

Yacht Clubs of Maryland's Bay Breeze March 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 Message

Good morning all from sunny South West Florida. Our Three weeks here in Paradise is just about up and it's back to the not so frozen North. Thanks to the power of the internet and Zoom we have been able to stay in touch. Many thanks to our YCM Officers and Past Commodores and their Ladies for helping out this year and making sure that every YCM Member Clubs Ball was attended. This is a main part of our Mission within the Yacht Club Community. It's what we do and we do it well with your support and help.

There appears to still be some confusion about the YCM Face Book Page which is owned by YCM and a private page owned by one individual. Anything submitted to YCM is sent out to Members of Member Clubs only. No one will get any of your information that is not in that Category from us. We also do no direct advertising but will support our Golf Outing Sponsors as the majority of our funds to support other Clubs come from that event. When you give us your Clubs information at the Annual Fleet Captains Meeting and Dinner to go in the Ship's Log we consider it proprietary and do not and will not publish it to anyone other than Members of Member Clubs. We welcome any flyers or announcements you want to put in the YCM Facebook Page and encourage all Members of Member Clubs to join that page. I hope this clears up any confusion.

Well, I am sure that many of you have a head start on getting your boats ready to launch due to the mild days in February. This will be a difficult season for many with marinas full and no room for transients and slip fees going up, plus soaring fuel prices. The most important thing is to enjoy your time and relax. Stress is a major factor in our health so let's all play nice, act nice and be nice to our fellow Yachtsmen and those in our Yacht Club Community. It doesn't cost a nickel to throw out a smile, say a hello or wish a fellow human well. You'll feel better about yourself when you do it. That's about it for this month. Take care and Boat Safe.

"Whatever you decide to do, make sure it makes you happy" (Anonymous)

Commodore George Stromberg



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 my fellow Boaters!

I hear the birds chirping and see the sun shining bright! That means we are closer to boating season than we all thought! With that in mind, make sure that you are practicing safety first when unwrapping your boats. The ground is not as forgiving as the water is, Nor are the Gas pumps for that matter... ugh

Now that the Ball Season is officially over, we look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming openings. Please make every effort to attend the openings to help support our Brother and Sister clubs around the bay. It is always a great time to see your fellow boaters and to meet some new ones.

Our next meeting will be held at Eastern Yacht Club on March 23rd. Please make sure you RSVP to me for dinner reservations.

March 27th is The Commodores Day Out Celebration at Baltimore Yacht Club from 1pm to 6pm.

Please make sure that you get your slip for Rock Hall. From what I understand there are not many left. Call over to Lori ASAP.

This year,
you're all invited.



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 fellow members, the weather is getting warmer and the days are getting longer this could only mean one that opening season is right around the corner. I look forward to seeing everyone at the openings and enjoying a few cold adult beverages as we get caught up on the happenings from over the winter time. I am putting the final touches on the ships log so I can have it ready for our first opening. I do have a few clubs that have not updated their info for this year. If your club has not updated it they should expect a phone call from me with in the next two weeks. Don't forget we have the YCM Commodores day out coming up real soon March 27th at Baltimore Yacht Club from 1 till 6 pm and from what I hear it is going to be a great time. I also heard that there will be a table set up at the event for the first ladies to exchange club charms. My next big scheduled event is the YCM Golf Outing at Rocky point golf course. I am trying to make this outing a little different with more then just golfing. If anyone has any ideas on different things we could do at different holes please send them to me at ycm.rear@gmail.com . I am trying to get more people to come out and enjoy the day even if they have never played golf before so that is why I am asking for different ideas. Lets make this year the best year of our lives so far, we all need to enjoy each and every day as if it was our last day because life is not guaranteed. A great quote from a dear friend " Life is fragile handle it with prayer"

Ted Wooden

Rear Commodore Yacht Clubs of Maryland

443-277-8005



Legislative Affairs Officer's Report

Scott Gundaker
scottgundaker@gmail.com

Enforcement of water pollution laws in Maryland has trended downward over the last two decades but has nosedived under the Hogan administration, according to a new report by several environmental groups.

Drawing on data reported annually by the Maryland Department of the Environment, the Chesapeake Accountability Project, a coalition of four groups, tallied a 39% decline in water-related inspections and a 67% drop-off in enforcement actions under the Hogan administration, compared with its predecessor.

Environmentalists contend that lax enforcement undermines efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay and threatens public health.

“Imagine how our roads would be if there were no speed cameras or police officers to pull over speeders,” said Katlyn Schmitt, a policy analyst with the Center for Progressive Reform and lead author of the coalition’s report. “In Maryland, polluters can essentially get away with polluting and breaking environmental rules.”

The coalition — Center for Progressive Reform, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Chesapeake Legal Alliance and Environmental Integrity Project — released an “enforcement scorecard” on March 9 in support of pending legislation that would require the MDE to conduct more inspections and impose harsher penalties on polluters.

The coalition focused on compliance and enforcement activity reported by the MDE on discharges to surface and ground water, disturbances of wetlands and waterways, and stormwater runoff from existing and new development. It also took stock of staffing levels at the state agency and a long list of facilities operating on so-called “zombie” permits with outdated discharge limits.

