

THE CLASSIC YACHT CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

The Ancient Mariner

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35
years
of
classic
boating
1971 - 2006



The View from the Bridge

by Commodore **Patrick Dunlap**

As the well-worn tag line from a prominent credit card company advertisement used to read, "Membership Has Its Privileges." I like to think the same way about joining and participating in the Classic Yacht Club of America. For me, a lot of the rewards of being a member are experienced in the camaraderie of our group and the thrill of seeing the assortment of fabulous classic boats at the Club rendezvous each season.

But the more I thought about it, I tried to conjure a list of specific benefits of membership which current members enjoy and that may entice others to join the Club. Then I remembered, "Hey, I'm the Commodore!" So instead of flexing my brain cells, I tasked this assignment to Vice Commodore Jim Gartley.

VC Gartley brainstormed this topic and developed a roster of the valuable and substantial consideration members receive in return for their initiation fees and annual dues. Immediate Past Commodore Eric Horst provided meaningful guidance on this project and Treasurer Judy Willingham

Miss Your CYCA Friends?


Join them at the
Icebreaker Dinner
Dance on March 25.

Celebrate the upcoming 2006 boating season and our Club's 35th anniversary year. Our Ice Breaker Dinner Dance (formerly called the Mid-Winter Dinner) is being held at the historic and elegant Kent Manor Inn. This year, in addition to a wonderful dinner, musical entertainment will be provided for your listening and dancing pleasure. This very special evening is \$68 per person.

For details, contact Fleet Captain Mike Haines at 610-444-1193. Or [register online](#), where you can also check out the scrumptious menu!

wordsmithed the effort into its current form, which you'll see on page 3. Webmaster Mike Thielke has added the CYCA Benefits of Membership to the Club website's membership information section for your consideration.

But this is more than just an exercise. This information will further assist each of us in attracting new Club members. And just as importantly, if needed, it is a reminder of all the *real value* we receive when we renew our memberships each year. While the annual dues we all pay to fund CYCA's day-to-day operation and long-term future are likely among the least expensive boating-related purchases we make, it's important to know where the money goes and feel confident that it's money well-spent.

Thank you for choosing to "rejoin" CYCA this season. Your Board of Governors is working hard to make you glad you did. See you at our first event of the 2006 season, the [Icebreaker Dinner Dance](#), on March 25th at Kent Manor Inn in Stevensville, MD! 

*The reason God made
February short a few days
was because He knew that
by the time people came to
the end of it they would
die if they had to stand
one more blasted day.*

-Katherine Paterson

Classic Yacht Club of America

Benefits of Membership



CYCA Burgee, Yearbook and Name Badges. Proudly fly the Club burgee from your vessel's prow and enjoy inclusion in the Yearbook, containing a Handbook, Member Directory (updated annually, featuring full color boat photographs and contact information) and other useful resources. Your name badge identifies you as a Club member at all functions.

CYCA Newsletter. Each full-color, electronic edition of *The Ancient Mariner* is emailed directly to your inbox. Hard copy editions in black and white are mailed via US Postal Service upon request. Every edition includes news and feature articles about the Club, its recent activities and upcoming events, as well as member-submitted articles on a variety of classic boating-related topics.

CYCA Website. Our dynamic website is updated frequently to serve as a pipeline of information to the membership. For example, a “scrapbook” of photos from each Club event often is posted before most members have returned to their homeports! Read about upcoming Club events and even reserve and pay right online. The website also includes a [Classified Advertisements](#) section where members sell and swap marine-related items for a nominal fee.

CYCA Rendezvous and Dinners. The season commences with an “Icebreaker” dinner dance in late March where a preview of the upcoming year’s fun adds to the pleasure of renewing Club friendships. The fleet captain organizes four Club cruises each boating season, with destinations from Chesapeake City in the North Bay to Solomons Island in lower mid Bay. The Annual Judging Event is an opportunity to proudly display your boat with those of other Club members and benefit from the evaluation of your vessel by qualified judges against a set of standards of excellence. At the Annual Meeting/Dinner in the Fall, you will receive a full briefing from each outgoing Club Officer on the year’s notable achievements, witness the induction of new Club officers and board members and enjoy the presentation of awards earned at the Annual Judging.

