

HARBOUR LIGHT

November 2018, Volume 38, Issue 10

Celebrating 38 Years of Sailing (1981 – 2018)

FROM THE HELM

By Mark Burrows, Commodore

It's November, and it's finally feeling frosty. I'll take it. I've got my long pants and fleeces out of storage. Unfortunately, I have not been out on the water in over a month due to a nagging wrist injury. You don't really appreciate your wrist until you have only one. Here's my list of things that cause my wrist to hurt: Cranking winches, feeding sails into their tracks, pulling halyards and sheets, carrying a plate of hot wings, pulling up anchors, wrestling buoys onto deck, writing and editing By-law amendments, twisting off beer bottle caps...the list goes on and on.

With all of that in mind, there's a lot that HHSA has coming up and we will need some help:

- Attend the HHSA Fall Meeting on November
- Race in the Sunday Frostbite series November 4- December 9
- Organize a pickup cruise
- Prep for the December Holiday party
- Help haul-out the three racing buoys

We'll be looking for volunteers for these and other HHSA activities and programs. Now that the sun is not out as much, think about using that extra time to get onboard and join a HHSA committee.

Cheers,
Mark

COMING UP

HHSA FALL MEETING

NOV. 3; 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

HHN LOFT (ABOVE WEST)

FROSTBITE RACES

NOV. 4 – DEC. 9

HHSA BOARD MTG.

NOV.13

ANNUAL DEALE LIGHT PARADE

DECEMBER 19

HHSA HOLIDAY PARTY (INFO TBD)

HHSA ANNUAL BANQUET

(INFO TBD)

**P.S. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED FOR THE PARTY AND
BANQUET**



SCHOONER RACE UPDATE

The 29th Annual Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race, a 119 nm race from Baltimore to Portsmouth, Virginia, was rescheduled to the 12th due to forecasted severe weather. Race day proved to be ideal windy conditions for the close to 29 boats that came out. *Sultana*, *Hindu*, *Libertate* and *Sea Hawk* took first place in their respective classes. Check out “The Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race” on Facebook for some amazing videos.

Ted braved the rolling waves on *Zalek* to watch them pass Herring Bay, and captured photos of these beautiful vessels. If you never have seen this race close up, plan to go out next year.





CRUISING REPORT

By Stefan Leader and Andrea Heintzelman, Rear Commodores, Cruising, *s/v Diva II*, and Bev and Allen Wright, *s/v Whoosh*

Shaw Bay Pickup Cruise aka “Catalina” Rendezvous

On the weekend of October 6th and 7th, *Whoosh*, *Sassy Suzy*, and *Diva II*, all Catalina boats, took a break from the Boat Show to cruise to Shaw Bay off the Wye River. Aboard *Whoosh* were Allen and Bev with friends Donna and Mike; Dale, Ed, and Bianca, their 11-year-old Lab/Border Collie mix, were aboard *Sassy Suzy*, our anchor boat; and, Andrea and Stefan completed the raft on *Diva II*. On Saturday, the weather was warm and sunny but not enough wind to sail.

As *Whoosh* started to raft up with *Sassy Suzy*, Dale casually pointed out that we had brought a stowaway - a water snake slithered off *Whoosh's* bow – yikes!

The cocktail/dinner party featured a lavish menu of seared scallops, beef and turkey sliders, chicken/crab soup chili, spanakopita, spiced shrimp, gouda cheese, and last but not least, Margaritas. After a calm night with comfortable temperatures, *Diva II* left the raft first, then *Whoosh*. *Sassy Suzy* stayed a while longer before heading to their next destination. *Whoosh* sailed from Wye G3 past Eastern Bay R4. After several long tacks at good speed but not much forward progress, *Whoosh* motored the rest of the way back to Herrington Harbour. *Diva II* hoisted sail at the head of Eastern Bay and tacked for a couple of hours until the wind died and motored the rest of the way back to HHN. A photo album for this cruise is posted on the HHSa website.



RACING REPORT

By Ted Slotwinski, *m/v Zalek*

Except for the frostbite series, racing is complete for the season. I encourage racers to come out for the frostbite series; six Sundays from November 4 through December 9. It's typically not truly frosty. It's fun. It's a single class, everyone racing non-spinnaker. It's a single start at noon. Racers should familiarize themselves with the frostbite courses which are used once the HHSa race marks have been pulled, and with the rabbit start procedure which is used in the absence of a race committee. There are several dates in need of a race committee. Consult your crew and calendar and volunteer if you can.

