



Under The Rock

December 2015

The Newsletter of the Marblehead Yacht Club

Happy Holidays from MYC

Commodore's Message

I am looking forward to my time as Commodore of our very special Marblehead Yacht Club and getting to know many of you in the coming months. December has been a busy month with new Club Officers and Board members transitioning in and beginning the planning for the 2016 season. We welcome Glen Kewley as Treasurer, Paul Mervis as Rear Commodore, Ellen McGrail as Secretary as well as Tip O'Neill and Carol Kent as new Board members.

I would like to thank Doug Burgess for his long-term service to the MYC as a former Commodore and Secretary for the Club. A special thanks to Tom Despres, outgoing 2015 Commodore who will be staying on as a Board member and continuing to chair the Communications and Capital Planning Committees in 2016. Tom worked tirelessly to improve the MYC Experience for all the members chairing several Committees and planning most of the Events held in 2015.

We have a very competent and hardworking team including Alan Petersen, Vice Commodore and a long term MYC member/volunteer, and Bill Kilham, our hard working Club Manager/Dock Master, in place for 2016. I am confident that it will be a banner year at the Marblehead Yacht Club.

In 2016 I would like to see both categories of Membership increase and see a resurgence in members volunteering for committees at the MYC. Also, the completion of a three-year effort to rehab our three launches will be completed in 2016 thanks to the oversight of Bill Kilham and former Commodores Bill Betters and Tom Despres. In addition, we will continue to make improvements to the Club facilities and dining services as well as introduce several new events during the 2016 season.

Happy Holidays to All!

Marion McCauley

Outgoing Commodore's Parting Message

Dear MYC Members:

"There is nothing, absolutely nothing half so much worth doing as simply messing around in boats."

Kenneth Grahame, *Wind in the Willows*

Serving as Commodore at MYC is a bit like messing around with boats and when you add to that a great group of people, it is worth doing and gratifying as well. What is not to like about hanging around the water with a great group of like-minded people?

The details of the 2015 season at the Club are summarized in the notes from the Annual Meeting, so here are just a few highlights from a fun filled year at MYC. We all shared in social events at the Club, thanks to the efforts of the Entertainment Committee. A new event this year was a beer-tasting made possible by Chris Booth, leveraging his family connections. The Chase Race was held under its new name "The Clemson Chase Race" and plans are already underway for 2016. There was a Club cruise, which despite several boat problems was attended by members both on land and by sea. New this year, the Club sponsored an adult sail-training program made possible largely through the efforts of Bert Williams. The Galley kept the dock filled and active on weekend evenings and Club Manager Bill Kilham and the waterfront staff provided excellent launch service with no down time.

The list could go on but the point is that Marblehead Yacht Club is in a great spot. We are all benefiting from the efforts of past volunteers who built the Club, and the stewardship of the current Officers, Board Members and volunteers who dedicate their time and efforts to make the Club a very special place. Our new officers Commodore Marion McCauley, Vice Commodore Alan Petersen, Rear Commodore Paul Mervis, Secretary Ellen McGrail, Treasurer Glen Kewly and new Board Members Carol Kent and Tip O'Neil, along with the remaining Board members, are already hard at work planning for the 2016 season and keeping the Club's traditions alive.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and I look forward to seeing you messing around with boats in 2016. Thank you all for a great year.



Tom Despres

2015 MYC Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was well attended and the following highlights will be of general interest to all the members.

Budget: The proposed operating and capital budgets were approved as presented. The combined budgets do not require an increase in membership dues for 2016. The Capital Budget includes funding to complete the refurbishing of the engines, with Launch 3 scheduled for an engine rebuild this winter.

The proposed change to the Marblehead Yacht Club Constitution to change the percentage of Associate Members from 20% to 30% was approved.

The slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Committee was approved. New members of the Board of Directors are Carol Kent and Tip O'Neil, each elected to a one-year term. Outgoing Commodore Tom Despres was elected to a three-year term. The Flag Officers for the 2016 season are Marion McCauley, Commodore; Alan Petersen, Vice Commodore; and Paul Mervis, Rear Commodore. Ellen McGrail and Glen Kewley were elected Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Outgoing Treasurer Chris Booth was recognized for his contribution in bringing a level of professionalism to the Club finances. Outgoing Secretary Doug Burgess was recognized and thanked for his 11 years of continuous service on the board and many contributions to MYC.

The Club Manager's report and Committee reports provided a summary of the season and outlined plans for the 2016 season. Notably:

Club Manager Bill Kilham detailed plans for the refurbishing of Launch 3.

Communication Committee Chair Tom Despres acknowledged the work of the Committee, notably Webmaster Stu Newman. The Club newsletter was published 4 times and 34 emails were distributed to communicate Club events and notices.

Entertainment Committee Chair Tom Despres cited the great efforts of the Entertainment Committee in making the Club much more than water access and lead a round of applause for the group.

Board Member Bill Betters reported for both the Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee. The proposed 2016 Operating Budget is similar to the 2015 budget with conservative assumptions of income, \$266,000 and expenses \$237,000, and anticipated net earnings of \$29,000.

