

Issue 6

January 2001

# CIYC

Member PRYCA

Boat/U.S. Accord  
#GA83611Y

## COBB ISLAND YACHT CLUB NEWSLETTER



FORGET THE FRENCH!  
Just get those bloody  
pigeons!

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*Lord Nelson dead at 48...* We've just received a telegram from the First Lord of the Admiralty Which states that a French sniper mortally wounded Viscount Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson at the battle of Trafalgar. Born in 1758, the admiral... wait a minute... what's the date on this telegr... Scoop! Get in here! Oh, man... we're sorry. Scoop was helping Flash clean off his desk and he thought this looked important. Well, ye-eah, *in 1805!* Ah, well, we've already started, so we might as well continue with ancient naval lore and stuff like that.

Tapping the Admiral... After his death, Nelson's body was put first in a cask of brandy and later in a cask of wine to preserve it for the trip back to England. Legend has it that certain enterprising and thirsty sailors would tap the cask from time to time. Since a captain, living or dead, was authorized a marine guard, this legend most likely untrue. Rum (not brandy or wine) later came to be known as *Nelson's Blood*. The notes from the autopsy specifically mention the excellent condition of the body, further proof of the apocryphal nature of this yarn.

*When a loose cannon flogs dead horse, there's the devil to pay...* OK, this one's going to take a little time. Actually, it's an amalgam of three separate phrases as well as the title of a book by Olivia A Isil copyright © 1996 by International Marine Books, a division of McGraw-Hill, Inc. (*There, that ought to take care of copyright infringement, but what's one more lawsuit, more or less?*) To start with, Henry VIII had this major warship named the *Mary Rose*. In 1515, with the king watching from a nearby hillside, she set forth to battle who else, but the French. (Ever notice how much less bloody English History would have been if they had only avoided the French?) When her lower decks began shipping water, she listed to starboard. At that point, the *twenty* cannon on her port side slipped their carriages and the fate of the *Mary Rose* was sealed. So what have we learned? Loose cannons are bad things. If you happen to be somewhere, the CIYC Change of Watch Dinner Dance, for instance, and someone yells "loose cannon", it is wise to step lively, if you please.

*They shoot horses, don't they?...* Lessee, dead horses, dead horses. OK! I got it! In the old days sailors were paid a month's wages in advance prior to each voyage. Because of the rollicking nature of seaside towns, this was usually gone quickly. Therefore, the first month of the voyage which put them about the Canary Islands (the horse latitudes) was referred to as the 'dead horse month'. Sir William Smyth in compiling the forerunner of the Bluejacket's Manual lamented how hard it was to inspire the sailors: "It is easier to flog a dead animal to activity than to move a ship's company to work." Dead horses are noted for their inability to dance, so you could for example, attend the CIYC Change of Watch Dinner Dance without concern for being kicked by a horse. This occurs on January 27<sup>th</sup> in the year of our lord 2001.

*Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea...* With apologies to Harold Arlen, the joint between the hull and the main deck was referred to as the devil. The act of caulking (paying) that joint was made difficult by the length of the joint and the close quarters below deck. If the joint (devil) was not properly caulked (paid) then there was little between the devil and the deep blue sea. There is however plenty of time remaining to make reservations for the CIYC Change of Watch Dinner Dance. If you make it, there will laughter in heaven, a mighty rejoicing and a general singing of angels... Miss it however, and the angels will cry for you. The very skies will darken. There will be much weeping and wailing and the gnashing of teeth. The ghosts of dead sailors will form an endless line in your dreams. And may God have mercy on your Soul!

**View from the Bridge.** We're on the hook. Not that we're anchored out, but we're on the hook to Butch Shymansky for the use of his hall, and for cooking, and for getting us a deejay, etc. And when you're on the hook to Butch Shymansky, there's the devil to .. wait a minute that was last article, but you get the idea. So get on the horn and get us off the hook. You may have noticed that the title has changed from the Commodore's Corner. Since the new Commodore is an Arthur Miller fan and since as a youth he developed a distaste for corners, hence the title change. Chuck Johnston.

