Croatia in 2022. Chartering through Sunsail has been a good experience, especially in the off-season, which offers better pricing, light boat traffic, and plentiful moorings. We sailed a relaxing two to five hours a day among multiple black-sand islands, following our planned itinerary.



After getting oriented to our 49 foot Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 490 in Portorosa, Sicily, we spent our first night out anchored in a cove on the northeastern coast of Vulcano. At sunrise, we took our dinghy to shore to hike the volcano. The climb rewarded us with breathtaking views of the Tyrrhenian Sea and neighboring Lipari. While hiking around the crater, we came upon active sulphur vents, which upon closer inspection transported us into a Mars-like environment. Little did we know that the sulphur smell would last for weeks! We tried to enjoy the nearby mud baths, but the rising bubbles of scalding steam and the gritty nature of the mud led us running into the sea for relief.

On Panarea we stumbled upon the ruins of a 5,000-year-old village, with plaques describing its ancient inhabitants. We stopped at Lisca Bianca, where we dove down in the clear water to view volcanic vents that produced tiny bubbles ascending from the seabed. *...continued*

SAILING OFF SICILY continued



Stromboli was the most fascinating island that we visited. We hiked three miles uphill to a restaurant called Osservatorio where we dined outdoors in full view of the erupting volcano, which sent lava shooting straight up into the air. We had to limit our video taking as we needed cell battery for flashlights to scale down the narrow, pitch-black path that served as the only access to the restaurant.

Salina was my favorite of the islands - quaint, sparsely populated, with beautiful cobblestone streets lined with shops, cafes, and restaurants. We rented scooters, toured several coastal villages, and visited the Hauner Winery, famous for their Malvasia wine from local grapes nourished by volcanic soil. The early October weather was beautiful, and the crystal-clear turquoise waters were a comfortable temperature for swimming and snorkeling.

Whether sailing a luxurious yacht in faraway locations or skimming along on my Sunfish here on our bay, sailing has been a life-changing experience for me. I encourage you to either start sailing, join a sailing adventure or take your sailing passion to the next level.



Sherry Roth

BBYC SOUTH



**The February BBYC Ladies Luncheon was held at Sam Sneads Restaurant, Naples FL.
Left to right: Debbie Krautheim, Claire Annechini, Janet Coward, Lynn Mountain,
Mary Lee Pierce, Joanne Kelly, Suzanne Abbiati, Carol Pottichen, Kathy Mignanelli,
Camille Rinaldi, Maureen Veteri, Jean Davis, Pat Prout**



**The March BBYC Ladies Luncheon was held at the Capri Fish House, Isles of Capri, FL.
Left to right: Phyllis Flood, Carol Pottichen, Pat Prout, Debbie Krautheim, Suzanne Abbiati,
Lynn Mountain, Claire Annechini, Camille Rinaldi, Janet Coward, Dusti Weinstein.**

MARINER MID-WINTERS

BBYC was well represented at Salinas, Puerto Rico, in February, where Nick Nicolini, Tim Gallagher, and skipper Bill Watters placed third in an impressive fleet facing high winds and big swells. We hope to return the warm welcome and hospitality at the Mariner Nationals held this summer at BBYC!

Joanne McCarthy



2024 REGATTAS AT BBYC

BBYC hosts the LBIYRA Interclub: July 31

BBYC Annual Opti Regatta: August 1

Mariner Nationals: August 11-12

ILCA ACCs (Laser Atlantic Coast Championship): August 24-25

PC Dori Jo Gugliemini, Regatta Chair



THE FLAG BAG IS A PUBLICATION OF THE BRANT BEACH YACHT CLUB

*"... to promote yachting and foster all athletic sports upon the water;
to promote social functions and camaraderie amongst the membership;
to advance the general prosperity of Long Beach Island."*

Brant Beach Yacht Club

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