



Singapore Yacht Club Newsletter

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Mel Ott - Editor

Commodore's Corner by Ken LaGrand



"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness." These opening lines of Charles Dickens' 1859 novel, "A Tale Of Two Cities" certainly seems to apply to this part of the "boating" year, since those of us with boats have put them in storage to await the next boating season. It also definitely applies to the state of the current U.S. and world economies.

However, as far as Singapore Yacht Club is concerned, your club is coming off from a good 2008 and looking forward to having another great year in 2009. The early prospects for the new year are that forecasters see somewhat lower fuel prices and slightly higher Lake Michigan water levels than last season. We have also seen some recent forecasts that say 2009 air temperatures should be slightly warmer in the Great Lakes Region versus 2008. As we sit writing this letter, the outdoor thermometer reads 23 degrees and the first significant snowfall of the lakeshore region is visible out of the windows. This reminds us that both the weather and economic forecasts are historically inaccurate and we should take them for what they are: "best guesses".

Anyway, we do know that spring will come again, the flowers will bloom, and we have much to celebrate at Singapore Yacht Club. Our goal for 2009 is to see Singapore Yacht Club grow and prosper as we approach the 50th anniversary of our founding late in the year. One way we can all help to achieve this goal is to retain all of our current members, while adding some new members to our ranks. All of us need to invite our friends and acquaintances who are interested in boating and just having fun, to join us as new club members. Jim Curtis, Membership Committee Chairman for 2009, or any member of his committee, will gladly follow up on potential new members. They just need our help in issuing the invitations.

Our Social Committee for 2009, under the continuing able leadership of Jim Gorman, has another great year of fun events planned and we appreciate everyone's participation.

In closing, Joni and I would like to wish all of you and your families a happy, healthy, holiday season and a great 2009! See you soon!

Vice Commodore's Report by Gary Battaglia



As the boating season ended, our boat came out of the water and Mary and I took up another form of boating. You see me here in the Canary Islands, one of our stops on our Transatlantic cruise in November.

Work continues at SYC, even when we are gone. I received a quite lengthy closing procedure from Club Manager, Dick Christian, and it looks like all went according to plan. The ceramic tile is completed in both bathrooms, along with new paint on the walls and a replacement for the broken toilet in the Ladies restroom. This has made quite a change and will be a welcome sight when we come back in the spring. The new pilings should already be installed for slips 1 thru 8. Our vendor suggested doing the work now and straightening them in the spring, at no cost, if they become displaced by ice during the winter. The Board also approved the installation of an additional piling between two slips because of the 28' stretch between spring pilings and the safety hazard this presented to both slip holders.

Just an early reminder, contact the Dock Master's office with your launch date. There are two (2) projects that must be completed prior to slipping your boat in the spring. Completion of both projects are subject to the weather.

1. As always, we need to repair pilings from winter damage.
2. We will be re-staining and sealing the boardwalk and finger piers.

We will also be changing our wireless internet provider for the 2009 season. The service response to problems from the previous carrier, Air-to-Access, was not up to standards. The Club Manager and I will be looking in to a new provider in the spring. Greg Janik continues to work on the fire extinguisher project to find boxes adequate to protect them from the weather and from vandalism. There will be approximately 12 extinguishers when completed, one every 75'.



Treasurer's Report by Joe Clark

The club's finances remain in satisfactory condition through the end of October. Our total liquid assets were approximately \$2,300 higher than at the same time in 2007. Our revenue exceeded the previous year by \$7,000 but our expenses increased by \$21,000! Our operating profit through October was \$17,000 less than last year. Our budget for the year would have been substantially less than planned were it not for the \$74,000 in transient income reported through October. We had budgeted only \$55,000 for the year, so this made a very satisfactory addition! Because the Budget Committee anticipates higher expenses for 2009 and potentially lower income because of the economic difficulty the nation is facing, we recommended a 5% increase in slip rates which was approved by the Board of Directors. A 5% rate increase will bring us approximately \$10,000 more income which will help offset our higher lease fees to Butler Enterprises and to the City of Saugatuck for the street end leases. If any member has questions about the budget or our operating expenses, please contact me.



