

LIFELINE



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PRINCE WILLIAM YACHT CLUB

pwyc.com
DECEMBER 2022

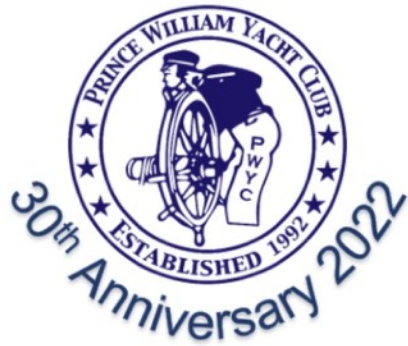


Join us as we REMEMBER and HONOR men and women of our armed forces who risked their lives in service of this Nation.

Safety Update

Safety Bob hosted the Occoquan River Safety Forum. Principals from across the industry were there. Check out his recap in this issue.





THE BRIDGE

FLAG OFFICERS

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

FLEET CAPTAINS

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

DOCK REPRESENTATIVES

A-Dock	Vacant - Seeking Volunteer
B-Dock	Julie Finacchiaro & Keith Clouser
C-Dock	James & Dawn Brady
D-Dock	Matt & Lisa Shaw
E-Dock	Nicholas Roper
F-Dock	Charlotte Blane
G-Dock	Mike Strano
H-Dock	Joy & Walt Heuer
I-Dock	Chris & Sabrina Salter
J-Dock	PWM - Sales Dock
K-Dock	Laura Lee
L-Dock	Arthur & Rebecca Fernandes
Boatel	Joe Peruzzi

DELEGATES

PRYCA ~ Beth & Sheldon Lu
CBYCA ~ Mike Connolly, Tim Abel



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



Wow – I'm writing about December... Where does the time go? We just held Closing Day festivities, so the official club cruising season is over, but the Bridge is actively planning your 2023 calendar, membership renewals are well underway, and we have a date for the Change of Watch Gala.

This blurb will focus on the great job our volunteers are doing, boating safety initiatives, and what's coming up in December.

We just had Closing Day activities day and results of the 2022 Photo Contest. The day started with an all-hands membership meeting and the slate of 2023 club officers were announced by IPC Mike Connolly and voted in for the 2023 season.

They are:

Commodore –	Rick McHarg,
Vice Commodore –	Jim Khoury
Rear Commodore –	Scott Parsons
Treasurer –	Sherry Samar
Secretary –	Sabrina Salter

By constitution and by-laws, the bridge officers may only serve two one-year terms in their current positions, so 2023 will be it for me. I'd like to welcome Sabrina Salter to the Officer corps. Thanks for stepping up! And another shout out to Mike Manning, who volunteered to join the bridge as the Webmaster to replace retiring Ginger Gaston. Thank you Ginger for all your years of hard work on the bridge and welcome to Mike M. After the meeting, we conducted the ceremonial flag lowering and retirement at the flagpole, orchestrated by Vice Jim Khoury. Thank you, Jim. Then it was back to the BBH for the Cook off. I-Dock Rep Sabrina Salter did a great job (with a little help) of feeding the judges the 11 different chilis and 6 Mac 'n Cheeses, then feeding the crowd, getting the votes tallied, and awarding ornamental spoons to the winners. All the while, the Photo contest entries were on a loop on the big screen for all to see. The selection committee of Jim Khoury, Sherry Samar, Lou Ward, and Tom Payne presented a fine group of winners. Look for those photos in the following pages, also.

We are actively thinking of ways to improve our boating awareness and education processes to help you get more enjoyment out on the water safely – one example is to hold a flare and fire extinguisher demo/trial day with expired flares/extinguishers – something we did in the past. Safety Bob wants to get this on the calendar for you. And we already have dates for the Spring boat safety inspections. If you have any ideas on how we can improve your boating knowledge and /or safety awareness, don't hesitate to contact me or your Bridge Safety Officer Bob Schwartz. While I'm on the subject of Boating Safety, I just attended the Fall Occoquan River Safety Forum at the Electric Palm. Organized by Bob Schwartz, it included reps from nearly all the users of the River. Maritime Police officers from Fairfax County, Prince William County, USCG, CG Auxiliary, Virginia Conservation Police, Fireboat crews, TowBoat US Capts, Marina owners, the Regional Park managers, Yacht Club Reps, Vulcan Reps (the Sand Barge folks), the Freedom Boat Club, and Yes, even the Mayor of Occoquan (an avid Paddleboarder and PWYC member). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss incidents and issues that may have arisen over the course of the 2022 boating season. I'm sure Bob will have an excellent summary in his column later.

