



Under the Rock

Winter 2020

The Newsletter of the Marblehead Yacht Club



Commodore's Comments

Season's Greetings! Welcome to newly elected Board members Jim Regis and Steve Anderson and Secretary Peter Dragonas; and a sincere thank you to Gary Siden, Charlie Maney, and Al Doherty whose terms on the Board have ended. Special thanks to Past Commodore John Murray for successfully leading us through the unprecedented challenges of the last year. And, of course heartfelt thanks to Bill Kilham for tirelessly keeping the Club and waterfront operating and to Tom Despres for wearing so many hats at MYC.

As the year winds down things are just getting started at MYC. Yes, the floats are on the beach, the galley tables are stowed for the winter, and the launches are on the hard, but planning is already underway for the upcoming season. The various Club committees are being formed and discussions have started with Diamond Catering, which will mark its 17th year at MYC.

As the incoming Commodore, my goals for the 2021 season are straightforward. First, I am cautiously optimistic about our ability to bringing a return to normalcy at the Club. Last season our Waterfront staff, led by Bill Kilham and Assistant Dock Master Hadley Woodfin, kept the waterfront operating with excellent service levels, despite the COVID protocols we implemented. I believe we can do even better. Second, most of our entertainment events were cancelled due to the pandemic. With the prospect of vaccines being available in the late spring, combined with the creativity and ingenuity of our Entertainment Committee members, I know we will find ways to offer quality entertainment events for our members this season. Third, on the subject of committees, we need your help. MYC was established in 1878 as a volunteer club. Help us keep dues as low as possible and the Club enjoyable. Join a committee. Come to work parties in the spring. Attend our monthly Board meetings and be involved in the decisions that impact our Club.

In closing, I want to wish you and your families a very happy and healthy holiday season. Please rest up over the winter because the 2021 season is going to be fantastic and you don't want to miss any of it.

Bill Keyes
Commodore

Outgoing Commodore Message

While the year started off with high hopes, it quickly became a salvage operation dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. I want to thank the entire MYC Board of Directors and Bill Kilham for all the extra time they spent on web calls and club visits figuring out how to continually adjust the Club's services based on the changing Covid-19 guidelines and rules. I hope you agree that we did a reasonable job balancing the Club's safety with convenience. I also want to thank you, the MYC membership, for being so accommodating and respectful to the MYC staff during this difficult year.

In 2020, most members will remember the traffic flow ropes and signage, sanitizing stations, contract tracing notebook, and lack of use of the Cliff Room. Members may not remember the new floats, fresh red trim paint on the clubhouse, and new deck tables and chairs. Nevertheless, 2020 will certainly be a year we won't forget.

As my role as a Flag Officer is over, I look forward to focusing my time working with the MYC History Committee and the Downeast Challenge regatta. I encourage every member to get involved in a committee next year as a great way to meet more people and help shape the direction of the Club. With that, I wish our new Commodore Bill Keyes and the rest of the Flag Officers the best of luck for a better 2021!

John Murray

Gratuity Fund

Thank you to all who contributed generously to this season's Gratuity Fund. As we all know this has been an exceptional year and the waterfront staff met the challenge of providing excellent launch service despite the pandemic. The Boating Members of the Club have responded in kind and recognized that effort with their generous contributions to the Gratuity Fund totaling over \$22,000 as a thank you for a job well done.

Manager's Minit

This month in an effort to bring a smile (or groan) to otherwise weary folks, I offer the following tidbits. Enjoy if you can!

Did you hear about the skunk that went to church? They made him sit in his own pew. ~Why is the Pillsbury Dough Boy so popular? He's a role model. ~What's the difference between Sailboaters and Powerboaters? None, they both still need a ride out (inside joke). ~How many Psychologists does it take to change a light bulb? Only one, but the bulb must truly want change. ~Why was 6 afraid of 7? 7-8-9! ~What gets many answers but asks no questions? A doorbell. ~How many Dockmasters does it take to change a light bulb? None, that's the Manager's job. ~What kind of movies do Pirates like best? Movies rated ARRRR. ~Why did the bank robber wear a mask? CDC Guidelines. ~How many Commodores does it take to change a lightbulb? With Flag Officers as brilliant as ours, who needs bulbs? ~How did the Dockmaster ingratiate himself? See previous. ~Who was the roundest knight at King Arthur's table? Sir Cumference (too much Pi). ~How do pirates actually prefer to settle disputes? Arrr-bitration. ~What happens when you don't pay your exorcist bill? You get repossessed. ~The Kleenex factory went out on strike, now everyone has to picket. ~Did you hear about those new corduroy pillows? They're making headlines everywhere. ~What do Winnie the Pooh and Alexander the Great have in common? The same middle name. ~What to do if swallowed by a whale. Run around in circles till you're all pooped out. ~Why don't chicken coups have more than two doors? Because then they'd be chicken sedans. ~What's large, gray and doesn't matter? An irrelephant. ~Why are there so many Smiths in the phone book? Because they all have phones. ~Is there another word for synonym? ~Did you know that half of all people are above average? ~Two snowmen talking: "I hate this time of year, everything smells like carrots". ~Did you hear about the Giant that threw up? It's all over town. ~What does a dog do that a man steps into? Pants.

