

STONINGTON HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Newsletter—Volume 10

Spring/Summer 2021

Harbor Happenings



From Our Chairman: *Jay Spalding*

On March 13, 2021 a revised Stonington Harbor Management Plan Ordinance was overwhelmingly passed by town voters. The new ordinance is posted on the SHMC page on the Town website. The biggest change is the establishment of a new larger slow no wake (SNW) zone around Sandy Point. The previous SNW zone at Sandy Point was based on CT State boating statutes regarding SNW within 100ft of shore (200ft for PWC). The ordinance was also updated to reflect various other changes in CT state statutes and includes specific enforcement provisions for the SNW zones.

Another change this year is the collection of fees for joining and remaining on the Mooring Waitlist. This capability existed in the previous ordinance, but the Commission had not implemented the fee collection. This is important to maintain an accurate Waitlist so we may fill vacant moorings in a timely fashion. For mooring management, our transition to Online Mooring LLC is going well. We continue to use more features and are now managing all of the moorings (commercial, private and special purpose) through this system.

I would like to thank all the members of this Commission and our Harbormaster for all their hard work over this last year. The extra effort put into mooring surveys, the revised Harbor Management Ordinance, Online Mooring implementation, SNW and anchorage buoys; and of course this newsletter demonstrates their dedication to the citizens of Stonington and our Harbor.

In June 2020, the Commission went virtual and now conducts Zoom meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month. This format has proven effective and convenient. If in-person meetings resume later this year, they will be held at the Stonington Police Station Public Meeting room. The Harbor Management Plan, Agendas and Minutes are available on the Stonington Town website: <http://www.stonington-ct.gov/stonington-harbormanagement-commission>.

And always, please feel free to contact me directly by email with any concerns: jspalding19@gmail.com



From Our Harbormaster: *Eric Donch*

It is the most asked question every where you go, "When will we get back to normal?" My answer is "Once the weather breaks and we can get back on our boats!" 2020 certainly was a difficult year for all of us. It looks like we are making progress and the 2021 boating season should be back to "Normal".

Those of you who currently have a mooring are aware of our transition to "Online Mooring" as our harbor management tool. More information about that system can be found in a later article in this newsletter.

After many years of work, the Harbor Management Commission was finally able to get a new "Slow, No Wake" ordinance passed in Stonington. This new area will encompass the western tip of Sandy Point. Look for the new marker buoys west of the island tip and between green cans "7" and "9" to the east. Vessels leaving Walkers Dock will also see a new marker defining the northern edge of the "Slow, No Wake" area. This area was established for safety reasons due to increasing traffic, congestion, and increased paddle craft usage along the beach.

Those of you who venture further east will see a new green "21" can at Pawcatuck Point (Osbrook Point). This new can marks the tip of the rock jetty that comes to the edge of the narrow channel. Please slow down and proceed at a "No Wake" speed as you pass through this portion of the channel.

Seatow and Towboat US are commonly seen assisting vessels in our waterways. Both of the companies display an alternating Red/Amber flashing light when towing a disabled vessel. Slow down, give them a wide berth and pass with a minimal wake to help ensure the safety of both vessels. Remember, in almost all situations, they have the Right-of Way while towing a disabled vessel.

As always, I look forward to seeing everyone on the water this season. Flag me down to give me ideas for our Harbor or provide feedback on what you like or dislike.

Stonington Harbormaster
Eric Donch

VHF - Ch 9 and 72
when on the water

Cell (860-303-5046)

harbormaster@usa.com

Divers in the Harbor

Most boaters recognize the diver-down flag that marks a diving area. Connecticut and federal law requires that scuba divers and snorkelers display this flag. We often see these flags in the area of Dubois Beach and Stonington Point. Local dive shops like to use this area for certification dives, as well as, being a popular spot for recreational diving.

The traditional rectangular red flag with a white diagonal stripe should be within 50 feet of the divers. You may not operate a vessel within 100 feet, or cause a water-skier or similar towed device, to come within 100 feet of a dive flag.

Vessels engaged in diving operations are also required to display the white and blue International Code Flag "A". This is done in conjunction with the red and white diver down flag attached to the divers.



"Connecticut and federal law requires that scuba divers and snorkelers display the diver flag."



Engine Cut-off Switch — New Coast Guard Policy



Starting April 1, 2021 the US Coast Guard will begin to enforce the use of engine cut-off switches (ECOS) for anyone operating a motor vessel less than 26 feet. The move comes after well-publicized accidents in which injuries occurred when operators of small powerboats fell overboard and their boats continued out of control and struck other boats or people in the water, including the driver.

Individuals operating covered recreational vessels (less than 26 feet in length), with an engine capable of 115 lbs. of static thrust; (3 HP or more) to use ECOS "links." Using the ECOSL is required only when the primary helm is not within an enclosed cabin, and when the boat is operating on plane or above displacement speed.