The Capital Planning Committee developed a comprehensive list of needs, ranked them and provided a short list of recommended Capital Planning Needs for 2016. The Board of Directors approved a final Capital Budget including the engine work on Launch 3 and smaller improvements to the clubhouse.

The Fleet Committee report was provided by Tom Despres. The Club held a successful cruise to Eastern Point Yacht Club in Gloucester with a second night in Rockport. Plans are underway for a more extended cruise next summer to Portsmouth NH.

House Committee Chair Alan Petersen detailed the improvements to the clubhouse during the year: notably structural repairs to the Galley including new flooring and fresh paint, a new back door and a new AED Defibrillator. Alan also announced that building on a much improved season, Diamond Catering would be returning as Galley caterer next season. It was noted that the Board of Directors have approved a \$15 increase in the Galley Food Card from \$45 to \$60. Alan highlighted a change in Club policy as members may transfer an unused portion of their annual food card to another member.

Alan cited the spirit of volunteerism that makes Marblehead Yacht Club the unique organization that it is and thanked the many past volunteers and encouraged others to sign up and join in.

Membership Committee Chair Marion McCauley provided a summary of the membership figures and a rationale for the increase in Associate Members. The final 2015 membership numbers showed an overall increase of 10 members totaling 335. Active Members, formerly called Boating Members, had a net decline of 16 for a total of 270. Associate Members, formerly called Social Members, had a net increase of 27 for a total of 65. The 65 Associate Members are essentially at the allowed 20 percent cap putting the Club in the position of potentially turning away revenue from Associate Members while revenue from Full Members is declining.

Race Committee Chair Tom Anderson reported that the Clemson Chase Race on Sunday July 19th was a success with 17 boats registered and 15 participating. An after race party was held in the Lavendar Room with the first presentation of the Clemson Trophy. The winner was Hoff Stauffer in Amazing Grace, an Alerion 38 from Gloucester.

The date for next year's Clemson Chase Race is July 17th and plans are underway to encourage more MYC boats to enter.

Waterfront Committee Chair Marion McCauley summarized the accomplishments for the year:

- This winter we will see the completion of the 3 year plan to refurbish the launches;
- A new safety ladder was installed on the main float;
- MYC increased our visibility as a sailing club by welcoming the Town Class Fleet and working on ways to access the boats on trawl lines near Back Beach;
- Discussions regarding the pier erosion resulted in agreement by the Harbormaster to budget this major repair in 2017;
- The creative thinking of Bert Williams was acknowledged for proposing and implementing the successful sailing Program in May and the Wednesday evening harbor tours during the summer;
- A major challenge for 2016 will be finding qualified Launch drivers to continue our excellent launch service.

The meeting concluded with the following presentations.

- Jim Breau was recognized for his 50 years of continuous MYC membership with the presentation of an MYC lamp. Jim shared several humorous anecdotes of how he joined Marblehead Yacht Club, the facilities and the \$65 dues.
- Tom Despres was presented with an MYC chair in appreciation of his service as Commodore this year.

The meeting was adjourned and followed by a social hour.

MYC Gratuity Fund Thank You

Thanks to all who contributed generously to the MYC Gratuity Fund. This year's average contribution was the largest ever and a tangible statement of how much we all value the service provided by our waterfront staff.

MYC Board of Director Meetings

Meetings of the Marblehead Yacht Club Officers and Directors are held monthly in the Cliff Room at 7:30 on the third Tuesday of each month. MYC is a volunteer club and these meetings are open to club members with all invited to attend and participate.

The 2016 Officers and Board of Directors

Officers		
Marion McCauley	Commodore	781-631-7569
Alan Petersen	Vice Commodore	781-631-1362
Paul Mervis	Rear Commodore	781-631-4567
Ellen McGrail	Secretary	781-990-3830
Glen Kewley	Treasurer	617-957-4374
Directors		
Bill Betters		781-631-1013
Tom Despres		781-631-8158
Carol Kent		617-719-3001
Kevin Neumann		781-631-3139
Tip O'Neil		617-842-4752
Staff		
Bill Kilham	Dock Master/Club Manager	781-631-9771

MYC Winter Programs

Dear MYC Member,

In one more week, it will only be four more months until the start of the 2016 boating season. It's time to start getting ready.

Your Board of Directors has recently authorized a Program Committee to conduct boating related programs over the winter months at the clubhouse. The committee has been hard at work. Below is a proposed list of programs and dates. These programs are for you and will also be open to the general public. Please mark your calendar. You will also receive a reminder email each month.

January 21	Suddenly in Command	Presented by US Coast Guard Auxiliary
February 25	Chartering - crewed and bareboat	Presented by Carol Kent Yacht Charters
March 24	Safe Boating - Coastal Piloting	Presented by US Coast Guard Auxiliary
April 21	Ocean rowing, kayaking, small boat handling	Speaker to be announced
May 19	Spring Outfitting	Speaker(s) to be announced

We are really excited to offer these programs at a time when there are typically few club activities.

Looking forward to seeing you at the clubhouse and out on the water.



Marion McCauley
Commodore