Attention all racers! The Board will propose for membership vote at the November General meeting an increase in the racing fee from \$60 to \$80. The racing fee was established at \$60 beginning with the 2011 season. The cost of racing awards and racing equipment which per the By-Laws is the purpose of the racing fee have slowly but consistently increased



over the past eight years. Currently the awards cost about \$2,100 and racing equipment about \$500 (routine year with no major expenses such as replacing a lost mark). The number of racers paying the racing fee has been steady at about 32 boats, which equates to \$1,920. The twenty-dollar increase will add \$640 (assuming no boats drop due to the increase) to essentially match our current awards/equipment costs. Any awards/equipment costs in excess of that paid for by the racing fees are paid for by the general membership dues, which also pay the cost of racing insurance and membership in CBYRA and USSA.

If you cannot attend the General meeting on November 3, please provide your proxy vote which you can give to any member who is attending, so that the decision represents the will of the majority of the racers and membership instead of only those attending the meeting.

Sail fast! Have fun!

SOCIAL REPORT

Vanessa Uelman, Rear Commodore – Social, and her volunteers did a great job organizing the “3rd Wurst Dock Hop” on Friday night, October 19, was the last and Wurst one yet! It was a beautiful Fall night and HHSA members and families enjoyed a selection of sausage and other goodies.

Thanks to Bev Wright for her photos of the event (more pictures are on the website).



Nolan, Jim, Tiffany and Grace enjoy a family night together.



Stefan’s famous potato latkes.



Vanessa and the two Paulas.



WOMEN UNDERWAY

Women Underway is on break from October through December and we will resume our meetings in January. We expect the January, February and March meetings will be Sunday brunches at The Public House at National Harbor. The dates will be posted on the HHSA event calendar.

I want to remind members that Women Underway cannot be successful without the help of volunteers. Bev and Emily did a great job of running the meetings, but we need more meeting coordinators. Please consider picking a meeting and bringing a topic for discussion, speaker, demonstration, etc.

2018 HHSA MEMBER SURVEY ANALYSIS – HHSA LOVES TO TALK AND EAT

By Mark Burrows, Commodore

Back in the Spring, the HHSA Board developed and implemented a survey to gain insight into what our members like about the club. We wanted to know what draws people to HHSA and how they participate in our programs. The Member Survey was far from scientific. Participants were self-selecting and the data output format was difficult to rollup. With that in mind, this analysis focuses on trends that HHSA can use in decision-making and future planning.

We had great participation in the Survey. Fifty-five members responded with a 60/40 ratio for cruisers to racers.

The Survey gave us some insight into participation in cruising, racing, and social events.

- 70.9% were interested in cruising, whereas 45% have not attended a cruise. 23.5% have been on one or two cruises, and 30.0% have been on three or more.
- 52.7% were interested in Racing where 40% have not attended a race, 14.5% have done one or two races, and 38.2% have raced in three or more races.
- Over 50% attended three or more HHSA social events. 14.5% attended none.

Many of the questions from the Survey asked for activities to be ranked from Most Favorite to Least Favorite. This gave us some idea of what member like to do (supported) and which activities garnered less enthusiasm. Here are some observations:

- There are people who really like racing and people who are just not interested. Wednesday Night Racing received the highest number of Most Favorite ratings, followed by Spring Breakfast, Themed Cruises, and Winter Seminars. At the same time, Post Race Gatherings, Weekend Races, and Wednesday Night Races were highest in the Least Favorite ratings.
- Seminars get a lot of support. That was expressed in the Most Favorites as well as the written comments.
- Winter Banquet evenly on supported across Most and Least Favorites. Other social events (e.g., dock hops, BBQ) are supported.

The Winter Banquet is a big deal for HHSA in terms of planning and resources that we invest. The Survey looked into what was most important to members about the Banquet.



- Friends, food, and drinks are most important for the banquet. Based on Most Favorite responses and the written comments, HHSA could probably do a heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks event instead of the current Banquet arrangement and people would be happy.
- Awards and dancing seem to be OK with most people. Both are important parts of the Banquet currently.
- We asked about the location and the Inn at HH. The hotel doesn't get a lot of support. Members were interested in a new venue primarily for the change. However, cost control is an issue as well. Research by the Social Committee has found it difficult to find a location with equal or better value.

