

Breton Bay Yacht Club

Scuttlebutt

April 2026

BBYC Board

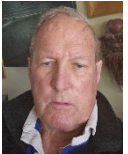
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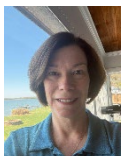
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Breton Bay Yacht Club

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Commodore's Report

Welcome to the first edition of the BBYC Scuttlebutt. For those curious, *scuttlebutt* originally referred to a ship's water cask or drinking fountain, where sailors would gather and exchange information. The intent of the *BBYC Scuttlebutt* is to share club information with members on a quarterly basis. Issues will have updates from board members, announce upcoming gatherings and fleet outings, member highlights, and a classified section if you are selling a boat, boating equipment, or other items related to the water.

Your BBYC Board has been hard at work planning for the season. We met in late March and started refining our plans. Fleet Captain, George Fleury has put together an exciting set of fleeting outings and Thursday raft ups to give us an opportunity to explore our waterways together. More in his section of the newsletter.

BBYC has joined the Leonardtown Business Association. This will allow us to work with local businesses and spread the word BBYC.

I am very excited and honored to serve as the BBYC Commodore. I am passionate about this club and all its members; I look forward to increasing community knowledge of the club and finding ways that we can work with the Breton Bay community to share our love of this incredible waterway that we have the luxury of enjoying.

Bill and I moved to Combs Creek in 2021 and fell in love with this area. We have had a few different boats since docking here and currently have a pontoon *The Sassy Mermaid* which I refer to as “my floating living room”. We are looking forward to a fantastic boating season, can’t wait to see everyone out on the water or at one of our on-land gatherings.



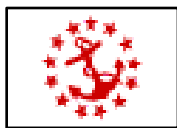
Vice Commodore’s Report

Ahoy, BBYC.

I’m Tim Heely, your Vice Commodore. My wife, Cherie, and I are part of the Combs Creek contingent of BBYC and have been here since I retired from the Navy in 2008.

I’m looking forward to a full season of being on the water and ashore with you all - we have plenty of outings planned that should appeal to all interests. Don’t worry if you can’t make them all, but sharing the fun of Breton Bay, the Potomac and beyond I think will become addictive.

Hope to see you at the **Sock Burning!**



Rear Commodore’s Report

Hello! I am Scott Harsha, the BBYC’s Rear Commodore. My duties include planning and assisting with the club’s land base gatherings. The kickoff to the season is this Saturday, April 18 with our Annual Sock Burning. Mary and Pete Fleury have offered to host the burning at their home on Army Way. If you have not rsvp’d already and will be coming, please send me a message. We have several other Social Gatherings planned, but there is always room for more if you would like to host one. If you would like to host BBYC for a party,

please reach out and I can assist with the details and let you know what the club provides.

Social Gatherings

- April 18 Annual Sock Burning at the home of Mary & Pete Fleury
- September End of Season Pool Party
- October Annual Sock Donning Party, location TBD
- December Annual Christmas Party, location TBD

I have worked in the building materials industry for 30 years. In the evenings and weekends, you can find me enjoying listening, playing, writing music, boating and fishing. I have been married to my lovely wife for 20 years and have two beautiful children. I am just a phone call or email away. If you need any help with the BBYC social gatherings or questions, please feel free to contact me.



Treasurer’s Report

Andrea and I live on a farm near Breton Bay Golf Course and have 3 kids and 2 grand-girls that are often visiting us here in Leonardtown. We are fortunate to have all of my fun-loving siblings and their families in the area (many sharing our dirt road). Andrea is a teacher at Father Andrew White School, and I am a home builder in Anne Arundel County with an apartment in the Annapolis historic district. I love boating and golfing here on Breton Bay and watching sunsets over a pint at Fitzie’s. I don’t like to talk about it much, but my fishing and crabbing exploits on our beautiful Bay are somewhat legendary. I collect dues and keep the books for the Breton Bay Yacht Club and report to the board on financial matters. Annual dues have been sent out, and several members have already sent in their dues. If you have not received your BBYC Annual Dues email, please reach out to me.

