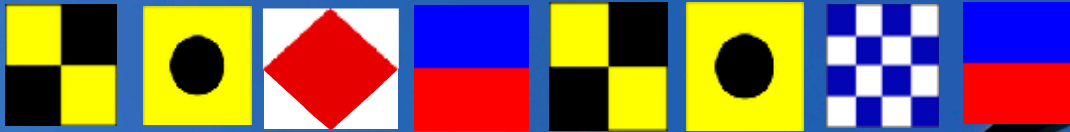


# LIFELINE



*THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PRINCE WILLIAM YACHT CLUB*

*OCTOBER 2023*



## Home is where...

We come from different backgrounds and at times different worlds, but there's one place that brings us all together. Past Commodore J. Gaston talks about this wonderful community.



## IT'S JUST A WAKE, WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

Two boats passing is much different than two cars. Very often, operators have no concern about the dangers of their wake.

# THE BRIDGE



## FLAG OFFICERS

**Commodore** ~ Rick McHarg ~ [commodore@pwyc.org](mailto:commodore@pwyc.org)  
**Vice Commodore** ~ Jim Khoury ~ [vicecommodore@pwyc.org](mailto:vicecommodore@pwyc.org)  
**Rear Commodore** ~ Scott Parsons ~ [rearcommodore@pwyc.org](mailto:rearcommodore@pwyc.org)  
**Secretary** ~ Sabrina Salter ~ [secretary@pwyc.org](mailto:secretary@pwyc.org)  
**Treasurer** ~ Sherry Samar ~ [treasurer@pwyc.org](mailto:treasurer@pwyc.org)  
**Immediate Past Commodore** ~ Mike Connolly ~ [ipc@pwyc.org](mailto:ipc@pwyc.org)

## FLEET CAPTAINS

**Membership** ~ Una Murphy ~ [membership@pwyc.org](mailto:membership@pwyc.org)  
**Social** ~ Denise Guess-Parsons, Sherri Connolly, Carol Vasquez, Jenna Burum, Beth Lu, Shannon Leydig ~ [social@pwyc.org](mailto:social@pwyc.org)  
**Newsletter** ~ Robin Davis ~ [newsletter@pwyc.org](mailto:newsletter@pwyc.org)  
**Safety** ~ Bob Schwartz ~ [safety@pwyc.org](mailto:safety@pwyc.org)  
**Webmaster** ~ Mike Manning ~ [webmaster@pwyc.org](mailto:webmaster@pwyc.org)

## DOCK REPRESENTATIVES

<b>A-Dock</b>	<b>Vacant - Seeking Volunteer</b>
B-Dock	Julie Finacchiaro & Keith Clouser
C-Dock	James & Dawn Brady
D-Dock	Matt & Lisa Shaw and Michele Gordon
E-Dock	Nicholas Roper
<b>F-Dock</b>	<b>Vacant - Seeking Volunteer</b>
G-Dock	Mike Strano
H-Dock	Joy & Walt Heuer
I-Dock	Chris & Sabrina Salter
J-Dock	PWM - Sales Dock
K-Dock	Jason and Shannon Leydig
<b>L-Dock</b>	<b>Vacant - Seeking Volunteer</b>
Boatel	Joe Peruzzi

## DELEGATES

**PRYCA** ~ Beth & Sheldon Lu  
**CBYCA** ~ Mike Connolly



Member Club of Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association (CBYCA) & Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association (PRYCA)

# Commodore's Corner

Rick McHarg  
commodore@pwyc.org  
EAGLE ONE K-40  
571.239.1367



Its Mid Sept and leaves are starting to fall, but don't think about the end of boating season...we have the rest of September and all of October yet to go, so along with "Back to School" and the start of the Football season, there are some great boating opportunities yet to come. A few weeks ago we finished a fabulous Labor Day weekend with great weather -- I hope a lot of you took advantage of it. Your Club was able to hold an impromptu Pool Party -- it was great and many folks came -- but the following weekend our SCHEDULED Pool party got rained out. Thanks to our Social Committee Chair Denise Parsons for planning and executing both with a flair.