Common situations where ECOSL use would NOT be required include docking, trailering, trolling or operating in no-wake zones. For more information: <https://uscgboating.org/recreational-boaters/engine-cut-off-switch-faq.php>

From DEEP: Life would be boring without a boat. Mind your Ps and Qs to ensure safe adventures.

DEEP Information: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/Boating-and-Paddling>

OR Email: deep.Boating@ct.gov

Stonington Harbor Mooring Grid



Mooring Waitlist — New Fee and Process for 2021

The Harbormaster and the Stonington Harbor Management Commission maintain a Waitlist of mooring applicants. Applicants must have a CT Safe Boating Certificate, only one mooring permit per person is allowed and spouses are considered joint permit holders. For more details on these requirements and for ground tackle specifications see the Ordinance Section 4 of the Stonington Harbor Management Plan. This can be found on the Town website: stonington-ct.gov under Boards and Commissions, SHMC.

The Waitlist is maintained by a mooring management service, Online Mooring, who also processes Waitlist Applications and Mooring Permit Renewals for the Commission. Currently there are (194) applications on the Waitlist and these represent a ten year wait time, however this is expected to be substantially reduced over the next year after the Commission verifies current applications. **This year the Commission will impose an annual fee of \$25 to maintain a position on the Waitlist.** This and the fact the recent re-grid process of the mooring field has opened numerous new mooring positions, will reduce the waiting time substantially for a new mooring. A recent poll of persons at the top of the Waitlist resulted in one third of those declining to remain on the Waitlist.

When it is your turn to be issued a new mooring permit, you will need your vessel's CT state registration. We recommend all applicants and all permit holders keep a copy of their registration at home as the document is necessary to obtain and renew a mooring permit. A current CT state registration is required and documented vessels also must obtain a CT Certificate of Number from CT DMV. If you are offered a mooring by the Harbormaster, but are not able to utilize the offer because of the sale of a vessel, you have an existing contract for a commercial mooring rental or for other key reasons, contact the Harbormaster and he **MAY** issue you a one year only deferral. This allows you to receive a mooring permit the following year.

If you would like to place an application on the SHMC Waitlist, go to the Online Mooring website, www.onlinemooring.com and select Town of Stonington, CT. Register and complete the application in accordance with the instructions listed on the website and pay the one time \$50 Application Fee. **Please do not complete/submit more than one application**, as this has caused issues for the Commission.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Harbormaster, Eric Donch: harbormaster@usa.com OR
Commissioner/Secretary, Melanie Degler: mdegler16@gmail.com



GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT!

Paddleboard & Kayak Safety in the Harbor

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) has officially classified stand-up paddleboards (SUP) as a vessel. SUPs must comply with federal Navigation Rules and “*carriage*” requirements when operated beyond the limits of designated swimming, surfing or bathing areas.

**For stickers, you may contact
the Harbormaster
or
CT DEEP at (860-434-8638)**



Vessel Identification Sticker
IF FOUND - CONTACT

Name: _____
Phone: _____
Phone: _____

Use waterproof marker-Place in a visible, weather protected area.
To report a boating emergency in Connecticut,
use VHF Channel 16 or call (860) 424-3333.



Photo by Jerry Donovan

In boating around Stonington Harbor you may have noticed the increase of manually propelled vessels on the water. Manually propelled vessels include kayaks, paddleboard, rowboats, and any other vessel not propelled by sail, motor or other mechanical means. The increase in manually propelled vessel traffic means that recreational boaters must pay more attention to their surroundings. **“In no case shall the wake produced by a vessel be such that it creates a danger or injury to persons or will damage vessels or structures of any kind.”** (*CT Boaters Guide 2021*). A power boater, is responsible for the results of the wake they produce, including the effects on a person in a manually propelled vessel.

- Responsibility however does not ONLY fall on other boaters, those using the manually propelled vessel also have responsibilities.
- Stay out of marked channels at all times except to cross over. Red and green buoys or special markers on piers or posts mark channels. When paddling alongside a channel, stay outside. Enter only to cross over to a destination point. Cross at the markers where you are more visible and the channel is often narrower. If with a group, cross over in a “pod” or in a line abreast. Cross quickly to the other side.
- Keep a respectful distance from swimmers and fisherman.
- Stay away from marinas and dock areas when possible.
- The last recommendation would be to obtain formal training on how to use and safety with a manually propelled vessel.

- ◆ **Children less than thirteen (13) years of age must wear a properly fitting lifejacket at any time during the year while on the water.**
- ◆ **Between October 1 and May 31, ALL ADULTS must wear a properly fitting life jacket while onboard a manually propelled vessel.**
- ◆ **ALL paddlers are to carry a light if on the water after dark.**
- ◆ **Paddlers are required to carry a sound producing device such as a whistle, horn or other similar device.**

More information is available online:

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/Boating/boating_guide/boaterguidepdf.pdf and in the CT boaters guide.