Quartermaster's Report



I have undergone a title change on the BBYC Board to better reflect my duties. As Quartermaster, I get to identify and bring different merchandise to the club for purchase. I am always open to ideas of what you would like to see, and will work on bringing it to the membership.

BBYC has a wide selection of merchandise available for purchase, and Jen is open to ideas for additional products. If you have a particular item that you would like embroidered, please reach out to me. I am available to complete your embroidery for you. Below are a couple pictures of items that we have in stock.



Secretary's Report

Recent transplants to Southern MD, my wife Karen and I have lived on Breton Bay since 2024. We bought our first-ever boat in 2025, the *Oss-Kee-Bow-Wow*. I am retired from a long career as a systems engineer, and describe myself as "Engineer by training, geek by choice".

In my role as BBYC Secretary, I record minutes of all board meetings and membership meetings, maintain membership roster, issue membership cards, conduct correspondence, preserve records and documents.

Be on the lookout for an email from me, I will be confirming and updating information originally collected in the BBYC membership application process (name, address, contact info, spouse and other family members, boat details, etc.). Primary

members will receive an email in April and are requested to please respond with updates and any missing info.



Communication's Report

I am pleased to serve as the Communications board member.

My family and I decided to call Leonardtown our permanent home after I retired from the Navy. We enjoy time out on the water as often as the schedule and weather allows. Looking forward to seeing everyone out on our boats soon!

I am working hard at increasing the communications among BBYC members. I am pleased to share that we have a website that is currently under construction, more details as it is ready for primetime. We will also have an url so you will be able to easily identify when receiving messages from the club in your inbox.

We also use Signal, which is a secure platform for real-time updates and communications when we are out on the water. Following are the instructions for setting this up.

Joining the BBYC Signal chat group is a simple way for members to stay connected, informed, and engaged. It provides real-time updates on club events, weather conditions, and last-minute schedule changes. Signal also provides members with an easy space to coordinate outings, share experiences, and build stronger friendships on and off the water. With its privacy-focused design and convenience, Signal helps keep our club community active, responsive, and closely connected.

What is Signal? Signal is a private and secure messaging app for sending texts, voice messages, photos, and making encrypted voice and video calls. To use Signal, download the app from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#), install it on your phone or desktop, and register with your phone number. The app is free and uses end-to-end encryption by default to keep your communications private from third parties. To get the app:

1. Download the Signal app to you phone via the applicable store



Signal Private Messenger

2. Install the app.
3. Create an account:
 - a. Choose your notification settings or select “Not Now” to choose them later (they can be changed any time).
 - b. Create a pin.
 - c. Confirm your pin.
 - d. Enter your first and last name.
4. At this point you should be on the home page with a message that states “No chats yet...”
5. At the bottom of your screen, make sure “Chats” is selected.
6. Android Users: In the bottom right, tap on the pen.
iPhone Users: In the upper right, tap on the pen
7. In the “Search name or number” area, enter my Jon Voigtlander’s phone number: (808) 778-4892
8. Next to the looking glass, tap on his number.
9. Send the message “Join BBYC.”
10. Wait for Jon to respond with a link (it may take me time to get to it – please be patient).
11. When you receive the link, select it and then select “Request to join.”
12. You will then be added to the group and the BBYC chat will appear on your homepage.
13. Start messaging!



Immediate Past Commodore's Report

I’m proud to initiate service as the Immediate Past Commodore (IPC). Being that BBYC is a new organization, there is no IPC upon inception. As a new Commodore is elected, the present Commodore immediately becomes the IPC. The IPC fills several roles, mainly providing astute guidance, lessons learned and recommendations to the new Commodore and other board members when requested. Other roles involve chairing the nominating committee, which nominates members to be future board members. Anyone desiring to fill a board position next year please contact me directly and I’ll answer any questions you may have concerning the process. I’m also working on some ideas to increase membership. Anyone interested in assisting or in providing insight please let me know. A major BBYC goal for 2026 is to grow the membership.



