Purpose

The Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association (CBYCA) is an association of yacht clubs, boating clubs, and marine associations located throughout the Chesapeake Bay and Delaware Bay regions and the District of Columbia. It is composed of dedicated volunteers who communicate, inform, and work with legislatures and others to ensure members’ voices in each of the five states and District of Columbia are heard. Its purpose is to represent the interest of recreational boating at the national, state, and local levels of government, and to promote boating safety and education of its members and the general public.

For more information visit the CBYCA web page at [www.cbyca.org](http://www.cbyca.org) or contact: Commodore@CBYCA.org

Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association does not distribute its mailing list.

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*Founding member club burgees (l to r): Baltimore Yacht Club, Boumi Shrine Yacht Club, Bush River Yacht Club, and Maryland Yacht Club.*
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETINGS

January 26, 2019    9:30 am    Middle River Yacht Club
February 16, 2019   9:30 am    Bush River Yacht Club
March 16, 2019      9:30 am    Capitol Yacht Club
April 20, 2019      9:30 am    Red Eye Yacht Club
May 18, 2019        10:00 am   Pleasant Yacht Club
August 24, 2019     9:30 am    Bodkin Yacht Club
September 14, 2019  10:00 am   Miles River Yacht Club
October 19, 2019    10:00 am   Delaware River Yacht Club
November 16, 2019   9:30 am    Baltimore Yacht Club
December 15, 2019   TBD        Following Commodore’s Ball

DELEGATES MEETINGS*

February 16, 2019   10:00 am   Bush River Yacht Club
April 20, 2019      10:00 am   Red Eye Yacht Club (Book Distribution)
August 24, 2019     10:00 am   Bodkin Yacht Club (Club Cruise)
November 16, 2019   10:00 am   Baltimore Yacht Club (Change of Watch)

*Lunch will be offered for a nominal cost.
2020 Elected Slate of Officers and Nominating Committee

As required by the CBYCA by laws, the following names were presented to the Delegates by the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association 2019 Nominating Committee chaired by P/C Gene Schenck.

The election was held at the August 2019 meeting at Bodkin Yacht Club.

**Board of Governors**

Commodore Kyle Gray, Middle River YC

Vice Commodore Dan Killeen, Maryland YC

Rear Commodore Donna Ferron, Blue Marsh Sailing Association

Qualifications Officer Tom Yanni, Middle River YC

Secretary Stephanie Gaff, Red Eye YC

Treasurer Penny Rhine, Miles River YC

Director, Marketing and Communications Donna Ferron, Blue Marsh Sailing Association

Director, Safety and Education Tom Costello, Maryland Yacht Club

Director, State Legislation Tim Abel, Prince William YC

Immediate Past Commodore Mike Gaff, Red Eye YC

**Directors of State Legislation**

Director, MD State Legislation Dave Thomas, Fells Point YC

Director, VA State Legislation Tim Abel, Prince William YC

Director, PA/DE State Legislation Chris Schenck, Susquehanna YC

Director, NJ State Legislation Dot Noderer, Delaware River YC

Director, DC Legislation Howard Gasaway, Sr., Chesapeake Cruisers Association
2020 slate of officers continued:

**National Boating Federation**

Legislative Director, P/C Earl Waesche, Virginia YC

**District Representatives**

A - New Jersey Nick Noderer, Delaware River YC

B - Philadelphia Area James Morrissey, Anchor YC

C - Pennsylvania/Upper Bay Tom Costello, Maryland YC

D - North Baltimore Dick Bruns, Baltimore YC

E - Baltimore & South Mike Bruns, Baltimore YC

F - Eastern Shore North Donna Ferron, Blue Marsh Sailing Association

G - Eastern Shore South Dennis Webster, Wicomico YC

H - Annapolis Area Dan Killeen, Maryland YC

I - Solomons/South Maryland Ransey Adkins, Chesapeake YC

J - Washington DC Area Harlie Spencer, District YC

K - VA/Mid Potomac River Joe Livingston, Occoquan YC

L - VA/S of 301 Bridge -- vacant

**2019-2020 Nominating Committee**

Nominating Committee Chair IP/C Mike Gaff, Red Eye YC

Tom Kenavan 2019-2020, Aquia Harbour YC P/C
Bob Parsons 2019-2020, Bush River YC P/C
Fred Levitan 2019-2020, Middle River YC
Joe Vislocky 2020-2021, Baltimore YC
Eric Boyd 2020-2021, Pleasant YC
Ray Haber 2020-2021, Bodkin YC
Gobble Gobble Gobble were the words of the 28th day of November. I had 3 turkey dinners and at least a week’s worth of turkey sandwiches to reminisce the loving moments with my family. And while we think of family as brothers and sisters, moms and dads, aunt and uncles, we should never forget the family we create through our friends and the bonds we create at each of our clubs. We are blessed to be apart of a community who help one another, have fun with one another and love one another. I pray everyone had as marvelous a Thanksgiving as I did.

