



WARE RIVER YACHT CLUB



ANNUAL REPORT

2011

Annual meeting January 14, 2012

2011 Board of Directors

Cleve Corlett ----- *Commodore* **Ginger James** ----- *Vice Commodore*

Bill Fenstermacher ----*Fleet Captain* **Steve Sadler** ---*Treasurer* **Jane Wilson** ----*Secretary*

Tiffany Backer **Chris Hutson** **Jay McGlohn** **Breck Montague**

Kirby Smith **Nina Watkins** **Peter Wilcox**

Cheryl Davis ----- *Club Manager*



Commodore's Report

Due to the hard work of many volunteers and fortunate weather patterns, the Ware River Yacht Club hosted many activities in 2011 and ended the year on very solid financial ground.

Early in the year we successfully fended off a threat to the use of our waters with the potential introduction of a large number of oyster bed cages. Your Board of Directors and several club members ensured the interests of WRYC were represented at various hearings and made known to our government representatives.

During the spring, Joe Morgan launched an adult sailing class with both classroom and on-the-water instruction. Through his extensive planning efforts and the assistance of volunteers, this very successful offering represented an important step in increasing the club's sailing activities and members' access to sailing.

Ginger James continued to ride herd on our very popular Junior Sailing program, as she continually ratchets up the quality of the instruction offered through that program. The hard work and devotion exhibited by her instructors is exemplary. On some days, the entire WRYC fleet was in the water.

Of course none of these sailing instruction activities would have been possible without the continual efforts of Fleet Captain Bill Fenstermacher and several club volunteers to ensure the WRYC fleet was in shipshape throughout the sailing season. Just as important were the continual efforts of our Buildings and Grounds Chair, Jay McGlohn, to ensure club facilities were also shipshape.

This summer represented the 40th sailing season for the club, and was capped off by a very successful Governor's Cup regatta that was chaired by Clayton and Ginger James with Rick Klein as the principle race officer. This event, which hosted over 100 boats this year, continues to attract sailors throughout the region due to the large number of club volunteers who demonstrate the club's hospitality by doing everything from cooking breakfast on Saturday morning to cleaning up on Sunday evening. In the future, I would like to see more club volunteers stepping forward so that we have a higher number of WRYC sailors on the water.

(Commodore's report continues)

As sailing season drew to a close, we continued to have many successful social events under the watchful eye of Nina Watkins, our Social Chair. Socials represent such a major component of the club that every member should volunteer to help with at least one event each year. Re-introduced this year by Charlie and Mary Alice Woerner were several popular *Lunch-on-the-Ware* events.

Another major accomplishment this year was the conversion of the Club's financial records into electronic bookkeeping using QuickBooks. Your Club Manager, Cheryl Davis, with guidance from our Treasurer, Steve Sadler, undertook this herculean task. As a result, our financial records are maintained in a much more efficient manner and tax preparation efforts are much more streamlined.

And I would be remiss if I didn't point out the many efforts by other members of your Board in ensuring the day-to-day operations of the Club, including Tiffany Backer (membership and web master), Chris Hutson, Breck Montague, Kirby Smith, Peter Wilcox and Jane Wilson (Secretary and Recreation).

As we close the books on 2011, I am very pleased to say that your club is financially healthy. By keeping a close eye on expenses and being blessed with no major repairs this year, we were able to put aside \$30,000 in our "Capital Reserve" fund to pay for expected expenses down the road.

Last year Joe Morgan calculated that the club needs to set aside \$20,000 each year based on the life expectancy of the club's physical assets so that funds are available when major repairs or replacements are needed (such as a new roof). Due to our low expenses this year, we are able to set aside an additional \$10,000 in an effort to catch up from previous years in which there were no set-asides.

I also am pleased to announce that with contributions to the Citchen Campaign plus sweat equity by club members, we were able to replace the worn-out kitchen cabinets within our 2011 budget. That work will be accomplished during the slow winter months, and we ask for club members to assist in that effort. It has been both an honor and a pleasure to serve as your Commodore this year. The love of WRYC that is demonstrated by the tireless work of so many volunteers is truly inspiring.

As always, thanks for all you do for WRYC and I'll see you on the water!

Cleve Corlett
Commodore

Treasurer's Report

2011 saw some very positive changes at WRYC. We have successfully transitioned the Club onto QuickBooks accounting software and implemented an electronic recordkeeping regimen that dramatically improves operating efficiency. Routine bookkeeping is now handled directly by the Club Manager with oversight from the treasurer resulting in a significant daily activity streamlining.

The new QuickBooks systems allow for better budgeting, planning and monitoring of activity as well as a more thorough analysis of our results. Additionally the payroll functions are being handled largely in-house with the new software and that, combined with better accuracy and reporting functions, should allow us to significantly reduce accounting expense going forward.

WRYC's financial operation is much improved and our finances are solid. Cheryl Davis deserves enormous credit for her diligence in executing this transition and her thoroughness in working through all the challenges along the way. WRYC is very well positioned for a strong 2012.

