



Thames Yacht Club
New London, CT.
Established 1932



TYC Circa 1940

Painting by Dave Costanzo, 2005

Thames Yacht Club

New London, Connecticut



Thames Yacht

Club: The Thames Yacht Club's mission is to promote and enhance an interest in yachting and the spirit of sportsmanship in members and their families in and around the City of New London. Our diverse membership is made up of members who have been sailing more than sixty years, while others are just being introduced to the sport. We encourage and provide programs, good fellowship and a clean, wholesome atmosphere for members to instill and support yachting in the Corinthian spirit.

With our Southeastern Connecticut location, we offer some of the best sailing on the Eastern Coast. Our club draws members from all over the state of Connecticut, as well as from Massachusetts, Vermont and New Jersey. The area offers a number of destinations for a day sail such as Fisher's Island, Stonington, Mystic or an easy overnight trip to Block Island, Cuttyhunk, Long Island, Newport or the Vineyard.

Club

House: Our Clubhouse is operated seasonally, May through October, plus special events in November and early December. The main floor is primarily used for the day-to-day activities, while the second floor lounge area and deck is open to adults for relaxation.

Beach: The club has a beautiful beach with fine white sand. With approximately 100 feet of beach front, members can enjoy a day at the beach without the crowds while having the convenience of the club's facilities and a swim float.



Thames Yacht Club History

Thames Yacht Club became recognized in 1932 when informal discussions were held by Captain Seth A. Gross, Cliff Thurber, Lyman Meadnis, Lewis Moody, William S. Cooper and other local yachtsmen concerning the formation of a new yacht club. As a result, the Thames Yacht Club was officially incorporated in April 1933. The by-laws stated, "The purpose of this corporation shall be to promote yachting and boating in and around the city of New London and to promote and advance good fellowship among its members.

The club was first quartered in a loft over St. Germain's gasoline station located on Pequot Avenue, just north of Burr's Yacht Haven. The following year the club moved to 11 Plant Street in the old Hanscom house at the corner of Pequot Avenue. A small launching site and float were maintained on Pequot Avenue opposite Plant Street. The first annual Cup Night (later called Skipper's Night) was held at the clubhouse on November 22, 1934.

The members were clamoring for a building of their own and in 1935 Thames Yacht Club purchased waterfront property on Pequot Avenue opposite Granada Terrace. The foundation piers for the new clubhouse were poured just prior to opening day (Memorial Day) in 1936. Mainly members built the clubhouse proper that summer with professional help from club-member-carpenters who worked at Electric Boat. Practically every member contributed time and energy in construction of the club. Extending out from the porch was a four-foot wide by thirty-six foot long platform that served as a dock. The formal opening and dedication of the new clubhouse took place on Memorial Day, 1937.

World War II interrupted the yachting program from 1942 through 1945. The Thames River was closed to pleasure craft and Coast Guard river patrol took over the Club. After the war the yachting boom began. The club grew tremendously and many excellent skippers appeared.

An extremely important milestone in the history of the Thames Yacht Club was in 1959 when the beach just north of the clubhouse was obtained. This acquisition not only furnished land but also provided an excellent beach, storage space for small boats and room for another ramp with access from Pequot Avenue to the water.

Thames Yacht Club has always been a family club. Many families spend their entire summer at the club. The young children learn to swim, the older children to sail and the adults enjoy the many benefits of the club. Generations of children spent their vacation at Thames Yacht Club and then years later their children enjoyed the same environment summer after summer.

Thames Yacht Club is growing and will continue to grow. We have a fleet of over one hundred boats, many of which are over thirty feet. We have excellent skippers and yachtsmen. However, our strength and growth is in the young people who learn to swim, sail, compete and mature at the Thames Yacht Club.....an Eastern Connecticut institution.



