



# *Singapore Yacht Club, Inc.*

## *Newsletter*

Issue 8, Volume 1  
Mel Ott, Editor

## Commodore's Corner



Greetings to all and welcome to the 2009 boating season. We look forward to continuing to promote safe boating and having a lot of fun at Singapore Yacht Club this year. It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your 50<sup>th</sup> Commodore, as we move towards celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SYC in the late fall of this year.

First of all, we would like to thank those members who are serving on the Bridge (club officers) and the Board of Directors this year. In addition, we would like to thank those who are serving on all of the various club committees. Singapore Yacht Club has a rich history of being a volunteer run and supported organization and without all of their help, this organization could not exist. Last, but not least, we would like to thank Dick Christian, our Club Manager, and his crew as they work to maintain our facilities and serve both our members and our guests. They have our facilities and grounds looking in fantastic condition.

In spite of the weak economy we are experiencing and the unknowns of what the future will bring, we are pleased that your club continues to be in a strong financial position, and should be able to weather this economic “storm”. Those of us who have experienced past storms, both on the sea and in the economy, know that most storms are followed by a calm, and we hope that in a matter of months we will see the U.S. economy grow once again.

On the positive side, we are currently experiencing higher water levels (Lake Michigan is up approximately 12” versus last year), and fuel prices are down significantly from the record levels set in 2008. Also, it has been announced that Saugatuck is slated to receive \$10 million in federal stimulus funds in 2010 to rebuild the breakwater and channel walls at the harbor entrance.

We wish all of you good health and a safe boating season. Hopefully, Singapore Yacht Club can be our “safe harbor” and “oasis” from both the “storms” of the current economy and the trials and tribulations of just everyday life. Best wishes to all of you.

# Club Manager's Report by Dick Christian



Welcome to the 2009 season. John, Dave, and I look forward to providing service to all of you. I'd like to highlight some of the areas we have been working on and some of the things you, as a member, can do to help us do our job.

**Pool:** With a lot of hard work and a little bit of luck, the pool was open for the Memorial Day weekend. And a large number of you enjoyed your days in or around it. Those of you parents or grandparents with small children (and we're seeing and enjoying more and more of them every year), please look after them closely. Unfortunately, some of them think the bathrooms are a place to play and the play can result in a lot more work for the crew and make it a lot less enjoyable for the adults who want to use them.

**Club House:** The carpet in the club house has recently been cleaned, as has the refrigerator. Every year it seems someone spills something in the refrigerator and fails to clean it up, leaving the mess for the next person who wants to keep something in there or for the crew to clean up. Please be considerate, if you accidentally spill, clean up after yourself. You'll be helping us and other members who use it.

**Parking Lot:** Our parking lot seems to generate more bad feeling and arguments than any other part of the club. Every slipholder has an assigned and labeled parking space. We have a limited number of parking spaces on the back wall for guests or family members. In addition, there is plenty of parking available in the high school lot with shuttle service to town, or for a small fee, at several lots within walking distance of the club. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, don't use someone else's parking space UNLESS YOU HAVE CLEARED IT WITH THAT PERSON and have notified the crew of their approval. And, if you're going to be away and not using your space, it would be nice if you would notify the crew if you have given approval to someone for its use. Remember, our House and Grounds rules give the club the right to have cars towed at the car owner's expense if it is in someone else's assigned space.

**SPECIAL NOTICE – PARKING LOT** Butler Enterprises in cooperation with the Singapore Yacht Club is again allowing the Waterfront Film Festival to hold their opening night festivities in our parking lot on **JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup>**. There will be no cars allowed to park in the lot on that day.

**Dumpster:** If you are going to put a cardboard box in the dumpster, please take the time to break it down so that it takes less space. We get only one pickup per week, and whole boxes can fill it to overflowing. If you can't break it down yourself, leave it along side the dumpster and the crew will do it for you.

**Picnic Tables:** As you know, we have 25 tables and 48 boats at the club, one table for every 2 boats. If you move a table because you're having a party/picnic, please return it to its spot when you're done. Remember, the boat you share it with may want to use it too.

**Dock boxes:** Please make sure I have a key or the combination to your dock box in case we have to move it to replace a board. The key/combo is kept in a special file set up for each slipholder.

**Cruising:** My annual reminder – if you plan on cruising this season, please give me your plans as soon as possible. In spite of the bad economy – or maybe because of it – the demand for transient slips is very high!

## Vice Commodore's Report by Gary Battaglia



The Building and Grounds committee is composed of me, Steve Andree, Steve Boerema, and John Larsen.

Boat launching is almost complete and Dick and the dock crew have been very busy making sure everything is ready for the season.

The boardwalk cleaning and sealing was done in April and the results look pretty good.

All the pilings and finger piers were realigned after the winter ice damage.

New ceramic tile flooring was installed in the bathrooms last fall after the club closed. You were notified of the new code for them. If you've forgotten, ask me or one of the dock crew.

