

From the Helm—March 2021

The past year has been a challenging and yet an extremely rewarding year for Seaford Yacht Club. Our vision of promoting enjoyment through boating for all generations has continued to thrive despite a raging pandemic. Our core values of integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do have been displayed by our remarkable and devoted members. The spirit of volunteerism, community service, education, fellowship, environmental stewardship, and fiscal responsibility has remained strong in the past year.

Overcoming considerable obstacles during COVID-19 we have managed to continue to foster responsible seamanship and the love of boating that we all share. Through boating education and our junior sailing program we have ushered in a new generation that has learned to appreciate and respect the boundless beauty and opportunities our beloved Chesapeake Bay has to offer. Our popular Sea Dog series continues to rekindle interest among even our most seasoned members. The programs will continue to evolve as we learn to harness the virtual realm of information exchange. We managed to get together when possible to have an annual meeting, flag raising, summer meeting, and at least a couple monthly dinner meetings, happy hours, cruises, and a successful stay cruise. Though the schedule became unpredictable we remained flexible and did our best to maintain our camaraderie. We all hope these opportunities will continue and increase in 2021.

In the past year our Club also embarked on a tremendous journey as we embraced the daunting task of planning, funding, building, and furnishing a state of the art addition to our facility for the enjoyment of all of our members. As a lobster leaves the comfort of its old shell in order to grow and prosper, we as a club experienced a few vulnerabilities and growing pains as well. Now that the inconveniences are behind us, this seriously needed upgrade to our facility will bring our Club benefits to be enjoyed for many years to come. We owe a debt of gratitude to every one of you who had the courage and stamina to put forth the Herculean effort required to bring that project to fruition.

In the year ahead we look forward to offering a more robust social calendar as we learn to interact safely and within the confines of our state's guidelines and executive orders. We will offer more sailing and cruising opportunities to strengthen our bonds of fellowship and common interests. We will continue to place a heavy emphasis on ensuring the Club remains vibrant while keeping systems, facilities, processes and events alive in preparation for the ultimate lifting of COVID restrictions. It is paramount that we stay the course together as we patiently await the opportunity to truly be together. When the time is right we will become more proactive in connecting with our community through publicity efforts to raise awareness of the benefits of our Club.

As we grow we will experience the opportunity to touch more lives and share the message of our vital role in preserving the beauty and recreational benefits of our surroundings. I encourage each and every member to remain faithful, find the right fit and serve on any of the many committees that are so vital to our club. Having many hands affords us the benefit of lightening the load while giving of our time, talents, and resources to ensure our Club remains a shining example of our credo "The home of the Friendliest People on the Chesapeake Bay". Many thanks to you all for everything you do.

Respectfully,

John Leist
Commodore, Seaford Yacht Club