

THE CLASSIC YACHT CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.



BIO's 2008 Officers and Board of Governors

Officers

Mike Haines - Commodore
Dave Ochipinti - Vice Commodore
Chris Ulsaker - Rear Commodore
Bill Reynolds - Fleet Captain
DeeAnn Harris - Treasurer
Robyne Reynolds - Secretary

Board of Governors

Jim Gartley
Mike Thielke
John Dutton
Patrick Dunlap
Eric Horst
Dan Ramia

Commodore

Mike Haines

Born in 1946, I graduated from Henderson High School, West Chester, PA with nine letters in athletics and was the school's outstanding athlete in 1964. I continued my love of sports at West Chester University where I graduated with a degree in Health and Physical Education. While at WCU, I played varsity football, including two post season Bowl games. Following college, I taught Physical Education for elementary and secondary level students and also coached football at both the high school and college levels. My interest in sports also included a stint playing professional racquetball in 1970.



In 1978, I formed Haines Restoration, Inc. featuring the restoration of furniture and architectural woodwork. We are entering our 30th year in business. In 1995, I formed Haines Vintage Watercraft. During the last 13 years, we have restored 75 classic and antique boats. In addition to a love of classic boats, I'm also a collector of antique toys.

I married my lovely wife, Susan, 40 years ago. We have lived in Kennett Square since 1975, and have two sons: Todd, who works in our business; and Brandon, who works for EMC Corporation. We've also been blessed with two grandchildren.

Vice Commodore

Dave Ochipinti

I was asked to share a few nuggets from my past with our members. My beginnings were on a rice farm in the Sacramento Valley of California. When my father suffered a heart attack at a young age, we had to sell the 600-acre farm and move into Sacramento where I attended High School and later went to college in San Diego. People often ask, "Why did you leave San Diego?!" Well, I was drafted during Viet Nam which led to flight school after attending Officer Candidate School. I flew attack helicopters in the Army and was then stationed at Ft. Bliss, TX. It was there I met my lovely wife, Clara. We were married after dating for only 5 months. The short romance was the beginning of a wonderful journey which has spanned 31 years.



We have two lovely daughters, Angela and Adriana. Both of our girls attended Penn State and have grown up to be avid boaters. Angela, who lives in Arlington, VA, was recently married and is a Financial Manager for GSA. Adriana attended ROTC at Penn State and is a commissioned Officer in the U S Army. She is in Military Intelligence and stationed at Ft. Hood TX.

For 30 years I've worked in the packaging business with Mobil Plastics and, since 1990, with Dopaco, a paper packaging company in Exton, PA, where I'm the Vice President of Sales and Marketing.

Clara and I got into classic boating in 1995 after owning small boats for some time. We found (and instantaneously fell in love with) a 1955 bull nose Chris Craft Commander. She needed a lot of work, but there was no denying those classic looks. After restoring **Nostalgia** for the next 5 years, we decided to step up to a 45 Connie that we found in Michigan. We brought **Metanoia**, now owned by John and Jo Kmetz, through the Erie Canal down the Hudson River into New York harbor and around Cape May into the Chesapeake. The trip was quite eventful, but I'll save that story for another time. We owned Metanoia (which means rebirth, state of change or revelation in Greek) for the next 4 years during which we worked on her continuously. As my kids grew up on the Bay, along with their many friends who seemed like perpetual guests on our boat, we dreamed of a bigger boat. The fact that John and Jo Kmetz had asked, "If you ever decide to sell Metanoia give us a call." And – knowing they would make great owners of our pride and joy – we took the leap onto our 57 Roamer, **Bella Nave**.

Rear Commodore

Chris Ulsaker

My boat, FLYER, is a 1960 RICHARDSON Express Cruiser. It's extensively restored with all systems replaced and modernized, but the appearance is vintage. FLYER was my first boat and I have used it extensively since one benefit of restoration is reliability! I have owned FLYER twelve years and have enjoyed it a lot. It would be nice to have a little more room, but a 31-foot boat is efficient, economical and easy to operate single handedly.

