

# LIFELINE



*THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PRINCE WILLIAM YACHT CLUB*

DECEMBER 2023

## Next Chapter

Captains and  
Commodores move  
and move up

## SAVE THE DATE

The COW approaches!

## SAFE WATERS

Check out the hard work being done to keep you safe on  
the waters courtesy of Safety Bob

# 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



Greetings to all PWYC Captains and Mates! As I sit here writing this in early November, the temperature has gone from 72 yesterday to rain and 48 degrees today. The warm summer/fall has retired and we are heading into the cold of winter - which brings us into the Holiday Eating Season! Get ready, and if you haven't made plans to winterize (like me), time is a' wastin'. The temps usually don't head south of 32 degrees for extended periods until after Dec 1, but the river water temps stay above freezing til later. But I ramble... We had a great turnout for Closing day earlier in November and voted our new slate of Flag Officers in at the General Membership meeting. Next was the Flag Lowering at the Flagpole, planned and led ably by the Vice. Then it was back to the BBH for the Chili Cook-Off and Mac 'n Cheese Off Captains Hour. With 11 entries of Chili and 4 for Mac 'n Cheese, nobody went hungry, and the judges picked the right winners... Sooo good! Thank you to both Sabrina Salter (I-Dock rep & Board Recording Secretary) and Prospective Social Chair Shannon Leydig (K-Dock rep) and their husbands, for a fabulous setup including QR code methodology for the popular vote – impressive. And I would be remiss if I didn't mention Vice Commodore Jim Khoury's work on the Annual PWYC Photo Contest. Some absolutely wonderful photos were presented and hung in the BBH Gallery. Congrats to all the winners! Photos and Winners are listed later this issue.

We are entering the membership “renewal” period for 2024. If you haven't received a reminder or invoice via e-mail yet, you will. So make it easy on yourself and provide your credit card to pay the \$100 for another year of family fun! It's so easy! Next on the calendar is the Wine and Paint Night on Nov 18, followed by the Dec Board meeting on Dec 2, where I will pass the Gavel to Vice Commodore Jim Khoury and your new Bridge will take over. And then the following Saturday December 9 is the Christmas Boat Lighting and Fireworks by the Marina. As you will see in the attached flyer, Carlton has upped the ante on prizes considerably to get as many boats participating as possible. Top decorated boat will get a free slip or Boatel spot for the year, and all participating with bona fide decorations (no Charley Brown decorating) will get a 5% slip discount. So plan ahead!

As this is my last article as your Commodore, I want to wish you all a merry, happy and blessed holiday season. It has truly been an honor to serve, and our success this year is all due to the talented and generous volunteer Flag Officers and Fleet Captains on the Board. We have several people who served multiple years and will be stepping down: Denise Guess (Parsons), Sherry Samar, Una Murphy, Scott Parsons, and Robin Davis. And there are those with multiple years continuing: Bob Schwartz, Beth Lu, Jim Khoury, Mike Manning, Sabrina Salter. I welcome the new volunteers who have answered the call, all the while encouraging more of you to pitch in since our club runs on volunteers. We need Dockreps to keep the Captains Hours going.

The above heroes helped us make it through 3 years of COVID and the transition to a web-based organizational software called Wild Apricot. They ran great land-based and On-the-Water events, and continued supporting Patriot Cruise and Salute. Additionally, they produced an award winning monthly newsletter second-to-none for yacht clubs and conducted the twice annual Occoquan Safety Forum. The new board will jump right in to plan the calendar of events for your next season... They are already at it as the

Change of Watch Gala (COW) is on the calendar for Feb 3. Mark it down and plan to attend; it's a fun evening. I will still be involved with responsibilities as the Immediate Past Commodore (IPC), so you'll see me at Board meetings. Two items of unfinished business still to be addressed: (1) is the design of a "mentoring program" for new boaters/owners. We have a wealth of experience and can share it with others but this needs a mechanism to track and assign when a new owner joins. (2) is the suggestion for a "picture board" to be mounted in a central location that features the current Flag Officers and Fleet Captains for recognition by the membership.

