

A note from Todd Hixon, BHYC Ensign Fleet Captain, Summer 2014

I would like to encourage anyone who is interested in getting involved in sailing ensigns, in any capacity, and could use some information or help, to get in touch with me - tlhixon@gmail.com or 617-871-0661.

Ensigns are 23 foot long single-masted sailboats. They have a heavy, fixed keel and a large cockpit, and they are very stable and comfortable: really perfect boats for our waters. There are 15 or 20 of them in Bucks Harbor and about 30 owned by club members. And they are BHYC's long-time racing class.

The Ensign fleet has several major activities during the summer:

- We race every Saturday afternoon from about noon until the Tea. The season begins with a "shakedown" race on June 28 and continues until August 23rd.
- There is a mid-summer Regatta which will happen on July 26 this year: we race as many races as possible over two days; usually 6 or 7.
- We have two fleet outings planned for all ensigns, not just racers: on July 24 and August 20. Plans are still taking shape, but most likely we will sail to an island, anchor there, have a picnic, and and sail back. Bucky (the club launch) will come along to provide logistical support.

If you would like to get more involved in ensign sailing and could benefit from information or help, let me know. Here are some of the ways I can arrange help:

- There is always demand for race crew at any level of experience. If you want to try crewing, even once or twice, let me know, and I will get the word out to the skippers.
- If you have an ensign and would like to try racing it, we can help in several ways. I can provide leads for crew. Several retired, and very successful, ensign racing skippers have volunteered to be mentors and sail with you, offering pointers.
- I have a set of back-up racing sails I can lend to someone whose sails are just too tired for racing.
- If you just want to go out on an ensign and see what it's like, that can be arranged.
- If you'd like lessons on an ensign, let me know. I believe that can be arranged too.

I'm looking forward to getting back on my Ensign and having a great time this summer. I hope you will join in.