

Yacht Clubs of Maryland's Bay Breeze April 2022

Please Distribute to Your Members

Visit us at: www.yachtclubsofmaryland.com

**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 Ted Wooden who will guide you through the process**

YCM 2021- 2022 Officers and Board Members

Commodore – George Stromberg (Bodkin YC)

Vice Commodore – Tom Stevens (Crescent YC)

Rear Commodore – Ted Wooden (Middle River YC)

Legislative Affairs Officer – Scott Gundaker (Wellwood YC)

Treasurer – Faye Broseker (Riverside YC)

Secretary – Rickey Pope (Eastern YC)

IPC Board Member & Supply Officer – Mike Gaff (Red Eye YC)

Board Member – Kate Cramblett (Miles River YC)

Board Member – Bret Kulikowski (Middle River YC)

Board Member – Janet Yodris- (Key YC)

Protocol Officer – Joe Hellner (Belvedere YC)

Board Member & Chaplain – Anna Davis (White Rocks YC)



YCM Committees

Audit Committee

- Kate Cramblett (PC Miles River YC) - Chair

By-Law Committee

- Secretary Rickey Pope (IPC Eastern YC) - Chair
- Treasurer Faye Broseker (PC Riverside YC)
- R/C Ted Wooden (PC Middle River YC)
- Commodore George Stromberg (PC Bodkin YC)

Finance Committee

- Commodore George Stromberg (PC Bodkin YC) – Chair
- Vice Commodore Tom Stevens (PC Crescent YC)
- Treasurer Faye Broseker (PC Riverside YC)
- Cheryl Blakey (PC Wellwood YC)
- Dick Bruns (PC Baltimore YC)

Nominating Committee

- Mike Gaff (PC Red Eye YC, IPC YCM Commodore) - Chair
- Janet Yodris (PC Key YC, PC YCM)



COMMODORE'S REPORT

George Stromberg

bodkincrabber@gmail.com

Commodores Report

Greetings everyone. This year is really going fast for all of us compared to the lock-downs due to covid of the past two years. Many of the Clubs had their Balls with some of them being held in house or at another Yacht Club's facility. With the rising costs of goods and services, Club Officers are doing their best to provide a Ball Event that doesn't break the bank. We here at Yacht Clubs of Maryland feel the pinch of stretching the funds just as much as the Clubs do. We have been very fortunate to have in our fiscal year of Oct. 2021 to Sept. 2022 A good turnout for the Golf Outing, an "over the top" Fleet Captains Meeting and Dinner and the Commodores Day out Brunch. All of this due to the hard work of our YCM Officers and Past Commodores. Our Sponsors came through for us at the Golf Outing. Bodkin Yacht Club donated their Club Hall and only charged us for the cost of the food for the Fleet Captains Event and Baltimore Yacht Club also donated the restaurant and adjacent space plus gave us a member preferred pricing that included Club Manager Scott and all his crew working to make it a success. We would also like to extend our special thanks to the Rob Baier Acoustic Duo for providing the entertainment for the afternoon. A good time was had by all! Many thanks to all involved. As we enter into the Yacht Club Openings Season we all look forward to getting together with our Yacht Club friends to help them celebrate.

Some will be private as they are closed to the outside and we must respect that but most will be open for business. We urge all members of YCM Member Clubs to PLEASE SUPPORT these clubs. After many cancelled events over the past two years some need help with revenue that they lost due to the pandemic.

Some Clubs share a space with a larger Club and depend on revenue from dinners and raffles held at these host clubs. Please show your support for them. Your consideration in this very important matter will be greatly appreciated by all involved. Thanks.



