



PRYCA Fall Web



Newsletter

Editor: Don Basham

Fall Edition for New Website Initiation

October 2011

CHANGE OF WATCH WELCOME MESSAGE

by The PRYCA COMMODORE – Ruth Lovelace

Well we have made it through the first half of the 2011 boating session and all of us have felt most of the natural elements as well as the economic impacts that have tried to defeat our spirits, but never let it be said that there isn't passion and respect for this hobby we call "boating". It is without a doubt one of the most rewarding and relaxing events that anyone ever attempts. As we have all found there are trials and tribulations in today's world, but it is for the love of the water and the freedom that it brings to all of us that we endure to keep "a float!" Who would have ever thought that we would be excited to find fuel for \$4.00 a gallon!
straight and on budget....Thanks Joey! Please take a moment

1 Commodore's Letter, 2012 Change of Watch, Fleet Capt Report,

Boaters Beware-Congress is After your tax Deduction

2 Boat Safe This Spring – Avoid Hypothermia

PRYCA 2012 Change of Watch By Don Basham

The 2012 Change of Watch is approaching. It will be held on January 21st at the Springfield Hilton, as has been for the past several years. The band will be the same as for this year's Float-In, The 25th Hour, which has been a hit with PRYCA Member Clubs to date. The Host for the Hospitality Suite will be Mount Vernon Yacht Club. The Hospitality Suite will be open at 5:00p on the 21st for initial cocktails until 5:45 and will reopen at 11:00p after the dinner and festivities in the Main Ballroom. Hope to see the usual great turnout for this grand yearly event.

PRYCA Fleet Captain Report Welcome to the PRYCA 2011 Float-In at Coles Point!!!!

This is a new adventure for us all and I am looking forward to a fun filled weekend! The PRYCA Board of Officers and staff at Coles Point have gone to great lengths to make this event the best Float-In Ever!!!

My job, as your Fleet Captain, is to do my best to meet your docking needs and to be available to assist you, answer any questions you may have and ensure that all have a wonderful and safe experience here at **Coles Point!!!!**

Boat Safely and Enjoy!

Thanks, Chevy

FROM THE BOATING SAFETY RESOURCE CENTER –Provided by Randy Blanks - MAL

The Dangers of Carbon Monoxide

What is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas. It is produced when a carbon-based fuel—such as gasoline, propane, charcoal, or oil—burns. Sources on your boat may include engines, gas generators, cooking ranges, and space and water heaters.

(Continued on page 3) (CO Dangers)

2011 Float-In PRYCA Cup Challenge by the Numbers

By now, the 25th Annual Float-In is just a pleasant but vague memory from summer; it seems so long ago! But this is the first newsletter since then, so this is the first opportunity to review the games and the Competition for the Cup.

Seven teams from five individual clubs and two coalitions of smaller clubs participated in the competition: Landmark, Mt. Vernon, National Potomac, Occoquan, Prince William, the Middle Potomac Group, (consisting of Cobb Island, Colonial Beach, Swan Point and Westmoreland,) and the “Q” Coalition, (consisting of Aquia Harbor and Quantico.)

The focus of the Float-In Challenge is boating safety, so the most satisfying news to come from the weekend concerns the Vessel Safety Examination participation. Points are awarded to the club with the highest percentage of vessels having a current VSE sticker. This year, between boats that arrived with a VSE sticker already in place, and the many boats that received their safety examination at the Float-In, 100% of all vessels attending were certified as safe! As far as anyone can remember, it is the first time in Float-In history that *all* of the clubs earned the 5 points for 100% participation.

The Navigation and Seamanship Test was the first challenge event of the day on Saturday, with a male and female from each club taking the test; their scores were combined and averaged to give the club score. The five top-scoring clubs were: 1st Occoquan, 87; 2nd Mt. Vernon, 86; 3rd “Q” Coalition, 86, (tie broken by time ;) 4th Prince William, 82; and 5th the Middle Potomac Group, 81.

Next up was the Scavenger Hunt, and as usual, the clubs demonstrated remarkable teamwork strategies to achieve a goal. Two teams found all 22 items on the list; Occoquan earned 1st place by finding them in 15min 25sec, and the Middle Potomac Group garnered 2nd by doing so in 22min 4sec. 3rd place went to Prince William, whose well-organized team found 20 items, while Mt. Vernon took 4th place with 19 items, and 5th place went to National Potomac, whose team found 18 items.

