

Annual Meeting, Royal Savage Yacht Club

Change of Watch Dinner, Waybury Inn, East Middlebury, Vt.

September 30, 2017

Call to order: Gary Russell, commodore, called the meeting to order at 8 p.m.

Approval of minutes: Mike Crowley made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2016 annual meeting as submitted. Wendy Friant seconded. All voted in favor. **Motion passed.**

Approval of treasurer's report: Mary Jane Russell presented the treasurer's report. As of the end of the 2017 fiscal year on September 30, 2017, the club had a combined total of about \$13,000 in its bank and PayPal accounts, with a slight net gain for the year. She said it had been a good year, and the club's finances appeared to be right on track. Mike Crowley made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Fritz Martin seconded. All voted in favor. **Motion passed.**

Presentation of the 2016 Donnelly Cup—Steve Koch: Steve, as Fast Sail captain, presented a report on the Donnelly Cup competition this season. He said it was a fun group to sail with, and a great format, not as threatening or cutthroat as some other race series. He said the Fast Sails were a good model to fight the decline in sailboat racing on the lake. Steve said 19 boats had started at least one race, with four different winners in the nine races. No races were cancelled or shortened this season. He thanked Tim and Betsy Etchells and Roger Wallace and Susan DeSimone for picking up the slack on a couple of weekends when he was not available.

It was another close season series. In fifth place in the season standings were Jerry and Sharon Henrichon on Exit Strategy. In fourth, it was Jim Moody and Nix. Steve Koch and Spirit finished third. Tim and Betsy Etchells on Mackinac were second, just one point behind Benedek Erdos on Li'l Bot, who claimed this season's Donnelly Cup.

Horn Blower Award – Wendy Friant: Wendy presented this year's Hornblower Award, which honors the memory of longtime club member Dick von Roth. She described Dick as a quiet guy, with lots of wisdom, who was always willing to share his knowledge and support other people in the club. With all that in mind, she said, the Horn Blower Award for 2017 would be presented to Will Patten, a past commodore of RSYC.

Outgoing commodore's remarks—Gary Russell: In his commodore's report, Gary said he felt it had been a really good year, which finished with about 120 members, a big number in the club's recent history. He said the club had tried some new things, including spending a little more of the club's money to subsidize events, such as the Change of Watch Dinner. He said the new powerboat course had been a success, and attracted four new members to the club. A winter ski day had succumbed to bad weather, but would be tried again this year.

He thanked Katie Palmer for her work on the Mid-Winter Raft-up. He said the spring work day had attracted a record crowd, and noted that the spring safety checks had involved three inspectors and 29 boats.

He thanked Wendy Friant for organizing the vessel christening ceremony, Katie Palmer and Mike Crowley for their work on the first “burger burn” of the season, and credited Jerry and Sharon Henrichon for their great work organizing a successful Cruise Week in July.

He said the board had wondered whether to hold the annual Chicken Barbecue, in the face of declining attendance, but decided to do it, and found that attendance was great, with 95 meals served. He thanked Peter Nelson for his organizational work on that event, as well as the grill team.

The Lobster Fest was a record-setter, with 130-plus meals served, and Gary thanked Jerry and Sharon Henrichon, Susan DeSimone and Katie Palmer for all the work they did to make that event a success. That same day, the Diamond Island Regatta matched its best-ever total with 30 boats, and Gary thanked Steve Koch, Wendy Friant, Tim Etchells and many others for all the work that went into that event, which has become one of the premier races on Lake Champlain summer calendar. The race also benefits the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, and Gary said the club had presented the LCMM with a check for \$1,000.

Both the Destination Westport and Destination Burlington events, which included Fast Sail races, also went well. Gary thanked Marie Kayhart for organizing the many Saturday morning breakfasts offered to club members, and Steve Koch for his work on the Fast Sail series.

He pointed out that the fall workday, which includes A-frame cleanup and taking down the tent, is scheduled for October 14, and hoped a lot of people would show up.

Finally, he thanked all of the club’s members for a really great year.

Presentation of the 2017 Commodore’s Cup – Gary Russell: Gary noted the Commodore’s Cup is the club’s highest honor, intended to recognize both service to the club and embodiment of club spirit. He said that Jerry and Sharon Henrichon had been invaluable this season, and thanked them for all their hard work.

But he said he had decided to present the Commodore’s Cup this year to Wendy Friant, a past commodore of the club, who had helped him with everything he’d done this year, and had been instrumental in many of the club’s biggest events, including the Diamond Island Regatta, which she founded five years ago.

Nomination of 2016-17 officers—Past Commodore Roger Wallace: Roger presented the nominating committee’s slate of candidates for leadership positions. The nominees:

Susan DeSimone, *commodore*
Jerry Henrichon, *vice commodore*

Katie Palmer, *rear commodore*
Dean Sorenson, *membership secretary*
Tim Etchells, *recording secretary*
Mike Crowley, *director, one-year term*
Tim Cianciola, *director, two-year term*
Jim Moody, *director, three-year term*
Mary Jane Russell, *treasurer*
Doug Friant, *webmaster*

Approval of 2017-18 officers: Mindy Donnelly made a motion to approve the slate of nominees. Wendy Friant seconded. All voted in favor. **Motion passed.**

Change of Watch—Past Commodore Gary Russell/Commodore DeSimone: Gary Russell passed the office of commodore to Susan DeSimone, presenting her with a section of an oar that has become a symbol of club leadership, inscribed with the names of all past RSYC commodores.

Introduction of new officers/remarks—Commodore DeSimone: Susan presented Roger with a bottle of Polish vodka – Gary said his name, Russell, was spelled with a silent “ski” at the end – and an engraved martini glass. Susan thanked Gary for all his work organizing a successful season.

She passed out flags and blazer patches to the club officers, and talked about her hope for the new season. She emphasized working together to tackle events, and helping each other become better boaters. She said she hoped to survey members to see what they would like to better understand about their boats, and what knowledge they could share with others, to make everyone more confident on the water.

She hopes the club can bring in new members, and work to encourage younger boaters, in the Millennial generation. She looks forward to a series of great events next year.

Adjournment: Gary Russell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. Katie Palmer seconded. All voted in favor. **Motion passed.**