



Looking Upwind

As we move forward in December towards the holidays, I wanted to share a few thoughts and plans for my term as Commodore of the BBYRA. Thanksgiving brought families together in the spirit of gratitude and shared thanks for all we have been given. When I think back about my life, the BBYRA and the connection to all of you sailors and friends, the feeling of joy becomes quite overwhelming.

I have raced "downbay" since I was 11, towing down in a Blue Jay at 6:30 am, tossing jelly doughnuts at other boats, some naps and lots of mystery at what the day would bring as we went under one - then two bridges. Those tows and journeys on Saturdays down and back again make a critical fabric of my life. But, one phrase sticks out, and that is "man oh man, am I lucky."

The BBYRA is the fabric of our lives and yacht clubs for us all. **Every club has its most important room decorated with the BBYRA Championship flags that go back to 1914.** We have evidence and reminders of those sailors, mostly family members or friends who won their day. But, again, aren't we all so lucky?

During my term as Commodore, I would like to add a few pieces to the fabric of the BBYRA. A few years ago, the **BBYRA became a 501(c)(3) charity providing donors with a tax deduction for their gifts.** We use these donations to invest for the future and deliver grants to support sailing on our bay. With the leadership of Commodores who came before me and the generosity of many sailors, the BBYRA is in a strong financial position. We have roughly \$200,000 in cash, and after weathering Covid-19, we have the chance to support our racing fleets and **look for opportunities to grow the numbers of sailors who will one day become members of our 13 yacht clubs.** A mentor of mine used to draw circles in the air with his finger - showing that doing a good job becomes a great job when we complete the entire circle - the virtuous circle that ends by giving back what was given so freely.

As Commodore, I would like to see the BBYRA expand our reach by supporting Barnegat Bay sailing to a broader audience. To achieve this, we have:

- Approved a plan to take \$100,000 of our cash and shift that into an investment account (slowly over the course of a year) that may grow in a balanced fashion over time
- Budgeted \$10,000 specifically earmarked to be granted to deserving programs that help grow and support sailing on Barnegat Bay

The opportunity ahead is that we would like you all to consider having the

BBYRA in your hearts and minds when giving to charities. I am confident that our organization is well managed to be good "stewards" of your gifts. So that we can sustainably support sailing on the bay, my goal is to get this long-term account above \$500,000 as quickly as time and attention will allow. **Your help, whether this year or in the future, will be gratefully received and put to good use** in strengthening the cloth by helping others find the joy of sailing on Barnegat Bay.

I have been lucky to sail with many world-class people and sailors, and one constant theme about success is that having a steady, yet light, hand on the tiller and constant angle of heel will produce the chance to be around the leaders. Patience and constant speed over time will create opportunities that never would have appeared with our heads in the boat. We don't know what the future might look like or the chances to help others grow, heal, repair and expand their lives.

Thank you for helping make the BBYRA as successful as it is today. I hope that you will all join me in generously supporting us as we enter the next stage of expanding the reach of our wonderful organization.

With kindest regards,
Russ Lucas
Commodore



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