

HERRINGTON HARBOUR SAILING ASSOCIATION

HARBOUR LIGHT

Dec. 2018 and Jan. 2019, Volume 38, Issue 11

Celebrating 38 Years of Sailing (1981 – 2018)

FROM THE HELM

By Mark Burrows, Commodore

2018 has been GREAT year. HHSA continues to be a wonderful way for sailors and their families to meet, cruise and race together. There were lots of changes and new events while our continuing programs provided opportunities to learn, relax, compete, eat, sail and welcome people into our by-the-bay community.

What's New?

The year began with one of the most clearly insane decisions that HHSA has ever taken. I was elected Commodore. My thanks to all of the members who voted for me but, honestly, you should have known what you were getting. Fortunately, you also elected two rookies to the Board who could compensate for your error: Gerry Perez and Prag Katta. Gerry brought a strong financial ability that I will never have. Prag's racing skills and communications background have made him a valuable asset in many ways. Our veteran Board members also propped me up. Larry Brown is a constant source of ideas with a get-it-done attitude. Ted Slotwinski came back to the Board to provide our racers with a great schedule and guidance. Andrea Heintzleman and Stefan Leader both led our cruisers with a wide array of destinations and activities.

However, we will be losing two of the Board's stars. Vanessa Uelmen, our RC for Social Activities, has



done an amazing job with HHSA's biggest events, essentially planning several wedding reception-sized events over the last several years. She's not leaving HHSA, just taking off the crown. Thank you, Vanessa.

The Editor-in-Chief of the HHSA Newsletter is also stepping down. Eunice Lin created monthly gems full of interesting topics, beautiful photos, and timely announcements for HHSA's programs and events. She has also been the tip of the spear for HHSA's Facebook presence. Since we created an HHSA Facebook page, our regular website traffic has more than doubled from 46,000 visits in 2016 to 105,000 in 2018. Eunice and our other contributors on the board have kept it a lively and interesting place for



people to be introduced to HHSA. Thank you, Eunice.

More New

Yes, there was more. Here are the highlights:

- New Cruising Committee established to develop the 2018 calendar of events. As a result, Andrea and Stef came onboard as co-Rear Commodores
- New Pirate Cruise to Rock Hall led by Laurie-Ann Underwood in conjunction with the annual Rock Hall Pirates & Wenches Fantasy Weekend
- The first annual Deale Parade of Lights with Keith Mayes' Jubilee decorated for the season.
- New racing classes: two non-Spinnaker classes (cruisers and racers) and one Spinnaker class (A and B combined)
- The member survey that gave us lots of new ideas and perspectives on what's interesting and important to HHSA
- Change to the membership and racing fees (just ignore this bullet and move on)
- Supporting and communicating information about the petition and efforts to dredge Rockhold Creek
- Providing a Race Committee to start a new Leukemia Cup leg from Herring Bay
- Continuing educational Seminar programs

Not everything in 2018 was new. Our core programs continued to provide the fun and excitement that we first craved when we joined HHSA - Great cruises, competitive races, happy onshore parties and gatherings.

Our Seminar programs gave us opportunities to learn more about sailing, racing, our environment, and our boats. The Seminar program is enthusiastically supported by Herrington Harbour and I thank them

for providing communications, meeting spaces, and even a bit of catering.

Women Underway also continues to bring members together to learn and share experiences and knowledge. They are a valuable resource and venue for our community.

But What's Up for 2019??

➡ 2019 will be a year where *you* get more involved in supporting and assisting HHSA's programs. Currently, we DO NOT HAVE A 2019 REAR-COMMODORE FOR SOCIAL. This means 2019 is a blank slate for social activities. In January, we will hold a meeting to begin planning our 2019 social activities. This meeting will be the kernel for the Social Committee. Please join us. **Watch for announcements and meeting details soon.**

All of our programs need volunteers. Cruise leaders, Race committee duty, Dock Hop hosts, and event coordinators. We all have talents and we will need yours in 2019.

Cheers, Mark

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Larry Brown, Vice Commodore, s/v *Idyll Hours*

New Members. Please join me in welcoming our newest members and give them a hearty welcome when you meet them at future HHSA events.

