



## THE WATERLINE

### KOLLEGEWIDGWOK YACHT CLUB

Vol 17, No.1

April 2010

#### **Henry P. Becton**

Henry Prentiss Becton, former Chairman of Becton Dickinson & Co. and a lifelong singer and sailing enthusiast, died of complications from congestive heart failure in Blue Hill, Maine, on October 25th. He was 95 years old.

Known as "Hank" by his colleagues and friends, he spent his professional life working for the international medical instruments company co-founded by his father, first as a salesman in the Midwest, then as Executive Vice President and eventually as Chairman of the Board.

Hank was born at his home in Rutherford, New Jersey, on September 15, 1914, to Maxwell and Valerie Becton. As a youth he became a member of Boy Scout Troup 6 in Rutherford. His troop took a Holland American ocean liner to England in 1929 to attend the International Boy Scout Jamboree in Liverpool, England. Sixty-two years later the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America conferred

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#### **Commodore's Corner**

In mid-February the inner harbor had just enough ice on it to support a visiting harp seal that I am told by the experts was probably resting on his way south from Greenland. He was a good sign of better things to come.

Speaking of off-season activities, your Council has met twice to try and steer the KYC ship on a positive course. In late October, on perhaps one of the stormiest days of 2009 (rainy, windy and cold!), the newly elected Council of Directors congregated briefly at the clubhouse with a toasty warm fire (thanks Dave!) and then the intrepid group of about 20 members was ferried (safe but wet) to Ann Luskey's *Sirenuse* that was anchored just outside the harbor off Sculpin Point. One of the finest and most appropriate meeting sites in anyone's memory.

The Council's winter meeting was convened February 13 at the Blue Hill Library during a period when there was far more snow in Georgia than there was in Blue Hill, Maine. Nevertheless, the Council heard reports of significant accomplishments past and substantial plans for the 2010 season to come. Some of these happenings are reported separately in this and future Waterlines. We owe Berto Nevin a round of thanks for keeping the "Waterline" ship shape.

The 2010 Yacht Club Yearbook should have arrived by now with all of the latest information updated and presumably accurate (thanks to Dick Gibson and the Council). If you see any errors of omission or commission please email Dick or let us know at the usual address.

The calendar bears some scrutiny (put Cook's Night Out on your Thursday evening calendars!) as there are a number of important additions to the already busy summer racing and cruising schedule. Just to highlight a few:

*Continued on Page 3*

#### **Commodore Gurin and the KYC Council meet aboard *Sirenuse* October 24th 2009**



*Afloat, but not adrift!*  
TWL photo

**TWL GOES (GASP!) BIBLICAL**



“Is it nothing to you, all you who sail by?” Lamentations, 1:12  
Blagden photo

**“Mistakes were made.”** Edward Egan

Hokay, you Atlantic rock stars: As this goes to press you’re giving serious thought to ripping away the form fitting prophylactic from your Atlantic hull so you can prepare it (the hull) to be the slipperiest sleek single sticker on Blue Hill Bay. Shore side, Manager Dave Danielson is preparing Ollie for the coming season. Those two form the nucleus of Committee Boat Race Management: Dave supervises the mark and the signal setters while Ollie mindlessly sets off the proper sound signals. For years, this Committee Boat crew have performed flawlessly, almost. Occasionally, mistakes are made. In a race last August there was confusion about a mark of the course. Predictably, criticism and complaints from the racing fleet filled the airwaves about the perceived gaffe, some of it embellished with delectable expletives that should have been. Given the intensely competitive spirit of Atlantic skippers, it’s inevitable that criticism of a wrong doing will be vocal but please remember that the Race Committee is made up of volunteer slave laborers, so even if your choler colors you red-faced, delete the expletives. Besides, the USYRU racing rules contain provisions on sportsmanship that could work against your intemperateness. *TWL*

**SALTY NOTES FROM ALL OVER**

*POST BREAKFAST PRUNE THOUGHTS FROM DAN DENNETT:* “It occurred to me that perhaps this is a good time of year to send a gentle reminder to owners of big boats (boats with heads). I suspect I was not alone in almost never using the “token” holding tank on my boat, and when, last summer, I decided to get with the times now that we have the pump-out boat, I discovered that my holding tank was too small—not to mention dangerously old and cranky—to use with confidence. So I am replacing it with a larger, better holding tank this spring. Not expensive, and it is the proper next step for NYC sailors to take—first you have to have the pumpout boat (check), and then you have to have tanks to pump out. I recommend at least seriously testing your holding tank before the season is in full swing, and replacing it if you can’t envisage making serious use of it. NYC should lead the way.”

*FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THE BECTONS THAT WERE:* There’s something about the song “Blue Skies.” When played to a red hot Dixieland beat it could inspire super energized nymphets and their callow swains to indulge in an orgy of wild, leg propelling charlestons but when sung and sung well in non-rhythmic close harmony, as Cynthia Barber, Jean and Hank Becton once did in an early Club performance, the melody and lyrics are poignantly haunting. If the singers occasionally gave

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*A quiz for all you Septua/Octo/Nanogenerians: Recognize anyone in this photo?*

**Homeward Bound  
A Reunion Reunion**

The crew of *Heretic* and *Alpheratz* “show the (KYC) flag” during a rendezvous in Reunion, a scant 2,100 miles from Cape Town where, Joshua Slocum claimed, a trip ends. From here on, it’s a delivery back to NYC. *TWL*



Greg Carroll photo

*"Commodore's Corner" Continued from p.1*

The Club will open officially on June 18 after the staff is on the job and Dave has everything organized. Fuel is available starting June 1 by appointment. The Opening Dinner will be June 26; the Ship's Store will be open that night!

A New Member cocktail party is planned for July 12. Please plan to come and greet our newest members and families.

Tuesday evenings are going to be fun this summer with KYC Tuesday Talks about sailing and racing, and/or KSEA Movie Night – check the calendar.

Mark down Friday July 23 for the KYC/KSEA joint Family Picnic on Long Island...everyone and all boats expected. Food, fun and family!!! Celebrity Chefs and special activities. Races to and from the event to be announced.

The Annual Meeting and Chowder is August 25 (Junior Awards) and the Closing Dinner is Saturday August 28 when we will recognize the Atlantics and 121/2's for their racing accomplishments and announce seamanship awards. The club closes for the season on September 19.

So far, the authors, directors and actors in last year's Follies have not volunteered an encore presentation or even hinted at new endeavors to entertain us. Time is our friend and I am sure that by the end of the season former Commodore Becton can be encouraged to lead us in a chorus of the Club Song at the very least.

In the meantime, your Council is hard at work on such things as reviewing and re-writing the club's bylaws, policies and procedures as the State and Federal regulations governing such things change with regularity. We hope to have all of these updates organized and proposed for this year's annual meeting when you'll have a chance to vote on them.

We are hiring staff and instructors now so if you have candidate children or grands, please get info to Dave. We are also looking to fill some critical volunteer posts: web site management, store and prize committee, administrative help, cook's night out chefs and more. Please contact the appropriate committee chair (or me) with ideas!

See you on the water...soon. RSG

## ***Everyone Can Be a Cooks Night Out Super-chef!***

It's easy!!

Just get in touch with Gina and Deborah (see info at bottom) and let them know. And the sooner the better because three of the eight CNO Super-Chef slots are already taken and its only March!

Cooking up a storm for a KYC Cooks Night Out evening is fun, easy, and everybody is looking forward to tasting this summer's offerings.

Some things to consider: Our club members really don't expect an elaborate meal. Previous Super-chefs have served up a wide variety of dishes: lasagna, fajitas, BBQ pork, chicken + rice medley, baked wild salmon and all kinds of pasta dishes. We all enjoy this time together, and one thing for sure, this is NOT a competition. There are a few cookbooks in the galley that cover cooking for large groups, just ask. If you are so inclined, there are a few catering firms that will gladly assist too.

The KYC galley was designed specifically around handling food preparation for large dinners. It has two commercial size ovens with six-burner stove-top, two dishwashers, walk-in refrigerator, under-counter freezer, a useful selection of pots, pans, cutting boards, bowls, etc. You will want to have a look-see sometime before your big day.

Once you have your date confirmed all you have to do is:

1. Pull together a few of your closet super-chef friends and your menu as soon as possible, and let us (Gina L + Deborah E) know so we can get it posted on the club website and at the clubhouse.
2. You should think in terms of cooking and serving 80 to 100 adults for dinner on your evening. It's a good idea if you and your crew plan to do the serving for 'portion control' at least for the first time through the serving line. The evening begins at 1800 hrs (6pm) and serving begins (hopefully) at 1900 hrs (7pm).
3. Plan your evening around serving 100 adults. These CNO evenings are hugely popular and almost always fully reserved by the end of the day on Monday, especially in August. But, if 80 or 90 is your max, we can work with that.
4. The club will have galley/cleaning staff on hand at the end of the evening. They will need your help rounding up all the stray dishes and flatware. And please plan to take all your personal dishes, pots, tools, etc. that you brought with you, home that evening. Our galley is not a good place to leave personal property - there's just too much going on every day.
5. Don't forget to give your reimbursable receipts to one of us so that the club can send you a check.

After you've recovered, remember that as Super-Chef, you will have a free pass to a CNO evening of your choice.

Last and most important, **remember to have fun!** You're just cooking dinner for your extended family of KYC friends - what could be more enjoyable than that?