Stonington Shellfish Commission News—2021

Currently, six aqua culturists operate oyster farms in Stonington waters, two in Little Narragansett Bay. One farm is located south of Elihu Island and the other west of the Barn Island Wildlife Management Area. Most of the remaining farms are in the Mystic River. The oyster farmers provide shellfish for the Town's recreational beds as payment for using Town bottom.

The farmed oysters we received in 2020 were placed in recreational Areas A and B.

The link below shows where recreational shell fishing is permitted.

http://stoningtonshellfishcommission.org/recreational/recreationalmap_withtext_20200613.pdf

Stonington shellfishing permits are available at Don's Dock, Greenhaven Marina, and Stonington Town Hall.

It is important to remember that the waters of Stonington Harbor and Little Narragansett Bay are closed to recreational shellfishing. The oysters grown commercially in Little Narragansett Bay are transplanted into deep water to cleanse them before they can be placed into recreational beds or sold at market.

Information on shellfishing in Rhode Island waters can be found at: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/maps/mapfile/shellfish.pdf>



Shellfish Commission member Austin Clark transplanting farm-grown oysters into Stonington's recreational shellfish beds.

(Photo by Warden Rob Russell)

A Bit of Stonington Harbor Nostalgia...



Need Service in the Harbor:

Cardinal Cove Marina:
860-535-0060

Dodson Boatyard:
860-535-1507

Don's Dock:
860-535-0077

Greenhaven Marine:
860-599-1049

Sound Marine:
(moorings only)
860-303-4448

VHF in Stonington Harbor

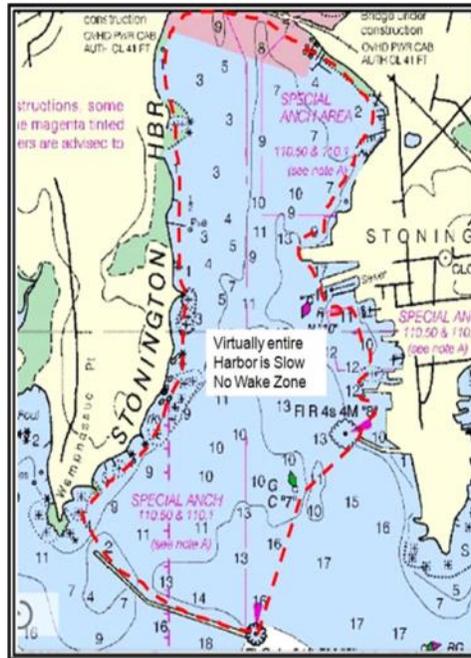
Harbormaster—72

Pump Out Boat—8

Dodson Launch—78

**Stonington Yacht
Club Slips—78**

Slow No Wake in **ALL** the Harbor



**Remember that SNW means
BOTH
SLOW AND NO WAKE!**

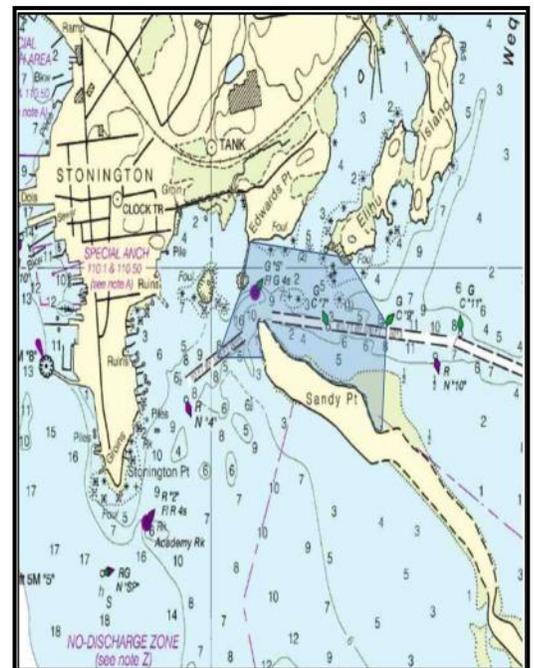
In order to ensure that our waterways are safe, Stonington Harbor has been, under law, designated as a Slow No Wake (SNW) area. The designation of SNW is two-fold; it means moving slowly enough to be safe, but at the same time producing a minimum wake. Though planing in a motorboat or a jet ski produces little wake, the speed is dangerous and prohibited in the Harbor. A slow moving boat may produce a large and dangerous wake—both are illegal and unsafe and can incur a police summons. The SNW zone is clearly marked by large white buoys.

Sandy Point — **NEW** Slow No Wake Zone

In March 2021, an additional Town ordinance was approved by Stonington voters to establish a SNW zone in the area of the channel around Sandy Point. That zone will have multiple buoys marking its limits.

