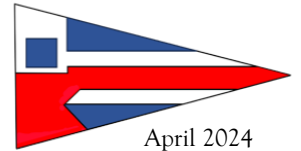


# SUFFOLK BOAT CLUB

*Established 1944*



April 2024

Greetings SBC members!

Spring is upon us and with it the days are growing longer and every boat owner is praying for some warmer, calmer weather so they can get out there and start preparing their vessels for the coming season. I find myself included in that bunch and have a growing excitement for the coming boating season. Partly because I literally live for boating season (as many of us do) and partly because I'm looking forward to what we have planned for the club as the summer unfolds. I'll share more on the coming calendar of events shortly but want to switch gears for something that caught my eye recently.

I was at the club doing some preparation for a coming meeting and came across a fantastic presentation that described the origins of our club. I'd be willing to bet most of us have walked right past it for years without taking notice. As I read through it on the wall, I was drawn in and my imagination got the best of me. I wondered, what was it like shortly after World War II as soldiers returned from the war and wanted to continue to serve in one capacity or another. The piece was written by Alfred Volkmann, and I have taken the liberty of digitizing the message and included it on our Club website. I hope you enjoy the story as much as I did.

## ORIGINS OF THE SUFFOLK BOAT CLUB

During World War II the United States Coast Guard organized a unit of the Coast Guard Reserve in the Patchogue area. The Reserve was composed of knowledgeable boaters drawn from members of the United States Power Squadrons and yacht clubs in the area and who were too old to be drafted or accepted into the regular armed forces.

The Reserve mission was to support the active-duty Coast Guard which they did by standing duty watches at Moriches and Fire Island Coast Guard Stations and patrolling the Great South Bay to report visible lights during the blackout and other suspicious activity. They were trained by the Coast Guard and required to attend drills and classroom instruction. The uniform and the duty gave these men the opportunity to serve their country by providing direct assistance to the Coast Guard and thus rendering valuable service to and support of the war effort.

Disbanded in 1946, the Reserve Unit was reformed into a quasi governmental/civilian organization which we know today as the Coast Guard Auxiliary. They continue to patrol the Bay and render assistance to boaters through search and rescue missions in direct assistance and support of the Coast Guard and the Suffolk County Police.

Since the Coast Guard Auxiliary received money and training from the government it was not permitted to engage in regular social activities as a part of its programs. Responding to the desire to continue the friendships and associations formed during the war years the former Reservists and Auxiliary members started a separate social organization which became The Suffolk Boat Club.

At first the only members were the men of the Reserve unit and the Auxiliary; the original club bylaws even stipulated that it would always provide a home for the Auxiliary. However, over the years new members joined the Auxiliary but not always did they join the Club. Ultimately the Auxiliary moved to other venues, and it no longer needed the support of the Club. Finally, in the late 1970s, responding to social pressure and

### ELECTED OFFICERS

Russ Kittel  
*Commodore*

Jim Lorello  
*Vice Commodore*

Jeanne Riley-Kittel  
*Rear Commodore*

Charlie Mazzaresse  
*Treasurer*

Susan Glover  
*Recording Secretary*

Kathy Lorello  
*Financial Secretary*

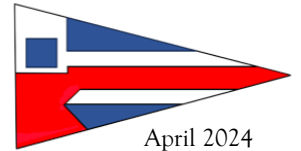
*Directors*  
Tom Duggan  
Mike Sawaya

*Bridge Meeting*  
April 3, 2024

*Member Meeting*  
April 19, 2024

# SUFFOLK BOAT CLUB

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waning interest women became members and began attending meetings, holding offices and participating in a wide range of new social events, beginning an era of revitalization and renewal.

The first clubhouse was an obsolete coal barge, which plied the Hudson River for 100 years or more. It was purchased and towed to Patchogue where it was docked at the present location of the club. The interior was



refinished to make it habitable, folding chairs were brought aboard and an honor bar was set up. Everett Dunkerley who was the commanding officer of the Reserve unit became the first commodore. It has been said that the meetings were always very short, followed by some lively poker games and occasionally a stag film. Ed Schwinge cooked his famous onion soup and John Horndrup tended bar. Dunkerley was also known for his fine cigars, the smoke from which permeated the air on meeting nights.

pumping it out by hand as there was no electricity on the street back then. A member, Alfred P. Volkmann, owned the surrounding land and was in the process of re-bulkheading and dividing it into 20 foot plots to sell as dock spaces. He sold two of the spaces to the club and the barge was hauled onto the land by Curtis Davis, another member, and the sinking problem was solved. It wasn't long however, before the termites invaded the

structure and it began to crumble and fall apart.

Top Row: Geroge Bishop, the rest are Unknown

Middle Row: Unknown, Henry Marten, Unknown, Johannes Walther, Unknown, Unknown

Front Row: Alfred P. Volkmann, Unknown, Everette Dunkerly, Joseph Cherubini, Unknown, Unknown

committed volunteer labor to construct a new clubhouse laid out substantially as it exists today. At first there was an open porch on the north end of the building. The first addition was to enclose the porch and move the bar there. After a later fire the building was expanded to accommodate the present bar and enlarge the kitchen.

