Before we charge forward into our new fiscal year at SYC, I want to thank all those who have served in one capacity or another. I especially want to individually thank Winnie Feldhaus for her work as Club Secretary, Mike Brower who has dedicated a lot of time and effort to the club as House and Grounds Chairman during the renovation process, and of course, our Past Commodore Cecil Adcox who led us through a difficult process to eventually get the club construction work underway.

Welcome aboard our new Board of Trustees members: Brad Berry, Rear Commodore, Kathy Moore, Club Secretary, Jerry Dooley, Trustee through 2022, and Steve Riley, Trustee through 2022.

Our new Semaphore editor is Jaclyn Smith. She is taking over for Leslie Newton whose U.S. Air Force duties are sending Ty and her to Japan later this summer. We will miss you two.

We plan on implementing a stronger marketing strategy for the coming year. With so many opportunities for advertising and publicity through social media these days, we should be taking full advantage of platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, etc. Our goal would be to reach out to potential new members in the boating community. We have some room to grow our membership and slip occupancy. It's also a great way to keep our current members well informed about club events. So be sure to check your FaceGram, SnapBook, and Instant Twizzler feeds regularly to stay up to date of what's happening at SYC! We're also working to keep the website up to date with information as well.

While getting the club building construction started was a major undertaking in itself, there will still be plenty more to keep us busy over the next year. With the warmer than usual temperatures in February, the contractor was able to make good progress with the building remodeling/addition. Despite the setback when they determined that the old fireplace had to come down (which meant taking down an entire wall in the kitchen) the House and Grounds workers were able to build a new support for the hood over the range. Once the contractor was able to build a temporary wall we reinstalled the range just in time for the Annual Dinner Meeting. Thanks to John Leist for hosting, to all who were involved in the project, and especially those who cleaned up. It was quite a mess everywhere in the kitchen after the demo and rebuilding. It's starting to look like a clubhouse once again! Thanks for your patience to everyone who hosted dinners, meetings, happy hours, etc. for working around the limitations imposed by the construction.

Tom Butterfoss and Dana Arenius did a wonderful job of hosting the club cruises last year. This season's cruises are being planned by Jimmy Jones (Power) and Mike Webb (Sail). They have an assortment of cruises scheduled for us. We will kickoff the season with a Shakedown Cruise to York River Yacht Haven at Gloucester Point on April 25-26. It's not too far away so you can join us by land or by sea for this one. Spending time together with Club members is a great way to get to know people (not to mention have a lot of fun).

Spring cleanup day is scheduled for April 4th. It takes everyone's participation to make it a short and fun day. Please mark your calendars and be ready to roll by 9 AM. A pizza lunch will be provided.

Thank you for your vote of confidence in electing me to progress through the Commodore ranks. I'm hoping we can all work together this coming year as we face whatever challenges await. There is still work to be done and always room for improvement. We have a strong and very competent Board of Trustees and we pledge to do our best to lead Seaford Yacht Club and keep you informed along the way.

Submitted by Commodore Pete Showalter-
**IMPORTANT**

Power & water are **OFF** at SYC clubhouse until further notice!

Power and water have been turned off at SYC as of February 25, 2020.

This means **no heat, no lights, and no toilet use.**

This situation may last 2-3 weeks.

There will need to be numerous cancellations.

The Sea Dog session for this Saturday, February 29th has been cancelled.

*Please make members affected by any activities that are cancelled aware of the changes.*

**DOCK POWER WILL NOT BE AFFECTED.**

If you have any questions contact **Randy Strickland.**
UPCOMING EVENTS

BURN YOUR SOCKS
Hosted by Jim and Linda Blotter
Saturday, March 21st
6:00 PM—?????
DON’T MISS IT!!!
Happy Hour (drinks and snacks) at 6:00 PM
Dinner at 7:30 PM
followed by a bonfire
for S’MORES to cook and SOCKS to burn.

Help celebrate the Vernal Equinox, the coming of Spring,
and the start of boating season!

YOU: Bring socks to burn!

We: Provide beer, wine, soft drinks, snacks, salad, potato casserole, corn on
the cob, bratwursts & fixings, and dessert (S’MORES and more).

$16.00 for adults
$8.00 for children (12 and under)

This is an indoor/outdoor informal SPRING party - please dress for the weather!

Reservations with the phone committee are required (calls are made in March).
To change reservations later, call Donna Gilroy by March 19th at 757-766-1584

Hope to see you there!