The skills challenges all took place in the swimming pool, with on-lookers crowded around the sides to cheer for their teams. Timing meant everything in these events, and in some cases, only a few seconds separated the winners from the also-ran’s.

Life Ring Challenge:

1st Occoquan; 2nd Middle Potomac Group; 3rd Mt Vernon; 4th the “Q” Coalition; 5th Prince William.

Life Vest Skills Challenge:

1st National Potomac; 2nd Middle Potomac Group; 3rd Occoquan; 4th Mt Vernon; 5th the “Q” Coalition.

Dinghy Skills Challenge:

1st Mt Vernon; 2nd National Potomac; 3rd Prince William; 4th Middle Potomac Group; 5th Occoquan.

Only one team gets to leave the Float-In with the PRYCA Cup, and this year the bragging rights went to Occoquan Yacht Club, with 24 points. Mt. Vernon Yacht Club earned 2nd place with 21 points, and the Middle Potomac Group was close on their heels, taking 3rd place with 20. National Potomac took 4th with 15 points, with Prince William close behind, taking 5th place with 14. All in all, 68 people from 11 yacht clubs scored BIG in the “good times with good friends” category. Already, teams up and down the river are planning their strategies for next year’s PRYCA Cup Challenge.

(Continued from page 1) (CO Dangers)

Why is it so dangerous?

Carbon monoxide (CO) enters your bloodstream through the lungs, blocking the oxygen your body needs. Prolonged exposure to low concentrations or very quick exposure to high concentrations can kill you.

LIFE JACKET WEAR / WEARING YOUR LIFE JACKET

Boaters enjoy the feel of sun and spray. So it’s tempting to boat without wearing a life jacket – especially on nice days. But modern life jackets are available in a wide variety of shapes, colors, and sizes. Many are thin and flexible. Some are built right into fishing vests or hunter coats. Others are inflatable — as compact as a scarf or fanny pack until they hit water, when they automatically fill with air.

There’s no excuse not to wear a life jacket on the water!

How to Choose the Right Life Jacket Brochure - PDF

Things to Know:

- Certain life jackets are designed to keep your head above water and help you remain in a position which permits proper breathing.
- To meet U.S. Coast Guard requirements, a boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved Type I, II, III, or V life jacket for each person aboard. Boats 16 feet and over must have at least one Type IV throwable device as well.
- All states have regulations regarding life jacket wear by children.
- Adult-sized life jackets will not work for children. Special life jackets are available. To work correctly, a life jacket must be worn, fit snugly, and not allow the child’s chin or ears to slip through.
- Life jackets should be tested for wear and buoyancy at least once each year. Waterlogged, faded, or leaky jackets should be discarded.
- Life jackets must be properly stowed.
- A life jacket — especially a snug-fitting flotation coat or deck-suit style — can help you survive in cold water.
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Summary of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee Meeting Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at Alexandria City Hall

Welcome and Introductions

The Committee was called to order at 7:30 a.m. and Members and guests introduced themselves.

Marina Operations Public Meeting

Following up on the Committee's decision the previous spring to schedule a meeting with slip-holders and RPCA staff to facilitate direct feedback regarding concerns, satisfactions, and recommendations about Marina operations, members discussed the importance of scheduling a meeting as soon as possible so that summer experiences remained fresh in people's minds and slip-holder feedback could be incorporated into planning for the next spring.

Macek said a meeting within six to eight weeks was likely, and the public meeting was subsequently scheduled for the evening of November 3 at City Hall.

Marina Security

RPCA has reported that the Marina's new camera-based security system is up and running and staff are monitoring Marina activities by webcam. Work to install additional cameras is in progress. Public access to the camera views via the Web is expected.

Macek offered to check with RPCA weekly regarding the status of work to complete installation of the Marina camera system.

In response to questions, Bergin said the new Marina cameras should provide pictures of sufficient quality to be useful as evidence in prosecutions related to Marina security violations. As to whether closed circuit television coverage on the docks might constitute a privacy violation, Bergin said that because the Marina cameras target public areas of the dock, people in these areas should have no expectation of privacy, which is the standard that courts have used to date when considering this issue.

RPCA staff volunteered to provide a sample of Marina security camera images for the Committee's information at its October meeting.

The Marina's north end sidewalk repair should be completed during the week. Ongoing electrical projects on the A/B pier are expected to be finished before winter.

Vessel visits expected at the Marina include the *Godspeed* October 4-10 and *The Pride of Baltimore* October 24-26.

Hall advised that staff should provide clear direction to school groups regarding bus parking.