Kollegewidwok Yacht Club - *the best little clubhouse on the coast of Maine!*

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Deborah Evans  
devans48@mac.com  
326-8624



*Father & Son Super-Chefs*

"Salty Notes" Continued from page 2

Club race committees challenging moments they also gave the Club music. Both are memorable gifts and the Kollegewidwok Yacht Club is the richer for them.

**ON THE STOREFRONT:** Our Store Minder, Debra Marsteller advises: "Get ready for a new season at the KYC Store! This year we plan to have special offers, periodic sales and, of course, new merchandise! Be the first to come check it out at the Opening Dinner. Choose from the best color and size selection of polos and sweatshirts and be sure to outfit the kids and grandkids as well.

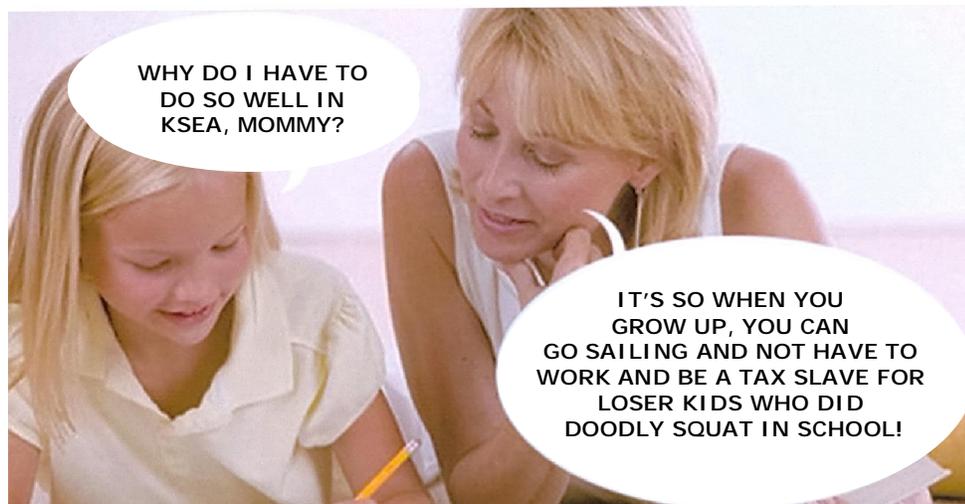
In addition, by popular request, we will be offering green merchandise such as reusable water bottles. We welcome ideas for new merchandise- just email Debra Marsteller at [seastar511@comcast.net](mailto:seastar511@comcast.net). Have a great spring and we'll see you at the store!"

**ALL FLEET'S DAY:** Race Committee Co-Chair Spencer Evans and the Council have come up with an idea worth pursuing: Declare August 2nd, the day of the Founders Cup race, the Club Fleet day in which every Club boat that floats heads Bayward. A starting line will be set up near the harbor entrance for all the sailing classes: Optis, 420's, 12½'s, Atlantics and Six Meters, if there are any still in the Bay. Floating. Power yachts will serve as chaperone/spectator boats. There you have it, skippers and owners. Get out there and show your show boats!

**AHOY YACHTING PURISTS:** How would you like to buy a real piece of modern yachting history in time to parade it on "All Fleet's Day" and then show it off in the ensuing Eggemoggin Reach Regatta? We've got one to tell you about. *Dorado*, that famous Bermudan yawl that won the 1931 Transatlantic race from Newport to Plymouth and finished two days ahead of the second yacht in elapsed time is for sale. She could take her place alongside *Thistledown* and *Thunderhead* in the growing Kollegewidwok roster of Classic Yachts. What better way is there to establish a place for yourself in the Club history?

**OUR OTHER FAR FLUNG OCEAN TRAVELERS:** Ann Luskey reports on Sirenuse's green winter passage: "Trip was AMAZING!!! We sure have a lot of work to do in order to save the oceans...and we better get to it right away!!!!!"

## The KSEA Section



And there is a more immediate reward for enrolling in KSEA! The Board and the Commodore are proposing movie nights, complete with popcorn after dinner, that will be open to all. These will be held on July 6th, July 20th and August 10th. Also proposed: A new race open to all sailors in the KSEA program. It is the Becton Cup, in honor of Jean and Henry Becton Sr., and it will be held August 16th at 1400h.

Inshore, work continues apace. Manager Dave Danielson is readying the KSEA fleet of Whalers 420's and Rhodes 19 so that they will be in Bristol fashion when sailing students hit the docks June 21st for the start of Learn to Sail Week. (full disclosure: TWL stands foursquare behind adding a Rhodes 19 fleet to the July and August Series racing roster, for those who prefer something smaller and easier to handle than an Atlantic. To attest to their durability, they were a popular racing class in windswept San Francisco Bay for the local sailing rock stars in the Seventies).