DRAGONFLY is a 1959 PENN YAN runabout with the original Evinrude 35 horse engine. The boat cruises at about 20 knots, has been restored to original condition and is really a lot of fun! It lives in my garage from which I can be on the Christina River in 20 minutes. I wouldn't mind replacing both boats with a 40 foot Hinckley, but I don't think that is going to happen.

I am currently Rear Commodore with CYCA, following a term last year as Fleet Captain. I am retired now having spent 40 years flying airplanes for the military, off shore in the oil fields, and as a DC10 Captain for Federal Express. My wife, Wanda, and I have been married for 35 years and we have two grown children, one of whom is about to have her own little sailor!

I was born in 1948 in San Antonio, Texas, as the first of six children. My father was a career Army officer, and we lived in many places before I left home to seek my fortune. Following a four-year adventure as an Army helicopter pilot in the late 60's, I returned to school and earned my BA in Economics from George Washington University.

It is probably no surprise that my hobby is boating – particularly with old wooden boats. I also have a 1981 Porsche 911 that I have owned for over 20 years. I never throw anything away! I read a great deal and work puzzles. I don't watch much TV. There is nothing more relaxing than taking FLYER for a short run and anchoring in a nearby cove for some lunch,



Fleet Captain

Bill Reynolds

My name is Bill Reynolds, and, for all of my 57 years, I've been boating either on my own boat or my father's. For several years, I worked in my dad's marina. My father was my inspiration in boating. Back in 1957/58, we built a kit boat together – a 1957 21-foot Revel Craft cruiser – to replace our 1927 Jersey sea skiff.

I am a NAMS-certified marine surveyor and have been practicing for 20 years. I have two boats that I always wanted: "Almost Heaven" a 1963 32-foot Pacemaker I've owned since 1993; and my 1977 22-foot Sea Ray, "Toys R Us," that I've enjoyed since 1998. Both are restored vessels, but the Sea Ray is a one-off custom retrofit while the Pacemaker is mostly original.

Prior occupations included professional auto mechanic (another passion turned into an occupation) where I spent several years doing some high performance work. We also have a 1976 and a 1979 Corvette – both with high performance modifications done by me. I was also in the sign business for about ten years – a trade my father practiced before he became a yacht broker for 42 years.

I met my wife, Robyne, in 1979. She boated with her mother and stepfather before meeting me and has boated with me since 1980. Robyne is the club Secretary and I am the 2008 Fleet Captain. We've been members since 2005; and, although my father tried to get me to join earlier, it was Commodore Haines who put me over the edge.

My interest in classic boats goes way back to my childhood. In the 1960's my father was a design consultant to Cruise Along, Ventnor and Revel Craft, and I would often convince him to let me skip school to go to the factories. Since then, my love affair with boats has never stopped. I believe I'm actually worse than he was in the passion for boats. My wife loves boats as well. If we share another passion, it's for our dogs and we currently have 3 standard schnauzers which are often seen at club events.



Treasurer

DeeAnn Harris

I'm honored to be serving a second term as CYCA treasurer this year. My husband, Dale, and I became CYCA members in October 2003, following the purchase of our 1955 29-foot Chris Craft semi-enclosed cruiser, **Mon Ami**, which we bought on Ebay earlier that year. **Mon Ami's** home port is Barber's Basin in Salem, NJ. Dale discovered the CYCA in a Nor'easter article written by Ginger Martus. We called Judy Willingham, Vice Commodore at the time, who conveyed the club's love of antique boats, membership requirements and activities, and – one thing led to another – and now here I am, CYCA treasurer!



I grew-up in Salem, NJ, graduated from Salem High School in 1976 and then from Albion College (Albion, MI) in 1971 with degrees in Home Economics, Art and Education. I went on to earn a Masters degree in Consumer Economics at Montclair State (NJ) in 1974 while teaching school at North Rockland High School in Stony Point, NY. I spent 34 wonderful years teaching art and various home economics courses at NRHS, coaching field hockey and girls track, and officiating field hockey. I opted for retirement in 2004, when Dale and I sold our Stony Point home and moved back to Salem, NJ to the home where I was raised right on the Delaware River directly across from the C & D Canal.