MARCH DINNER MEETING
Bill and Joan Edmonds are hosting the 11th Annual Irish St Patrick’s Day dinner
on March 17, 2020.

A traditional Irish dinner consisting of corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, carrots, Irish
soda bread and assorted yummy desserts will be served.

We will again hold beer stein holding contests for the lads and the
lassies.

Shanty Grass Band will again entertain us with their Celtic music. So
wear your green and plan on staying a bit longer to enjoy the music!

Be sure to make your reservations for this lively dinner when the calling committee
member calls or emails.

-Submitted by Joan Edmonds-
The SYC annual dinner meeting was a real success despite a few hurdles along the way. Uncertainties related to the construction effects on our kitchen facility were resolved with the help of our capable members. Walls were built, the meeting room and kitchen were cleaned and decorated, and a delicious meal was provided by our caterer GIDI Gourmet.

Unfortunately, the DJ had to cancel at the last minute due to illness, but again our talented members were able to step up and provide music for the evening.

The decorating and clean up crews made the actual set up and break down of the banquet room a fun group project. Our meeting facility was transformed into a festive party room suitable to usher in the new slate of officers and officially begin the new calendar year for the club. Once again SYC proved that with a little flexibility and ingenuity, we can work together for the benefit of all. Pete Showalter, John Leist, and Brad Berry were presented as the new slate of officers and voted into office by the club.

The remaining Charter Members of SYC that are current members of the club were gifted bricks from the original chimney of the farm house (dating back to the 1830s). The bricks were commemorated with plaques honoring the charter members’ history with SYC. The remaining SYC charter members are Carol Collier, Nancy Kane, and Jake and Ginger Smith.

Special thanks to everyone who assisted which include Ginger and Jake Smith, Cecil and Barbara Adcox, Penny and Pete Showalter, Brad and Angee Berry, Jeannette and Mike Webb, Jaclyn Smith, Liz and Greg Epperson, Art Dister, AJ Booker and Fabienne Morgan. Also thanks goes out to the many others who pitched in to make the dinner a success.

-Submitted by John Leist-

*Click [HERE](#) to see photos from the February 2020 SYC Annual Meeting.*
SYC HAPPY HOUR: February
SYC CHAMPAGNE, CHOCOLATES, & KARAOKE HAPPY HOUR

It was quite an event with over 50 people attending. The array of food was fabulous, the champagne and chocolates yummy and the entertainment by our DJs, Lizz and Greg Epperson, were such fun. We played The Newlywed Game which was hilarious. Some of the SYC members have awesome voices and then there are others that are just downright entertaining!

-Submitted by Joan Edmonds-

Click HERE to see photos from the February 2020 Happy Hour.

SYC MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: PETE & PENNY SHOWALTER

Pete Showalter grew up in and around Richmond. He has been a resident of Seaford for the past 32 years. After college and dental school, he served in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed at Tyndall AFB in Panama City, FL. While living in the Florida panhandle he bought a 25’ MacGregor sailboat and his love of being on the water began. He is an alumnus of the University of Virginia and graduated from MCV/VCU School of Dentistry in Richmond. He opened his dental practice in York County in 1986 and retired in 2017.

Penny grew up on a farm near Natural Bridge, Virginia. Her parents, ages 96 and 95, still live on the family farm and raise beef cattle. She graduated from Virginia Tech (so, yes we do have a mixed marriage!) with a degree in elementary education and moved to Newport News where she taught school for 29 years. Her classroom stories often kept the family entertained at the dinner table. She has transformed rather well from a mountain girl to a flatlander.

Early in their marriage Pete bought Penny a 21’ Key West for Valentine’s Day. She quickly proved that she was a better fisherman than he was. They have since upgraded to ‘A Pretty Penny’, a 42’ Carver aft cabin, and now enjoy SYC cruises around the Chesapeake Bay, the Eastern Shore, and the Albemarle Sound. Boating trips with friends have been a highlight of their summers over the past few years.

Between them they have four children and six grandchildren, ranging in age from 18 to eight weeks old.
SEADOG SERIES

We are halfway through the 2020 Sea Dog season and what a great time we have had so far. Opening the season with Jo Longnecker and Bob Stireter regaling us with tales from the S/V Segue and visiting the Bahamas. Bob and Jo provided an in-depth look at the places, provisions and exciting stories from their many trips. It was the perfect blend of technical discussion (electrical power generation) and real-life advice (don’t over pack clothes and veggies can be hard to find) that makes a talk enticing to all.

