Greetings Seaford Yacht Club,

WOW! What a change the whole country has gone through over the past two months. Now all this COVID-19 coronavirus self isolation and social distancing is starting to mess with BOATING SEASON. We can’t let that happen to Seaford Yacht Club! As I am writing this article the government’s medical recommendations are in a state of flux but seem to be changing for the better. We have already postponed the Shakedown Cruise so you boaters will have to shake it down on your own while maintaining a six foot perimeter around your boat!

Unfortunately, we also had to postpone the Flag Raising Ceremony (set for May 3rd) and it is tentatively rescheduled for Sunday, June 14th. We don’t know what the status of this pandemic will be by that time so stay tuned to our Facebook page and website for updates.

I’m writing this article to you from Knapps Narrows Marina on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. We’re here helping a friend bring their boat down to Seaford. Sea trials tomorrow then a two day trip down the Bay. And yes, they will be applying to join SYC soon!

That brings me to my next point of emphasis: WE NEED MORE NEW MEMBERS. Don’t be bashful in talking up the Club with your boating friends. If they have a boat and need a slip, then that’s even better!

We’re planning to step up our marketing efforts for the Club. This activity cannot be done just by me or just by the Board. Everyone must step up and spread the word that we are open for new memberships and we have slips available with the best rates around. Some ideas that have come up are to emphasize all of the great programs that we offer:

- Junior sailing and boater education
- Adult boating/sailing lessons and sailing races
- Sea Dog boating education speakers series
- Monthly dinner meetings and Happy Hours
- Club cruises, special parties, game nights, etc.

Feel free to share this information on Facebook and other social media outlets. If anyone has contacts for any local media advertising, that would be a great outlet too.

Another virtual Happy Hour is scheduled for May 8th at 6:00 pm. Check the Facebook SYC members group for updates (https://www.facebook.com/groups/139382387447353/). We now have 82 SYC members that have joined our private Facebook group. Make sure you too have joined this group for up-to-date information about Club happenings.

I spoke with Tim Conner today and am happy to report that he is continuing to improve and getting stronger. He is eating better, doesn’t cough when talking, and seems to be in good spirits. He plans on attending the next dinner meeting...whenever that may be!!!

Since we have missed so many of our regular events over the past months, I would love to have a blowout of an open house type celebration when we finally complete our building renovation. I feel like it’s a “Field of Dreams” kind of moment where if we build it, they will come. Perhaps even some local media coverage to help spread the word. I have been posting pictures of the construction progress to help keep everyone updated but until you see our new building yourself you won’t be fully aware of how impressive it truly is.

The Shakedown Cruise originally scheduled for April 25-26 was canceled. We may be able to reschedule it later in the year. Hopefully, all will have settled down in time for the Memorial Day Cruise to Deltaville on May 22. Thanks to Cruise Captains Jimmy and Mike.

The Staggered Start Race has been rescheduled from May 2nd to June 13th. Don’t forget about the Pot Luck that night at 5 PM for all club members! Don’t forget to pick up your new directory sometime when you’re at the club.

- Commodore Pete
MAY VIRTUAL HAPPY HOURS

If you haven’t joined us for a SYC Virtual Happy Hour, you are missing out on some fun! It has been great to see members and be able to catch up with what is going on during self-isolation. We even get to have non-resident members attend an event “in person”. It has been wonderful to have a happy hour with the Weakleys Zooming in from Punta Gorda, FL! It is very easy to join the party. All you have to do is click on the Zoom meeting internet link that is sent from the club to your email address. It is also posted in the Events page on the SYC private Facebook group. Hope to see your face on the next one!

May 8th, 6PM:
SYCocktails!

May 29th, 6PM:
SYCheers & Beers!

Check the private Facebook group event page or the upcoming email about the event for the link for the Zoom Happy Hours.

SYC FLAG RAISING CEREMONY & BRUNCH

SUNDAY, JUNE 14TH
Flag Raising Ceremony & Brunch
11 AM

We are planning to have the ceremony on Flag Day, June 14th.

