

Yacht Clubs of Maryland's Bay Breeze

February 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*
danandbonnie2@verizon.net

This will be brief. I have more shoveling to do.....

I hate snow. OK not really, but not unlike most of you, I have certainly had my fill. If this keeps up, Salt & Pepper will not only be protocol but necessary to see us standing in the snow at the first few openings. I do hope everyone has managed well through the historical snowfall and I must say I am glad to have seen it.

Another event with historical levels that I can say I am glad I was there was our annual Fleet Captains Dinner / Meeting. Wow what a great turnout. This group of enthusiastic officers is definitely laying an exciting course and I am happy that YCM could provide the means to bring them all together.

The next big event is not an event as much as a production. The annual YCM Ship's Log. This is where we need your help. Timely member club response is critical to the production timeline and to meet the final distribution goal. Check with your club to see if they have updated their page.

Better than halfway through the Ball season and I must say again the silver button presentation have been a great success. The outgoing P/Cs love the gesture.

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 keep thinking, melt... melt... melt... melt... melt.

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

Vice Commodore's Report

By: *V/C Charlie Downs*
chardow@aol.com
[302-834-1805](tel:302-834-1805)

Our February meeting will be held on February 24th. It is a **Board Membership** and will be held at **Maryland Yacht Club**. The meeting will start at 7PM.

Our March meeting will be held on March 31st. It is a **General Membership** and will be held at Red Eye YC. Dinner will be served at 6PM and the meeting will start at 7PM.

The dinner menu is Meatloaf, mashed potatoes w/gravy, vegetable, ice cream with toppings. The cost is \$ 10.00 per person

If you haven't already signed up for dinner, please e-mail your reservation to chardow@aol.com

The next Newsletter Deadline is March 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.

Rear Commodore's Report

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

The 2010 Fleet Captains Dinner, in spite of the weather and our dusting of snow (6.5 inches!) was held on Sunday, January 31st and was very well attended. Thank you to Commodore Bill Hill of Red Eye Yacht Club, his officers and members for hosting this year's Fleet Captains Dinner. Once again, I would like to personally thank member Judy Zipkin of Red Eye for another outstanding dinner. It was absolutely delicious, thank you again Judy.

To all visiting Fleet Captains, I hope each and everyone of you enjoyed yourselves and are able to take something from this gathering to assist you as Fleet Captain for 2010. Good Luck and welcome aboard.

2010 YCM Ship's Log - Please get your club's updates to me as soon as possible. We are trying to get our 2010 Ship's Log ready to hand out at our first opening this year at Marley Boat Club. Please remember our deadline for updates for your club will be **March 15, 2010.** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 443-904-6317 or rearcommodore@yachtclubsofmaryland.org

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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*

The month of February has arrived, and although many of our thoughts are with loved ones, flowers, and heart shaped candy boxes, not to mention our boats, it is clear that the mood of the country has changed from a year ago. The "Hope and Change" that so many called for, has become a call for jobs and a

return of the country to the people. Reckless spending as created a shortage of funds that could help save our Bay. Hopefully, the tide is turning, and we might soon see the fortunes brighten. Just don't wait for the government to do it all. It won't. It's up to the people.

A review of the proposed calendar of the General Assembly does not list the Chesapeake Bay clean-up as one of their high priorities. There are of course other issues to tackle. One thing is sure. With elections coming in November, the legislators are wary of raising taxes. Saving one's back side is becoming increasing obvious as the mood of the country has changed. At least the talk of pay raises seems to have quieted.

