



# *Lifeline*

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

*Happy Holidays*

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## FROM THE HELM



Mike Connolly  
*Commodore*  
commodore@pwyc.org

And so...we bid adieu to the 2020 boating season. I think most of us are more than willing to say “good riddance” and hope that 2021 will see some improvement in this pandemic. Here’s to anticipating that next season will allow for better boating...

This has been a tough year for our social club that just happens to be organized around boats. Given that this is the last Lifeline that covers the tenure of the 2020 Board of Directors, I’d be remiss if I didn’t say what an honor it’s been serving with this group of folks. I don’t think anybody could argue that this year’s Board has had to contend with the most strenuous set of circumstances that this club has seen...and for all objective measures of merit, PWYC looks as strong as it ever has in recent memory!

While I’m on the subject I’d like us to thank some of our finest:

Kris and Jason Blanchette will be stepping-down from their Board of Directors’ responsibilities. Kris has been an outstanding Membership Chair. She’s done a phenomenal job making membership renewal a high-visibility item, as evidenced in how the club is maintaining our membership rolls despite COVID impacts. As the Lifeline Editor, Jason has made the quality of the Lifeline a personal issue for him and done an exceptional job improving the club’s access to our newsletter.

James Smith is stepping-down as our Rear Commodore. James and his wife Tina have done yeoman’s work keeping our on-water program afloat (sts) in the midst of all the COVID restrictions. James is an outstanding leader and we hope that when the circumstances are right that he and Tina will step back into a leadership position within our club.

Denise Parsons has volunteered to lead our Social Committee again next year...which is indeed fortunate for our club. Denise and her husband Scott are the “Most Valuable Players” for our club this year. Without one complaint, they’ve exemplified the “semper gumbly” mentality and kept our social programs going while encouraging continued use of masks and social distancing.

### PWYC BRIDGE

COMMODORE  
Mike Connolly  
“Summer Daze” (D-9)

VICE COMMODORE  
Rick McHarg  
“EAGLE ONE” (K-40)

SECRETARY  
Ralph Ocasio  
“Seas the Moment” (G-36)

TREASURER  
Sherry Samar  
“Irish Hawk: (E-06)

IPC  
J Gaston  
“Patriot Dreams” (H-43)

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR  
Amy Marshall  
“Coming in Hot!!!” (G-13)

LIFELINE EDITOR  
Frank Murray  
“Coming in Hot!!!” (G-13)

SOCIAL CHAIR  
Denise Guess-Parsons  
“Finally Got It Right” (F-6)

CO-SOCIAL CHAIR  
Sherri Connolly  
“Summer Daze” (D-9)

CO-SOCIAL CHAIR  
Pat Ocasio  
“Seas the Moment” (G-36)

SAFETY CHAIR  
Bob Schwartz  
“Alexandra” (F-12)

IT Services  
Virginia Gaston  
“Patriot Dreams” (H-43)

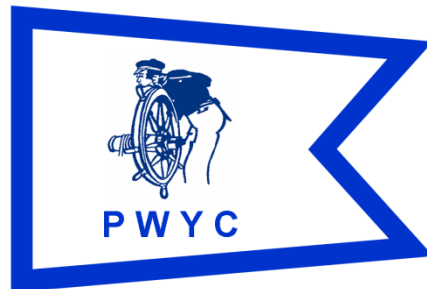
PRYCA DELEGATE  
Sheldon Lu and Beth Lu

CBYCA DELEGATE  
Tim Abel  
“Adventuress” (C-2)

Please thank Denise and Scott Parsons for the awesome job they did with our Halloween Party this year. In addition to the work they did on the party, their boat also won the best Halloween decoration! Our costume winners were Isaiah Tejada (Rod and Carol Vasquez' grandson) who won the children's category and Bella Lu (Sheldon and Beth Lu's daughter) who won the adult's category.

