

St. Paul Yacht Club Anchor Line

STPAULYACHTCLUB.ORG 651-292-8964 100 YACHT CLUB ROAD B-1, ST. PAUL, MN 55107

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COMMODORE'S REPORT



This is my last letter I will write as Commodore of the St Paul Yacht Club. I sincerely would have rather been a three-year Commodore then a one-year. The time commitment to do the job as I see required is at least a part time responsibility. Ruby and I run our own business and I also have been working full time for another company

for at least 4 months of the year. That results in not much time for family and myself.

So I made the decision to keep my term to one year. I served because there were several important issues that required the leadership to move forward to completion this year. I feel these issues were accomplished and they were done so with a team of very dedicated marina staff, board members, committee members, and volunteers within our club. As Commodore my role was facilitator and I feel I was able to pull the talented resources we have within our club to get the job done. They did the heavy lifting, and I am very proud of all of them.

I will continue to serve as past Commodore on the board and my dedication to solving club issues will remain as long as I am required to do so. We have some new board members coming in and although they are running unopposed I see this 2016 board as strong and dedicated as the one I represented.

We will continue to have challenges and opportunities for change as long as our club is in existence. We currently have some decisions to make regarding our footprint of the Lower Harbor as the current configuration has been determined to be unsustainable. This has been verified by outside engineers we have hired to determine how to deal with the continuing silting

in key areas. Without outside funding to continue to dig out and a mitigation solution to solve the silting problem we are forced to make some changes.

Change is always difficult, but when faced with the inevitability of change I believe we must re-invent ourselves and create something stronger out of the process. That re-invention will be the entire club's responsibility. Some of us will be effected greatly, some will not, but as a club we need to determine what kind of boater we need to attract and service because of the limitations of our water depth in certain areas of our harbors.

If our mission statement is safe and affordable boating, we need to self reflect and determine if that mission is applied or just lip service. The definition of boating to me is to take one's vessel out of dockage, go out on the river and go boating. There are many boats in our club that either never move or so rarely go out by definition are not boaters, but people who park their boat and are content with not utilizing it's true capability. Our By-Laws clearly state that each vessel must be able to move under it's own power. Obviously our founders who wrote the By-Laws felt this was an important requirement to be in the SPYC. Rarely have I seen that By-Law enforced for the last 16 years I have been a member.

I have seen other marinas that cater to this type of "boating" and while there is really nothing wrong with it, the non-use of boats contributes to the silting in because their boats don't push the silt out of the harbor and down the river. The needs of people who use their boats and those that don't are very different. Logically we could simply group all the boats that rarely/don't move all into one area and let nature take its course. All the boats that frequently want to go boating would be moved into deeper water so they do not ground out, and would not require costly dredging to just sit in their slip. We have the ability to do that and that is one solution. Obviously dredging the mouths of both harbors will continue to be necessary for access to deep-water areas.

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COMMODORE'S REPORT CONT.

Unfortunately we have some people who never/seldom use their boats, and want the club to continue to dredge these unsustainable areas. This is complicated by their desire to be docked in certain areas of the harbor with the best view and don't wish to relocate. Some say they will leave the club if we do what is logical and affordable like our mission statement. We can make slips for everyone to go, but some just don't want to move. Optimization of the slips we can affordably maintain is critical to the solutions we must plan and execute because that is what makes logic business sense. In simple terms, optimization is placing boats in slips by taking into account the following:

1. Depth of water in the slip at normal pool.
2. Length, width, and draft of the boat
3. Usage of the boat.
4. The boat's ability to move under it's own power.

It makes me very sad to think that people in our club would not want to cooperate for the good of the entire club. These people are my friends and would really hate to see them leave. But if that is the result of what we must do to move forward and re-invent ourselves then so be it. To date, R and I are the only boaters who have left their slip with the million-dollar view and go to more sustainable waters. We never demanded the club dig out our slip to no end and we reluctantly accepted the change that had to be made.