On cruising specific questions, the basic format of our cruises is supported. The most favorite parts of cruising are:

- Discovering new anchorages
- Happy Hour at anchorage
- Talking with other HHSA Members
- The journey to the anchorage

Themed cruises were marginally supported. Some are okay but other were found to be less inviting.

For racing, we asked "why don't you race your boat?" The primary response was mostly lack of knowledge and experience along with perceived danger. Physically unable in some way had four votes. To improve racing, responses suggested more distance races, more seminars, more weekend races. There was little support (one vote) for longer

Wednesday night races, on the water drills, and one start with different courses.

The Women Underway questions indicated stronger support for racing and active (how-to) meetings. There was less support for social activities but not insignificant. There were not many Least Favorite responses for the program activities.

The Survey had a section on how HHSA communicates. The HHSA website and newsletter are the primary way members access HHSA information. Email and Forums are secondary.

Usage priority for Website is the Calendar. Getting information about events on the calendar in a timely manner was noted in the results and received comments. The Forums are popular.

Cruising and Racing information get significant Least Favorite votes. That might be a result of how we have it laid out. Similarly, Signups are important but folks might not know what it is for. Example: "Am I signing up just to attend or to bring a dish or what?" The comments around this are indicators.

Overall there were over 100 written comments. From a trend point of view:

- Lots of comments about the Banquet
- Lots of ideas for new and existing events
- Several comments from members saying they would volunteer
- Regarding cruising, comments about distance, weather, and themes. Most notable were comments about getting the word out early about when and where cruises were going

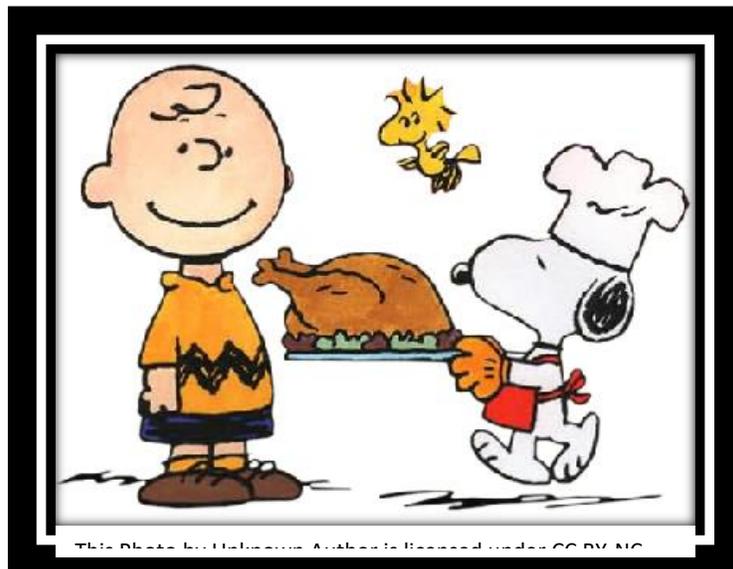


- For Racing, many comments requested more training. Also, better access to the racing calendar and racing documents (SI's, Results, etc.)
- Women Underway – Early notice of location and time of events
- The website is liked but there were suggestions for a simpler interface and better Member Directory access

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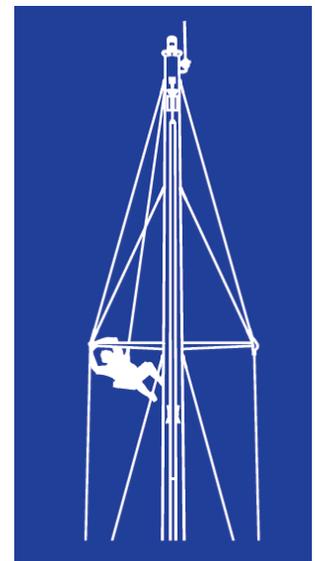
The Board is considering another survey in Spring 2019. If you have suggestions for ideas or focus areas, please contact Mark Burrows (commodore@hhsa.org) or Prag Katta (communications@hhsa.org).

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!





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