April 2022

From the Desk of the Commodore, Yacht Clubs of Maryland

Yacht Clubs of Maryland is very excited to announce that the Yacht Clubs of Maryland Web Site and Face Book page are up and running. After many months of work by some of our Past Commodores and YCM Officers, we finally have both running and updated. Past Commodore Yacht Clubs of Maryland and Crescent YC, Ryan Peters has stepped up and taken the helm as webmaster for the YCM Website. PC Ryan brings with him years of website management experience. You may ask why a Website and a Facebook page? While the information put on the website resides on the website until we remove it. The Info posted on Facebook page sooner or later migrates away from the page. Both the Website and the Facebook Page are the exclusive property of Yacht Clubs Of Maryland and the YCM Treasurer is the owner. Official YCM information will be placed only on the YCM Website, Facebook Page or The BayBreeze. Our other means of Communication is our Monthly Newsletter, The Bay Breeze. We have been diligently purging our email distribution to limit our membership to yacht club members. In some cases, we have discovered the person is not even a yacht club Member. We at YCM take our responsibilities to our Members and Member Clubs seriously and can assure you that every precaution has been taken to vet and limit the email distribution list to Yacht Club Members only. We will only post flyers that are sent to us by you advertising your Club's events and never post them from another site. Posting your info on The YCM Facebook page could not be any easier. All you have to do is join by entering your info and answering the questions once just to make sure you are a Yacht Club Member. Once approved then you're free to post pics, flyers and announcements anytime without any prior approval. Just that easy. In order to keep your fellow Sister Clubs up to date on your Clubs Events send your flyers and pictures with captions to our webmaster PC Ryan Peters at ycmwebmaster@gmail.com We say use both because many members do not subscribe to or use Facebook. You may wonder why two Facebook Pages putting out all the same information? Well, it's not all the same. One page is privately owned whereas the YCM page is owned by Yacht Clubs of Maryland with its Treasurer acting as its Agent. The Yacht Clubs of Maryland page will never post opinions, items for sale, or commercial ads. The only exception to the rule is we support our golf outing sponsors because they support us. Our main mission is to support you our Members of Member Clubs. We need your info to help you. We are also proud to be the information Media for The Queen of the Chesapeake



Program and Pageant and support all the Princesses of the Clubs equally.

Last but not least as I have said before and will say one last time, we are not in competition with any other Facebook page. We would like to thank the owner of the page we used before we created our own YCM Facebook page for faithfully posting all the flyers and information on her personal sight. With that said let's all have a Happy and Safe Boating Season.

Respectfully,
George Stromberg
Commodore, 2022
Yacht Clubs of Maryland



Vice Commodore's Report

Tom Stevens

YCM.Vice@gmail.com

Please note there is a NEW Email Address for Vice Commodore.....

YCM.Vice@gmail.com

Ahoy to all of the boating community!

I hope that by now some of you have been able to get your boats in the water. We have had a few nice days. However, I think Mother Nature is confused! We are supposed to be in light jackets not winter coats. Come on summer!

Speaking of Summer, Make sure you stay tuned for the most up to date information on the YCM Cruise to North Point Marina. Friday July 29th – Sunday July 31st. I know that the slips are full and there is a waiting list. I have also heard that some people will be doing a raft off and using dinghy's to come in to join in the festivities. This is a trip that you do not want to miss!

The next YCM GMM meeting will be on May 25th. There will be a flyer posted shortly once all of the information is confirmed.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming openings for camaraderie and good ol' fashion boating fun.

Until then,
Stay Safe, Happy and Healthy
V/C Tom Stevens
410-303-8339



Rear Commodore's Report

Ted Wooden

YCM.rear@gmail.com

Please note the new YCM Rear Commodore email address.

Ahoy Yacht Club of Maryland Members.