Steve Andree has completed the selection of the fire extinguisher boxes to be installed on the docks in compliance with the City of Saugatuck fire code. Club member, Rick Schuler's company has constructed them and has donated them to the club. The boxes with the fire extinguishers inside should be installed by early June. Many thanks to Rick for his generous donation, saving the club a considerable amount of money. A work crew of members and the dock crew will be installing them on the docks.

Before the pool opened for the season, Steve Boerema worked to obtain the pool permits and new drain covers federally mandated by the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. Our dock crew installed the covers and also a new pump prior to the opening.

We have been unhappy with our wireless internet service provided by Air2Access and John Larsen has been working to replace our vendor. A new vendor has now been selected and internet service should be up and operating in early June.

The dock crew has completed staining the pool fence, repairing the decking, and is working on power pedestal updates.

All Building and Grounds concerns should be directed to the Vice Commodore.

## Treasurer's Report by Joe Clark



As spring kicks off, so does another great year down on the docks. With all of the attention on the overall economic turmoil, it is good to have Singapore open for business. I, for one, am looking forward to getting the boat in the water and getting summer underway.

On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, we held our spring Board Meeting in the clubhouse. At that time I reported once again that our club continues to enjoy a strong financial

foundation, largely due to past Bridge and Board leadership as well as a dedicated dock staff. Some of the highlights that comprised my report are as follows:

- Completed year 2008 with a net income of \$8,703 after taxes and interest.
- Comparison of 2008 against 2007 results shows a 2% increase in net revenue and 7% increase in expenses. Our expense increase is largely due to some relatively high maintenance costs and upgrades to our restroom facilities.
- First quarter 2009 revenue tracking higher due to increase in slip fees.
- Expenses tracking higher over the same time in 08 due to spring piling upgrades and repairs.

As we did in 2008, our approach in planning out the remainder of 2009 is to remain conservative. Our budget is balanced around somewhat lower transient income this year in anticipation of the economy impacting the marine industry. Hopefully the hard work and hustle of our dock crew will once again prove me wrong in this regard.

## Secretary's Report by Bob Martin



With summer around the corner and a great Red-White-Blue Spring Party in the books, the docks are filling up fast. It's great to see everyone again and I would like to welcome 6 new slipholders for 2009 from the Wait List. They are: Cory Koper, Tim Thomas, Steve Boerema, Ron Wisner, Mike Applegate, and Jim Gorman – it's great to have you all here. All slipholders are reminded that slip payments are due on the first of March, May, and June. After the 10<sup>th</sup> of that month a late fee of 10% of the payment is assessed and collection will be enforced in accordance with the terms and conditions of your slip contract and directions of the Bridge and Board. Also, a copy of a current insurance policy on your boat is required and should be directed to the Club Manager, Dick Christian, or to myself. Please support your club by complying with these requirements.

The Secretary now has a computer donated to the club by Treasurer, Joe Clark, for the secretary's use. Many thanks to Joe for his help with computer software and support over the winter months when I peppered him with endless e-mails and faxes as I learned the programs and settled in to the Secretary's job.

The club currently has 137 members. Seven (7) new members have been added for 2009; Katherine Mattison, Richard Simon, Joe Hish, Dick Camarota, Jeff Merrild, Marc Weiser, and Wally Martynek. Jim Curtis, Membership Chairman, and his committee have gone out of their way to recruit, interview, and recommend these new members.

The 2009 Roster is currently available at the Dockmaster's office. Please limit yourself to two per member. Any corrections or concerns can be addressed by e-mail to [singaporeyachtclubsecretary@yahoo.com](mailto:singaporeyachtclubsecretary@yahoo.com). Thanks to Mary Battaglia for her help, and former Secretary and current Vice Commodore, Gary Battaglia, for his patience and support.

# Auxiliary Report by Joyce Andree



The Singapore Yacht Club Auxiliary held its first meeting of May 16<sup>th</sup> in the Clubroom. The meeting found everyone well and excited about the beginning of the 2009 boating season.

We had our traditional flower planting on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> with many member's helpful hands working together to beautify the boardwalk as well as the sign area with flowers for all to enjoy. We also have 3 pots of herbs to share and enjoy this summer. A big "thank you" to all who helped make the boardwalk come alive with color.

The next Auxiliary event will be the Annual Cocktail Party on June 6<sup>th</sup> in the pool area (weather permitting). We will hold our 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the year that morning at 10:00 AM in the clubroom. We look forward to seeing everyone at the cocktail party and all members and "want to be" members at the meeting. Please bring an appetizer to share to the cocktail party.

We started the season off with a special project, purchasing new six chairs in the pool area for all to enjoy. We have several of our members working on a new "Member Clothing" program and hope to have information to present at the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting and cocktail party.

And finally, we can report that we currently have 44 members signed up for Auxiliary membership this spring and are looking for many more to join in the coming weeks. Membership is open to both men and women with dues of only \$20.00 for the year. The Auxiliary hosts many events throughout the season and your support help make our efforts and projects easier to obtain. Please contact Nancy Hall or myself to join us for a WONDERFUL SUMMER.

## New Members

We are pleased to introduce six new members to the club. If you see them on the boardwalk or at our social functions, please welcome them. Marc Weisner was not available for a picture but will be in the next newsletter.



