



**2014**

*Herring Bay Yacht Club  
Commodore's Annual Report*



Herring Bay Yacht Club

[www.HBYC.org](http://www.HBYC.org)

2014

## **Background:**

In accordance with the Bylaws, the Commodore is required to submit an annual report to the club members. By developing this annual report, we can ensure an accurate historical record of the Herring Bay Yacht Club's (HBYC) activities, membership evolution and overall business health for the boating season reported.

## **Commodore's 2014 Assessment and Farewell:**

It has been a great pleasure and a rewarding experience serving as the Commodore of the HBYC for my fourth and final year. I am extremely happy with the club's growth and the participation from all members both old and new. I am proud of the accomplishments made in the retention and addition of Club members despite the economy, members selling their boats and members moving to locations that do not provide them the opportunity to participate in the majority of Club activities. Much of the success has been owed to the enthusiastic Board members that have served throughout my four year term. Over the last two years we have seen a real growth in General Member participation and our meetings have become very lively as everyone is eager to continue to build and improve the club. I could not be any happier or honored to turn the Club's Commodore position over to Bonnie Ortiz. As Treasurer she has been by my side for the last three years helping me with everyone. The club is so lucky to have Bonnie in command as she has an amazing drive, enthusiasm, and willingness to do what is necessary to take the Club to the next level. I am much honored and proud to have served as Commodore and am even prouder to tell our story to new people I meet who might be interested in joining HBYC. I want to thank all of our members for making this a yacht club that more people want to join every year. I also want to thank all those members and Officers who made my send-off party at the Commodore's Ball a perfect evening. I now will assume the position as Past Commodore and will do all I can to help Commodore Ortiz and the HBYC Officers in all of their endeavors. I now am going to turn this report over to Commodore Ortiz to provide you with her vision and plans for the 2015 HBYC Boating Season.

## **Commodore Ortiz Vision and Planning for the 2015 Boating Season:**

What an honor it is to begin serving as the HBYC Commodore. I am entering the position having supported the Club for 3 years as Treasurer and 4 years as Quartermaster. In that time I learned a great deal from Dave and plan to carry on the long time traditions of the organization while bringing new thoughts and ideas for membership growth, land event themes and safety seminars to encourage more boating on the Bay.

I have 3 primary goals for my term: grow the Club responsibly, ensure that safety and fun are injected in all of our events and ensure that value is provided to all of the members. As a local resident, I plan to extend the offer to all local businesses for corporate membership and fundraising events, leveraging their interest in building the community and its clubs. I want to ensure that new blood is injected into the Membership Committee by requesting that single members and members with families share their ideas for land and sea events. And, I want to keep the events interesting by changing the themes and including safety briefings at all general membership meetings.

I love this Club and all that it stands for. I plan to serve the members to the best of my ability and always be available to listen to members' ideas and feedback.

## 2014 HBYC Board of Directors:

Our 2014 HBYC Board of Directors included the following members:

Commodore	Dave DeAngelis
Vice Commodore	Joe Ortiz
Rear Commodore	Tony Hite
Fleet Captain	Tom Costello
Secretary	Jeanne LaRoque
Treasurer	Bonnie Ortiz
Member At Large	Sunny Taylor
Member At Large	Jeannine Beal
Past Commodore	Howard Johannssen



In addition, our Subcommittees as required by the By-laws included:

Communications/Webmaster	Joe Ortiz/Tom Costello
Fundraising	Bonnie Ortiz
Sailing Association Liaison (annual picnic)	Sunny Taylor
CBYCA Liaisons	Dan Killeen/Jim Thrift
Vessel Safety	Tom Costello
Communications/Bulletin Board	Betsy Pugh/Bob Felong/Joe Ortiz
Fishing Tournament	Howard Johannssen/Kerry Muse

### **HBYC Membership:**

In 2014 we unfortunately lost 28 club boaters mostly due to either the economic situation or the member's retirement from boating. New memberships increased year over year, allowing us to end the season with 108 total membership records documented in the website. Included in this number, were 9 corporate sponsors and 20 new members. Our 2014 Corporate Sponsors included:

