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# *Under the Rock*

Winter 2021

**The Newsletter of the Marblehead Yacht Club**

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**Happy Holidays from MYC**

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## Commodore's Comments

First and foremost I would like to thank the flag officers, Board of Directors, and membership for the honor of serving as your Commodore. I promise to do my best to maintain the traditions and culture unique to the MYC while hopefully helping to guide the Club along for future success with some new energy and fun. The legacy of the MYC as the “friendly” yacht club is one I cherish and respect. Keeping the MYC affordable must always be a priority while making sure we are financially solid for the future.

We have been incredibly fortunate to have Bill Kilham as our Manager/Dockmaster. He is indeed the master and commander of everything! I know I will depend on him for advice and guidance and hopefully won't make him too crazy..... Bill Keyes is a hard act to follow. I know I will lean on him....That institutional knowledge shared and passed on is invaluable and we need to insure that continues. The pattern you might be noticing is that the Club only works with volunteers who do their job and then pave the way, train, and support the next person in line. I am strongly encouraging everyone to sign up for something. It is NOT a lot of work and spread between many hands it is easy!

Our waterfront staff is hard working, polite, professional, and always have our safety and comfort in mind. Finding drivers is a challenge and we need to motivate them to return!! Having the same launch drivers return is incredibly valuable so let's show them how much we appreciate them and of course Bill!

One of my goals is to really get to a paperless or minimum paper Club. I encourage all of you to utilize the website, facebook, read your emails and the newsletter to stay up to date on the Club schedule and activities. It is the best way to

communicate. Make sure we have your current email contact info.

Our goal with the galley is to offer fresh yummy food with great service. We have had some challenges this past summer with staffing but we had rave reviews for the food! If you have to wait for a meal the MYC deck is pretty awesome!

The Covid pandemic and how our membership and leadership navigated it will become a part of the MYC's amazing and resilient history. Hopefully we have that behind us and can focus on boating, sailing, fishing, racing and socializing!

Once again, I thank you for this honor and am always available for praise, criticism, advice and ideas!

So cozy up for the winter and start dreaming of summer days!

Best,

Jane Clayton, Commodore

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## **Manager's Minit**

With the last of the launches shrink-wrapped and the deck cleared for winter storms, I think it's about time for me to move inside and glue up some wobbly chairs. With the help of Assistant Dockmaster Andy (who was able to continue on after we closed for the season), laying up the launches was uneventful and expeditious. Many thanks this year to Backhoe Maestro Ken Steadman and PC Bill Betters for their timely assistance in getting all three transmissions out of the boats and up to Rowley for their biennial maintenance.

With no large scale projects on the to-do list this winter, I can finally get around to some of those small tasks that are so often put off till later, probably, or never. Folks often ask me if I take off for the winter, but luckily there's always something to be taken care of at the MYC in the off season. There are small painting projects, doors to be rebuilt, hinges renewed, tiles refastened, storage shelves built, floors to be refinished and Flag Officers to be needled. If we get an occasional "warm" day I can also sneak up into the launches and work on them (that is usually very short lived when I actually come to my senses). I will of course frequently come in late and leave early because, well... "ain't nobody watchin' me anyhow". Should anyone wish to get in touch with me, I check my email almost daily at [marbleheadyc@gmail.com](mailto:marbleheadyc@gmail.com).

As always, keep an eye out for the MYC winter programs (to be posted on our website) and a special thanks to all who so generously donated to our Gratuity Fund! May your winter season be safe and secure.

Best Regards,

Bill

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## **Outgoing Commodore's Remarks**

Congratulations and welcome to the newly elected 2022 MYC Board members. Thanks to my fellow 2021 officers, Jane, David, Tom and Peter, as well as the rest of the board members, Steve, Jim, Paul, John and Alan. What an amazingly talented group of members who gave so much time and effort to the Club this past season.

Special thanks and acknowledgement to two departing board members, Tom Despres and Alan Petersen. I cannot fathom the number of hours Tom and Alan have dedicated to serving the MYC and its members. On a personal level, both were always willing to share insight and experience with me and for that I am grateful. I would be remiss if I did not also recognize and thank Marie Petersen and Judy Despres for their efforts in supporting the Club, but also for letting us take so much of Alan and Tom's time.

Bill Kilham. What can I say? We routinely note that we have the best Club Manager in town, and it is true. Bill, you really are the best and we are lucky to have you. I can't thank you enough for sharing your efforts and knowledge, but most of all, your sense of humor and calming demeanor. You made my job easy.