- Ben Sliwka and Priscilla Muhlenkamp of Annandale, VA
- Manuel and Lisa Rojas of Alexandria, VA



Membership Renewal. There has never been a better time to belong to the region's premier sailing association. It is a pleasure serving as your membership chairman, and I look forward to your continued involvement.

Your HHSA membership will expire **at the end of January 2019**. I hope you recognize the value that membership continues to provide with member social activities, shared boat experiences with fellow sailors, and the camaraderie of folks with your passion for sailing. We continue to make strides to increase the value of your membership, such as newly added web site features, and the wide variety of association activities. In the coming year, you can expect many additional innovations as the new Board gets its oar in the water. HHSA needs your support to continue advancing its missions, so please renew your membership today. Membership is only \$75, and is the best value on the Chesapeake Bay.

Invite your boating friends to join. There is no need for them to wait until the official beginning of next season (April 1, 2019). According to our by-laws "dues collected and applications received after the Annual November Meeting will be considered payment also for the following year."

We hope to see you at the upcoming events. And if you should head south to escape winter's cold, please consider sharing your experiences with a short note that we can publish in our newsletter.

Winterizing. Many of us are putting our boats away for the winter. If you need help, or have projects you want done before returning next spring, our corporate sponsors (see below) can help and are located onsite at Herrington North.

- Quantum Sails

- Schuman Boat and Yacht Detailing
- East Coast Marine
- Shipwright Harbor

We encourage you to use their services - they have generously supported HHSA in 2018.

Fall / Winter Informational Meetings. As we have in the past, we plan to host some informational meetings during the winter months while boats are on the hard. If you have any ideas / suggestions for topics or speakers, please forward them to membership@hhsa.org. All seminar topic ideas are welcome and will be considered.

HHSA Fall General Meeting was held at the LOFT at HHN on Saturday, November 3rd. The meeting began with a review of the recent member survey by Prag Katta, R/C Communications; a general summary of the results can be found in the November newsletter. Prag noted that there have been 83,000 visits to the HHSA website this year. Keith Mayes suggested that on the website, relevant racing information be moved from the bottom of the web home page to the top, and that the HHSA calendar is not as useful as it could be. Ted Slotwinski, R/C Racing reviewed 2018 participation and highlighted the work of the Race Committee. Stefan Leader, Co-Rear Commodore, Cruising, reported that an average of six boats participated in scheduled and pick-up cruises despite the poor sailing weather this past year. Cruise highlights this year were the Southern Bay cruise and Pirates & Wenches weekend at Rockhall. Eunice Lin, HHSA Newsletter Editor, was commended for her work this past year and efforts to use Facebook to reach out to the general public. Vanessa Uelman, R/C Social reported on the many successful activities ashore this year and asked for suggestions for next year. During the general discussion, there was consensus that more seminars



would be welcome over the winter months, but that we should try to avoid scheduling them during weekend daylight hours. The By-Laws amendments were passed which increased the general membership fee to \$75 and the racing fee to \$80. Before the meeting adjourned, a slate of officers for the 2019 season was approved:

- Commodore - Mark Burrows
- Vice Commodore - Larry Brown
- Secretary-Treasurer - Gerry Perez
- Rear Commodore Racing - Michel Jichlinski
- Rear Commodore Communications - Prag Katta
- Newsletter Editor - Ted Slotwinski
- Rear Commodore Cruising - Steven McGill

The Board still needs a volunteer to replace our R/C Social for next year.

The power point presentation presented during the meeting is available on the HHSA website, and provides many more details.

Lights on the Bay. Driving through “Lights on the Bay” at Sandy Point State Park has become a tradition for many families for the past decade. The Lights on the Bay display is a scenic drive along the shore of the Chesapeake Bay with more than 60 spectacular animated and stationary displays illuminating the roadway. \$15.00 per car. Don’t forget to purchase your 3D glasses upon admission to the park to make the already magical light show come alive. Nov. 23-Jan. 1 at Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis. [Tickets and more information.](#)

RACING REPORT

By Ted Slotwinski, m/v *Zalek*

Racing is complete for the season. It was another successful season. Thirty-three members paid the racing fee for the 2018 season. This includes 32 boats and one paid fee without a boat. Twenty-four boats competed in at least one HHSA high point race. Twenty-eight boats competed in at least one race which counts towards HHSA Commodore's Cup.

