

COMMODORE'S COLUMN

January, 2009

What a year 2008 had become! Who isn't happy to see a new year? We'll have a new US President, nearly everything is on sale, and your yacht club is in great financial condition. January is named for the Roman god *Janus* who had two faces: one looking forward and one looking aft. So we look forward to '09 but also review what happened in '08.

This past year we invested in a new audio-visual system for the clubhouse. We received all the proper permits for permanent marks for the racers, and they've been installed. Progressively, we've changed our bylaws to incorporate our domestic partners as full members. So, what's in store for 2009? We'll shortly be installing a new ice machine for the bar as the other one has expired. We'll be moving the compressor and condensing unit for the beverage cooler outside... it'll be a lot quieter in the clubhouse and the beverages will still be cold! We've had a significant change of the guard... our treasurer since the first internal combustion engine has been Warren Walz, who has now passed the job onto Charles Webb. We actually will have nearly ½ of the board as new members. Do not fear, there have been absolutely no issues of divisiveness to cause a change. It was just a natural progression of things.

Our new Rear Commodore is Phil Case. Stop by on a Friday evening and wish him well; the job can seem a bit intimidating initially. When he asks you to volunteer to tend the bar, I suggest that you sign up early... get the best dates! Charles Webb has been writing the *knot news* for some time and will now be our new treasurer. Joe Gleason has been the person who has spent a significant amount of time overseeing the installation of the A/V system and will now be your secretary. Our two new directors-at-large are Vince Sellen and Kevin Welch. Kevin has done a terrific job at setting up your club's website. All your officers and directors are active boaters and represent both racers and cruisers.

I have been curiously comparing Anacortes Yacht Club with several other local clubs in an effort to learn what makes clubs flourish. I've found that your club is an extremely good value. Membership means that you actually are an owner. Our annual dues are very low compared to most. The costs at the bar are ridiculously low, and where else can you get a \$3 meal except at AYC or mom's?

Some have asked me what sort of mark I'd like to leave. *Connections* will be my intent. I believe that I'm a social person... I want to meet each club member and laugh with them. I want to connect with those seasoned members who have made the club what it is; I want to hear their embellished stories. I want to connect with other clubs, on the race course, on cruises, at social functions. I want to invite other boaters to have fun with us on the water and perhaps become members. Most of all, I want your club to be your yacht club... I want this club to continue to be a yacht club. How can we help you have fun on the water?