Smedberg and other members emphasized their concern that maintenance of Waterfront area parks is inadequate, especially for a gateway area of the City.

The Committee asked to receive an update on Waterfront maintenance at its October meeting.

Jones Point

Baby Osprey

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Jones Point Park Improvements

Macek said that Browand has reported that work on Jones Point Park is progressing and is expected to be completed by June 2012, and the NPS is now operating the park instead of the City. Progress on Jones Point is reported on the RPCA website and via a Jones Point E-news alert that people can sign up for via the City website.

Minnie V Docking

Work on the dock is proceeding on parallel tracks: the City is working with Potomac River Boat Company and an architect to design the dock as it awaits National Park Service approval for the work. The Minnie V has docked several times at the Marina for special events.

Report from Police Department

Bergin reported several arrests related to thefts of items from cars, all in cases where items had been taken from unlocked residential cars.

Pennington said the police might consider having information available for the Waterfront Plan Work Group related to Marina-related crime statistics, particularly as it might relate to the design of the new pleasure boat marina proposed by the Waterfront Plan. Bergin said that creating a new pleasure boat marina might enhance marina security by removing boats from the City center where tourists congregate. He will consult his chief and others regarding any information that might be available on relevant security issues.

Waterfront Small Area Plan/ Waterfront Plan Work Group (WPWG)

Macek, the Committee's representative on WPWG, provided an overview of WPWG actions to date: four meetings had been held since July, each Waterfront Plan topic area is being reviewed sequentially at the work sessions with the public realm issues thus far covered including flood mitigation, parking and traffic. After concluding public realm issues, WPWG will move on to private realm issues.

About 45 speakers representing organizations and/or themselves addressed WPWG's first community meeting held September 14. The next work session's agenda will review parks and open spaces; the Marina, and how the Plan incorporates art and history.

Waterfront Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Priorities

Members discussed the Committee's proposed five Waterfront projects that were identified in June to recommend for priority funding consideration in the upcoming year's CIP. The five items are: the City Marina Utility Upgrade; the City Marina Seawall Maintenance; Marina Waterway Trash Deterrence; Marina Security Improvements; and Windmill Hill Park Bulkhead Repairs.

It was agreed that the need to upgrade electricity on the A/B piers will be added to the submission package's Marina Utility Upgrade discussion.

Spengler advised that two accounts fund these activities: the Capital Facilities Maintenance Program (CFMP) and the CIP. Out-year projects in the CIP budget include items such as bulkhead repairs. The CFMP over the next 10 years has an annual budget of \$50,000 for renovation projects and ongoing maintenance. If the A/B piers' electrical upgrade fits within that budget, it can be funded.

Spengler advised that it is important that public support be conveyed to Council for the priorities the Waterfront Committee recommends.

Report from Economic Development Subcommittee

Hall reported on the well-attended Waterfront Fun Days at the City Marina, thanking the many people who had made the activities possible and successful, including dockmaster Hixon and his Marina staff, the Alexandria Archaeology staff who served as guides for the well-attended Waterfront walks, and the Torpedo Factory artists and Seaport Foundation for providing hands-on children's activities and low-key music offered behind the Torpedo Factory.

Activities were funded by volunteers and private donors. An additional Waterfront Fun Day may be scheduled in October. The activities program is expected to resume in May 2012

The Subcommittee expects to brief the Committee at its November meeting on the status of Waterfront farmers market planning.

Announcements

Manor announced that in the Paris tradition of holding an annual picnic at a secret location for guests who arrive all dressed in white, several Alexandrians had decided to arrange a September 29 "White Dinner on the Waterfront". People will meet in Market Square at 6:30 p.m. and move to another location for dinner.

Attendees can bring their own food; food from Bittersweet will be available for sale.

Barnekov reported that The Alexandria Seaport Foundation will host Riverfest at the Robinson Terminal South on October 22, with a public demonstration of the Foundation's activities from noon to 3 PM, and music and food from 4 to 7 PM.

Artemel announced he would be sharing with Committee members pictures of a variety of waterfront areas he had visited over the summer.

Macek advised that upcoming Waterfront Plan Work Group (WPWG) work sessions were scheduled for September 21, September 28, and October 12.

Macek advised that the next Waterfront Committee meeting would be October 18 in Room 2000 in City Hall, the Committee's new permanent meeting location.

Public Comments

Mike Young reported that flood mitigation actions implemented 15 years earlier on Prince Street near the Waterfront had successfully reduced nuisance flooding.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned without objection at 9:30 a.m.