Secretary's Report by Bob Martin

As the cold winds blow through Saugatuck, my boat is now safely out of the water and weather, so winter can begin. The roster forms have been sent out to all the members. Please complete the form and return it with your dues to Treasurer, Joe Clark, c/o Singapore Yacht Club, P.O. Box 1000, Saugatuck, MI 49453. There was no increase in membership dues for 2009. Please note that your roster form and dues need to be in no later than January 1, 2009. Please take the time to note your interest of participation on the roster form. And, please FILL OUT the form completely, DO NOT say "same as last year". We need the completed form to up date our records and your cooperation is needed and appreciated. If you have made a change to anything, please highlight it on the form. Also, any roster corrections during the year should still be sent to singaporeyachtclubsecretary@yahoo.com as in the past.

At this time all the slips for 2009 are filled – three members on the slip waiting list and one on the move list were accomodated. Your slip contract will be going out in mid to late January and will include the 5% fee increase approved by the Board in the December Board meeting. The contracts are due back by March 1, 2009.

We currently have 144 members comprised of 124 regular members, 16 Honorary members, and 4 lifetime members. If you know someone who might be interested in becoming a member, please contact our Membership Chairman, Jim Curtis, at pygmalioncurtis@aol.com. A new member was welcomed into the club at the December meeting.

I would like to thank Gary Battaglia for his thorough job as past Secretary. This is a most difficult job, but Gary and Mary have really made it easier for me because of their endless detail of the past two years. Thanks for all your help.

Congratulations go out to member and slipholder, Mike Johnston, who retired recently from Visteon Corporation. Mike served as Chief Operating Officer, President, CEO, and Executive Chairman during his career with them.

New Member



Please join me in welcoming Katherine Mattison, of Kalamazoo, MI. to the Club. Katherine attended the Membership Committee interview on December 6th, after driving from Kalamazoo in weather that was NOT favorable. Katherine has requested a slip and, from the interview, promises to be a very active member. Please give her a big "welcome" when you see her at the Club.

Annual Meeting

Members of the Singapore Yacht Club gathered in the club room in the afternoon of September 6th for the club's Annual Meeting. Presentations were made by the Bridge Officers on the status of the club and the results of the election. Officers for the 2009 season elected were: Ken LaGrand, Commodore; Gary Battaglia, Vice Commodore; Joe Clark, Treasurer; and Bob Martin joining the Bridge as Secretary. Bob Martin and Bill Nemedi were thanked for their service to the club as Directors for the past three years and Doug Peet and Kim Hall were introduced as the newly elected Directors to replace them. John VandenBos of the Liaison Committee reported that negotiations with the City of Saugatuck by Todd White of Butler Enterprises on our behalf resulted in a five (5) year lease on Cook Park, and annual leases on the two street ends utilized by the club. Our current lease on the club facilities with Butler Enterprises runs until 2011. The Membership Committee reported we had brought in 10 new members in 2008 and one new member whose membership will be effective in 2009. Bob Lamar, Commodore, thanked all the members of the Bridge and Board for their hard work and cooperation throughout the year.

New Bridge and Board for 2009



Seated: Bob Martin, Secretary; Ken LaGrand, Commodore; Joe Clark, Treasurer; not pictured – Gary Battaglia Vice Commodore

Standing: Directors, Doug Peet, Kim Hall, Steve Andree, Rick Lange, Jim Gorman, and Past Commodore, Bob Lamar; not pictured – Greg Janik, Director

Annual Meeting Cocktail Party

Following the Annual Meeting, the Commodore's spouse, Trish Lamar, hosted a cocktail party in the pool area. With the weather's cooperation and a bountiful table, a good time was had by all attendees.