Technical Resources Available from Other Members. Many members are seasoned classic boaters with a wealth of sea savvy to share. Some members are marine industry professionals and tradesmen who readily surrender their tips and ideas on acquiring and maintaining your dream classic yacht.

Bargains on Boating Purchases. Membership in CYCA and attendance at rendezvous affords you many discounts and specially priced offers! These include: fuel and slip discounts; reduced prices for Boat US membership and [Chesapeake Bay Magazine](#) subscriptions, purchases at select [West Marine](#) stores and members-only pricing on merchandise from the CYCA ships’ store.


Access to Other Chesapeake and Delaware Bay Region Yacht Clubs — Thanks to CYCA’s membership in the [Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association](#), our members enjoy privileged access to a wide variety of other area yacht club facilities and services.

Boat Genealogy

by Newsletter Editor **Cheryl Spaulding**

There are some wonderful boats in CYCA. Like family histories, we may not know everything about them and everything we know may not be true, but we have a lot of historical knowledge about our beauties. Why not share it with all of us? Here is a little genealogy of Rose. Please send along your own story for future issues.

Rose was designed by John Atkin of Noroton, Connecticut, the second of three generations of boat design/builders since 1906. (<http://www.boat-links.com/Atkinco/>). The Atkin design was a modernization of a much older and well-known New England boat known as a "Packet" dating back into the mid-1800s. These small boats had a large hold, small cabins and carried all manner of cargo, including mail "Packets." As carriers of goods in potentially rough seas, they were hardy small sailboats with a long shallow fixed keel, heavy weight, moveable ballast that could be adjusted for cargo weight and minimal heel (under 25%). Then, as now, they sailed well in stiff winds and high seas. Slow (max. 6 knots), but sure. Some time in the 1920s, smaller versions became popular as day sailors and weekenders, plying Long Island Sound, Newport and Buzzard Bays.

In 1997, when we acquired *Rose*, John Atkin was still living and kindly provided us her details and a set of her original plans. Commissioned as *Pequeno* (Little One), she was built in 1959 for Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brown of Maplewood, New Jersey. *Pequeno* sailed New England sound for many years. Some time in the 1980s, she was purchased by a second family who recommissioned her *Chi Chi*. Again, she plied the New England Sound until about 1993, when the owners' son was transferred to Philadelphia. He carried *Chi Chi* to Bohemia River and she sailed the Chesapeake for a few years. With two young children and little time to sail, *Chi Chi* fell into disrepair and languished on land until we found her in 1997. The rest, they say, is history. . .As *Rose*, the Atkin boat has had major modifications in addition to a nearly complete structural rebuild. Her stark interior has been replaced with a more modern and comfortable one. She now has an electric engine, a spiffy paint job and red sails. 



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Throughout this anniversary year, we'll be offering a primer on some of the protocols of yacht clubs—and how these relate to CYCA. To start, we demystify what it means to “dress ship.”

Tradition is important to CYCA—but stuffiness isn't. For those of us who are new to yacht club traditions, some of the “rules and regulations” we read in our member handbooks can seem a little intimidating.

Fortunately, CYCA has the expertise of Vice Commodore Jim Gartley on board. Jim appreciates yacht club tradition, he just doesn't like to get tied up in it. Here's Jim's advice on dressing ship.



Dressing Ship

What It Means (and Where to Get Those Flags)

Traditionally, members dress ship at the request of the commodore. The reason for this — like many of our protocols — is so everyone is prepared and no one is caught with their flags down, so to speak. We don't always dress ship. In fact, according to the member handbook, dressing ship is reserved for national holidays, regattas, and “other special occasions.”

Since all our rendezvous are special, how do we know when to dress ship? Don't worry, you'll have plenty of notice: Look for mailings and other announcements that go out prior to rendezvous to specify “dress ship.”

Obviously, the more members who dress ship, the more splendid our rendezvous look to members and bystanders. But a lot of us have held back in the past because we're confused by how it's done and which flags to use.

Traditionally, dress ship is done using ensigns — international code signal flags, each of which has a meaning. Jim explained that the whole ensign thing can be offputting to many members. Those of us who went looking for ensign flags as described in the CYCA handbook found them to be expensive (upwards of \$125) and putting them in the correct order looked like a lot of work. (Not to mention the fear of getting it wrong and unwittingly spelling out an insult to the dockmaster.)

