

To: All CYC Members

From: Peter Hrabchak, Commodore

Date: 4/10/08

Subject:

## **Sailgram**

Today, the ice started to break up in Sherwin Bay and the sight of liquid water has turned my thoughts (again) to the writing of a sailgram. Since I took office as your Commodore last fall there has been a great deal of activity that I would like to share with you.

This past winter there were some nice get-togethers for some of us who don't get to go South. The Cookbook tasting night at the Vail's was wonderful. Dave Pfaff missed Men's night so much, he organized one at the Blue Heron that was attended by 27 members in spite of a snowstorm that night. The Bucci Family prepared an ice rink on Sawmill Bay in front of the Club and hosted a skating party and cookout that was attended by around 50 persons. The fun goes on and on, even after the Club closes. Now, I am excited about the coming Summer season as there are many fun events planned.

Throughout this sailgram, you will note that I have identified some areas where I ask members to come forward and help. As I have gotten to know you all better, I realized the incredible pool of knowledge, skills and experience the members possess. I have stated as one of my goals as Commodore to try to mobilize these magnificent resources for the good of the whole. I do this knowing that, for some, all it takes is to ask. I'm asking. Also, if you have a particular thing you do well and would like to lead a project, please don't hold back. Come forward and tell me what you like to do. The success of this club is due to your willingness to get involved. This fact has been demonstrated time after time over the long history of CYC.

You may have become aware that we have brought the Board of Directors up to full complement last Fall as called for in the Constitution and Bylaws. We now have 8 Directors and 6 Officers that constitute a very vital and energetic Board full of great ideas. The Board has met monthly throughout the Winter working on a number of important initiatives:

One of our priorities has been to put into place fiscal policies that will keep the Club financially sound, manage expenses, enhance the appearance of our property, and allow for new capital projects. Toward that end, we reviewed Income and expense reports from recent years and established a budgeting process that will help us keep track of expenditures. Each major Committee Chairperson has been allocated an amount to fund their respective departments. The Committee Chairpersons have the authority to approve expenditures within their budgeted amount. Prior authorization of the Chairperson will be required for expenditures within the realm of that Committee's activities. Members are cautioned not to expect reimbursement for money spent on items for the Club without prior approval. Invoices submitted to Chris Johnston must have an approval voucher in order to be reimbursed. Excluded will be expenditures for food and consumables that are normal to our events as those items will be funded from the proceeds of the event.

Procedures for keeping track of members' accounts (Tabs) have been reviewed. A new cash register system has been selected that will keep better track of accounts and it will be installed before we open.

The format for our Financial reports has been reviewed and revised. Thanks to Chris and Laurie.

The Board has decided NOT to raise dues! However, there are some pressing projects that are not currently funded. One of my priorities is to complete repairs to the Crib Dock and Breakwater at the Marina. The dock provides the anchor for the complex of floating docks. It is settling at the end and the cribbing is badly deteriorated. If we are to have a viable marina, repairs to the dock need to be done soon. Estimates range from \$89,000 to 129,000. Paul Carr has offered his services to help engineer the dock project. Mark Kimball has also agreed to help with the permits, work on the planning and help select a contractor. I would like to raise the funds for this project prior to its' start. In considering funding options, the board discussed borrowing, assessment of the members, and other means of raising money. As I (and others) are opposed to putting the Club (that's us) in debt, we formed a committee headed by Vice Commodore Tom Bucci to explore other ways to fund the project. Tom's committee has decided, rather than an assessment, to hold fun(d)-raising activities this year and next. Tom and his team are going all out to put together a fabulous Raffle, with a Grand Prize of a Vacation Trip of your choice. You will be hearing more about this from Tom, but be prepared to sell some raffle tickets. Teams will be forming soon for this effort. Stay tuned!

The Board voted to go with Lynette Bucci's proposal to redecorate the Bar this year and the main room next year. Demolition has already been done. Lynette, Andy Barber and several others are well along in putting in new ceiling, lights, walls, French doors and new oak trim. Along with the redecorating, the area behind the bar is being made more efficient to facilitate having more than one bartender at some functions. Help will be needed when it is warm enough to paint and varnish. Contact Lynette if you can help (639-3795).

For your information, the Board has made changes in the reciprocal benefits offered to visiting members from other Clubs. Effective this year, visiting boats will have the usual first night free. The fee for subsequent nights, up to a maximum of three, is a flat rate of \$25.00 per night regardless of boat length. Visitors who wish to stay longer may do so, but may be asked to move to the Marina in order to make room for new arrivals. I feel this policy is more fair to those visitors who venture down to Crescent expecting a free night, and it makes it easier to compute and keep track of fees.