Next, last week was Patriot Cruise and Salute (PCS) week. On Saturday we treated over 50 Patriots and families who were Wounded Warriors, Veterans, First Responders, police firefighters, Doctors, Nurses, and Gold Star Family members to Cruises on the Potomac, a picnic lunch, and solemn coin ceremony. In coordination with PWM and many sponsoring organizations, Your generosity with your time and your boats made life better for these heroes on a Beautiful weather day.

Thanks to all the Boat Captains, Escorts, Ground Personnel, Bus Coordinators, Greeters, PWM Employees and the Electric Palm Restaurant and especially Fellow Yacht Club member and PCS CEO and his wife, Doug and Jenna Burum for their time and effort to make this day special for all.

Be sure to read Safety Bob's article this month on making a Slow Pass by a slower boat in restricted waters. You could learn something you didn't know about wakes.

If you want to join in on some of the remaining Cruise events in October, visit the Web Page to register for the Commodore's Cruise October 6-9 to Spring Cove Marina in Solomons, and then following that is the "Last" cruise to National Harbor Oct 20-22. Look for more info on the Flyers and Rear Commodore Scott Parsons blurb.

And I'd like to put a plug in for the December Christmas Boat Lighting on Dec 9. This contest is held by the Marina annually in early December by PWM and Carlton has upped the Ante on prizes. The "best" decorated boat 1st Prize will be Slip/Boatel fees for a year! 2nd prize is \$1000, and third prize is \$500. Best boat on each dock gets \$200, and all who decorate (no Charley Brown decorating) will get 5% off their 2024-25 Slip Fees. If Boatel boats wish to enter, Carlton sez he will move your boat to an accessible slot. So, start planning now...

Finally, our club Constitution and By-Laws outline the tenets that the Elections Committee must abide by, and they say that the Immediate Past Commodore (IPC) is the chairman of the Elections Committee, and the committee must have at least two members in good standing. The Officers serve for a max of two one-year terms, and this group of Officers has done that, so it's time for a new Board to take over at the end of this term. Per the By-laws, the IPC presented me with the new Slate of Officers in August, and they are noted below.

This slate will be voted on by the general membership at the November meeting, and barring any difficulty with acceptance, they will take the gavel in December and seat the Fleet Captains:

### **PWYC Flag Office Slate 2024-2025**

Commodore	James Khoury
Vice Commodore	Mike Strano
Rear Commodore	Jason Leydig
Treasurer	Michelle Gordon
Secretary	Sabrina Salter

### **PWYC Fleet Captains 2024-2025**

Social Chair	Shannon Leydig
Membership	Beth Lu
Safety	Bob Schwartz
Webmaster	Mike Manning
Newsletter	<i>OPEN</i>
IPC	Rick McHarg
CBYCA Delegate	Mike Connolly
PWYCA Delegate	Beth Lu

Please note we are still seeking a volunteer to take the Lifeline Newsletter Editor position. All the members listed above are volunteers, so we are looking for a candidate that has some artistic and editorial skills... and if you don't but are interested, we will train you.

Thanks and See you on the docks,

Rick McHarg, Commodore  
PWYC  
571.239.1367  
EAGLE ONE K-40



# Thoughts from the Vice Commodore

**Jim Khoury**  
vicecommodore@pwyc.org  
Pegasus K-33



The air is starting to get chilly, and September just flew by! Sadly, our fabulous boating season on the Potomac and Chesapeake is rapidly coming to a close for the 2023 season.

With the many cruises, even with the intermittent threatening weather, I'd say we had a pretty fine season. It's not over yet folks! We should all hang on to the great fall weather ahead and stretch out our boating season until the first snowflake falls! There are a few events on the calendar that remain to be experienced over the next two months – right up to and including closing day. Don't forget about the Fall Powerboat Show in beautiful Annapolis. October 5th through the 8th. It's always a spectacle to

see all the boats – both new and used on display, not to mention the many vendors with every possible nautical item you cannot do without.

On October 14th , at 9AM, your Board of Directors will be holding the October meeting. Attendance is open to all members in good standing. Later on in the evening, Captain's hour #5 will be hosted by H dock. Keep an eye out for any flyers posted throughout the marina for details. Please register on our website so they may prepare properly.