A diagram of the new SNW zone is shown. The Commission hopes that the new zone will improve the safety of those enjoying Sandy Point and other vessels using the very narrow and often crowded channel.

The Commission thanks those who use our waters for their respect for the SNW zones.



Annual Blessing of the Fleet

Every year on the last weekend in July, the annual **Blessing of the Fleet** remembers Stonington's fishermen, who live to provide fish for the nation and all too often have died at sea in the process.

The celebration includes parades, food, and a Sunday Mass followed by the Blessing of the Fleet and the parade of boats in the Harbor.

In memory, an anchor-shaped wreath is laid on the waters outside Stonington Harbor.



Waterfront Commission

The Waterfront Commission's charter, approved in 1967, is to study the waterfront, tidal waters and pier facilities in the Town of Stonington. The Commission makes recommendations and reports to the Selectmen and to other local, state and federal authorities as required. Following a public hearing, the Commission is empowered to enact and enforce regulations to operate and administer the facilities under their jurisdiction.

The Commission consists of seven members who serve without pay for a term of five years. They meet at 6:30 PM on the first Tuesday of the month at the Town Dock meeting room. The primary focus of the Commission is the Southern New England Fisherman's and Lobstermen's Association dock areas. In addition, the other current projects the Commission is working on include the replacement of the fuel tank at the Town Dock and the South Pier Repair project. The Stonington Small Boat Association's area south of the Town Dock and Donahue Park south west of the Route 1 bridge over the Pawcatuck River, are both under the jurisdiction of the Commission.



Mooring Surveys

The members of the SHMC assist the Harbormaster by surveying their assigned area of the mooring grid three times during the boating season. You will see our Commissioners circling your mooring in a small boat, taking notes and an occasional photograph. The survey checks that winter stakes are removed by June 30th, approved moorings are placed on location and marked correctly, and the assigned boat is regularly using the mooring. This usage data is provided to the Harbormaster for SHM Plan enforcement.

The Harbor Management Plan states the following:

(Art.4, Sec 2): "Private moorings... shall not be rented or leased, nor shall they be left unused for more than sixty (60) consecutive days between July 1 and September 30, without consulting the Harbormaster. The Harbormaster may decline to renew permits for unused moorings."

PLEASE NOTE:

Our Commissioners survey the same mooring grid locations each year for vessel usage.

Wednesday Night Racing



To commemorate its history, a 50th year "book of memories" was recently assembled. Printed copies are still available at [The Hungry Palette](#) on Water St., in the Boro. The booklet summarizes through text and photographs the rich history of sailing in the Harbor on Wednesday nights. ***A collector's item!***

Wednesday Night Sailing is a 10-week racing series open to any sailboat 20 ft. or less, sailed by anyone, of any age, and any skill level. There are no registration fees or requirements other than to check in with the Race Committee (RC) on the water by 5:50pm for course assignment, which is always only one race sailed in a triangle with 1 or 2 laps, and always within the Harbor. Each class is assigned a separate starting time and the gun for the first class is at 6:00pm. Expect to be off the water no later than 8:00pm and usually earlier if the wind holds.

COVID-19 virus restrictions permitting, the 2021 racing season will be the usual ten weeks that starts on **June 16th**. To account for vacations, only 7 weeks are required to qualify for the numerous awards presented. This casual racing series is great fun and a low pressure way to enjoy friendly racing, develop new skills, renew old friendships, make new friends, and enjoy après race activities on shore.

And...that's right...totally free racing!

CUSH

The mission of CUSH, Inc. (Clean-Up Sound and Harbors) is to clean up and protect Fishers Island Sound and its coves, inlets, bays, rivers and harbors. CUSH continues to work to eliminate nitrogen pollution, bacterial contamination and plastic waste from our local waters. Last year in collaboration with multiple stakeholders and with the leadership of The Nature Conservancy in CT, CUSH developed the Southeastern Connecticut Clean Coastal Harbors and Bays Community Action Plan. This plan will be presented to the community through a variety of channels throughout the course of this year. The plan sets out concrete actions we can all take to improve water quality in our local Harbors and Bays. The eastern basin of Long Island Sound ranks high for water quality.



For more information and to read the "Long Island Sound Report Card" please visit the CUSH web site: <http://www.cushinc.org>.

The Wadawanuck “Wad” Club

Established in 1908, the “Wad Club” is a private club located at the head of Stonington Harbor. Offering sailing, swimming, tennis and dining to its' members, their guests and invited visitors. The Club operates from Memorial Day to mid-September and hosts sailing regattas and other athletic and social events during the summer season.

With appropriate permission, the “Wad Club” provides their dry sail area as a small sailboat launch site for many events, including the Special Olympics Regatta, Stonington High School Sailing Team and the Annual Hospice Regatta fundraiser.