As we enter our new Change of Watch, CBYCA’s officers, Board of Governors and Delegates and myself are excited about the possibilities. Our 2019 Summit was a powerful and successful event bringing insight to yacht club officials throughout the Bay and it doesn’t stop there. The amount of effort that went into this program is not only 100% outstanding it has given momentum to this upcoming year and we anticipate the 2020 Summit to be even more fruitful. Please stay tuned, everyone who supports the Bay will be finding new value in the agenda of CBYCA.

Even though it’s cold outside and most of us would rather cuddle cozy in a warm blanket while binge watching our favorite shows, it seems like nobody has time for that. CBYCA members are already preparing for the upcoming Roster Book. Don’t be surprised if you here from us a month or 2 earlier than previous years; our goal is to have our new book ready a couple weeks earlier as well as give more avenues to our advertising supporters to be seen using platforms such as Facebook and additional flyers.

The lighted Boat parade in Middle River was amazing, so much effort and good cheer from captains everywhere and the waterlines were lined with thousands of people who came to watch. If you missed it you may still have time for the Inner Harbor & Annapolis Boat Parades. What a great time and the kids loved it!

Hey, I almost forgot! The Ball! the Ball! Boss you almost forgot the Ball! No no no, no one forgot the Ball & HO HO HO Santa didn’t forget it either! This Event will be like no other. Come join Santa for pictures, he has gifts for all Princesses, Ladies and Gents, listen to the wonderful holidays sounds of the 7-person professional a cappella group and to finish off the evening after a beautiful dinner I have a special guest who is not only a world renown hypnotist, he’s also a pretty funny guy, too. I promise you, it will be a night you’ll always remember and everyone at CBYCA looks forward to seeing you. Those who know me, know I throw a pretty good party so seats will be limited, RSVP ASAP.

And it’s that time of year... Merry Christmas & Happy Hanukkah! YES I SAID IT - from my family to yours, have a fabulous holiday season!
Hello my fellow CBYCA members!!

This my first article as Vice Commodore so I will speak to my “official” duties first. I am in the process of contacting various clubs to see who is willing to have us for our monthly meetings. If your club would like to host a CBYCA Board or Delegates meeting, please let me know. I will make you all aware of my progress.

Now the more important job; I promise to bring the coffee and breakfast treats. God knows, I’m one who needs them.

It’s been an interesting year with a new website and support; the Summit; the ability to buy CBYCA gear online; pay your dues online and now, under the leadership of Donna Ferron (Director, Marketing and Communications) the activities for the 2020 Roster Book commences. We will be sending out requests for advertisements around 1 December, so check your mail and e-mail. For this year, Donna had the printer agree that any size ad can be black and white or color so think about what you would like to see for your ad.

Tom Costello and Tim Abel were both advanced to Directors at our last meeting. Be sure to offer your congratulations when you see them. These advancements are well deserved.

As always, anything CBYCA can do to support your club, please reach out and let us know. We’re here to help.
Several years ago, barely recovered from lung surgery, my first trip out of the house was to North East, MD to have lunch. While there we discovered a used book store where I bought an old hard-cover book with the title *Chesapeake Cruise*.

Published in 1944 *Chesapeake Cruise* told the true story of a group of men who circumnavigated the Bay in their power boat. Thanks to my own boating experiences and my involvement with Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association (CBYCA), I recognized many of the club names, rivers, and historic mansions that the men visited. Miles River Yacht Club, Baltimore Yacht Club, Cambridge Yacht Club, Corinthian Yacht Club. I knew about the log canoe races covered in one chapter. I’ve sailed up Bodkin Creek and anchored overnight in Whitehall Creek. On our way to our boat in Rock Hall, MD we drive by Kitty Knight House (reopened under new ownership) in Georgetown, MD and Bohemia Manor (privately owned since 1660).

The historic photographs of Miles River Yacht Club, Baltimore Yacht Club, and others in the book gave me the idea of setting a goal to sail our boat *Halcyon* to as many of those clubs as possible. I thought it would be interesting to compare how the clubs looked in 1944 with how they look today. Unfortunately, *Halcyon* will never get to quite a few of the clubs mentioned in the book from 1944 because they no longer exist.