Our Halloween party is scheduled on October 28th @ 6PM in the BBH... Best costume wins a prize; best decorated boat also wins a prize. Please contact Social if you plan on decorating your boat! [social@pwyc.org](mailto:social@pwyc.org)

One more thing... Our 2023 Photo Contest is under way! I have sent out emails and posted flyers at the marina. If you plan on participating, please download the rules. We will require the photos as a attachment for best results along with the description card. There will be prizes and your photo(s) will be posted in the BBH for all to see next season. ***THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS OCTOBER 15th.***

Thank you all, and I'll see you on the docks! Please refer to your Yacht Club's Website often: [PWYC](http://PWYC) – there are updates and new additions frequently posted as they become available.

**Jim Khoury**  
Vice Commodore PWYC  
(718)494-3365

# Rear Commodore

Scott Parsons  
rearcommodore@pwyc.org  
Island Time G34



September is here and the boating Season is almost at an end for most. The weather is getting cooler and the hurricanes have provided several storms in our area. Not looking forward to getting the boat winterized as that means five months of off season. But there are still club events during those months. Social usually throws together a brunch each month and you are all welcome to attend the monthly meetings to see what is going on and to hear the planning for the 2024 season.

The Three Sisters Raft up was a blast. Thanks to Rick and Kris McHarg for organizing. Thirteen boats total. The weather couldn't have been better. As always the water was refreshing. It always amazes me that we have so many great cooks in our club. Saturday evening we had a gourmet dinner with plenty, well too much food. Had to go on a diet Sunday!! Thanks to all for being creative with the dishes made.



16 September 2023 Patriot Cruise and Salute has finalized. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of September we had 20 members signed up for various roles. And on the 11<sup>th</sup>, the first meeting, Doug Burum provided the rough assignments for each boat taking out patriots and the day communication and event timeline plan was presented to all. The PCS was another wonderful event with over 40 Patriots visiting and spending the day on the water. With a catered celebration to honor all who served. This included Military, first responders, nurses, and spouses.

Pirate Night on the Hook may have to be rescheduled as the weather forecast is not satisfactory for rafting up several vessels. We are in the process of figuring out if we will reschedule or make it an on land event or just count our loss. If we can make it happen an email will go out to all for how we will make it happen or not. Please check your email and look at the website occasionally for update to all events.



Cruises in October consist of the Commodore cruise to Spring Cove Marina at Solomon Island. That is right around the corner, 06 to 09 October can you believe that October already. More information is on the PWYC website, and the flyer is attached to this Lifeline. We now have six boats signed up. Registration is still open so go to the PWYC website and sign up. If you have questions or would just like to know more talk to Rick McHarg or anyone on the Bridge.

The final planned cruise of the year is to National Harbor. There are only five signed up at this time. Planning is in progress and information will be on the PWYC website. The flyer is forthcoming and will be posted to the PWYC Website (pwyc.org)

For any of the land or on water event they all will be posted to the Yacht Club website ([PWYC.org](http://PWYC.org)).

Below is the list of upcoming cruises, with the person coordinating that cruise. If you would like to help on any of the cruises, please contact the Champion for that cruise or you can contact me at rearcommodore@pwyc.org and I will assist getting you in touch with them.

If you have suggestions for next year's cruises please contact me or any of the Board members. Planning will be accomplished from November through January with a finished agenda in January 2024.

Be safe and we will see each other on the water or around the marina. And don't forget the land events, as we always need volunteers.