We had our Closing Day ceremonies on 7 November. As always, it took a lot of people to pull this together, but we should especially thank Vice Commodore Rick McHarg and his wife Kris for all the work they did to make this annual event happen! Let's hope we don't have to be as concerned about COVID during next year's Closing Day.

Our Prince William Yacht Club Mariner has a name! Please congratulate Sheldon Lu who came up with the name "William 'Billy' Barnacle." Sheldon gets a \$100 Gas Certificate, courtesy of Carlton, and the club gets a name for our favorite mariner!



COVID is still impacting the schedule around the marina. Prince William Marina announced that they won't host the annual Christmas Boat Lighting Contest this year. Hopefully, they'll be able to host this competition next year.

On the good news side, Ed and Christine Mason plan to champion the club and marina's contribution to the annual "Wreaths Across America" event on 19 December. Please look for additional information on this PWYC tradition around the marina and via electronic messages.

Please be safe, remain healthy, continue to check on each other, and stay flexible.

Let's keep praying for each other...

See you (next year) on the water.

Mike Connolly  
*Summer Daze, D-9*

## ...AND FROM THE VICE



Rick McHarg

*Vice Commodore*

vicecommodore@pwyc.org

From the Vice... Wow! Is it really the December issue already? Hard to believe as we make plans for winterization (ugh!). We had our closing ceremony a couple weeks ago and a gala Annual Chili/Mac n Cheese Cookoff. Brave people showed up for the 10 Chili varieties and 5 Mac n Cheese varieties – they were fabulous! We made the tables socially distant. There was outside seating. Kudos to Beth Lu of I dock who orchestrated the whole thing. We also announced the results of the PWYC Photo Contest and awarded prizes. There were 43 entries that played on a powerpoint loop on the big screen, and the winners in our 5 categories and the Grand prize winner was announced after dinner. The winning photos in 5 categories were framed, matted, and hung on the upstairs wall of the Blue Bath House, so members could check them out before the announcement. Here are the winners :

<b>Grand Prize</b>	Vicky Carr	“Home by Twilight”	Twilight on the Herrington Harbor wall
<b>People Category</b>	Kris McHarg	“Driving Grampa’s Big Boat”	Shot on the Occoquan River
<b>Boats Category</b>	Vicky Carr	“Eastern Shore Sunrise”	Boats at Brewer’s Marina, Oxford, Md
<b>Wildlife Category</b>	Una Murphy	“First Mate Louie”	Big Louie Tutone, Murphy’s Law 1st Mate
<b>Places Category</b>	Kris Blanchette	“Love is in the Air”	Colonial Beach “Love” sign with Rainbow
<b>Humor Category</b>	Jason Blanchette	“Wine, Please”	Kris’s boat sox for a chill in the air

Congrats to the winners. Prizes ranged from Rumchata to a re-chargable handheld spotlight. Perhaps more will enter next year. Thanks to all those who submitted entries, Sherry Samar who arranged the entries in a powerpoint slide show, and Tom Payne and Lou Ward as judges. Tom also printed, mounted and framed the winners and hung them in the Blue Bath house. A great effort deserving of much thanks.

As we move on into the process of planning next years calendar in December, we certainly hope that 2021 will be a much better season for boating activities than this year was. And to run a club like ours, it takes a village, and that means several different means of communication. We have the Lifeline, our Web page, and our facebook page as self discovery modes, and E-mail and our Dock Reps as reminders of what’s happening. Dock reps are volunteers that should know everyone on the dock, and be able to communicate freely with their dockmates or their “constituents”. They can represent you at monthly Club Board meetings and ask questions for you. They also are in charge of the monthly Captain

Hours sponsored by each dock, and they set the theme or organize the dock to sponsor the “Docktail” Hour. We have a great crew of Dock Reps currently, just missing volunteers from A, B, and J Dock. I am also looking for an interested “Coordinator” for the Boatel to help our current rep Joe Peruzzi. Joe and Han have moved up and are no longer in the Boatel, but willing to help an interested party. We understand the dynamics of Boatel cruising are a bit different than dock cruising (primarily day trips). If you are a social person that enjoys engaging others on your dock or in the Boatel, drop me a note at [vicecommodore@pwyc.org](mailto:vicecommodore@pwyc.org). Ill fix you right up!