Communications:

Thames Yacht Club has a monthly newsletter called the ***Mainsheet***. Mainsheet has current information on club activities, race announcements and results as well as member articles. We also have a web site with additional club information including real time weather in New London. The address is: <http://www.thamesyachtclub.org>

Launch Service:

Thames Yacht Club launch service is available to its members and guest at no charge. The launch is Coast Guard inspected and the operators are Coast Guard licensed. Limited weekend service begins Mid-May, with Daily 9AM-9PM operation from Mid-June through Labor Day. Limited weekend operation continues through the end of October.

Dinghy Storage:

The club has a number of dinghy racks as well as wet slips. The racks accommodate both inflatable and hard bottom boats including some small sailboats. There is also limited beach space for slightly larger beach launched sailboats. Storage is available upon request, sometimes after placing your name on a waiting list.





Membership:

Thames Yacht Club has a lot to offer. Our club membership is made up of many friendly sailors who get involved in the clubs operation to help make it work. We are made up of second and third generation sailors, families that are new to boating and everything in between.

Thames Yacht Club has Senior Memberships (for larger boats kept on a mooring) as well as a Beach/Small Boat Memberships for those who do not require a mooring. Memberships are for the entire family, as the Club maintains a family orientation.

If the Thames Yacht Club sounds like the type of club you would like to be associated with, contact the Membership Chairperson to request an application for membership. Refer to our web site for the contact person.

Keep in mind, running as many events as we do requires member's involvement; therefore, expect to be asked to volunteer.

Fees and Dues:

Application

Fee: There is a one-time fee of \$55.00 to apply for membership.

Entrance

Fee: The entrance fee for a Senior Member, with a boat kept on a mooring, is \$1000.00, with the option of four (4) equal annual installments of \$300.00 per year. A Beach/Small Boat membership has an entrance fee of \$500, with the option of four (4) equal annual installments of \$150 per year.

Annual

Dues : Dues are established at an annual meeting based on projected operating costs for the following year. For 2014, dues for a Senior Membership are \$725, for a Beach/Small Boat Membership are \$362.50, plus a 10% State tax for both. In addition, an assessment may be added to cover the cost of major capital improvements. For 2014, the capital assessment is \$102.



***Youth
Sailing:***

Thames Yacht Club offers a comprehensive youth sailing program from Beginner through Advanced small boat seamanship and racing. The club owns Optimists and 420s for use in our program. Young sailors learn the basic skills building a solid sailing foundation while learning in a fun environment. Competitive young sailors travel to many local regattas during the summer and may also enjoy our Wednesday Night Race Series.

***Adult
Sailing
Classes:***

Thames Yacht Club is again this year offering adult sailing classes in Optimists for those seeking basic skills, and is considering advanced classes in 420s if there is sufficient interest.



Racing:

Members are all encouraged to participate in the active club-racing program. From May through October the club has a Spring, Summer and Fall series which include three to four classes of boats. The season is topped off with a Skipper's Night Awards Banquet. We also sponsor several Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association races. These events include participants from many clubs around the Sound offering very competitive racing.



Cruising: The club's Fleet Captain schedules a number of cruises during the season. Weekend trips have included Watch Hill, Block Island, and Essex. Summer cruises have been to Martha's Vineyard and Bristol on Narragansett Bay. Cruises depend on member participation and interest.



Socials: Throughout the year, our Vice Commodore plans many social events which give everyone an opportunity to meet new members and catch up on the latest news with the current members. These events range from casual porch parties to more formal affairs. Members donate their time and effort to make these socials successful.



Moorings: The Thames River has excellent holding properties for mooring with a depth of 13 to 15 feet. Each member is responsible for the installation and maintenance of their own mooring, which must meet the mooring standards set by the City of New London Harbor Master.

Bi-annually, it is up to the owner to have their mooring inspected and registered with the Harbor Master. This protects your boat, in addition to your mooring location. The club has certified divers which can be recommended for mooring services. The club's Mooring Committee Chairman manages the mooring area and availability.

Additional Information: Please contact the Membership Chairman or any Flag Officer for additional information. You can find those contacts on our web site.

<http://www.thamesyc.org>

or call us at

(860) 383-0017



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