#### 2023 UPCOMING PLANNED CRUISES:

06-08 Oct Commodore Cruise to Spring Cove Marina, Solomon Island (Rick McHarg)

21-23 Oct Final PWYC Cruise to the National Harbor (Scott Parsons Champion)

# 2023 End of Season Cruise to National Harbor



**20-22 October 2023**

**They use Snag-A-Slip to make reservations**  
**[Snag-a-slip](#)**

**Looking for someone to help out with this  
event if you are interested please contact  
PWYC Rear Commodore at  
[rearcommodore@pwyc.org](mailto:rearcommodore@pwyc.org)**

**This is always a great location as there are  
many things to do. Marina Staff is great and  
the scenery is fantastic.**



# FENDER ~~BOARDS~~ PIPES

If you've been around boating long enough, especially if you do some traveling, you've likely heard of fender boards. They are handy devices that keep your boat off of the lock wall or span across a piling at a fixed dock. We all know that trying to center a fender in the "perfect" spot against a pole can be a small but meaningful pain in the backside.

Fender boards are used across the marine industry to protect the vessel and reduce the risk of damage. Most of the fender boards I've ever seen consist of a 2x4 or 2x6 strapped across two fenders and tied to the boat. Until I moved our boat to Annapolis, with its fixed docks everywhere, I hadn't thought much about making them for us. But, times are changing and I'm starting to see the value.



While doing their amazing trip up thru Canada, Vicky Carr came across an article written by a lady who created a lighter weight version of the fender board using appropriately sized PVC pipe. This light weight build would surely be easier to handle and store. It wouldn't be subject to rot.

I think I'll be doing some research on this and perhaps I'll build a set for us before we travel south.

Thanks for the tip, Vicky!!

# PRINCE WILLIAM YACHT CLUB

2023

# PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



***Submissions limited to one of the following categories to be eligible for prizes:***

- Boats (of course!)- one or more boats are the central subject matter.
  - Places - Marinas, coves, buildings along the water, and other nautical places.
  - Wildlife - Waterfowl, mammals and other animals that inhabit the watershed of the Chesapeake.
  - People - Yacht Club members, friends, and interesting inhabitants of the region, including those who work on the water
  - Pets - Our furry or feathered on-the-water companions, in a nautical setting.
  - Nautically based sunrise/sunset photos (within the areas permitted in the Contest Rules Document)
- ❖ **Grand Prize - the best of the best, an outstanding photo submitted in any category that rises above the other entries.**

**PHOTO SUBMISSION NO LATER THAN 15 OCTOBER 2023**

**YOU MAY SUBMIT MULTIPLE PHOTOS – MAKE EACH ONE COUNT!**

Scan Here to Download  
Contest Rules Document.



If you have any questions or  
comments, please email:

[vicecommodore@pwyc.org](mailto:vicecommodore@pwyc.org)

Or Call:

718-494-3365

Scan Here to Email Photos.



# Safety Officer

Bob Swartz



## Overtaking/Slow Passing In A Really Narrow Inland Waterway

This piece is part of a series. Each is referenced below and can be found on the Prince William Yacht Club website. The series has to do with aspects of wakes, handling wakes, passing, traveling narrow (as opposed to really narrow) waterways, each of us staying to the starboard side of a channel, etc. As always these are the thoughts of one person. Everyone is on their own out there.

1. The Lifeline, Narrow Inlets, Etc. October 2021.
2. The Lifeline, “Big Boy Power Boats (BBPBs) ; The Narrow Occoquan River Channel,” October 2022.
3. The Lifeline, “Sometimes It Might Be Best To Just Stay In Line And Follow The Herd,” August 2023.

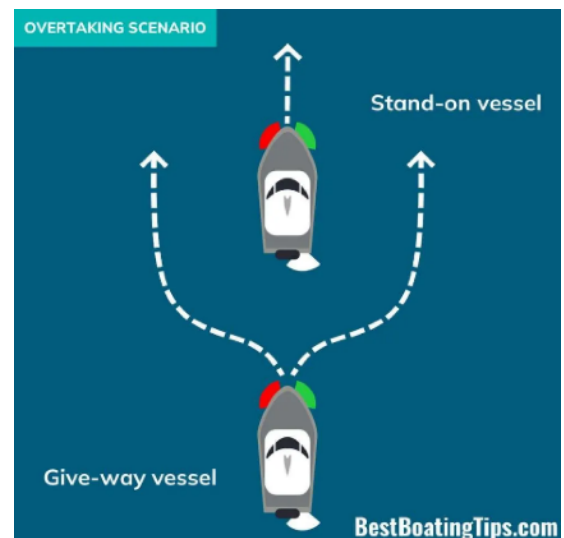
Overtaking and the Rule. The picture below shows an overtaking scenario. Note which vessel is the stand-on vessel and which is the give-way vessel. As an aside, neither of these vessels are entitled to something called “the right-of-way”. Each vessel has its own responsibilities.

