FROM THE HELM........................

With all the great festival events and dinner parties associated with the
It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as your Commodore for
2019. As my term comes to an end, I am looking forward with
excitement to the future of SYC and the very fine slate of Flag Officers
taking over. It is rewarding when you leave a job in the hands of people
you have such confidence in.

Reflecting on the past year, it was very challenging and rewarding. During my term as Commodore, we not only faced the challenges of operating a first-class yacht club but we were able to bring our construction project to fruition. This was no small feat and required the efforts of a very large group of dedicated hard-working members over two years to get us to where we are today. We had hoped to complete construction before the end of 2019, but the many challenges of cost containment, regulatory rules, contract bidding and loan closing pushed us out to the end of the year to start construction. I am pleased to get the construction contract signed and the loan in place and to be where we are, but I hate to leave Pete with the challenge of completing construction. I would like to thank each member who has spent many hours of hard work, involvement and talent working on this project. I would list the involved members, but the list is too long for this article. Due to the support of this very large group of well informed and involved members, the very hard decisions that the BoT had to make to support this project, were made unanimously with the confidence of support from the membership. Unfortunately, there was a small vocal group that felt they were not afforded adequate input to the BoT decisions. As Commodore, I must reflect on how we could have assured all members were informed. Something the BoT can work on.

When I joined the Seaford Yacht Club in 2006 my rational was to become a member of a group with similar love for boating and the Chesapeake Bay that I have. When I became Commodore, I set as my personal mission was to promote club cruises and encourage as many members to join in the pleasure of yachting with the club, as possible. Meeting the mission was made easier and more successful by having such great leadership and planning from our Fleet Captains, Tom Butterfoss and Dana Arenius. These guys filled our cruise schedules with fun activities and the participating members made our pot-luck dinners a feast. The word soon spread, and the participation increased. My thanks go out to Tom, Dana and all the members that cruised with us this year. Let’s set new records of participation next year with our new fleet captains Tim Dube and Jimmy Jones.
I would like to thank the Flag Officers, BOT Members, Committee Chairs and the Seaford Yacht Club membership for their support.

Cecil Adcox, Commodore

Racing News

The 2020 New Year’s Day Race

The 2020 New Year’s Day Race was canceled due to lack of participation. Mike Webb’s “Greenwing” was the lone boat that wanted to race and had a good sail anyway. Kruno Abramusic and I on my boat “Temptation” served as race committee.

Boater Winter Blues

Ty Walinski

How long is winter? Months? Years? Will it ever get warm again? I do not think so. I cannot even remember the last time we were on our boat. Two thousand.....18? 19? If we are lucky enough to get warm weather in May, we are still looking at another 120-130 days. I know there are some diehard individuals that will dress up like they are going snow skiing—Ben—and go boating in the winter, but that is not us. We like it hot! The hotter the better! Therefore, that is why we drag ourselves through the endless, dark, cold, dreary days of winter. If I do check on the boat in the evening, it is usually in the dark. She just sits there, sad and lifeless. She wants me to crank her engines and listen to them rumble and spit watery exhaust, but I cannot; she is winterized. We cannot sit and enjoy cocktails with her, because her head is winterized. We cannot run the heating system and enjoy warm air from the ducts, because the HVAC is winterized. I told her how much I miss her but she ignores me. She is passive aggressive. I told her I have her picture as a screen saver on my phone. She says nothing. If she gets dirty, I cannot wash her. The dock water is shut off. I am in counseling now and it is helping with the hyperventilation and nightmares. Group therapy has also been helpful to connect with other fair weather boaters. The medication I was prescribed works really well with red wine. Therefore, I will continue my daily grind, hunched over dragging my wrists like a moping monkey. Burn your socks will soon be here and then we will be closer, a lot closer. I will burn a crusty pair of socks that I no longer want, but I will not burn ALL my socks. Because winter will return. Too soon.
Calling all SYC members that served in the Vietnam War! In honor of National Vietnam War Veterans Day we would like to highlight your service and welcome you all home in our March issue of the SYC Semaphore.

Please let us know if you served our country during the Vietnam War (include your name and military branch). If you would like to submit any pictures, feel free to send those too! Submit information to the NEW Semaphore Editor, Jaclyn Smith, at: SYCSemaphore@gmail.com.