The Wad Club does not offer tie-up or shore facilities for transient boaters, unless invited and accompanied by Clubmembers.



Stonington Dinghy Club (SDC)

The SDC is a boat club that is devoted to the promotion of safe and competitive sailing of small boats in Stonington Harbor and the adjacent waters. **A little history:** after spending two years refurbishing an 8-ft pram known as a *Puddle Duck*, Tucker Bragdon launched his boat in 1969 and started sailing against twin brothers Jack and Bill Boatwright, who also had small sailboats. But these three sailors wanted to race their boats in a "real" venue suitable for small boats, which did not exist in Stonington Harbor. So they conceived of a "small boat club". This was the birth of the **SDC** and a suitable club burgee was created as shown here. They solicited a neighbor, Rosalind McCagg, and her 18-ft catboat *PELICAN* to act as Race Committee to keep them "honest". Anticipating more small boats of many different designs, they used the Portsmouth Yardstick (PY) Handicap rules, which is still in use today. Racing began in the Harbor with just seven boats that first summer. Ms. McCagg was insistent her Race Committee be set up, on the starting line, and ready to start the racers on time at 6:00pm sharp. As the weekly racing progressed, word spread and it became known as **Wednesday Night Sailing**. By the second summer, the field had expanded to twelve boats and today there can be fifty or more boats racing in a wide variety of different classes. As SDC expanded with new members wanting to test their skills in slightly larger boats, SDC joined the Eastern Connecticut Yacht Racing Association (ECYRA) and raced a member's Morgan 24 for a few summers and did quite well, showing small boat sailors can translate their skills to larger boats and be very competitive.

SDC exists today as a "paper club" with no facilities or formal membership. Virtually anyone can join by simply showing up for **Wednesday Night Sailing** in the Harbor.



Spotlight on Tucker and Sandy Bragdon

It is with great pleasure that the SHMC recognizes *Tucker and Sandy Bragdon* for their positive influence to the Stonington sailing and non-sailing community at large. Shortly after their arrival in Stonington Borough in the late '60s they joined the Mystic Seaport sailing program and quickly developed their sailing passion. Soon thereafter, Tucker co-founded the *Stonington Dinghy Club* (SDC) and the *Wednesday Night Sailing Series*, established the *Stonington Small Boat Association* (SSBA) and encouraged the Seaport to develop a *Seaport Saturday Racing Series* in Dyer Dhows.



Tucker is a very successful competitor and won the *1983 Laser World Championship, Apprentice Division*. He also sailed Lasers and JY-15s in local and National Regattas. Tucker almost always finishes in the top tier and has more sailing trophies than one can possibly image!. Tucker also promoted the local Ideal 18 fleet here. As a testament to their influence on sailing, Tucker and Sandy have three (3) perpetual trophies named in their honor and awarded annually by local clubs to deserving sailors: two at the SHYC and one at Wed Night Racing Series. That says a lot!

But perhaps Tucker's greatest joy is spreading his sailing skills and enthusiasm to new and seasoned sailors regardless of age or ability. Throughout the 1980s-1990s, Tucker transitioned from volunteer coach for the USCG Academy Sailing Team to its Head Sailing Coach. He also helped found and coach the Stonington High School Sailing Team. Tucker is a Certified US Sailing Level I instructor to teach sailing, and also a Level II instructor to teach other instructors how to teach sailing! Here is Tucker and Danshi Antinoph showing that you are never too young to start sailing!



But to both Tucker and Sandy, sailing is more than a sport; it is a life experience and philosophy meant to be shared. So let us share with you ways in which they have "touched" some of our local community members:

"I met Tucker and Sandy in 1974 and he recommended I buy a Laser, which I did and raced with Wad Club sailors. On the last race of the day, with the wind gusting I was stuck in irons at the starting line. With Tucker's and Sandy's encouragement, I ate my humble pie and enrolled in sailing lessons at the Seaport. Their mastery at "fleet building" and spreading enthusiasm influenced many sailors, and made the Wed Night Series what it is today." **Peter Guille**



"At the age of 10 I gathered up the courage to ask Tucker if I could race with him; I was met with overwhelming positivity and encouragement. We spent the next six years racing just about every race there was together, he is an amazing mentor and teacher. He would always say "someday you will want to skipper your own boat" although I thought it would never happen;

but someday finally came. He and Sandy helped us create and coach the Stonington High School Sailing team. Through the years they have continued their support for anyone and everyone with big dreams, always seeing the best in people. Speaking not only for myself, but for everyone they have influenced; we are honored to know you and proud to call you friends." **Jeff Michael**



“Wednesday Night Sailing started over fifty years ago. As a family we have all participated in a number of different boats. Tucker and Sandy have always been encouraging to everyone and it is a community/family venue. Tucker really helped me get comfortable sailing my JY 15. Our families are so lucky to have this great friendship with Tucker and Sandy. They are great organizers and the best sailors and friends to all.” **Ann & Peter Freeman**

