



# Multnomah Channel Yacht Club

## Channel Chatter

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MARCH, 2009

### COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Greetings fellow Skippers and First Mates: Are you looking forward to the spring and the warmer weather Mother Nature brings our way? The 75 degree weather the First Lady and I left behind on the Mississippi coast last week, sure set the tone in an anticipation, of hopefully what's in store for us this year. I think a short trip to anywhere sunny and warm during the grey northwest winter, is a must. Your Commodore insists you give it a try for health and sanity sakes. As long as I am on the health issue, your Commodore will be a one handed Commander for the month of March. A long overdue Carpal Tunnel surgery finally caught up with me. Just putting out this post is an effort, using only my thumb and forefinger to hunt and peck my way along. The smallest things we take for granted in life☺. I'll see you all at the work party and we can hardly wait for the St. Pats weekend. We are going to have a great time this year.

CC Charley

### FIRST LADY'S COMMENTS

We "Sweethearts of February" are now the "Make-over Mistresses of March" as we once again put our collective efforts together to showcase MCYC in our biggest annual event, the St. Pat's Day Bash. Yes, Bash. That's what those Shillelaghs are for – to make sure the work gets done. First is the Work Party, then we'll have some work putting up the decorations, then at the actual event, some more coordinated effort to make it the party to remember. Please remember that we usually have not only the local public stopping by, but members of several other clubs put this event on their annual calendars as well. Appearances do matter, and we gals know how to make the club appear inviting!

### First Lady's Comments, Con't

The Skippers can keep tinkering with that new urinal, they're better suited for that sort of work. For me, I'm looking forward to CC Charley being able to do more for himself as he recovers from his surgery. It seems like everyone is either on the mend from some sort of horrible flu or getting the body remodeled, doesn't it? Well, we have two more weeks to get into tip-top shape for St. Pat's. Thanks for helping me out!

First Lady Linda

### Social Director's Comments

Winter and spring seem to be doing battle with the winner changing almost hourly! Rest assured that spring and the boating season are on their way and will be here in our neck of the North West very soon.

The die-hard boaters and merry-makers at MCYC had a busy February starting with a fabulous Super Bowl party that we have already raved about, followed the very next week-end by our annual Soup & Bread Dinner hosted by Larry and Diane Hill, Gordon and Judy Hill, and Clayton and Betty Gardner. In addition to Diane's delicious Turkey soup and Judy's yummy Taco soup we were treated to Betty's fresh home baked bread. Glad we didn't miss this one! Thanks to all for a great meal and a nice evening.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of February we cruised (some by boat and some by 'land yacht') over to Willamette Yacht Club for their Valentine's Party and Cruise-in. Wow! What a great time they showed us. We played games Saturday afternoon and then stuffed ourselves at their seafood and pasta extravaganza in the evening. No one felt guilty about the calories, though, because their DJ Andy made sure that we danced them all off. Sunday morning after a great breakfast we

### Social Director's Comments, Con't

followed our WYC friends on a cruise around Hayden Island before heading home to MCYC. Our thanks to everyone at WYC for a great weekend, we'll party with you any time!

The next weekend in February (yes, that's right, the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in a row we either had an event, or were invited to one!) we did our annual 'Bus-in' to Longview Yacht Club for their Crab feed. The Longview bunch really outdid them selves this year. They ordered us fantastic weather, decorated their clubhouse especially cute and then fed us a fantastic meal with fresh crab straight from the coast. Our own Chatterwallah George and his lovely wife Blanche took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the crab eating bib contest. Thanks to all our friends at LYC for a really nice afternoon and a great meal.

Believe it or not March is here and with it comes our crazy fun St. Patrick's Day weekend event on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>. We need everyone to pitch in for this, so we can all have as much fun as possible. Talk to Bob Gedde if you have not already signed up to help and see where he still needs assistance. Don't forget to bring a raffle prize! We'll see you there. We'll be the guy with the flashing green tie and the woman with the green wig!

It isn't too early to start thinking about April and the annual Chili Cook-off Cruise. This year's event will be on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> on the WEST dock at Coon Island. We will be hosting with our friends Terry and Ellen Lane. Do you have your recipe yet? How about your theme? Well, get to work!

Stay warm and dry and remember spring is on its way. We'll see you soon! >>Robin and Joel Dejardin<<



## **WE'VE GOT CHANGE!**

Yep, you don't have to look to Washington, DC. We've got your change right here at MCYC. Your CC Charley and your Chatterwallah George are trying to stretch the shekels as far as they go. No, we can't squeeze them 'til they cry "uncle" like Bob S can, but we're trying to hold up our end. Charley and Your Editor have determined that the spendy part of putting out the Chatter is the printing and mailing cost. Right now, Chatterwallah is printing about 35 copies of the Chatter. The Chatter runs to 5 sides some months (like last month). Two sides of the actual Chatter and up to three sides of flyers. In one of Chatterwallah's better "Doh!" moments of the past few years, CC Charley asked me why I sent flyers to members living out of town who aren't likely to be able to attend anyway. DOH! Add to that, sending the Chatter to everyone not on the active list costs \$\$\$ as well.

