



Paul at age 6 on his father's schooner.

Past Commodore Paul Ives

Captain has lifelong connection to the sea and LYC

By Sue Ingram Keller

Back in the early summer of 1947, two intrepid young men set out to fire a cannon for the opening of the LYC season. Unfortunately, because of shortages caused by the war, the gunpowder needed was impossible to find here in Lewes. One of the young men's fathers solved the problem by bringing the necessary supplies down from Philadelphia just in the nick of time for their celebration. They carefully stuffed the cannon with the powder, lit the fuse and "BOOM!" A huge explosion ripped across the dune, "blowing up the beach" and scattering the tents and people who had been peacefully enjoying the quiet evening. It seems the powder was a bit too powerful for the little cannon. It was not the last time they got into mischief - they were none other than Paul Ives and Rodney Evans.

Capt. Paul Ives grew up in Chester, Pa. but he and his sister, fellow club member Nancy Rumford, came to Lewes for the summer in 1935 with their parents to a house facing the dunes at 128 Bay Avenue. Paul was six years old. Bay Avenue was hard packed dirt, the inlet had just been constructed and the only building on the far end of Bay Avenue was the new LYC clubhouse. Like many of us who spent summers in this very special place, Paul and Nancy enjoyed the freedom and riches of all that the sleepy, safe beach community had to offer. Boating was a big part of that and the sailing bug bit Paul early in life. For high school graduation in 1947, his parents gave him a 16' Comet Class sailboat and Paul's relationship to the LYC began in earnest.

That June, Paul, accompanied by his "sponsor" Joan Knapp (then Joan Davisson), rode his bike over to Marjorie Virden's house on Pilottown Road with the necessary annual dues of \$5.00 stuffed in his pocket to join the Lewes Yacht Club so that he could be part of the fun and competition of the Sunday sailing races. He remembers saying then that the fee represented 10 hours of hard work at his summer job picking peaches and apples at Nassau Orchard. (Joan later married his boss's son.) Almost 70 years later, Captain Ives can still be found at the heart of the Sunday races, aboard the Committee Boat JJ Mason, enjoying it from a different perspective. As he has said, "I can't remember a time when I wasn't on the water."

Paul spent his career on the water as well as his leisure time, having served as a Delaware Bay and River Pilot from his apprenticeship in 1951 until his retirement in 1999. He contributed his dedication and considerable engineering and leadership skills to the Pilot's Association, serving as president and as a member of the board of trustees. He gave this same dedication to a number of other professional associations, as well, both here and in Philadelphia. His many contributions to the local maritime world were honored in 2013 when he was inducted into the Delaware Maritime Hall of Fame.

Paul's association with the LYC has been long and mutually satisfying. He was the LYC Sailing Champion in 1949 and 1950 and raced whenever possible during his pilot apprenticeship and two years of military service. His crew included his father, his sister and his fiancée, Jerri Lyshon. He continued to race and in the 60's bought a new Mobjack, helping to establish Mobjack Fleet 9 at LYC. His crew was now his two daughters - Stephanie and Cindi - both accomplished sailors themselves. Paul has served numerous times on the LYC board of directors and in 1973 became commodore.



Paul and his wife Jerri live in Lewes for much of the year, overlooking the canal where they can watch the boats come and go and keep watch over the JJ Mason moored at their dock. Their home reflects their maritime interests in many forms, most impressively in Jerri's needlework creations. Cindi and Stephanie, their daughter and granddaughter, are frequent visitors to Lewes. The rest of the year, they live in Vero Beach, Fla. - never too far from the sea.