It is with great joy I can say by the time you are reading this the Ships Log will be complete and the Opening season will have begun. The Commodores Day Out was a huge success because so many of our members showed up and participated in the event. The food as always was out of this world hats off to Scott Wood and his staff at Baltimore Yacht Club. I look forward to seeing everyone at the club openings this year as we try to get back to what we all believe to be normal. I for one will be using me boat even with the high cost of fuel I will just be going a little slower and shorter trips to help save on fuel usage. With that being said, please make sure that your clubs advertise on the Yacht Clubs of Maryland Facebook page if you are having any type of raft ups that anyone can join because I am sure we all would like to spend time together on our boats even with high fuel cost. Don't forget about our trip to Rock Hall North Point Marina. I understand there is a waiting list but still call and see if you can get on it. It will be a great time with lots of food, cold adult beverages, live entertainment, and of course great comradery. I heard that there will be some people hanging on the hook out in Rock Hall harbor and dinging in to enjoy the party. So maybe if you still want to come over and enjoy the fun you could tie up with them and start a flotilla of YCM members. Also do not forget we have our annual golf outing coming up on October, 10th 2022. This years outing will include some nontraditional games at certain holes (details to follow). So if you are a traditional golf master or just someone who wants to get out and enjoy a beautiful day and have fun this years outing will be for you. I will give more details in next month's Bay Breeze.

See ya around the openings.

Yacht Club of Maryland

Rear Commodore

Ted Wooden

443-277-8005



Legislative Affairs Officer's Report

Scott Gundaker

scottgundaker@gmail.com

After two years of frustration, Maryland environmental advocates have much to celebrate after the conclusion earlier this week of what one called a “landmark” General Assembly session in Annapolis.

Over the course of 90 days, lawmakers enacted sweeping climate change legislation that committed Maryland to the most ambitious greenhouse gas reductions of any state in the nation. They also passed a flurry of other “green” bills, including measures to reduce environmental inequities, beef up water pollution enforcement and boost efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay’s diminished oyster population.

“When you look at the many topics and the many places where we saw improvements in this legislature,” said Josh Kurtz, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s Maryland executive director, “it was a very strong session.”

The outpouring of legislation this year was a relief for activists, who saw many of the bills they backed founder in 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic cut the Assembly session short, and again in 2021, when pandemic precautions kept the Assembly operating in virtual mode, limiting opportunities to meet with legislators.

This year brought a growing and more diverse coalition of supporters to Annapolis to press for environmental causes and voice mounting frustration with inaction over chronic and critical issues like pollution enforcement and climate change.

Climate solutions

The most significant environmental bill to pass this year was the Climate Solutions Now Act, an omnibus measure that advocates say has restored Maryland to the top rank of states addressing global climate change and its impacts. The law calls for a 60% reduction in climate-warming carbon emissions by 2031, a near-term target unmatched by any other state, and net-zero emissions by 2045.

“We have just put a stake in the ground that says we are going to lead on climate [and] greenhouse gas reduction goals in the country,” said Kim Coble, executive director of the Maryland League of Conservation Voters.



The measure's 100-plus pages spell out a variety of initiatives to work toward those goals, notably a requirement that large existing buildings reduce carbon emissions by improving their energy efficiency. By 2030, all state facilities would have to get at least 75% of their electricity from low- or zero-carbon sources. The state also must electrify its fleet of cars by 2031 and light-duty trucks by 2036.

The law pushes local school boards to electrify their bus fleets, offering a pilot financing scheme through partnerships with utilities while prohibiting the purchase of diesel- or gas-fueled buses after 2024.

Under another provision, lawmakers established a "climate corps" for youths and young adults to work on climate mitigation projects. They also established a \$5 million fund for climate projects and directed 40% of it be spent in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods — an attempt to tackle inequities in how climate change is both felt and addressed.

Similar but less comprehensive climate change legislation had fallen short in each of the last two years. This measure passed the Democrat-dominated House and Senate by wide margins, but only after some of its most controversial features were cut or watered down so that it would get to Republican Gov. Larry Hogan in time to override his expected veto.

Hogan had blasted the bill before it passed either chamber as a "reckless and controversial energy tax." But once the amended bill landed on his desk, he decided to let it become law without his signature, adding that despite his disappointment with what he saw as politically motivated legislation, he was encouraged by some of the changes in it.

