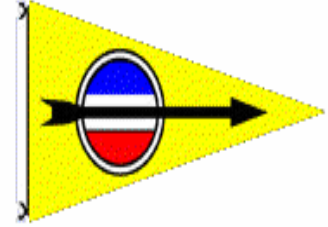




the Helmsman



Old Point Comfort Yacht Club
P. O. Box 51163
Fort Monroe, Virginia 23651

MEMBER: UNITED STATES SAILING ASSOCIATION
CHESAPEAKE BAY YACHT RACING ASSOCIATION
CHESAPEAKE BAY YACHT CLUBS ASSOCIATION
REGISTER OF AMERICAN YACHT CLUBS

Commodore's Corner

By Mark Brzozowski, Commodore

Volume 3, Issue 2

February 2010

Taking over the helm of the Old Point Comfort Yacht Club is an exciting and somewhat daunting proposition. The club is successful and vibrant due in no small part to the efforts of our outgoing Commodore, Jack Moran. Once again, thanks Jack for your outstanding leadership!

My intent for the upcoming year is to continue to enjoy those traditional events that have been a hallmark of our club while exploring new venues and events. Our racing, cruising, social, and educational programs are among the best on the Bay. However, we are always interested in new ideas to enhance and refresh our activities. Your board of officers is always interested in hearing your ideas for our club.

Many of you are die-hard racers while others are pretty intense cruisers and we are recently welcoming more and more power boaters to the club. I want to encourage all of us to take a look outside our particular boating passion to explore the different options available in our club. For example, cruisers or power boaters not interested in racing their own boats might sign up as crew for a Yankee Station event or to serve as race committee with experienced help from the racing crowd. Similarly, racers might consider joining the cruising fraternity for a weekend or two. The best place to explore these options is to attend a membership meeting and/or Pointer Maritime U. on Saturday mornings. There you'll find any number of Pointers ready and willing to share their knowledge and experience.

I'm excited about the upcoming year. Hope to see you soon at a meeting, at a class, and most importantly, on the water.

A monthly newsletter for the members of the
Old Point Comfort Yacht Club

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Calendar Addendum

Submitted by Bob Williamson, Secretary

When I printed the membership roster that was published in the OPCYC Activities Calendar, I pushed the wrong buttons and left off our new members.

I have printed an addendum to the calendar and will have it available at our next membership meeting. If you received a calendar at the Commodores Ball and will not attend the next membership meeting, give me a call at (757)489-8991 or send me an E-mail at sunlion61@msn.com and I will mail you one.

Clubhouse Cleanup Reminder			
Michael Findlay	1-Feb-10	to	7-Feb-10
Michael Finney	8-Feb-10	to	14-Feb-10
David Fisher	15-Feb-10	to	21-Feb-10
Francis Gates	22-Feb-10	to	28-Feb-10
Greg Geesey	1-Mar-10	to	7-Mar-10

The person responsible for cleanup should follow the instructions on the clean-up checklist located just inside and to the right of the main door. Note: The Club does not have a cleaning service; club members are assigned this chore based on home address. If you are unable or unwilling to help clean up, please let me know, and I will take you off the list. If you have a conflict with the date, please DON'T call me, but swap duty with anyone else on the list. If you need the combination to enter the clubhouse, please call one of the Board Officers.

--- Helmsman Editor

Club News

By Eileen Turner, Member at Large

Calling all Pointers to the February Membership Meeting

Our next membership meeting is Wednesday, February 17 at **Mama Rosa's** in Phoebus. We will start gathering at 6:30 p.m. for beverages and socializing. For anyone celebrating the holy day of Ash Wednesday, please know that **Mama Rosa's** has plenty of meat-free choices on the menu, such as Veggie Lasagna, Cheese Manicotti, Eggplant Parmigiano, salads, fresh fish, and of course several pizza choices.

IMPORTANT REQUEST: Please let Eileen Turner know if you will be attending. We need at least 20 members to get the private room. Just drop an email to Eileen at egret@widomaker.com. See you there!

Classified Column

Would you like to sell some of your useful nautical items for another Pointer?? Well, here's your chance!

The OPCYC Board of Officers has authorized a Classified column for each month's issue of the Helmsman. (Remember, there is already a place on the web site for members to list their goods for sale/exchange which can be viewed by both OPCYC members and the general public).

The column will have the following stipulations:

- Open to OPCYC Club members only
- Only nautical/boat-related items
- Each ad is limited to 3 lines of text
- Ads are free

So please feel free to send your ads to helmsman@opcyc.org. Deadline for the March 2010 issue is Feb 28th. Happy shopping!!