I respectfully ask for others to do the same. We must move past this dredging argument because it is tearing this club apart, financially and spiritually. That is one reason I served as Commodore, to get to the heart of the silting/dredging situation, learn all the facts and illuminate the real situation to the membership and board. It's now up to this minority of members to cooperate in this planning stage of reconfiguration and relocation and stop spreading misinformation and fantasy solutions to this problem that has cost millions of dollars over the years.

I just don't see how we can maintain a financially and socially healthy club when we continue to allow members to dictate their location and demand unsustainable dredging instead of taking responsibility for their own situation. I can see the fine line between providing location options to our customers/members and allowing their demands to hurt the club overall. We must strive for more of a balance in our planning going forward.

This club will survive because of the strength of our membership and the fact that we have one of the finest marinas on the Upper Mississippi. We will continue to attract new boaters who love what we have to offer, and the nice views that are available. Do what you can to spread the word that our club is strong and fun and has slips with sizes and depths of water for most boats. I myself look forward to change and everything new that will bring to our wonderful club!

Thank you for the honor of representing you for a year as Commodore. I sincerely hope I have lived up to your expectations. The membership, board, volunteers and staff have exceeded mine. — Dave McKusick



ROGER'S ARTICLE

Elsewhere in this issue you will find Commodore Dave McKusick's final report. I'd like to thank Dave, and all the current board for serving this year. Our club and marina has a unique and noble form of governance, however the cost of that system is that an ongoing supply of informed and deliberative individuals must make themselves available to serve. It can be a time consuming and sometimes thankless job, and like many boards before them this one has had to grapple with problems that don't have any easy solutions.

The winter season is a good time for reflection, and it's natural to look back on last season and think about what went well and what didn't, and how that all will carry forward into the next season. The first thing that comes to mind for me was the absence of any high water. We had the most "normal" season that we've had in some time. In addition to no high water, the overall weather was excellent and when coupled with the lowest-in-years gas prices it made for some great boating opportunities all season long. We had a safe season with no injuries, accidents, or even many service issues among our membership boats. Unlike a flood year, we got started right away in the spring and brought in a number of new boaters who hopefully will craft their own boating stories here going forward. We had another busy and trouble free year in our beautiful club house facility. Those are all positives to remember as we look toward spring.

We also have some issues to deal with. One of the big ones that comes to mind is the dredging we did this last year; at almost a \$100,000 investment one would like to think that would carry us for some time. The sad reality is that there are already problems within areas we dredged – not to mention the areas we couldn't even address due to lack of funds. Had we not had that level of expense, we would have had a pretty good year financially speaking. We are still digging out from the clubhouse construction expenses to an extent and it seems like we just start to make some progress in getting a reserve fund and ending the year with some cash and we get set behind again.

I think this board has made a good deal of progress defining and confronting the real issues behind keeping this a viable marina long term, and evaluating the true utility of speculative schemes that may pay off for us years down the road – if at all. I'm hoping the next board will continue and carry that through to the point of needed changes in our facility, policies, and the type and size of boats we choose to accommodate. — Roger Anderson

DON'T FLUSH THAT FISH

Don't want your pet fish? Don't flush it, donate it.

By Aimee Blanchette - aimee.blanchette@Startribune.com

Giant goldfish are becoming a problem in Minnesota lakes, and wildlife officials are warning fish owners who no longer want to care for their pets not to flush them down a toilet or dispose of them in lakes, ponds or waterways. **Donate them instead.**

"They can grow to be the size of dinner plates in these waters," said Sharon Moen, a spokesperson with Minnesota Sea Grant. Moen said wildlife officials have recovered giant goldfish, piranha, Amazonian catfish, koi and even a caiman — a reptile related to alligators — from Minnesota waterways. A pond in Duluth was taken over by goldfish, she said.

Goldfish have been recovered from Powderhorn Lake in Minneapolis; the Department of Natural Resources also caught one near Albert Lea that was 9 to 11 inches long. "It's not that common," she said. "But it happens more than you would think."

Releasing fish and plants from aquariums can harm Minnesota waters and native species. Fish can carry diseases, reproduce quickly and root up native plants to find food.