Integrity Yacht Sales – Vicki Rasmussen	Kris Johannssen – Financial Advisor
Herrington Harbour Marinas – South/North	Hidden Harbour Marina – Melissa Clark
Heller Electric – Brian Heller	Wheel Clothing – Celia Molofsky
Mark Solsman	Coldwell Banker – Jennifer Sowers
Elks Landing – Kerry Muse	

### **Commodore's Ball**

The 2013 Commodore's Ball was held for a second year at the Marriott in Annapolis on February 7, 2015. Sixty four club members attended and everyone had a great time. The event was held in the main ballroom beginning with a social hour, including an open bar, appetizers, and a solo musician. Bonnie Ortiz, Jeanne LaRoque, and the decorating team did a great job setting the stage for an "island theme" event. After the social, the Club members moved into the dining area and the real party started. We served a full sit down dinner with a choice of chicken, salmon, or filet mignon. After the dinner, the awards ceremony and the transition of the Bridge was led by the Commodore. Commodore DeAngelis said a fond farewell, presented the awards and framed certificates to departing officers, including Rear Commodore – Tony Hite and Member at Large – Sunny Taylor. The 2014 Commodore's Cup was awarded to Joe Ortiz and Tom Costello for their dedication and support for the redesigned website and the HBYC Clubhouse, provided for our use by Herring Harbor Marina.

The newly elected Officers were announced, including Commodore – Bonnie Ortiz, Rear Commodore – Jeff Wyvill, Secretary (2nd term) - Jeanne LaRoque, and Member at Large – Marina Lauziere. New officers received their official club burgees and the incoming



Commodore provided her vision and plans for the coming year. After the ceremonies, the band began and the Club members danced and sang the night away, taking a few minutes out to visit the silent auction table and bid on their favorite items.



## Land Events

Rear Commodore Tony Hite did an outstanding job coordinating and executing 5 Land Events in 2014. Each event had a record turnout from the general membership with an increase in the number of members volunteering to set up and clean up. The following Land Events were conducted:

### *Opening Day Ceremonies*

The Opening Day land event was held on May 10th at HHS on the East Beach. With a larger crowd than ever before, Tony arranged for 2 tents and all the necessary components for over 100 participants. The weather was spectacular and the catering provided by Honey Harvest included the pig and the sides for dinner – all of which was outstanding. The Steve Hymes Band did a great job playing under the moonlight while HBYC members danced in the beach sand.





## ***Chili Cookoff***

Attendance at this event on June 7th was larger than ever. Held at the HHN Marina, the competition for the “HBYC Best Chili” was fierce. The winning chili recipe went to Joe Ortiz.



## ***Lowe's Wharf Family Day***

Tony continued the new twist to our land events by hosting Family Day at Lowe's Wharf across the bay. We had a parade of boats with members and guests pulling into open slips and tying up to the mooring balls. Attendees ordered directly from the Lowe's menu and participated in the activities provided on the beach.



## ***Wine Tasting***

This event was held on Friday, August 1 at the HBYC clubhouse - HHS, K Dock area. We had a record turnout with 66 participants – members and guests. Honey Harvest provided the wine for tasting and for purchase along with a host of appetizers. We celebrated the opening of the clubhouse with a champagne toast and the ringing of the donated clubhouse bell.



### ***New England Clambake***

The HBYC annual Clambake was held on October 11th. Of course our weather was typical "New England" weather with drizzle, rain and wind. Even with the inclement weather, we had another record attendance of 125. The crew started at around 8AM digging the pit and setting things up. Two large tents were placed on the HHS West Beach to accommodate the participants and the band. We had lobsters, clam chowder ("homemade" and graciously provided by Bonnie Ortiz and Theresa Atkins), corn, fish and sausage, clams and mussels, and burgers and dogs. Honey Harvest added to the dinner with oven roasted garlic potatoes. After the food was cooked and the sun started setting (behind the clouds and rain) we turned the clambake pit into a spirited fire pit with everyone sitting around as the band played the night away. The next day the cleanup crew started another party, cooking hot dogs and hamburgers and working diligently to finish off the left over beer.

### ***Second Annual HBYC – Sailing Association Picnic***

Member at Large, Sunny Taylor, once again coordinated the HBYC/HHSA Picnic. The event was held in collaboration with the Sailing Association on Sunday, July 27th at the Herrington Harbour South picnic area near S Dock. Typical picnic fare was served, music played all afternoon and games were provided by the HHSA Rear Commodore. Joe Ortiz spoke on behalf of HBYC along with the HHSA Commodore.