Total income for the Club was very much in line with 2010 coming in at just over \$160,000 and falling a bit shy of our \$170,000 budget. Expenses were in line with budget leaving WRYC with a modest \$2,000 loss for the year. The WRYC transactional accounts have balances of approximately \$91,000 and we have established capital reserves to address future building improvement needs and funded that account with \$30,000.

Stevens M. Sadler, CFA
Treasurer

Fleet Captain

2011 was another successful boating season for the fleet. Thanks to the help of many club members and the Junior Sailing instructors, our aging fleet served us well, even with expanded use by the adult sailing program.

In the spring we performed routine maintenance on the outboard motors including installation of new water pumps and zincs, cleaning the carburetor on the 2 cycle outboard, and oil changes on the lower units. Many thanks to all who helped on the boat work day. I recommend changing the engine oil in the 4 cycle engines this spring. During the season we had only minor hull and rigging repairs and two dollies were repaired. Considering the age of our fleet & equipment we had no major repairs or losses.

Our boat inventory at the end of the 2011 season includes:

4-Lasers class sailboats, 6-420 class sailboats, 10- Optimist class sailboats & 3-Powerboats

It has been a very rewarding two years as the Fleet Captain.. Whenever I needed help the club members have always been ready and willing to give me a hand. Working with the Junior Sailing instructors has also been a very enjoyable experience.

Bill Fenstermacher
Fleet Captain

Buildings and Grounds

For the most part buildings and grounds fared well in 2011. We did have to replace a compressor in one of the HVAC units for the clubhouse. We also entered into a maintenance agreement with Mellon Mechanical to provide semi-annual service to both HVAC units for the clubhouse, the HVAC unit for the apartment and both large refrigerators in the kitchen. A new sound system was installed in the spring.

The awning and frame were damaged due to one of the summer thunderstorms and it was decided not to put it back up until hurricane season was over. It should be back up in the first quarter of next year. Many members assisted in making ready for a visit from Hurricane Irene which caused minimal damage. Water did get in the bathhouse but once power was restored the sump pumps did what they are designed to do.

The largest project and expense for buildings and grounds this year is the remodeling of the kitchen. The old wallpaper was removed and a hearty band of painters took on the task. The kitchen island has been replaced by a stainless steel table with storage cabinets. The kitchen committee has picked out the floor, cabinets, and countertop to be installed. The cabinets and counter top will be ordered in December and installed in the first quarter of 2012.

Thanks to all that have participated in helping keep the club building and grounds a place to enjoy. I also request that you continue to actively be involved in the fun activities as well as the work opportunities as they can be enjoyable as well.

Jay McGlohn
Buildings & Grounds Chair

Technology Report

We continued to improve the club's website this year and we also implemented the distribution of the Telltale electronically via email.

To streamline the electronic communications, we created a gmail account for the yacht club so that email distribution lists could be stored and maintained within the account itself and access to that information is limited only by login/password.

The gmail account is useful for other purposes such as surveys and document storage. Using the Google "docs" feature, commonly accessed and edited documents may be uploaded and stored online instead of on someone's computer. As an example, I have uploaded an Excel spreadsheet containing the 2011 Membership information, which identifies all current memberships and their status as (regular, ancient mariner or inactive).

Tiffany Backer
Webmaster

Junior Sailing

The 2011 Junior Sailing Program was another wonderful season and I am thankful to have had the opportunity to work with the exceptional staff and sailors. This summer we had many new campers, new instructors, new boats, and great weather. In the end, we successfully taught sailing and sailing techniques to a record number of campers.

Camp friendships were formed and many sailors are already making plans for next summer. Thanks to the advent of Facebook and texting, many campers make a real point to stay in touch with each other throughout the Winter months and our camp contacts have gone global and viral.

Last year I mentioned the need for donations of gently used sailboats, and please accept my thanks to those of you who helped in this endeavor. It is now time to ask for gently used motorboats. The crash boats we currently use are in rather dreary shape and it would be great to upgrade our sailing program's safety boat inventory. Let me know if you might wish to donate to this worthy cause.

Thank you for your support in 2011 and we are looking forward to a wonderful 2012 season.

Ginger James
Junior Sailing Chair

Governor's Cup Regatta

The 2011 Governor's Cup regatta was a great success with great weather. This year we had 92 boats participating in the annual event which delivered epic breezes on Saturday and moderate enjoyable sailing on Sunday.

Our Yacht Club hosted 14 classes of boats including the modern day wonder foiling moth which gave everyone a visual treat as we first hand watched sailing transgress into an acrobatic balancing and levitation act held magically at times 36 inches above the water's surface.

Only with the great help of our multitude of volunteers can a club like ours pull off such an unbelievable weekend. We owe a great deal of gratitude to all of our volunteers both on shore and on the race committee. Thank you to everyone who gave their time and talent to provide such a welcoming and friendly experience to our out of town sailing guests. We will be looking for more volunteers soon as we start the preliminary planning meeting for our 2012 event.

