



Wheeler Yacht Club The Tell-Tale



www.facebook.com/Wheeler.Yacht.Club

www.wheeleyachtclub.com

January/February

Commodore's Corner

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Well this is my first Commodore's Corner and I hope I can keep the interest and growth of the club going forward. I think we will all agree that **Carole** has been a great leader over the past two years and I hope as Rear Commodore she will push some of those leadership skills my way.

Winter Events

We had a wonderful turnout for the Commodore's Ball on January 26th. On February 22nd at 9:00am we're having a meeting with the board to create an events calendar for the coming year.

If you have any ideas for functions, activities, sponsorships, donations, fundraisers, cruises or any other club activities please let me or one of the board members know. The one event that I have already got a sponsor for is another flag retirement ceremony. We have not got the date yet but will announce soon. We did this two years ago and you could feel the patriotism in the air. If you have any old flags that need retiring, hold on to them and we will have a collection of them soon.

WYC Shelter

I am looking forward to the new shelter being available for Yacht Club Activities. It will be convenient to all members and facilities and we will not have to carry the tables and chairs so far!

I recently posted a page from Discover Boating on the Club Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/Wheeler.Yacht.Club> and thought it had some good *New Year Resolutions*. If you did not catch it or you are not a Facebook user here they are, along with a link to the page:

1st—Include boating in your travel plans I love to travel around water. I always look for restaurants around a marina when I am traveling. I have also rented boats at several places, which is a great addition to any vacation.

2nd—Be more social Please join us at club functions. Being social could also mean joining the our WYC Facebook page. Also, rafting up to other friends in a cove is one of the best ways to be social that I know of.

3rd—Become a better boater Of course there are boat courses out there, but there are also online resources. In addition to formal courses, just reading about other boaters and their experiences can educate you to situations you may encounter.

Link to Discover Boating page:

<http://links.nmma.mkt5162.com/servlet/MailView?ms=NDQ3NzkzNzES1&r=Njg2Njk4NzcxODYS1&j=MjI2NjExMjQxS0&mt=1&rt=0>

Hope to see you around the marina!

Joe

Things to come...

- ✿ WYC Social and Racing calendars will be out soon, so keep an eye out!
- ✿ Also, starting with the March issue, we'll have a "**Schedule at a Glance**" showing upcoming events. Hopefully, this quick-reference will keep you informed so you won't miss a thing in 2014!

Vice Commodore's Comments

Here we are in February, 2014! The Super Bowl is already in the rearview mirror and was a complete bust, the large ground rodent in Punxsutawney, PA saw his shadow and hence we are doomed to more bad weather. So here at this point we find ourselves progressing well into the second month of the **International Year of Family Farming and Crystallography** (as designated by the United Nations.) with more bad weather predicted. Now I don't pretend to understand what Crystallography is, but I do get the family farming aspect and we are certainly better as a club for having some very productive local farm operators in our club. I know for a fact that every city boy dreams of growing up on a farm; I certainly did. I am not sure if that dream goes the other way around for farm boys, but there certainly can be no better or fruitful business than working the land by planting and nurturing a crop or raising marketable animals. Farming is the core of civilization and has been the foundation of societies for more than 4,000 years. Special thanks to you who continue this heritage business! May global warming bless you with bumper crops, improved and longer growing seasons and plenty of rain. Yeah I said it, global warming!

Oddly, or necessarily, depending on how you look at it, boats were parallel developments that came about because of farming. Boats were the distribution solution enabling sustaining supplies to flow from production centers and the farms of one ancient city/state to other centers. Boats were the preferred technology "back in the day" and they continue as the most reliable mode of heavy transport. So for at least 4,000 years these two highly interrelated pursuits have evolved side-by-side and together have transformed the world we live in.

Many of us are still “in it” in one way or another. Isn’t it wonderful that the very things that transformed the world in the earliest times are still right in front of us? *Life is definitely good!* Just as 4,000 years of technology makes every bit of boating technically different that it was way back then, the ancient roots of operating and maintaining a vessel are still found in the concerns of a modern mariner in their appreciation for our water resources, weather, wind, current, course and of course the vessel itself. So it is time to think about the vessels as we will one day emerge from this drab weather and as certain as the weather will break there are some things for the mariner to think about and do.

In keeping with the normal duties as the Vice, I looked at some things that were boat-worthy for this time of the year. I thought a checklist would be useful, so I looked around a bit on the web. So rather than creating something new, the following is provided from Discover Boating.