These plans are tentative. As we get closer to June more information will be sent out to SYC! Donna Gilroy will be asking the Calling Committee to start calling the membership on May 26th and for the final head count to be turned in by June 1st.

Looking forward to getting together ASAP!
- Cecil Adcox, Past Commodore
JUNE DINNER MEETING

Save the date for the SYC June Dinner Meeting!

Tuesday, June 16th, 2020

Stay tuned for information regarding our June meeting.

All events in June are tentative based on government recommendations. The June meeting is still on the calendar. Stay tuned for emails and calls from the calling committee.

Information will also be posted first on our private Facebook page for up-to-date information.

SYC CRUISING

We are still scheduled for Memorial Day in Deltaville. I have spoken with the marina and they are clearly open, but I struggle to see how we can hold an event if we are still restricted to meetings with 10 or less. I’m open for suggestions but I don’t think that it makes sense to hold a meeting if you can’t gather and the town is closed. I suspect there will be a decision made early in May. Please check the private Facebook page for SYC members and your email for an update when the decision is made.

We are set for July 4th Cruise and the Commodore’s Cruise. We need club members to sign up for these cruises.

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR CRUISES ASAP!

Click HERE to sign up for SYC 2020 cruises

To sign up for a cruise you must be a logged-in on the website as a member of Seaford Yacht Club. Make sure you include your boat name, length, beam, draft and power requirements.

Also, let the Fleet Captains know if your plans for arrival or departure differ from the planned cruise itinerary.

- Fleet Captain Power, Jimmy Jones, ibjones@cox.net or (757) 813-1479 -
- Fleet Captain Sail, Mike Webb, sailboatmike@hotmail.com or (757) 810-8318 -
- To send to both Fleet Captains at the same time click HERE. -

Finally, I spoke with the Coast Guard Auxiliary a few weeks ago. I requested the possibility of a day where they may be able to come to the club and possibly another dock (York River Yacht Haven or Sawgrass) and perform the courtesy checks. They are shut down right now and unable to do any inspections but are open to doing something after things open back up. If things break and the Auxiliary is allowed to go out again, we could schedule a quick “inspection day” for the fleet. It would be something to help get us back on track.

- Submitted by Jimmy Jones, Fleet Captain Power -

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<tr>
<th>CRUISE</th>
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<td>Shakedown Cruise*</td>
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<td>Memorial Day Cruise*</td>
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<td>Regatta Point Yachting Center (formerly Dozier’s Regatta Point)</td>
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<td>July Fourth Cruise</td>
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<td>Bennett’s Creek Marina</td>
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<td>Labor Day Cruise</td>
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<td>Oyster Farm Marina, Cape Charles</td>
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<td>“Stay Cruise”</td>
<td>Sept 26-27</td>
<td>SYC Docks</td>
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FROM HOUSKEEPING

Now that the building is looking like our new SYC home there are a few things to remember. We have NO cleaning service at this time. That means all restrooms, in my words, you use it, you clean it. I will still maintain toilet paper, soap and hand towels. That is both the main house and bath house.

My next issue is recycling. I have several lists on the refrigerator in the kitchen of what our club recyclers accept. Last week Mike and I were at the docks getting ready to leave when a huge gust of wind blew over the recycling bin kept near the dingy rack. What we saw spill out were many items that are not recyclable. Blue latex gloves, trash in a Wawa bag, a coffee cup, and many other things that are not recyclable. Beer and soda cans and bottles all are acceptable recyclables. It seems some people had been using the recycling bin as a trash bin. Please take trash to dumpster and place only recyclables in the bin marked recycling.

- Submitted by Jeanette Webb, Housekeeping Chairman -

FROM THE RACING COMMITTEE

Upcoming: Staggered Start Race postponed to 6/13

The Staggered Start Race is our first race for this season. It will be postponed from Saturday, May 2nd to June 13th, the day before our tentative Flag Raising. Mike Webb will sponsor the Staggered Start Race.