See you around the Marina,

Rick McHag  
PWYC Vice Commodore  
**EAGLE ONE** K-40



## Ship's Manifest



Bob Schwartz  
Safety Officer  
safety@pwy.org

### Everyone May Not Be Competent In All Situations

A fellow goes to New York to attend a concert, but gets lost. He spots another fellow who's carrying a violin case. "Sir, can you tell me how to get to Carnegie Hall?" The musician smiles and says, "Practice, practice, practice." Rim shot, rim shot, rim shot.

The great thing about being on the water is that there is never a dull moment. We must always be ready for something to happen. It could be a gaggle of paddle-driven craft suddenly appearing in front of us as we leave the fairway or a tug in the no wake zone pushing a barge loaded with sand.

Each action to stay safe may require a different set of competencies. Each new situation may require a new set of competencies.

As with getting to Carnegie Hall, it takes time and practice to learn how to operate a vessel competently as the circumstances around us change. There are no magic bullets.

The Dunning-Kruger Effect. McArthur Wheeler robbed two banks on April 19, 1995. He did this after covering his face with lemon juice. He believed this would make his face invisible to the surveillance cameras. This belief was based on his misunderstanding of the chemical properties of lemon juice as an invisible ink.

This event inspired research by psychologists David Dunning and Justin Kruger. The results were labeled as the Dunning-Kruger Effect. One of their conclusions, presented in 1999 and based on a study with North American subjects, was that unskilled people do not know enough to realize just how little they know.

An internal bias allows them to believe that they are more expert than they actually are. Dunning and Kruger also posited that the highly skilled underrate their own abilities.

Those who genuinely know their stuff are considerably modest when compared to those who do not have their experience and knowledge. These individuals know that there are a lot of moving parts out there. They are aware that specifics at the time often can change an answer to a question.

Unfortunately, the confidence of a knowledgeable individual may suffer if surrounded by others who actually do not know what they are talking about. Dunning and Kruger concluded that the miscalibration of the incompetent stems from an error about himself/herself. The miscalibration of the highly competent stems from an error about others.

To be fair, not everyone agrees with the Dunning-Kruger conclusions. It has to do with statistical controls. Read the piece at the end for a fuller grasp of what Dr. Brenner has to say.

Jeffrey Way, "Do You Suffer From the Dunning-Kruger Effect?" Oct. 12, 2011.  
<https://code.tutsplus.com/articles/do-you-suffer-from-the-dunning-kruger-effect-net-22227>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dunning%E2%80%93Kruger\\_effect#:~:text=In%20the%20field%20of%20psychology,recognize%20their%20lack%20of%20ability](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dunning%E2%80%93Kruger_effect#:~:text=In%20the%20field%20of%20psychology,recognize%20their%20lack%20of%20ability)

Grant Brenner, <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/experimentations/202004/the-dunning-kruger-effect-may-be-statistical-illusion>

**20 Hours Vs. 10,000 Hours.** Practical experience shows that for a given skill most of us can be trained to improve substantially if we acknowledge our own previous lack of proficiency.

Most of us who use Prince William Marina as a home port are smart enough to raise our level of boating competence on our own. While professional training captains have a place, it still takes time on the water to internalize what we learn from them.

To improve ourselves, however, we must be able to:

1. Break down the skill we want to become competent at into its smallest possible subskill(s).
2. Learn enough about each subskill to be able to practice it intelligently and self-correct during practice.
3. Eliminate barriers to practicing and learning that will distract us. The cell phone is an example of one barrier. Another is the emotional feeling of ignorance that many of us have at the beginning when we try and learn something new.
4. Dedicate at least 20 hours to practicing the most important subskill(s) we want to improve.