Discover Boating - Spring Start-up Checklist

“Spring has sprung” (almost) — “and for millions of boaters in the U.S. that means it’s time to get their boats ready for weekly or daily service. For boaters, annual preparation and cleaning projects are necessary rites of spring that help to ensure not only their protection and safety, but also to prevent problems that could keep them off the water once the season is underway.

Discover Boating has put together general guidelines for pre-season boat preparation; get ready for your spring launch by reviewing these six key areas of maintenance. (Be sure to consult your owner’s manual for maintenance instructions specific to your boat model.)

FUEL SYSTEM

Inspect the fuel system for leaks or damage; pay special attention to fuel hoses, connections and tank surfaces. Evidence of damaged fuel hoses includes softness, brittleness or cracking. Replace components when necessary and verify all fittings and clamps are properly secured. Ensure the engine, exhaust and ventilation systems are all functioning properly.

BELTS, CABLES & HOSES

Belts, cables and hoses are important to check, as they can become brittle and may crack during winter storage. Belts should fit tightly around pulleys to prevent slipping; a worn belt may have a black substance near the pulley and will fit loosely. Cracks or swells on the outer jacket of control cables may be a sign you have to take immediate action.

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

Inspect all electrical connections for cleanliness and tightness—corrosion is often a sign a connection may not be safe. To prepare electrical connections for the summer, remove the terminals and use a wire brush to clean them, along with all cable ends. Charge your battery and have it tested to ensure it can hold a charge. Electrical systems should be regularly inspected by a qualified technician.

FLUID LEVELS

Check all fluid levels including engine oil, power steering, power trim reservoirs, and coolant. Be sure to change the engine oil, oil filter, and drive lubricants, if these tasks were not done prior to winterizing your boat.

PROPELLERS & HULLS

Inspect propellers for dings, pitting, cracks and distortion. Damaged propellers can cause unwanted vibration and damage to your drive train. Make sure the propeller is secured

properly, and replace bearings when needed. When inspecting the hull, look for blisters, distortions and cracks. Be sure to clean the hull, deck, and topsides using an environmentally safe cleaning solution. And, make sure the drain plug is securely in place before every launch.

SAFETY GEAR

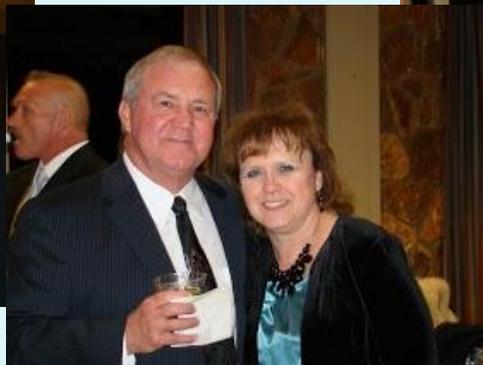
Check your life jackets to ensure they are in good condition and that there are enough on board for all potential passengers. It's important to ensure that each individual has the correct size life jacket for their body weight. Be sure all onboard fire extinguishers are the correct class for your vessel, and are fully charged and stowed in the proper place. Take advantage of any safety inspections offered by the US Coast Guard (USCG), USCG Auxiliary or US Power Squadrons."

So there you have it... a fair checklist for spring cleanup to consult. Let's get our vessels ready to go, continue to hope the weather breaks real soon and may we all enjoy the beautiful Tennessee River because the truth is, it's still too cold and wet to plow.

Bob

Current Events

The **2014 Commodore's Ball** was a very festive affair on Saturday, January 25th, with dinner, dancing, and plenty of socializing. The new officers were also introduced; a great start to a year of promise. If you missed it this year, be sure to join us next year!





Planning the 2014 WYC Event Calendar

At this time we have a straw-man plan for the 2014 season, and to that end, we have a meeting scheduled on Saturday, February 22nd at 9:00am to discuss the club agenda and schedule. Please attend the meeting if at all possible. Your ideas are very important to the club as our planning must reflect the collective thoughts and interests of our members. 2014 events may include more “on the water” events such as raft-up’s, day cruises or simple and beautiful sunset cruises near the park. Perhaps you would rather have more charitable or park enhancement sort of activities. Personal water craft events have been fun and well supported in the past so we could plan a few of those as well. And, how ‘bout new things we can do with the new club gazebo/shelter when it is finished this spring? These are but a few things we can talk about and plan based on the interests of our club members. So think about it and show up on the 22nd if you can!

See you on the water!