

Bowleys Point Yacht Club

Newsletter
March 2010



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Facebook!

BPYC now has a Facebook Group! It's an informal group, established to enable all of you facebook-ers a chance to chat, post pictures, stories and comments.

Of course, you need a Facebook account to participate, and because of that, the group is not "official". The Bowleys Marina website continues to be the official source of news, but we anticipate many pier parties being established through this new tool!

Spring Boat Prep at Bowleys!

Spring is here, and that means prep and launch time! Schedule yard work well in advance and avoid the rush that comes with the first nice spring day. Boat preparation involves several areas of interest. They are:

- ☞ Vessel Exterior
- ☞ Hull Condition
- ☞ Vessel Interior
- ☞ Emergency Equipment
- ☞ Electrical Systems
- ☞ Outboard Engines and Outdrives
- ☞ Inboard Engines
- ☞ Boat Trailers
- ☞ Galley
- ☞ Head and Waste Treatment Systems
- ☞ Water Systems
- ☞ Sails and Rigging

Vessel Exterior - Scrub down your boat with a mild detergent. Use a detergent that causes minimal environmental impact. Remember that in some states, it is illegal to allow wash water back into the harbor without treatment. Apply a coat of wax to the boat. Clean and polish all metal fittings. Ensure cockpit drains and scuppers are clear, they are easily blocked by leaves and winter debris. Check the operation of hatches and windows, clean and lubricate their hinges. Clean and check the condition of canvas. (continued on Page 2)



Opening Weekend is

June 4th—6th!

Spring Preparation Tips

Continued from Page 1

Emergency Equipment - Spring is a good time to ensure your vessel's safety equipment is in good order and that you comply with regulatory requirements. Life jackets and flotation cushions left in boats during the winter can mildew, check the condition of this safety equipment. Check the expiration dates on your visual distress signals. Have your on-board fire extinguishers inspected. Many harbors have fire extinguisher maintenance contractors visit each spring, ask about their scheduled maintenance. Having a Vessel Safety Check performed by the Coast Guard Auxiliary is an excellent way to prepare for the upcoming season.

Electrical Systems - It is good idea to remove lead-acid storage batteries from boats in winter storage. Ensure the battery is charged, its case is clean, terminals are clean and cables connections are tight, and that battery cables in good condition. Check the condition of the vessel bonding and electrical systems. Defects here can cause corrosion and electric shock drowning. Ensure your navigation lights are operational. Check the operation of on-board electronics like GPS chartplotters, VHF radios, radar, and their external antennas.

Inboard Engines - Many of the tasks required to prepare your engine for use are routine and can be accomplished by many boaters. Most marinas and boatyards can provide this required service. Arrange yard time well in advance to avoid disappointment during the inevitable spring rush. Change your engine oil and filters. Check the transmission fluid level. Replace the filter element in your water separating fuel filter and be sure to drain any water present in the settling bowl. Inspect flexible fuel lines for chaffing and wear.

Most marine engines have zincs that are threaded into the engine block. Learn their locations and change them every spring. Check the tension of drive belts and consider proactively replacing them. Carry spares for the belts and filters used by your engine. Ensure the bilge blower functions correctly and check the condition of the flexible hoses attached to it. Check the raw water strainer on engines that are cooled

in this manner. Failed exhaust manifold gaskets can cause unwanted flooding with some engines. Check the condition of the exhaust manifold and its gaskets.

Galley - Fill propane tanks on vessels that use it for cooking or heating fuel. Remember fuel dealers will not fill tanks that are not equipped with an Overfill Prevention Device (OPD). There are still some of these tanks floating around out there. Check the operation of manual and electric gas valves. Inspect fuel supply lines for leaks and ensure that tank locker vents are clear. Propane is heavier than air and leaking propane can settle into the lower parts of your hull, creating an explosion hazard. Clean the stove and check the performance of the burners. Clean the refrigerator, then operate it on both shore and ship's power.

Head - Fill the head with water and check for leaks. Check that the holding tank has been pumped out. Restock chemicals required for onboard treatment systems, holding tank deodorant and toilet paper that is compatible with marine heads. Exercise the Y-valve, ensuring its positions are clearly labeled and the handle is cleared in the proper position while in port.

Water System - Flush the fresh water system by turning on the water pump and draining the entire contents of the storage tank. Refill the tank with fresh water and run water through every hot and cold water faucet on the vessel. You want to flush out any traces of the non-toxic antifreeze you used to winterize the boat. Double check the deck filler caps for the water system to ensure they are in place and well sealed to keep out contaminants. Check the operation of the hot water heater on all sources of power.



Cruise Schedule for 2010

Inner Harbor East Marina -

Sat. 5/1 - Sun. 5/2, call Millie or Captain Bill @ 410-625-1700 for reservations.

Annapolis Yacht Basin -

Sat. 5/29 - Mon. 5/31, call Steve @ 410-263-3544 for reservations. www.yachtbasin.com Please mention that you are with the Newswingers as AYB does not take club reservations on holidays.

Haven Harbour Marina -

Fri. 6/18 - Sun. 6/20, call El or Jennifer @ 410-778-6697 for reservations. www.havenharbour.com

Skipjack Cove Yachting Resort -

Fri. 7/16 - Sun. 7/18, call Marylou @ 410-275-2122 for reservations. www.skipjackcove.com

Mears Point Marina (Kent Isl) -

Sat. 8/21 - Mon. 8/23, call 410-827-8888 for reservations. www.mearspoint.com

Fairlee Creek Raft-Up -

Sat. 9/4 - Mon. 9/6

FOR SAFETY, ALL VESSELS WILL BE REQUIRED TO DROP A BOW OR STERN ANCHOR, NO MATTER HOW LONG YOUR STAY.



