



# Multnomah Channel Yacht Club

## Channel Chatter

50990 Dike Rd. Scappoose, Or. 97056 (503) 543 - 5055

APRIL, 2009

### COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Ahoy MCYC Skippers and First Mates, March has ended, now April begins. In like a lion and out like a lion! Oh well, we've gone cruising anyway ☺. After working our tails off during the St. Pats weekend, it was time for a cruise. Orion and her crew cast off her lines and steered a course down river. No plans, no time schedule and no organized menu to dine by. Along the journey we met up with Lofoten Girl and crew and had a couple of great evenings filled with good wine, food and great conversations. Even though the weather was less than desirable the spirits of both types were great. Orion found her way down the Columbia to the Fisher Channel to a warm reunion with our friends at the Longview Yacht Club. Vice Commodore Jerry, PC Ron and First Mates Laura and Kathy rolled out the red carpet for us opening up their facilities and homes to us. Our hats off to the folks of LYC they're a first rate Yacht Club. We've got the bug now, can't wait for Coon Island and the Great Chili Cook-Off. See you there ☺  
CC Charley

### FIRST LADY'S COMMENTS

Opening day is almost upon us, and with it, the start of the INTENSE FUN! But first, there's the little matter of WINNING on Opening Day. Rear Commodore Ron H and the crew are already into the construction of the main decoration as of this weekend. One eye on the work and one eye on that fishing pole seems to be the order of the day! The salmon *have* to start biting some day soon.

As for us, by the time you First Mates read this, there will be a new First Puppy. The naming contest is still going, and Chatterwallah George just *thinks* he has it won with "Don't, Godammit". I'm SO NOT naming my

### FIRST LADY, CON'T

dog like that! Our Beagle Family will, of course, be put off by the new little pup, so we'll have to be on our toes to see that the pup doesn't pick up any bad beagle habits from Toby, especially.

We have two away social functions on the calendar this month, at Tye Yacht Club on the 9<sup>th</sup> ("Ladies Night Out" 6pm cocktails) and Portland Yacht Club (Ladies Spring Dinner) on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Come on out and banish the Winter Blahs!<<<First Lady Linda>>>

### SOCIAL DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

If you are reading this it means that you survived MCYC's St. Patrick's Day weekend. Now that was a party! We want to thank Bob Gedde for once again spear-heading this awesome event, and thanks to all the MCYCers that stepped up to help out at the work party and at the event itself. It's pretty amazing what we can do when we all pitch in.

The next thing up on our social calendar is our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-off Cruise at Coon Island on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Terry and Ellen Lane will be co-hosting this event with us so you can bet it will be about as fun as it gets! We will be hosting dinner on Friday and breakfast on Saturday so you will have plenty of free time to work on perfecting your chili entry. Prizes will be awarded for best tasting chili and for best display/theme. There are activities planned for all day Saturday so you can do as much or as little as you like! No activities are planned for Sunday as it is Easter, so you can head home early if you have plans with the family, or stick around the island with us and enjoy the beautiful spring weather that we are sure to have (cross your fingers).

### SOCIAL DIRECTOR, CON'T

The following weekend, on Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> we've been invited to join our friends at Willamette Yacht club for a 70's themed Spring party, featuring Yahtzee, a Fondue dinner and Disco dancing. Sounds like fun!

Well, Spring is definitely in the air, or at least on our minds. With Opening Day of Boating Season almost upon us we have started to think of all the fun we are going to have this year and just wanted to remind everyone that it is the responsibility of each one of us to host or co-host an event here at the club.

We know this can seem a little overwhelming so we would like to quote our 'Social Director's Handbook' and remind the membership that 'although making money is always a plus, the main thrust of a MCYC party is fun and fellowship'. That's right, it's about having fun and being with our friends. Please call or e-mail us if you need help planning YOUR party or dinner, we'd be happy to help.<<<Robin & Joel>>>

### EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Your Chatterwallah is wearing a three-corner hat this month: In addition to editing the Chatter, I'm going to chatter about Inflatable PFDs and engine mechanics, particularly fuel systems.

INFLATABLE PFDs: I have three of the Stearns brand, all of the Halkey-Roberts manual-opening type. First of all, this is a TYPE-5 PFD, which means it has to be worn to "count". Second, you should have that "yellow mushroom" lanyard-pull handy OUTSIDE the cover, and if you do, it might get snagged and set off the CO2 cartridge. I did that last month with my fishing-vest model. CC Charley has a picture of me in it (after I unzipped it to remove myself from it's bear hug).