Cruising Chronicles

By Chuck Walters, Rear Commodore, Fleet

Let me begin this brief article by stating how truly honored I am to have been selected to serve as the OPCYC Rear Commodore, Fleet. John Pence, the Fleet Captain, and I are committed to offering you a variety of cruising opportunities during the coming sailing season.

The overall goal of the cruising program is to provide opportunities for Pointers to have fun exploring different locations and socializing on the water. Experienced cruiser, or a novice, this year's program offers a number of near and long distance events. Some of the cruises are short overnights. For those Pointers who can participate, the Skipper's Choice long distance cruises will last several weeks. Power boat or sailboat, young or seasoned, you are cordially invited to join in the cruising fun. The complete cruise schedule is published in the Old Point Comfort Yacht Club 2010 Activities Calendar. Also watch for specific cruise details in future editions of the Helmsman.

As a special cruising note, a number of Pointers are eagerly looking forward to starting their cruising season early this year. They will be leaving later this month to enjoy a week-long cruise on the schooner Arabella. The cruising ground for this event is the Spanish Virgins, also known as the Passage Islands. Located approximately twenty miles east of Puerto Rico, this warm tropical paradise consists primarily of the islands of Culebra and Vieques. The group will also visit some of the British Virgin Islands. We wish our participating Pointers fair winds, and a safe journey.

Pointers Publish

Submitted by Curt Morris, Vice Commodore

Curt Morris wrote "A Winning Strategy: Passage-Making Communications that Work" which will appear in the February-March issue of *Ocean Navigator Magazine*. The issue should be on sale at US news stands and West Marine around the middle of February. The article is based in part on a communications presentation Curt gave at PMU last year.

Michael Turner wrote an article about the OPCYC Broken Tiller Award which was awarded to Pat and Bob Williamson for their outstanding response to a medical emergency on the water. It appears elsewhere in this *Helmsman* and will be in the March *Spin Sheet*.

An article on the OPCYC Commodore's Ball should be in the March issue of *Spin Sheet*.

Pointer Maritime University

**By Jeff Rogers, Rear Commodore, Training
Dick Beaver, Training Captain**

We've already had two classes and a "snow day", and we're off for more adventures in February.

Sat 9 January - PMU Field Trip to the Casemate Museum

Twenty intrepid Pointers faced the winter cold and attended PMU's first "Field Trip" to the Casemate Museum on January 9th, hosted by **Bob Wagner**, where we learned about the History of forts at Old Point Comfort, going all the way back to 1609. We learned how Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee and Edgar Allen Poe are related to Fort Monroe, saw photos and action videos of Coast Artillery "disappearing cannon," then we walked up to the top of the ramparts and looked over the vista of Hampton Roads while we heard once more the gripping story of the battle of the ironclads. Then we were treated to a tour of the Cadet Command Hall of Fame, in an adjacent casemate, with stories and photos of the famous names in the Army's ROTC program. Bob didn't point them out, but there were even photos of our own Bob Wagner among the other greats.

Sat 16 January - Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System

Andrew Larkin from NOAA gave us a short presentation on the Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System, a network of buoys that provide real time weather, oceanographic and water quality information to boaters and other Bay users. If you missed the class, here's where to go to tie into the buoys: www.buoybay.org or phone 877-BUOY-BAY. Good stuff. This is one resource I am going to tap to add to my database of currents and tides.

Sat 16 January - Tides and Currents

We also talked about tides and tidal currents on the 16th. This year's presentation included many dozens of new photographs, since I'm trying to teach you how to read the current visually. Some of the photos were taken during the Dana Dillon Memorial New Year's Madness Race. If you participated in that race and didn't see what the currents were doing, you missed a trick. Many of the folks that attended this class asked for the URL's that I cited, so here they are:

<http://www.co-ops.nos.noaa.gov/currents09/tab2ac5.html#43>

<http://www.sailflow.com/windandwhere.iws?regionID=153®ionProductID=22&timeoffset=0>

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/ocean/Tides.shtml>

<http://home.hiwaay.net/~krcool/Astro/moon/moontides/>

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/venice/tides.html>

<http://oceanlink.island.net/oinfo/tides/tides.html>

<http://science.howstuffworks.com/question72.htm>

There was no PMU class on the 23rd, since that was the date of the Commodore's Ball, and the date when we "graduated" our first four-year students. It's hard to believe, but we're now in our fifth year of PMU!

