

## Meet Mary-Lawrence Bickford



Since joining Essex Yacht Club 26 years ago, Mary-Lawrence Bickford has been extremely active in all aspects of sailing and sailboat racing. Mary-Lawrence has been a force behind the race committee at EYC, serving as Race Committee Chairwoman for the past several years and becoming a Certified Club Race Officer herself in 2016. She has been a strong mentor, encouraging Race Committee participation and expertise within EYC as well as area clubs. In supporting others to also become certified PRO's, she has scheduled multiple Race Official seminars through the years at the Essex Yacht Club.

As a PRO, Mary-Lawrence has run every kind of event from fleet, handicap distance, disabled and team racing. She has been a strong supporter of EYC's Special Olympics Regatta and a driving force in the development of EYC's Women's Sailing Program. Her keen attention to detail including NOR's, SI's, Committee boats, chase boats, photographers, Protest Committees, trophies and prizes make for successful racing on every level.

According to Essex Yacht Club Vice Commodore, Bill Gunther, "Mary-Lawrence has always been a willing volunteer, and her endless energy is an inspiration to us all. In 2019, she received the James Orne Willets Trophy for her many contributions to Essex Yacht Club. It is awarded for the purpose of promoting the true Corinthian spirit, and recognized Mary-Lawrence's continuous exemplary display of the highest ideals of amateur yachting."

*Submitted by Cynthia Parthemos, Area Race Officer for Area B*