If you have good ideas or want to bring up an issue, feel free to call me, and the same goes if you want to volunteer for a Dock rep or board position. By the Club 2009 Constitution/By-laws I will head the Elections Committee for future boards as the IPC.

It has been a pleasure.

Rick McHarg, Commodore  
Prince William Yacht Club  
EAGLE ONE, K40  
571.239.1367  
[rick.o.mcharg@gmail.com](mailto:rick.o.mcharg@gmail.com)



# Thoughts from the Vice Commodore

Jim Houry  
vicecommodore@pwyc.org  
Pegasus K-33



The grass in the morning has frost on it. Just a reminder of the next few months of unfriendly weather we have come to accept as boaters in the off season.

The holidays and family togetherness time are all around us as we come together to celebrate the annual winter season and look forward to our next season on the water!

Our November club activities included a fantastic closing day with membership attendance well above the last few years. We enjoyed a full turn-out at the Blue Bath House, the flag retirement, Photo Contest, and Chili Cook-Off were all great successes.

Our Photo Contest entries did well this year with many entries and interesting visuals of the season in a snapshot. Here are the winners – in no particular order:

**Pets Category : “Hailey” by Joy Heuer**  
**Places Category: “June on the Occoquan” by Mike Connolly**  
**Boats Category: "Mundy Point” by Joy Heuer**  
**Wildlife Category: "New Boating Family at K Dock” by Mike Strano**  
**Sunset Category: "Painting in the Sky” by Elise Rosenthal**  
**People Category: "Rough Life” by Courtney Merrell**

**Our Grand Prize Winner: “Sunset on the PWM” by Elise Rosenthal**

All in all, we had a wonderful day as the Prince William Yacht Club ended yet another successful season!

This will be my last article as your Vice Commodore as I move up to assume the position being vacated by our Commodore. Rick McHarg has done an amazing job at the helm of the club for the past two years, and I expect to stand on his shoulders and get advice from him and all other past Commodores until the new Board gets fully in gear.

I appreciate the support and confidence bestowed by the membership to place me at the helm and I will do my best to keep the club moving in the same successful direction we have all come to expect from our stellar organization.

With that being said I would like to take a few lines to express appreciation to those that make this machine run ...

- Thanks for past work for the club:
- Denise Guess-Parsons, Carol Vasquez, Jenna Burum, & Beth Lu - Social Committee.
- Scott Parsons – Rear Commodore and Chief Emotional Operational support activist to Social Commander Denise Parsons.
- Our favorite numbers cruncher – Treasurer Sherry Samar.

- Membership Chair – Una Murphy – Fabulous work maintaining our membership data and “welcoming liaison”.
- Robin Davis – for a spectacular job producing our newsletter... You’re going to be a tough act to follow.
- Our IPC – Mike Connolly... Another servant to the needs of the club. Thank you Mike!
- Most of all... Our Commander in Chief... Commodore Rick McHarg – Now IPC! You did an amazing job holding it all together.
- Thanks to our delegates to our sister clubs (PRYCA & CBYCA)... Beth & Sheldon LU as well as Mike Connolly.
- And thanks to all Flag Officers & Fleet Captains that have volunteered to stay on and push forward!
  
- Webmaster Mike Manning, Secretary Sabrina Salter, Safety Chair Bob Schwartz
  
- A special thank you to all Dock Reps that keep our members up to date and involved... Kudos on the successful handling of our many Captain’s Hours and dock parties. (We do have some vacancies to fill)
  
- A special call-out to all those that have come forward for the 2024 season:
  - Mike Strano – Vice Commodore (With Mike’s history, this job should be a walk in the park!)
  - Jason Leydig – Rear Commodore (looking forward to seeing what he has in the works)
  - Michelle Gordon – Treasurer (Thanks for stepping up!)
  - Sabrina Salter – Secretary... Doing an amazing job currently, and I am looking forward to working with Sabrina in the future.
  - Social Chair – Shannon Leydig (I know she has some great plans for us!)
  - Membership Chair – Beth Lu
  - Webmaster – Mike Manning... Continuing the much-needed work maintaining our communications system.
  - Newsletter Chair – Vicky Carr (with her energy and tenacity will surely continue to produce a product we can all be proud of)
  - And as a continuation of their past involvement – Mike Connolly – CBYCA. And Beth Lu – PRYCA delegates.