Our next talk was presented by Dr. Chris Hein from VIMS. Dr. Hein presented a fascinating explanation of the importance of barrier islands and on the breakneck change that is happening today. Hopefully you didn’t miss his explanation of why sea level change is worse for Virginia then most other places in the World. The arm-graphics concerning the North American continent brought clarity to the audience quickly! Dr. Hein shared real world research coupled with time elapse videos showing amazing change to the various barrier islands that protect our shoreline from the ravages of the sea.

We have one more speaker remaining and you don’t want to miss Bill Geroux as he returns to SYC to tell us about his new history: THE GHOST SHIPS OF ARCHANGEL: The Arctic Voyage That Defied the Nazis. In this thrilling follow-up to The Mathews Men, the veteran journalist tells the extraordinary true story of World War II multinational convoy PQ-17 which sailed across treacherous, ice-filled waters to deliver necessary supplies for the Soviet war effort. The voyage, made in an attempt to keep a tenuous alliance between Washington and Moscow intact, was a nightmare: The Allied ships were pursued relentlessly by German bombers and U-boats, even as they dodged icebergs and got lost amidst the thick Arctic fogbanks surrounding the North Pole. Geroux brings readers into the action recreating the tensions on deck and in situation rooms in the US, Soviet Union, and the UK in this meticulously researched and absorbing wartime epic. Bill presents this tale to us on Leap Day, February 29. I look forward to seeing you at 9:30 for coffee.

-Submitted by Rick Gay-

SYC CRUISING

It’s time to mark your calendar and reserve the dates for our cruising season. Mike and I have come up with what I think will be a great cruising season for SYC.

We will start off with our Shakedown Cruise on April 25th and 26th. This year we will cruise to York River Yacht Haven. We expect to have the CG Auxiliary there to give inspections and will have a pot luck dinner that night. For those of you that will be land cruising to the YRYH, we have a few volunteers that have agreed to offer a river cruise before the pot luck. On Sunday morning we will have a brunch followed by a dinghy cruise up Sarah Creek.

The last weekend in May will signal the Memorial Day holiday and our annual Memorial Day Cruise to Dozier’s in Deltaville. We have reservations beginning Friday, May 22nd through Monday, May 25th. We will have the traditional pot luck, brunch, dinghy tour, farmer’s market, and concert. We also intend to hold a blindfolded dinghy race. Mike has agreed to award extra points for the best blindfold! More on this when we get a little closer.

Additional cruises are scheduled for the 4th of July Cruise in Portsmouth, followed directly by our Commodore’s Cruise that Sunday July 5th through Wednesday July 8th. We have our traditional Labor Day Cruise to Cape Charles on September 4-7th. Back by popular demand we will close out the season with a Stay Cruise on September 26th & 27th at the SYC docks. More on all of these cruises to come later. Our signup sheet and details will be on the website soon. Be sure to sign up early and often.

-Submitted by Jimmy Jones-
Fleet Captains: Jimmy Jones (Power) & Mike Webb (Sail)

***Please sign up for cruises on the SYC website.***
The Fleet Captains will make the reservations for your boat with the marinas.
Click HERE to sign up for club cruises and to see cruise information.
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. If you don’t see a committee that you can join to highlight your talents, reach out to our leaders at the club with ideas of how your ideas, talents, and volunteer service can help the club.

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH: LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

The committee is a most committed group of people whose gardens are a reflection of their work and dedication. Members support other members as needed and work to assist in times of vacations, etc. and help new members in their work with assistance or suggestions. There are 2 Clean Up days at SYC: Spring (March or April) and Fall (November). SYC Members come together to work and share fellowship on a scheduled Saturday morning. Lunch is provided by the Commodore. Committee members maintain their assigned garden area throughout the year as needed working within their own personal schedules. Focus of work: (1) Check for winter damage (2) Remove dead or damaged areas (3) Prune and trim (4) Weed and remove other unwanted debris from area (5) Make a garden plan, and start a new planting if needed (6) Edge bed (We rent a special edger that has proven to give that wow factor to our gardens) (7) Apply preen to all garden areas (8) Mulch garden and other needed plants (9) Maintain the garden areas throughout the year.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: SPRING CLEANUP DAY: 4/5 (rain date is 4/11)

Everyone is welcome as we are a member maintained club on clean up day. Committee members along with other club volunteers will work to spruce up club for the summer. Projects include house and grounds, dock, landscape, and housekeeping. We arrive in morning with our tools (rakes, pruners, wheelbarrows, etc.) to tidy things up. At noon, lunch (pizza) is provided. We get mulch from the dump and spread it. Usually there are some house & grounds members who bring a trailer or two to get mulch and haul away brush.