Annual MDE reports show water-related inspections and enforcement, while peaking at times, have declined overall since 2001. The 75 enforcement actions reported by the MDE’s Water and Science administration in the year ending last July 1 marked a 20-year low, the coalition said. That was less than half the annual average of 168 actions taken since 2001, according to the coalition report.

Under Hogan, the coalition reported, the MDE identified 70% fewer significant pollution violations — those generally deemed threats to public health or the environment — than it had in the previous administration and collected 47% less in fines. The number of significant violations cited last year was the lowest in 20 years, it said.



While some of the drop in violations might suggest the MDE's enforcement has had a deterrent effect, the report said a review of industrial stormwater compliance indicated otherwise. State inspectors found noncompliance in nearly two-thirds of the processing plants, auto salvage yards, and landfills it checked for stormwater pollution controls from 2017 through 2020. Of those, nearly half were repeat offenders, yet only 14 formal enforcement actions were taken, the report said.

Early in the Hogan administration, the MDE said it was providing more "compliance assistance" without taking enforcement action, to address supposedly minor violations before they could become significant. The number of cases handled that way did increase markedly for a few years but have since declined. Last year compliance assistance was 67% below the 20-year average.

The coalition said the MDE has suffered budget and staffing cuts over the past two decades that have chronically hampered its ability to ride herd on a growing number of regulated entities. Its workforce is about 14% smaller than it was 20 years ago, and its share of state government funding has shrunk by one third, the report said.

The emergency workplace restrictions imposed at the outset of the coronavirus pandemic may have caused some inspections to be delayed or even skipped, but the coalition pointed out that sharp declines were occurring even before COVID-19 showed up.

"This is a terrible time for a drop-off in water pollution enforcement," said Courtney Bernhardt, research director for the Environmental Integrity Project. The Bay restoration effort has made limited progress to date, and it faces increased stresses from population growth, development and climate change.

MDE spokesman Mark Shaffer said officials had not had a chance to review the report before its release so could not provide an immediate response. But he issued a statement saying that "MDE has never wavered in its commitment to compliance and enforcement, which continues to be a priority."

He cited examples of "significant and impactful" water-related actions taken to stop water pollution at the Verso paper mill in western Maryland, the Dominion coal ash ponds at Possum Point on the Potomac River and in Baltimore city, where there have been sewage overflows and wastewater treatment violations. He also pointed to Maryland's lawsuit, with two other states and the District of Columbia, seeking to compel the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to take more aggressive action against Pennsylvania and New York over their inadequate plans for helping with the Bay restoration.

But the coalition's report noted that some of the biggest pollution cases recently — including those involving the state's two biggest sewage treatment plants in Baltimore and the Valley Proteins poultry rendering plant on the Eastern Shore — were first spotted by watershed activists, not by the MDE's inspectors.

"We can't fix pollution problems that aren't being identified due to lack of inspections and enforcement by MDE," added Doug Myers, senior Maryland scientist for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

The report comes after a legislative briefing in January when lawmakers grilled MDE Secretary Ben Grumbles over his department's oversight of drinking water supplies, shellfish safety, poultry runoff, sewage treatment and industrial waste. Grumbles acknowledged some lapses and pledged to hire more staff to increase inspections of drinking water systems and chicken farms.

Two bills pending in the General Assembly seek to boost enforcement of state environmental laws. One measure, SB221 /HB402, backed by Attorney General Brian Frosh would give the MDE more leeway in

pursuing violators and would increase penalties for some offenses. The other, HB649/SB492 seeks to compel the MDE to hire more staff and conduct more inspections while also increasing penalties.

That measure also orders the MDE to eliminate its lengthy backlog of more than 150 facilities with so-called “zombie” or outdated discharge permits, some of which have been allowed to continue without updated requirements for years.

The MDE has pushed back, warning that the second bill would force it to hire more than 200 new staff at a cost of nearly \$23 million. But Del. Sara Love, a Montgomery County Democrat who is one of the measure’s prime sponsors, called that a “ridiculous” overestimate but said sponsors are working on amendments to lower the potential cost.

“Everybody recognizes that this is a problem and that MDE has been short staffed, and that it cannot continue,” Love said. “I believe that the [MDE] secretary is going to hire some people; I think he already has. But the question is: Is that going to be enough? And we need to make sure that it is enough.”

Legislative Affairs Officer, YCM
Scott Gundaker
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Protocol Matters

Joe Hellner

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Protocol Matters

By P/C Joe Hellner

Yachting Flags and Burgee Reminders

As we launch into the 2022 boating season, remember yachting flags are a nautical tradition, which adds colorful decoration while telling others about your boat and its crew.

If your boat has a mast with a yardarm, your club burgee is flown at the top of the mast just as it is flown from your yacht club mast. Most modern powerboats around our clubs these days don't have a mast with a yardarm, so the correct place for your yacht club burgee is at the bow. If you fly other flags at the bow, your club burgee is set as far forward as possible alone in the place of honor. This placement helps people quickly identify the home club of the boat, which they will associate with the office flags flown on the starboard side.