Thanks to the survey sent out to CBYCA member clubs prior to the 2019 Commodores’ Summit, the Summit organizers and new officers of CBYCA have a better idea of the challenges that most of our member clubs face. Perhaps, for different reasons, they have the same challenges as those long-gone Chesapeake Cruise clubs: Fewer new members to balance out an aging membership; members who no longer own boats; lack of membership-derived income to cover facility expenses. Whatever the issue, we’re using them to guide CBYCA’s future goals.

Qualifications Officer Tom Yanni is working to bring in new clubs and encourage former clubs to rejoin. Safety and Education Director Tom Costello is creating educational webinars that will address the challenges and hopefully encourage discussions amongst clubs that will lead to solutions. As Rear Commodore I have committed to help the CBYCA Bridge succeed and by extension, help our member clubs who need it get a foot onto a new path to their future. Change can be difficult but when the challenges are shared, change can be exciting and positive in ways we couldn’t imagine.

As part of that commitment my primary focus as Rear Commodore is the 2020 Roster Book. The Roster Book Committee will be reaching out to various clubs and individuals for assistance and information.
In addition, the Board recently created the position of Director, Marketing and Communications, which evolved out of the Publicity Director position. To serve the clubs we felt that CBYCA needs to better communicate its original mission, adapt to new technology, and ensure the quality of communications and the message from CBYCA. As Director of this new position I am responsible for social media, the website, and the Roster Book. I’m also responsible for vetting our public and internal communications to ensure accuracy. I won’t be handling everything on my own. I’m going to communicate more details in the coming months but here are some highlights.

Stephanie Gaff (also CBYCA Secretary) has agreed to manage our social media presence. The goal is not to duplicate what other organizations post, but to educate, inform, and share what makes CBY-CA unique. Stephanie will moderate our Facebook group as well as future social media platforms on which we plan to engage.

For the CBYCA website, Tom Costello continues to do an amazing job with our website:
- The process to update club information is automated
- Visitors can easily locate clubs (with contact information) using Google Maps
- The website was successfully and painlessly moved to a new hosting company
- More website features will be announced in the future

Our 2020 Roster Book plans are solidly underway:
- Over the next few weeks clubs will receive an email requesting their contact information. This information will feed the Roster Book club listings as well as the website so it is important that everyone respond.
- Vice Commodore Dan Killeen has graciously agreed to once again manage the ads and has emailed ad forms to the clubs.
- Very soon we should also have the option for you to pay for an ad online using a credit card.
- We heard and are responding to requests to have certain sections returned to the Roster Book.

The voices of the club officers who attended the 2019 Commodores’ Summit were clear. CBYCA is trying to respond. We hope you don’t wait until the 2020 Commodores’ Summit to speak up again. Email us. Call us. We’re ready and happy to talk to you and try to help you get as much value out of your CBYCA membership as we can. As an organization we will honor and respect tradition, but the future must also be addressed.

Whichever of the myriad holidays you celebrate this season, John and I wish all of you a safe and peaceful one and we’re looking forward to seeing you at the ball this weekend.
I would like to thank the Bridge Officers, Board of Governors, the Delegates and my wife Dot for allowing me to be your Secretary. I am stepping aside to be a District Representative in November with the Change of Watch. I started with CBYCA as the PA and NJ Legislative Director and shortly thereafter was asked to run for Secretary. It was an honor and I took the responsibility seriously because the Secretary is the one that records the history of the Association. I explained to the Bridge when I started, that I had no intention of rising through the Chairs. That wasn’t a roll I wanted. I knew my skills and how they could best serve the organization.

I’ve enjoyed serving under a number of remarkable individuals. I’ve supported them as they went through the Chairs and saw how they moved the Association forward. Being your Secretary has enabled me to befriend a great number of individuals that I would not have met had it not been for CBYCA.

I believe in the Association, what it stands for and how it helps protect the recreational boater. Knowing the character of the incoming Officers, I am confident that the Association is on firm ground and will continue to grow and improve. I especially wish the incoming Secretary, Stephanie Gaff, a successful term and hope she enjoys it as much as I did.

I have one more irony to mention, the Board of Governors held our October meeting at my club, The Delaware River Yacht Club. It was the last meeting where I took the minutes and it was held at my club. It was a fitting end for me and again I want to thank all of you for your support.
In the coming weeks, I’m going to be sending each CBYCA Member Club an “Update Request” via email so we can update our information on your Club for use by the Bridge and inclusion in the 2020 Roster Book.

The previous process for informing CBYCA of new information (such as new officer names/emails) “WAS” through the former CBYCA website. This required a Club login/password, and resulted in a lot of angst and effort for both our Member Clubs and our own team. This new process will be much simpler, instantaneously update our database, and will allow us to capture more information than ever before.