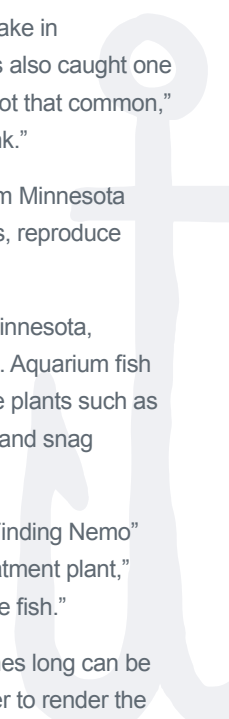
It is illegal to release aquarium plants and fish in Minnesota, according to the Department of Natural Resources. Aquarium fish can carry diseases that can kill native fish. Invasive plants such as water hyacinth and yellow iris can clog waterways and snag boat propellers.

And flushing fish down the toilet will not end in a "Finding Nemo" moment. "If you flush, they go to a wastewater treatment plant," Moen said. "There are kinder ways to euthanize the fish."

According to fishchannel.com, fish less than 2 inches long can be euthanized by exposing them to freezing cold water to render the fish unconscious. Clove oil can also be used.

The best solution for getting rid of unwanted living aquarium fish and plants is to donate them. Minnesota Sea Grant and the Minnesota Aquarium Society are hosting the first-ever *Habitatattitude Aquarium Fish and Plant Surrender* on Saturday at Lutheran Church of Redemption, 927 East Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington.

Surrendered fish and aquarium plants can be dropped off from 10 a.m. to noon; any fish or plant will be accepted with no questions asked. The fish and plants will be auctioned from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The proceeds from the auction will support the society's efforts to promote "excellence in fish keeping."



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

2015 was a busy year for the St. Paul Yacht Club. The list of accomplishments includes: completing major repairs; updating the By-Laws and Standing Rules; dredging both harbors; formulating Clubhouse procedures and setting a strong Strategic Plan for the next five years. Everyone enjoyed the fabulous summer weather which continued well into November and made for one of the best boating seasons in recent memory. It is also important to note that the SPYC Board of Directors has the fiduciary responsibility for and to the Club and its members. Even though the year ended well financially, the caution to be frugal in future budgeting is still warranted in 2016. As shown by this report, the work accomplished by the 2015 Board now sets the tone for an exciting 2016!

Financial: The annual audit found one deficiency with operations which requires some segregation of duties by our marina staff. No action has been taken on this item by the board at this time. The club ended the year without any short term debt. This year the Finance Committee established a new procurement policy which was passed by the board requiring any purchase over \$1,000 to be approved by board. The committee made their annual budget presentation in November and recommended a 3% increase on all summer rentals for slips and tie-along. This increase did not include: winter storage, clubhouse, common, membership or harbor maintenance fees. The committee is planning focus group session during the summer 2016 to gather member input on a new fee structure.

Operations: 2015 was a very busy year for the committee. Early on there were intruders to our clubhouse which required code changes to all facility gates and buildings. Throughout the year, our club experienced minor criminal behavior and swift action was taken. Some of these activities included: evicting several members using our yard area as their home, members not complying with Standing Rules and causing problems and expense for the club; as well as, trespassing on several boats throughout the season causing minor damage to owners' boats. All of these situations were handled immediately by the committee and the board.

The committee worked with marina management to reduce the number of dead boats in our harbor yard and did major clean-up efforts to reduce junk and clutter. Trailers were tagged and identified and payment for rental space for said trailers was encouraged.

Clubhouse Committee: The committee presented an annual budget and capital improvements list to the board in May. The Board approved the budget for the committee. The committee also

created a preventive maintenance and accountability checklist for the clubhouse which is posted in the storage room. Bids were received for a professional cleaning service, the low bid was engaged for the 2015 boating season and it seemed to keep the clubhouse clean for all members. The cleaning service provides cleans twice a month during May – Oct. and once a month thereafter. The committee also provided the club with new rules, usage, event types and a usage agreement which were approved by the board to provide structure to clubhouse usage with fees based on event types and ensuring a Member is always responsible for an event, unless the board approves otherwise.