A coalition of Maryland based water keepers is requesting that the Federal Environmental Protection Agency void that states authority to police water pollution. While Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Shari Wilson has improved the department's record of fighting pollution, she has pointed out that due to "budget cuts," her department's budget has been reduced by One Third (1/3) How would many of us perform our jobs on 1/3 less funds? To her credit, Ms. Wilson acknowledged the MDE's "inconsistent approach to Enforcement when she took office in 2007. She increased enforcement actions against polluters by 34% in the following year. That's a tough standard to maintain with the financial restrictions being placed on her. The water keepers though, really don't want a federal takeover of the MDE. What they really want is for that Department to acknowledge that it needs help. Where would help come from? Ms. Wilson has pointed out that with the State of Maryland's budget being 2 billion dollars in the hole, don't expect any help from that direction. The Water Keepers have made some suggestions though. With the Maryland General Assembly now in session, permit fees and violation penalties could be raised. The fees seem relatively cheap as they are. Additionally, the practice of intervening in civil lawsuits against polluters should be abolished. This practice certainly seems admirable, but it adds to the department's expenses. Also, Maryland's Attorney General should be prosecuting polluters, rather than

waiting for the MDE to do it. Ultimately though, it's up to the residents of the Chesapeake Bay watershed to send a clear message to their legislators that they want tough enforcement of anti-pollution laws.

As previously discussed, a major factor in Bay pollution is storm water runoff, both from urban areas and farming. Stricter rules enacted by the Maryland Legislature, controlling storm run-off, are to take effect on land development . They feature leaving larger areas being unpaved and encouraging the growing of vegetation. This practice allows for rain run-off to be absorbed in the ground which naturally cleanses the water.

However, developers of existing urban areas (re-development) seem to have a legitimate complaint. Their contention is that applying the standards of "new development" to already planned projects or existing projects would add hundreds of thousands or even millions to their projects. They claim that the new rules would undermine Maryland's "Smart Growth Policy" by discouraging urban redevelopment in cities, towns, and older suburban areas, and encourage "urban sprawl," which would even increase the amount of "storm water run-off." Environmentalists say the new rules are necessary to help clean up the Bay, and that all projects should be held to the same standards. MDE officials claim the rules are flexible enough to deal with redevelopment issues.

However, the steady stream of developer complaints have the ears of Governor O'Mally and many legislators. The developers are asking that existing redevelopment projects, or those on the drawing board, be "grandfathered" to pre-legislative restraints. Government officials have said that it was not the intent of the law to discourage urban redevelopment. Look for some kind of arrangement soon.

It appears that Maryland's program to upgrade wastewater treatment plants is in trouble. The "Bay Restoration Fund," also known as the "flush tax," enacted in 2004, finances this fund. Every house or business hooked up to a sewer in the State of Maryland

now pays a \$30 annual fee. So far, the fund has paid out \$159 million to fund these projects. Twelve are complete, fourteen are under construction, twenty five are in design state, and sixteen are in planning. However, the three largest plants, Baltimore's "Back River" and "Patapsco", and Washington's "Blue Plains" are all scheduled to start soon. The three plants together account for 2/3's of the Nitrogen reduction Maryland officials have pledged. There is one problem. There is not enough money currently in the fund to pay for them. The fund is \$660 million short. State Officials are pondering a way to make up the shortfall. They are wondering whether or not to increase the "flush tax" by 50% to cover the increase. Is this a "no brainer" or what? \$15 a year is not going to break anyone. Go ahead and Get it done!

Early in January, the State of Pennsylvania accepted bids to lease 32,000 acres of State Forrest land for development by natural gas drilling companies. The revenue was \$128.5 million, double the amount Pennsylvania had budgeted for. At least 1/2 the revenue will go directly toward Pennsylvania's budget. The tracts are all located to tap into the Marcellus Shale formation that runs through New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, which has been discussed here in the past. The bidding had mixed blessings according to acting Secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. He feared "the windfall would further whet the appetite of policy makers to lease public land to derive immediate revenue without fully understanding the long-term environmental implications of gas development."

