

The Launching of The Corinthians

BY ANTHONY ANABLE



In November of 1933, an article in the *New York Herald Tribune* announced the arrival in New York of the schooner CARLSARK (ex MARIT)—Carl Weagant, Skipper—having completed a passage from Newfoundland. The article stated that Weagant would welcome the visits of yachtsmen.

Three men, strangers to each other at the time, joined Weagant for a “gam.” In this hospitable circumstance, conversation turned to the problem of owners finding crews and sailors finding berths. The three men were Carleton S. Cooke, Frederick M. “Ted” Delano, and Harold S. “Skipper” Smith. Cooke and Delano had spent some time in England and knew of The Little Ship Club. By the end of the gam, it had been decided to start an organization in this country modeled along similar lines. This would be a club to include people at all economic levels, regardless of the extent of their sailing experience, provided they were agreeable gentlemen interested in sailing and of acceptable character and personality.

In January, 1934, Cooke, Delano, and Smith, joined by George F. Adams and Paul Findlay, met in New York to plan an organization. An organizing meeting was then held in February—attended by about 50 interested boat owners and non-owners. The launching meeting in April was attended by 76 members and guests. The familiar Gordon Grant insigne (a hitchhiker’s hand with outstretched thumb on a blue background), which has graced The Corinthians’ letterheads, yearbooks, and *Mainsheets*, was unveiled. Even a Latin motto, was presented—“*Ut in alienis navigis navigamus,*” meaning, “In order that we may sail in other men’s boats.”

Becoming a Member

To become a member of this unique and prestigious organization, you need the support and assistance of an existing member who will act as your “navigator” throughout the membership process. That member, your proposer, will introduce you to a member of the Afterguard. In addition to your proposer’s letter, supporting letters are required from two other Corinthians. If you have not sailed with at least two of the three proposers, then your proposer (navigator) will help you fulfill the “sailed with” requirement and expedite your membership application. The purpose of the membership process is to establish that you share the common interests of the organization and will be both a welcome and active member on board. The amount of your boating experience should be frankly stated, be it extensive or fairly limited, so that opportunities to learn and gain experience are appropriate to you and the people with whom you will sail. Annual membership dues are quite modest, with lower dues for younger members.

If you would like more information about The Corinthians’ current activities, programs and membership events (both afloat and ashore), we’ll be pleased to put you in touch with the Membership Chairman nearest to your home or sailing region, or you may contact:

The Corinthians Association
www.thecorinthians.org

**We look forward to
welcoming you aboard.**

COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY DANIEL FORSTER, ROLEX

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

THE CORINTHIANS



Introduction and Welcome

We are pleased that you have expressed an interest in becoming a Corinthian. The Corinthians is a non-commercial membership association of some 600 amateur yachtsmen (beginners and experts) whose primary objectives are to promote sailing, to encourage good fellowship among Yachtsmen afloat and ashore, and (our original purpose) to bring together non-boat-owning amateur sailors and boat owners requiring crew for local and off-shore racing and cruising.

The Corinthians are a unique group of people who have an abiding interest and passion in boats, sailing, and things nautical. While this passion may defy precise description, when we are near the water, we feel our spirits rise and a sense of excitement and challenge that is not often found in our lives ashore.

It may be the beauty of the elements, or the satisfaction of a safe arrival at a chosen anchorage. Perhaps it is the feeling of self sufficiency, or just being away from it all for a time. Whatever it is, we firmly believe it is one of the most enjoyable and challenging forms of recreation. With that belief, we think it only natural that we share the experience with kindred spirits and provide opportunities for like-minded people to join with us.





The Corinthians Association

In many ways, The Corinthians Association is as different from other boating organizations and clubs as the people who decide to become members. We are a diverse group from every walk of life and background, not fitting any particular social or economic profile. We celebrate individuality, the joys of fellowship, and the pride of association without regimentation or contrived social pressures. Whether sailing or crewing in-company with others, or making a solo passage, the Corinthian spirit abounds on land and at sea.

