



~ ~ ~ *The Mooring Buoy* ~ ~ ~

Volume 4, No 1, January 2014

From the Commodore.

To the WYA family, Norma and I want to wish you all a Happy Holiday season and a wonderful new boating year. Our hope is to see you all at our planning meeting coming up. The bridge and I want this to be a great boating year for us all, and a safe and fun time.

From the Vice Commodore.

With the first newsletter of 2014, I hope everyone had a great Christmas and I wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year. It was great seeing some of you at Bob's Christmas party and we had a great dinner in Old Town Alexandria afterwards. I would like to say that I am looking forward to working with Bob and the bridge for the coming year. We plan to have fun and I would like all of you to participate with us having fun for the 2014 boating season. If you have any comments, suggestions or ideas for the 2014 season, you can contact me. I am looking forward to seeing some of you at the PRYCA COW later this month. Keep your fingers crossed that fuel prices will come down this year so that we have an extra buck to buy some fine spirits!!!! Can't wait for spring!!!! I am still dreaming of that great next invention where we can power our boats from the water outside our boats. (I am not crazy but eccentric). Bill Bukevicz

2013 Bridge

Commodore – Bob Blunt
Vice Commodore – Bill Bukevicz
Rear Commodore – Shannon Ritter
Secretary – Norma Blunt
Treasurer – George Cajigal
Immediate Past Commodore – Phil Bolin

Contact WYA

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Email all members:
wyamembers@wya-va.com

PRYCA Bridge.

For the Potomac River Yacht Club Association, the new slate of officers is set and two of the officers are from WYA; the new Vice Commodore Bob Blunt and the new Rear Commodore Phil Rogers. See below for details if you want to attend a great January event.

Past Events

Old Town Alexandria and Washington DC Parade of Lights.

The weather stopped the two boats from WYA that planned on going to the parade. I'm happy that we did not go as the travel back home on Sunday after the parade would have been in icy rain and very cold weather. Yep, I'm a pleasure boater and



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that would not have been pleasure boating. Some pictures of the boats that joined the parade and the after party are shown below. The weather on Saturday, the day of the parade, was decent so those nearby had a good event. .



**Colonial Beach Lighted Boat Parade.**

Diane and Peggy put Emerald Sea in the Colonial Beach parade and won first place. See the pictures below. They have earned a spot in the WYA Hall of Fame for their efforts. Check out the award at our web site, [www.wya-va.com](http://www.wya-va.com) on the Hall of Fame Page.





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Upcoming Events

WYA PLAN FEST. We'll have the PLAN FEST in January. More information about the exact date will be provided soon, with full details.

PRYCA Change of Watch, Jan 17-18, 2014.

This will be a real party. Details below.

**Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association
2014 Change of Watch - Dinner Dance
Saturday, 18 January 2014**

at

**Crowne Plaza
Old Town Alexandria
901 N Fairfax Street
703-683-6000**

Hospitality Suite Open: 1700 – 1745 (and again after the dance)



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**Photographer: 1700 - 1845**

**Cocktails: 1800**

**Dinner: 1900**

**Change of Watch Ceremony: 2000**

**Dancing to follow with 25<sup>th</sup> Hour Band**

**Formal/Winter Uniform/Black Tie Optional or Business Suit**

**\$75.00 per person**

**Menu**

**Salad, Rolls & Butter**

**Top Sirloin Steak complimented w/Potatoes or Rice & Vegetables**

**Seared Salmon complimented w/Potatoes or Rice & Vegetables**

**Vegetarian Portobello Mushroom Tower complimented w/ layers of Portobello Mushroom, Grilled Eggplant and Squash on a Bed of Roasted Red Pepper Coulis**

**Dessert**

**Freshly Brewed Coffee and Tea**

**Cash Bar**

**Rooms**

**A block of rooms for Friday and Saturday, January 17 and 18<sup>th</sup> have been reserved at the per room rate of \$99.00. Reservations can be made by calling 703-683-6000**

**The registration information for PRYCA is on the next page.**

**Please fill it out and send it in.**



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**PRYCA CHANGE OF WATCH DINNER RESERVATION
JANUARY 18, 2014**

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Please Reserve Saturday Evening for the Following Attendees:

Name: _____ **Title:** _____
Yacht Club: _____

Meal Selection: Top Sirloin Steak# _____ **Seared Salmon#** _____
Portobello Mushroom Tower# _____

Guest Name(s): _____
Titles: _____

Meal Selection: Top Sirloin Steak# _____ **Seared Salmon#** _____
Portobello Mushroom Tower# _____

Guest Name(s): _____
Titles: _____

Meal Selection: Top Sirloin Steak# _____ **Seared Salmon#** _____
Portobello Mushroom Tower# _____

Guest Name(s): _____
Titles: _____

Meal Selection: Top Sirloin Steak# _____ **Seared Salmon#** _____
Portobello Mushroom Tower# _____