Needless to say, it was a productive morning and the attendance was most impressive. Finally, under the Safety topic, we will host a Zoom call with the Vulcan Barge Tow Capt Phillips on Dec 6 at 7:30. Sign up for this informative hour of learning all about Tugs and Barges on the Occoquan.

Social Chair Denise Guess has a Wine Tasting and Painting Social scheduled Nov 19 by the time you read this so I know it will be a fun night. After a great Thanksgiving, the next event on your Calendar should be our PWYC Board meeting on December 3 rd in the BBH. Then the next Saturday is the Annual PWM Boat Lighting on Sat Dec 10. There's a chance to walk the docks to see all the elaborate boat decorations, take the kids on a hayride, grab some chili and hot dogs and hot cider, visit with Santa and fill up the "Boatload of Hope" with food and gift donations. Look for the flyer later in this issue...Decorations are judged and there's lots o' Cash \$\$ prize money to be had!

Finally, by the time you are reading this, you should have scheduled or completed your boat winterization to protect your investment. And then you can tick off the days til Opening Day 2023. From the Boat Lighting, it's only 126 days til April 15, 2023. Oh yeah, Did I mention when the Change of Watch Gala is? It's Saturday, March 11 at Embassy Suites Springfield. Details inside. Merry Christmas to all!

Hope to see you at the Boat lighting,

Rick McHarg
PWYC Commodore





A Special Holiday Greeting December 2022

The staff at Prince William Marina would like to thank you for your business this past year and wants to extend our wishes for a most enjoyable Holiday Season. You are invited to attend and participate in the **25th Annual Christmas Boat Lighting and Decoration Party** on **Saturday, December 10th**. Decorate your boat and walk the docks to enjoy a wonderful nautical Christmas party. Complimentary food and drinks will be provided. Prizes will be awarded; see below. We would like to see everyone decorate!

The PWM staff will also collect nonperishable food, clothing, children's gifts and toys to provide a **"Boat Load of Hope"** for less fortunate families in our local community. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. Let's fill that boat up to the top! If you can't make it on December 10th, please drop off your donations at the marina before then. All the best for the Holiday Season and a Happy New Boating Year!