One of the largest of those changes was dropping a requirement that all new buildings of a certain size built in the state be all-electric. The state's Climate Change Commission had recommended such a transition, noting the large contribution of greenhouse gas emissions from heating and cooling buildings. But that provision drew intense opposition from real estate interests, the natural gas industry, utilities and some labor groups. Yielding to the pushback, lawmakers opted instead for a 15-month study of the feasibility of transitioning to an all-electric building code.

Other changes that bothered climate activists included recognizing nuclear power as a carbon-free energy source and the removal of language giving permission to localities to go beyond state law in requiring emission reductions from buildings. Montgomery County is currently considering such a law.

Victoria Venable, Maryland director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, said her group's members were "incredibly disappointed" by the removal of the provisions dealing with electrifying buildings. But even with that and other weakening changes, she called the overall bill a "vital step forward."

"Does it get us 100 percent there?" asked the conservation league's Coble. "No, of course not, there is much work ahead ... but we believe this bill really builds a foundation from which the state can move forward."



Reducing pollution inequities

One of the bills to pass this year takes a step toward addressing longstanding complaints that polluting facilities tend to be concentrated in low-income communities of color. It requires applicants for air and water pollution permits to disclose existing pollution sources in the vicinity and to provide that information to affected communities early in the permitting process.

Advocates have tried without success for years to get lawmakers to require regulators to base permitting decisions on the cumulative impact of a proposed pollution source on top of existing ones. This bill gives communities a heads-up in time to speak out, but “does not dictate any outcomes,” said Betsy Nicholas, executive director of Waterkeepers Chesapeake. “It is just providing greater public notice and awareness early in the [permitting] process.”

Tightening enforcement

Spurred by some glaring enforcement miscues in the past year, lawmakers passed legislation requiring the Maryland Department of the Environment to increase inspections of facilities that discharge wastewater to the state’s rivers and streams. The legislation, which like the climate bill became law without Hogan’s signature, also requires penalties for noncompliance and directs regulators to update dozens of so-called “zombie” permits that have allowed facilities to continue operating for years with outdated treatment requirements.

The bill was put in after news broke of deteriorating conditions at the state’s two largest wastewater treatment plants in Baltimore, plus illegal discharges at the Valley Proteins poultry-rendering plant on the Eastern Shore, which has been operating on a permit that hasn’t been updated since 2006.

Other environmental measures

Rebuilding oyster populations: Lawmakers acted to boost Maryland’s oyster restoration efforts by increasing hatchery capacity, reforming oyster shell recycling programs, surveying the Bay bottom for additional sources of shells and researching the use of materials other than shell for building oyster reefs. The legislation also called for focusing on reviving oyster populations in Eastern Bay, with \$2 million a year to be divided equally between rebuilding habitat for the wild fishery and new reefs in sanctuaries. In past years, Hogan has pushed back against what he saw as unwarranted legislative meddling in fisheries management. He allowed this measure, which drew on recommendations from the state’s Oyster Advisory Commission, to become law without his signature.

Boosting renewable energy: Lawmakers passed legislation to expand the development of “community solar” projects that sell subscriptions for moderate-size solar installations to households or businesses, which then receive credit on their power bills for their share of the electricity generated. Another bill sets up a grant program to fund “resiliency hubs” where solar panels and batteries would help low- and moderate-income households weather power outages. Another bill reinstated tax credits for buying electric vehicles.



Toxic contaminants: Legislators banned the sale of rugs and paper-based food packaging that contain PFAS, a group of highly persistent chemicals widely used for their stain- and water-resistant traits. The bill also bars the use of firefighting foams containing PFAS, which has led to the contamination of groundwater, streams and drinking water wells near military bases, airports and fire training facilities. Similar legislation had failed last year, but this year it passed unanimously, a turnaround that Emily Scarr of Maryland's Public Interest Research Group attributed in part to strong support from firefighters concerned about their own health dealing with PFAS-laden foam.