Stand-on vessels should continue to keep moving at the same speed and in the same direction. Give-way vessels have the responsibility of signaling their intentions to the stand-on vessel. It is also her responsibility to maneuver herself around the other in a safe manner. A give-way vessel may also be called the burdened vessel. Another name for the stand-on vessel is the privileged vessel. According to the Rules, a burdened vessel must give way to a privileged vessel.

Whenever in a passing scenario on inland waters, the stand-on vessel, acknowledges the intended actions of the give-way vessel if she agrees with the intention. The stand-on vessel must maintain her agreed to course and speed until the give-way vessel passes and is clear. The stand-on vessel always has the option of sounding the danger signal (**Rule 34--five rapid, short blasts**) if she does not understand the intentions or actions of a give-way vessel. Or, if she is in doubt whether sufficient action is being taken by the other to avoid a collision.

Whether it is a slow pass on the Intracoastal waterway (ICW) or a normal pass anywhere else on Inland waters, Rule 13 Inland is the Rule to follow:

(a) Notwithstanding anything contained in Rules 4 through 18, any vessel overtaking any other shall keep out of the way of the vessel being overtaken.



(b) A vessel shall be deemed to be overtaking when coming up with another vessel from a direction more than 22.5 degrees abaft her beam; that is, in such a position with reference to the vessel she is overtaking, that at night she would be able to see only the stern light of that vessel but neither of her side lights.

(c) When a vessel is in any doubt as to whether she is overtaking another, she shall assume that this is the case and act accordingly.

(d) Any subsequent alteration of the bearing between the two vessels shall not make the overtaking vessel a crossing vessel within the meaning of these Rules or relieve her of the duty of keeping clear of the overtaken vessel until she is finally past and clear.

Whenever one vessel is overtaking another vessel, the vessel being overtaken ALWAYS has precedence. It should be allowed to continue unhindered. This is the case even if the vessel behind has a higher level of right-of-way priority.

According to Rule 18 Inland, for example, a sailboat being driven solely by the wind with no mechanical propulsion normally would have a higher level in the pecking order than a power boat. However, the same sailboat would have to cede to the fastest speed boat on the water if that speed boat was to be going at a no-wake speed and the sailboat wished to make a pass.

***The Etiquette of Making A Slow Pass in a Really, Really Narrow Inland Waterway.*** The idea in making a slow pass is for the give-way vessel and the stand-on vessel to create the least amount of wake as is possible. Proper boating etiquette relies on passing in a manner appropriate to the conditions and being mindful of the rights of others using a channel. It is not proper etiquette to pass someone in a manner that negatively affects a vessel which is where it is supposed be and doing what it is supposed to be doing according to the accepted Rules of the Road.

The slow pass starts with the give-way and stand-on vessel communicating to reach agreement on what will occur. What is written in Rule 34 Inland states that the stand-on vessel must agree to any proposal made by the give-way vessel or tell the give-way vessel when, where, and/or how to make the slow pass. If the stand-on vessel has any doubts about what the give-way vessel wants to do she shall sound the danger signal of five short blasts (Rule 34 Inland).

Vessels in a passing scenario usually initiate contact by VHF on either 16 and moving somewhere else or 13. The give-way vessel might note the stand-on vessel's name visually or with AIS. Often the call is, "Sailing vessel southbound approaching Red 156, this is...." The two vessels agree between themselves on the conditions of the slow pass.

Using a whistle/horn or flashing lights are other options (Rule 34 Inland). When in sight of one another: (i) a power-driven vessel intending to overtake another power-driven vessel shall indicate her intention by the following signals on her whistle: one short blast to mean "I intend to overtake you on your starboard side"; two short blasts to mean "I intend to overtake you on your port side." The power-driven vessel about to be overtaken shall, if in agreement, return the signal.