MCYC Schedule Apr, May, June

**APRIL:**

Board Meeting	1 <sup>st</sup>
Decorations work party	4th
Ladies @ Tyee YC	9th
Chili Cookoff Cruise	10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>
General Meeting	15 <sup>th</sup>
Ladies @ Portland YC	23rd

**MAY:**

OPENING DAY (ALL) 2nd Board Meeting

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

**JUNE:**

Board Meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup>
F-F Louie-Louie	5 <sup>th</sup>
St. Helens Cruise	12-14
General Meeting	17 <sup>th</sup>
Private Party	27th

EDITOR'S COMMENTS, CON'T

When the cartridge goes off, it isn't a gentle affair – WHAM! And you are in a vise. YOU NEED TO PRACTICE GOING FOR THE VALVE TO LET SOME PRESSURE DOWN! This is also the valve with which you can manually INFLATE the vest.

So, I blow it down, and prepare to re-arm it, a simple task. First you get out the kit and remove the indicator pin to install. WARNING, THEY ARE VERY FRAGILE. Mine was broken in it's package! I had to deadline the vest and break out a T-2. When I bought a new re-arming kit (yes, I had to buy the whole kit to get the indicator pin), I replaced the pin (on a CLOSED and cocked valve, then screwed in a new cylinder. Work of a moment. Don't forget to write that re-arming in the log which came with the vest, or use a Sharpie and put it on the inside of the Halkey-Roberts compartment in the vest.

**ETHANOL-BLENDED FUEL:**

We've all read the horror stories about using RBOB (Re-blended oxygenated blend) unleaded fuel in our boats, especially to store them over the winter. Did you know that it also affects small engines such as generators and dink engines? Yep, my 99 Mercury 5.0 hp dink engine

EDITOR'S COMMENTS, CON'T

is now having almost all of the fuel system components replaced to the tune of \$350, and I just got my Honda EU-2000i generator back from the shop for the same reason, but the bite wasn't as bad, probably because it runs harder when it is run. Both Channel Marine's and Action Motorsports' mechanics said the same thing: it's OK to run the small engines on RBOB gas, but don't store that equipment with gas in it. That means going back to the old process of running the gas out of outboards and generators before storing them, or, in the alternative, simply using un-blended fuel which you obtain at the marina fuel docks. From now on, I'm going to keep a couple of empty 5-gallon jugs on the boat and use boat fuel in everything, including my Honda HR-214 mower, which is 26 years old and does not like to cut heavy grass on RBOB fuel.

LEGAL NOTE:

There are a couple of boats in the MCYC docks which have out-of-date OR stickers on them. This is a violation for which there can be a fine over \$200, and the Sheriff has every right to inspect our docked boats to see if we are in compliance. That inspection could happen any day now, so if YOU are one of the mis-creants, get with it and apply those current stickers. You have one violation for not being current, and another for not displaying current stickers if you have them. Not to mention it makes the club look bad to get pimped for this. Also, if you haven't provided Acorn Squirreler Bob with your current boat liability insurance Declarations Page, do so immediately.

NOTES FROM BOARD MEETING:

Projects in progress: Internet, winter roof safety cable, re-alignment of Commodore's Ball budget, tracking voucher revenues, better tracking of meals served during Club-house parties, outside (dock) chairs & tables on A and M docks. Brian Hale DOES lay down a mean dessert at the Board

EDITOR'S NOTES, CON'T

Meeting, it was a delicious cheesecake smothered in strawberries! Come to a Board Meeting and see how your Club is being run (very nicely, I'd say). On a financial note again, the CPI increase (kicks the taxes up) was 3.3% for last year. That is all.

ON A SOMBER NOTE:

It is a sad fact of our lives that random acts of horrendous violence seem to be on the increase. It is NOT a coincidence that most of these mass attacks take place where: (1) Lots of people gather, and (2) Those people are unarmed. I hope you don't take offense, but as a retired peace officer, I consider attendance at any such gathering risky these days. I reduce my risk by maintaining my proficiency with concealable firearms, and bearing such arms when I travel to places that could be at risk. Your Chatterwallah is a Certified NRA Range Safety Officer, and I belong to the Rainier Rod and Gun Club, just up the hill west of Rainier. I would be honored to instruct any club member in the safe handling of firearms, and give advice on purchase, safe storage, carriage & employment of personal firearms. Such arrangements will be handled with the utmost discretion, as is always appropriate. I do not charge for these services.

NAUTICAL NICETIES:

Who knows what the Magnetic Variation is in our locality and the waters we cruise in? Anyone? Bueller?

It's 20 degrees East. That means that you ADD 20 degrees to Magnetic (or Compass) Heading to get True Heading, which is displayed on your CHARTS. You do have CHARTS of the waters you cruise in, don't you? Hmmm.

The Evergreen Cruising Atlas is the easiest way to maintain your charts of our local waters. It is about \$60 locally. I looked through one at West Marine last week, and surprisingly, it has some old charts in it. I don't know what their updating criteria are, and I'm not sure such charts would meet the requirements for a licensed Captain carrying paying passengers on an Inspected Vessel. NOAA Charts ARE updated regularly.

Chatterwallah, listening, out.