At 5:00 PM a Potluck dinner on the dock under the canopy will follow the race.

The race schedule and remaining races that need sponsors are posted on the SYC website. Click HERE to access the SYC Race Schedule
Click HERE for the race entry form.

- Submitted by Tom Feldhaus, Racing Committee Chair-

WHAT'S YOUR NAUTICAL IQ?

These definitions are from “The Sailor’s Word Book”, by Admiral W. H. Smyth, 1867.

TRUE-BLUE.  A metaphorical term for an honest and hearty sailor: “true to his uniform, and uniformly true.”

TURNPIKE-SAILORS.  Rascals who go about dressed as sailors pretending that they have been shipwrecked, and soliciting charity.

UNDERWRITERS.  The parties who take upon themselves the risk of insurance, and so called from subscribing their names at the foot of the policy. They are legally presumed to be acquainted with every custom of the trade whereon they enter a policy.

WING-AND-WING.  A ship coming before the wind with studding sails on both sides; also said of fore-and-aft vessels, when they are going with the wind right aft, the foresail boomed out on one side, and the mainsail on the other.

- Submitted by Barry Shrout -
Get to know your Rear Commodore and his lovely wife!
Brad hails from Port Clinton, OH where he grew up on Lake Erie fishing and boating. From 7th grade until he left to join the Navy he and his family lived aboard a 43' houseboat. Later they moved up to a 1955 wood Chris Craft. Brad, to this day, swears he will NEVER own a wood boat. Angee grew up outside of Erie, PA and never boated on Lake Erie. Brad taught her all she knows today about boating, handling lines and making Bloody Marys once underway. They now reside in Hayes on the Severn River.

Brad and Angee married in 2002. In 2004 Brad retired from the Navy after serving 24 years and having the coolest job in the Navy, operating the Navy LCAC Hovercrafts. After retiring he opened up AJ Steel Constructors Inc. specializing in pre-engineered metal building construction. In 2008 he opened up Joint Forces Construction LLC and does government general contracting. Angee coached competitive gymnastics until running an office and doing the bookkeeping for both companies became too demanding.

Between the two they have 5 children and 9 grandchildren. Their 48' Sea Ray "Phaze Three" sits at the pier behind their house. Their passion is the water and boating. When not cruising on the Phaze Three they like to hop around the Bay and rivers in "The Little Boat" a 23 foot Sea Hunt. Don’t be surprised if they show up at your pier one afternoon dragging you out for a boat ride.

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**SYC MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: BRAD & ANGEE BERRY**

**GET INVOLVED**

The DNA of SYC is made up of all of the members that volunteer their talents and time to make the club a success! Check your directory for a list of the committees and members. If you would like to join a committee, reach out to the committee chairs. It is a great way to get to know many members of the club and continue the SYC tradition of volunteers.

**COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH: House & Grounds**

The HOUSE AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE manages and controls the clubhouse and grounds and enforces the rules relative to their use. To help with this task the Committee, from time to time, calls upon the general membership to utilize their talents and labor to assist in special projects that enhance the beauty, neatness, and safety of the Club. The Club belongs to its members and they are responsible for helping make it the best club possible.

The clubhouse is really coming together and I have always been excited about renovations to the building even when I was serving as Commodore. Now it is finally happening. With the whole world turned upside down because of coronavirus it’s been difficult to get the items completed for our spring clean-up. We can’t have too many people gathering to work on these projects. Several members have done an outstanding job getting some of the projects done. Thank you for that.

I bought stain for the decks and will try to have the deck power washed in the next week or so.

Included at the bottom is an updated list with the items that still need to be finished around the clubhouse. If you feel like working on one of the projects, please let me know and I will get whatever material is needed. I know it’s been hard on us, but we can do this and get through it. Check out the next page for a list of items that still need to be completed. Anything listed in **bold** font on the next page needs to be completed.

