

Summary of Seaford Yacht Club Programs Benefiting the Local Community

The Seaford Yacht Club is York County's only Yacht Club. The Club enhances the attractiveness of living in York County, and directly provides boaters an inducement to keep their boats docked in the County rather than locating them elsewhere. The Seaford Yacht Club also provides a wide range of civic



and outreach contributions to the Community, especially activities that promote the appreciation and preservation of our waterways. Following is a brief description of the Seaford Yacht Club followed by a listing of outreach activities that benefit York County and the surrounding Community for the years 2011 to 2012.



Description of the Seaford Yacht Club: The Seaford Yacht Club was incorporated on July 27, 1978 in compliance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is a non-profit organization incorporated by the Commonwealth of Virginia as a Limited Liability Corporation. The purpose of the Seaford Yacht Club is to promote and practice yachting, boat sailing, navigation and seamanship as well as providing camaraderie to its members. The Club property of approximately seven acres is located on the banks of Back Creek at 3108 A Goodwin Neck Road, Yorktown (Dandy) Virginia. The Club property includes a clubhouse, outbuildings and a dock with space for 52 slips. The Club currently has 123 (family unit) members or about 240 total members. The Club maintains a website at: <http://www.seafordyachtclub.com/>

Good neighbor activities:

1. **Pump out Station:** The Seaford Yacht Club installed a certified pumpout facility eleven years ago in October 2000. The Club provides this pumpout service to any vessel, not just Club members. This is a state-of-the-art system, convenient to use, incorporating fail-safe operating features. Waste material is held in two separate 1000 gallon concrete holding tanks, which are commercially emptied when full. The facility is shut down and winterized during the cold winter months.



Dockside Pumpout Terminal



Controls and Vacuum System

Reference:

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/EnvironmentalHealth/ONSITE/MARINA/documents/pumpouts.pdf>

2. **Clean marina program:** The Seaford Yacht Club earned the “Clean Marina” designation in 2006 and has kept its certification every year since. It is only one of only three marinas in York County to earn this certification. The two others being Wormley Creek Marina and Riverwalk Landing. The purpose of the Clean Marina” program is to promote the adoption of measures that prevent or reduce pollution from marinas into our waterways.

Reference: <http://www.virginiacleanmarina.com/cleanmarinas.htm>



3. Junior Sailing



The Seaford Yacht Club Junior Sailing Program reached 54 sailors aged 8 to 14 during the past summer. This program is open to the public and is widely advertised in the area. While learning basic boating skills, the students develop confidence in their abilities on the water and learn that

sailing is great fun. The value of team work, basic weather and tide forecasting and the importance of protecting the marine environment are stressed throughout the program.

4. Partners with Chesapeake Experience

For the past five years, Seaford Yacht Club has partnered with Chesapeake Experience, a local environmental education non-profit (501 c-3) organization to provide week-long Chesapeake Bay Kayak Camps in the summer months for kids aged 6-15. The camps focus on learning about the local ecology, kayaking in the creek, crabbing, fishing, data collection, games and lots more hands-on education about the Chesapeake Bay. Chesapeake Experience's Director, Jill Bieri, is a member of the Seaford Yacht Club and also provides two weeks of professional development for local teachers based from our site. Each summer, this program reaches nearly 100 students and 24 teachers from the Seaford Yacht Club location. These summer programs are quite popular, draw participants from all over Hampton Roads and are typically filled to capacity with waiting lists. In 2012, Chesapeake Experience and SYC will provide 6 weeks of camp for students and 2 weeks of teacher training.



5. **Sponsor of the Poquoson High School Sailing Club:** The Seaford Yacht Club was proud to host the Poquoson High School sailing team for their twice weekly practice sessions throughout the fall months at Club facilities. Coached by Pete Walleo, the fourteen PHS team members sailed their way to first place in the Virginia Inland Sailing Association's fall racing series. Teams from across Hampton Roads were represented in the VISA racing league. The first place finish qualified the team to participate in a national regatta on Long Island, New York.

In addition to an outstanding team performance, four of the young sailors were ranked as All Virginia.

Alexander and McKay Hanna were selected as All Virginia skippers; Glenn Hecht and Mary Ligon made All Virginia crew. McKay Hanna and Mary Lignon were recognized as the top women's team. SYC is proud of the team's success and looks forward to a long and successful partnership with the sailors from Poquoson High School.



6. **Sponsor of Grafton High School Oyster Farming Project:** Adrienne Richardson, a science teacher at York County's Grafton High School, leads a marine science class project that teaches her students about the science of cultivating oysters. The class keeps a Taylor Float at the Club and students come bi-weekly to the Club docks to inspect, clean and count the oysters. In Ms. Richardson's own words "*I want my students to become stewards of the bay.*"



Research suggests that people who experience nature first hand are more likely to take care of it. I want to make an impression on my students while they are young so that as they become adults they make decisions that impact the bay in a positive manner. I want my students to learn in a way that is enjoyable. High school age students love to go on field trip as much as the little ones and the beauty of this field trip is that it allows them a chance to get out of the classroom pretty often while at the same time they are learning. There are many curriculum objectives that are gained from this experience such as learning about water quality, learning about biodiversity, and learning how to accurately take and record data."



7. **Saturday Seminar series.** The general public as well as Club members are scheduled to hear talks by local experts on topics of interest to the community. These talks are held at the Seaford Yacht Club, and are advertised throughout the Peninsula and are free to all. Five speaker series are scheduled for Saturday mornings at the Seaford Yacht Club during the winter months. Pictured is speaker for January 14, David Niebuhr, Director of the Waterman's Museum.



8. **Sponsor of the Yorktown Lighted Boat Parade:** Each year the Seaford Yacht Club provides sponsorship for the Yorktown Lighted Boat Parade which is under the auspices of the Celebrate Yorktown Committee. In past years SYC member boats have also participated in the boat parade and several have won or placed in the event. Shown is Club members Jim and Linda's Blotter's boat 'Wind Swept' which took second place honors in 2011



9. **Toys For Tots Program:** At the annual Christmas program, the Seaford Yacht Club generously contributed a large number of Christmas presents to the Marine Corps program. The toys loaded up one and one-half trucks brought by the Marines to the clubhouse