Thank you all for stepping up to continue making our organization the Gem of the Potomac!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all! Wishing all a wonderful Holiday Season with friends and family!

Jim Khoury  
 Vice Commodore – PWYC  
 Pegasus – K33  
 (718)494-33654

# 2023 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



*Photo by Jay Hunter*

**“Hailey”**



*Photo by Mike Strano*

***New Boating Family at K Dock***

Photo by Courtney Merrell



**Rough Life**



Photo by Elise Rosenthal

**Painting in the Sky**





**Muddy Point**



**June on the Occoquan**



*Grand Prize Winner!*  
*Photo by Elise Rosenthal*

**Sunset on PWM**



# Rear Commodore

Scott Parsons  
rearcommodore@pwyc.org  
Island Time G34



It has been a great pleasure of mine fulfilling the assignment as the Rear Commodore of the Prince William Yacht Club for the last two years. Hopefully I filled the shoe of all those who proceeded me, and let me tell you there were some big shoes to fill. To Rick McHarg and Jim Khoury, thank you for putting up with me. I put the sarcasm on the table, as I feel levity is the best way to keep stress at a minimum.

Now it is my turn to hand over the reins to Jason Leydig! Jason is a seasoned Captain with a great deal of hours under his belt and I am sure he will put together fun for all cruises. Jason and I have discussed some of the more popular places to go and what worked best when coordinating cruises for all to enjoy, so I look forward to some great times on the water in the upcoming years.

I would like to thank all who have mentored me throughout my time at the marina and I hope I reciprocated to others how to have the best time on the water and the ways to accomplish that. I would also like to thank all who have supported Denise and I during the past two years, and all that spent the time to experience the many trips we conducted over the past two years.

I don't want to forget those who took it upon themselves to Champion some of the cruise events. Thank you to those willing to take time out of your lives to take on the task of coordinating with the marinas and the participants, and the scheduling of happy hours and activities that make these cruises fun for all.

**The Prince William Yacht Club is the best club around!** That has been stated by others who share the Potomac and Chesapeake waters with us. Oh, and don't forget the words from the Occoquan Yacht Club, "We would like to be invited back to any of your (PWYC) events".

I want to wish all a Very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a safe and wonderful New Year!

To carry on a Jim Khoury tradition, I will now become the PWYC IPR (Immediate Past Rear). I took off Commodore as IPR sounds more like something I would say!

Scott Parsons

"Island Time"

G25



# *Save The Date*

The PWYC Annual Change of Watch Party

**February 3, 2024**  
**Springfield Hilton**

Don't miss it!! More to come!!!!





# Safety Officer

Bob Swartz



## Our Second Safety Forum

The Prince William Yacht Club hosted the second 2023 meeting of the Occoquan River Safety Forum on November 9. These were the organizations attending.

- Prince William County Marine Unit
- Fairfax County Marine Unit
- The US Coast Guard Auxiliary
- Virginia Conservation Police
- Occoquan Town Police

- OWL Volunteer Fire Department
- Prince William County Fire
- Fairfax County Fire
- Prince William Yacht Club
- Potomac River Yacht Club Association
- The Town of Occoquan
- Northern VA Regional Park Rentals
- Belmont Bay Paddlers
- Vulcan Materials
- Potomac Marine (TowBoatUS)
- Freedom Boat Club
- Prince William Marina
- Belmont Bay Marina

