



**February 1, 2008**

*“A singular disadvantage of the sea lies in the fact that after successfully surmounting one wave you discover that there is another behind it just as important and just as nervously anxious to do something effective in the way of swamping boats. In a ten-foot dingy one can get an idea of the resources of the sea in the line of waves that is not probable to the average experience, which is never at sea in a dingy.”*

From *The Open Boat* by Stephen Crane

Dear CYC Members,

It is a pleasure to write to you as we experience this wonderful new snow. What makes all the snow even more enjoyable is the knowledge that spring is soon to follow. For the snow will slowly fade away, the corners of West Falmouth Harbor will break free from ice, and once again the flag will be flying at Little Pier. I had the pleasure of attending the New England Boat Show last month. While everything in the show was far out of my price range, it was fun to look at the vessels and think of getting back on the water.

With the changing of the calendar, I have had a chance to look back on last season. 2007 was a busy and productive time at CYC. Through the generosity and tenacity of club members, we were able to purchase new floats for Little Pier. While not traditional in appearance, the floats greatly increased the safety and function of the pier. In addition, we were able to acquire a new coaching boat. The 14 foot Ribcraft, affectionately known as “Puff Daddy”, was a wonderful addition to our great fleet. It allowed us to better serve our junior sailors, both at Chapoquoit and while representing the club at various regattas. Increased numbers in the Junior Program were also very encouraging. Our younger sailors spent more time on the water, both racing around buoys and just plain having fun.

Yet, with all of our improvements last year, I find myself having mixed feeling from 2007. While we had many successes, I feel we were also missing something. At the opening meeting, I put out a plea to the membership to become more involved. While several individuals came forward, the responsibility of having a successful summer fell on the shoulders of far too few. Whether it was Tuesday night Family Nights or running races, the same faces could be seen chipping in. While everything got done, it did not come without a toll on those who volunteered.

When I became vice commodore three and a half years ago, I was excited about the opportunity to give back to the club that had meant so much to me and my family. CYC dominates most of my summer memories. I remember proudly building the sunfish racks with my father in our garage in Southborough. (It was 1976; the year many of us would purchase red, white, and blue Sunfish to celebrate the Bicentennial.) I remember finally being moved in the clambake line from onions to lobster. My first paycheck ever was from CYC (18 dollars). I remember crewing for Boyzey Zezza, Will Ross and my brother against Wild Harbor in the team race finals and thinking that, "When I grow up I want to be just like them."

Chapoquoit Yacht Club to me is about memories and people. In short, it is about community. It's about Joe Kirk wearing his Santa hat. It's about Mike McSherry showing up in plaid pants at the clambake. It's about watching my nephew, Andrew, flip over an Opti for the first time. CYC to me is about a group of people who work together to share their love of the water.

I have always seen my responsibility as commodore as that of allowing others to enjoy CYC the same way I have. Thus, my goal for the 2008 season is to help other members, both young and old, have some of the same great experiences I have had. I hope to help members become better connected with the various aspects of the club. Recently, I was told that more people would volunteer if they knew what needed to be done. In that spirit, the council has created a list of volunteer opportunities. This list will be mailed along with your membership forms in the beginning of April. I hope that you will look over the various opportunities that are open to you and think about signing up for an activity.

Chapoquoit Yacht Club is a truly special organization. We are a group of people who have chosen to come together to enjoy our time on the water and each others' friendship. I look forward to once again seeing all of you on Little Pier.

Jamie Ramsdell  
Commodore

**Important Dates to Know:**

Work Day- May 25  
Opening Meeting-June 22  
First Day of Classes- June 23  
Jr. Awards- July 18  
Mid-Season Meeting- July 19  
Last Day of Classes- August 8  
Clambake- August 16  
Work Day- August 30  
Annual Meeting- August 31