Fortunately Jim was able to give us a real-world interpretation of the “official handbook” description. And guess what? Dressing ship is easy and fairly cheap!

“The use of actual ensign signal flags is a holdover from the fifties, when these things were important,” says Jim. “I'd prefer we just call them ‘flags!’” Now we're talking: Newsletter Editor Cheryl Spaulding did some research and discovered you can buy what are known as “decorative strands” of flags already strung together for as little as \$15 a set. You just need to know where


to look (see box). Jim says that 2 sets of these decorative flags should be enough to dress the average 40' boat.

So now you have your flags, how do you hang them? Start by flying your CYCA burgee from the bow. Next, take your handy set of pre-strung flags and hang them as follows: Starting just above the waterline in front of your boat, string your flags up to the bow, past the burgee, to the mast (or high point on your vessel). Then continue from the mast down to the stern, ending just above the waterline at the back of your boat. Jim suggests using a fishing weight to be sure the flags hang down nicely from the bow and stern.

You can start with either end of your decorative strand. If you're stringing more than one strand of decorative flags, though, you'll need to start with the same flag on each strand so you don't end up with 2 flags the same right next to each other.

If you're flying a flag at the stern, it should be the U.S. Ensign (the marine version of the U.S. flag, which has the stars in a circle around an anchor) or the Stars and Stripes.

CYCA flag officers fly their own special flags from the mast. Also, the winner of the previous year's CYCA Best in Fleet pennant should display this from the port spreader (the piece of cable on the port side of the mast that runs from the mast to the crosspiece).

CYCA tries to maintain the traditions that link us to a long heritage of yachting. But, thank goodness, we're also a relaxed club whose members like to have fun. So we'll continue following tradition with our own mellow flair and interpretations. Who knows, maybe sometime in the future a traditional CYCA greeting will entail draping a beach towel (regulation size) adorned with a smiley face from the fly bridge and exclaiming Ed Rosenthal style, "I love you man!" 

WHERE TO FIND FLAGS FOR DRESSING SHIP

West Marine: Decorative strand of 10 nautical flags, about \$15

West Marine: Decorative strand of 10 code flags, about \$30

ShopSailboatowners.com: Decorative strand of 10 code flags, about \$30

www.brassbinnacle.com: Decorative strand of 40 nautical flags, about \$85

Vessels are traditionally dressed only when they are not underway.

However, if a rendezvous includes a boat parade, the commodore may order that parade boats be dressed.


Who's Running This Ship?

Ever wondered who's in charge around here?

The Classic Yacht Club of America is run by a board of governors that consists of 12 members elected each year at the annual meeting. Six of these members are flag officers — the commodore, vice commodore, rear commodore, fleet captain, secretary, and treasurer. The remaining board positions are held by five governors and the immediate past commodore. CYCA bylaws also provide for two alternate governors. A complete listing of who holds these positions in 2006 can be found on the [website](#).

All of the flag officer positions have specific requirements — some more demanding than others. Governors have no specific duties, although they are expected to help with club operations when requested to do so by the commodore. (For example, Governor Mike Thielke volunteered to run our club website, to which he devotes a considerable amount of time.) The commodore also appoints club members to run specific activities — such as the newsletter.

CYCA also has a fleet surgeon, Jim Rosenthal, MD. Although the fleet surgeon is not an official board member position (see our [June 2005](#) issue), just knowing we can count on Jim's expertise is reassuring. Fortunately Jim hasn't yet been called upon to perform open-deck surgery on any CYCA members!

All CYCA board members and activity chairpeople are volunteers. The immediate past commodore is in charge of the nominating committee. So if you'd like to grab the tiller and see if CYCA is as much fun at the top (it is!), let Eric Horst know that you're interested. Space permitting, in future newsletters we'll provide more information about what some CYCA board positions entail. 

Welcome New Members!

Robert and Barbara Volland
1937 24' Seabird
Seldom Seen

Welcome aboard — we hope
Seldom Seen is a frequent sight
at CYCA events!



Two Editors . . . More Fun!

The Ancient Mariner now has
two editors. **Cheryl Spaulding**
joins last year's editor, **Fiona**
Hirschfeld. Contact us with
your ideas!



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