Those making agreement over the VHF need not sound the whistle signals prescribed by this Rule, but may do so. If agreement is not reached through the radio, then whistle signals shall be exchanged in a timely manner and shall prevail.

**Beware the Laws of Physics.** The laws of physics must be expected to exert themselves whenever two vessels in a narrow, narrow channel pass. Speed differentials, vessel design differences, vessel size differences, sudden speed changes by one vessel or the other, etc. may lead to water pressures that cause unfamiliar movements of either or both vessels.

Bows may move away from each other while at the same time sterns may approach. A wake created by a larger vessel may push a smaller vessel outside an already narrow, narrow channel and into a rapidly shoaling area. In many cases speed control and prior planning prevents or goes a long way toward mitigating issues.

<https://images.app.goo.gl/VK6pSQvtbXR2PkzDA>


<https://www.proptalk.com/slow-pass-icw-whats-legal-practical-and-best-etiquette>

<https://www.mercurymarine.com/en/us/dockline/how-to-use-a-vhf-radio/>


<https://www.boatus.org/study-guide/navigation/rules/>

<https://www.bibalex.org/SCIplanet/en/Article/Details.aspx?id=13706>


## Know the rules on the water



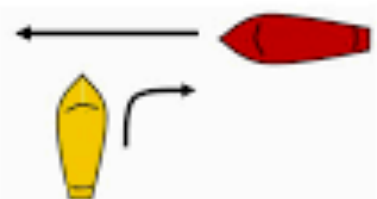
**Overtaking boats**  
All boats, sail or power, overtaking from astern (behind) must keep clear until they are well past the boat being overtaken. The boat in front may not be aware of your presence or intentions.



**Power boats meeting head on**  
Each boat must alter course to starboard (right) to pass on the port (left) side of the other—the opposite to driving on the road.



**Power boats meeting on an angle (crossing)**  
Give way to boats on your starboard (right) side.





## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**The Prince William Yacht Club is in search of an Editor for the LifeLine! This Board position is vital in sharing information to the membership. Don't miss this great opportunity to be engaged in YOUR yacht club!!**

**Any questions, please contact the current Editor, Robin Davis.**



# Treasurer

SHERRY SAMAR  
IRISH HAWK, H-41



## PWYC Treasurer's Report

08/01/2023 – 08/31/2023

### INCOME

Dues	\$	100.00
50/50	\$	500.00
Founder's Day Pork Sold	\$	10.00
Seafood Boil Guests	\$	200.00
Interest	\$	0.23
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>810.23</b>

### EXPENSES

Father's Day Cruise	\$	45.00
Bay Cruise	\$	197.03
Captain's Hour (E-F-G Docks)	\$	150.00
Founder's Day	\$	769.59
Entertainment Gratuity	\$	500.00
Seafood Boil	\$	3,519.00
Long Term Capital (freezer & crab crackers)	\$	318.75
Wild Apricot Expense	\$	17.15
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,499.37</b>

Checking account balance 09/01/2023 **\$ 24,712.76**



# Ships Manifest

Membership Chair

Una Murphy

[membership@pwyc.org](mailto:membership@pwyc.org)



**Welcome to all new and renewing members!**

**2023 Membership (from 09/01/2022 – 09/04/2023)**

Note that starting September 1, any new or renewing member will be active for the rest of the 2023 season and the full 2024 season.