Another bill prohibits the sale of driveway sealants made from coal tar, which has been linked to stream and fish contamination.

Patuxent River: Patuxent Riverkeeper Fred Tutman has regained his longtime seat on the Patuxent River Commission, which oversees the health of the only major Bay tributary totally within Maryland. Lawmakers acted to reinstate him and expand the commission after a Hogan administration shake-up that replaced Tutman and another veteran member. They had sparred with state planning staff as they pushed the panel to speak out against development projects that they believed would harm water quality in the 110-mile river.

Addressing park needs: Lawmakers voted to significantly increase funding for the development, maintenance and staffing of state parks, which have suffered for years from overcrowding and failing infrastructure. The bill, dubbed the Great Maryland Outdoors Act, also boosts funding for farm and rural land preservation.

Growing urban agriculture: New legislation will offer grants and technical assistance to urban farmers, who often face challenges accessing affordable water and energy for raising and marketing their food.

Old-growth forests: Lawmakers passed a bill that prohibits logging patches of public woodlands that are 100 years old or more, but only after limiting its protection to state parks and wildlife management areas.

Bills that didn't make it

Not every environmental cause succeeded. A proposed state constitutional amendment that would guarantee Marylanders the right to a "healthful and sustainable environment" failed for the fourth year in a row to get out of committee.

Another repeat proposal to strip clean-energy subsidies for waste incineration died as well. A bill that would have committed Maryland to preserving 30% of its land from development by decade's end and 40% by 2040 likewise stalled in committee. Other bills that foundered were aimed at curbing the use of single-use plastic, boosting recycling and getting manufacturers to take responsibility for the waste their products generate.



Josh Tulkin, Maryland Sierra Club's director, said environmental advocates were especially frustrated by the failure of the environmental rights amendment. Despite a growing and diverse group of supporters backing the measure, industry groups scored points with legislators by warning the amendment's language was so broad it could unleash a flood of litigation.

"There's some concern about leaving too much of this up to the courts," Tulkin said, "but I think there's also a clarity that we need to find some way to codify these rights."

Even so, Tulkin and other advocates said they were heartened by the number of green bills that did pass this year. To protect those gains and push for more, he said, environmental activists need to impress on voters the benefits of new legislation like the climate bill to see that sympathetic lawmakers are re-elected in this year's elections.

Legislative Affairs Officer, YCM
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Protocol Matters

Joe Hellner

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Protocol Matters

By Joe Hellner

Yacht Club Opening Pointers

The 2022 Opening Season will begin soon. As we plan our home club ceremonies and visit ceremonies at other yacht clubs, we carry on certain traditions and protocols that have been in place for generations. Most of what happens during a yacht club season opening ceremony evolved and was refined from social customs, nautical traditions, and practical considerations to create a special once a year all hands event to celebrate the beginning of another great season at our clubs and on our boats.

It is our honor and privilege to conduct Openings in honor of those who came before us and those who will follow. Doing them well demonstrates our pride and commitment to good seamanship, good fellowship, the ideals of yachting, and our clubs.

Behavior: Be quiet, respectful, and supportive of the ceremony. Visiting officials should make every effort to stay in their designated seating area until ceremony completion. Take all discussions away from the ceremony area so as not to disturb the proceedings.

Attire: Dress for the special occasion as you would for similar events at church or work where smart casual is worn taking into account that opening ceremonies are usually held outdoors in daytime. Club member attire is recommended. Club officials should be in club traditional uniform or club official attire as designated by the Commodore. Those participating in the ceremony should ensure attire is shipshape and sharp to honor the occasion, the host, and your home club.