Dick Simon



Joe Hish



Dick & Alice  
Camarota



Jeff Merrild



Wally & Melissa  
Martynek

## Harbor Report by Greg Janik

The Kalamazoo Harbor has been awarded \$10 million in stimulus money for repairs to the north and south walls along the Kalamazoo River. The walls are collapsing in places. Work on the repairs should be started next spring. Two members of the Harbor Committee have met with a dredging company and their opinion is that the harbor improvements are simpler than expected and should not cost the \$45 million that was previously estimated. Property locations are being looked into where the spoils could be dumped so a staged dredging of the lake and channel could begin. The Kalamazoo Lake water level is currently up 12 to 13 inches.

A binder has been created for the minutes of the Kalamazoo Harbor Committee, along with other relative information. If anyone is interested, please contact Greg Janik.

## Condolences

We are sad to report two deaths in the SYC family over the winter. John Dykstra, a Life Member who joined in the early years of the club, passed on to his maker late last year. Our sincere condolences go out to John's family. Recently we learned that 1977 Past Commodore Al Winchester's daughter, Midge, passed on. Please remember both of these families in your prayers.

## Party in Paradise by Jim and Joanie Curtis

Joe's Crab Shack in Naples was again the site for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual "Party in Paradise" on March 5<sup>th</sup> for the Singapore Yacht Club members visiting or residing in Florida for the winter. A total of 51 members, former members, and guests showed up to enjoy the camaraderie, good food, and crazy games arranged by perennial chairpersons, Jim and Joanie Curtis. This year's committee included Ken and Joni LaGrand, Max and Linda Elenbaas, and Cathy Gorman. After the delicious meal provided by Joe's, and the assignment of the North and South teams, the games began. Everyone had a good time during the "SYC Inflation" which required blowing up a balloon until it burst, "Weenie Golf" which required the men to move a lemon across the floor by hitting it with a yardstick – no hands, and "Fellow can you spare a coin" having one member of the team toss a coin to another to be caught in a cup. The North team bested the South team leaving the accumulated team total over the past five years at South 3 – North 2. It's time now to mark your calendar for the 2010 Party in Paradise to be held, as always, on the first Thursday in March. More information will be forthcoming on the location – we hope you plan to be there!





## Spring Party by Jim and Cathy Gorman

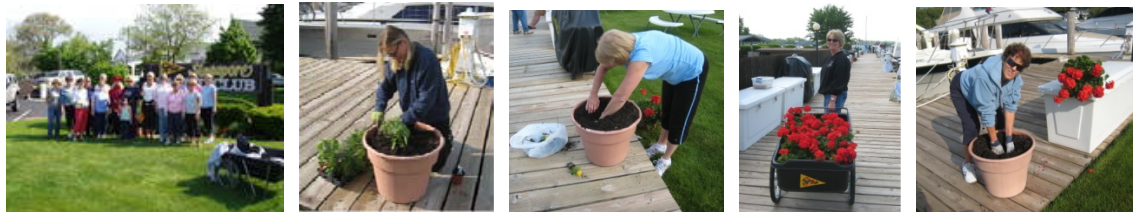
Dressed in Red, White, and Blue, 130 members and guests answered the call to be “Proud to Be an American” at the Coral Gables Restaurant for the Singapore Yacht Club Spring Party. While enjoying cocktails and hors d’oeuvres everyone reviewed the Chinese auction tables where an array of gifts, many with a nautical theme, was available for bidding. A wonderful dinner of either filet mignon or walleye was served by the Coral Gables wait staff, followed by a tasty cheese cake dessert. Raffle tickets sellers circulated through the crowd before and during dinner to make sure everyone had an opportunity to take home a prize. Hosts, Jim and Cathy Gorman, along with their committee members John and Margaret Larsen in planning and the auction table; Jim and Joanie Curtis, and Steve and Elizabeth Boerema greeting at the door; Bob Martin, Steve Andree, and Don Waddell twisted arms and emptied wallets for the raffle ticket sales; Don and Carol Waddell drew the winners and distributed the Chinese auction gifts; Joe and Becki Zeipen made the raffle gifts distribution; and Karl and Jane Thoma, the club’s historians, took photos of the guests as they entered and during the party. The Spring Party is the fund raiser for the club’s social activities for the year, and, in spite of the economy, the members answered the call generously. Perhaps the patriotic theme helped! A DJ completed the evening with dance music for all to enjoy.





## Auxiliary Flower Planting

The weather was ideal on May 23<sup>rd</sup> for planting and the Auxiliary crew was many and willing to get their hands dirty to make the boardwalk and sign area beautiful for another season.



## Upcoming Events – Mark your Calendar

June 6<sup>th</sup> – Auxiliary sponsored Summer Kick-off Cocktail Party around the pool – bring an appetizer to pass.

June 20<sup>th</sup> – The Family Picnic – get your kids, grandkids, or guests ready to enjoy a day of fun in the park with games and delicious food. The day will start with a fishing tournament for the kids.