The most important additions to this new process are the “Key Event” dates for all Clubs: Opening Day, Commodores Ball, Change of Watch... and a request for the best date each year we can get YOUR Clubs information updated (specifically, following the certification of your elections so we have the best info on Officers of your Bridge).

We’ve also added a field to identify the year your Club was founded, and will soon be capturing current high-resolution images of your Club’s burgee. This will allow us to post the best images in the Roster Book moving forward.

When you receive this “update request” email, it will show you the contents of every field we would like to update. The email will include a button for you to edit the information – which will bring up a form you can scroll through to change any/all fields you wish. At the bottom, you’ll find a “submit” button to complete your work. Several people on the CBYCA bridge will be notified of the changes submitted.

It is my intention to do this District by District... and complete this by the end of February 2020 - well before the next Roster Book goes to print. The first “update request” emails will start going out after Thanksgiving.

If you have any questions about this new “Update Request” process (before, during, or after), don’t hesitate to reach out to us at CBYCAIT@cbyca.org... And be sure to identify the Club you represent in that email. One of us will get back to you promptly.
Safety and Education continued

We’re already begun planning the suggested/promised “Webinars”, with the intention of hosting one per quarter throughout 2020. The leading topics coming from the Summit included “Club Finances (Operations, Grants, and More)”, “Club Membership (Membership Types, How to Drive Up Membership, etc.)”, “Club Technology (Club websites, Facebook, Club operations, etc.)”, and “Club Governance – Alternatives to Robert’s Rules)... and a few other topics suggested following the Summit. If you have any feedback on this list (or other ideas), please feel free to email me directly at DRC@cbyca.org.

As many of us are recovering from winterizing our boats, and as the snow flakes begin to fall, take solace in these 2 facts: The CBYCA Bridge will continue to work on providing more services to your Club (including the webinars to carry us through the winter), and the fact that we’re only 2 weeks away from the shortest day of the year (Dec 21 at 11:19pm). So every day will begin to get longer and lead us back to boating season!
Elcon continues to try to gain a foothold in the Fals Township area. Their request is still under review.

**Senate bill S248 regarding tax exemption**

Nearly all are for commercial/government vessels except 2 items. The first exempts motor boats/vessels used exclusively for the training of Sea Scouts by a duly chartered unit of the Boy Scouts of America.

The second one exempts vessels/motorboats that are recreational with a long summary. This bill provides an exemption from the petroleum products gross receipts tax and the motor fuel tax for certain highway fuel and fuel used for the operation of a recreational motor boat or vessel. Under the bill, the exemption from tax applies if the highway fuel or fuel used for that purpose is purchased on the water from a marina or other similar place of business.

Under current law, an exemption from the petroleum products gross receipts tax and the motor fuel tax is allowed for highway fuel and fuel used for certain on-road and off-road uses. With respect to off-road uses, the law exempts from tax highway fuel and fuel used for: agricultural tractors and farm machinery; aircraft; vehicles that run on rails or tracks; motor vehicles operated exclusively on private property; cleaning (motor fuel tax only); stationary machinery and vehicles or implements; heating and lighting devices; and certain motor boats and vessels, including motor boats and vessels used for propagating and gathering oysters and clams, motor boats and vessels used for commercial fishing, motor boats and vessels used for Sea Scout training, and motor boats or motor vessels while being used for hire for fishing parties or being used for sightseeing or excursion parties.

However, current law does not similarly provide an exemption from tax for highway fuel and fuel used for motor boats and vessels used for recreational purposes. The law requires owners and operators of these recreational boats and vessels to pay the taxes at the rates in effect at the time of purchase, even though the revenues that are collected from these taxes are used to maintain the State’s on-land transportation infrastructure.

This bill broadens that list of exempt uses of fuel to provide an exemption from tax for fuel used for the operation of a recreational motor boat or vessel. Under the bill, highway fuel and fuel used for the operation of a recreational motor boat or motor vessel is exempt from the petroleum products gross receipts tax and the motor fuel tax, provided the highway fuel or fuel used for that purpose is purchased on the water from a marina or other similar place of business.
In order to receive the benefit of the exemption, consumers of highway fuel and fuel used to operate a motor boat or motor vessel must pay the tax at the point of purchase and seek a refund of the taxes paid by the filing of a claim with the Director of the Division of Taxation in the Department of the Treasury. As is required under current law for certain other exempt uses of highway fuel and fuel, the claim for refund must be filed with the director by the consumer providing proof that the tax has been paid and a refund has not been previously issued.