-Submitted by Justina MacRitchie-

WHAT'S YOUR NAUTICAL IQ?

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

SEMAPHORE. An expeditious mode of communication by signal; it consists of upright posts and movable arms, now chiefly used for railway signals, electric telegraphs being found better for great distances.

SIRIUS. The principal star, alpha, of the constellation Canis Major, and the brightest in the heavens; the dog star.

SKEDDADLE. To stray willfully from a watering or working party. An archaism retained by the Americans.

 SPLICE THE MAIN BRACE. In nautical parlance, to serve out an extra allowance of grog in bad weather or after severe exertion.

-Submitted by: Barry Shrout-
SYC HISTORY HIGHLIGHT

“The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future.”
~Theodore Roosevelt

I grew up in this club and remember the days when traditions were started, the property was first purchased, and the membership grew to what the club is today. At each meeting, cruise, or get together for the club I still learn something new about SYC history. As the new editor of the Semaphore, I wanted to add a section of the newsletter to shed some light on SYC history.

HISTORY OF THE SYC SEMAPHORE

What is a semaphore?

sem-a-phone | \ `se-ma-, för \ 

semaphore noun
1: an apparatus for visual signaling (as by the position of one or more movable arms)
2: a system of visual signaling by two flags held one in each hand

semaphore verb
transitive verb
: to convey (information) by or as if by semaphore

intransitive verb
: to send signals by or as if by semaphore

Why was the SYC Semaphore created and when did it get started? The newsletter was not always called the SYC Semaphore. There has been some type of newsletter in place of for the club to get news out to members since the inception of the club. The Semaphore did not arrive until June 1990.

How did the SYC Semaphore get its name? A contest was held for SYC members to submit a name for the newsletter publication. Ginger & Jake Smith were the winners. The winner received a prize of boat calling cards produced by Art Dister. (Tidbit: I personally remember my parents getting my sister, Allyson, and me involved in trying to come up with a name. My mom, Ginger, wanted a name with alliteration. We had quite the brainstorming event at the house. She had to win! My dad, Jake, came up with the word Semaphore.) The header of the SYC Semaphore featured SYC spelled out in nautical signal flags. (You will see that feature made a comeback in this issue!)

Past features or columns included in the Semaphore: There were columns that kept people up-to-date on members’ trips, families, accomplishments, etc. Some of the names included Ellie’s Gossip Column, Carol’s Chisme, Charlotte’s Chatter, Three Gulls, What’s Happening at SYC, Brenda’s Blurbs. They provided a great way to learn about club members and their lives outside of SYC.

A Classifieds section was included for any member who was looking to sell, trade, or give away a boating item or boat.

SYC Member Spotlights. This column featured a SYC member(s) and served as a way for club members to get to know each other. Even if you had known the person spotlighted for years, you learned something new. (This column will definitely be a part of this year’s Semaphore.) Please email SYCSemaphore@gmail.com if you are interested in being highlighted in the SYC Member Spotlight.

The Denison of the Deep gave clues about a SYC member and members could submit an answer guessing the person’s name. The winner of the monthly Dennison of the Deep contest received a free monthly dinner.

What would you like to see in the SYC Semaphore?

Do you miss columns that used to be featured in the newsletter? What content would you like to see in the monthly newsletter? Would you like to contribute a monthly column or feature an article? Let me know! We can add them to the SYC Semaphore! Email SYCSemaphore@gmail.com with ideas, comments, suggestions, etc.

-Submitted by Jaclyn Smith (with help from Barry Shrout, SYC Historian)-

SYC HISTORY HIGHLIGHT COLUMN IDEAS

If you would like to submit a feature on the history of the club for the next Semaphore, please send your article or any ideas, memories, and/or photos you would like to highlight in this monthly section of the Semaphore to SYCSemaphore@gmail.com.
Construction update in pictures:

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR SYC
If you would like to help with the social media marketing of the club, please contact Cecil Adcox (Publications chair) or Jaclyn Smith. We need admins for the pages to help monitor the posts, reviews, replies, etc. We also need people to help create content or share pictures from events.