“Wednesday night races and dinner, Stonington Small Boat Association, Dyer Dhow races, Friday night gatherings, skippering our J/24, Ideal 18s: all Tucker and Sandy activities that filled our lives since retiring to Stonington in 1996”: **Ed and Debby Dear**



Celebrating 50 yrs of Wed Night Sailing with Tucker & Sandy and Friends. Photo by Bridget Jaeger

“It is hard to have a memory of sailing in Stonington since the late 1960s without thinking fondly of Tucker and Sandy Bragdon. Tucker and I co-owned an old Watch Hill 15, on which Tucker, Sandy, and I took my future wife, Lucia, sailing the day after I first met her. In 1972 Sandy and Lucia teamed up to race an old Olympic Finn on Wednesday nights. Tucker helped me build “Ragtime”, the original J/24 in 1975. When I ran out of time and money to finish building the boat that year, Tucker loaned me his second Laser so I could go sailing that summer. Tucker and Sandy can always help you get out sailing and have fun. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of recognition for their positive impact on the use of Stonington Harbor than Tucker and Sandy.” **Rod Johnstone**

“Tucker and Sandy Bragdon have been close friends, competitors and mentors since my husband Matt and I met in the late 80's when Matt was a cadet at the USCG Academy. Tucker can always find you a boat to race. With his encouragement, we have raced Lasers, JY15's, J-24s and Ideal 18s locally and from NY to FL. They actively follow Lindsay, Eric and Megan's sailing adventures online be it college regattas or offshore racing. Tucker and Sandy have 'adopted' many sailors along the way making a huge extended family and have been a special part of our lives. Stonington is fortunate to have them making our harbor such a welcoming place to live, sail and race.” **Capt. (USCG Retired) Matt and Tori Gimple**



“Tucker Bragdon and Stonington sailing are synonymous. He is enthusiastic and a great promoter, even for someone like myself, who sails windsurfers, catamarans and trimarans. When you race with him or against him, he is always going to teach you something. And Sandy is, to an extent, an unsung hero. She made a lot of novice women sailors comfortable and encouraged them to continue.” **Todd Williams**

“Stonington Harbor is a special place because of extraordinary people like Tucker and Sandy. They enthusiastically encourage and instill a love for Stonington Harbor: Hosting Sailing Foundation Pirate day, helping women learn to sail, Race Committee, and teaching are a few examples of their dedication. Wednesday night brings all age groups together to celebrate love of sailing, the harbor and fun competition amongst neighbors. They are true gems of Stonington.” **Bridget Jaeger**



“I met Tucker in 1979 and he quickly got me into Dyer Dhows at the Seaport, then Lasers, Highlanders, and now JY-15s. Tucker's sailing skills are truly at the national level! And Sandy with her infectious smile and positive approach is always supportive. Sandy and Tucker have been a significant influence on everyone they touch.” **Jesse Diggs**

Stonington Harbor Yacht Club—Public Programs

The Club is dedicated to “support the local community, and protect and broaden access to the natural resources of Stonington Harbor”. Active throughout the year, the Club provides programs that are open to the public who share this common love of the water and the local community. New members are welcome.

Ladies Sailing: The Thursday night “Ideal Women” program meets at 5:00 PM for a casual harbor sail followed by dinner at the clubhouse. No sailing experience is necessary to sail with a member in this program.

“Learn to Race for the Fun of It”: This Sunday morning series is also open and provides direct experience and coaching for this casual on-the-water Ideal 18 racing for all sailing levels along with members on various summer weekends.

Special Olympics: The Club supports the Special Olympics and its end-of-season regatta by contributing its fleet of Ideals **every Tuesday evening for ten summer weeks of training and competition.**

Local “Heroes” Program: The Club is planning an excursion hosting our invaluable local first-responders and their families, including policemen, firemen, and EMS representatives. An exciting day of sailing on Ideals and member boats is envisioned on our local waters later in the season.

Open Racing Programs: In both the spring and autumn seasons SHYC weekly hosts Saturday afternoon races for a variety of one-design boats including Ideal 18s, Lasers, Sunfish and other craft, **followed by cocktails and awards at the Club.** For the past 18 years it has also hosted the Red Lobdell Regatta, currently scheduled for late-summer, with races for both area one-design and handicap yachts. Each of these programs are open to public participation.

Kayaking & Paddle Boarding Excursions to many interesting area inlets and watercourses are scheduled throughout the warmer months that the public is invited to join with other members.

Numerous Educational Lectures and Presentations are open to the public. These talks center around timely and relevant topics, often of a maritime nature, important to many in the Stonington community.

