



Tell Tale



April 2021

The Newsletter of the The Shreveport Yacht Club, 2905 Municipal Pier Rd., Shreveport, LA 71119

Commodore's Comments



I hope everyone has had a chance to get out and enjoy some of this great weather, quite the change from last month, and we would like to see you enjoying it out at the Club as well.

We have several things going on at the Club I wanted to make you aware

of in the current and coming months. Our construction/ expansion team continues to work tirelessly with our contractor, architects, and others to bring the expansion in on time and within budget. We estimate the construction to be approximately seventy-five percent (75%) complete, but as everyone knows, the last phase seems to move the slowest. Thank you to all our team and to our membership for your work, patience, and understanding as we make our Club into something we can all utilize and be proud of.

Other items on our list for this spring include continued diligence on our security in all areas of the Club, with a specific emphasis on our piers and gate access. We should have several additions/ changes you can see this month, and again, let the management or board know if you have additional suggestions or concerns. Also, the pool is being cleaned and readied for your use this season, and the scheduled opening date is May 1st, so make your plans to come out and enjoy some pool-time with family and friends.

The downstairs dining and bar area are now open, so please come out and enjoy it and see the changes, remembering our great staff is always there to help serve your favorite dish or beverage. And as always, if any of you have additional concerns/comments, please let Rick or myself know so they can be timely addressed.

Thank you, and see you at SYC soon.

Steve Craig, Commodore

Manager's Message



Summer is just around the corner, as is our construction completion date. It looks like substantial completion on the building will be around mid May. We have begun booking events for the rest of the year and it looks like this will be a busy place in the near future. We

are very much looking forward to ramping back up the member events and will start with our grand opening / Commodore's Ball / Membership Appreciation party all rolled into one giant party. This is tentatively scheduled for June 19th.

The swimming pool is getting it's final repair of the season soon and we have scheduled the opening for May 1st. There have been great improvements to the pool's plumbing system and we hope to finish the pool remodel this winter with re-plastering, new coping and new tile, along with new ladders and depth markers.

Sailing camp is also approaching fast and we want to encourage anyone that plans to have a child attend to sign up soon before the spots fill up. Many thanks to Elizabeth Bradley for heading up the camps this year. You may obtain a registration form by checking our website and by calling or e-mailing the office staff.

I also want to thank all of the membership for it's patience and support during the construction period. It will truly be something that we all can be proud of and enjoy.

See you at the club,

Rick Hutson, General Manager



Welcome New Members!

Please join us in welcoming the following new members to SYC:

- Daryl & Faith Marx • Michael Smith
- Patrick & Anne Furlong

Ask Captain Curmudgeon

Dear Capt. Curmudgeon,

Even though the new bar at the clubhouse is not complete, my mate came home last night after tossing a few “down the hatch” and was “three sheets to the wind.” He complained that everything I said was “nautical” in nature. He is stubborn to the “bitter end”. Should I try a different “tack”? We are at loggerheads on this issue.

Signed, Sally Sloop.

Dear Sally Sloop,

He might be right. After all, a “sheet” is not a sail, but is the line of rope attached to the lower corner of the sail. The unattached end of the line is the “bitter end.” By shortening or extending the sheet, one can change the angle of sail. If one loosens the sheet completely, the sail flaps and the boat careens. If one loosens sheets on as many as three sails, the ship would reel like a drunk person. Since “in the wind” had long referred to a ship out of control (or unable to complete a “tack”), three sheets to the wind, first in print in 1821, was the perfect way to describe the fool who imbibed too much rum. Other similar nautical expressions for this condition include “with decks awash,” “half seas over,” and “over the bay.” “

Loggerheads” is also nautical, but not because Louisiana has snapping turtles which are so named. It is because early Greek and Roman navies first used the concept for warfare. Later, it was Medieval navies which carried and named them “Loggerheads”. The word derived from ‘logger-heat’, which was a piece of iron on a long wooden handle used for melting pitch for applying it to the wooden seams of a ship. The iron, after heating, was dipped into a bucket of cold pitch, which softened and congealed around the iron, and then could be applied to the needed area. Later, sailors re-discovered the old Roman/Greek use. The iron end was heated and used to melt tar, which was then flung at the enemy. When the tar was gone, the combatants would bash each other with the sticks. “At loggerheads” was recorded as early as 1680 in England. I recently saw a similar version of this technique used by participants of a domestic dispute on a recent episode of “Cops”. Waste of perfectly good grits.

Signed Capt. Curmudgeon

You may send questions to Capt. Curmudgeon care of the editor. He may or may not answer them.

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