The goal for the social media pages is to have additional forms of communication for club members that offer faster reminders or updates regarding events or announcements. Marketing the club to potential new members is also very important to the future of the club. Social media will allow us to expand our reach for showing potential new members how great it is to be a part of SYC.

Stay tuned for updates!

SYC PICTURES NEEDED FOR SUMMER PARTY
Share your pictures and memories of SYC! This year’s summer party will celebrate the grand re-opening of the SYC clubhouse and we want to take a trip down memory lane!

The party will be chaired by Jaclyn Smith. She is looking to collect as many pictures as possible from all years of the yacht club. Send any pictures you have of club cruises, events, parties, clean up days, racing, or just hanging with members. Please send your picture files to SYCsummerparty@gmail.com. If you do not have digital copies of photos, Jaclyn is happy to scan them for you and return them. These images will be used in a slide show as well as décor. Please submit pictures for use at the party by July 1, 2020.

If you have any memories you would like to share, please send them to SYCsummerparty@gmail.com. They will be used in a scrapbook for members to peruse through at the party and for years to come at SYC.

Let’s reminisce about the past and celebrate the future of SYC!
Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

Member Guests Present: Randy Strickland, Building Committee; Kevin MacRitchie, Dockmaster

Secretary’s Report - The minutes of the January 14, 2020 meeting were distributed for review. Jimmy motioned to approve the report; Pete seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Treasurer’s Report - Jandy provided the February 11, 2020 monthly Treasurer’s Report and the Expanded January 2020 Income and Expense Report for review. Discussion regarding Pot-Luck Dinners and what the appropriate charge might be for beer and wine when there is no income from a dinner. Jandy noted that income is slow coming in for individual dinners, making it hard to determine which events are profitable. In addition to monthly operating expenses, there were expenses for awards for the Annual Meeting, website fees, flowers, flood insurance and parking lot maintenance. John motioned to approve the reports; Jimmy seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Old Business

Public Address System - John said we will continue with the PA system we have for the time being. He will take care of things until which time we decide on a new system.

Members Guide – Pete reported that the current SYC Members Guide needs to be updated. Jimmy Richardson volunteered to review the contents and will make a report at the next BoT meeting.

Building Committee – Randy was present to represent the Building Committee. Discussion regarding the construction budget. Randy noted there will be change orders creating deductions due to (1) the termite contract 2) expenses regarding the fire alarm system (3) additional work to be done on drywall and framing due to the fire place work in the closet and fees of approximately $700-$800 for supplies, to include Formica for counter tops, and the bar Jim Blotter is building for the Barnacle and approximately $800 for new windows that were noted in the original contract as items SYC would salvage and save. Additionally, a fireplace insert is needed. An ice machine and single kegerator will be purchased. Randy noted there is cash reserve for these items.

Dishwasher – Pete reported on the status of the dishwasher. It has been repaired and is working properly.

Annual Meeting – John reported that the annual dinner meeting was well received. His full report will be in the Semaphore.

New Business

VA ABC License
Jandy stated that all new members of the SYC Board of Trustees need to complete a VA ABC Retail License Application and submit it to the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. A DMV driving record must accompany each form. The forms and instructions were distributed at the meeting. Jandy will update the SYC ABC Book with the new members’ names.

Slip Fees
Discussion with Dockmaster Kevin MacRitchie regarding slip fees and dock updates. Kevin gave an overview of the current number of slips that are rented and what is currently available. He said there are some slips available for short term rentals. The final decision was to leave the slip fees the same.

Meeting adjourned – 8:59 p.m.
We are proud of the SYC members who served our country during the Vietnam War at home and abroad.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Bob Alexander, USA
John Bryant, USA
Dave Crossett, USA
Art Dister, USA
Tom Feldhaus, USA
Joe Mitchell, USAF
Toby Ommundsen, USA
Jake Smith, USN
Otto Wagner, USAF
Bill Waller, USN
Mike Webb, USAF

*The above names listed were submitted by club members after the request to let us know if you served so we could honor our members for National Vietnam Veterans Day. If any Vietnam Veterans were missed, we apologize. Thank you for your service.*
##CALENDAR##

###March 2020###

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***Due to power & water outages at the club for construction purposes please confirm scheduled events on the March calendar are still happening before arriving at the club.***

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**JACLYN SMITH, SEMAPHORE EDITOR**

Please send your news, photos, reports, or ideas for new/additional content to:

[SYCSemaphore@gmail.com](mailto:SYCSemaphore@gmail.com).

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