Opening Ceremony Main Parts: 0. Preparations to include posting the Honor Guard and placing flags in lowered positions. 1. Introduction of the M/C then the Officer of the Deck (Usually the Commodore) who greets visitors and returns salutes. 2. Introductions and exchange of honors starting with guests, then officials and VIPs of the host club. Clubs are usually in alphabetical order, followed by multi club organizations from local to national, then VIPs such as the Queen of the Chesapeake. 3. Invocation and National Anthem (the place in the order can vary from club to club, but the recommended spot is at the beginning of the ceremonial part of the proceedings). 4. Speeches – Commodore speech last. 5. Memorial for the Departed. 6. Presentations. 7. Fleet Captains Report. 8. Commodores Declaration the Club is Open for the Season. Host clubs may insert additional elements as is traditional and or meaningful to their club.

Right Rank and Follow the Commodore: Always line up with the person of higher rank to your right and you will never go wrong. After your group has “come aboard” and rendered honors, follow the commodore or senior officer when exiting the Bridge.

Orders for the Group Salute: If you are the senior officer, the commands to get your group to salute smartly together are: “(Club/Organization Name), Hand, Salute” and “Ready, Two”. You pause slightly on the first word (Hand or Ready) to get the group ready to act on the second word. Try it and you will find that it works very well.



Cannon Shots: The opening ceremony traditional shots among Northern Chesapeake Bay clubs occur at the end of “Taps” or “Amazing Grace”, at the end of the National Anthem, and at the end of the “the club is open for the season” declaration. A cannon shot should always be fired upon the arrival by boat of a Commodore from a visiting club. Clubs should also fire a cannon shot when the Queen of the Chesapeake, the DRYL Queen, or other VIP arrives by boat. Clubs may elect to fire other shots as they so desire.

Memorial for the Departed: During “Taps” or “Amazing Grace”, when in uniform, keep your hat on (male or female) and salute from the start of the tune until the end when the cannon fires to end the salute. If you are not in uniform, place your hand over heart. **Always face toward the wreath.** This is because in a memorial service, you are saluting the departed.

United States Flag: The Flag should be **hoisted quickly and lowered slowly.** Prior to the National Anthem, it should be lowered and then raised quickly at the start of the song. If desired, it is acceptable to lower the Flag to Half Mast prior to the Invocation and Prayer. It should be returned smartly to the top when all prayers are ended.

Club Burgee: The Club Burgee should be lowered prior to the start of the Opening Ceremony. It is raised when the Commodore declares the club to be open for the season.

Officer Flags: Officer Flags are raised one by one as each officer is announced and “comes aboard”. The Commodore, as presiding official, is announced shortly after the ceremony begins. Other officers are announced later in the ceremony after the guests have been introduced.

Fleet Captain: By tradition at club openings, the Fleet Captain is called by the Commodore to report on the condition of the Fleet. He/she may say (or even sing) anything they want as part of the report, but always should end with the traditional words, **“Commodore, the Fleet is ready and awaiting your command”.**

Refreshments: Refreshments are provided to visiting officials who “Come Aboard”, render honors, and sit in a special seating area. Empties are put under the chair of a person, male or female, called the **“Can Man”.**

Past Commodore Order: Past Commodores are introduced by year of service from the furthest back in time to most recent.

Honor Guard: Many club opening day ceremonies include an “Honor Guard” (aka Side Boys). The Honor Guards come from many sources such as U.S. Power Squadrons, U.S. Coast Guard Auxilliaris, Sea Scouts, Boy Scouts, Shrine Drum Corps, and the U.S. Armed Forces. When there is an Honor Guard, visiting officials from the same club/organization should proceed through the Honor Guard as a group with the senior officer leading. Only the senior officer in the group returns the salute. The senior person holds the salute until exiting the Honor Guard formation. The Honor Guard holds the salute until the last person in the organization has exited the Honor

Till next time, see you around the Bay!