The bill takes effect immediately and applies to highway fuel and fuel used on or after the first day of the first month next following the date of enactment.

The Penn East Pipeline

According to the Delaware Riverkeeper: For the DRBC (Delaware River Basin Commission) “Saying “no” to PennEast would stop the project in its tracks. It will also ensure NJ has a powerful ally that will strengthen its legal position and the political will to continue its stand against this dirty, fracked gas fossil fuel pipeline catastrophe.”

The next meeting is Wednesday, December 11, in Washington Crossing State Park and I intend to attend. More info will follow.
Pennsylvania

Legislation

HB 1542 Legislation to amend the Liquor Code would allow any entity eligible for a special occasion permit to obtain that permit for nine consecutive or non-consecutive days throughout the year in addition to ten consecutive days. This bill moved November 21st to the House Rules Committee. We are watching this bill to see if it could be of use to clubs that need liquor permits for special occasions since some clubs do not have liquor licenses. At the moment the bill is specifically designed to help a specific group in York County.

Other bills have not moved since summer or earlier.

Messages to clubs

In the past month U.S. Coast Guard Notices and other news were passed along to member clubs concerning the following:

- Dredging October through December on the Delaware River
- Dredging on the Schuylkill River

Delaware

Legislation

The Delaware Legislative Calendar indicates that the General Assembly will be in session beginning January 14, 2020. Please let me know if there are any bills that you think are important to watch.
Did you know?

In 1959 Chapter 154 has required Any holder of a certificate of number shall notify the Motor Vehicle Department within fifteen days, if his address no longer conforms to the address appearing on the certificate and shall, as a part of such notification, furnish the Motor Vehicle Department with his new address. The Motor Vehicle Department may provide in its rules and regulations for the surrender of the certificate bearing the former address and its replacement with a certificate bearing the new address or for the alteration of an outstanding certificate to show the new address of the holder. So, if you move, be sure to let the Motor Vehicle Department know that the address linked to your boat identification has changed!

Sailors, did you know that you are probably sailing a “motor boat”? According to Chapter 154 “Motorboat” means any vessel propelled by machinery, whether or not such machinery is the principal source of propulsion, but shall not include a vessel which has a valid marine document issued by the Bureau of Customs of the United States Government or any federal agency successor thereto.
Legislation to invest $34B for Coastal & Inland Harbors: The U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 2440 – the Full Utilization of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Act. The legislation would invest $34 billion in Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) revenues towards critical port and harbor maintenance activities over the next decade without raising a dime in new taxes. Also the HMTF ensures that the funds are used to support navigation, recreational boating interests, and for other purposes. NBF applauds the Congressmen for their leadership in advancing the bipartisan measure to unlock the HMTF and build the nation’s water infrastructure. Approximately $9.3 billion in already collected HMTF revenues sits idle in the U.S. Treasury, and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates the HMTF will collect an additional $24.5 billion in new revenues over the next decade.

Full utilization of the fund would provide the necessary funding to enable the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to dredge all federal harbors to their constructed widths and depths. Properly dredged channels are essential to providing critical access points for marinas and coastal communities where businesses depend on marine recreation-based economic activity. Additionally, without sufficient dredging in small recreation-based ports, some recreational boaters are forced to use high traffic commercial channels, which can lead to potential user conflicts and safety concerns.

H.R. 5855 The Consumer Protection and Fuel Transparency Act: This bill directs the Environmental Protection Agency to require the labels of fuel pumps that dispense E15 fuel (fuel that contains 15% ethanol and 85% gasoline) to include additional details, such as warning information, and implement a public education campaign concerning the risks associated with the improper use of E15 fuel in boats and vehicles.

The EPA & USACOE Are Publishing a Final Rule to Repeal the 2015 Clean Water Act: These agencies are repealing the 2015 Rule for three reasons. First, the agencies conclude that the 2015 rule did not implement the legal limits of the scope of the agencies’ authority under the Clean Water Act as intended by Congress. Second, the agencies failed to recognize, preserve and protect the primary responsibilities and rights of States to prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollution. Third, the agencies conclude that the 2015 Rule’s distance-based limitations suffered from certain procedural errors and a lack of adequate record support. The agencies find that these reasons, collectively and individually, warrant repealing the 2015 rule.
H.R. 1941 The Coastal & Marine Economies Protection Act: Maryland Congressman Brown co-sponsored H.R. 1941, which would place a permanent moratorium on offshore oil and gas leases along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. This bill passed the House of Representatives in September 2019. Opposition to the Trump Administration has been widespread and bipartisan and includes governors from 17 coastal states. The Recreational Boating Community, is indeed grateful the bill passed.