The winter meeting was fantastic!

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FLEET CAPTAIN:

All cruise reservations should be made as soon as possible to insure your spot with the fleet. I'm asking for a deadline of **March 31, 2010** for your reservations. Please let me know as soon as your reservations have been made. I will then be able to verify the counts and coordinate with the marinas. After March 31st, I will need to cancel the unused slip reservations.

Thank you, looking forward to a great season!

Gary

Spring Launch Reminders from the Marina

The office is currently taking work orders and invites you to call and discuss any work which you would like the Marina to perform. Please submit the enclosed work order via fax or you may submit electronically via the website.

The store will continue to carry everyday consumables. For non-stock items, we are able to order most any item with next day delivery. (48 hours notice would be appreciated) Please consider using us to order all your materials. I believe you will find our prices very competitive and you will have the convenience of delivery to the Marina. You will also be fiscally supporting the Marina which will help defray ever rising costs.

Call today and we'll be happy to supply price quotes.

DO NOT put shrink-wrap in the dumpsters.

As in years past, there will be a designated area behind the Chandlery for the recycling of shrink-wrap. Please assist us in recycling.

As a friendly reminder, please abide by the marina's environmental rules. The EPA requires the use of tarps or filter cloth for all sanding, scraping and painting of bottoms. The ground under and around your vessel should not be discolored by sanding or scraping particulate. Filter cloth, which is less expensive than a tarp, may be purchased in the office. Please ensure that you have submitted a CLEAN MARINA AGREEMENT to the office. If you have not sub-

mitted an agreement in the past, please do so now, either on the website or stop by the office.

The water will be turned on April 1st. Please do NOT use the sinks in the laundry or restrooms to clean up paint brushes or tools. Use the outside sink and faucets located by the shop. Pump-out will be turned-on April 15th.

When your boat is launched, the staff secures it in your slip according to the current weather conditions and tide. Upon notification of launch, **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKING YOUR BOAT AND ADJUSTING YOUR LINES.**



The "serious" side of planning cruises, parties, dances and marina events!

SOCK BURNING

Well, as always the members of Bowleys Point Yacht Club are looking for a way to celebrate and party. In last year's spring newsletter, you might remember an article discussing the sock burning custom. Let's try it this year. The first day of spring is Saturday March 20th. We can meet at the boat launch at 4:30 for the ceremony.

Wear a pair of old socks, and bring a libation. (Beer is traditional, but I vote for a glass of wine.) We will see how long it takes to burn the socks and usher in a new boating season. Who knows! Maybe it will bring us good luck by pleasing Poseidon.





Club Officers—2010

Commodore - Doug Rassler C-45
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Treasurer - Gail Rassler C-45
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Keeping it clean!

Here's a list of top ten best clean boating tips. Following even a few of these suggestions will greatly reduce the impact of recreational boating on the environment and help keep our marina gorgeous!.

1. Prevent the discharge of oil from the bilge - Keeping the engine well maintained will help prevent oil drips. The overall condition of hoses, seals, bearings, and gaskets effects the likelihood of leaks. Keep oil adsorbent pillows in the bilge spaces and under known oil drips.
2. Spill-proof oil changes - Consider the use of a transfer pump to remove engine oil. Use a spill proof container to transport used oil and dispose of it in an approved location. Place an adsorbent pad under the oil filter and wrap one around the filter body while changing it.
3. Use safe fuel practices - Safely fueling a boat also helps prevent inadvertent spills. Fill tanks slowly, wrap an adsorbent pad around the fuel nozzle, use a fuel line warning device, and don't overfill the tank to help keep fuel out of the water.
4. No soap on sheens - Avoid the use of soap or detergent to disperse an oil sheen on the water. This practice only causes oil to sink in the water column where it remains a hazard to wildlife. Use an adsorbent pad to clean up a fuel or oil spill on the water. What little fuel is not picked up by a pad will safely evaporate. Fuel and oil soaked adsorbents are considered hazardous waste and should be handled carefully. Check with your marina operator or fuel supplier for proper disposal options.
5. Minimize in-water cleaning and maintenance - Try to perform all vessel maintenance in an approved yard, especially bottom or hull work. If job must take place in the water, use tarps and vacuum sanders to collect drips, dust and debris.
6. Be selective with bottom paint and reduce toxins - Most bottom paints use copper as a biocide. Select a formulation that uses the minimum amount of active ingredient to control marine growth. Avoid ablative paints that slough off into the water. Try one of the newer hard surface anti-fouling paints. In-water bottom cleaning can release excessive amounts of toxic bottom paint into the water.
7. Properly dispose of hazardous wastes - Boat care generates a number of substances that are hazardous to the environment. Take things like old lead-acid batteries, spent oil filters, and used motor oil to hazardous waste collection or other approved facilities for disposal. Many materials can be recycled if correctly handled during disposal.
8. Plan and manage sewage waste correctly - It is illegal to discharge sewage within three miles of shore. Utilize pumpout stations and shore-based facilities to limit the limit of sewage on the water environment.
9. Retain trash onboard - Keep all the solid wastes generated during a voyage onboard and stowed proper containers. Take trash and garbage back to shore based facilities and recycle when possible.
10. Reduce graywater discharges - Use low or phosphate free soaps and detergents while onboard to reduce the effects of graywater on marine waters. Utilize shore-based facilities to wash dishes and take showers when able.



Bowleys Point Yacht Club

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