

Yacht Clubs of Maryland's Bay Breeze

December 2009

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

The recent General Membership meeting held at Otter Point Yacht Club went well and was well attended. Member club participation is essential and your questions, concerns, comments, and solutions are necessary to accomplish our objective. Your input is greatly appreciated. Otter Point did a wonderful job hosting.

The silver button presentations are continuing at the Change of Watch ceremonies and on behalf of Yacht Clubs Maryland, I wish to once again congratulate all the incoming officers and wish each club a prosperous new year.

With the busy holiday season (and cold weather) upon us our thoughts move away from boating and over to family and friends. I know some of us never stop thinking about boating and are right now hoping Santa brings them a nice gift for their vessel. I hope all your dreams and wishes come true.

I hope to see many of you at this year's Christmas party being held at Laurel Park Race Track. This is always a great time and gives us a chance to enjoy another Maryland tradition. This is certainly a lucky day with the racing, the "giving tree", and the four for five hundred drawing. Good luck to those that have taken a chance with our 4 for \$500 raffle and thank you for your participation.

Don't forget to check out the other articles in this newsletter to find out what going on in our club and the member clubs around our bay and I will see you soon at one of the upcoming event or an upcoming meeting.

Stay safe and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Vice Commodore's Report

By: *V/C Charlie Downs*
chardow@aol.com

Our December meeting will be held on 12/19/2008 and will be held at Laurel Park just prior to our holiday party. YCM officers and board members should plan to arrive 30 minutes early to allow for a brief board meeting for the record.

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 next Newsletter Deadline is January 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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR COMMODORES BALL 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:

May 26, 2010 - General Membership - Dinner
Jun 30, 2010 - Board Meeting
Jul 28, 2010 - General Membership - Dinner
Aug 25, 2010 - Board Meeting

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

Rear Commodore's Report

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

**2010 Fleet Captains Dinner, Sunday,
January 31, 2010, 1:00 p.m. at Red Eye
Yacht Club, 410-686-5399, \$10.00 pp/cash
bar**

**Dinner: Cajun, Lemon Butter or Honey
Glazed Chicken, mashed potatoes/gravy,
vegetable, dessert**

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*

As of December 1st, there is nothing new to report on the Sparrows Point LNG terminal. The A.E.S. Corporation is still waiting for a ruling from the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals regarding the denial of a Water Quality Certificate. Company officials have indicated that without the water quality certification, the project could not proceed. Meanwhile, an Oklahoma Company, Samson Resources is now drilling for Natural Gas in Susquehanna County in Pennsylvania. The drilling sites are located in the Marcellus Shale Formation. This formation extends into Allegany and Garrett Counties in Maryland, and the Maryland Department of Environment reports that Samson intends to start drilling soon. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation sees nothing wrong with Natural Gas, as it is a clean burning fuel. However, as Glenn Bowser has pointed out, the drilling process used to recover the gas poses a pollution threat to the ground water in the vicinity, which will eventually find its way to the Chesapeake Bay. Stay Tuned!

The 2010 Pennsylvania State Budget has slashed the funding of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection by almost 26%. The effects of this cut will see famers' tax credits for conservation efforts cut

in half, upgrades to water treatment plants eliminated, and it opens State Forests to Natural Gas drilling. The proceeds of Royalties paid here going not to conservation efforts, but to the States General Funds! All of the above will have a trickle down negative effect on the Chesapeake Bay.

Two pieces of Chesapeake Bay Legislation are working their way through the United States Congress. The first, the "Environmental Related Agencies Appropriations Conference Report" sits on President Obama's desk waiting to be signed into Law. This is a \$641 million dollar bill designated for the protection of the Nation's great bodies of water. \$50million is designated for the Chesapeake Bay. In this Bill, the Environmental Protection Agency will set goals for local communities to reduce pollutants in their waterways. A "Total Maximum Daily Load" for each waterway will be established. This is the maximum amount of pollutants a body of water can contain and still meet it clean water quality standards. The Target date to have the Chesapeake Bay cleaned up is 2025, but the EPA will monitor this every two years. The EPA expects the Bay to be 60% clean by 2017. Officials of the EPA are to begin meeting with representatives of the six states, and the District of Columbia that make up the "Chesapeake Bay Watershed" to establish goals for the 92 Bay Segments that feed the Chesapeake Bay.