- Submitted by Jim Blotter, House & Grounds Committee Chair -
Contact Jim Blotter for materials stain, power washer, etc.) whenever someone wants to take care of a particular job and you can organize accordingly. Please contact Jim when you decide which job you are going to perform. He can explain what needs to be done.

** When you complete a job on the above list, please email our Social Media Committee at seafordyachtclub@gmail.com. Let us know what number you completed on the list. An update of items on the list that have been completed and still need to be completed will be posted on our private Facebook group page.

You can comment on the post if you have completed an item. Check for updates before you head to the Club to complete an item on the list.

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** SYC HOUSE & GROUNDS SPRING CLEANUP TO-DO LIST 2020 **

- ✔️ 1. Weedeat around small boat storage area by the barn.
- ✔️ 2. Clean up limbs on north side of barn. (Debris must go to landfill.)
- □ 3. Mulch mitigation areas.
- □ 4. Scrape and grade driveways.
- ✔️ 5. Power wash siding on east side of clubhouse.
- □ 6. Build privacy fence and clean up brush around large propane tank.
- ✔️ 7. Scrap the rotten picnic table (will be labeled).
- □ 8. Inspect and repair or replace any potentially dangerous deck boards on rear, Tiki bar, and bathhouse decks.
- □ 10. Stain rear, Tiki bar, and bathhouse decks and handicapped ramp.
- ✔️ 11. Open (de-winterize) bathhouse.
- ✔️ 12. Replace toilet in women’s bathroom (left stall).
  (Replacement toilet already in the bathroom.)
- ✔️ 14. Trim crepe myrtles (front lawn and east side parking lot flower bed).
- □ 15. Install “thick” wax ring on toilet in the men’s bathroom in the bath house. The stall has been identified.
SYC COOKBOOK
In 1992, the Club published a cookbook, named “Savory Selections of the Bay”. The project was coordinated by Gladys Wagner and a committee of sixteen members. With illustrations by Sue Stallings and Jo Trowbridge, the book contains recipes from many Club members covering everything from snacks for “Happy Hour” to “Cooking for a Crowd”. Copies of the book were sold as a fundraiser for the Club.

We are thinking about publishing another SYC cookbook to include recipes from our talented cooks, bakers, and drink makers. This would be a great fundraiser to help with the funds for the interior décor for our new clubhouse. If there is interest, let us know! Click the below link and answer some survey questions:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YT8HPPN

DENIZEN OF THE DEEP
Denizen of the Deep is making a comeback in The Semaphore! Thank you, Commodore Pete, for approving it! Longtime members will remember this column. It gave clues about a member of the club and members had to guess who they thought was that month’s Denizen of the Deep. Members could submit their guess and correct guesses were entered into a drawing for a free monthly dinner.

We need volunteers! If you would like to be featured in the Denizen of the Deep, please send your clues to SYCSemaphore@gmail.com. Send in a blurb with clues about you or the person you are submitting to be the Denizen of the Deep and an old picture or a picture of you in disguise.

If we can get a submission for the June Semaphore, we can give away a FREE dinner for the June Dinner Meeting!

SYC ON SOCIAL MEDIA
It is important for us to get likes and followers for our social media pages. It helps boost our online platforms. Click on the links below and like or follow SYC!
Don’t forget to tag or check into Seaford Yacht Club in your photos when you are at the club or boating. Please tag the public pages if you feel comfortable so we can promote how much fun we have at the club.
Social media is a great (and FREE) way to market to potential members. Please do not tag the SYC-Admin Facebook page. That page was only created in order to launch the Seaford Yacht Club public page and the private Facebook group for members. The SYC Admin page is not a a working social media page and tags will not show up on the SYC pages.

If you have not joined the Seaford Yacht Club Members - Private Group on Facebook, please click HERE to join.
This is where you will find the latest announcements, updates, and event information.

Click the below links to like/follow our pages.

