

RANGE MARKS

Official Newsletter of the Dahlgren Yacht Club

<http://www.nswc.navy.mil/C2/dyc/>



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From the Commodore:

Is it October already? Where has summer gone?

Well it certainly was a wet one. I think that we ducked more lightening than I can ever remember. The water is getting a little saltier. I picked up a few nice Blues off of Black Marsh the other evening so maybe the fall Striper season will be good. Fall is one of the nicer times to be on the water. As the weather cools down and the days get shorter, the time on the water seems to be more precious. As the water cools, take precautions. Carry some warm clothing and life jackets play an even more important role. It doesn't take long to get hypothermia or shock if you happen to fall in (Don, Bill, Ron...been there, done that!). Be careful out there and remember we have a dock work day coming up.

See ya on the water,

Ron

DOCK WORK DAY - October 21

The fall Dock Work Day is scheduled for October 21 at 0900. We need to get things ready for winter and to start preparing for new clubhouse construction. In an effort to keep the work day moving efficiently, the Dock Master is going to assign specific projects to teams led by BOG members. Food and drinks will be provided for lunch. You need to clean out your lockers and remove all personal property in the clubhouse. We will not have room to store non-club owned property.

Important Dates:

Under the Guns and

Propkill Cook-off Oct 8

Dahlgren Cup Oct 9

Dock Work Day #2 Oct 21

Pasture Party Oct 27

DYC Racing by Tom Owen

As I write this article, the realization that the DYC 2000 racing season will be just a memory in just a few weeks really hits home. The start of Fall coupled with the recent wet and chilly weather brings out thoughts about planning for the Winter take out, dry dock storage, projects requiring attention, and the Spring work required to get ready for the next racing season. Even though it seems to be a long time from now, next year's racing season will be here much more quickly than we realize.

In the PHRF Fall Series, two points separate the top three yachts at this juncture. With only three races left, the Fall Series champion is still up for grabs. There are eight additional participants with some being able to break into the top three. The competition in these last three weeks is expected to be spirited and close.

The Centerboard Racing Fleet Fall and Frostbite Series have been cancelled due to lack of participation. With school starting and other outside activities, it is extremely difficult to find a night where enough racers can get together for a real race. However, each Thursday sees one or two Centerboard boats out on Machodoc Creek just for the relaxation that sailing brings.

The St. Clement's Island Pursuit Race allowed more sailing this year than last. However, the Wind Gods could have been much more favorable and allowed the Saturday race to be the full course. However, Sunday was another no wind day and despite two attempts to start a race, both were abandoned due to lack of wind. To add to the excitement, the race instructions on the Web Site used starting times based on a longer course than the real course. However, the starting sequence provided to the Race Committee by yours truly was based on the correct course length. The result was that all yachts were started 30-40 seconds prior to when they thought they would start. Next year promises to be better organized. The finish was very close, but when the final analysis is completed, the finish order will be the same regardless of the starting times used. While only three boats completed the course, three others bailed out in dying wind to prepare for the evening meal. Another sailboat joined for the raftup but did not participate in the actual race. I am told that a good time was had by all. The results are posted on the Web Site (<http://www.nswc.navy.mil/C2/dyc>) under the Racing Program -> Invitation Events.

Several of the new PHRF crew members that came to participate as a result of the article in the Free Lance Star on May 16, 2000 are now seasoned regulars. Some are even planning on racing their own yachts next year.

Thanks again to Dennis Hannick for getting DYC this much appreciated publicity. As always, the DYC Racing Program is looking for more participants, both boats and crew. Anyone that is interested in participating in either keel boat or daysail types of events, please contact the DYC Race Committee at dycracecom@nswc.navy.mil or the Race Governor at (540) 653-7614.

Upcoming Events:

The Under the Guns Regatta is scheduled for Sunday October 8, 2000 during the Columbus Day weekend. We are hoping for more participation, both local and guest, this year. In the last several years, the wind has been full and the competition spirited for this event, and hopefully will be so again this year. Information and race instructions are available on the Web site or from the Race Governor. Following the race will be the (in)famous Prop Kill Cookoff, so please plan to participate if only at the social.

The Dahlgren Cup Regatta is scheduled for Monday, October 9, 2000 at 17:00. The course last year was a long combination of several standard courses and proved to be confusing to at least one skipper. The wind was great and the sail wonderful, even if it was two miles longer for one errant yacht. Information is available on the Web site or from the Race Governor.

The Race Committee is scheduled to meet the 4th Wednesday of each month from February through October at 17:00 in JD's Training and Conference Center. Interested parties are always welcome to attend. For more information concerning the racing program, call the Race Governor at (540) 653-7614.

Training and Seamanship:

While surfing the internet I noticed several sites devoted to boating safety. They include helpful hints on checklists and training available to recreational boaters. Click on "LINKS" on DYC's homepage.

From the Dockmaster:

Please lock the ramp after use - it is the members responsibility to chain the ramp after use. Do not leave the ramp unlocked.

Severe weather - We are in the peak hurricane season. Please keep abreast of weather reports. Those people who have wet and dry slips please ensure that the Dockmaster has current work and home phone numbers and that someone is available to remove your boat.

If you are away for vacation or travel, please ensure that the Dockmaster has a POC who is responsible for removing your boat when called to do so.

Family Day Report:

Questionable weather on Saturday morning, September 16, resulted in a small turnout for the family day festivities. Those that did not attend missed a beautiful sunny afternoon. DavidThompson's family provided the food organization that kept all attendees overfed. The younger family members were challenged by the water balloon catch, water fights, ball games, and the light breeze provided for good bubble blowing conditions. Thanks to all that attended.

FOR SALE by Members

J-27 Sailboat "ALIBI", 1985, Excellent sails, faired bottom, Sailcomp, Outboard, and Trailer. Competitive PHRF racer (5th place Screwpile PHRF B in 1999) or weekend cruiser. Documented. Located at DYC Pier, \$14,500.00 OBO. available immediately.

Bayliner Trophy 1987. 24 Ft. Super fishing boat and weekend cruiser. Cruising package, new cushions, new hatch, dinette, stove, icebox, portapotti, new spotlight, VHF and fish finder. Lower unit rebuilt 1999, fresh tune-up, 305 V8 I/O. Galvanized tandem trailer. Registered in VA. In the water at private dock in Dahlgren. \$9,500.00. Available immediately.

Contact: Bill or Janine Armstrong (540) 663-5455