Chaplain's Report

Anna Davis

YCM Chaplain, 2021

04.22 Chaplain BayBreeze Article

Get Well Wishes:

2013-2014 First Crab Rucker Blakey III, P/C Wellwood Yacht Club was recently diagnosed with prostate cancer. Additional tests showed it to be contained, and surgery was recommended. Surgery has been scheduled for May 24th. Please continue to keep him in your thoughts and prayer. Thinking of you and get well wishes can be sent to 531 Bell Road, Kirkwood, PA 17536

Rucker and Cheryl thank everyone for their continued prayers and best wishes . They also want you to know that " it was found during his ANNUAL Wellness Exam ... cannot emphasize enough the Importance of Annual Physical Exams and Bloodwork!! "

COVID 19

It is not a thing of the past. It is still very much out there and sometimes despite how careful one is; it can still be caught!!! With Opening Season around the corner, please continue to follow the CDC guidelines and protect not only yourself, but your fellow Yachties as well.

I am aware of others who are ill or have lost loved ones, but unless I hear it from you or a member of your family, I will not publish anything.

A Thought for Mothers' Day :

Some are kissing mothers, and some are scolding mothers, but it is love just the same, and most mothers kiss and scold together. Pearl S. Buck

Happy Mothers' Day



Classified Ads

Place your classified ads in the Baybreeze and reach all of our member clubs.

The cost is \$2.00 per month for personal ads, and \$3.00 per month for business- and business-related ads (4 lines or less) \$10.00 if you include pictures. We will soon have pricing for quarter page, half page and full-page ads.

Send you ads to: bodkincrabber@gmail.com

Show some YCM pride!

Available now, **YCM Member Burgees and YCM Delegates Flags** for only \$20.
Please contact Joe Hellner at mi-ti-bear@comcast.net.

YCM Burgee: Can be flown by any member of a club that belongs to YCM. It is not to fly in place of the club burgee at the bow but may be flown on a portside hoist or attachment point or a separate rail mount flag post aft of the bow post.

YCM Delegates Flag: Can be flown by any Current Club Delegate to YCM. Flown as a club office on the Starboard side or on the port side under the club burgee for which the person is a delegate. As a current office, is flown above the P/C Flag and below any higher-ranking current club office.



What Yacht Clubs of Maryland provides for its member Clubs;

Below is a summary:

1. Legislative and Regulatory Representation: Because we are focused only on Maryland and rely on directly affected local volunteers, we are usually ahead of other organizations in knowing and acting on issues of concern to Maryland yacht clubs and their members. If you have been following our publications or getting meeting reports from your representatives, you know that the 2015 legislation session held no significant problems for clubs and boaters. Other years have been a different story. Recent efforts have included, YCM submitting written testimony in opposition to the Boating Fees Bill (HB 1307) and the Luxury Tax Bill (HB 1345), contacted legislators, and had YCM reps attend the hearings on behalf of the clubs. At one of the hearings, with Cheryl Blakey and Joe Hellner (attending on behalf of YCM) noted committee members hitting points right off our written testimony. We worked collaboratively with CBYCA and kept them in the loop. We also investigated and then contacted officials and other organizations on the large gathering permit bill, which, once amended in response to feedback from the marine trades, YCM, and boating groups, had no effect on normal yacht club activities. Throughout the year, coordinated by our Legislative Director, volunteers looked into waterway and boating issues brought to us by our members. We also dug to find useful Maryland boating and waterway information so our members wouldn't have to. In 2015, YCM P/C Joe Hellner was appointed by the DNR Secretary to the Maryland Boat Act Advisory Committee as a representative from the yacht club community.

2. Support of Maryland yacht club interaction, communication, and promotion of activities of mutual interest.

- a. Hold the **Annual Fleet Captains Meeting** to allow these (usually new) officers to meet and discuss plans for the upcoming season, collect information about club activities, and collect and publish that information back to the Fleet Captains and member clubs. These folks form the foundation for our clubs futures and will be working with each other for the next four years. This is the venue that the Rear Commodore uses to introduce the Fleet Captains to the Ship's Log and passes out prior year information that will need to be updated.

- b. **Maintain the YCM web site**, which serves as the Maryland yacht club community bulletin board and is full of information and event news and links. By working with the webmaster, **all clubs are welcome to use** the website. The past three YCM Monthly Newsletters are always available by link from the website.