Social Committee: The committee provided all members with a host of fabulous events this year including: TGIF, Steak Fry, Chicken Feed, Captain's breakfast(s), Shrimp boil, Neighborhood Appreciation with music. Here are a few of the other events that took place this year:

- Winter Carnival Grande Day & Torchlight parade
- Boot hockey at the clubhouse in February
- Commodores Ball at the Clubhouse
- Sail-away at 826
- Sunday Fun day at Pike Island
- Booyah party by Gordy Mergens
- Halloween party
- Christmas party at the Pool and Yacht Club

Marketing Committee:

Actions taken by the committee this year include:

- SPYC Facebook page was given a face-lift and efforts to combine all pages on the Internet are on-going.
- A new booth back drop and marketing materials were prepared for the Minneapolis Boat Show

Harbor Maintenance: With the harbor being dredged this season, we were able to rent several slips out that would not have been rented without this effort. In October the board undertook the task of researching a new dock layout for the lower harbor. Several plans were brought forward and the board approved engaging Barr Engineering to review our plans and make recommendations. Barr Engineering should make a report to the board in 2016 first quarter.

By-laws: New By-laws were approved by the members at the September, 2015 General Membership meeting. The club re-state the Articles of Incorporation to harmonize with the new By-laws and they were filed with the Minnesota Secretary of State.

New members approved this year:

- Paul Glynn
- Troy Janisch (conditionally)
- Paul Walter (conditionally)
- Cynthia Rapacz & Brian Welchin (temporary live-aboard status)

General Marina:

- A new step and hand-rail were installed in the upper harbor
- Flowering plants were donated to the club and planted in front of the trailer including a watering system
- Review of all club and harbor insurance was conducted and presented to board
- New forklift was purchased in May, 2015
- Gas dock and building were painted along with the installation of our new sign & a NO WAKE sign – May, 2015
- Dredging of the upper and lower harbors was done for \$90K in May/June, 2015
- WiFi system in the harbor was upgraded and completely redone
- All unused cabling and wiring was removed from under all docks
- New water line heat tape install in lower harbor
- Water main leaking was identified and fixed lower harbor
- Upper harbor pump out system fixed
- Friends of Pool 2 life jacket loaner dock box setup on gas dock – July, 2015
- Commodore Lucy was gifted by Truman Howell to SPYC and positioned at the top of Gate A by clubhouse – July, 2015
- Gas lines and regulators were replaced on five of the high traffic users in the lower harbor – August, 2015
- Hose reels were made available to members if they wanted one
- New mesh was laid down on the ramp by clubhouse for the winter season
- Nine folding tables were purchased for the clubhouse; as well as, two new grills – July/August, 2015
- Return of Gas dock attendant for the last two months of the season

Strategic Planning Committee:

- Two focus groups were conducted to gather club membership input into overall plan
- The Committee rolled up all the input and presented to the board. Each sub-committee of the board then drafted their individual plan for the next five years.
- The 2015 – 2020 Strategic plan for the SPYC was approved by the board in January, 2016
- A new Board Job Description was drafted which clearly highlights board membership responsibility
- The new strategic plan calls for a board training and a quarterly review of the plan by the board.

Outside interests: Club sponsored the Mississippi River Fund Art Boat Festival at the clubhouse and had a social. The MRF had a unique boat parked at our harbor for the event and members could explore it. The club once again sponsored the Gillette Children’s Boat ride in Sept.

Respectfully submitted: Roni M. Brunner - Secretary, SPYC - 2015

Board Members Present At General Membership – Nominations Meeting

Commodore	Vice Cmdre.	Secretary	Treasurer	Board	Board
Dave McKusick	MJ Babcock	Roni Brunner	Greg Jorgensen	Lynn Adler	Dave Nelson
X	X	X	X	X	

Board	Board	Board	Board	Past Cmdre.
Bill Gibbs	Terri Meredith	Lynn Gunstrum	Bill Tschohl	Pat Boulay
X	X		X	X

Call to Order: 7:45 p.m.

