



Under the Rock

Winter 2019

The Newsletter of the Marblehead Yacht Club



Commodore's Comments

On behalf of the MYC Flag officers and Board of Directors, I want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday

season and New Year. Many thanks to Past Commodore Paul Mervis and last year's Board of Directors for keeping the Club going in the right direction – with special thanks to Tom Despres and Bill Kilham who always seem to pick up all the slack and provide guidance.

I would like to kick-off 2020 with a renewed call for volunteerism. We recognize that many members have given lot of their time to help organizing events, work parties, and helping out – and we thank you for your service! For those members who are not sure whether their ideas or efforts would be appreciated, the answer is YES! I ask that you join a committee in 2020 and get involved. We are especially looking for members to join the Membership Committee, Entertainment Committee, Nominating Committee and the newly formed History Committee. Since much of the committee planning is done in the winter and spring, volunteerism does not cut deeply into the boating season and gives you an excuse to help out in the off-season.

As we are the oldest yacht club in Marblehead, the new History Committee's goal is to write a 'History of MYC' book or pamphlet. There are lots of old stories I have heard that amaze me, and we need to document them. For example, I heard that decades before the 20 year mooring wait-list, members would simply row out to the harbor and claim their own mooring spot with an old cast-iron radiator and chain. The clubhouse was a bit more rustic with no indoor plumbing and only two light bulbs. With countless other colorful stories, I am looking for people to help tell these, document them and research the Club's founding and early years. If you can contribute, we will have a meeting in January that I ask you to join.

In 2019, MYC was awarded 'Yacht Club of the Year' by MassBay Sailing Association for our work on the Clemson Chase Race, Downeast Challenge and the Winter Programs – special thanks to Tom Anderson and Eliot Shanabrook of the Regatta Committee for heading this effort. As we head into 2020, let's continue on the course we have set and enjoy the ride!

John Murray
Commodore

From the Club Manager

Ode to the Season

**As winter approaches and days become short,
We hunker down tightly or hit the resort.
The Flags are all bundled with beverages warming,**

While Cliff Room's a whistling with Nor'easter storming.
The Solstice arrives with longer days promised,
We curse those the lucky; gone to St. Thomas.
Ice Melt, Ice Melt, Ice Melt; the salt of the gods,
We toss it out freely in clumps and in gobs.
The snow it is shoveled, so Programs can pass,
The Dockmaster endures and freezes his (bottom).
With limited Projects the Board has now chosen,
The biggest concern is that pipes won't be frozen.
The spring and the melt eventually comes,
With warming of sun and gutters that run.
The covers come off, the sand swept away,
The weather that's warmer is soon here to stay.
So check out the webcam! Visit the site!
Partake of the Programs on those Thursday nights!
Make the best of our winter, squawk not one iota,
Be thankful we're not in the North of Dakota!

Outgoing MYC Commodore's Remarks

At the risk of aging myself, it seems that the 2019 boating season was a flash in time. We, the members of the MYC, are very fortunate in having our Club as a link to the peace, relaxation and fun that the waters of Marblehead provide. The cycle of our waterfront-life, at this time of year when most boats have been hauled and put away for the cold dark winter, is when we begin to think and plan for the following season. By the time spring teases us with longer and warmer days, we are ready to fine tune those plans and prepare for a successful launch. This planning and execution is what allows us to make the most of what Mother Nature provides during our New England summers.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the MYC Commodore and Flag Officer for the past few years. I would like to thank the upcoming Flag Officers as well as recent past Commodores for their guidance and support. I also thank every BOD member that has attended any meeting during my term, as your participation is greatly needed and appreciated. Grateful appreciation for all of the members who were involved with any Club Committee for the organizing, planning and following-through with those plans. This team-work is crucial to continuing the traditions of the MYC from the Waterfront to the House.

Sorry to single you out, but a big Thank You to Bill Kilham for all that you do at the MYC. Keeping the Club and facilities in fine working order is what we've come to expect. It's no surprise that each spring everything magically falls into place, including the hiring of the best launch drivers in Marblehead Harbor!

As a final note, thanks to all who contributed to the Launch Driver's Gratuity Fund.

Thank you and Happy Holidays,
Paul Mervis

2019 MYC Commodore

Annual Meeting

Here are highlights of the MYC Annual Meeting held Sunday November 17th. The complete minutes are available on [line here](#).

In their reports the 2019 Flag Officers, Paul Mervis, Commodore, John Murray, Vice Commodore and Bill Keyes, Rear Commodore thanked the Waterfront Staff and many volunteers who contributed to an active and successful 2019 season.