- Safe Boating Class for members and non-members with help of the United States Power Squadron for obtaining required boating licenses
- US Sailing-sponsored Principal Race Officer training
- Public demonstration of the proper use of Emergency Flares with Coast Guard Auxiliary assistance
- Hosting of a special visit from the world-renowned 58-foot *MAIDEN* with her all-female crew that amazed the world by completing the 1989-90 Round The World Whitbread Race (*cancelled in 2020, planned to be rescheduled in 2022*).



Due to uncertainties created by the current public health situation, check with the club for scheduling updates pertaining to the above programs.

For more information on any of the programs described above or membership, contact Tricia Walsh at SHYC for details at 860-535-0112 , ext. 1, or by email at twalsh@shyc.us

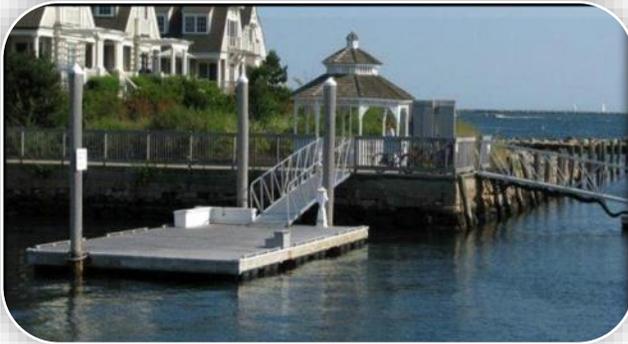
SHYC is located at 32 Water Street in Stonington Borough.

Learn more about SHYC at <https://shyc.us>

Public Access to the Harbor



Wayland Wharf



Dinghy Float near Stonington Commons

- **Town Dock Fishing Platform**
- **Public Walk at Harboredge**
- **Town Owned Beach/ Hand Launching**
- **Foot of Omega Street**
- **Foot of Ash Street**
- **Foot of Wall Street**
- **Foot of Church Street Vista**
- **Hand Launch Area (Elm Street & Route 1)**
- **Stonington Point/ Dubois Beach**

Small Boat Association (SSBA)

A bit of history: with the success of the Wednesday Night Racing series it was apparent a need existed for small boat storage and a launch site to give access to the Harbor. Tucker Bragdon took the initiative and with support from the local fisherman's association, a proposal was developed to lease Town land and create a small boat launch area that would also satisfy the State's requirement for public access. A site was chosen near the playground by the Town Docks and (SSBA) was established in 1976 at a Stonington Town meeting. The Rules and Regulations are posted on a bulletin board at the site: <https://ssba28.com/>.

There is a launching ramp for small sailboats and unpowered small boats. Racks are also available for small dinghies and kayaks. On-site ground storage exists for boats weighing up to a maximum 300 lbs. and requires that the owners provide their own dollies.

(SSBA) is an organization of volunteers dedicated to maintaining and upgrading small boat access to the Harbor. Thirty-four boats were stored the first year, and currently there are typically spaces for (138) small boats and kayaks. There is a spring annual meeting followed by a work party lasting no more than ninety minutes.

For information on joining, volunteering, and storage space send a note to: [SSBA, P.O. Box 28, Stonington, CT](#)



Harbor Boating



Photos by Jerry Donovan



NESS—Public Programs

NESS's mission revolves around education and community access. One of our four (4) core values is inclusiveness to provide access for on the water learning for all students regardless of ability or financial need. We are not a member driven organization. This drive to provide access to the community was never more demonstrated than our effort to remain open in 2020 providing much needed opportunities for the community to get out on the water safely despite the pandemic. <https://nessf.org/>



We learned a lot in 2020. For 2021 we will be prepared to offer our full suite of programming to the community under state and local guidelines.

Our fleet now consists of 289 vessels. This includes 109 sailboats, 33 powerboats, 94 kayaks and 52 water sport

craft to support our community educational programs. NESS will use 11 keel boats to support our community programs: (6 – Sonars, J-22, Independence 20, Mariner 19, Viper 640, Esse 850). This diversity allows us to attract a wider variety of community sailors because in addition to our traditional programs, we will offer sport boat instruction (including foiling) and adaptive sailing.

We have recently added a USCG inspected Carolina Skiff (“NESSie”) to our fleet, which enabled NESS to transport up to eighteen passengers to support our educational programs, as well as, Harbor tours and other expeditions, such as seal watching.



Whether you love the water for racing, going fast, learning something new, or just appreciating Stonington Harbor, we'll be ready when you are!

Contact Info: NESS, 72 Water Street, PO Box 733, Stonington, CT 06378
Phone: 860-535-9362, email: office@nessf.org

Year End Financial Reports for 2020

The Stonington Harbor Management Plan states all funds for the implementation of the Plan shall come from the mooring fees collected annually. No tax revenues from the Town or Borough of Stonington can be used. Each year a plan is developed to ensure current fees, plus funds carried over from the previous year, will cover expected operating expenses, planned projects and capital items.