In short, we had a great year with ups and downs. We were able to relax Covid restrictions, brought back entertainment events, continued to host and participate in regattas, and maintained our membership numbers. We even made an appearance on MHTV thanks to the hard work of the MYC History Committee. We had some challenges and let downs like a rainy July, no fireworks, a broken galley fan and the launches continued to show their age, but still an outstanding season.

I know next year Jane will continue to point the Club in the right direction. While I am saddened to be ending my time as your Commodore, I am confident that the MYC is in great hands with Jane as our 2022 Commodore.

See you at the Club,

Bill Keyes, Past Commodore

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# MYC 2021 Annual Meeting

The following are the highlights of the MYC Annual Meeting held on November 21, 2021. The complete minutes of the meeting are available [here](#).

Commodore Bill Keyes opened the meeting reflecting on how well the Club returned to normal operations after dealing with the pandemic and thanked the Board, volunteers, staff and members who all made that possible.

## **New Business**

Three items under new business affect the members and how the Club will operate in the upcoming season: review and approval of proposed bylaw changes. approval of the 2022 budget and election of a new slate of officers and directors.

Bylaw Changes: Four bylaw changes were recommended by the Board and approved by the members. The sections affected and the impact on members are:

*Section 2.3* The amendment eliminates the term “leave of absence” to avoid confusion with “resigning in good standing.”

*Section 2.4* The amendment defines and clarifies the status of a member who resigns in good standing and changes the deadline for these requests from May 15 to March 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Section 2.5* The amendment changes the deadline for requests for refunds of dues and fees from May 15<sup>th</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Section 5.2* was amended to allow the Board the flexibility to approve unanticipated expenses above the approved budget to maintain critical functions of the Club.

Note the complete revised MYC Constitution and Bylaws are [available here](#).

Budget: The proposed operating budget was approved by the members and included anticipated increased spending for staff and launch maintenance and a dues increase of \$60 for Active members and \$30 for Associate members.

A capital budget was not presented as there are no planned capital expenditures for 2022.

Election of Officers and Board of Directors:

The slate of officers and directors recommended by the Nominating Committee was approved. Officers and Directors for 2022 are:

Jane Clayton	Commodore
David Williams	Vice Commodore
Marcel Nyffenegger	Rear Commodore
Peter Dragonas	Secretary
James Regis	Treasurer
Bill Keyes	Board Member
John Murray	Board Member
Paul Mervis	Board Member
Kathleen Garrigan	Board Member
Larry Proulx	Board Member

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## **Gratuity Fund**

Thank you to all who contributed so generously to the Launch Driver Gratuity Fund. Total contributions were over \$21,000 which will be distributed just before the holidays.

Sincerely,  
MYC Flag Officers & Board of Directors

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## Launch Operator Licensing Classes

Unfortunately the effort to sponsor a launch operator licensing course at the Gloucester Maritime Center did not come together.

If you are interested, Boatwise offers the same program at other locations on the Northshore. Please check their [website](#) for more information.

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## MYC Winter Programs

Mark your calendar for the first Winter Program presentation scheduled for January 12 at 7:00PM.

### **Sleep while sailing solo offshore A brain-based guide to napping**

Presented by  
**Phil Haydon, Ph.D.**

Over the past few years shorthanded sailing has gone through rapid growth. For overnight passages there are several variables to be handled by the shorthanded sailor but perhaps most overlooked is how and when to sleep. There are numerous examples of accidents in which sleep deprivation was a significant contributing factor. Understanding napping can help mitigate consequences of sleep deprivation and prevent serious errors when sailing. In addition to being a solo offshore sailor, Phil Haydon is a neuroscientist whose research focuses on the



regulation of sleep. [In 2009 he discovered the mechanism](#) that causes the brain to desire to sleep after a period of sustained wakefulness. He will give information about the brain that provides the foundation for napping strategies while sailing and will discuss polyphasic sleep (several short periods of sleep per day) and answer questions including – is caffeine good or bad? are there long-term consequences of polyphasic sleep?

Details are still being worked out so watch your email for additional information of how to register etc.

Other upcoming programs include:

History of Marblehead's Waterfront by noted local author Bill Conly.

David Roper, avid cruising sailor and prolific, award winning maritime writer, sharing his many fascinating stories of the sea.

History and Development of Marblehead Yacht Club and the Shipyard area.



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