In the mid 1950's the club raised sufficient money and

Alfred A. Volkmann

September 15, 2010



# Commodore's Update

Well, now we all know a little more about the origins of the Suffolk Boat Club. Hope you found this history lesson as interesting as I did. Circling back to the coming season, I wanted to share a few upcoming event dates and some things we are still finalizing.

## April

- 3 - Directors Meeting
- 19 - Dinner meeting sponsored by A/B Pier
- 24 - SBC Trivia Night

## May

- 1 - Directors Meeting
- 5 - Commodores Brunch - Sunday brunch w/ guest speaker
- 17 - Dinner Meeting sponsored by Jeanne & Russ Kittel (Smoked BBQ)
- 24 - Zach's Bay Meetup - Reach out to Scott Glover if you're interested in coming out for this
- 29 - SBC Trivia Night

## June

- 5 - Directors Meeting
- 7 - Member Meeting- Steak Dinner - Make note that the member meeting is early in June
- 26 - SBC Trivia Night
- 28-29 - Connetquot River Raftup

## July - August

- Working on Tiki Boat Happy Hour - mid-week event, dates to follow
  - o First 30 to sign up make the boat (limited capacity)
  - o Working on schedule for July and August excursions

Lots coming up and much to look forward to as the season begins to unwind. As always, your suggestions for additional events to consider are always welcomed.

*Rae*



Panoramic look at the view from the Club on a quiet winter morning



# Commodore's Update

**April Meeting** – This month's meeting will be a traditional Italian feast sponsored by the crew from A/B Pier. Please let us know as soon as possible if you will be attending.

Our May meeting will be hosted by your Rear Commodore and Commodore and if memory serves me well, the smoked BBQ and fixins are always a crowd favorite.

## **Membership**

1. Our roster is currently at 37 members +3 new applicants on our way to a goal of 50.

2. New membership applications in review with the board.

Maria & John Sarich

Steve Langenbach

Kathy & Rob Andersen

There are another 2-3 prospects that have expressed interest in joining. We're waiting on applications.

3. Guest invitations for the membership to use for prospective members are printed and will be available at all meetings. The invitations are a great way to break the ice when inviting guests.

4. Please continue to invite friends and acquaintances to be a part of the club as we celebrate our 80th anniversary year. Feel free to share our web site link to help tell our story to future members.

<https://suffolkboatclub.godaddysites.com>

**Fundraising** – Our fundraising for 2024 continues to roll on. We're on or ahead of our plan for 2024. Our new monthly Trivia Night has already raised almost \$2,000 in just three months. Thank you for your participation and please continue to invite outside guests & friends to upcoming events, it really helps. And, it's a lot of fun! Just ask anyone who has come out already.

1. **Calendars** – March calendar winners were pulled at the March board meeting. The club was able to net approximately \$600 from the March calendar sales. Thanks to all who participated and congratulations to all the winners.

2. **Trivia Night** – March's trivia night was another success. We had a good turnout and a lot of fun, as usual. If you missed it, you missed a great evening and a lot of laughs. Get your team together and make plans to come out for our April Trivia Night on Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> and get into the fun! See you there!!



3. **Mah Jong** - Working on a schedule for Mah Jong night at the club. More details will be forthcoming.



# Commodore's Update

**Loan Payments** - Our outstanding loan balance is \$6,000 owed to 7 members. 5 payments were distributed through February and March. Will do our best to make additional payments in April.

## **Committee Volunteers**

The Bridge has big plans for this year and we need your help to achieve success. We are looking for volunteers for several important roles including:



1. Director – Ed Detweiler has stepped up to fill Ronnie Shaber's absence. Thanks Ed!!
2. Membership – Lot's going on with membership. We could use someone to help coordinate and do follow ups
3. Fundraising – Looking for some fun ideas and ways to raise funds
4. Events – Open to more special events. We have ideas but need hands to help.
5. Fleet Captain
6. Flag Officer



Please give some thought to how you can bring your skills and talents to the club and volunteer to put your hands to the oars and row with us into 2024 and beyond.

Wishing you all calm winds and smooth seas,

Russ Kittel, Commodore

Suffolk Boat Club

<https://suffolkboatclub.godaddysites.com>

## **Club Rentals**

Please contact Kathy Lorello @ 631-758-0327 if you or a guest is interested in renting the club for a special event.

### **April Anniversaries**

Barbara & Paul Wekerle

Maria & John Sarich

### **April Birthdays**

Marylou DiClemente, Cathy Hess, P/C David Roslak,  
Barbara Wekerle



Hope your day is the best yet!!

### **Commodore's Corner**

Boating related stories & information

Hope you enjoy the content!

[National Seashore Repairs Underway](#)

[Famous Ride Struggles Under Debt](#)

[Quick Tips on Boat Trimming](#)