Neither did this windfall go un-noticed by "America's Governor," Ed Rendell. (AKA "Fast Eddy") He immediately called for the re-introduction of a drilling tax he had proposed last year. He cited that the huge bids were an indication that the industry can afford the new tax levy. Guess who will wind up paying that tax. Neither did he rule out a State Senate plan to raise an additional \$180 million next year by leasing additional land for drilling. Nor did the increased leasing activity go un-noticed by local Environmentalists, who fear the contaminated water used in the drilling process would find its

way into the Susquehanna River, which winds its way through New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, and unlike what ever goes on in Vegas stays in Vegas, what ever goes on in the Susquehanna flows right into the Chesapeake Bay.. Fortunately, one of the drilling companies, “East Resources,” has donated \$750,000 to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission to set up a water quality monitoring system. They are going to need that, and surely much more. Look-Out, They’re just warming up here.

Finally, last month this column chronicled Governor O’Mally’s and the State of Maryland’s efforts to save the oyster population in the Bay. The oyster protected “sanctuary” areas are to be increased, and a ban on “oyster dredging” and” raking” have been proposed. Additionally, the idea of “oyster farming was introduced. Unhappy with the recent proposals, a group of about 150 watermen have broken away from the Maryland Watermen’s Association and formed their own group, the Chesapeake Bay Commercial Fishermen’s Association. Their goal is to work with the Legislators to “preserve the watermen’s way of life.” What will happen to their way of life when the oysters are all gone? It’s always something!

The last week of January saw Federal Judge Sue Robinson deny the States of Delaware and New Jersey’s request for an injunction to stop the dredging of the Delaware River to a depth of 45.’ She ordered the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to start the project immediately.

Finally, this officer attended his first “Fleet Captain’s Dinner,” held at Red Eye Yacht Club on January 31, with his Fleet Captain/Spouse. The event was well planned, attended, informative, and all who attended spent an enjoyable afternoon. As usual, a job “Well Done” by R/C Steve Rockel.

Secretary’s Report

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

Treasurer’s Report

*By: Treasurer Ron Hammock
No Report*

Dates to Remember

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. – Sue Haven YC – June 30th
General Mtg. – TBA
Board Mtg. – North East River YC- Aug 25th
General Mtg. – Eastern YC – September 29th
YCM Commodores’ Night – October 22nd
Board Mtg – Wellwood YC – October 27th

Scuttlebutt and Spindrift

By: Salty Sam the Sea Dog

Nothing new this month.

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*

Wow! Our winter weather in Maryland has sure been a challenge. Hard to imagine in a few months we will be getting our boats ready and enjoying warm sunny days. Perhaps the 2010 Commodores should adopt a snowman on their burgee. Meanwhile, the Commodores Ball season goes on as best it can so I thought I would mention a few uniform pointers.

In general, attire is what you would wear to an evening wedding reception or formal dinner with the addition, as appropriate, of many folks wearing winter yacht club uniforms. Women wearing uniform skirts should wear long ankle length skirts. Men should wear Bow Ties. A tuxedo shirt with the uniform is appropriate and creates the most formal look, but a regular white shirt with bow tie is OK.

For men not in uniform, tuxedos are very much in the spirit of the occasion but are not required or expected. A longstanding yacht club tradition is for the First Lady or First Gentleman to wear white, which usually means wearing a white dress or tuxedo, even if they could also wear a uniform.

All officers and P/C's of the host club should be in uniform. Representing officials at a Commodores Ball should be in the formal uniform of the club or organization they are representing. For all other persons who do not otherwise have an official role at the Ball, a uniform is optional but encouraged in the spirit of the occasion. A properly worn uniform shows respect to the host club and pride in your own club or organization.

As CCC P/C Chuck Lay so aptly demonstrated recently at the 2010 CCC Ball, yacht club officers, P/C's, and officials not in uniform are introduced from their seats.

Uniforms should be worn properly and completely until the end of the Ball. The most formal "party" or dinner uniform involves a special short jacket and cumberbund with an ankle length skirt for women or suspender held high waist pants for men. This style of uniform is called "Mess Dress" by our Armed Services, and, although not often worn by yacht club officers in our area, is very appropriate for a Commodores Ball. If you know a service member who will be attending a Commodores Ball, they should be advised that wearing their uniform would be appropriate and appreciated and that they could wear "Mess Dress" or a formal uniform suitable to the occasion and season. After the ceremonies, the host club Commodore may relax the dress code by making an appropriate announcement but, until such an announcement is made, please don't loosen or remove neckties and/or unbutton/remove jackets.