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SeafordYachtClub/
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/seafordyachtclub/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/SYC_Yorktown
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwL9-mR28t8-DDSeZWl9m7Q/featured
Pinterest: https://www.pinterest.com/seafordyachtclub/
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/seaford-yacht-club
THE EARLY DAYS OF THE CLUBHOUSE

In 1983 Seaford Yacht Club acquired approximately 13 1/2 acres of property in York County, VA which had been the Holloway property. The co-signers of the original note were James (Jake) Smith, Cliff Collier (Carol Collier’s husband), and Jack Kane. The property had been a small family farm for many years. The original farmhouse is thought to have been built circa 1840. There were renters at the property treating it as a hippie compound. They were asked to leave once the property was purchased. The house was not left in the best of shape.

On the property at the time of purchase were the farmhouse, a barn, a chicken house, and a well house. There was also remnants of a small pier on the waterfront. The house was of timber framed construction and covered with wood siding. The wood siding on the house was eventually recovered in aluminum siding. It is believed that some additions had been made to the original house at some point. At the time SYC purchased the house there were five rooms downstairs that included a living room with fireplace, a small kitchen with an adjoining small room with a triple sink, and two rooms to the right of the entrance door. There was also a half bath downstairs underneath the stairway (it later became a small storage closet) and a concrete porch with jalousie windows on the back of the house. A hallway led from the front entrance to the foot of the stairs where there was also an exit to the porch. There were three rooms upstairs. One of the rooms had a fireplace and there was a bathroom with a stall shower. Heat was supplied by an oil-fired hot water system.

Inspection prior to the purchase of the property revealed significant termite damage; however, following a termite treatment annual inspections have shown no evidence of current termite activity.

The barn, also of timber framed construction covered with wood siding, was utilized by SYC primarily for storage. It housed a portable holding tank pump-out facility donated by Jake Smith. There was chicken house on the property and Marguerite Finnerty fed the chickens. The black snakes got into the chicken coop and ate the eggs. The chickens disappeared but the black snakes didn’t! Having no apparent practical use by the Club the chicken coop was razed. Although it was gone it was not forgotten. Over the years chicken manure had apparently been spread over the property and for several years whenever someone dug into the ground a distinct odor of chicken manure arose.

Potable water was provided from a shallow well in the well house with a water line also routed down to the waterfront. On several occasions the system in the well house froze up in the winter. After the Club had owned the property for several years, the Newport News Waterworks ran a water main down Goodwin Neck Road and the Club tied into it. The well is still functional and proposals have been made to use it for an irrigation system.

The original kitchen was quite small with a residential range with a small exhaust hood, a refrigerator, and a sink. A small adjacent room was equipped with a triple sink and John LaRoche build shelves to be added to that area for storing pots and pans. A low doorway (which caused many a bumped head) in this adjacent room opened to the jalousie window porch. The kitchen was totally inadequate for preparing a meal for a large group of people.

Shortly after the purchase of the property, the membership decided to sell part of the property to Chuck and Jo Trowbridge reducing the amount of the mortgage and still retaining plenty of waterfront for expansion of the pier and proposed slips. A new note for the SYC portion of the divided property was signed by Otto Wagner.

Due to the size of the house there was not much room to host a club meetings. Meetings and meals were conducted in the back yard. Large cable spools, acquired by Jake Smith from his cable company client, were used as tables. During the time they had meetings outside there was never a rain out. The dinners were generally pot luck but the small kitchen was used from time-to-time to cook meals.

Throughout the years the clubhouse has grown and changed. As we lead up to the grand re-opening of our new clubhouse, the Semaphore will highlight the history of the changes to the property and making SYC our home away from home. We have come a long way!
If you would like to submit any photos for the next Semaphore, please send them to SYCSemaphore@gmail.com.
Show us how you are getting through this stay at home order and how you are practicing social distancing.
Be safe! Be smart!