Consider this a request, then. If you have an email address, **OR CAN OPEN ONE**, how about helping out the MCYC and receiving your Chatter by email? When you get it by email, it will always have the current flyers attached to it.

So, please make the following choices and tell your Editor by return email.

1. Yes, I want to receive the Chatter by US Postal Mail.
2. No, I can receive the Chatter by email, don't need a Postal Copy.
3. Please send me both and email AND a Postal mail copy (and I promise I will use these to recruit new members!)

For you statistics people, Chatterwallah is currently snail-mailing 33 Chatters. Printing them at FedEx-Kinkos on the bulk machine cost \$19.25 and postage was \$13.86 last month, for a total of \$33.11, or just about a buck a Chatter. Chatterwallah might save a couple of bucks printing them on his home equipment, but that doesn't include wear and tear on the plastic equipment, only ink and paper. Your scribe does save a couple hours doing it at Kinkos, though.

The bottom line is that we all have to do our part to save the Club money.

## **MCYC Schedule Mar, Apr, May**

### **MARCH:**

Board Meeting	4 <sup>th</sup>
Work Party	7 <sup>th</sup>
St. Pat's Day Party	13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>
General Meeting	18 <sup>th</sup>

### **APRIL:**

Board Meeting	1 <sup>st</sup>
Chili Cookoff Cruise	10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>
General Meeting	15 <sup>th</sup>

### **MAY:**

### **OPENING DAY (ALL) 2nd**

Board Meeting 1930	6 <sup>th</sup>
General Meeting 1930	20 <sup>th</sup>
Mem. Weekend Cruise to Hadley's Landing	23-25 <sup>th</sup>

### **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME:**

Yep, we go back to Pacific Daylight Time this weekend, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 0200. Set your clocks ahead one hour before you put on your woolies and go shovel Al Gore's Global Warming off your sidewalks and driveway.

Yep, it's supposed to snow everywhere above the valley floor Sat. night into Sunday. Oh well, it's good for the crops.

### **SAFETY CORNER:**

It's as good a time as any to talk about fire aboard your boat. Fire is the worst event you can face aboard, save perhaps a rare high-speed collision that results in instantaneous sinking.

Fire happens a lot more often than rip-out-the-bottom groundings.

You start your fire safety preparation by keeping an orderly boat. Keep your boat in repair. Have zero tolerance for bad electrics. There is no such thing as a SAFE "jury-rig" on anything electric. All bad connections, temporary wire runs, etc are simply fires that haven't ignited yet.

Next, you need firefighting equipment and training to operate it. Most boat owners have dry-chemical extinguishers in their boats, and most have them out in

the open. If yours are stored out of the way, that's OK if you have a prominent label near the locker or cubby where they are kept. The basic rule is to have one in each compartment of your boat, but if you are to have a chance to actually FIGHT a fire, you will need more than a couple of little \$12 abc extinguishers. You will need one or two ten-pounders.

You need to get in the habit of doing two things with those extinguishers every time you are at or on your boat. First is read the gauge, which tells you if there is sufficient propellant pressure to expel the dry chemical from the fire bottle. Then you need to open the mounting clamp, get out the extinguisher, invert it and either shake it vigorously or tap it on your shoe sole. You do this to loosen up the dry chemical that tends to pack into a semi-solid mass in the bottom of the extinguisher. If you have to use the extinguisher, you should also try to remember to shake it just before you use it. The difference in suppressing a fire might well be that last ounce or two of dry chemical in the bottle.

Every person who boards your boat should have knowledge of fire safety and fire plans. It is YOUR responsibility as Skipper to see that they do, and yes, this is an actual LEGAL DUTY you have.

OK, you've planned, you're safe skipper, but a fire has started. Here's your order of business:

First, everyone into life jackets and out on the (non-burning part) of the deck.

One person uses the radio to call out a MayDay, and a cell phone to call 9-1-1 if they can be of help (fireboat or you're tied up ashore).

Someone has to fight the fire, but **SOMEONE ALSO HAS TO WATCH THE FIREFIGHTER**. The firefighter is at the most risk, because he/she is going to go to the seat of the flames, likely into small spaces to get at them. The firefighter can easily get stuck and need help getting out. Firefighters frequently succumb to the phosgene gas produced by burning plastics, which abound on boats. Save the people first, boat last.