Kaufman suggests that the often quoted “10,000 Hour Rule” as described in *Outliers* does not apply to us as recreational boaters. This rule might apply, for example, if we wanted to become a top-ranked competitive sailor and compete at the highest level.

Most of the time competing against world-class rivals isn't the goal for us. It is far more likely, for example, that we want to pick up a new skill to use on the Bay or to find our way into a strange marina.

There are things we can do in the 120 or so days of the off season. We can, for example, use our time to list those new on-water skills we want and develop a plan for developing them. We can also, use some of the following sources to gain some new knowledge.

BoatUS Foundation Online Courses.

US Coast Guard Auxiliary Public Education Classes.

US Power Squadron Boating Courses.

United States Coast Guard Questions (<https://www.uscgq.com/>

Chapman, Piloting and Seamanship, 68<sup>th</sup> Edition.

The latest Recreational boating accident statistics <https://uscgboating.org/library/accident-statistics/Recreational-Boating-Statistics-2019.pdf>

The Navigation Rules of the Road <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pdf/navrules/navrules.pdf>

Google: Josh Kaufman: The First 20 Hours.

Malcom Gladwell, Outliers: The Story of Success, Little, Brown and Company, 2008.

## Ship's Manifest



Amy Marshall

*Membership Chair*

membership@pwyc.org

**Renew your \$100 annual membership by December 31, 2020** to be eligible for the "Annual Get Your Dues Back Drawing", held at the PWM Slip Holders Party. If you paid via PayPal, you may be subscribed for auto-renew, email [membership@pwyc.org](mailto:membership@pwyc.org) if you have questions.

Memberships paid from this point forward (new or renewing) will be counted towards the 2021 Boating Season!

Now is also the time to logon to PWYC.org and update your record if you moved slips, bought a new boat, changed your email address or anything else that changed in 2020.

**Please help me welcome our new and renewing 2021 Prince William Yacht Club members**

(between October 1-31, 2020).