Pledge and call to order

Nominations Committee recommendations and nominations from the floor:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Commodore:
Denny Sando | Vice Commodore:
MJ Babcock |
| Secretary:
Bill Tschohl | Treasurer:
Greg Jorgensen |

Board at Large:

1. Lynn Adler
2. Bill Gibbs
3. Sue Walters
4. Terri Meredith
5. Charles Hart
6. Fran Protvien

Past Commodore:

Dave Mckusick

Respectfully Submitted: Roni Brunner



A look back at a past winter on the SPYC docks



St. Paul Yacht Club
2016 Election of Officers and Directors

2016 BALLOT FOR ELECTION OF SPYC's BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Annual Meeting February 9th, 2016 at 7:30pm at the St. Paul Yacht Club Clubhouse.

If mailed in, use a numbered addressed envelope to:
SPYC Election 2016; 100 Yacht Club Rd. B-1, St. Paul, MN 55107
Your ballot must be in the SPYC Office no later than 3 p.m. February 9, 2015.

You will be voting for ten (10) SPYC Board members comprised of **four (4) Officers**: commodore, vice-commodore, secretary and treasurer and **six (6) Directors**.

(The eleventh Board member is the immediate past commodore; no vote required.)

OFFICERS – Please vote for one (1) person in each below listed office.

COMMODORE:

Dennis Sando

VICE-COMMODORE:

MJ Babcock

SECRETARY:

Bill Tschapl

TREASURER:

Greg Jorgensen

DIRECTORS: You must vote for six directors. If you vote for more than six or less than six, your ballot will be NOT be counted. Check six (6) from the below list:

Lynn Adler

Bill Gibbs

Charles Hart

Terri Meredith

Fran Potvien

Sue Walters

NO WRITE-INS ALLOWED

Remember the Elections are Tuesday, February 9th at 7:30pm at the Clubhouse. To Vote you must be a regular member and a current SPYC account, along with paid member dues. There is one vote per membership. Absentee ballots are available BY REQUEST from the SPYC office. Only an official numbered ballot from the office can be used to absentee vote. Contact the office at 651-292-8964 or spyc@comcast.net to request a ballot. Absentee ballots must be in our possession no later than 3:00pm on February 9th. All other votes must be cast in person at the meeting.

DOCKSIDE GRILL - *Chicken Wild Rice Soup Recipe*

14 servings - Total Time: 50 mins

Directions:

1. In a large saucepan, combine the first nine ingredients. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 30 minutes.
2. In Dutch oven, melt butter; stir in flour until smooth.
3. Gradually whisk in broth mixture.
4. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened.
5. Whisk in soup and wine.
6. Add rice and chicken; heat through. Yield: 14 servings (3-1/2 quarts).

Ingredients:

- 2 quarts chicken broth
- 1/2 pound fresh mushrooms, chopped
- 1 cup finely chopped celery
- 1 cup shredded carrots
- 1/2 cup finely chopped onion
- 1 teaspoon chicken bouillon granules
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/4 cup butter, cubed
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 can (10-3/4 ounces) condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
- 1/2 cup dry white wine or additional chicken broth
- 3 cups cooked wild rice
- 2 cups cubed cooked chicken



Full-Bodied White Wine

Enjoy this recipe with a full-bodied white wine such as Chardonnay or Viognier.

WET YOUR "BOAT" WHISTLE - *Jamaican Rum Punch*

Here is a summer drink to get you through those long, cold winter days.

Lots of fruit with a great subtle taste. Fresh lime juice is key to getting the unique flavor of this punch. Don't skimp

Makes 8 Servings

Prep: 10 mins Ready In: 10 mins

Ingredients:

- 2 1/2 cups pineapple juice
- 2 1/2 cups orange juice
- 1 cup 151 proof rum (such as Bacardi®)
- 1/2 cup dark rum (such as Meyer's®)
- 1/4 cup coconut-flavored rum (such as Malibu®)
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 3 tablespoons grenadine syrup
- 1 orange, sliced
- 1 lime, sliced
- 1 lemon, sliced



Directions:

Stir pineapple juice, orange juice, 151 proof rum, dark rum, coconut-flavored rum, lime juice, and grenadine syrup together in a punch bowl. Float orange slices, lime slices, and lemon slices in the punch.