The 2018 racing awards list is posted on the HHSA web site racing page. Eighteen boats qualified for an award. If your boat is receiving an award, I encourage the skipper or a representative to attend the season end banquet on January 26 (see details elsewhere in the newsletter) to accept the award(s). Congratulations to Keith Mayes and the crew of Jubilee who receive the Commodore's Cup and the Wednesday Boat of the Year awards. Well done!

At the November HHSA General meeting, an increase in the racing fee from \$60 to \$80 was approved, as well as an increase in the membership dues from \$65 to \$75. These are modest increases intended to offset gradually rising costs. I hope this does not discourage anyone from joining HHSA (still the best bargain on the Bay) or from renewing their membership.

Finally, I wish to thank all of the skippers and crews whose assistance made my job the past two years as your Racing Rear Commodore easy and successful. Please give the same support to the incoming Racing Rear Commodore, Michel Jichlinski, *Amara*.

Sail fast! Have fun!



Jubilee, 2018 High Point and Commodore's Cup winner.

SOCIAL REPORT

By Vanessa Uehlmen, s/v *Kaya*

SEASON'S GREETINGS. Think warm thoughts of the season. This year's annual HHSA Holiday Party was held on Sunday, December 16, 2018, at Kathy and Gregg Borchelt's house. The celebration began at 3:30 p.m., just in time to enjoy a December view of the Chesapeake Bay before sunset. Members and guests brought a wide variety of appetizers, side dishes, desserts and adult beverages to share with everyone. Last year's party featured a breathtaking, mouthwatering array of spiked eggnogs, a popular offering judging from the number of empty bottles. This year, Emily and Keith brought a batch of Fireball Apple Cider. Go look at the photos taken by Bev (in the website's Photo Albums).

THE DOCK HOP SEASON WRAPS UP. As the cold weather season descends, we wave a cheerful farewell to another HHSA season. The Dock Hop Season closed out with "The Worst One"! About 30 dock hoppers gathered at the Herrington Harbour North Gedunk Patio to enjoy sausages after dark of

October 19, 2018 – a mild, breezy evening with NO RAIN. As always, generous side dishes were shared and everyone seemed to enjoy the opportunity for autumn socializing.

The dock hop season this year was especially blessed, for the most part, with dry weather. The pre-Fourth of July dock hop and the Pop-up dock hop enjoyed particularly fine summer weather. The Syttende Mai dock hop was not so fortunate, but Vikings are not deterred by wet weather!

Here's hoping that next year's HHSA Dock Hop Season will be sunny. Please consider being part of an informal committee to plan some fun, new, casual, BYO events – every little bit would be welcomed and always appreciated.

ANNUAL HHSA BANQUET. Yes, Virginia (and Maryland and D.C.), the Herrington Harbour Sailing Association End of the Season Banquet has been scheduled.

THIS IS IT!!! Dock Hops and the Frostbite Races are over. The Racing tabulations are in. The active cruising events have all successfully launched and returned. Boats are secure for the winter.

It's time for a different kind of gala event. This year, the Mount Vernon Inn (at the entrance to George Washington's Mount Vernon home, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon, VA 22101) has agreed to open its doors in January exclusively for the Herrington Harbour Sailing Association. This year's festivities will take place on January 26, 2019, and will start at 7:00 PM with socializing, appetizers and a cash bar in the Tavern Room, followed by dinner and presentations in the George Washington Room. The cost \$80.00 per person.



Please join HHSA for an evening of fun, and also to acknowledge the efforts and accomplishments of all of you who make HHSA an exciting, interesting, and inviting organization. As always there will be prizes and surprises, awards and accolades, food and drinks, friends and conversation. Suggested attire is Dressy Cocktail and/or Semi-formal.

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!!!

WOMEN UNDERWAY

The following Sunday dates for the next three Women Underway meetings have been scheduled and are on the Event Calendar: January 13, February 10, March 10, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, at the Public House/National Harbor, 199 Fleet Street, Oxen Hill, MD. Registration is recommended

We still do not have a formal coordinator for the group, so please consider volunteering a topic for discussion - it doesn't have to be a formal presentation.