195 members

162 renewals/new members

33 members paid by Prince William Marina

*For Comparison*

2022 Membership (as of 08/02/2022)

191 members

158 renewals/new members

33 members paid by Prince William Marina

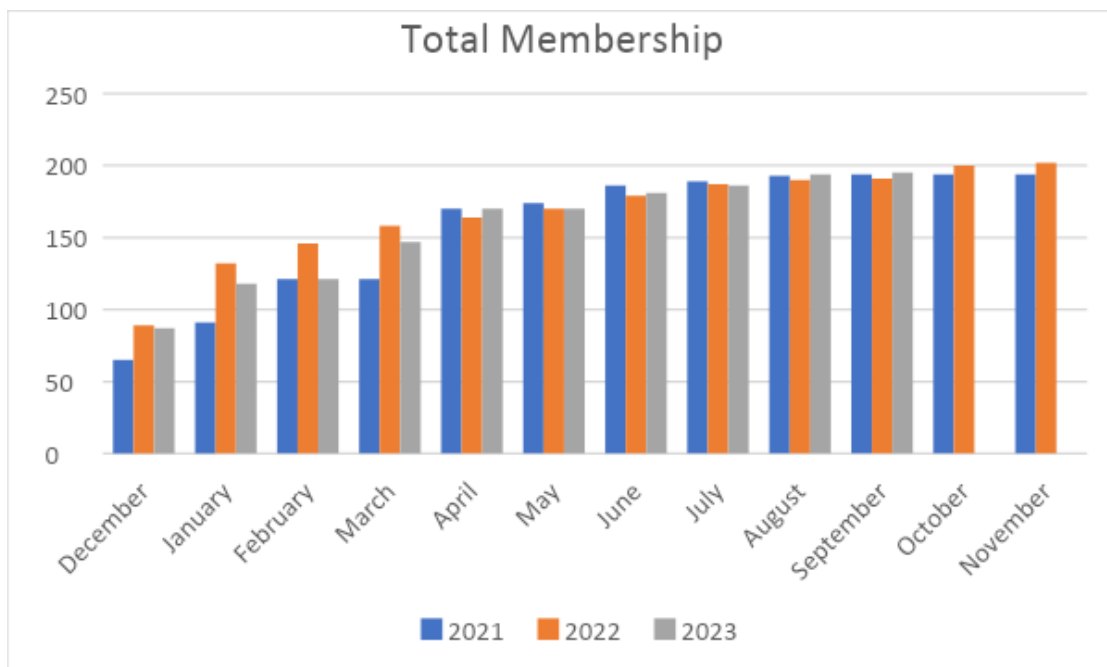
*For comparison:*

2021 Membership (as of 08/02/2021)

194 members

163 renewals

31 members paid by Prince William Marina





Directories available in the blue bathhouse for those who indicated they wanted them on their records. Moving forward, please send an email to [membership@pwyc.org](mailto:membership@pwyc.org) if you want an email and one will be left in the blue bathhouse.

BURGEES FOR SALE \$30 IF YOU PICK UP AT MARINA AND \$40 IF YOU WANT IT MAILED TO YOU.

**Download the Wild Apricot Mobile App to help you stay connected to PWYC:**



**Don't forget that you can use the Wild Apricot Member App to stay connected to the Prince William Yacht Club even in the off-season.**

Download the app, sign in with the same email address and password for your **PWYC** account and start using it!

This app helps you:

- Interact with fellow members anywhere from your mobile device
- Register and make payments for events
- View all existing event registrations
- Update your member profile, including your address, phone and email
- View your membership card

**Scan the QR Code above OR download the app from the Apple App Store or Google Play!**

**Renew Your Membership Today:**

Renew via **Credit Card** in the Wild Apricot App or on [pwyc.org](http://pwyc.org)

Or

Send a \$100.00 **Check** made payable to: **PWYC** to  
PWYC Membership Renewal  
c/o Prince William Marina  
12849 Gordon Boulevard  
Woodbridge, VA 22192-3240

As always, one more reminder: If you know marina friends or dockmates who have not yet renewed, please give them a reminder. If you know marina friends or dockmates who are not members, please recruit them for membership!

# **2023 PWYC Commodore's Cruise**

**Friday Oct 6 to Monday Oct 9**

**Spring Cove Marina, Solomons Island, MD**

**Open to PWYC Members & Their Guests**

**Make your own Slip Reservations on the Website.**

**Be sure to note you are part of the PWYC.**

**Slip Fees: \$2.50/Ft/night plus electric \$14-16/night.**

**LMK when you are confirmed on Dockwa. The Pool and Pool Bar will be open if weather supports. Plan on a Pot Luck in one of the Covered Picnic areas Fri Nite, a Group Happy Hour and dinner at a nice restaurant on Saturday, and on your own Sunday. Several Museums and walking trails nearby, and SCM has bikes to borrow.**

