



# The Portlight

**Commodore** – Elsie Grady

Winter-Time to Prepare

Winter starts Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at 5:44am. The Holidays will be here in just a few days. That means Spring is only three months away.

Baltimore's Boat Show is January 26-29, 2017,--that's next month! The Atlantic City Boat Show is March 1-5, 2017, less than three months away. Although these two shows are traditionally of interest to power boaters, they can help to break up the winter doldrums.

It's time to think about how we can make our boats better, safer, and easier to use. Steve has a new Watt Wizard to install, somewhere on the boat. What does it do? It monitors and displays the current generated by the solar panels to charge the batteries while we are sailing or at anchor.

It's time to think about what we do when it's warm enough to get our boats on the Bay again. I hope we'll all be thinking about places to drop an anchor, maybe even raft up themes.

I hope we'll also be thinking about how we can find new members. Have we met all the Hunter owners in our respective marinas? Do we know who they are? Let's invite them to join us for a day or a weekend.

It's also time to think about our members who are still sailing, like Contigo and Aquila. I often imagine one day we will be sailing off to a warm and sunny location for the winter. We might think about preparing for the time when we might be sailing in December ourselves. As they say in the Geico Radio commercial, "How's that 401K doing?"



## **(Past) Commodore's Corner** – November 2016

Another season is done and most of us have winterized our boats. A few lucky ones have headed south for the winter, either to Florida or the Bahamas. For those of us that have stayed in the colder climes, hopefully, it will be a mild winter and we will be able to paint and launch in the early spring to start the new season.

We had the Commodore's Party earlier this month and had a great time. I would like to thank Steve and Suzette again for hosting the party at their home. The new group of officers were sworn in and took over for the new year. I wish Elsie, Steve, Keith, Paul and Marie luck in the management of the club and will continue to support them as the Immediate Past Commodore. I would also like to thank everyone for their support and efforts during my time as the Commodore.



I will be working on the website over the winter to put together the basic schedule for the coming season. If you are interested in hosting or helping with a raft-up in the new season, please let any officer know! You can check out the current [schedule on the website](#).

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in the spring!



### **Purser:** Marie Frankel

As we conclude the sailing season for 2016, my numbers show that we are financially sound. Our budget this year included a Commodore's Party that was mainly supported by our members but also a small amount from the club's budget.

Every year our club selects a charity to support at the end of the year. This year our support went to the Havre de Grace Youth Sailing Program. This program's goal is to develop young sailors on the Upper Chesapeake Bay using recreational

and competitive dinghy sailing as an educational platform to build character and confidence and to teach water/boating safety, boat handling, maritime skills, local nautical history and environmental responsibility. They sail in these waters from late spring to early fall. This program is open to the youth in the Harford County and Havre de Grace City areas of the upper Chesapeake Bay.

Thanks to Steve Coppage for his idea to support this group, we may see new sailors on the bay that someday will take our place having rafts up in Worton Creek. That is of course, that Captain Tom will pass the anchorage over to some young rascal.

If you have a suggestion for next year's charity to support, please contact me or any officer.

Have a safe and wonderful holiday season!

**Secretary** - Keith Walters

Puesta del Sol – Repairs - Help from people I will likely never meet.

Too many projects - so little time. I started the Fall of 2015 with some big upgrade plans: Replace both water tanks and the waste tank. How hard could it be? I like to plan most projects out to estimate time and cost. I have the original boat drawings and information; however, it was not clear what needed to be done to remove the forward water tank or the main port side water tank. What to do? Should I start tearing apart the boat? Possibly, as I love to take things apart. If I did that then what was the next step? Where does one find tanks to fit a 1991 Hunter Passage 42? So, like all projects these days, I started searching YouTube, [HunterOwners.com](http://HunterOwners.com), Google, and Facebook. There is a lot of information out there, especially on the hunter owners group, with a few P42 owners posting a lot of good stuff, but not enough specifics on the water tanks. Under Google I found a link to a Facebook page for "S/V Our Way Too". One of the owners, Dean, provided a fantastic set of step-by-step pictures for replacing both water tanks and a few steps related to the holding tank. After seeing this, I decided to push the main water tank replacement off. The pictures were great and Dean provided me an updated front tank design, as the original design would not fit through the door to install. I know it probably comes as a shock to those attempting to reach and replace items on a boat that it was not built for replacement. I contacted the company that made Dean's tank, DuraWeld, and ordered the tank with the new specs (Side note: I spent time talking with Ronco Plastics tanks as they were estimating ½ the price;