For additional sailing education information as it develops do please check, or click, on the KSEA web site. *TWL*



*KYC student from other days in a Bruta Beast*



*A gunter Riggerd Bruta Beast*

## MERI MAKOS

*"Time Passes With a Fleeting Foot"* Codman Hislop

It seems as though it was only yesterday that a low profile organization bearing the acronym "Meri" that stood for Marine Environmental Research Institute" took root in a nondescript farmhouse near the Brooklin-Blue Hill town line on Route #175. Actually, it was twenty years ago, and since its inception MERI's profile has become a highly visible part of the local landscape, especially after it moved to greater downtown Blue Hill several years ago. To celebrate, MERI will host cocktails and dinner, starting at 5PM on Friday July 2nd The keynote speaker will be Jim Fowler, explorer, wild life conservationist and TV host of "Wild Kingdom" Given the relationship between the Club and MERI—both have overlapping interests—members might want to attend this event. Dinner reservations are \$120.00 per person, cheap at twice the price, and as seating is limited one would do well to make reservations soon. Call 207-374-3135 or email [info@meriresearch.org](mailto:info@meriresearch.org). *TWL*

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him the honor and rank of Distinguished Eagle Scout

Hank attended the Taft School in Connecticut and then went on to Yale University, graduating in 1937. His devotion to Yale and to singing were intertwined throughout his life. Hank was a member of the Yale Glee Club and the internationally renowned singing group, The Whiffenpoofs. The current "Whiff" group gathered in Blue Hill, Maine, this past August, at the end of their 22-country centennial tour to sing for Hank, their oldest living member, at his summer home. The words to several songs in the Yale Songbook were written by Hank. He was awarded the Yale Medal in 1974 for distinguished service to the University, and the Becton Center for Engineering and Applied Science at Yale bears his name.

Shortly after graduation, he met his future wife, Jean Sprague Coggan, with whom he chose to elope on June 16, 1942. They celebrated their 66<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary a month before she died in July, 2008.

Soon after their marriage, Hank was drafted into the army and sent overseas to serve in the war effort. Jean surprised him by giving birth to fraternal twins, also to be named Henry and Jean, while he was stationed in England. In the coming years they would become the proud parents of three more children—Jeffery in 1947, Cynthia in 1951, and Elizabeth in 1952.

Hank and Jean spent their summers in Blue Hill where he soon took up sailing and quickly became an enthusiast for the sport, eventually becoming Commodore of the Kollegewidgwok Yacht Club. He raced their 42 ft yawl, Ariana, to Bermuda, Halifax and elsewhere, winning his class in the Block Island Race and oth-



*Hank Becton at the wheel of Ariana*

ers. Several of his children were Maine State Champions, and two of his granddaughters sailed on the Yale championship sailing team. A growing number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who called him "Poppy" spent their summers

with him in Maine. On still, early mornings, he delighted in taking them rowing out to the nearby ledges to collect starfish, periwinkles and sea urchins, or fishing for mackerel behind their wooden powerboat, Blue Jean, named for his wife.

Hank was also a lifelong pilot, flying his own Air Coupe and then Navion, single-engine planes, back and forth between a small unpaved airstrip in Blue Hill and Teterboro Airport in New Jersey.

He and his wife had resided in recent years at The Moorings in Vero Beach, Florida, while continuing to summer in Blue Hill. In addition to his five children, Hank is survived by his fourteen grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. *HPB Family*



*Ariana in happier days, August 1995 J. W. Tyler photo*

### Members Elected at the October 2009 Council Meeting

<u>Member</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconders</u>
Darrell & Susan Austin	Peter Niehoff	Homer Chisholm Deborah Miller-Little
Marion R. Johnson	Lisa Thors	Char Joslin Thepin Fay
Brinley & Rooney Hall	N/A	N/A

### Members Elected at the February 2010 Council Meeting

Peter Smith & Pamela Mitchell	Bill Barton	Teke Wiggin Henry Becton Jr
Matthew G. Hyde	Roger Shepley	Scott Milliken H. Becton, T. Wiggin
Don & Elyse Lehman	F&D Marsteller	J&S Keh T&R Wilder
Nancy R. Werth	Geoffrey Anthony	Karen A. Wyatt Ethelbert Nevin II

#### Blue Hill Country Club Dates

Sunday 7/4/10 July 4th party  
 Monday 8/9/10 Annual Meeting  
 Tuesday 8/10/10 Annual Beach Picnic  
 (this is due to the tides)  
 Friday 8/20/10 Final Cocktail party

#### *A Correction*

Laurel Martin was listed as Laura on the new officers slate in the previous "Waterline."