

THE CLASSIC YACHT CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

The Ancient Mariner

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37
years of
classic
boating

1971 - 2008

UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 18
Change of Watch
Kitty Knight House
Georgetown, MD

The View from the Bridge

Well, another summer has come to an end. We have enjoyed four fabulous rendezvous.


I would like to thank Fleet Captain Bill Reynolds for his outstanding efforts in the planning and execution of these events. I would also like to thank Bill's wife Robyne for all her help. Most of all I would like to thank our members for your participation. We have averaged over 20 boats at each event and this takes a lot of effort to get your classic boats there.

Our reunion event at the rendezvous in Baltimore was a great success. Thanks to Governor Mike Thielke for executing his idea. It was a warm and touching event sharing our evening with these past members.

You should have received your invitation to Change of Watch, at the Kitty Knight House in Georgetown, MD, on October 18, 2008. And as my watch winds down, I want to thank you, our membership, for being a part of our great club, and for continuing our mission of preserving antique and classic boats.

It has been my privilege to serve as your Commander in 2008.


Commodore,

Mike Haines 

Vice Commodore Report:

It's hard to believe that this wonderful year is coming to an end already. From a membership standpoint we did pretty well. Our club has added a total of 13 new members since last November. The good news is that most of the new members are **ACTIVE** members and have been participating in the clubs functions.

With almost 20 boats attending each rendezvous this year, it seems obvious that Fleet Captain Bill Reynolds has found the formula for maximum participation. As we wind down the season and start thinking about putting our boats away, it's also time to think about who we know that might enjoy sharing our hobby next season. I am very pleased with the direction the club is going regarding membership and look forward to welcoming new members in the near future. I am also very pleased to welcome our latest members along with their beautiful boats seen on the next page. Thanks to all and hope to see everyone at the Change of Watch Dinner in October.

Dave Ochipinti 
Vice Commodore



October 18 Change of Watch
Kitty Knight House
Georgetown, MD

Welcome New Members!

ROBERT BLAZE & LYNN GOLDEN

2606 Oakenshield Drive
Rockville, MD 20854
home 301-251-9422
cell 301-385-0903
email lrgolden@netscape.net



*A-Regular
PYEWACKET
1983 48 Hatteras Aft Cabin MY
Kent Narrows, MD
Division III-Class 3*

STEVE & PHYLLIS DECKER

85 Keyes Lane
Shushan, NY 12873
Home: 518-854-9509
Cell: 518-598-8385
Email
phyllis@alpacasofmaplelane.com



WITCH
1929 50 Elco Motor Yacht
Home Port: Newport, RI
Division I-Class 3

Fleet Captain Report

The last rendezvous has passed. All four had very good turnouts with vessels attending in the high teens to twenty. Dinner attendance was in the fifties and even the getaway breakfasts had attendance in the twenties to thirties with good turnout for the cocktail parties as well. The weather was fair for all events, and in retrospect I do not think we could have asked for a better year. My thanks to the Bridge and Board for their support. I also would like extend my thanks to all the members who attended the functions and made them a success (and in the end this is what it is all about), and the many thanks received from members verbally and in some cases written which makes the effort worthwhile, and a special thanks to my wife and your secretary, Robyne, without whose attention to detail and ability to organize the rendezvous' would not have come off as well as they did.

May the weather be at your back. Hope to see you all at the Change of Watch.

Bill Reynolds
Fleet Captain



Welcome Old Members!

Over 400 invitations were sent to past members in the hope we could reconnect with those with whom we share common interests and history. The response was good, and we were gratified to learn that several of our charter members (those who were members in the first year our club was formed) took the time to visit with us again.

Breaking bread with the group at right, you will find Ruth (Tut) and Robert Jeffries just behind Lee DiPaula.

Below (L to R): Dan Wilson (1982-1991), John Eaton (charter member 1971-1991), Nancy & Stephen Smith (1977-1992), Fred Kmiec (charter member 1971-1992), Elizabeth & Edward Hainke (charter members 1971-1999), and Ruth and Robert Jeffries (1983 -2000).



Enjoy more photos of members from years past in the pages that follow.





Old Friends,



Above: Dan Wilson



*Above (L to R):
Nancy Wilson, Suzanne & John Eaton*



*Above (L to R):
Fred Kmeic and Edward Hainke with
Cmdr. Mike Haines*

Old Cars,



*Foreground L to R around Table:
Nancy & Dan Wilson, Nancy &
Stephen Smith, behind Nancy Smith
are Suzanne & John Eaton, on far
side of table are current members
Erica & Richard Lowery*

Class Acts One and All!



Above: Nancy Smith

Above: A Glimpse at our Bygone Days

And oh, Those Classic Yachts we love...





What We Do At Our Events



The Kitty Knight House

Ah the Kitty Knight House. When I saw we were going to hold our annual Change of Watch dinner there, I smiled. I've been to the Kitty Knight House, but under circumstances that are more appropriate to Halloween than our dinner. But I digress.

The original Kitty Knight was a stunningly beautiful, real live woman; defiant of the British and brave in the face of their invasion in 1814. She stood up to the British and kept the two buildings (now the restaurant) from being burned in the siege of Georgetown. You might characterize Kitty as the "Angelina Jolie" of 1814. Kitty was "the" celebrity of her day. She died, a lovely spinster, at the ripe old age of 80 in 1855. Perhaps it is not surprising then, that the Kitty Knight House has a history of ghosts. Oh, OK, you don't believe in them. Don't be quite so sure. There are numerous tales about the Kitty Knight House, for instance...

Bob Garvine, the then dining-room manager and a waitress were walking through a back hallway one night at closing time. "There was an image of a woman standing near the door," Garvine remembers. "She looked identical to the woman in the picture. It sort of frightened us a little bit." The woman appeared ephemeral, as in the painting.

Over the years, guests have frequently talked about doors opening and closing on their own. One of the owners Charles E. Metzger noticed lights in the second- and third-floor bedrooms and saw someone walking around in rooms that hadn't been booked. When he went inside to check, the lights were off and the rooms empty.

Now to my tale... Many years ago, when I was just starting out in commercial Real Estate, I worked for two men in Wilmington, DE, who bought the Kitty Knight House. At the time, the building was vacant and in poor repair. It had sat empty for some years. One afternoon, I was invited to go with them to see it. We tramped all through the building, from top to bottom. My two sensible, adult male companions couldn't wait to get out of there. It was truly creepy. I don't mean just ordinary creepy, I mean darned well bone chilling scary creepy. Did I see a ghost? No, but there were unusual noises and there were chilly places and we couldn't wait to get out of there. Scary? Yup. Ghosts? Yup. Happy ones? Nope.

My "witch" grandmother actually believed in ghosts. Do I? Well not in the way people generally portray them. I've seen one manifestation in my entire life. But I do believe that events, happy and sad feelings remain in places. I suspect that it isn't coincidental that places which were the site of seriously tragic events are also haunted. If you are sensitive, you can pick up those feelings. So, when you go to the dinner this year, see if you get any "vibes" from the Kitty Knight house. Any cold chills? A feeling of sorrow perhaps? Maybe Kitty will visit you in the rest room. You never know.

Oh, by the way, my grandmother died on Halloween eve. Utterly appropriate.

Cheryl Spaulding
Editor