In case you are wondering, the main cause of pollution to the Bay is caused from "Run Off" from urban areas, suburban development, agriculture and livestock farming. Nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment are the main causes of pollution. Nitrogen and phosphorus feed algae on the surface of the water. The algae then dies, and the decomposition process robs the water of oxygen creating a "dead zone." Sediment on the other hand covers the sea bed killing plants and eggs.

There is "Good News!" Scientist believe that less clean-up is needed to achieve "clean water" status than originally thought. The "Bad News is that politics" are complicating the process. Construction and live stock industries as well as local communities claim to be singled out for

blame unfairly. Individual states don't like to be stepped on by the Federal Government, and local industry can dictate a politician's position. For instance, Maryland Governor O'Mally was an enthusiastic supporter of this bill, until he realized that this legislation would be harmful to the Eastern Shore Poultry farms that produced 300 million chickens in 2007 and \$500 million in revenue. Those chicken farmers vote, you know.

Also recently introduced into Congress is the "Chesapeake Clean Water and Ecosystems Restoration Act," Sponsored by Maryland U.S. Senator Ben Cardin. This Bill gives the EPA more power to levy fines and penalties for non-compliance. This bill is still in committee and has a long way to go. Would it be possible to give those communities and farmers some financial help to do the things that would help stop pollution instead of using the money to pay people to slap other people on the wrist for non-compliance?

The United States Coast Guard is proposing tougher standards for ships dumping ballast in U.S. ports. Large ocean going vessels take on water for ballast adding to stability at sea. When arriving at the next port, they often dump the ballast. This process has seen the transport of many unwanted organisms that raise havoc with the ecosystems in their new homes. For instance, the Zebra Mussel was introduced to the Great Lakes in 1980. It is now found in 23 states here in the U.S., including Maryland, at the mouth of the mighty Susquehanna River. Also found in the Bay are Furry Chinese mitten crabs and rapa whelk, an aggressive snail that eats clams and oyster.

The Chesapeake Bay has more than 3 billion gallons of Ballast Water pumped into it every year, more than any other Bay in the nation. The new Coast Guard proposals will reduce the amount of foreign bodies 10 fold. That could only help the Bay. Let's keep an eye on it.

Finally, in a sad commentary, the State of Maryland has decided to cede "The Pride of Baltimore II" to the non-profit Pride of Baltimore Inc. which has operated the craft for many years now. The motivation here is two fold. First, it is one less bill the State has to

pay. (a \$68000 liability premium) Secondly, it reduces the public perception that the taxpayers are footing the bill for this beautiful craft. It's always sad commentary to see a person or entity have to sell off its property to pay the bills.

Secretary's Report

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

I want to wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone. You all will be in my thoughts and prayers during this Holiday Season.

Treasurer's Report

By: Treasurer Ron Hammock
No Report

Dates to Remember

YCM Christmas Party-Laurel Park- Dec 19th
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

Scuttlebutt and Spindrift

By: Salty Sam the Sea Dog

Ahoy there, me hearties! An **Eastern YC Parrot is Missing!!**

ARRRRGH!! Salty has learned that a talking parrot disappeared from the **Eastern YC** Tiki Bar and may have been parrot-napped. No word yet on the parrot's name but it is known by EYC as "**Polly's Parrot**". It is about 18" tall, is yellow and red, and loves to hang out with pirates, wharf rats, and wenches. Salty recommends all hands be on the look out for this parrot and, if spotted, please take a picture and send to YCM Webmaster Karen Anderson for posting. Do not attempt to rescue the parrot yourself as the parrot-nappers may be dangerous. Salty promises to work with YCM officers and

members to ensure the parrot's safe return to its piratical shipmates at Eastern.

As for the **Skunk Flag**, it is safely in the hands of **P/C Dennis Taylor** of **WellwoodYC**. Many of you may have heard or read my report on his docking adventure, which left 1st Mate Doris hanging around the waterfront. New candidates are lining up, so Dennis probably won't have the Flag for long. In fact, Salty hears **a certain P/C from Riverside YC** was quite a hit with his vessel this past season. Salty can't wait to hear the "hole" story.