– Carlton and the PWM Staff

****If you store your boat in the boatel and want to get in on the fun, ****

contact DJ at djphillips@pwmarina.com

25th Annual Christmas Boat Lighting and Decoration Party

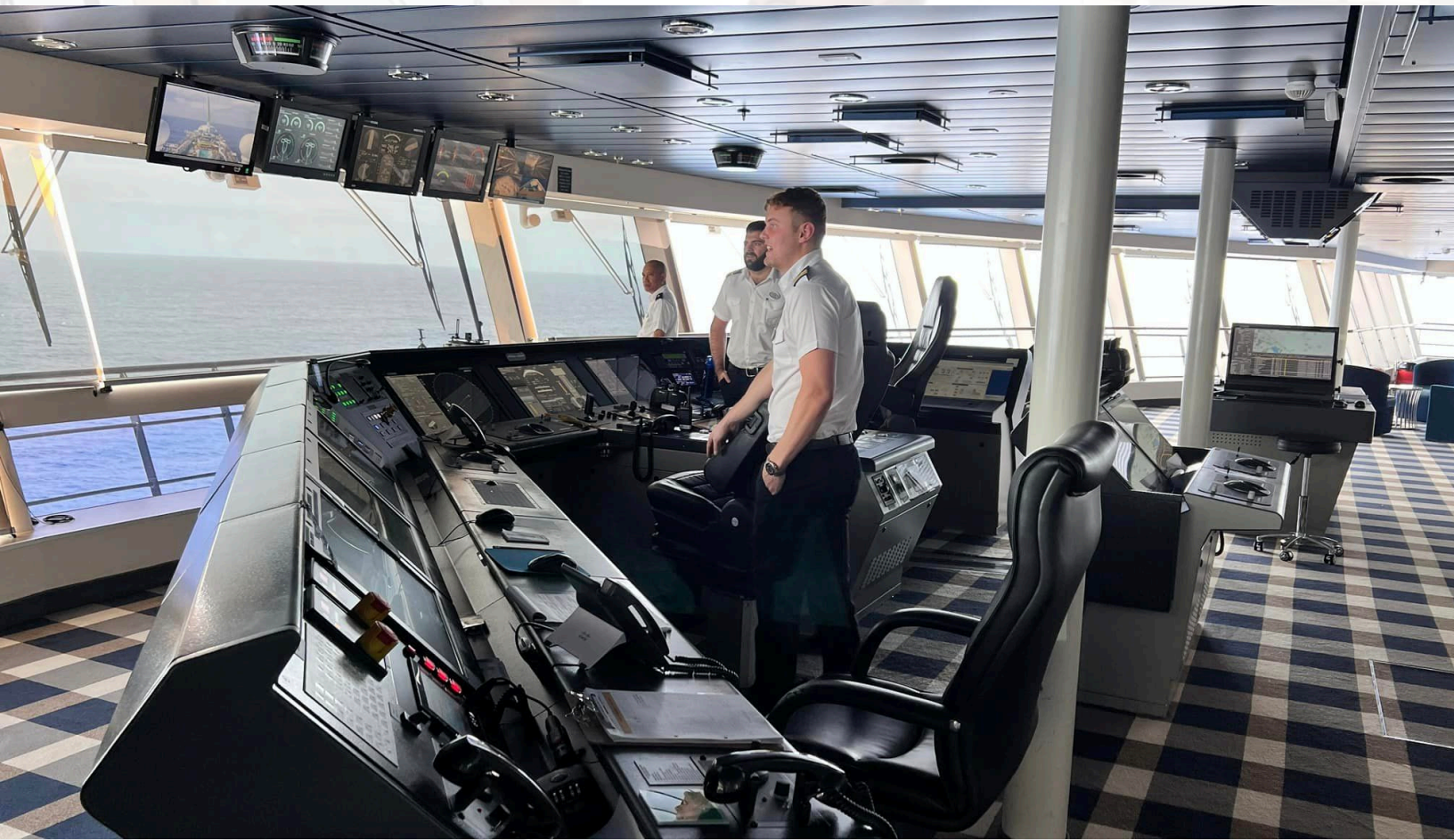
Saturday December 10th, 2022

Judging 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Prizes awarded at approximately 7:30 pm

***Fireworks immediately following the awards,
Complimentary Refreshments
Don't Miss It!***

NEWS FROM THE BRIDGE



Vice Commodore's Musings



Jim Khoury
vicecommodore@pwyc.org
Pegasus K-7



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to All!! It's December and 2022 is all but history! So... to bring all up to speed, our closing day ceremonies went well as we retired the flags for the season and respectfully burned the damaged "Old Glory" with the customary "Ceremonial Burning".

Our annual photo contest turned out some quality photos this year. I would like to thank our judges – Thomas Payne and Lou Ward for their time and input in making this event flow smoothly. Special thanks to my "right arm" – Sherry Samar for the huge amount of work that went into sorting, tagging, and distributing the entries to the judges... Then ultimately creating two slide shows for the closing day gathering. Thank you all! ... and the winners are:

- "Pirates Party"* (Boats Category) – Mike Connolly
- "A Day on the Water"* (People Category) – Steve Levenson
- "Salty Dog"* (Pet Category) – Judy Khoury
- "St. Michaels at Sunrise"* (Places Category) – Michael Connolly
- "Focused Flight"* (Wildlife Category) – Mike Perrella
- "Resting Up"* (Grand Prize Winner) – Jim Brady

Come on up to the Blue Bath House to see the winners hanging on the walls!