Sat 30 January – Outboards, AIS, and DSC

We had some snow Friday night and Saturday, and Southeast Virginia was nearly paralyzed. This was unfortunate, because the bad weather caused our instructor for the outboard engine part of the class to cancel. The bad weather also limited attendance to a few hardy souls, who were treated to a great explanation/description of AIS (Automated Identification Signal) and DSC (Digital Selective Calling) by **Michael Webb** of West Marine. Some PMU students braved the storm from as far away as Isle of Wight and Poquoson. This was such a great presentation, exactly at the level we need, that I will try to reschedule it, as well as the outboard motor portion of the class.

Upcoming Classes:

*"A little theory goes a long way toward developing an understanding of how a sailboat works,
But getting in the boat and actually going sailing is more fun."*

- John Rousmarniere

The nasty winter weather is preventing most of us from having the kind of fun John Rousmarniere is talking about, so for a few weeks, we'll just have to content ourselves with talking about boating and learning about boating-related stuff. You may remember that we originally had **Boat Electrical Systems** scheduled for 30 January, but we moved it to 6 February so I could get the outboard guy in. That worked well, didn't it? But maybe "all's well that ends well" because the weather has done its thing and now we can work the electrical guy in. We only have classes on the first two weekends in February because of the **Arabella** Cruise.

Shore Power, AC Power, and 12 Volt Boat Electrical Systems – 0900-1200 Sat 6 February

Don Gulliver, the *ABYC certified* and *FCC licensed* owner of Yacht System Services, Inc., will present this class for us on 6 February. Don does electrical, A/C, Refrigeration and consulting work. Michael Turner had Don do some work for him on **Cats' Paws**, and recommended him to us. We have had classes on 12V Boat electrical systems before, but Don will approach it from a slightly different angle. He will relate your 12V DC system to the 120V AC system of shore power, and he'll also talk about galvanic corrosion. Don promises to bring lots of "show and tell" burned out electrical components to let us see what to look for and what can happen when something goes wrong. I asked him to pitch it to us in a way that would help us know what to look for, and to help us decide what projects are easy do-it-yourselfers, and which are best left to the professionals.

Please note that all PMU classes from now on (including this class) will be held at the Fitness Center at Ft. Monroe. We have the

PMU (cont'd)

classroom reserved for our classes for the rest of the year.

Buying and Selling a Boat – 0900-1030 Sat 13 February

Ron McLean, from Bay Harbor Brokerage, will give us some hints and tips about either buying or selling a boat. Ron has been sailing for over 46 years and has been in the marine industry for 37 years. He has worked for two boat builders, and has made many offshore passages including transatlantic, and has raced many miles. He has helped customers buy and sell over 1,150 sailboats. If you are in the market for a boat, (who isn't?) or if you are thinking of selling yours, (again, who isn't?) then this is a class you won't want to miss.

Cruising and Chartering – 1030-1200 Sat 13 February

This is a seminar on Cruising and Chartering in the BVI's and the Adriatic and Med. Mike Hollsten, who has chartered extensively in the BVI's, and Gordon and Eta Johnson, who have chartered in the Adriatic and on the Great Barrier Reef, are our facilitators for this class. Have you ever toyed with the idea of chartering but didn't quite know where to begin? This one's for you. When you walk out of this class, you should be drooling all the way home as you anticipate getting on line and signing up for a charter.

We'll try to reschedule the two classes you missed this weekend for sometime in March or April. As usual, we'll keep you up to date with E-Mail notices. Stay tuned.

See you in the classroom and on the water!



Andrew Larkin, NOAA Interactive Buoys



Hardy Souls on 30 Jan 2010
(not pictured: Bob Wagner & Steve Runals, who also were there)

Racing News

By Mark Wolfe, Rear Commodore, Racing

On behalf of John Lones and I, Happy New Year and thanks for the opportunity to serve Old Point Comfort Yacht Club as the racing leadership for 2010. Dennis Miner served the club ably for four long campaigns, and John and I will be hard pressed to match his superb stewardship of the Old Point Comfort racing program. However, we won't have to look too hard for Dennis as he and Steve Lunsford will still be tearing up the Yankee Station series in *Joy*.