Dale and I have known each other since 4th grade. We both graduated from Salem High School together, and then married other people. We crossed paths again in 1990, when we were both single again, and were married in 1993. Our goal for the 2008 boating season is to explore the Chesapeake with **Mon Ami** and become acquainted with more CYCA members. Hope to see you!

Secretary

Robyn Reynolds

Born in July of 1960, I am one of three children (I have two older brothers) and was raised in Southern New Jersey. I am employed as a legal assistant and have worked at the same Philadelphia law firm for the past 24 years. In fact, for 19 of those years, I've worked with the same attorney!

I share the same love of boating as my husband, Bill Reynolds, your humble Fleet Captain, having boated with my mother and stepfather at the Jersey shore growing up. Bill introduced me to boating on the Chesapeake Bay when we began dating in 1980 and I immediately fell in love with the Chesapeake Bay. In the process, I also fell in love with Bill and we were married in May of 1988 in Haddonfield, NJ. We became Maryland residents in 1989, and currently live in Elkton.

Bill and I also share a love of dogs – more specifically Standard Schnauzers. We currently have three of them, Tut, Nitz and Ram, which go with us on our boating excursions (not so much any more as they are aging, just like us). When we would go to other marinas and walk our crew, people would get strange looks on their faces and ask us, “How many dogs do you have on that boat? or “Didn't you just walk that dog?”

Bill and I have been members of the CYCA for the past three years and have enjoyed meeting the members, admiring their boats, and attending the rendezvous. I currently serve as your club Secretary.



Board of Governors

Jim Gartley

I grew up in a small town, Cochranville, PA which is located between Lancaster, PA and Wilmington, DE. I graduated from high school at Octorara, PA and later attended the Philadelphia College of Art & Design. The focus of my work has been interior window treatment design and installation, and for the last 15 years I've worked for J.C. Penney custom decorating.

My wife, Debbie, and I live in the town of North East, MD located midway between Philadelphia and Baltimore. As a kid, my summers were spent on the North East River which is where my love with Chesapeake boats and the water began.

Debbie and I love spending time with our three children and nine grandchildren. Prior to joining CYCA, I was Commodore at the North East Yacht Club in 2000. Since joining CYCA, we've had a wonderful time and have made many new friends. I was honored to be named CYCA Commodore 2007.



Mike Thielke

When it came to boats, I was a complete neophyte until I met Eric Horst in 1998. Eric's passion for boats is nothing short of contagious, which has resulted in my rising appreciation for boats, particularly the aesthetics of the classics.

Born in a north shore suburb of Chicago in 1953, I grew up in the big city, leaving for central Illinois to attend Knox College, a small liberal arts school in the middle of rural America. It was here that I first developed what would become a love for the quality of life I would lead living on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

My active participation in CYCA began slowly, but has increased as my enjoyment in the fellowship of the organization has increased. I genuinely appreciate how CYCA members have been so supportive of my involvement in the Schooner Sultana Project. Members have also shown tremendous interest in and support for my efforts in developing a marine trades school. Having enjoyed successes as an entrepreneur in business, I now hope to spend my time in more social entrepreneurial pursuits.

Currently, I'm serving as a CYCA Board member and have been responsible for the Club's Handbook/Yearbook and website for the past three years. And, while I do enjoy these responsibilities, I forward to the day when I can pass the torch to another editor and webmaster. Anyone interested?



John Dutton

My wife, Merrill, and I are the proud owners of **HOPE**, a 1956 Chris Craft, 38-foot Corsair which is one of 57 vessels built in Holland, MI. Without doubt, we feel the best time of the year is boating season when our family and friends come to spend time on **HOPE**.

When we were married 36 years ago, the only boats we could afford were the radio-controlled model Dumas Chris Crafts (Express Cruiser, Cobra and Commander) that I built. In those early days I learned about hull construction, hardware, and all of the joys of running a boat – even if was from the land. I also got involved in other construction projects – including assorted dollhouses built for our two daughters, Ashley and Allison.