- c. **Publish a Monthly Newsletter** covering news of interest, protocol tips, and upcoming activities. By working with the Newsletter Editor, **this forum is open to all members**. The newsletter is emailed to member club representatives and commodores to pass on to members and a paper copy sent the club address. Those who would like to get the newsletter directly are welcome to contact the Editor.

- d. Meet Monthly with alternating Board and General Membership Meetings as a **"Local Community Association" to discuss and work on issues of interests to the members**. Each club designates a Representative and Alternate to attend the meetings and provide communication between their club, the YCM, and fellow member clubs around the Bay. These meetings are open to all and lively frank discussion is the norm.



e. **Annual SHIP'S LOG:** Published each year at the start of boating season contains information provided by each member club intended to be useful to the average club member who wants to know more about other yacht clubs, what they have, and how to visit them. This publication also serves as the annual yearbook capturing people and events of our local yachting community. This is not an ad book as it is intended to and be an informational Service to the Member Clubs. Due to funding limits, printed copies given to each club are limited. The pdf file of SHIP's LOG is available to any member who would like to download the file for club or personal use.

f. **Skunk Flag of the Bay Award:** Recognizes at least one, sometimes several, members of the yacht club community each year for getting out there and doing something with their boats or with their clubs, leading to outstanding humorous and amusing mishaps and adventures. The Awards are given by YCM's own Salty Sam the Sea Dog, who always notes that "Those who don't make mistakes must not be doing anything". Salty also serves as gossip columnist.

g. **Regular Email Notification:** Each year the YCM Vice Commodore maintains an email distribution list to provide breaking news or information of immediate interest to the members. Examples include "All Hands" notices, flyers from member clubs, Opening and Ball schedules and updates, Sick and Welfare Notices, and Funeral Information. Chances are your officers or club first "heard about it" from us.

h. **Protocol Guidance:** Each year, YCM receives and responds numerous questions about why and how we do things in the traditional ways followed by yacht clubs, especially the local practices that evolved in Maryland over many generations. YCM appoints a qualified volunteer called "Captain Protocol" to do the research, be the keeper of the knowledge, and find ways to help the member clubs. Often questions become the genesis for regular articles in the newsletter. Recently, "Captain Protocol" provided Pleasant YC with the details of conducting an Opening Day Ceremony as practiced by Maryland clubs around the Northern Chesapeake Bay and distributed a one page guide to placement of buttons, pins, and nameplates on yacht club uniforms.

3. Organize and Lead the Annual Yacht Club Golf Tournament to get together in a different type of activity that is popular among many club members in addition to their boating hobby. This event is darn hard to do so great credit goes to the Chairpersons and army of volunteers who create this special opportunity for the golfers and would be golfers in our clubs.

4. Organize and Lead the Annual Christmas and Holiday Party open to members and friends of all Maryland Clubs. This event is held at Laurel Park as a unique event, different from regular club activities, which celebrates Maryland's proud heritage of Thoroughbred Horse Racing while providing a centrally located venue where a large number of folks from all the clubs together can gather to celebrate the holiday season.

5. General Support of Member Clubs:

a. Our goal is be there when Clubs are stuck on something. One area that has been well received has been our pursuit and stocking of hard-to-find silver buttons for club Past Commodores, especially since local tailors and on line companies willing to carry these items are few. We were able to find the company that makes buttons, which provides us with wholesale bulk orders of all the types. We also keep a stock of silver hat braids and hat buttons.

b. **Harnessing the power of many:** YCM is the place to come if a member club has an idea or a problem that can be acted upon by finding and pulling together people of like mind and who have the passion and interest to pursue it.

Not bad for only a \$60.00 annual membership fee and a group of volunteers trying to help their fellow Maryland yacht club friends



YCM Meeting Schedule 2022

May 25th YCM GMM meeting Location TBD once all details have been confirmed.