Doug Livesay, Boatel

John and Heather Ingram, B-2

Cathy Stultz and Mike Connors, Boatel

Michael and Diane Grimm, Boatel

John and Sara Fitzgerald, B-22

Bob and Donna Giesler, E-13

Nicholas and Melissa Durgin, F-8

Thomas and Mary Craig, Boatel

Idris Grant, Luna Sea, K-24

Mark Dungan, Kokopelli, K-35

David Szczepaneck, B-11

James Jackson, Grand Escape, G-23

Troy Black, Scarlet & Gold, H-27

Brian McCormally, Irish Exit, I-29

Cathy Stultz and Mike Connors, Boatel

David Szczepaneck and Jillian Szczepaneck, B-11

Robert Voith and Paula Voith, Boatel

Donald Anderson and Michelle Anderson, G-6

David Ottignon and Diana Ottignon, Boatel

Chris Salter and Salter Sabrina, Salty Breeze, I-29

Tom Whitehead and Sonja Whitehead, Asymptomatic Carrier, H-28

Vicky Carr and Bob Carr, CarRUISIN' II, I-21

Brian Fitzpatrick and Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Boatel

Bob Kirby and Marge Kirby, It's 5 O'Clock Somewhere, I-22

Ray Toczyłowski and Erin Toczyłowski, Working Late, I-dock

Kelly Yeh and Laura Yeh, Happy Hours, G-24



Frank Beatty and Deborah James, Uptown Girl, H-42  
Sheldon Lu and Beth Lu, Taiwan-On, I-Dock  
Ryan Carmen and Carmen Ashley, Potomac Pleasure, Boatel  
John Schleifer and Robin Schleifer, Boatel  
Brent Bogar and Elaine Bogar, Coco's Crew, Boatel  
John Whiteford and Helene Whiteford, Let's Go, B-7  
Greg Schick and Debbie Schick, Chihauhauholic, I-16  
Jack Samar and Sherry Samar, IrishHawk, E-6  
Rob Evers and Evers Sarah, The Swear Jar, G-20  
Paul Wetmore and Maryellen Wetmore, "Gettin Wetmore", Boatel  
Corey Briscoe and Amber Dozier, E-14  
Gustavo Lopez and, Boatel  
William "Bill" Loughlin, Seawolf, L-22  
David Tyler, X T Sea II, L-7  
Eric Armstrong and Shawna Armstrong, Steppinstone, F-13

**Renew online at [PWYC.org](http://PWYC.org) or mail a check with the renewal form.**

Renewal forms can be mailed with \$100 payment by check made payable to "PWYC" to:  
PWYC Membership Committee  
c/o Prince William Marina  
12849 Gordon Boulevard  
Woodbridge, VA 22192-3240



# Prince William Yacht Club

## 2021 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$100.00

Last Name (Captain) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone (Captain) \_\_\_\_\_

First Name (Captain) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone (Co-Captain) \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name (Co-Captain) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone (Captain) \_\_\_\_\_

First Name (Co-Captain) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone (Co-Captain) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone (Captain) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (Co-Captain) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address (Captain) \_\_\_\_\_

Boat Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address (Co-Captain) \_\_\_\_\_

Dock \_\_\_\_\_ Slip Number \_\_\_\_\_

**PWYC Burgee's are available for \$30 and payment can be submitted with your membership renewal. Burgee's will be delivered to your boat unless other arrangements are made.**

**PAY ONLINE AT PWYC.ORG OR  
Make Check Payable To: PWYC**

**New/Renewal Membership: \$100.00**

**Return to:**

**PWYC Membership Committee  
c/o Prince William Marina  
12849 Gordon Blvd  
Woodbridge, VA 22192-3240**

**E-mail: [membership@pwyc.org](mailto:membership@pwyc.org)**

## Treasurer's Report



Sherry Samar  
*Treasurer*

Balance as of 10/01/2020:	\$ 13,791.82
Receipts (dues, Seafood boil, 50/50, interest)	\$ 3,316.12
Expenses (Seafood boil, Halloween, misc)	\$ -415.72
 New balance as of 11/01/2020	 \$ 16,692.22

# PWYC ANNUAL CHILI AND MAC & CHEESE COOK OFF

## WINNERS

### Chili

1st—Christine Mason

2nd—Shawna and Eric Armstrong

3rd—Lisa and Craig Chuba

People's Choice—Judy Khoury

### Mac & Cheese

1st—Mike and Sherri Connolly

2nd—Amy Marshall and Frank Murray

3rd—Una Murphy

People's Choice—Mike and Sherri Connolly

Congrats to all the Winners and a Big Thank You to all the participants and judges!

December 12 from 6:30pm

*Christmas  
Time*

# Progressive Hot Toddy Crawl

*"Fire Pit to Fire Pit"*

*Christmas Carolings*

*bring your own Hot Toddy...*



PW MARINA GROUNDS

AFG FIRE PIT

RED NECK FIRE PIT

K-DOCK FIRE PIT





**IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN  
PATRIOT CRUISE WILL BE BACK AGAIN IN 2021**



**Patriot Cruise & Salute (PCS)  
is sponsoring Wreaths Across America (WAA).  
WAA supports National Cemeteries across the  
country so share with family and friends.**

**PCS is sponsoring wreath purchases. When you purchase a wreath (\$15 each), \$5 comes back to PCS assisting Wounded Veterans and their families throughout the year. Last day to purchase wreaths for 2020 is 10 December.**

Go to [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org)

Under banner "Sponsor Wreaths", click on "Local Fundraising Group";

Select number of wreaths,

Type in code **VA0051P** for Patriot Cruise then begin checkout.