In 2000, I built a 14-foot Glen-L runabout from plans and powered it with a 25 hp Honda four-cycle outboard. She is currently under cover waiting for a grandchild to arrive and ask if he or she can have it. In 2002, my wife and I happily crossed paths with Mike Haines and bought **POLLY**, a 1957 Chris Craft 17-foot Custom Sportsman. For many years, she was in a shed in Chestertown, MD. When she saw the light of day again it must have been like the day her previous owner had put her away. Everything was onboard, including burgee, ensign anchor, and all original hardware. Eighteen months later **POLLY** was fully restored with a lot of help and hard work from family and friends, and lots of mentoring from Mike!

Professionally, my work experience in teaching and human resources has spanned over 35 years. Most of my career has included extensive work in benefits, compensation and labor relations. But let there be no doubt – I'm looking forward to my new role traveling to new places with the club.



Patrick Dunlap

Your Past Commodore (2006) hails from St Louis, MO, but I've called the Washington, DC area my home since relocating to attend George Washington University back in 1973.

My professional experience includes long stints as a reporter and editor at the Bureau of National Affairs and VP/GM of a national aviation services company — Signature Flight Support. In my younger days, I pursued personal flight training and attained a multi-engine rating. I've owned three different small, private aircraft, and I have to admit that I still delight to the sounds of "airplane noise." These days, however, I own and operate a dry cleaning and laundry services business.

Early boating experiences included various small watercraft on the many lakes and rivers of Missouri. My experiences on the waters of the East Coast began with a friend and his sailboat on the Chesapeake Bay. Since then, I've graduated to power boating and currently call a 1967 37-foot 'Egg Harbor Convertible, named **Juanita**, my own.

I'd have to say that my most notable life achievement has been finding and loving my partner of over 30 years — Jim.



Eric Horst

As past Commodore (1995) and currently a Board Member, I've enjoyed membership in CYCA since 1987. Looking back, I'd have to say that I first fell in love with boating in 1967 when my parents purchased their first boat, a 21-foot wooden Grady White weekender on Middle River, Md. I quickly took to running and maneuvering the boat as if it were second nature. It was only a few years later, during one of my family's river cruises that I spotted the yacht of my dreams docked at the Baltimore Yacht Club on Sue Creek. She was a 46-foot Matthews motor yacht named **Shelby**.

Many boats and several decades later, I'm now enjoying my second career as a yacht broker. Better still, I'm now the proud owner of the former **Shelby** now named **Miss Natalie** named for my Mom. Co-captain, Mike Thielke, and I feel very much at home on summer cruises aboard **Miss Natalie**.



Dan Ramia

I've been a member of CYCA since the summer of 2004 after Lee diPaula and I purchased a 1939 Trumpy, **The Washingtonian**. My current vessel is named **Windward**, a 1962 42-foot Matthews sedan convertible, purchased in August of 2007. Her new home port will be the Wye River. **Windward** is currently in Annapolis for the winter getting a new electrical system and having the comforts of HVAC added to her charms.



The most distance traveled was on **The Washingtonian** down the ICW, across Florida to St. Petersburg. Georgetown, SC was the most charming town on that trip. The scariest place was Clewiston, FL. Other boat trips have been as far north as Province Town, Cape Cod with a side trip to Cuttyhunk Island, MA. Cuttyhunk is part of the Elizabeth Islands, Cape Cod and a real step back in time. It's a great destination for a cruise if in the Northeast.

Over the years I've had many boats, saving my money to purchase my first boat when I was 15 years old. It was an 18-foot Lyman lap strake with a 90 hp Johnson that weighed a ton – and this was before hydraulic tilt! The boat was so overpowered by the engine that cinder blocks had to be placed port and starboard at the stern to keep her from fishtailing

Born in Harford County, Baltimore, my family moved to the Eastern Shore of Maryland when I was very young. My love of the water comes from my family with whom I shared many great times cruising in the 20-foot Trojan that my father purchased in 1969. This would have to be when the love of classic vessels began – or should we call it a sickness? In addition to boating, my hobbies include gardening; however, boat restoration seems to have replaced most activities. In 2007 I was awarded my 100-ton U.S. Coast Guard Masters license.

My occupation is as a “numbers cruncher” at the University of Maryland where I'm an Assistant Dean in the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources. I'm currently serving on the Board of Governors for CYCA, and one of the things that our members might find most surprising about me is that, from the age of 26 to 40, I wasn't involved in boating at all.