We are pleased that Cathy Gallagher will be back this year as food service manager. Cathy's expertise and fabulous desserts helped make last season a resounding success. Even though we have staff, the practice of hosting events is the cornerstone of CYC social life and will continue as before. Cathy would like hosts to contact her prior to your event so that she can coordinate planning with you. Laurie Hulbert has hired two part-time bartenders and is interviewing for groundskeeper/housekeeper positions. This year, Laurie plans to add beverage service upstairs during dinners. Cocktails, wine, beer, soda, cordials and International Coffees will be available. We hope this service will alleviate the congestion at the bar when the dinner bell rings and also increase bar sales.

Hope Johnston has just completed a tentative calendar of events for the season. She is one of those unsung heroes of our club who toils all winter to make sure we have a fun time at CYC. The calendar looks great, as usual. Hope had some help from Laurie Hulbert with the layout. There are a few open dates left. If you would like to host an event, call Hope (649-2725), Open dates are May 31, August 2, September 6, 13, 27, and October 4th and 18th. The final Social Calendar will be going out shortly.

Member Joel Block has accepted the position of Environmental Officer. Joel is working on setting up a recycling program for the Club and Marina. We also are working on a program to recycle the blue plastic shrink wrap from the boats this Spring. Boat owners are asked to bundle up their used shrink wrap for collection. Joel will also be looking at ways to help us become more environmentally conscious in our handling of potentially toxic materials that we use. Joel and Charles Sidwa have just purchased a Sabre 34. I'm looking forward to a tour.

Joan White has updated the member Handbook with some computer help from Laurie. Many thanks to them.

Tom Peck, who serves two roles as Membership Chair and Clothing/apparel representative, is working to revise the nametag system to make it member-friendly. Tom also prepared this year's Apparel offering order form which you all will receive upon receipt of your membership dues. Tom has included some nice quality fleece items that work well on the water or ashore. Take a minute to order yours and proudly display the Club logo wherever you go.

Laurie is working on securing High Speed Cable service not only for the Club, but for the residents of Independence Point. If Time-Warner gets enough subscribers, they will consider running cable.

Dave Malone is looking for someone to help update, expand, and maintain our CYC Website. If you have Webmaster skills call Dave at 639-6173.

Since this is, after all a SailGram, a few words are in order about sailing. As you know, I appointed Dan Machold to the position of Fleet Captain. Dan attended a US Sailing Race Management Seminar last year and is an avid competitor and highly knowledgeable sailor. He will be responsible for all the racing activities at the Club. This is an important position as I would like to facilitate more racing at CYC, as well as organized cruising activities for those sailors who aren't racers.

This year's racing events include the Crescent Cup Race on June 14, the Castle Cup Fun Race on July 19, the 'Skip' Summerville Memorial Race Series on September 13, and the Shellback Racing series throughout the season, culminating in the Frostbite Race on October 25. If you are interested in getting started in racing your boat, these are good opportunities to try it on your home waters. Racing sailboats is only half the fun. The after-race social events make all the suffering worth the effort.

"Tigger" and "Promises Promises" will be racing the club circuit again this year. If you are interested in racing and can commit to a race team Dan and I are always looking for dedicated crew. I will train if you can commit to the season. If you would like to crew on transports of a race boat to and from regattas, contact me for dates.

Speaking of Shellbacks, CYC is again partnering with the Antique Boat Museum in Clayton to build two more Shellbacks this Spring. Materials and sails have been ordered. The boats will be built with volunteer labor from CYC and the ABM and then sold, the proceeds from one going to CYC and the other to ABM. Through the grapevine, I understand that the ABM boat has been spoken for already! If you are interested in helping to build, or are interested in purchasing the other boat, contact Bert Bowers (649-2191). Price has yet to be determined.

This year, Bert and I will continue to offer *Adult* Sailing lessons. Please note the change from "Ladies Sailing". This year, we are accepting members of either gender into the program, which runs for 6 Wednesday evenings starting on July 2. The program will include instruction in the Shellback dinghy. Contact me or Bert if interested.

We plan to continue to use e-mail to communicate with the membership. Please let Hope Johnston know if you don't use e-mail so that she can arrange to mail correspondence to you. If you do have e-mail, please keep your addresses current with Chris and Hope Johnston ([cajohnston@tds.net](mailto:cajohnston@tds.net)).

The Work Weekend for the opening of the Club is Sat.-Sun. May 3rd & 4th. We have lots of work scheduled to get everything in order to open for the season. We'll be cleaning up the clubhouse, the grounds, installing screens, painting, etc. **Please attend.** If you are unable to attend, but want to take on a task to be completed later, contact Bert Bowers for an assignment. If you can't work, send your check for \$50.00 to Chris Johnston.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Club this year. This season is shaping up to be one of the best yet!

Wishing you Fair Winds and Calm Seas,

Peter