

COMMODORE'S NEWSLETTER FALL- 2011

Far, far too quickly, the boating season is coming to a close. I hope that (no matter how short) you had some wonderful times on your boat this season.

Recently, as the winds of Hurricane Maria passed us by, I stood on the south side of the marina, looking out to the bay. The water of the bay was an almost continuous sea of white as the winds churned it with their fury. A few feet away, inside the marina, there was hardly a wave or a ripple on the water. It reminded me that the original members of the club did a tremendous job selecting this spot and building this very secure facility. Newcomers like me are certainly benefiting from their foresight.

At its regular general meeting in September, the executive made a number of decisions with regard to the end of the season and the upcoming Annual General Meeting. These are as follows:

WOODS ISLAND FACILITY

The new floating docks in Woods Island Harbour is the highlight of the season. The executive has received nothing but good comments about this facility. There have been times when so many boats have been tied up, not another one could be accommodated.

In the past, the club has simply moved the old floating docks to the center of the harbour where they were anchored for the winter. This has often resulted in at least some damage to the docks which had to be fixed each spring.

With the new docks, the executive has decided that they will be stored on land. We have received permission to use the land next to the docks. Since this is new and a learning experience for all, the process of dismantling the docks will begin during the last week in September. This will give us plenty of time to do the job if things do not go as planned.

At first, the finger piers will be removed, leaving behind one long dock stretching out from the fixed crib. During the first week in October, work will begin on removing this part of the floating dock as well.

If you would like to help, let Keith Chadderton, or any member of the executive know so that we can inform you when a work party is going out to Woods Island.

REMOVAL OF BOATS FROM MARINA

If you are using club equipment to remove your boat for the winter, please let John Dunne and/or Keith Chadderton know a couple of days before you want it done. It's not always possible for them to do it at short notice.

Each year, there is often confusion about exactly where the hydraulic pads on the boat lift should go for any specific boat. This year, the executive is asking that you make a note of exactly where the pads are on your boat for future reference. Taking a series of pictures will make this task even easier.

WINTERIZING THE MARINA

The executive has decided that Saturday, November 5th, will be the day to move all the floating docks in the marina to their winter spot. As per usual, all boats will have to be out of the water by the first of November so that preparatory work can be done in order to make Saturday's job that much easier.

Moving all the docks will require a lot of hands. If at all possible, please come along to help. Those who can are asked to be at the marina by 9:00 am. Bring along tools such as wrenches and vice grips to help with the job.

After the work has been completed, there will be a soup luncheon in the club house, followed by the Annual General Meeting. This meeting will give members a chance to bring up anything they feel should be discussed.

The meeting will also receive the treasurer's annual report as well as see the election of the executive for the upcoming year. Tony Genge (a past commodore of the club) will head up the committee that will present a slate of officers to the membership. If you are interested in having your name put forward, please let Tony know (634-3445). Of course, people can be nominated directly from the floor as well.

In preparation for the meeting, the executive has a number of matters which it would like the members to consider.

HONOURARY MEMBERSHIP

The executive is recommending that honorary membership be given to Henry Anthony. Henry - who has just recently left the club - was a long time member. During that time he constantly volunteered his services. For 14 years he served on the executive as club treasurer. While the executive can recommend such an honour, our constitution requires that the general membership give their approval at the annual general meeting.

USE OF OUTSIDE HEAVY EQUIPMENT

The executive is recommending that outside heavy equipment not be used on club property for such things as launching and hauling out boats unless permission is first given by the executive. In this age of litigation, there is the issue of liability if something goes wrong. There is also the matter of loss of revenue for the club.

In this case the executive does have the right to make this policy change. However, the executive felt that the general membership should have the opportunity to decide whether or not to accept this recommendation.

STORAGE OF TRAILERS AND CRADLES

During this summer, concern has been raised about the storage of trailers – especially on the northeast part of the marina. The congestion has been so great there has often not been enough space for people to park. At one point the executive moved a number of trailers to clear a larger area for parking. After a relatively short time, that area was once again filled with trailers.

The executive would like the members to consider this problem and offer solutions at the November meeting. Some suggestions could be (1) have a single designated area for trailers and cradles, or (2) remove all trailers and cradles during the boating season, or (3) have a summer storage fee for any trailer or cradle left on site.

The executive does not have a specific recommendation to make, but believes it is a matter that needs a solution.

BILLING FOR BOAT STORAGE

The last item is for information only. For a number of years the club has had two billing dates – one in May for anyone wanting a wet berth for the summer; another in October for boats being stored on land for the whole year. This has created confusion and is a hindrance to the club's cash flow during the summer months when it is most needed.

The executive has decided this is the last year that bills for storage will go out in October. As of May 2012, all club members will get their bill at the same time - whether they wish to launch their boat or keep it on land. This should remove the confusion as well as improve the club's cash flow during the expensive summer months.