The tentative topic for our first meeting is MOB.

PARADE OF LIGHTS

By Bev Wright, s/v *Whoosh*

BEHOLD THE SCHMELVES!

Hanukkah is the “Festival of Lights,” so what could be more appropriate than a Hanukkah-themed boat in a Lighted Boat Parade? I registered for the 2nd Annual Deale Parade of Lights in October, spent

November buying inflatable decorations and lights, and by December had Hanukkah “Schmelves” for decorating and parade crew! The day before the parade, Dale Whitley, Janet Crowder, Andrea Heintzelman, Stefan Leader, and Jeremy Midgley, tested the Honda 2000i portable generator, got Teddy Bear seated at the bow, secured a dreidel to the coach roof, fitted the menorah onto the boom between the lazy jacks, zip-tied a Star of David to the backstays, wrapped lights around the boom, bimini, and lifelines, and hoisted the HHSA Cruising burgee.

After dinner at Dockside, we went back to test-light *Whoosh*. On parade day, Andrea, Stefan, Jeremy, Cathy Freel, Gail Monahan, and Donna Schmitz arrived. The parade was to start at 7 pm, so boats were asked to stage between 6 and 6:30 at either Hidden Harbor, Happy Harbor, or Shipwright. Herrington Harbour North (HHN) had removed “F” dock and all the pilings, so without the “F” dock pier lights it was very dark and unfamiliar at 5:50 PM when *Whoosh* left “E” dock to motor to Happy Harbour (“B” on the parade route map) to be at the front of the parade. In addition, *Whoosh* was lit up so that partygoers on the HHN lawn and at Skipper’s Pier could see us on the way to the parade, but the lifeline lights impeded our night vision.

As we rounded “G” dock, we turned off the lifeline lights making it easier to negotiate the marks and motor up Rockhold Creek. For the next hour, Stefan, then Andrea, on the helm, circled in Rockhold Creek to stay close to the bridge but also avoid the hovering charter fishing boats and cruising yachts. (*Note for next year-leave the dock just 15 minutes before the parade so no circling!*)



Whoosh decorated in a Hanukkah in her first lights parade. (Photo by Bev Wright)

While Cathy and Jeremy and I were “all eyes” for docks and other boats, Gail and Donna sang “The Dreidel Song” and waved to onlookers cheering “Happy Hanukkah!” It was chilly out with a light breeze, but not intolerable and we drank hot cider and hot chocolate for comfort. Right before the parade started, we turned on the lifeline lights and nearby spectators cheered!

At 7:00 PM, the parade started with seven boats motoring from Hidden Harbor under the Tracy’s Creek Bridge behind the Deale fire boat. As soon as those boats passed, Andrea motored *Whoosh* into line at Happy Harbor and we were parading! Spectators packed the docks, lawns and boats in slips all along the route which was inspiring and fun. The parade route took us along Rockhold Creek and Shipwright Marinas, around the Shipwright docks, up Tracy’s Creek to Dockside where we turned back and headed along HHN docks to turn for Skipper’s Pier and the judging barge in the basin. We motored past the judging barge and then headed back to the slip while other boats continued to parade around the basin a second time.

Many thanks to Mark Burrows for his tips from *Jubilee*’s participation last year and to the Schmelves for making it possible for *Whoosh* to be in the parade!



The lights parade route. (Courtesy of Skipper’s)

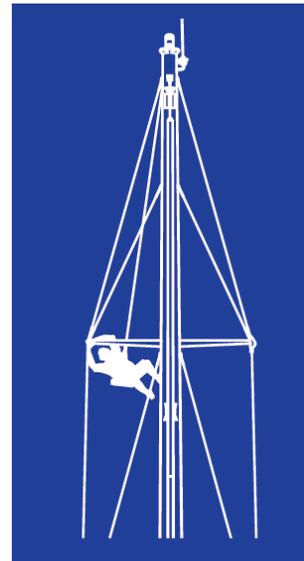


Donna, one of Santa’s merry Schmelves. (Photo by Bev Wright)



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