
TIDINGS



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Awarding the CCA the RCC Medal for Services to Cruising

PART OF THE CCA CENTENARY, 15th SEPTEMBER 2022

At the closing party of the CCA Centenary, our Vice Commodore awarded The Cruising Club of America (CCA) the RCC Medal for Services to Cruising and gave the following citation.

“Commodore, esteemed members and guests of the CCA.

It has been a pleasure and an honour to be able to participate in this remarkable 100th Birthday Party of your Club. On behalf of the Royal Cruising Club, we salute you all. Sophie and I have been overwhelmed by your generosity and kindness in our visit to Newport. Thank you all for that.

If I may, I wish to change tack.

The Cruising Club of America has for many years pioneered seamanship, especially Safety at Sea, by developing world leading training courses to educate and train those that make adventurous use of the sea. Of note is the ‘Safety for Cruising Couples’ programme which touches upon many basic skills that are sometimes overlooked, as we heard at Bill Strassberg’s seminar this



morning. Many lives may be saved by this programme.

But it is not only in seamanship and safety that the CCA has made its mark on Cruising: the Bonnell Cove Foundation has been marvellously innovative and leading in its making of grants to programmes focussed on young people, as well as on environmental research and a whole range of well considered measures that make our sailing at sea safer.

Add to this the CCA Cruising Guides to the Canadian Maritimes and Maine – an activity particularly dear to the RCC’s heart under the banner of the Pilotage Foundation.

And last but not least is the Newport to Bermuda Race: whilst definitely not cruising, the influence the CCA has had in the developments of racing boats has made the world of cruising a whole lot more pleasurable, with faster and more seaworthy vessels as a consequence.

The Award Committee of the Royal Cruising Club have, on behalf of our membership, unanimously agreed that the Cruising Club of America should be awarded the Medal for Services to Cruising. This Medal is one of three Open Awards to recognise exceptional achievements; the other two being the Tilman Medal and the Medal for Seamanship.

These awards are made on merit and therefore not always made on an annual basis. The RCC Rule Book states that “the Medal for Services to Cruising can be awarded to any person, club, corporate, or company who, in the opinion of the Committee shall have rendered outstanding services to yacht cruising.” The Medal was first awarded in 1969 to K Adlard Coles for his pioneering approach to publishing pilotage information. Since then the Award has been made to a very wide range of people and organisations across the world.

All of this goes to demonstrate that the CCA is a very worthy recipient of the Medal for Services to Cruising. We in the RCC are proud of our long relationship with our sailing cousins across the pond, and we are also proud to be able to award the Medal for Services to Cruising to the CCA.

It is people that make great clubs and it is clear that many people in the CCA strive hard to make the CCA the world leading organisation that it has become in the last 100 years.

Congratulations and well done.”

Tim Trafford, Vice Commodore



A feast fit for a 100th birthday party - the CCA Centenary clambake for 300 people