The Chili cook-off was again a huge success as I Dock (Sabrina Salter) and the Boatel Representative (Joe Peruzzi) pulled it off with remarkable poise! Kudos to you for another well attended and well produced event! Sabrina had some really nice "Engraved Spoons" for the winners this year.

December holds a few events that are absolutely "Must Attend" for our members! On December 3rd, the Board of Directors will be holding the last board meeting for 2022 @ 10AM. This meeting is open to all members in good standing. On December 10th, the Prince William Marina will be holding its annual Christmas Boat Lighting contest along with all the prizes and gifts they graciously provide for the event. It is open to ALL marina patrons, so member or not – get out there and decorate! Please consult your Dock Representative for details and planning. PWM has arranged for food and fireworks display during the event, so even if you do not plan to decorate your boat, come down and enjoy the festivities – it's always a great time for all!

Don't forget the "Boatload of Hope" for support of the needy within Prince William County. The Sheriff's Office will be orchestrating the event so please show your support. Accepted items such as new toys, children's gifts, children's coats, bikes, and nonperishable food are welcomed.

Finally, our own PCS is teaming up with the Wreaths Across America Organization to distribute wreaths at the gravesites for the fallen Patriots to honor our local heroes. On December 17th, please join us to place the wreaths on those graves. PCS and PWYC will be handling the placement at Quantico this year, so if you are attending, let them know. See the website's events page for details.

Again, Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays to all!

Please refer to your Yacht Club's Website often: <https://pwyc.org> – there are updates and new additions frequently posted as they become available.

- Jim Khoury

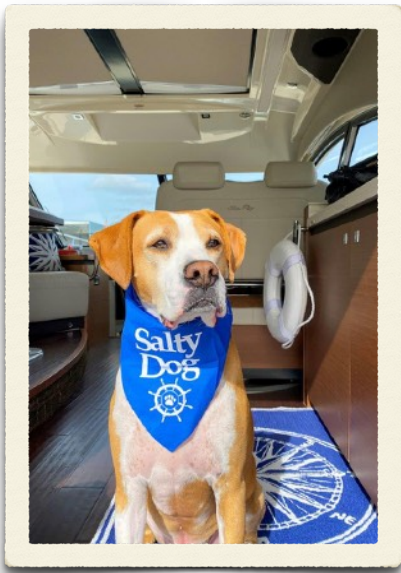
Vice Commodore PWYC, (718)494-3365, Pegasus K-21

CHILLI COOK OFF



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a camera lens. The lens is the central focus, and through its aperture, a small, circular image is visible. This image depicts a stone path leading through ancient ruins, possibly Mayan or Aztec, with stone structures and lush greenery. The text "Photo Contest Winners" is overlaid in a white, serif font across the middle of the lens. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

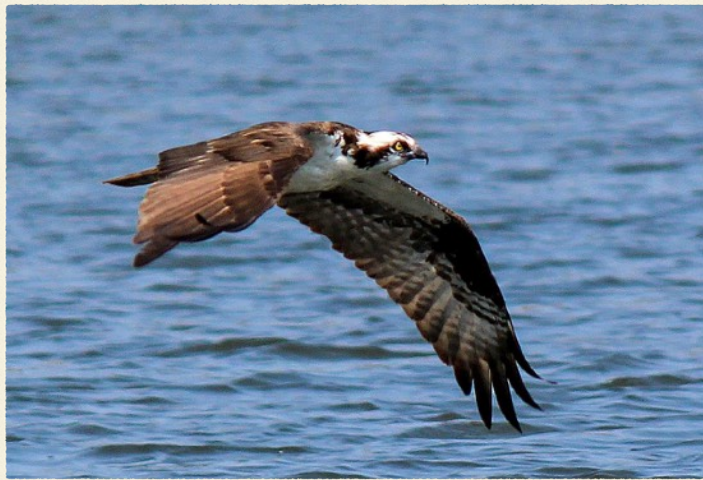
Photo Contest Winners



"Salty Dog"
Judy Khoury



"Pirates Party"
Mike Connolly



"Focused Flight"
Mike Perrella



"A Day on the Water"
Steve Levenson



"St. Michaels Sunrise"
Mike Connolly



“Resting Up”
Jim Brady



Rear Commodore

Scott Parsons
rearcommodore@pwyc.org
Island Time G25



In the 40's and that means Winter. I would first like to say I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and may the New Year bring you much Happiness.

