



Commodore's Quarterly Newsletter

Winter February 2021

Winter greetings to all of you. I hope that all is well. Today I would like to give you a preview of some of the many changes and activities that are coming to the BCYC in 2021.

For 2021 we have two new additions to the Bridge. I would like to welcome former Commodore Rosie Cavin to our board and John Yates as our new Rear Commodore. Both are longtime members and will bring a wealth of experience and fresh ideas to the ongoing operations of the club.

I am proud to announce that this year is the "20th Anniversary of the Back Creek Yacht Club". It is simply amazing that for 20 years, The Best Virtual Yacht Club on the Bay has thrived by bringing exciting boating adventures, top notch boating educational series, marine museums visits, great entertainment and more to its members.

Throughout this year you will see numerous events dedicated to celebrating BCYC's anniversary. Our social directors Gail Higginbotham and Madi Yates along with our 25th Anniversary Committee, headed by Rosie Cavin, are filling the club calendar for 2021 with Zoom events for now and Land and Sea events for later in the year. Many of these events will feature, along with the usual interesting topics and activities, Premier Presentations by some of our former Commodores. If you have ever wondered how the club started and what took place in the early days, now is your opportunity to find out. You most certainly will not want to miss these special programs. Of special interest will be our annual Lobster Feast in June 2021 and our 20th Anniversary Party and Annual Meeting in October 2021. Both events will be in-person and feature the appropriate safety precautions.

This year we will be providing to our members a special 20th Anniversary Membership Card which identifies you as a member and it can be used for reciprocity. BCYC is a member of the Yachting Club of America that affords you the opportunity to visit other Yacht Clubs. Carry it with you locally, on your travels nationwide, and around the globe. Numerous members have enjoyed visits to other Yacht Clubs near and far.

Here is a sample of the special 20th Anniversary Membership Card



Our Communications Team, led by Rear Commodore John Yates will be using Facebook, Spin Sheet, and Prop Talk to publicize the club and its 20 year history. Our goal is to raise our public awareness and to bring in new members. New member recruitment, however, is not only their task but your task as well. What we know is that most new club members come because of person to person contact. I encourage each one of you to reach out to your boating friends, your social circles, and your neighbors, and inspire them to visit the website. Also, invite them to join us for one of our upcoming virtual or in person events. If you have any questions, Laura Treuth, our Membership Chair, will be happy to help you in any way possible.

Have you accessed the BCYC website lately? If not, please take a minute to check out the many superb upgrades Bob Higginbotham and our team have made. Many thanks to them. Here is a link <https://backcreekyc.org/>

Each year the Back Creek Yacht Club acknowledges a selected member who has given exceptional service to the club. This year the club would like to present the Gypsea Joe Award for Outstanding Service to two of our members:

Patti Bartlett



Patti has served the club over the last eight years. First as a BOG member, then an outstanding event planner for several of Commodore's Balls and finally, for the last four years, as club Secretary. Through all she has shown a dedication to organization and thoroughness that has kept us all on track. The club is pleased to present to her this award for outstanding service

Tim Feldmann



Tim is the currently Vice Commodore. In 2020 when it looked like the club would have to find a different way to continue meeting due to the Covid-19 epidemic, Tim provided us with the Zoom technology and the expertise to get us up and running for virtual events. The club is pleased to present to him this award for outstanding service.

Our first event of the year was held on January 24, 2021. Because of our reputation, totally undeserved, as a D.C.W.A.B.P.*, it had to be a wine tasting. This event was hosted by our European wine guru Vern Penner that featured four lovely wines from central Italy. The event also featured a history of the founding of the Club by our first Commodore John Campbell. Have you ever wondered how the club burgee came to be? You will be delighted to learn all about it as it will be up on the website shortly.

The next Zoom event is a Red Wine and Chocolate Tasting with limericks hosted by J. J. Sullivan and Juliana Nedd. The date is February 13, 2021 at 6:00 pm EST. Please join us to welcome Former Commodore Ed Evans who will be our guest speaker. Check out the website for more details and signup if you can.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our next event. Until then, Stay Safe and Well.

Tom Bernhart

Commodore Back Creek Yacht Club

*(a drinking club with a boating problem)