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**SYC CHAMPAGNE, CHOCOLATES & KARAOKE HAPPY HOUR**

**FEBRUARY 14, 2019 AT 6:00 PM**

Karaoke provided by Lizz & Greg Epperson
Champagne and Chocolates provided by Joan & Bill Edmonds
Additional Fun provided by Angee & Brad Berry
Bring a food to share and your drink of choice
SYC Monthly Dinner Meeting

The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry, according to the 18th century Scottish poet Robert Burns. Such was the case with the January SYC Dinner Meeting. About a week or so before the dinner, the state of the fireplace and the construction made the kitchen unusable. So how do you host a dinner for 100 or so people without a kitchen? Kathy Moore and her crew were on it! They changed their plan and sent out the word of a potluck dinner. Kathy and her team got the room set up and boy, did SYC members provide! As you can see from these pictures, no one needed to go away hungry!!

Several members commented on how pleasantly surprised they were with such a great turnout. Just goes to show – while we enjoy the great dinners hosts have provided, SYC members like to gather together no matter what the menu!

The decorating committee had a mock-up of their plans for the new space. They have great ideas for a space that will work for many events from dinner meetings to Junior Sailing and will also serve as an attractive rental for private functions!

We greeted our new members, and there were several guests in attendance. What a great impression they must have of our club – both the fun we have together as well as the teamwork we do to put on such a great dinner meeting.

NOTE: I sent around the sign-up sheet to help with the dinner meeting dinners for the year. New hosts signed up for the June meeting, leaving only the July dinner still in need of a host. Please consider signing up for this, I’m sure another potluck would be fun. I’ll have the sign-up sheet again at the Annual Meeting in February, or you can email me at dnitchie@gmail.com.

Thanks to Kathy Moore and her helpers, Jeanette and Mike Webb, Penny and Pete Showalter, Jaclyn and Ginger Smith Susan Alexander, and Marti Coffield for their flexibility and to all the members who brought food to share. As always, thanks to our biermeisters Tom Feldhaus and Mark Hinman.

The next dinner will be our Annual Meeting on SATURDAY, February 1. The next monthly dinner meeting will be our March, St. Patrick’s Day feast hosted by Joan & Bill Edmonds. I’m sure they won’t be serving spaghetti!

Donna Nitchie, and ? (looking for a co-chair!!!), SYC Dinner Co-chairs
ANNUAL BURN YOUR SOCKS PARTY

Hosted by Jim and Linda Blotter
Saturday March 21, 6:00 PM until ???
DON’T MISS IT!!!

Help celebrate the Vernal Equinox and the coming of Spring

YOU bring SOCKS to burn.
WE provide: Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks, Snacks, Salad, Potato Casserole, Corn on the Cob, Bratwursts and Fixings and Dessert (S’MORES and more).
$16.00 for adults; $8.00 for children (12 and under)

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.
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!!

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What’s your nautical IQ?


1. SALT, or Old Salt. A weather-beaten sailor. One of the old seamen who not only have known but have felt what war was.

2. SCULL. A short oar of such length that a pair of them, one on each side, are conveniently managed by a single rower sitting in the middle of the boat. Also, a light metal-helmet worn in our early fleet.~To scull. To row a boat with a pair of sculls. Also, to propel a boat by a particular method of managing a single oar over the boat’s stern, and reversing the blade each time. It is in fact the half-stroke of the screw rapidly reversed, and closely resembles the propelling power of the horizontal tail of the whale.

3. SEA CARDS. The old name for charts.

~Barry Shrout

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SYC BoT Meeting Summary
—January 14, 2019—

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.
Members Present: Pete Showalter, John Leist, Carl Early, Winnie Feldhaus, Jandy Strickland, Janet Beihart, Bill Edmonds, Sandy Shem, Tina MacRitchie, Donna Nitchie, Jimmy Richardson