John Murray's waterfront report noted the smooth operations and several waterfront activities: a nautical yard sale, a learn to sail Town Class event and Coast Guard Auxiliary complimentary safety inspections. He also reiterated the plan to overhaul the floats during the off season.

Bill Keyes reported on the improvements of Club facilities during 2019: the new shower, new ceiling and lighting in the dining area and new entry ramp and gate. Plans for the upcoming season include contracting to have the exterior of the clubhouse painted. Bill also noted that the Club will continue using a cleaning service to maintain the clubhouse. The galley contract with Diamond Catering will be renewed with plans for more music evenings and monthly lobster specials.

The Finance Committee recommended the approval of the budgets as presented and in addition that a waterfront reserve fund be established to assure that adequate funding will be available for anticipated capital expenses necessary to maintain the waterfront. The fund would avoid special assessments for expenses such as rebuilding the floats, overhauling or replacing launch engines or

the need for a new a launch. The Committee recommended that the reserve fund be established by setting aside \$100,000 of our current cash position and maintained with an annual waterfront assessment of \$30 to boating members. This fee would generate approximately \$8,000/year to replenish the fund as expenses occur.

The budgets and the establishment of the waterfront reserve fund and annual \$30 fee for boating members were approved as presented.

The slate of officers and directors recommended by the Nominating Committee were approved. Officers and Directors for 2020 are:

John Murray	Commodore
Bill Keyes	Vice commodore
Jane Clayton	Rear Commodore
Dave Williams	Secretary
Tom Despres	Treasurer
Charlie Maney	Board Member
Al Doherty	Board Member
Paul Mervis	Board Member
Gary Siden	Board Member
Alan Petersen	Board Member

2020 MYC Officers L to R; Dave Williams, Secretary, John Murray, Commodore, Bill Keyes, Vice Commodore, Jane Clayton, Rear Commodore, Tom Despres, Treasurer

Yacht Club of The Year

The Mass Bay Sailing Association (MBSA) recently recognized MYC as the 2019 Yacht Club of the Year. In his comments when presenting the award Mass Bay VP Lance Riley noted Marblehead Yacht Club was founded in 1878 and had a long tradition of supporting boating on the Northshore. Most recently MYC has become active In the Mass Bay sailing calendar with the successful club chase race renamed the Clemson Chase race in honor of long-time member Newt Clemson.

In 2018 the Club recognized the need for more long-distance racing as qualifying events for races like Marblehead to Halifax and Newport to Bermuda, and resurrected the Downeast Challenge Race

from Marblehead to Boothbay Harbor, Maine. There was good participation in 2018 and 2019, including the largest number of shorthanded racers in an event throughout New England.

The award was presented to the Club at the annual Mass Bay Sailing Awards dinner at Cottage Park Yacht Club. Shown below receiving the award for the Club are Tom Anderson, MYC Race Committee Chair, and Paul Mervis, 2019 Commodore, with Mass Bay's Russ Chapman.



MYC Announces 2020 Winter Programs

The winter program schedule was announced at the annual meeting by Committee Chair Tip O'Neil.

Shorthanded Sailing by Jonathan Green Thursday January 23 at 7:00pm

Jonathan Green, who has logged 20,000+ shorthanded miles along the US eastern seaboard as well as two solo transatlantic crossings, will speak about some of the nuances of shorthanded sailing.

Whether you and your spouse plan to do some doublehanded coastal cruising, or you're gearing up for a shorthanded, long distance offshore passage, these topics will be relevant to your preparations: sail handling, autopilots, electronic alert systems, sleep strategy, safety training and more. [Reserve Seats](#)

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Wooden Boatbuilding by Graham McKay of Lowell Boat Shop Thursday February 20 at 7:00pm

Graham will present wooden boat techniques and share some recent and upcoming boat building projects. [Reserve Seats](#)

Ocean Wildlife of Alaska and Antarctica by Berit Solstad Thursday March 19 at 7:00pm

Berit will present his recent trips to Alaska and Antarctica including the beautiful ocean wildlife. [Reserve Seats](#)

Sailboat Racing: Starting Techniques by North Sails Thursday April 23 at 7:00pm

Looking to up your starting game? Come to learn starting techniques, tricks and tips. [Reserve Seats](#)

MYC Launch Operators Licensing Class Cancelled

The Boatwise Launch Operators Licensing Class originally scheduled for Jan 11 and 12 at MYC has been cancelled. Boatwise is offering the course in Danvers on February 8-9. Check the [Boatwise site](#) for other times and locations.