***Should each member desire to invite more guests than space provided above, please add their names and meal selection on this reservation page**

Email Address: _____ **Yacht Club:** _____
Amount Enclosed: _____

Please mail Registration and Checks to: PRYCA, Steve Preda, 112 Stafford Stone Drive, Stafford, VA 22554



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A Note on the Cost of Anchors

HERE IS ONE BOATERS OPINION ON ANCHORS ... FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

You've spent a great deal of money on your boat, and when you anchor you are putting your boat and your own safety at stake as well. Shouldn't you buy the best performing anchor you can afford to protect your investment and potentially your life? If you have unlimited budget, you can of course go one step further and acquire the best performing and best looking anchor for your boat. But if you are on a tight budget and need to compromise, you might forego the beauty options such as shiny stainless versus galvanized steel. Most anchor manufacturers offer multiple options that can satisfy your budget while providing a quality product you will be able to rely upon for years. Keep in mind that stainless steel, unless of very high quality, is not always corrosion-proof. In prolonged exposure to harsh marine conditions, stainless steel can succumb to rust which may weaken the structure.

Not all anchors that look alike are created equal

In several of the online discussions boards we have followed over the years, we have seen people balk at the price of a given anchor, opting instead for a cheaper knock-off. Quality does count and, when you think about the total value of your life, your boat, and all your gear on board, a good quality anchor is certainly worth the money you pay for it.

As the skipper of the boat, your family and your crew depend on you to make the best decisions for their comfort and safety. If you are out cruising or plan to, you'll be spending more time at anchor than sailing. Your per failure cost for a cheap anchor will far outweigh your per use cost for a great anchor. And, of course, peace of mind is priceless.

We mentioned earlier that boaters should beware of cheap imitations. We once snagged something huge (or were the victims of an anchor-eating monster of the deep) and had to cut away our trusty Fortress anchor. We replaced it with another fluke-type anchor that came with our boat. It was somewhat larger and heavier than our original Fortress. It had no markings on it so we could not identify the manufacturer or model.

For some reason, we kept having difficulty setting the anchor when we never had problems before. We spent a whole season wondering what had happened to our anchoring skills, until we bought a new Fortress. What a difference!

The same thing applies to other anchor types as well. We had a CQR copy that never set in any type of bottom. There are also countless Bruce, Spade, and Buegel knock-offs that we have heard simply do not hold. Then there are reports of broken shafts and flukes. An anchor that is damaged will never set properly again. This applies to all anchors, whether branded or knock off. But small defects or imbalances which are more likely on amateur builds can cause an anchor to roll out



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to the “weak side”. Variations in shank angles can change the behavior of an anchor while setting or weighing. Consistent quality does make a very big difference.

So beware of imitations. You get what you pay for.

Birthdays

We want to say Happy Birthday to Donna Bukevicz 1/23, Nancy Vineyard 1/27, and Bob Blunt and Carol Abbott on 1/30.

Anniversaries

There are no WYA anniversaries in January.



BOATUS Boater's Toolbox

It's both WYA's and BOATUS' goal to help boaters practice safer, habits, while being good stewards of the waterways we all enjoy. So before you set out for another day on the water, we invite you to check out the tools BOATUS has put together to get you started on safer and cleaner habits out on the water. The underlined sections/words are links to the web.

[Boating Safety Study Guide](#) - NEW LOOK!

Whether you are new to boating or just want to brush up on your knowledge, our Online Boating Safety Study Guide can help you learn. Each of the 7 sections has a short quiz to help you learn which topics you need to brush up on. For boaters in states that don't approve online courses our study guide can provide a perfect study companion to the state materials in preparation for the exam.

[VHF/DSC Radio Tutorial](#)

This interactive video tutorial will help you become more comfortable with your VHF Radio. Not only will you learn how to use a VHF but you'll also find out how the Rescue 21 system works and how to use your Digital Selective Calling (DSC) VHF in an emergency.

[GO GREEN! 21 Steps to Cleaner Boating](#)

These simple and practical tips can help boaters to be better stewards of the environment and keep our waterways cleaner for future generations to enjoy.

[Online Boating Safety Course](#)

Our Online Boating Safety Course is NASBLA-approved in over half of the states in the US. Offering both a general boating course and a personal watercraft course, there's sure to be something for everyone.

[Courseline Online](#)

You can use our Courseline Online to find a boating safety course near you. We list



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courses from the US Power Squadron, US Coast Guard Auxiliary and countless other educators all over the country.

[FREE Brochures](#)

Get your boating safety education to go. Order our popular Boat Handling Decal (now available in Spanish) or choose from a selection of brochures on topics ranging from life jackets to clean and safe fueling. And they're all free!

*Signing Off.* Ok, we'll sign off for the month. Take care and see you on the water.