## Items Discussed Of Interest To *Lifeline* Readers:

1. The first responders were happy to say that there were no drownings reported this past boating season. Nor, were there any reports of any major accidents.
2. Some first responders reported finding that children under 13 years were not wearing life jackets as required. This was a concern.
3. As with the past meetings, our objective was to make the Occoquan River, primarily the no-wake zone, as safe as possible for everyone who uses it. It is NOT to point a finger but to accept the responsibilities imposed on each of the organizations using the water.
4. A reading of Rule 2 of the published Rules of Navigation allow that , allow that every vessel has equal rights to use the Occoquan River. No vessel, motor driven, wind-driven, or human-power-driven is automatically given the right of way over any other vessel.
5. A vessel is described in U.S. Code, Title 1, as “every description of watercraft or other artificial contrivance used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.”

6. Focusing on the Occoquan River no wake-zone, the following have been determined to be vessels by the Coast Guard, the lead agency in determining what is and is not a vessel
  - Human-powered craft such as kayaks and stand-up paddleboards.
  - A person drifting down the river on a tree trunk.
  - Someone floating down the river on an inner tube.
7. One constant among all of the attendees was the need to continue strengthening their on-water/off-water training. None of the organizations in attendance thought that they had enough training or that the training they were doing could not be strengthened. Consequently, organizations of all types attending the Safety Forum were making attempts to either add training hours before renting vessels, increase crew efficiency by spending added time on the water, doing types of training that had not been done before, etc.
8. When amongst human powered craft or large unwieldy ships such as the barges entering Vulcan Materials, take note of —INLAND— General RULE 2 Responsibility (a) Nothing in these Rules shall exonerate any vessel, or the owner, master, or crew thereof, from the consequences of any neglect to comply with these Rules or of the neglect of any precaution which may be required by the ordinary practice of seamen, or by the special circumstances of the case. (b) In construing and complying with these Rules due regard shall be had to all dangers of navigation and collision and to any special circumstances, including the limitations of the vessels involved, which may make a departure from these Rules necessary to avoid immediate danger.
9. Generally speaking, the water of the Occoquan River does not belong to anyone. With respect to Prince William Marina and most of the other marinas along the river, human powered craft and boats with people aboard who are fishing have the right to enter any of the marina fairways.
10. Each first responder continued to stress the importance of any vessel on the Occoquan to be able to report accurately where they are should they need help. For example, be able to use channel 16 on the VHF, provide a latitude and longitude, identify the nearest marina, identify the river/creek, tell 911 the number of the closest lateral marker, etc.
11. Stay as far away as possible from the Vulcan Materials barge when it is being pushed up or down the river. Allow the tug all the time and space it needs to dock. It is playing with danger to try and “beat” the tug and barge.
12. The Prince William County Marine Unit and the Fairfax County Marine Unit spent more time on the water this past season than they did the last. They took vessels off the water if they did not have the required safety items on board. The Virginia Conservation Police had a busy year enforcing the regulations and doing the same thing.
13. The Virginia units are enforcing the move over law, which became effective Jan. 1 2023. Every motorboat approaching or passing within 200 feet of any law-enforcement vessel or emergency services vessel that is displaying flashing blue or red lights must slow to no-wake speed. Any wake produced must not disturb their activities. Any boat operator who fails to do so may be charged with a class 3 misdemeanor. That could mean a fine of as much as \$500 if convicted.
14. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is actively making themselves available to train paddlers from NOVA Parks, Belmont Bay, and Penguin Paddling how to safely handle their craft. The Auxiliary is also

making available paddle blade reflectors that catch rays from the sun. Sunlight reflecting sun improves the ability of low riding vessels to be seen.

15. NOVA Parks, Belmont Bay, and Penguin Paddling are working hard to ensure that people coming to them are using life jackets. They are also working hard to provide the proper instruction before launching.
16. Boaters using the Occoquan River should take the time to learn where there are legally (and in some cases, not-so-legal) placed blinds for use during water fowl hunting season. For example, there are one or two blinds on Belmont Bay. There was the chance that pellets from the guns used could travel into the boating areas. Based on the current laws, there might be little that the authorities could do.