Don't forget the land events, as we always need volunteers. There are going to be some Brunches again during the winter months so keep in touch and stay tune to the PWYC website with all the winter activities.

As the Board is getting ready to pencil in dates for all 2023 events, I would like to know how you thought the 2022 cruises went? If you have any suggestions on locations, boating activities, or any other comments that would make 2023 on water events better I am all ears.

For those not winterized there seems to still be a few days of good weather. Enjoy, as that is why we are boaters. I am hoping to have a new look to the boat next year as I am still upgrading to make my excursions more enjoyable. She is a friend, and a little TLC will keep her happy. And the wife too.

Again, dates for the cruises will be set in January and published in the February Lifeline. Again, if you have any suggestions for the 2023 year cruises calendar please contact me or any of the Board members. Planning will be accomplished from November through January with a finished agenda for the 2023 calendar.

Don't forget that there are still on land events throughout the winter months all of which will be posted on the Prince William Yacht Club website (PWYC.org). See the flyer in this Lifeline or the October Lifeline. The flyers for the land events will also be on the PWYC Website (pwyc.org)

Be safe and we will see each other around the marina until Spring.

PLANNING FOR 2023 PWYC CRUISES IS UNDERWAY

Merry Christmas to all



Join Us in Our Mission

Remember ★ Honor ★ Teach



★ December 17, 2022 ★

National Wreaths Across America Day

Help Patriot Cruise & Salute, Inc
honor local heroes!

Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a
veteran's grave this December at
Arlington National Cemetery.

Just scan the QR code to your right with your smart
phone camera to make a donation online or visit
www.wreathscrossamerica.org/VA0051P



WREATHS
across
AMERICA

www.wreathscrossamerica.org



#FindAWay2022

Treasurer

SHERRY SAMAR
IRISH HAWK, E-6

PWYC Treasurer's Report
10/01/2022 – 10/31/2022



INCOME

Dues	\$ 950.00
Commodore's Cruise from PWM	\$ 250.00
Interest	\$ 0.18
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1,200.18

EXPENSES

Internet Domain for 5 years	\$ 185.00
Ice for Patriot's Cruise	\$ 12.50
Photo Contest Prizes	\$ 200.00
Wild Apricot expense	\$ 10.84
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 408.34
Checking account balance	\$20,962.64
Long Term Capital Expenses	-\$ 4,750.00
Budgeted Expenses not yet spent	-\$ 2,835.00
Funds available	\$ 12,103.73



Ships Manifest

Membership Chair

Una Murphy

membership@pwyc.org



The 2023 PWYC Membership Drive is here!!

Anyone who renews their membership before December 31, 2022 are eligible for the "Annual Get Your Dues Back Drawing," held at the PWM Slip Holders Party in February!

Please help me welcome new and renewing Prince William Yacht Club Members (from September 1, 2022 – November 9, 2022 – any membership payments received after this date will be listed in the next Lifeline):

Ruben and Melanie Acosta
Donald and Michelle Anderson
Ted and Laura Angle
Eric and Shawna Armstrong
Michael and Debra Arrington
David and Sonia Astle
Jason and Marion Belinski
Erica Bernstein and Steve Fischer
Brad Boston and Karen Knutson
Stephen and Kristin Bruck
Doug and Jenna Burum
Vicky and Bob Carr
Craig and Lisa Chuba
Tom and Julie Cornbrooks
Thomas and Mary Craig
Ana Dominguez
Jay and Casey Dowling
Bill and Shirley Embrey
Brian and Kathleen Fitzpatrick
David and Robin Fouse
J and Ginger Gaston
Bob and Donna Giesler
Bruce and Catherine Haynes
Bill and Mary Kenney
Jim and Judy Khoury
Phil and Vicky Kirby
Steve Levenson and Una Murphy
George Lex and Alisa Wheeler
Jerry and Renae Little
Tony and Cindy Lu
Sheldon and Beth Lu
Pete and Michele Maravas

