

February, 2009

Commodore's Comments

Greetings MCYC Skippers and First Mates. Question number 1, would I ever do it again? "You betcha", (as Mrs. Palin would put it). Number 2, would I do some things different? Maybe. Over all, I've had a great time and look forward to taking on the duties as the Immediate Past Commodore on the Board of Directors. I want to take this opportunity to give thanks to the members of MCYC who have, more than offered their input, but instead jumped in and walked me through the process. Your mentoring has meant a great deal to me and currently I'm at a loss for words. So, the drinks are on me. (ED. NOTE: Clan McCallan, please!)

2010 will offer challenges to the members of MCYC and the Board of Directors. I stated at the beginning of the year that MCYC belongs to its members. We are here to, first and foremost, have fun. Let's continue the good times and create some life long memories. This, my friends will be my challenge to you.

<<Commodore Charley>>

First Lady's Comments

Well, I can't believe the end is here. I have had a wonderful year. I hope many of you also had a good time going to all the cruises and parties. For the first few months a First Lady tries to get the hang of the her responsibilities, but the next few months you are out there representing MCYC and having a ball doing so. You meet lots of other first ladies and get to know how other clubs work. The best part is all the compliments you receive from other first ladies about how wonderful MCYC is. They talk about our club being the best club, the friendliest, and the one that gives the best parties. But mostly, they say our

First Lady's Comments, continued

club members are the friendliest of all other clubs. I was very proud to be first lady this year and was honored to have been given the opportunity to represent MCYC. I have found that I could count on some members of our club to always be there for me when I needed extra help but more than that, those members were there for MCYC. I thank all of those people for helping me and MCYC have a very successful year.

Let's all give Debbie Westfall that same helping hand.

<<First Lady, Linda>>

Social Director's Comments

The Thanksgiving turkey has been turned into soup, trees are sprouting in living rooms all around and people are scrambling to check off those final items from their list. We are smack dab in the middle of the holiday season and activities keep us in a constant whirlwind. But lest you miss out, be sure to check your emails, the club website or the flyer hanging on the fridge – you won't want to miss a single thing. MCYC will be hosting parties galore, all the way to January when we gather on the 16th for the Commodore's Ball. Be sure to let Ron know you'll be there.

Speaking of January – the 2010 calendar has been up for several weeks now and ready for your club event. If you'd like first crack at a specific date, the prime opportunity is now. If you traditionally host an event on a specific date, please jot it on the calendar and we'll know your event is on for another year. Or, if you'd like to grab a particular date for a new event, jot that on the calendar, too.

In the meantime, enjoy each activity, stay warm and we'll see ya' at the river.

<<Susan>>

Editor's Comments

Yes, I'll echo the previous sentiments: it's been quite a year. Learned a few lessons myself, yes. Like the lesson that marine alternators are so expensive because they have to be stoutly built to handle big loads for longer times, and no matter how you dress up and "marinize" an automotive alternator, it is NOT a Marine Alternator. Spendy lesson, that.

I also learned that I CAN have fun while NOT tied to a dock, but anchored as a proper yacht is supposed to be, in a cozy cove (mostly) away from the madding crowds. I'll definitely be doing more cruising like the Sandy Island cruise. The Lower Columbia has so many places to "gunkhole", a cruiser probably couldn't get to all of them in ten years of cruising. So, how about next year? How about some Resolutions? I can do Resolutions:

- I resolve to stop "nannying" about safety stuff I am familiar with, and others might not be. After doing that for a year of the Chatter now, I don't find much enthusiasm for those articles, so instead of writing them, I'll just include a link or info on where they might be read elsewhere.
- I'm also going to back off hammering the political gong for boater issues. I think we're playing a with a stacked deck, and the dealer (the Governor) has all the aces up his sleeve. This cause is not winnable short of a revolution, but it DOES generate a LOT of stomach acid.

Turn the Page, it's time for the Chatter-Grinch to speak.

Editor's Notes, continued

Yes, this is a tough subject, but someone has to face it, so here goes:

It's hard to assess the actual level of threat against the MCYC, but there is a threat to our existence in the current actions of the State Division of Lands, which sets the terms and conditions for underwater leases.

We've known for some time that there were two issues facing MCYC:

1. A large increase in the lease that Fred Bernet has to pay, and will have to pass along to us, and
2. The Land Division's claim that C-dock extends too far into the river, necessitating moving the 4 outermost boathouses.

This is NOT small potatoes. The Land Division has threatened Fred with daily fines, starting very shortly, unless he forces MCYC to comply with the space restrictions that they claim are in effect.

It's all going to lawyers now, Fred & MCYC vs. the State, and there will be a hearing to appeal the order of the Land Division. Lawyers don't come cheap, and we will have to bear that cost directly. It's going to hurt us in the pocketbook, AGAIN, like the Disaster of '04 did.

I've discussed this issue at length with Commodore Charley, and together, we decided that it would be best for me to use my scribbler's talents to lay out the case we are involved in, and use my words to counsel patience.

Here's what's happening (with lesson attached!). The Board is aware of this issue, and has appointed a committee led by Walt Tabrum to be the honchos between all the involved parties. Walt will keep the membership briefed on the course of events.

Editor's Notes, continued

The events, as of Wednesday, December 09, 2009 are that our side has retained counsel, an attorney who has handled these sorts of cases before. The attorney, working with the Bernets, will file the appeal before the deadline set by the Land Division, and when the hearing happens, will be prepared to successfully contest the Land Division's order. That's the extent of the known information up to now.

OK, there WILL be speculation, as is normal in any conflict of this magnitude. There will be plenty of discussions and "what ifs". Reasonable discourse between members is fine, and is to be encouraged, but ALWAYS remember to caution your discussion partners when you stray from known events to reasoned speculation. We all understand how damaging rumors start and spread like wildfire, so let's not go that route.

Here's your Chatterwallah's speculation:

This case should be amicably resolved, with the payment of substantial sums of money. Money is what the Land Division is all about. The urgency of their cash shortage will become even more forceful if the two tax measures on the May ballot get defeated, as polls show they will be. This is really all about funding the State's share of public education. Governor Tax-and-Gouge-me has defined the Division of State Lands as needing to pump up their collections for leases. That happened several years ago, and we are seeing the fruits of that decision now. According to some sources, the average increase in lease fees has been a tripling of the old amount, but there haven't been very many yet.

As any lawyer will tell you, when it's all about money, there is ALWAYS room for negotiation.

Editor's Notes, continued

OK, how about the space restriction issue? My speculation, again:

This one is too foggy to call. Several facts stand out, though:

1. Our lease, as presently defined, covers the water upstream from "A" dock to just a few feet from Ken Dye's moorage. If we had to, we could re-constitute "A" dock and put the four houses the State is telling us to move up there. Of course, all the downstream slips just above us would then be useless, and that would bring us into conflict with Ken Dye. We apparently also have quite a bit of room downstream of the end of "M" Dock, can could extend that dock and put houses on the extension. It's all doable, it would just require huge sums of money to execute.
2. Several of the moorages have some issue or another with this space restriction, so it's possible that a hearings officer might take note that there isn't really any navigation issue for the big barge traffic, cite usual and customary usage, and let us continue to exceed the restriction. There's critical mass for not changing anything.

Speculation's over, and there's nothing to do but wait on the process, so belly up to the bar and let's not let the bastards grind us down, there's a holiday to celebrate!
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**MERRY CHRISTMAS
TO ALL,
AND TO ALL, A GOOD
NIGHT!**