The winner of the 2011 Governor's Cup trophy was awarded to Barney Harris from Arlington, VA. Barney easily won the Albacore class by outpacing his nearest competitor by 12 points. The Chamber of Commerce Cup, also known as the Junior Championship trophy, was awarded to Will Whitmore from the Norfolk Yacht and Country Club. Will was the overall winner of the Optimist class which was by far the largest junior class in the Regatta with 24 competitors.

Clayton James
Regatta Chair

Socials

2011 has been a successful year for the Yacht Club's Social events. We have hosted 10 socials, having cancelled two due to lack of response. Attendance has averaged right at 100 members, guests, and children. There have been three "*Lunch on the Ware*" events, giving us a total of 13 successful club socials this year.

The club has made approximately \$5,500 after expenses, which include paper products, beer/wine costs, kitchen help, and cleaning services. This is a substantial increase in income from 2010. The reason for this increase is most likely due to the fact that members who have so kindly agreed to host have also been willing to cook most of the scrumptious menus, instead of using local caterers as we have done in years past.

Big thanks go out to the 120 or so members who so graciously helped make each of our social events a success this year!

One item we ought to consider: is compiling a cookbook for the club to sell and use with future socials.

Nina J. Watkins
Socials Chair

House Committee

One of the nicest things about the club is its timelessness. It has that same comfy relaxed feel year after year. Actually it takes quite a bit of time and effort to keep the club looking and functioning at its best. This year the major changes involved the kitchen where the ancient wallpaper was removed and new paint applied by a dedicated group of Founding Members! This was followed by the installation of a new stainless steel center island. Plans are in the works to complete the kitchen remodel early in 2012.

In the dining room we finally replaced the last of the low (really low) tables with a new one this year. A new trophy took up residence in the display case, and a new desk and layout make the club office much more functional. Robin Troutman has agreed to take over the sale of club merchandise, and new items will be ordered in the spring in time for Flag Raising 2012. Outside, two new grills were purchased for use during summer socials, and outdoor spotlights facing the parking area were put on motion sensors to improve the after dark lighting. Open club days were scheduled during the summer although not many members seem to take advantage of these opportunities to use the club.

Most importantly, someone is at the club daily, cleanings are scheduled, minor repairs are made, and major issues are caught early and referred to Buildings and Grounds for repair. The constant attention to details helps to keep the club at its best. Thanks to all who donated time, efforts, and suggestions to help the club in 2011.

Cheryl Davis
Club Manager

Rentals for 2011

The club continues to be a great setting for parties, weddings, and reunions, but the number of rentals in 2011 was down at least partly due to the bad economy. The weekends between May 1 and October 31 are by far the most popular, but this year even many of those weekends were not rented. The club is not available for rental during the Junior Sailing season due to the logistical nightmare of having to move the Junior Sailing equipment out and the renters in and then resetting the club for camp at the end of the weekend. Club members might want to keep the club in mind as a setting for their own parties as the rates for member rentals are very reasonable.

The club was rented out 15 times in 2011, five times fewer than in 2010, and 11 times fewer than 2009. Of those rentals, eight were by non-members, three by members, and four by non-profit organizations at the special non-profit rate. The club was also used for the Boat Virginia Course, Clean the Bay Day Ware River cleanup, two Founding Members parties, and as a waypoint for the Gloucester Parks and Recreation's Ride the Dragon Bike Ride. These were not considered rentals as impact on the club was minimal, and rental fees were not charged. The club was also used by Chesapeake Experience for two sessions of Kayak Camp for which a fee was paid. In addition to calls to rent the club, there were 63 calls for information about renting the club that did not result in rentals.

Rental fees did not change in 2011. The fee for non-member rentals continues to be \$900 per day regardless of the type of event or time of year. Member rentals (for non-wedding rentals) are \$350. from April 1 to October 31 and \$250. from November 1 to March 31. For member weddings the rental fee is \$650. Rentals to approved non-profit organizations (Monday through Thursday only) are at the member (non-wedding) rate. The post-rental surveys which were implemented in 2009 continue to provide helpful input for our rental process.

Kleening Kapers continues to be under contract to clean the club after all club socials and rentals.

Cheryl Davis
Club Manager

Membership

In 2011, we welcomed the following new members:

J. Cordon Davis III.
Ken and Cecilia Morris
Michael & Susan Jenkins
Mel and Sonia Schursky
Ken & Leslie Larson
Craig and Chris Schwartz
Declan & Kim Lawlor

We regrettfully accepted the resignations of the following:

Gene & Linda Batcha
Alisa Bohon
Miles Masek
Bobby & Peggy Larus
William & Mary Salt
Carter Borden
Pauline Trimpi
Joe & Ann Brown
James & Sally Fitzpatrick
John & Cynthia Hastings
Marvin & Ann Hohenberger

We sadly said a final farewell to Waller Tabb

We end the year with a total of 172 memberships:

151	Active
20	Ancient Mariners
1	Inactive