



### *From the Commodore*

Hello. Is the snow still there? We hope not, except for those of you who like that white stuff.

Carey and I are sitting in the Lake Worth and North Palm Beach, FL area waiting for the wind and seas to relax a bit before crossing over to the Bahamas. In the meantime, we've been spending time with good French Canadian friends that we met on a previous trip to the Bahamas and traveled with to the Eleutheras and Exumas. They also are Loop veterans and have a home here as well as their permanent home on the Ottawa River, close to Montreal. Lovely folks who, by the way, cruised to Colonial Beach with friends in 2010 and spent time with us there. They loved the Beach!

February is the time to start thinking about boating. Plan for the spring, summer, and fall now to enjoy it when it comes. In this newsletter we'll talk a bit about coming events. And, remember, the Bridge is counting on you folks to come up with ideas for impromptu events. Carey and I will be bringing our boat back to the Beach and will berth between Bill Bowman and George and Polly. Count on cocktails on the pier and dinghy races on Monroe Bay!

Finally, as we have had no volunteers to do the Newsletter, Carey has agreed to take it over for this season.

### *Events*

**PPYCA Change of Watch.** Held January 26<sup>th</sup>, stories are that it was a special event. With Ruth Lovelace as the emcee, I'm sure it was a success. Of note, is that Bob Blunt and Phil Rogers are on the PRYCA Bridge, as Rear Commodore and Fleet Captain. Both are WYA members. Congrats to Bob and Phil.

### *Preview of Upcoming Events*

**St. Patrick's Day Party, Saturday, March 16.** Norma Blunt, along with help from Ruth and Jean, is planning our St. Paddy's Day Party. Details will be forthcoming soon, so mark your calendar.

#### 2013 Bridge

Commodore – Phil Bolin  
Vice Commodore – Chris Smith  
Rear Commodore – Carey Bolin  
Secretary – Mary Jane Smith  
Treasurer – George Cajigal  
Immediate Past Commodore – Diane Burton

#### Contact WYA

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**Dennis Point Marina, April 19-21.** The new owner at Dennis Point Marina on the St. Mary's River, Jim, has promised us a great time. We have invited several other yacht clubs to join with us to increase the number of boats in attendance and round out the party. Jim said he'll set up some specials such as a haul out and pressure wash for your boat on Sunday morning, at \$2.00 per foot. Add that to a great restaurant, tiki bar, and music Saturday evening and we'll surely party hearty. If you're interested, let me know by email so that I can pass on a tentative count to the marina and allow for successful planning. Carey and I will back for this event. Wouldn't miss it! If you have any ideas for activities during that weekend, just drop us a note and we'll try our best to make it happen.

**Flag Raising and Cinco de Mayo, Saturday, May 4. Ole!!** We had such a great time last year for Flag Raising we're going to do the same thing, but maybe even better. It'll be held again at Bayside Marina in Colonial Beach. The new restaurant there will be Seaside and that may cause a few changes in the actual schedule, but I know that MJ and Carey will plan a great event for us edge. Beginning at noon with the appropriate flag-raising ceremony and rituals, we'll move along to the real business of the day---celebrating at the water's edge throughout the day, with South of the Border food, music, and, of course, those luscious Mexican libations. What could be better than Kathy Carroll's fantastic Margaritas? And Tom's roasted, stuffed peppers? The cannon will fire, signaling us to precede forward, in accordance with the WYA motto – "Party Like You Mean It!" If you come by sea...actually, by Monroe Bay..., remember that the water is a bit slim in the middle of the Bay in that area. We'll give you the local knowledge to get in safely if you want to bring your boat. More details to follow.

**May 24-27 Memorial Day Trip to Coles Point Plantation.** Bill Bukevicz will plan this event for the club, as he and Donna keep their boat at the marina. Much work is being done there. The swimming pool and many of the piers have been redone. AND A SPECIAL NOTE ... new cabins have been built for rent. That means the entire club can attend ... those wanting to come by boat and those preferring to drive. More details as the time draws near but I know we'll have a fire on the beach and lots of fun. Let's plan on this one. And, if you want to rent a cabin, better reserve it now. This will be a very popular spot! Call 804-472-3955 to get your accommodations lined up.

### ***Upcoming PRYCA Events***

We want to alert you early to PRYCA-affiliated events for June and July as reservations **must** be made early. They are the ever-popular Cobb Island Yacht Club Summer Kick Off June 14-16 and the PRYCA Float-In July 19-21. Those planning to attend must sign up and pay early. Peggy Saylor will let us know about the Cobb Island Summer Kick Off signup and payment schedule well before the event and we'll get the same information out about the Float In. If



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you've never attended these events, you've really been missing out on the best events on the Potomac. We're counting on everybody joining us. Let WYA's presence be known!

### *Trivia*

Here are pictures from our past. Always fun! The table, as set up at last year's Cinco de Mayo event and, at right, a few of the boats that came to the General Membership meeting at Coles Point.



### *Birthdays*

No birthdays in February so we must celebrate Valentine's Day, which is a special day for one of our couples ... see the anniversary list below. Don't forget Valentine's Day guys! It's never a good idea.

### *Anniversaries*

Congratulations to those with anniversaries: Rod Porter and Georgia Derrico on Feb 6 and Bob and Norma Blunt on Feb 14.

### *Boating Safety - It Could Mean Your Life*

In the most recent year with complete data, the US Coast Guard reports that there were 4588 recreational boating accidents in the U.S. and its territories in which 758 lives were lost and 3,081 were injured. Seventy percent of the fatal accident victims drowned, and of these, 84% were reported as not wearing a life jacket. Eight out of every ten boaters who drowned were using boats less than 21 feet in length.

BWI (Boating While Intoxicated) is the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents; it was listed as the leading factor in 16% of the deaths. Operators with a blood alcohol level of 0.10 percent (for most of us, that means just one to three beers) are **10 times as likely to be killed in a boating accident as a sober boater.**



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What about the remaining four deaths out of every five? Additional contributing factors were operator inattention, operator inexperience, excessive speed and other improper operation, improper lookout, poor vision, faulty equipment, inadequate safety systems and devices, limited or inaccurate local knowledge, and ignorance of basic rules of the waterway.

The American Boating Association encourages every boater to be serious about boating safety, starting with the proper kind and amount of boater training. Remember, a boating mishap or fatality often involves innocent people who share in none of the blame, but all of the consequence. As a responsible boater, the life you save may very well be someone else's. Remember, **B E S A F E\* - KNOW YOUR...**

Limits

First aid and emergency procedures

Environment (area and weather)

... BEFORE YOU GO!

And if you want to read more safety articles go to the following link:  
<http://www.americanboating.org/safety.asp>.

### *Boating Safety Courses*

There is an "About Boating Safety" course taught by members of the USCG Auxiliary who have years of experience. The first class is Feb 9, 2013 with more classes on March 16, April 20, June 1 and July 13. If interested email or call Rich Miller about details. [eaglesailor75@cox.net](mailto:eaglesailor75@cox.net) or 703-780-3765. The class costs \$40.00. The classes are up in the Alexandria area. We'll also be looking for classes in our area.

### *Sign Off*

Signing off for another month. Send in articles if you want. We also take classified ads for no charge. Want to tell a sea story ... give it to me and I'll publish. Got a boat to sell? A business to advertise? Need some advice on maintenance and repairs.....or tips to share? Just send 'em in.



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PS ... here are a few pictures of our trip so far!



Sunset at anchor in Georgia. The Lions Bridge in St. Augustine. A boat under sail on Indian River (FL). And, a working shrimp boat in Northern Florida. Wish you all were along for the trip!