At every monthly meeting, the Commission reviews a Financial Report detailing income and expenses relative to the SHM Plan. The Financial Report is attached to the monthly meeting minutes and is available on the Stonington Town website.

INCOME:

25%—Commercial Moorings

27 %—Private & Special Use Moorings

48%—Carryover from 2020

EXPENSES:

\$10.8K—Routine Operating

\$10.0K—Reserve—Boat Replacement

\$20.0K—Reserve—Public Access & Energy

\$24.7K—Carried into 2021



Stonington Police Marine Patrol

The Stonington Police Marine Patrol will again be on the water again for the 2021 boating season. The Patrol suggests everyone on the water wear a life jacket — even if not required by law. Please get in the habit of wearing life jackets while under way — it is for your own safety. They will be patrolling the new SNW area around Sandy Point and speed within the Harbor.

Please be on alert for kayakers and paddleboarders in the Harbor.

**PLEASE MIND YOUR SPEED
AND
BE AWARE OF YOUR WAKE!**



Have you seen these visitors in our Harbor?



Fishing Trawlers in Stonington Harbor

A recurring issue that has been brought to the Harbormaster's attention is the interaction of small vessels with the large trawlers in our commercial fishing fleet. Please remember that these large vessels are "**constrained by their draft**" when entering and leaving the Harbor. This means that just about every other vessel in the Harbor, including small sailboats, should be yielding the right-of-way to these larger vessels.



Please work with our fisherman, for everyone's safety, and keep clear of their trawlers while navigating our Harbor.

*When the wind is blowing from the north, no fisherman should set forth.
(Farmers Almanac Lore)*

Safety For Your Pets on the Water

Watch for strong currents and riptides, which can take you both out to sea. Even the best swimmer can be in danger when seas are rough.

Do not let your dog drink ocean water—it can make them sick. Bring fresh H₂O with you to keep them hydrated.

Consider artificial turf mats for "doing their business" in areas where you cannot easily bring your pet ashore (*Napatree Point in Watch Hill*).

Keep your pet away from fish that have washed onto the shore as they can make them ill if consumed.



Even strong swimmers need a **pet life jacket**. There are too many situations where your pet might not be able to swim. Your pet could be pulled under by a current. They could be knocked unconscious or injured or swallow too much water and choke.

****MOORING HOLDER IMPORTANT DATES****

- ◆ January Current Assigned Mooring Holder List Published and Posted at Town Hall
- ◆ January Mooring Permit Renewal Applications **Emailed** to Current Mooring Holders
- ◆ February 28th Special Purpose Mooring Applications Due to Harbormaster/Commission
- ◆ May 31st Mooring Permit Renewal Applications Completed with **Online Mooring**

- ◆ **June 30th** **WINTER STICKS MUST BE REPLACED WITH APPROVED MOORING BALLS**

- ◆ September Waitlist Renewals Due with **Online Mooring**
- ◆ October 1st Winter Sticks May Begin to Replace Mooring Balls
- ◆ December 31st Required Mooring Survey Documentation Due to Harbormaster

- ◆ **December 31st** **All Mooring Permits Expire**

Land was created to provide a place for boats to visit!

(by Brooks Atkinson)

Stonington Harbor Management Commission Goals

- ◆ To promote public awareness of the water-related facilities and activities available within the navigable waters within the jurisdiction of SHMC.
- ◆ To regulate use of the Harbor and the navigable waters within the jurisdiction of the SHMC in a manner that assures safe, orderly and efficient use of the water and the waterfront.
- ◆ To protect the natural and man-made resources of Stonington Harbor.

****IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION****

Stonington Harbor Management Commission

152 Elm Street, PO Box 135

Stonington, CT 06378

Chairman: Jay Spalding - jspalding19@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.stonington-ct.gov>

Stonington Harbormaster: Eric Donch: harbormaster@usa.com Mobile: 860-303-5046/ VHF: 9 or 72

Commissioners & 3-year Term Expirations:

Borough Representatives (5):

Sherman Crites, <i>Treasurer</i>	6/21
Jesse Diggs, <i>Vice-Chairman</i>	6/21
Bruce MacKinnon	6/22
Edward Smith	6/21
Joseph Williams, III	6/21

Town Representatives (5):

Melanie Degler, <i>Secretary</i>	4/22
Paul O'Neill	4/22
Caleb Rose	4/22
Jay Spalding, <i>Chairman</i>	4/24
<i>OPEN POSITION</i>	

Stonington Harbor Management
Commission

152 Elm Street
Stonington, CT 06378

STANDARD MAIL

U.S. Postage

Mailing Address Line 1

Mailing Address Line 2

Mailing Address Line 3

Mailing Address Line 4

Mailing Address Line 5