➤ **Cruise to SCM on Fri (110 mi, 4.5 hrs. at 24 mph)**

**[www.springcovemarina.com](http://www.springcovemarina.com)**

**Join Us: Either by boat or by car, there are plenty of nearby hotels and lodges. Please sign up on the PWYC Website so I know who is coming, make your slip reservations and tell me about it (or hotel reservations) (571)239-1367.**



Scan for Spring Cove Website



# Welcome to the Village

J Gaston

**W**hen I was Commodore (or Newsletter Editor, or Rear Commodore), I had the great “privilege” of preparing some morsel of wisdom, inspiration, or sea story every month to (try to) entertain our members. During morning mimosas this past spring at The Wharf, I regaled a dear friend with one particular story who has since harangued me to share it with all of you! So, check that block!!! I’m flattered by the interest so have dusted off the digits from my article in June, 2012. Here is a piece of PWYC lore that still gets me in trouble with Carlton. It cost him a few thousand dollars (THANKS, Debbie!). You know those street signs at the end of each dock? Well, this is how it all started 11 years ago... (names have been changed to protect the not-so-innocent).

Back in 2003, I had no clue how lucky we were to find such a wonderful neighborhood to live in. We were new to the area and didn’t really know anyone, but stumbled across this amazing piece of heaven to call our own. It had a beautiful pool, elegant architecture, a great HOA, and the **NEIGHBORS!** You folks are magnificent...just like family, right from the start. So willing to share...food, wisdom, beer! We never guessed how much we’d like living in Prince William Village.

Oh, I’m sorry. What did you say? You don’t live in Prince William Village? You live in Ashburn, Burke, or Fairfax? “Au contraire” Pull up a folding chair and allow me to explain. A village is where a close-knit community of people live. They look out for each other, depend on each other, and frequently know each other’s business. These people invite each other into their lives and homes, sharing the joys and sorrows that are a natural part of life. They celebrate each other’s successes, weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and births. They also keenly feel and mourn the loss of one of their own.

This community called Prince William Village has several lively streets, named from A to L, with a special cul-de-sac called Boatel Ave. The main boulevard is properly named Sea Ray Lane. And the village even has its own corner pub—the Tiki Bar!

The best part, though, is the neighborhoods. Each street is lined with beautiful homes aptly named for the owner’s favorite past time. Names like *Perfect Timing*, *Salty Breeze*, *Island Time*, *Appointment*, *Slice of Paradise*, and *Taiwan-On* grace these wonderful avenues.

On any given summer afternoon (and sometimes, a sunny winter day), you will find friendly neighbors sitting on the dock or someone's back porch reliving shared adventures or offering advice on the latest home improvements. LED lights, new canvas, powerful sound systems, and wide screen TVs tend to be high on people's lists of options. But the conversation also turns to care and maintenance. When should I refill the fuel tank, how much should a new (bottom) paint job cost, and what IS that smell when someone flushes?

And block parties? That's our specialty! From Pirates Night on the Hook, the Seafood Boil, and the Dock Crawl (there are no pictures of J. doing the worm!) to the Change of Watch and Boat Lighting, we know how to have a good time.

If you're a new member to this village of Prince William, WELCOME! We're so very happy for the chance to meet you. GET INVOLVED! Take advantage of all that the community has to offer, but also bring some new ideas. We're always looking for new adventures.

For all you local yokels, remember to say "Hello" to your new neighbors and make them feel welcome, especially those folks on the cul-de-sac. It's tougher for them to hang around the village square when their porch gets stacked away, so why not offer them a seat on the dock or your porch? They're great people!

Growing up in Maine, I always wanted to have waterfront property. Now, I'm lucky enough to have 100ft that I can take wherever I want (and my wallet can afford). Ginger and I are blessed to live in the best little village on the Potomac thanks to our mayor, Carlton Phillips, and we have more dear **friends** than we ever could have imagined. See you on the water!

J. Gaston

*Past Commodore ('11, '12, 17)*

*Patriot Dreams, H-43*



*Villagers giving back*