

Yacht Clubs of Maryland's Bay Breeze

January 2010

Visit us at: <http://www.yachtclubsofmaryland.org>

If your club is not already a member of Yacht Clubs of Maryland, we would love to have you join us.

To join, please contact R/C Steve Rockel who will guide you through the process.

Commodore's Report

By: Commodore Dan Miller
danandbonnie@comcast.net

Happy New Year everyone. I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays with all their family and friends gathered around.

Speaking of gathering around with friends... we had another wonderful time this year at the annual YCM Christmas party at Laurel Park Race Track. This year, because of the earlier snow postponement, it was more of a New Year's party but it worked out great and everyone enjoyed themselves. We held a brief board meeting to keep our momentum and address any pressing issue then off to the races.

The first race was a close one and I felt sure the day was over. (Not a photo-finish at the line, mind you, but an issue just past the finish line). After the race, one of the horses fell to the track and didn't get up. For a few tense moments we waited as track personnel tended to the thoroughbred. A few moments later the horse regained its footing and was led into an oversized "horse ambulance" for a trip to the stables. A close one indeed because Bonnie said if that horse didn't get back up... she was leaving. Oh yea, the jockey was OK too. I didn't recognize any names being called for the "Giving Tree" this year so I guess our luck was spent on the horses and of course the lucky "Four by \$500" winners.

The next upcoming event is our Fleet Captains Dinner. Don't expect to witness any horse wrecks here but it will be interesting and informative none the less. This meeting is the perfect time to trade information with your fellow member clubs.

We have gained some more new club leaders as we continue through the Change of Watch season. Congratulations to all those that have stepped up for their club.

Don't forget to check out the other

articles in this newsletter and our website to find out what else is going on in our club and the member clubs around our bay. I will see you soon at one of the upcoming event or an upcoming meeting.

Stay safe, warm, and again, here's hoping you have a Happy New Year.

P.S. Please note our email address is changing to danandbonnie2@verizon.net

Vice Commodore's Report

By: V/C Charlie Downs
chardow@aol.com
302-834-1805

Our January meeting will be held on January 27th. It is a **General Membership** and will be held at **Bush River Yacht Club**. Dinner will be served at 6 PM. And the meeting will start at 7PM.

The menu for dinner is Chicken Kiev. Rice with gravy, corn, green beans, salad & dessert. The cost is \$ 8.00 per person.

Please contact me to make a dinner reservation. The cutoff date for reservations is January 22, 2010.

The next Newsletter Deadline is February 12th. As always, all member clubs and guest writers from our yachting community are welcome to provide articles. Please send articles to Editor Charlie Downs at chardow@aol.com

**PLEASE SEND US YOUR
COMMODORES BALL & OPENING
INFORMATION!** Check listings in this newsletter to see if we have your club listed yet!

With the changing of officers, New Commodores, please advise this editor with your e-mail address so you are added to our electronic distribution list.

YCM needs host clubs for the following meetings:

Jun 30, 2010 - Board Meeting
Jul 28, 2010 - General Membership - Dinner

Please contact me if your club will hosts any of the above.

Rear Commodore's Report

By: R/C Steve Rockel
Terri.Rockel@cna.com

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

It is that time of the year to update Yacht Clubs of Maryland Ships Log. I received many requests at last year's Fleet Captain Meeting and Dinner and others throughout the bay to have the Ship's Log completed and distributed by the beginning of the openings. This will be our goal this year!! Please help all of us at YCM to make this possible by returning all updated information to me as soon as possible please.

REMINDER

2010 FLEET CAPTAINS
DINNER

Sponsored by Yacht Clubs of Maryland

Date: Sunday, January 31, 2010

**Place: Red Eye Yacht Club,
2222 Poplar Road, 410-686-5399**

I-695 to Route 702 South towards Rocky Point State Park; Turn Left at Holly Neck Road, go 1/2 Mile; Turn left on Cedar Creek Road, go 2 Blocks; Turn right on Marsh Road and follow to end; Marsh Road turns into Poplar Road

**Time: 1:00 p.m. –
Drinks, cash bar, meeting**

Dinner: 3:00 p.m. – Cajun/Lemon Butter/Honey Glazed Chicken, Mashed potatoes/gravy, vegetable, dessert

Cost: \$10.00 pp

This day will allow the 2010 Fleet Captains to meet other Fleet Captains from around the bay. We will exchange, coordinate and communicate information so all clubs have the opportunity to interact in club events and club cruises around the bay for the upcoming 2010 boating season.

I also encourage Rear Commodores to come along with past experiences and information to offer our incoming Fleet Captains.

Fleet Captains, most importantly, please bring along your mate as you will find out throughout the year your mate will play a very big role in your success.

Dress is casual but please do wear your name badge.

****Please RSVP no later than January 25, 2010 to:**

**Rear Commodore Steve Rockel
Yacht Clubs of Maryland
Home #: 410-256-1065 Cell #:443-904-6317
E-mail: Terri.Rockel@cna.com**

If you know of a club which is not a member of YCM but wishes to join, please let me know so I may contact them.