Congratulations to our top racers from 2009:

Top Sailor Awards:

Cruising - Juan Diaz

Non-Spin - Jeff Rogers

Sailing in the Brass Award:

1st - Jeff Rogers *S/V Halaha*

2nd - Steve Ritz *S/V Excelsior*

3rd - John Lones *S/V Ali-Ru*

4th - Dennis Miner & Steve Lunsford *S/V Joy*

Important Training Date: It is never too early in the year start thinking about racing and getting your boat and team ready for the next campaign. My advice to my fellow sailors is to review the Pointer Maritime University schedule and hone your knowledge with this great program. Every year I learn something new about tides and currents from Dean Rogers. Our Yankee Station Training Day will be March 27th where we will learn more about race management and how to be the Race Officer of the Day (ROD).

And one more thing: I am proud to be part of the Old Point Comfort racing program where our racers enjoy the most flexible and comprehensive racing program on the Southern bay. Our program enables cruising, non-spinnaker, and spinnaker racers to put their boats and team through their paces. We really aren't limited to the types of races we want to undertake as long as we're having fun and being safe. I have always liked the idea of adding a distance race, say around Wolfltrap Light, or the Coleman River Bridge. Please be safe, and let's get ready to race!

Members TidBits

Submitted by Michael Turner

There are times when some mariners find themselves in peril and in need of assistance from others. We all hope we do not fall into this particular category but, if we do, it is quite comforting to know there are fellow mariners among us who will drop what they are doing and immediately come to our aid.

At the Old Point Comfort YC Commodore's Ball held 23 January 2010, while harking back to the events of the 2009 season, the OP-CYC Board of Officers recognized two individuals who, without hesitation, came to the rescue of an injured mariner, and bestowed upon them the Order of the Broken Tiller for superior seamanship.

The award citation reads:

The Commodore and Board of Officers of the Old Point Comfort Yacht Club take pleasure in presenting the **Order of the Broken Tiller to Pat and Robert Williamson**, first mate and skipper of the sailing vessel **Sun Lion**, for exceptional personal leadership and initiative in support of a fellow sailor during a medical emergency while on a cruise on the Port Tobacco River, a tributary of the Potomac River, on 8 September 2009.

At 0730 on this morning, while getting underway after a peaceful night at anchor, the skipper of an accompanying vessel accidentally severed the bone of one of his fingers. Pat and Robert Williamson immediately sprang into action to assist the stricken sailor and crew.

Pat Williamson transferred herself to the vessel of the injured sailor and immediately assessed the overall situation: injury, condition of injured sailor, state of first mate. She calmed the injured sailor and first mate, and secured their boat, providing emergency medical care for two hours until paramedic help finally arrived. Through the whole ordeal she kept a calm head about her, cleansed and covered the wound and kept the hand elevated, keeping the injured sailor from losing more blood and going into shock. She remained onboard the stricken vessel for the duration of the incident and cleaned up the boat after the injured sailor and first mate were taken ashore by paramedics to emergency services. She was instrumental in getting the stricken vessel secured and safely at anchor. She remained on the boat until the injured sailor and first mate returned from shore; then she assisted them in getting settled and comfortable, with food and water.

Robert Williamson came to immediate aid of the injured sailor and secured his boat alongside the vessel **Sunlion**. He initiated a call to the U.S. Coast Guard and remained in contact with them for the hour it took to provide all information to USCG and emergency medical personnel. Though he had two large vessels to deal with, he was able to secure the stricken vessel in the middle of the river and maintain the position of both vessels until arrival of emergency medical personnel, who transported the injured sailor and first mate to a land based medical facility. He was then able to disengage **Sunlion** from the stricken vessel and successfully anchor both vessels. After emergency medical procedures were performed ashore, he launched a tender and retrieved the injured sailor and first mate, having to search for them, not knowing exactly where they were on a heavily wooded shore.

The professional response of Pat and Robert, including their knowledge of medical and boathandling procedures, and selfless concern for the welfare of a fellow sailor, his first mate and their vessel were directly responsible for averting further injury and preventing a potential medical catastrophe, and ensuring the safety of the vessel. Their acts serve to inspire all who know them and are commensurate with the finest traditions of cruising sailors. Their actions reflect great credit upon themselves and the Old Point Comfort Yacht Club.



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COMING EVENTS	
6 February	PMU Class Shore Power, AC Power, & 12-Volt Electrical
13 February	PMU Class Buying & Selling A Boat Cruising & Chartering
17 February	Membership Meeting @ Mama Rosa's, Phoebus

2010 submissions to the Helmsman (helmsman@opcyc.org) are due:

Jan 2	Jan 31	Feb 28	Mar 28	May 2
Jun 1	Jun 27	Aug 1	Aug 29	Sep 26
		Oct 31	Nov 28	