## Club Cruises

For the 2014 season, several changes were incorporated to the Club Cruise program. For the first time, Fleet Captain Tom Costello introduced the practice of “host couples”, whose role was to coordinate welcoming events, dinners, and activities for Cruisers at each Cruise destination. Secondly, in the spirit of safer boating, pre-departure “Captain’s Briefings” were instituted, and the “Fleet Sheet” was introduced. This combination of briefings and documents were well received – where all information relating to the trip, weather, tides, destination marina approach, dockage, and radio procedures were reviewed.

Overall, the HBYC Fleet planned 5 Cruises, along with 2 raft-ups for the 2014 season. Only 1 of the raft-ups had to be cancelled due to weather, with all other events going off as planned. The overall season got off to a slow start given the rough winter and protracted cold that saw a lot of Members getting their boats into the water later than normal. Despite the somewhat shortened season, the number of boats and cruise participants climbed throughout the year and shattered all previous records, with 34 total boats and over 75 participants at the Cambridge Cruise. Most importantly, no vessels were disabled during any of the cruises, no injuries occurred during any of the events, and everyone returned safely to our home ports!

### ***Baltimore – Memorial Day Weekend – May 24-26, 2014***

Our “host couple” of Dave & Sandy DeAngelis set the bar high with the opening cruise. 13 boats participated, with 27 Members attended – mooring at the Baltimore Marine Center at Lighthouse Point in Canton. Activities included a welcome mixer, a dinner at LaScalas (attended by everyone on the Cruise), club box seats at an Orioles home game (Orioles won), a happy hour event, a massive breakfast buffet, and some self-selected touring for foodies, bar-hoppers, and history buffs. Great weather, great weekend, great start - thanks to our host couple.



### ***Annapolis - Flag Day Weekend - June 14-15, 2014***

Our “host couple” of Joe & Bonnie Ortiz prepared a wonderful weekend in nearby Annapolis. 7 boats participated with 15 Members boating in, and several “drive by” attendees who came up to participate in the group activities. We docked at the Annapolis Yacht Basin adjacent to the Marriott, and immediately kicked off with a wonderful “flag day” themed mixer. Cruisers spent the afternoon shopping, touring, and taking in as much of Annapolis as was possible. A group dinner was held outdoors along Spa Creek and went well into the night. Sunday breakfast was actually a group walk to Sophie’s Crepes along Ego Alley. Another sunny weekend with a great outcome!



### ***St. Michaels - July 12-13, 2014***

Not intimidated by the success of the prior host couples, Dave & Michelle Sousa led the charge as the “host couple” for the St. Michael Cruise. The water and weather were as perfect as possible, with 12 boats signing up, but over 17 boats attending... including numerous Members who had never previously cruised in any way. Our destination marina was Pascal’s Harbour Inn Marina & Spa. The welcome mixer was pot-luck, but included an acoustic guitarist coordinated by the Sousa’s. Dinner was held at Town Dock restaurant, where Dave & Michelle had secured their best dining room with a panoramic view of the harbor. Following the exceptional meal, people broke off into groups that shopped, walked the town, and for the brave few who were willing to stay up late, a “”Toast The Full Moon” event at Foxys. Following a pot-luck breakfast, everyone cast off and sadly returned to home port. Excellent job by the Sousas !!







### ***Fairlee Creek - Aug 2-3, 2014***

By far the longest trip of the season, Dave Young and Kathy Savary-Young hosted the trip to Mears Great Oak Landing Marina. Though 11 boats registered, due to weather and some drop-outs due to mechanical issues, the number of boats attending fell... but the number of participants did NOT, as many Members chose to drive & stay in Chestertown. Activities included a mixer on the dock at Mears, followed quickly by dinghy rides to Jellyfish Joel's Tiki Bar on the beach looking into the Fairlee Creek basin. The weather, food, music, and refreshments were spectacular. Watching other boaters navigate the entrance to Fairlee Creek from the beach was exciting for all. The Young's then coordinated a bus to take all attendees to dinner at Charlie's Bistro in nearby Chestertown. A pot-luck breakfast was held on Sunday morning, and Cruises kicked-off early to make the long trip back to Herring Bay. This destination is a must-see and a likely return destination for a long weekend. The Young's did an awesome job and easily handled the people that converted from water to land Cruisers. Really great job for a very difficult long-distance destination!!