Boating, Waterways, and the Environment

By: Legislative Affairs Officer Cliff Katzin

Happy New Year Everybody! The Holiday Season is normally known for the lack of Legislative news, but this past season has most definitely been an exception to that feeling. What with the U.S. Senate buying...er... I mean passing a Health Care Bill, the State of Maryland also boasts of important news.

Less than a week after the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission re-affirmed their decision to allow the A.E.S. Corporation to proceed with the building of the proposed liquid natural gas terminal at Sparrow's Point, The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals stuck a sword in the back of the project. In a Unanimous Decision, the court upheld the State of Maryland's denial of a water quality permit for the project. Project Manager, Kent Morton, of A.E.S. called the decision disappointing, but vowed the company would continue with the project. This, despite previous statements from A.E.S. officials, that the project could not move forward without the "water quality permits." Additionally, 170 additional conditions imposed by the government have yet to be met. Community Opposition Leaders and Legal Scholars have agreed that this ruling will make it very difficult for the project to continue. The president of the Baltimore Building and Trades Council, Rod Easter, called the decision "extremely disappointing."

Recently, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley announced a new approach to "oyster harvesting." The governor's approach would increase the size of the bay bottom protected from oyster dredging from 9% of the "productive oyster bar" to 24%. Additionally, the state would make 95,000 acres of Bay Bottom available for lease as oyster farms. It is hoped that this plan would create 200 oyster farming jobs in the area, as well as \$25 million in revenues. The planning here is in the early stages, but it is hoped that Maryland could create a thriving oyster farming industry much like Virginia, which already has a thriving "oyster aquaculture."

Due to "over fishing, pollution, and disease," Maryland has seen the population of oysters

reduced by 99% in the last century. The number of watermen earning a living harvesting oysters has dropped from 2000 to less than 250. They are harvesting about 100,000 bushels a year compared to 2 million in the 1980's.

In 2014, the Panama Canal will open to a new class of "mega ships" carrying cargo from foreign Pacific Ocean Ports. East Coast Sea Ports are preparing to accommodate the larger vessels. For Baltimore and other East Coast ports such as Philadelphia and Wilmington, this means Dredging. In Baltimore it merely means deepening docking space, but for Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Camden, it means deepening the 100+ mile Delaware River Channel from 40 feet to 45 feet. The States of New Jersey and Delaware have long been opposed to the dredging citing environmental concerns over the effect the dredging would have on seal life and what to do with the dredged materials. The Philadelphia Port Authority has long supported the dredging, citing the economic gains to be had plus being competitive with other East Coast Ports. In 1992, the United States Congress authorized the United States Army Corps of Engineers to begin the \$300 million project. Regulatory and Intergovernmental disagreements have gone on for 18 years. Recently the Corps of Engineers have threatened to begin work without Delaware and New Jersey's full permission. On December 8th of 2009 New Jersey and Delaware went to Federal Court to request an Injunction to stop the project. That is not what they got. Federal Judge Sue Robinson rebuked the state of Delaware for dragging its feet for 5 years to act on a permit request by the Corps. She also said that she was convinced that the dredging project was vital to the area's economy. The Hearing was adjourned and the judge said she would review written arguments before handing down a decision.

Lastly, with the State of Maryland instituting "deep budget cuts" across the board, Maryland Governor O'Mally and the Maryland General Assembly are expected to begin discussions on pay raises for themselves. They understand that it doesn't look good in this time of recession, but possibly they might tie it in to all State

Employees receiving raises. They're looking in the neighborhood of 10%. Guess who will pay for the raises.

PC Joe Hellner and Terri Rockel contributed to this report.

Secretary's Report

*By: Secretary Janet Yodris
jyodris@comcast.net*

Treasurer's Report

*By: Treasurer Ron Hammock
No Report*

Dates to Remember

General Mtg. – Bush River YC – January 27th
Fleet Captains Meeting – Red Eye YC-Jan 31st
Board Mtg. – Maryland YC – February 24th
General Mtg. – Red Eye YC – March 31st
Board Mtg. – Middle River YC – April 28th
General Mtg. – Key YC – May 26th
Board Mtg. – North East River YC- Aug 25th
General Mtg. – Eastern YC – September 29th

Scuttlebutt and Spindrift

By: Salty Sam the Sea Dog

Ahoy there, me hearties! It seems that for past commodores, the level of concentration just isn't the same or perhaps the 1st Mate, relaxing in the joys of being out of office, no longer sees the need to serve as a back-up brain to the now past "grand pooh-bah" or whatever the title was. Recently, at the Chesapeake Commodore's Club Ball, the ceremonies were going along great when a certain P/C, recognized for his "achievements" in this column before, was not present for his introduction. M/C Jerry Cramblett quickly explained why, noting that this fellow had succeeded in bringing himself but, alas, having assumed his 1st Mate had packed it, was less than successful in bringing a uniform.