Steve and Pam Marsters
Rick and Kris McHarg
Janine Moore and Debbie Blaylock
Anthony and Orietta Oniawah
Scott and Denise Parsons
Joe and Min Peruzzi
Chad Pessini and Ashley Alperin
Keith Phelps and Maria Manno
Ernie Porta
Don Roberts
Fred and Kathy Roggero
Jack and Sherry Samar
Greg and Debbie Schick
Heidi and Philip Schoepflin
Wayne and Linda Sharp
Todd and Elaine Stottlemeyer
Stephen and Anne Straub
Mike and Teresa Strano
Ray and Erin Toczykowski
Bill and Liliana Torres
Kari Walker and Christos Karageorgos
Michael Walsh and Karla Rinard
Karl Walther and Peyton Onks
Lou and Pat Ward
Alex and Alexander Weinstein
Paul and Maryellen Wetmore
Tony White and Tony White, Jr.
John and Helene Whoteford
John and Anne Williamson
Kelly and Laura Yeh
Ernest Woodward and Hanna Oyku
Daniel and Julie Yang

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:

If you haven't renewed your membership for the 2023 season and want to do so now, you have options!

Renew via **Credit Card** in the Wild Apricot App or on 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

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!

Thanks everyone!!

SAFETY OFFICER

BOB SWARTZ



End-Of-The-Year Occoquan River Safety Forum Review

The Occoquan River Safety Forum held its end-of-the-year review on November 9. The objective of the meeting was to eliminate any issues during the past boating season that affected safety on the river, particularly the most heavily used portion from the Town of Occoquan to the end of the no wake zone by Belmont Bay.

The following were present. Each organization/individual presented a different point of view.

Ball & Strike Callers

1. Prince William County Police Marine Unit
2. Fairfax County Police Marine Unit
3. US Coast Guard
4. USCG Auxiliary
5. VA Conservation Police

First Responders

1. OWL Volunteer Fire Department
2. Fairfax Fire Boat 420
3. Tow BoatUS

Marinas

1. Prince William Marina

Commercial Groups

1. The Town of Occoquan
2. Northern VA Regional Park
3. Vulcan Materials
4. Freedom Boat Club

Yacht Clubs

1. Prince William Yacht Club
2. Occoquan Yacht Club



As always Safety was Job One. The focus was for each person or organization to present the river safety issues they saw last season, what they did this past boating season to improve river safety, and what they could do next season to help make the river safer than it was this season. The same question may be asked of ourselves. What follows are some things of particular importance to PWYC boaters.

PFDs. Think carefully when on a vessel before deciding not to wear a personal flotation device (PFD). Here are some recent accident statistics compiled by the Coast Guard. Note the drowning statistics for people who are in accidents and are not wearing a PFD. According to what was provided: Where the cause of death was known, 81% of fatal boating accident victims drowned. Of those drowning victims with reported life jacket usage, 83% were not wearing a life jacket.

Federal Law requires that when a vessel is underway, children under 13 years of age must wear their lifejacket. There may be some exceptions. For example, if a child is below deck or within an enclosed cabin. We should all check our state boating requirements.

[Accident Statistics](#)

[Life Jacket Wear/Wearing your Life Jacket](#)

Human Powered Craft (HPCs). The reports from the attendees at the Forum were that, generally speaking, HPCs have been doing a better job than previous years keeping to the sides of the river and out of the channel. There also appears to have been fewer groups “lounging” together in the middle of the channel in mini-raft-ups than before. Both the Park and the Town of Occoquan are working with a Coast Guard Auxiliaries who is safety/skills/etc. certified and trained to work with HPCs. A major problem with HPCs continues to be their visibility. They often are too low to the water to be seen at a distance. Wearing bright colors and equipping paddle blades with sun reflectors help.