## ***Cambridge - Aug 30-Sep 2, 2014***

Doug & Christine Fockler signed up as the host couple for this cruise given their local knowledge of their favorite destination port. Coupled with the excellent treatment we always receive from our hosts at the Cambridge Yacht Club (CYC) [thank you Linda]; it was sure to be a popular cruise. Little did we know it would shatter all Club records for attendance! 27 boats signed up... but by midnight of the arrival day, 34 boats had been tied up in the CYC basin, and the welcome mixer/party at their private tiki bar was spectacular! The CYC staff hosted a private breakfast on Sunday morning, and the Club turned the city of Cambridge on its ear as word got out that a massive group was moving through downtown on a spending spree. Some visited the local micro-brewery, a local distillery, jewelry & craft shopping... but all ended up back at the CYC tiki for burgers, dogs, and some light games! We even had some former Club Members drop by to say "hi"... and we were joined by some of the CYC Members. On Monday morning, a quick pot-luck breakfast was enjoyed, and everyone began casting off to head home. The Focklers were un-phased by the gigantic turnout, and a great time was had by all. The CYC staff contacted the HBYC Fleet Captain to pass along their thanks and to extend an open invitation to visit anytime we wish!



## ***Dun Cove Raft Up – July 5, 2014***

The Sousas once again stepped up to coordinate the first raft-up of 2014, and successfully engaged 6 Club vessels to cross the Bay and raft-up in Dun Cove. The weather was superb, and the water was exceptional in the cove. Numerous floats and rafts were seen circling the line-up of HBYC cruisers... and there wasn't a cloud in the sky to give relief from the warm summer sun... and not another boat that didn't belong to our Club. This will become a go-to location for summer raft-ups!

The 2014 Cruising Season was a great success, with credit due to all of the host couples who were willing to volunteer for an untried/unproven process... and they made it work perfectly!! Each host couple was awarded a small gift combo at the Commodores Ball; including the 2015 Waterman's Guide to the Chesapeake Bay and a small token of appreciation from the Fleet Captain.



## **Fleet Safety**

As part of the enhanced focus on Safety, Fleet Captain Tom Costello organized 2 separate Vessel Safety Check weekends, spanning a total of four days in May and June. Coordinated with USCG Aux FSO Willie Witters and the team from Drum Point, nearly 100 vessels were checked between Herrington Harbours North and South. This effort set a record for the USCG Aux region, gaining recognition for the Drum Point team from their National Headquarters. This level of effort and outcome was achieved with the help of other HBYC Club Officers, most notably Sunny Taylor who ran the operation at Herrington Harbour South, and Joe Ortiz who assisted in coordination and movement of USCG Aux personnel between the marinas.



## Club Website

This year the website went viral with features and functionality beyond our wildest expectations. Under the direction of Vice Commodore Ortiz, a committee was formed to ensure a redesign that was easy to navigate, full of the desired functionality and secure for member use. All suggestions for the improvement of the site were taken into consideration during committee meetings. Tom Costello programmed all of the desired functionality, thoroughly testing all components and training all Board members. The website was used as the official club roster and the general membership began purchasing everything from event tickets to merchandise with their login credentials and Paypal accounts. Tom did such a stellar job that he was presented with a gift from the HBYC Board at the Opening Ceremony.

## Members at Large

Big thanks to our Members at Large, Sunny Taylor and Jeannine Beal for their efforts in the 2014 boating season. The Members at Large are responsible to represent the members in Board Meetings, engage in membership drives, and generally support club events. HBYC tables were set up at the HHS Powerboat Seminar and then a table at the HHN Annual Yard Sale. In addition, new members were solicited at all venues where an opportunity existed. Opportunities included slip holders parties at both marinas and each of the favorite watering holes.

## Annual HBYC Fishing Tournament

Past Commodore Howard Johannssen, along with Member Kerry Muse coordinated the 2014 Annual HBYC Fishing Tournament. The event was held on October 25th with fishing from 6AM until 3PM. Luncheon and awards ceremony was then held at HHS Mangos Restaurant and Bar. There were three prizes for largest catch.