**SYC MEMBERS' TRAVELS** (before COVID-19)

- Phil & Sandy Hopkins cruising the Panama Canal in February 2020
- SYC members enjoying Happy Hour on a cruise to the Panama Canal in February 2020...without having to be 6 feet apart from each other. Cheers!
- Barbara & Cecil Adcox on the balcony of the cruise ship on their Panama Canal cruise. The Bryants took the picture from their balcony. Social distancing before it was cool.

**SYC SOCIAL DISTANCING** (after COVID-19)

- COVID-19 won’t cause Pete & Penny Showalter to socially distance from each other.
- Ben Huggin is making sure he is staying hydrated and happy while social distancing on the boat.
- Bill Waller used his imagination to break up the monotony of self-isolation. He was headed to the Bahamas in the Wallers’ deadrise...in the garage.

- Phil & Sandy Hopkins cruising the Panama Canal in February 2020
Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Members Present: Pete Showalter, Jimmy Richardson, Kathy Moore, Donna Nitchie, Tina MacRitchie, Cecil Adcox, Jandy Strickland, Jerry Dooley, Stephen Riley, John Leist, Sandy Shem

Member Guests Present: Randy Strickland – Building Committee, Angee Berry - Finance Committee

Secretary’s Report – The minutes of the February 11, 2020 meeting previously distributed were approved. Jimmy motioned to approve the report; Jerry seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Treasurer’s Report – Jandy provided the monthly treasurer’s report to the BOT. In reviewing the Income and Expense Report, it was noted that several people had not paid their dues. There was discussion about ways to recruit new members, i.e. social media platforms, inviting people to be your guest and a Publicity Committee. Jandy shared information regarding the current phone system. Jandy said there is no requirement for having a phone in the club and we could save money by discontinuing that service. There was further discussion regarding the possibility of getting Wi-Fi and cable TV when the renovation is complete. Jerry motioned to cancel Callgate, the current phone service used at the club; Jimmy seconded. Vote: Unanimous.

Building Committee - Randy presented a building renovation status report. Change orders submitted by Harbin were discussed. Randy said he will soon be making a list of items that will be offered for donation.

Finance Committee - Angee reported she met with Al Cummings and Joan Edmonds. They will meet with Jandy to get accurate numbers for reviewing the budget. They have a concern we will be dipping into our reserve without new member participation. We may need to consider restructuring our current fees. Angee reported she has reached out to several companies regarding our insurance. She will report back with information regarding comparisons and whether our deductibles are negotiable.

New Business

- Donna motioned to welcome Jamie and Leah Smith as new members. Jimmy seconded. Vote: Unanimous

- Jody Kelly works with Junior High School sailing teams at Grafton and York. Their current rental fee is $1575. Jody asked if we would consider reducing that fee. We will move to prorate the rate x the number of boats to be used. Jandy motioned to prorate the rate; Jimmy seconded. Vote Unanimous

- Pete noted the club should be done and ready for rental in June. He will call Sandy Hopkins regarding renters that are currently scheduled.

- Jimmy has been working on the Membership Guide and shared the corrections to be made.

- Donna noted there are several meetings for which helpers are needed.

- Jerry reported that Jim Hughes would like to do a short term slip lease, i.e. ½ year in ½ at home on trailer. The BoT reinforced the existing Slip-holding terms in the Member Guide under Dock Operations Policy section C.5.b which allows for a slip rental for less than the 6-month lease (described in section C.5.a), which states that slip renters must yield the slip should an application to lease it come in.

MEETING ADJOURNED - 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Moore, SYC Secretary
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*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic per Executive Order 55 & Executive Order 53 closure of all public access to recreational and entertainment businesses. Executive order 55 is effective 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, March 30, 2020 until 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, June 10, 2020. This includes public and private social clubs.*

**JACLYN SMITH, SEMAPHORE EDITOR**

Please send your news, photos, reports, or ideas for new/additional content to: SYCSemaphore@gmail.com.

**Deadline for submissions for next month’s issue is May 20, 2020**