By the way, ALL yacht club members are entitled to wear a yacht club uniform. The differences among officers, P/C's, Board Members, and members are denoted by sleeve braid and other insignia.

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.

Health & Welfare

BY P/C Jill Cashman

If anyone has any news regarding members who may be ill, hospitalized etc. please contact me. Send email to: Jillcashman2@aol.com or call 443-506-1605.

Princess Corner

Send Princess articles to chardow@aol.com

2010 COMMODORES BALLS

FEBRUARY		
20	Crescent YC - Martin's East Pulaski Highway – Contact P/C Chuck Viperman 410-335-8046	1900
27	White Rocks YC – Severna Parl Elks, Truckhouse Rd - Contact V/C P/C Donald Monaghan 410-703-2038	1900
MARCH		
6	Ventnor YC - Maryland YC –Contact P/C Lynn Schmidt 410-437-6617 or lindseyc@yahoo.com	1800
13	Wellwood YC -Embassy Suites, Newark, DE-Contact P/C George Anderson 410-287-6934	1800
20	Quad Ball (Key, Marley, MD Cruising, Charlestown) – Eastern YC-Contact Janet Yodris 410-285-4232	1830
27	Outcast YC - Holiday Inn, Aberdeen, MD Contact V/C Tom Bredahl 410-275-8942 or tbredahl@bayboardband.net	1800
APRIL		
	Middle River YC – Boumi Temple Contact Mary Philip 410-344-1224	1800

OPENINGS 2010

APRIL		
24	Marley Boat Club – American Legion Post 277-Contact Steve Kincer 443-995-4988	1400 hrs
25	Wellwood Yacht Club – In the Tent	1400 hrs
MAY		
1	Galloway Yacht Club – Middle River Y C-Contact V/C Sharon Winterling 410-299-7933	1200
	North East River Yacht Club – Club – Contact Joe Reynolds 443-553-0494	1600
2	Sue Haven Yacht Club – Club – Contact Bud Parmer 410-485-0313	1400
8	Kent Island Yacht Club – Club – Contact Vince Fares 410-739-0389	1600

MAY		
9	Crescent Yacht Club	
15	Belvedere Yacht Club	1500
	Miles River Yacht Club – Club – Contact Harvey Burgoon 410-829-9687	1630
16	Red Eye Yacht Club – Club – Contact V/C Jerry Selig 443-465-0973	1500
JUNE, 2010		
5	Maryland Yacht Club – Club – Contact Bill Fischbein 410-729-1276	1330
6	Queen of the Chesapeake Pageant – Maryland YC – Contact Bill Fischbein 410-729-1276	1300
12	Bush River Yacht Club – Club – Contact P/C Jack Clark 410-838-1621	1600
19	White Rocks Yacht Club – at Bodkin YC-Contact P/C Donald Monaghan 410-703-2038	1200
20	Bodkin Yacht Club – Club – Contact Bill Fairall 301-440-0639	1300
26	Outcast Yacht Club – at Crescent YC- Contact Como Tom Bredahl 410-275-2832	1300 hrs
27	Key Yacht Club – Club – Contact Kitty Sauer 410-371-6512	

SOCIAL EVENTS

MARCH		
13	Red Eye YC - Bull & Oyster Roast – Lantern Gardens – Contact Mark Wilson 410-557-0261	1900
19	White Rocks YC – Bull & Oyster Roast - Contact P/C Karen Davis 410-544-6950	1900
27	Kent Island YC – A Tribute to Patsy Cline – Club – Contact Kathy Comegys 410-924-3892	
APRIL		
24	Marley Boat Club -Shrimp Feast & Dance – American Legion Post 277 - Contact V/C Steve Kincer 443-995-4988	1800
24	Red Eye YC - Spring Fling – Club -Contact Karen Watsic	1800

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**