Sailboats should fly the club burgee at the top of the mast on a stick that is hoisted up with the burgee attached. If a sailboat cannot fly the club burgee this way, it should be flown at the top of a starboard hoist with the club office flags directly below in order of rank.

Burgees and flags from other clubs and organizations are flown on the port side.

CCC Members should always have two flags. A P/C flag (related to the club burgee at the bow or on the mast) should be flown on the starboard side and the CCC member flag flown on the port side.

To guide you in placing flags in the proper vertical order, in addition to rank, there is a simple general rule found in many publications such as CHAPMANS, which says to go by most to least represented. For example, Past Commodore flags always go below office flags because Past Commodore is a personal flag not an office that serves or represents a number of people.

Flags or burgees representing organizations of clubs are flown highest with the largest region covered placed at the top (i.e. international, national, regional, statewide, local). Yachting organizations with individual members such as Blue Gavel come next, following the same order of international to local. After the organizations come clubs and finally individual flags. Office flags on the port side are flown immediately below the organization or club flag to which they belong, except where the office flag has a clear connection with the club or organization. YCM, CCC, and CBYCA are examples where the office flag is sufficient.

Finally, the national flag is flown aft of midships at the transom, from a gaff, or after the leech of the aftmost sail (usually from a hoist along the backstay). NEVER fly the national flag at the bow!! The national flag at the bow is a sure sign of a landlubber who happens to own a boat.

Till next time, see you around the Bay!



Scuttlebutt and Spindrift By Salty Sam

Arrrrghh, Ahoy there Mateys!

The adventure continues! It is not yet boating season and already one of our yacht club shipmates has attained distinction. As seasoned salts know, boarding and disembarking a boat are miracles of hand, eye, and body coordination that require thought, focus, and concentration. Even Old Salty gets nervous when thinking about doing these things in winter.

During the season at a typical bulkhead, wharf, or pier, boarding and disembarking happen hundreds of times a day with nary a slip or a trip from land or ship. So, we all get cocky and confident and figure we can dance the hornpipe on a transom (Old Salty saw that happen at **Belvedere YC** years ago – adult beverages were involved – it did not end well).

Indeed, maybe due to a bit of that overconfidence, a member of **Kent Island YC** found Kent Narrows water instead of the boat and found it FREEZING. It seems as the fateful step was made twixt boat and pier, the boat (as they are wont to do) moved to widen the gap just as this brave winter warrior misjudged where the handhold on the boat was located.

Fortunately, all turned out well as Frosty was able to pop(sicle) to the surface and hold on to a strap hanging nearby. Plenty of help was quickly at hand including the First Mate, Kent Island members, the DNR, and the Kent Island Fire Department. After a ride in the ambulance, medical attention from the good folks at Queenstown Emergency, and some dry clothes, our yacht club shipmate was none the worse for wear other than a bruised femur.

So, for scaring the crap out of everyone by stepping up to be **that person** who reminds all of what not to do, there just may be a certain special flag of recognition in this person's future, presented at an appropriate time and occasion before fellow club members, friends, and family.

Send Salty your Skunk Flag nominee reports and news about the latest happenings around the clubs and on the water to mi-ti-bear@comcast.net

Till next Port o' Call, always remember, "Those who don't make mistakes must not be doing anything."

Arrrrghhh! Salty Sam the Sea Dog



Chaplain's Report

Anna Davis

YCM Chaplain, 2021

03.22 Chaplain BayBreeze Article

Condolences to:

YCM IP/C Mike Gaff and F/L Stephanie on the passing of his stepmother (more like a mom) on February 28th. The viewing was private, and a Celebration of Life will be held later. See the Duda Ruck Funeral Home website for additional information. Expressions of Sympathy can be sent to the Gaff Family at 657 Kingston Road, Middle River, MD 21220

Beth Hudson-Tuck 2008 F/L Charlestown YC and 2019-2020 F/L of Veterans Yacht Club Association and P/C Robert (Bubba) on the passing of her mother on March 4th. Visitation and a Service was held on Thursday March 10th. For additional information visit the McComas Funeral Home website. Expressions of Sympathy can be sent to Beth and Bubba (Robert) at 1440 Belvidere Road, Port Deposit, MD 21904.

Get Well Wishes:

CCC 2006 First Lady Nancy Discher, who after a five year wait, had a kidney transplant on February 24th. She is recovering at home. Get well Wishes can be sent to her at 3616 Dahlia Lane, Baltimore, MD 21220-2121.

As YCM Chaplain, I have been made aware of several yacht club families who need our prayers at this time. Some are dealing with the possible loss of a loved one, some recently lost a loved one, some have recently been diagnosed with an illness and some are battling recurring illnesses. Take a moment now to stop and to say a prayer for these folks and to thank God for the many blessings He has given us.

Don't worry about what people think of you. When you come to the end of this life, you're not going to stand before people, you're going to stand before God!

HAPPY ST PATTY'S DAY

Anna M. Davis, 2022 YCM Chaplain

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

March 23, 2022 – YCM GMM meeting will be held at Eastern Yacht Club.

