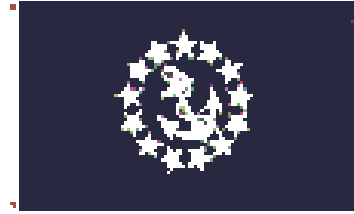


# COMMODORE'S CORNER

## WINTER 2014



Friends, Hunter Owner's, Club members... Happy New Year Everyone!

We are now just a couple of weeks into the official winter season and time to start thinking spring. For those who were unable to attend the fall meeting at MYC on Rock Creek, we had a great turnout and official closeout to the 2013 sailing season. The 2013 season saw many opportunities to expand sailing skills, meet new folks on the water, sail in one of the club sponsored races out on the bay, and even attend a few plain old raft-ups, all ideals within the club's charter and By-Laws.

Next weekend the Executive Committee will meet to begin organizing the 2014 sailing season at which we will set the date for the club wide Spring Meeting. If you have any concerns for the upcoming season or would like to host a raft and have a particular date in mind please forward that information onto Vice Commodore Bill Ubelacker or myself for inclusion in the EX-COM meeting discussion and/or adaption to the schedule. There will be additional opportunity to speak up at the Spring Season Opener.

As most of you know Tidewater is no longer a dealer for both Hunter and Catalina yachts and Doyle Sails no longer has a representative in Annapolis with the closest lofts now being in the Bronx or Hampton Virginia. On the bright side UK Sails has a new expanded loft in Annapolis at the old Doyle Sails location. We should all look for ways to support Marlow Hunter/Hunter boats, as our prosperity is in ways tied to theirs as eventually most of us will see the day when we will sell our boat. Which means insisting on high standards for new Hunters coming off the line and the promotion of sailing a Hunter boat.

Not unlike businesses that service the sailing

industry on the bay we as a club have seen our membership shrink in the downturn, whether related or not. It has forced a reflection of who we are and what we do as a club, the result of which I believe has had a positive effect as seen from the activities planned and executed in the 2013 sailing season. As we have also found new members who have actually made it out and participated in events I feel confident that as a club we are headed in the right direction, and we had fun doing it.

The executive committee will of course continue to look toward ways to improve our presence on the bay, build our confidence for sailing, and let's not forget to have some fun too !

With the coming year we will look toward making at least one real effort for building membership, and a continuation of the Schmidt Challenge to follow the tenets of the club for expanded sailing opportunities, increasing our knowledge of sailing, and good stewardship for knowledge of the bay and our sport in general.

The only real challenges we should have to face in the coming year is who will win the races held, who will attempt to hide from the Calamity Cup ;- ) and will we have wind without weather in 2014 !

If you have not seen the e-mails recently sent, there is an opportunity coming up in February to obtain your USCG OUPV or six pack Captains License. Additionally there will be a refresher course for anyone holding a current license and would like to update their skills for the renewal application. There is a discount for having more than 10 people sign up for the training sessions so there is a good possibility this could be the most cost effective chance to do this for the next few years.

- EDDIE SABOL