Auxiliary Change of Watch

The day was cold, but the fellowship was warm for the members of the Auxiliary who gathered in the extended clubroom for the annual Change of Watch brunch. "Omlets in a bag" were the featured item on the menu, along with all the expected accoutaments and deserts. Past President, Linda Querry gave a brief report on the activities of the Auxiliary over the year including the purchase of four new tables for the pool area. The Auxiliary currently enjoys a membership of 60 and is looking for more in the coming year. Joyce Andree, incoming President, introduced her officers: Joyce Andree, President; Cathy Gorman, Vice President; Nancy Hall, Treasurer; and Cindy Holliday, Secretary.



Cathy Gorman, Vice President; Linda Querry, Past President; Joyce Andree, President; Nancy Hall, Treasurer; not pictured – Cindy Holliday, Secretary

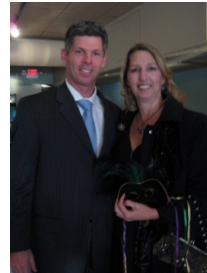


Chili Party – SYC & Sergeants Marina

As you may know, a number of SYC members are currently slipped at Sergeants Marina, our neighbors to the immediate south that has become known affectionately as, “The Annex”. In an effort to bring the two neighbors even closer together, Auxiliary members, Cathy Gorman and Margaret Larsen, both of whom currently slip at the Annex, organized a Chili Party held in the gazebo at Sergeants. Approximately 50 guests turned out to enjoy three different chili recipes; a beef chili, a low salt beef chili, and a turkey chili. This was all accompanied by cornbread and a lot of salads and deserts. Music for the party was provided by Bob Liermann who parked his car, with the top down, and played his radio and CD’s. The attendees danced until dark. The “chili party” turned out so well that the Auxiliary has decided to add it to their social agenda for 2009.

Change of Watch by Jim and Cathy Gorman

One hundred eighteen members, guests, and significant others gathered at the Coral Gables on October 4th for the annual Singapore Yacht Club Change of Watch party which recognizes the work done by the current Bridge and Board, and welcomes the incoming Bridge and Board. As in the past, Coral Gables wait staff did a wonderful job serving the well prepared meals. Incoming Commodore, Ken LaGrand, presented outgoing Commodore, Bob Lamar, with a clock commemorating his service to the club over the past seven years. Linda Querry, outgoing President of the Auxiliary introduced Joyce Andree, incoming President to the assembled guests. A request was made that the Auxiliary was looking to increase their membership again in 2009. The “Broken Hammer” award was presented by last year’s winner, Mel Ott, to Jack Bonzelaar for his failure to remove his electrical lines before leaving the dock for a short cruise, a reward won by Jack once before for the same error! Jack Querry was happy to present the “Rubber Ducky” award to the Hanna family for sinking their dinghy! After the dinner and awards presentation, Jim Dove provided music for dancing the rest of the evening. Joni LaGrand was seen dancing with her Social Chairman, and Jim and Joanie Curtis wouldn’t leave the dance floor! Who would have thought – Bob Firenze was cutting the rug with his wife, Pat – even she was surprised! Social Chairman, Jim Gorman, and his able helpers, made the party a great success.





Winter Party by Jim Gorman

In spite of a winter snow storm that blanketed the West Michigan area, a crowd of 53 members and guests braved the storm to gather at the Macatawa Legends Golf Club for a wonderful Christmas party, hosted by Joni LaGrand. The Golf Club went out of their way to provide us with our own room and a private bar and the wait people and bartenders to keep everyone happy. The evening started with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, and gave us time to compare stories on the storm and why people had come back from Florida! And, of course, a lot of laughs and good fellowship! A wonderful dinner of either prime rib or chicken marsala was served, followed by a Christmas quiz that even had the folks with the answers stumped. Dave and Cindy Holliday led us in Christmas songs. Doug and Robin Peet silenced the room when they sang "Oh Holy Night". Before the festivities ended, Joni provided every lady with a gift bag to take home along with a loaf of Cathy Gorman's Cranberry Nut Bread. Every one went home with a warm glow and Christmas spirit that comes from spending time with friends at this special time of the year.