Fleet Captain's Report

As our Fleet Captain, I am responsible for planning the outings for the BBYC fleet. All are welcome to join the outings, if you don’t have a sea worthy vessel there is always room on a fellow member’s boat, or you are welcome to join us at the destination by land. The Thursday Sundowner Raft Ups are a new addition to our gatherings. If you are so inclined hope on your boat and head over to the water off Protestant Point (*see map below*) at 5:30 pm for a casual wind down to the week.



Fleet Outings

All fleet outings take place the 3rd Saturday in the month, May – September.

- May 16: Reluctant Navigator, Herring Creek
- June 20: Pier House Restaurant, Cobb Island (tentative on restaurant opening)
- July 18: Ruddy Duck, St. George Island
- August 15: Boat Bar Crawl. Pier 450, Salt, and Dennis Point Marina
- September 19: Dockside Restaurant & Tiki Bar, Colonial Beach

Thursday Sundowner Raft Ups – every Thursday starting in May at 5:30 pm off Protestant Point in Breton Bay.

CAPTAIN GARY'S FISHING REPORT

SPRING 2026



HAPPY NEW FISHIN' SEASON!

This winter reminded me of my ice fishing days in Northern Arizona, or so it seemed. We have been spoiled these past several years with higher-than-normal temperatures; it was back to reality!

Strangely enough on checking my calendars for the past many years our water temperatures are now close to normal, but the salinity is significantly above. In my opinion, these two factors, water temperature and salinity influence the migration of these Anadromous fish. They are born in freshwater, then migrate to the ocean as juveniles where they grow into adults before migrating back into freshwater to spawn. Historically the stripers and the Osprey follow their favorite meal menhaden, but the numbers of these fish are down, and few have made their appearance. The rockfish should now be arriving to the fresher waters for the spawn at least those egg bearing females that have avoided the gill nets in Virginia and the Potomac River. 55 degrees is a great spawning temperature, and we are very close to that.

Now is the time in the RIVER to be doing catch and release. Trolling tandem bucktails off the planer

boards and umbrellas off the deck rods with 5-inch sassy shads should do the trick. At this time of year, the fish are on the move & food is a second thought. The females want to deposit their eggs, and the boys are right behind. The fish should not be on the bottom as they are in the fall; lighter weights are in order.

If you like white perch, they are already being caught in the nets. You can give it a shot yourself off your docks or venture to some oyster bottom and give it a try. Or call Willy Dean 301 904 8078 for two dollars a pound. For twelve pounds it would be the cost of a dozen bloodworms!

Last season's late blue fishin' was reminiscent of the 1980's with choppers of up to 12 pounds not being unusual at the middle grounds. Snappers were plentiful late May thru August throughout the lower River. Mixed in with the Spanish mackerel when conditions were right, one had more fish than they could use. The blues have been getting progressively larger the past few years and without the large numbers of rockfish competing for the menhaden hopefully this will be a repeat of big blues. Bluefish creel has increased for recreational anglers to five (5) per person/per day

The legalities of our fishing past time continue to change. The **Chesapeake Bay AND its Potomac River tributaries, i.e., Smith Creek, Breton Bay, etc.** - Striped bass season this year is divided into two seasons. 1 January to 1 April and 6 December to 31 December is **CATCH and RELEASE**. The **HARVEST** season 1 May to 31 July and 1 September to 5 December of one striped bass per person per day, 19 to 24 inches. So, if you are a catch and release angler you should be in your glory if you are a catch and filet person well... The **POTOMAC RIVER CATCH and RELEASE** season 1 January to 15 May. **HARVEST** begins 16 May to 6 July and 21 August 31 December. One fish per person per day 19 to 24 inches. Blue Catfish are predominantly North of the 301 Bridge in the less saline waters and the further one travels the better it gets with the Mount Vernon area being the hot spot right now.

If I can assist with more updated info, as the fish do have tails for propulsion, rigging, lures etc., do not hesitate to contact me.

Capt. Gary

In Memoriam

It is with sadden hearts that we share the passing of BBYC member Ann Rose (mother of Commodore Julie-Anne Rose). She was a woman who was always up for a boat ride, and was notorious for picnic basket and bar offerings. Her smile and fun-loving spirit will be missed at our gatherings.