Sorry,

Happy Holidays

Bill

MYC Winter Programs

The MYC Winter Programs have become a staple at the Club over the past 5 years. Unfortunately the pandemic and ban on public gathering brought last year's schedule to a halt and leaves the upcoming season in question. The Committee is considering the option of conducting a Winter Program Series remotely through Zoom. This is obviously not an ideal solution but the committee is willing to explore the possibility. If you would be interested in participating remotely please reply to this email to gauge interest. Also, if you have a presenter or subject to suggest the committee would be happy to explore it.

Annual Meeting Summary

Due to government restrictions on public gatherings the 85th MYC Annual Meeting was held Sunday November 15th by tele-video conference with 33 MYC members present and voting. Here are the highlights of the meeting; complete minutes are available [on-line here](#).

In their reports the Flag Officers for 2020, Commodore John Murray, Vice Commodore Bill Keyes, and Rear Commodore Jane Clayton thanked the Waterfront Staff and many volunteers who contributed to an active, although severely curtailed, 2020 season.

Bill Keyes' waterfront report noted that 2020 will be remembered for the significant challenges faced in the operation of the waterfront. Despite the changing restrictions on launch capacity, physical distancing in the Club and on the docks and enforced traffic patterns through the Club and deck, Dock Master Bill Kilham, Assistant Dock Master Haley Woodfin and the entire waterfront staff performed admirably and kept the waterfront operating with a minimum of disruption. Bill Keyes also noted that the floats were

reconstructed over the winter with new composite decking and framing.

Jane Clayton commented on the challenges faced by the House Committee over the past season. Nearly all social functions at the MYC were cancelled because of restrictions on public gatherings. In fact, most of the public spaces inside of the Club were required by health officials to be off-limits for member use and even when indoor space was approved there were severe limits on the size of gatherings. This impacted the Club's Galley Service which was limited to a few outdoor tables, physically distanced with a limit of 6 individuals at any table.

Since the Clubhouse was essentially closed, Jane, along with Bill Kilham, took on the responsibility of managing the Club's Covid 19 response by developing a coherent protocol for dealing with the pandemic. This included sign-in sheets for contact tracing, disinfecting and cleaning, traffic patterns through the property, and signage. Again, despite the troubles the exterior trim of the clubhouse received a new coat of paint, and the parking lot and adjacent property had a long overdue clean up.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of the budget as presented and noted that despite a loss of members due to the pandemic, the Club remained in solid financial position and therefore no increase in annual dues was proposed.

The budget was approved by a recorded vote of the members present.

The Nominating Committee presented a Slate of Officers and Directors for 2020-2021 and the members approved the proposal by recorded vote. Officers and Directors for 2021 are:

Bill Keyes	Commodore
Jane Clayton	Vice Commodore
David Williams	Rear Commodore

Peter Dragonas	Secretary
Tom Despres	Treasurer
John Murray	Board Member
Paul Mervis	Board Member
Alan Petersen	Board Member
Jim Regis	Board Member
Steve Anderson	Board Member

MYC Board approves \$15 increase in Galley Card.

At the December meeting the Board took up the discussion of offering the 2021 contract for the MYC Galley to Diamond Catering and a requested increase in the value of the Galley Card by Diamond Catering. The value of the MYC Galley Card has not increased for several years and with increased cost for labor and supplies the caterer was requesting a \$40 increase in the value of the card. After consideration the Board voted to extend the 2021 contract to Diamond Catering and approved increasing the value of the Galley Card from \$60 to \$75 for the 2021 season.

MYC History Committee

The MYC History Committee meets via web calls, bi-weekly, to review all the interesting tidbits of information we uncover. Much of the Club's history from 1935 to present has been summarized based on readily available meeting minutes, documents and newsletters. However, the pre-1935 history is more elusive and requires real sleuthing. Members have taken trips to Peabody Essex Museum, Registry of Deeds and Abbott Library. We have

interviewed many senior MYC members, shipyard members, and Marblehead historical authorities. We have searched obscure documents, maps, photos and books in libraries, private collections and online. We continue to dig, research and document and are slowly getting closer to creating the MYC History book. The dedicated team members include: John Murray, Doug Burgess, Roger Tuveson, Kathleen Garrigan, Alan Peterson, and Michael Assue.

I wanted to share a story from an older 'Under the Rock' Newsletter that describes why the newsletter is called 'Under the Rock'. I always thought 'Above the Rock' would be a more appropriate name given our Club's situation on the rock ledge.

What is with the name (Under the Rock)? Several generations of the Club newsletter have used the name yet the origin has been a bit of a mystery. There must be a story with great significance. Welcome Jack Mace with his storehouse of MYC history. Years ago, the club newsletter was published on paper and left in a stack at the clubhouse for members to pick up. To keep the pile of papers from blowing around, it was placed under a rock. The newsletter was "Under the Rock." The tradition continues in an electronic format with a periodic update of upcoming events in addition to our great new website.

John Murray
Chair, MYC History Committee