For her part, 1st Mate Faye understandably concluded that this smart responsible fellow, who had once been the "Commodore of Commodores" in charge of a 500 member organization, surely would have brought the one thing absolutely necessary for the Commodore's Ball of his own organization. Instead, the audience was introduced to a comfortably attired couple with a friendly wave sitting at a room patio instead of the P/C's VIP area by the pool. So, for achieving absolutely absent attire by masterfully missing his mind while relying on his mate who missed minding it for him, a Skunk Flag Honorable Mention goes to P/C "Casually Elegant, Elegantly Casual" Chuck Lay!

A Salty Congratulations to IP/C Joy of Belvedere YC and 1st Mate Tony who recently tied the knot!!

As always, please send your news and notes of interest to Salty Sam at mi-ti-bear@comcast.net Till next Port o' Call, always remember, "Those who don't make mistakes must not be doing anything."

Protocol Matters

*Captain Protocol, IP/C Joe Hellner
mi-ti-bear@comcast.net*

Most yacht clubs hold at least two major "all hands" events each year, one typically celebrating the start of boating season and the other to celebrate changing the watch for a new year. For most clubs in our area, these events are known as **Opening Day** and the **Commodore's Ball**. Opening Day is also known as **Flag Raising**, which is technically the ceremony that occurs on Opening Day. These are occasions for all members, family, and guests to get together in friendship to celebrate their involvement in their club and to mark special milestones with a little bit of ceremony and "speechifying". There are many yachting and nautical traditions and symbols associated with each occasion. Representatives and VIPs from many neighbor yacht clubs and boating organizations attend to renew bonds of friendship and to help celebrate the good fortune to be able to enjoy boating and a club on the water.

The Commodore's Ball celebrates the start of a new club year (sort of like a Club Birthday Party), welcomes and thanks the incoming and outgoing Commodores, and welcomes those members who have volunteered to serve as officers and Board members for the upcoming year. In most years, it the only full formal catered event in a nice hall the club holds, providing music and dinner for a "let's go out for the evening" event at a time of year when the boats and club are asleep for winter.

Opening Day often involves a whole weekend of activities, most of which are carried on in the informal and relaxed ways of the boating life. This is one of the best times to bring friends and family down to the club and for folks from neighboring clubs to visit by land or sea. The club and grounds are at their shining best, usually decorated to a theme. Food and drink are everywhere and hospitality is aboard every vessel at docks often full of visiting boats. Rafting up visiting boats is common with lines, electric cords, and water hoses running everywhere. In most clubs, no visiting boat is ever charged for dockage on opening weekend. At some point during the weekend, a ceremony is held with yachting uniforms and attire, courtesies exchanged, officer reports, speeches made, cannons fired, and the club burgee officially raised for the season. Some clubs will hold a fleet review as part of the official season kick-off.

Attendance by the membership at the Ball and Opening Day should always be strong. This is especially important for small clubs where every member can make a big difference.

Till next time, see you around the Bay!

New Past Commodores:

You will be presented with four silver shirt buttons for your whites uniform shirt at your Commodore's Ball by the YCM ranking officer.

YCM has a stock of silver cap cords and silver cap buttons. A package of one silver cord and two silver cap buttons can be purchased at a cost of \$15.00.

If you wish to purchase this package, please contact IP?C Joe Hellner or any YCM officer.

Princess Corner

Send Princess articles to chardow@aol.com

Chesapeake Royalty Takes The Plunge

The Polar Bear Plunge will take place on January 30, 2010. The princesses and I will be plunging at 1:00 P.M.! The girls and I are very anxious to do this very exciting event. Any receipts written to the Special Olympics Maryland are tax deductible to an extent by law. On the check, you must write the plunger's name or the name of our team which is "Chesapeake Royalty" in the memo area. If anyone would like to contribute but cannot contact me before the plunge, money can still be sent in. That person can either send it to me and I will send the money to the organization or personally just send it themselves to SOMD, 513 Progress Drive, Suite P Linthicum, MD 21090. Please be sure to write our team name or my name in the memo on the check! Another convenient way to donate is by going to the website and making a donation. Simply go to "Make a Donation" and type in the plunger's name of whom you wish to donate to. By donating under my name it will contribute to the entire team! Thank You for all of your help and if you have any questions please feel free to contact me!!!

Queen Kimberly Samm
Queen.Kimberly09@aol.com
(443) 610 - 5628

(A flier is attached)

4 X 500 Raffle

The drawing of the annual YCM 4 X 500 Raffle was recently held. All four winners received \$500.00 each. The winners were:

Dink Daffin Ron Dubree
Terry Levee Sr Pat Lyons

Congratulations to all. Thanks to all who purchase a raffle tickets. Not a bad return for a \$20.00 ticket.

Please support our next 4 x 500 raffle to be held later this year.