Continue following instructions

**Donations of 3 or more wreaths will be entered in a drawing to win a  
Patriot Cruise gift basket.**



If assistance is needed contact [cmasonva@gmail.com](mailto:cmasonva@gmail.com)

## Photo Contest Results

**Grand Prize** - Vicky Carr - "Home by Twilight" - Twilight on the Herrington Harbor wall



**People Category** - Kris McHarg - "Driving Grampa's Big Boat" - Shot on the Occoquan River



**Boats Category** - Vicky Carr - “Eastern Shore Sunrise” - Boats at Brewer’s Marina, Oxford, Md



**Wildlife Category**- Una Murphy - “First Mate Louie” - Big Louie Tutone, Murphy’s Law 1st Mate





**Places Category** - Kris Blanchette - “Love is in the Air” - Colonial Beach “Love” sign with Rainbow



**Humor Category** - Jason Blanchette - “Wine, Please” - Kris’s boat sox for a chill in the air



***Important Note: Check the PWYC.org website for updates or changes to the calendar.***

## **2020 PWYC CALENDAR**

Contact **Denise Guess-Parsons, Pat Ocasio, or Sherri Connolly** [social@pwyc.org](mailto:social@pwyc.org), to help

### **DECEMBER**

- 5 Board Meeting @ 10:00 am/PWYC Board Brunch/2021 Calendar Build
- 5 *Christmas Boat Lighting (PWM event)*
- 12 *Wreaths Across America at Arlington National Cemetery*



**2020 DOCK REPRESENTATIVES**

A	Vacant			<a href="mailto:adockrep@pwyc.org">adockrep@pwyc.org</a>
B	Vacant			<a href="mailto:bdockrep@pwyc.org">bdockrep@pwyc.org</a>
C	Tom Payne			<a href="mailto:cdockrep@pwyc.org">cdockrep@pwyc.org</a>
D	Kris Blanchette	“Lucky Paws”	D-15	<a href="mailto:ddockrep@pwyc.org">ddockrep@pwyc.org</a>
E	Harold Jenkinson	“April Fools”	E-8	<a href="mailto:edockrep@pwyc.org">edockrep@pwyc.org</a>
F	Scott Parsons			<a href="mailto:fdockrep@pwyc.org">fdockrep@pwyc.org</a>
G	Pat Ocasio	“Seas the Moment”	G-36	<a href="mailto:gdockrep@pwyc.org">gdockrep@pwyc.org</a>
H	Laurie Ryan/Lou Ward	“Ryans Hope” / “Perfect Timing”	H-35/H30	<a href="mailto:hdockrep@pwyc.org">hdockrep@pwyc.org</a>
I	Sheldon Lu	“Taiwan-On”	I Dock	<a href="mailto:idockrep@pwyc.org">idockrep@pwyc.org</a>
J	Vacant			<a href="mailto:jdockrep@pwyc.org">jdockrep@pwyc.org</a>
K	John Khoury	“Judy Blue Eyes”	K-20	<a href="mailto:kdockrep@pwyc.org">kdockrep@pwyc.org</a>
L	Lawrence Botts	“Brown Eyed Girl”	L-24	<a href="mailto:ldockrep@pwyc.org">ldockrep@pwyc.org</a>
Boatel	Joe Peruzzi	“Out of the Blue”		<a href="mailto:boatelrep@pwyc.org">boatelrep@pwyc.org</a>



Frank Murray

Lifeline Editor

Coming in Hot!!! (G-13)

### Monthly publications of Prince William Yacht Club

All articles, photographs, and announcements must be received by the 10th of each month. The Lifeline will be published on or around the 20th of each month.

This month's Chump chuckle:

A cruise ship passes by a remote island, and all the passengers see a bearded man running around and waving his arms wildly.

“Captain,” one passenger asks, “who is that man over there?”

“I have no idea,” the captain says, “but he goes nuts every year when we pass him.”