Staff

Roger Anderson - Cell: 651-747-6068

Rick Kappelhoff - Cell: 651-747-6063

Board

Dave McKusick - Cell: 612-670-4859 - Email: crescentproduction@comcast.net
Committees: Operations

MJ Babcock - Cell: 612-910-8585 - Email: mjbab@aol.com
Committees: Strategic Planning

Greg Jorgensen - Cell: 651-283-4017 - Email: nottasinger@Hotmail.com
Committees: Finance

Roni Brunner - Cell: 612-963- 5874 - Email: rb2001bugs@hotmail.com
Committees: Member of several committees

Lynn Adler - Cell: 612-599-4545 - Email: ladler@c-b-m.com
Committees: Social, Marketing/Membership

Dave Nelson - Cell: 612-735-7348 - Email: dnelson688@gmail.com
Committees: Harbor Maintenance (aka Dredging)

Bill Gibbs - Cell: 612-940-5577 - Email: mpgibbs@centurylink.net
Committees: Member of several committees

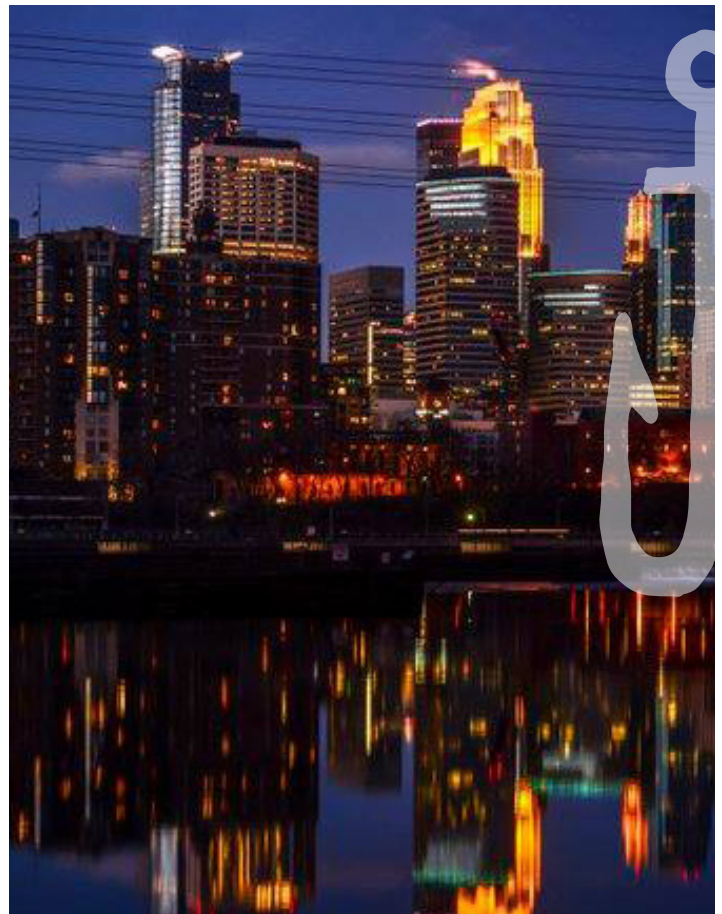
Terri Meredith - Cell: 612-910-4272 - Email: tlmeredith099@gmail.com
Committees: Member of several committees

Lynn Gunstrom - Cell: 651-399-4612 - Email: Lynndock@live.com
Committees: Member of several committees

Bill Tschohl - Cell: 651-335-1719 - Email: ahandiman1@hotmail.com
Committees: Member of several committees

Pat Boulay - Cell: 651-983-8317 - Email: pboulay@newbizminn.com
Past Commodore

STAFF/BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION 2015



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