The Rules Of The Road. The importance of Rule 2 was stressed. Under this rule, everyone may have equal responsibilities while using the water. However, power boats under certain circumstances may have more responsibilities than others. All boaters must keep sharpening their familiarity with the Rules of the Road.

The Ball and Strike Callers provided incidents, for example, of power boaters passing on the wrong side or not proceeding on the correct side of the channel. OWL offers a face-to-face Rules of the Road course.

[Rule 2 Explained](#)

Most Issues Are With Power Boaters. Unfortunately, most of the safety issues on the water during the past season were with power boaters. The Ball and Strike Callers had no problem “educating” people and taking them off the water if they did something stupid, did not have the proper safety equipment aboard, or were drinking while driving.

There was a problem with excessive wakes. Wakes can be a problem for HPCs as well as boats being towed, towboats, Ball and Strike Callers, and First Responders. Everyone is responsible for their wake. There should not be a need to remind boaters to slow down when coming upon a vessel that is being towed or an official vessel that is moving slowly.

There were also reports of power boats ignoring at least one downright danger: The Vulcan Industries tug. The tug needs room and time to dock once it arrives at the company. The same goes when getting ready to drop lines and get in position to head out toward the Potomac. The 350-foot barge and load of sand they are trying to dock might weigh as much as **6600 tons**. This does not count the weight of the tug. An empty barge can weigh as much as 2100 tons. Once these big guys get moving, they are tough to stop or change direction.

Call the tug bridge on either VHF 16 or 13 and follow their instructions. We should be prepared to wait as long as necessary before passing or going behind. Trying to beat a tugboat and a barge is an accident waiting to happen.

The Ball and Strike Callers and the First Responders stressed the importance of boaters providing accurate information either via Channel 16 or a cell phone 911 call when help is needed. All too frequently, this is not being done. Many power boaters either did not know where they were when calling for help or gave out the wrong information. The suggestion was made to either have a device aboard offering Latitude and Longitude information or learning how to use an app such as “What 3 Words.”

Fishing Boats. The Ball and Strike Callers are limited with respect to what they can do to prevent fishing boats from entering the fairways of Prince William Marina. There is no statute forbidding this practice. There was one report of a fishing boat blocking the exit of a first responder from its home slip. The fisherman aboard refused to move.

SAVE THE DATE



CHANGE OF WATCH GALA

March 11, 2023

Embassy Suites
Springfield, VA

7:00-11:30 p.m.

Formal/Cocktail attire

Dinner, Dancing, Open Bar, and After
the Party Party!



CONGRATULATIONS



The Philips and Moreno families celebrated the marriage of DJ and Natalia in a beautiful Fall ceremony in Washington DC.

Letter from the editor

It's hard to believe that I began the journey as Lifeline editor nearly one year ago and what a year it's been for Lifeline and for me.

It was my intention to stand on the shoulders of the Lifeline editors who came before me. They built a fantastic foundation on which to elevate the newsletter to new heights. I wanted to bring interesting stories and articles for the membership to enjoy. The charge from The Bridge was no small order.

I'd like to thank our guest writers who put in a lot of time and effort to author some great boating articles; Rear Commodore Scott Parsons, Past Commodore Chris McCalla, Mike and Teresa Strano, Vicki and Bob Carr, and Beth Lu. Each one did a great job bringing us stories of adventure, safety, education and of course, fun. Commodore Rick McHarg's 6 part series on his journey around the Great Loop was simply amazing.

I'd be remiss, if I didn't offer a personal shout out to Vice Commodore Jim Khoury, who must have explained how to launch Lifeline on the web no less than 30,000 times. Not once did he say (out loud, anyway), "Idiot, I've created videos, slide shows and a picture book for you to follow!! It's not that hard." Instead, every month, he simply smiled, helped out and silently said "Bless your heart!" (Well, he's a New Yorker, he probably said something completely different).

For 2023, I hope to bring in more guest authors, find ways to engage more of our membership and just continue to grow the Lifeline. Remember, this is your newsletter, so if there's things you want to see or submit, reach out!! Thank you for all of the support and patience. Have an amazing holiday season.

Robin Davis