however, they were not going to include baffles). The waste tank from Ronco Plastics was a good price and the tank was almost an identical match to the original. The water tank and the waste tank replacement were successful and completed just in time for the spring launch. As I stated, I like to plan my projects out; however, when pulling the old water tank out (took advantage of the warm December) I decided the old crummy vinyl on the walls in the forward berth needed to go. Now I had a problem - what to replace it with – how this was solved is in an upcoming article. It may take time and effort to find information - but for those who dig around, the amount of information, suggestions, help and support is amazing.







## Fleet Captain

Having just recently moved from Past Commodore to the role of Fleet Captain, I was curious about the origins of officer titles in clubs. What I learned with many things in boating clubs, officer titles were derived from Naval tradition. In the old Navy, the Fleet Captain was responsible for passing movement orders between the Admiral of the fleet and their ships Captains as well as ensuring ships achieved their assigned missions. The Fleet Captain title was officially changed in the U.S. Navy to Chief of Staff by Admiral Farragut in 1869 but, even today, the Chief of Staff role remains responsible for ensuring the Admirals orders are carried out. Speaking of Movement Orders, I am asking each of you to propose a raft-up for the upcoming sailing season. It would be wonderful to have several raft-ups on the calendar before the spring planning meeting. As of now, all dates are wide open. Send any ideas to [Officers@nshsa.org](mailto:Officers@nshsa.org) Get your proposal in early!

While researching the history of Fleet Captains and by way of mental quantum leap, I started to dwell on the opening line to Walt Whitman's Poem "Oh Captain, My Captain". While the poem was about the death of Abraham Lincoln, the movie highlighting the poem, *Dead Poets Society*, starring Robin Williams was about living an extraordinary life by forging your own path. I believe, we as sailors, in our own way, intrinsically embody that same spirit. Every time we go sailing we harness the wind to move through water; we forge our own path, dictated only by the elements and our own will. When we anchor, we are sleeping in water beds under the stars, mostly unchained from the trappings of land and others. I find these activities extraordinary and feel blessed to enjoy them and to share those moments with friends. This is what makes our club so special, we share extraordinary experiences!

As mental quantum leaps go, my mind soon wandered from boating and poetry to trying my hand at writing poetry about boats, specifically about putting the boat up for winter. I thought I would start with a title and tried "Sailor's Lament" but it was already taken, as was "Ode to Winter" and "A Sailor's Thoughts". So, with a little tongue in cheek and apologies to both poets and readers. Here is "A Mid Winter's Dream for Sail":

*Oh, what tangled webs we weave when on the hard our boats we leave  
With the coming season, cold and staunch, tasks are taken to ease spring launch  
Blood runs pink like ice in veins, come warmer days we curse what remains  
Sails are felled and canvas ditched, wings are folded cleansed and stitched  
Tethers loosed and sheets are coiled, sumps and bilges soon become roiled  
Tents and tarpaulins gown our sloops, while resting on their winter stoops*

*Oh, those cold winter's night our thoughts do wander, to springtime quests and tasks  
a ponder*

*Bedeviled by preparations chance, fearing any harm during winters long dance  
But fret not for this too shall go, the Ides of March will chase the snow  
With polish and prim, the glass does shine, to wipe away winters vile grime  
Schedules to keep and timing tight, we hasten to complete tasks aright  
Check list in hand to avoid omission, and paying Poseidon an act of contrition.*

Vive La Spring.



Paul Borchardt  
Fleet Captain NSHSA

**Editor** – This edition of the Portlight is the final one by the current editor. It would be nice if someone would step forward and continue this tradition. I have been a member for about 14 years. I was first lured into the club by reading a “paper” copy of the Portlight that was shoved into the cockpit of my boat by the then editor John Balfor.