We do not have a club house – however, we do have a widely recognized flag, which we fly with pride. We have only a modest initiation fee and annual dues to defray the cost of administration and newsletters to keep us all informed of opportunities afloat and ashore. Awards for outstanding achievement and service are presented annually. Our organization does not compete with other sailing clubs for membership because membership in The Corinthians provides opportunities that not only differ from, but complement the activities provided by more traditional local yacht clubs. Indeed, many Corinthians are also members of local sailing clubs and class-boat organizations.

You do not have to own a boat to become a member and, in fact, many of our members do not own boats. Corinthians and their prospective members are not judged by the size, type or absence of a vessel. As long as you love boating and have the resolve to become a proficient sailor, we are not concerned



whether it is a dinghy, motor boat, or a sailing yacht. One of our founding principles is to bring skippers and crew together, and promote seamanship. For an historic perspective on the founding of The Corinthians in 1934, please refer to *The Launching of The Corinthians*, by Anthony Anable, located in this brochure.

The organization was founded in New York City and the steering committee, known as the Afterguard, continues to meet every month at the New York Yacht Club. Election of flag officers and members of the Afterguard is conducted annually. In addition to the New York membership, there are chapters, known as Fleets, in Annapolis, Mystic, New England, and Philadelphia. Each Fleet has its own officers who meet to serve members in their geographic area by developing their own annual program of local events. In conjunction with The Corinthians Association events in the New York area and from Maine to Virginia, all Fleet activities are open to all Corinthians and their guests.

What does a Corinthians Membership Offer?

For many Corinthians, our Annual Race/Cruise is the highlight of the year. This week-long cruise-in-company, held usually in the first week of August, is centered in a different region each year, from from the Chesapeake Bay to the coast of Maine. It provides great cruising and racing in the Corinthians spirit, and is complemented by first-rate shore events and festivities. A Corinthians' tradition on these cruises occurs when upward of fifty to sixty yachts parade on leaving a harbor with flags flying—a stirring sight to behold. That over forty summer cruises have flowed under Corinthians keels is a testament to their success and popularity.

For the last several years, members of the Annapolis and Philadelphia Fleets have sponsored a week-long Rally (cruise) on Chesapeake Bay. In addition to members who keep their boats on the Bay, this event has attracted sailors from all of our fleets, including the Little Ship Club (UK), unifying the sailing camaraderie of the Association.

While the “official” program of activities afloat and ashore is impressive, of equal value are the informal opportunities to sail with other members, or meet with fellow sailors flying The Corinthians flag in a strange port or a familiar anchorage. For many skippers the opportunity to find competent crew makes the difference between going and not going. For the crew it provides opportunities to sail on a variety of boats in different waters, at home or abroad, cruising or racing, thereby building confidence and enhancing enjoyment. Above all else, there are the contacts and friendships which can last a lifetime.

Every year there are “crew calls” from skippers going south for the winter or north for summer, or east to Bermuda. Following successful cruises in the Solent, Inner Hebrides (Scotland), Normandy, The Channel Islands, and East Anglia,



in-company with members of The Little Ship Club of London, we now have several members in the UK. This has historic significance because the original idea of bringing together skippers and crew was modeled on the example provided by The Little Ship Club. This cordial association will extend a worldwide network of “Port Officers,” dedicated volunteers who are prepared to assist members of both organizations. They can provide local knowledge or maybe even a hot shower and transport to a grocery store for sundries!

The Corinthians' Yearbook, distributed annually, includes addresses, phone and fax numbers, e-mail addresses, as well as boat names and the availability of private moorings. Not all members live on the Mid-Atlantic and North-Eastern seaboard; some are in Florida and other regions of the United States and Puerto Rico.

Sailing in new and different waters is always exciting. As you have probably already gathered, Corinthians frequently enjoy these memorable experiences either on a single-vessel outing or on a sponsored group adventure, be it sharing the excitement of racing retired America's Cup 12-Meters in Newport RI or cruising in the Caribbean, the San Juan Islands, or British Isles. All in all, some pretty special opportunities await you.



“ I was joining a friend's boat in Newport for a week of sailing and they called me to say they could not get a berth at a marina because of the boat show the following weekend. I contacted some Corinthians whom I had met on the Chesapeake and on a Corinthians/Little Ship Club cruise on the Solent in England. Without hesitation, they offered us their mooring and took care of all arrangements with the harbormaster. That's The Corinthians spirit! ”