<https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/navRules/navrules.pdf>

<https://uscgboating.org/regulations/vessel-determinations.php#:~:text=The%20process%20begins%20with%20the,vessels%20by%20the%20Coast%20Guard.>

U.S. Code § 3 - "Vessel" as including all means of water transportation. The word "[vessel](#)" includes every description of watercraft or other artificial contrivance used, or capable of being used, as a means of transportation on water.(July 30, 1947, ch. 388, [61 Stat. 633](#).)

The Franklin [Virginia] News Post, "New move over law applies to boaters," May 11, 2023. <https://thefranklinnewspost.com/users/profile/jdunovant/>





# PRINCE WILLIAM MARINA CHRISTMAS BOAT LIGHTING

**9TH  
DEC**

JUDGING STARTS @ 5:00 PM

AWARDS CEREMONY @ 7:00 PM

FIREWORKS AFTER AWARDS



WITH



## PRIZES

GRAND PRIZE—FREE SLIP OR BOATEL SPACE FOR 2024

SECOND PLACE--\$1000

THIRD PLACE--\$500

BEST ON EACH DOCK --\$200

FOR ANY BOAT DECORATED (NO CHARLIE BROWN  
DECORATING---MUST SHOW EFFORT) YOU WILL  
RECEIVE A 5% DISCOUNT ON YOUR SLIP RENTAL AND  
A SMALL GIFT.

WE WOULD STILL DO THE BEST THEME DOCK- PRIZE  
WILL BE \$25 GIFT CARD FROM EP FOR EACH BOAT  
THAT DECORATES TO THEME AND I WILL HAVE SOME  
SORT OF TOTE BAG ALSO

BOATEL ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE, WE  
WILL PUT THEM ON A RACK OUTSIDE SO THEY CAN  
DECORATE OR IN A SLIP, THEY WILL NEED TO  
CONTACT ME TO ARRANGE THAT.

BOATEL CUSTOMERS MUST CONTACT MICHELE AT  
[MPRICE@PWMARINA.COM](mailto:MPRICE@PWMARINA.COM) PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 1 TO  
RESERVE THEIR SPOT FOR THE BOAT LIGHTING.

**DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE BOAT LOAD  
OF HOPE**



*Robin Davis*

**I**n the hit song by Semisonic, “Closing Time”, there’s a line that is so true for me today. “Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end”

Two years ago, Shannon Leydig asked me to become a member of PWYC and help out with the newsletter. Secretly, both nervous and excited, I jumped in. Nervous because I hadn’t done a newsletter since the one I wrote for the fire house years ago. Excited because I love being creative.

Over the next two years, I found myself challenged, excited, and always rewarded. I came to absolutely love doing the monthly newsletter and putting my personal stamp on it. Oh, I may have grumbled from time to time but I did enjoy the opportunity to be creative. The opportunity to share stories about regional history, safety, the marina, guest writers and simply getting to know the Yacht Club. When I moved aboard our boat to live and work in Annapolis, being the Lifeline editor allowed me to stay close to the PWM family and friends.

But, all good things end at some point. Soon, Bernadette and I will cast off and begin our journey south and then over to Bahamas, if the winds of winter are kind. In spite of traveling across the Great Lakes, we’ve never been south of Coinjock, so there’s much to learn. We’ve had some big challenges over the last 2 years but it is time. It is our time. Time to throw lines and explore new places.

I thank everyone for the opportunity and for the trust you placed in me. I hope you enjoyed it. I would be remiss if I didn’t highlight two very special people who helped me so much. Jim Khoury, whom I called 1,000 times on publishing day. EVERY publishing day!! As I tried to figure out the system. And, Bernadette for just being my rock through it all.

I wish you all happiness and safe boating. Closing time, every new beginning Comes from some other beginning's end.