**1st place:**  
Cathy Allwine

**2nd Place:**  
John Zaunder

**3rd Place:**  
Bill Davies





## **2014 HBYC Photo Contest**

Past Commodore Howard Johannssen coordinated with HBYC webmaster Tom Costello to create a website for a Club photo contest. Registrations and entries were gathered throughout the year, with a total of nearly 100 photos entered. Judging was performed by professional photographers, including the Photo Editor for Annapolis' Capital Gazette. Winners were announced at the February 2015 Commodores Ball for each of the three categories, along with a grand-prize winner, as follows:

Jo Rupert won with "The Star Spangled Banner" for "The American Experience"

Jo Rupert also won with "Droplets" for The Natural World"

Jay Kuhn took first place in "The Chesapeake Bay & Tributaries Ravel" with his black-and-white photo taken of the "The Bay Bridge"

The overall Grand Prize was awarded to Jo Rupert's "Star Spangled Banner".

All of the winning photos were profiled on the Club website, and the photos were hung in the Clubhouse.





## **HBYC Merchandise**

Our Quarter Master, Bonnie Ortiz, along with her partner Joe Ortiz, did an outstanding job in 2014, always making sure we had a large selection of shirts, hats, beer koozies, etc. for sale at club events and through the online store. Highlights this year included hats in different colors for ladies and HBYC lapel pins.

## **HBYC Calendar of Event**

HBYC Secretary Jeanne LaRoque and Webmaster Tom Costello did an outstanding job ensuring that the calendar of events was posted to the Bulletin Boards at both marinas as well as updated in the website.

## **Treasurer Activities**

Treasurer Bonnie Ortiz continued her outstanding work managing and maintaining the budget, paying all invoices in a timely and accurate manner and balancing the books on a monthly basis. With Bonnie's move to Commodore in 2015, the Board elected to have the books audited prior to transition to the interim Treasurer. The audit was conducted and no material findings were discovered. Numerous suggestions for best practices as the club increases in size and complexity were provided. Bonnie ensured that all suggestions were implemented prior to turning the position over.

## **Good and Welfare**

We had some long time HBYC Members start the retirement trek to locations with warmer winter weather this year. Among them were Dan Czernicki and Theresa Atkins (both former HBYC Officers). We wish them all the best and will miss them around the docks.

On February 23, 2015, our Fleet Captain Tom Costello and his Mate Michelle Chaykowski welcomed their son John "Jack" Charles Costello into the world. We're excited to welcome our newest addition to the Club, and wish the entire family well!

## **December Election Results Meeting**

The December Election Results were announced at a meeting held at Happy Harbour. Along with the announcement of our 2014 Elections, we served appetizers and celebrated the end of another wonderful boating season.

The 2014 HBYC Elections for new officers included:

- Commodore
- Rear Commodore
- Secretary
- Member at Large (one of two)

In September a request went out for nominations for these positions with the closing date for nomination being 15 October.

The following Nominations were received:

- Commodore – Bonnie Ortiz
- Rear Commodore – Dan Killeen, Sunny Taylor and Jeff Wyvill
- Secretary – Jeanne LaRoque and Michelle Chaykowski
- Member at Large – Gregg Borchelt and Marina Lauziere

Elections commenced November 1st and ended on November 21st. Voting was sent to the Secretary via email with an option to mail ballots to the club address. The results elected the above new Officers for the 2015 Boating Season. The entire HBYC Board of Directors for 2015 will be:

Bonnie Ortiz	Commodore
Joe Ortiz	Vice Commodore
Jeff Wyvill	Rear Commodore
Tom Costello	Fleet Captain
Gregg Borchelt	Interim Treasurer
Jeanne LaRoque	Secretary
Marina Lauziere	Member at large
Jeannine Beal	Member at Large
Dave DeAngelis	Past Commodore

## **Closing**

In closing, I want to say how proud I am to not only have been the Commodore, but also, to be a member of the Herring Bay Yacht Club. It is amazing how everyone has actively participated in this season of boating, volunteering and attending all events. The torch has been passed for Bonnie to continue building the Herring Bay Yacht Club into the club everyone is talking about. I am really looking forward to a great 2015 boating season with lots of fun things happening for all members and continuing to support the Club as the Past Commodore. A big thanks to all the HBYC Officers and members for making 2014 the success it was!!!!