Member Guests Present: Kathy Moore, Randy Strickland

Members Absent: Cecil Adcox

Secretary’s Report:
The minutes of the December 10th meeting previously distributed were approved.
Carl motioned to approve the report, Jimmy seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Treasurer’s Report:
Jandy provided the monthly treasurer’s report to the BOT. She reported that the 2020 tax assessment on the building seemed high so she had consulted with the assessor’s office. They noted that the bathhouse hadn’t been previously reported in the property value, but during the review a mistake was found in the calculations and the real estate assessment was reduced substantially. It was also reported that a CD coming to maturity will be rolled over and Jandy will work with the bank to get the best value for the CD. A detailed treasurer’s report will be posted on the SYC website.
Jimmy motioned to approve the report, Bill seconded. Vote: Unanimous
2020 Budget:
Jandy presented in detail the proposed 2020 budget. The BOT asked questions about several line items in the report. Jandy explained that money is listed for HVAC replacement, dock pedestals, and replacement tent panels and is carried over from year to year if not spent. She also emphasized that her budget estimates have been conservative both in numbers of members as well as in amounts allocated to line items. Jandy noted that when reviewing the books, it was recommended the renovation cost be separated into its own section. The 2019 budget can be viewed on the member’s only portion of the web site. The 2020 budget will soon be available on the SYC website.
Jimmy motioned to approve the 2020 budget, Bill seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Old Business

Building Committee:
Randy presented a building renovation status report. Two change orders were submitted by the contractor. The chimney and fireplace tilted during the renovation work, so all the bricks had to be removed. The water line was found to be leaking and was rerouted outside of the building to the kitchen. Although these two change orders totaled $8,230 (an increase over our contracted price), contingency has been allowed in the SYC budget for unknowns that may occur, especially during the demolition portion of the contract. The change orders were approved by Randy, Mike Brower and Cecil. The BOT agreed that change order costs should be closely monitored. A temporary wall will be required to get the kitchen operational. The kitchen should be available by Feb 1. The Harbin deadline, originally planned for March, may be delayed now due to weather and problems uncovered during the demolition. It could possibly be as late as June.

Randy reported that he will request a change proposal from Harbin for electrical work required for smoke detectors and Hiller Fire Protection that had not been included in the original contract. Bob Beilhart recommended that Harbin install a 1.25” conduit from the kitchen panel to the new panel in the electrical room for future circuits. Randy asked the board to approve the request for a cost proposal for this option. Vote: Unanimous

Finance Committee:
SYC has closed on the loan with Towne Bank. Cecil signed the loan as the 2019 Commodore. John Leist reported that Cecil will remain on the finance committee.

Long Range Planning Committee:
The Long Range Planning Committee will be meeting on Feb. 25. Finance committee members are encouraged to attend.

SYC Awards:
John presented all of the nominations the BOT had received for the Keel, Yachting, and Outstanding Member Awards. The board discussed all of the nominations and voted on the final selections. Plaques will be ordered for the Keel Club honorees, but the Keel Club plaque will be modified to a single plaque in the clubhouse in the style of the Outstanding Member and Yachting Awards.
PA system:
John Leist reported on status of the PA system. The club will continue with the temporary setup. John will work on setting up a free standing speaker system to avoid feedback.

New Business

2020 Standing Committees:
Pete presented the list of the eight Standing Committee chairs to the BOT. (Boating Education – Paul Hutter, Dock—Kevin MacRitchie, Entertainment—Michelle Calloway, Finance—Angee Berry, Long Range Planning—John Leist, Membership—Barbara Adcox, Race—Tom Feldhaus, and House & Grounds—Jim Blotter/Jody Kelly)
Jimmy recommended that the BOT approve this list, Bill seconded. Vote: Unanimous

2020 Directory:
The preparation of the 2020 Directory is underway. Committee chairs are requested to have all information sent to Winnie by January 31. Providing all goes well, directories will be distributed to members at the March dinner meeting.

Calendar (Key Activities in January/February)

Feb 1 Annual Meeting
Jan23/30, Feb 6 Card/Game Night
Feb 7 Knitting/Crafting Group
Feb 14 Happy Hour
Feb 15 SeaDog Series
Feb 29 SeaDog Series

Adjourned 8:45 pm
Respectfully submitted by Winnie Feldhaus, SYC Secretary
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JACLYN SMITH, SEMAPHORE EDITOR

All your news, photos, reports or ideas for new/additional content should be sent to: SYCSemaphore@gmail.com.
Please send early and often!! Deadline for submissions is February 20, 2020