Here's hopin' ye find yourself in snug harbor with friends and family for the holidays with the spirit of Christmas in your hearts. Till next Port o' Call, always remember, "Those who don't make mistakes must not be doing anything."

As always, please send your news and notes of interest to Salty Sam at mi-ti-bear@comcast.net

Protocol Matters

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

Ahoy there! I hope all are having a wonderful holiday season. Recently, I received questions about Color Guards and what should be done about the National Flag at Commodore Balls.

Presentation of the Colors by a Color Guard is an excellent way to start a ceremony. In military ceremonies, it is always near the top of the agenda. For yacht clubs, bringing the Colors in early is a must because the Colors must be present in the room for the yacht club reporting aboard ceremony, which emulates the process of coming aboard a ship. As you come up the gangway, you pause and salute the flag at the stern, then approach the Duty Officer, salute, and request permission to come aboard. The Duty Officer returns the salute and says permission granted. In yacht club ceremonies, the Duty Officer is usually the host club Commodore, who officially "welcomes

aboard" visiting organizations and guests. At Commodore Balls and other change of watch celebrations, this Duty Officer job is usually given to the Immediate Past Commodore as a final honor for their service, to symbolize the old Commodore as still "on duty" until the ceremonial hand over of the gavel, and to allow the new Commodore to be introduced last as the guest of honor.

The courtesy of requesting permission to come aboard remains common for vessels of all types, sizes, and uses. The flag salute when coming aboard is less commonly practiced for a number of practical reasons and often depends on circumstances and the size and type of the vessel. It is always practiced when coming aboard large vessels in national service, such as Navy and Coast Guard ships.

When a flag is already present in the room, it is not a violation of protocol to march in a second flag with a Color Guard. Often you see this outside where this is a flag on the mast and also with the color guard. Indoors or out, for the national anthem, the flag on the mast or pole is the one saluted. As always, the flag with the honor guard when passing by is saluted (hand over heart or hand salute if covered in uniform or if a veteran in civilian attire).

Till next time, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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

2009/2010 COMMODORES BALLS

JANUARY, 2010		
9	CCC - Princess Royale, Ocean City, MD Contact Al Diederichs - entertainment@chesapeakecommodoresclub.com	
16	Great Oak YC – Kent Island YC – Contact Jim Blackwell 302-475-4666	1800
16	Bush River YC – Richlin Ballroom- Contac Kim Piercy 410-676-8636	1830
23	Belvedere YC – Snyders Willow Grove Restaurant, 841 North Hammonds Ferry Rd, Linthicum, MD 21090 – Contact P/C Gary Amoth at bycevents@aol.com or 410-975-9075	1800
30	Galloway YC – Del Capri, Dundalk – Contact P/C Phyllis Murphy 410-686-0380	1800
FEBRUARY, 2010		
6	Middle River YC – Boumi Temple Contact Mary Philip 410-344-1224	1800
13	Bodkin YC – Turf Valley CC Contact P/C Steve Keefe 410-736-8488	1900
20	Crescent YC - Martin's East Pulaski Highway – Contact P/C Chuck Vipperman 410-335-8046	1900
27	White Rocks YC – Severna Parl Elks, Truckhouse Rd - Contact V/C P/C Donald Monagham 410-703-2038	1900
27	Ventnor YC TBA	
MARCH, 2010		
13	Wellwood YC -Embassy Suites, Newark, DE-Contact P/C George Anderson 410-287-6934	1800
20	Quad Ball (Key, Marley, MD Cruising, Charlestown) -	TBA
27	Outcast YC - Holiday Inn, Aberdeen, MD Contact V/C Tom Bredahl 410-275-8942 or tbredahl@bayboardband.net	1800

SOCIAL EVENTS

19	Yacht Clubs of Maryland - Christmas Party at the Track - Laurel Park Race Track - \$40 pp - Contact kathymac1@comcast.net 410-729-1971 (home) 443-474-1454 (cell)	1200 hrs
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To List or Update Your Upcoming Club Activities for this newsletter and the YCM Web Site, Please email your information and flyers to **Webmaster Karen Anderson** at **webmaster@yachtclubsofmaryland.org**