**Vice Commodore's wardroom.** CIYC will be well represented at this years PRYCA Change of Watch! At the time of this writing, twelve members are signed-up for the January 20th event. As you know, CIYC will host a hospitality hour at 4 p.m. on the 20th to "kick-off" the festivities (room in the Sheraton to be announced).

As your representative to the PRYCA, I am happy to see the biggest turnout ever for this event. We receive support from the association each year on Cobb Island Days Activities. Other PRYCA sponsored events will be on the CIYC Schedule for the 2001 season Bob Jackson.

**Fleet Captain's Hailer.** The Cruise Committee met at Fish Tales on the 6th. We thank Sue Shymansky for permitting us to meet there.

It was a very successful planning meeting. We intentionally left some free weekends for impromptu trips, as well as, rescheduling due to foul weather.

We had some in depth discussions trying to map out a workable schedule to accommodate all interests, sail, power, & land cruisers.

Our first trip of the season is planned for Memorial Day weekend. We go to either Point Look-Out or Port Kinsales on Sat., May 26th. The final decision on which port will come later. Then on Sunday the 27th we head for Susan & Bill Fuhrman's for the annual cookout, which I'm told has been a tradition for 20 years. Sunday night can be spent anchored out. Who knows, maybe we can do the "star burst!" If you don't want to anchor, the Fuhrman's do have a pier. Then on Monday its head back home.

The 50th Potomac River Festival will be at Colonial Beach on June 9 and 10. There will be a boat parade, which will start at buoy 2 on Saturday. Sunday is a continuation of festivities. Colonial Beach will send us more information on this later.

Cobb Island Days will be June 15, 16, 17. So our next planned cruise will be June 23. We plan to cruise to Canoe Neck Creek for an anchor-out. Hopefully we can come up with some contests, such as, dingy racing. Ideas are welcome.

We are combining the Family Cruise with the 4th of July. Since the 4th falls on Wednesday this year, I need to contact the marina to ascertain the date of the fire works display. We chose Dennis Point for this outing. It's easy to get to by land as well as water. They have camping too! Therefore everyone should be able to participate.

If we survive the 4<sup>th</sup> our next trip will be the PRYCA Float In at Fort Washington on July 20, 21, & 22. Now this is were the plans deviate from past years. On the 22nd (Sunday) we plan to leave Fort Washington and head for Old Town Alexandria. We will stay in Old Town the 22nd & 23rd, heading home on the 24th.

Last year some of us headed south on the bay, this year it was suggested that we head north. Sounded good so this is what we've planned. On August 10 we head for Solomon's Island. We're hoping to stay at the Solomon's Island Yacht Club. We've stayed there before and were treated very nicely. The food was great too. On the 11th we head for Baltimore, then on the 13th it's on to Oxford for two nights. On the 15th we return to Solomon's Island. This is another outing that lends itself to members going the entire trip or joining at different points either by water or land. Some have already said they can't do the entire trip, but plan to go part of the way. This isn't quite as ambitious as the ICW trip, but it should be a lot of fun and very interesting.

The next trip will be Dog Days at Colonial Beach (August 24 & 25), which is a PRYCA sponsored event. Last year the Johnstons and us went to this. Talk about a good time! They had music, food, & sightseeing via a trolley (*don't forget the winery tour!, ed.*) It's just a short trip across the river, so hopefully we'll have a good representation of CIYC.

This brings us to Labor Day, Sept 1, 2 & 3. We're holding off on deciding which marina until we find out what Tall Timbers has planned. Rick usually puts together a really nice event; hopefully he'll follow suit this year.

Then on the 7th we head to the Great Wicomico returning home on the 9th.

On Sept 21 thru 22 is the date of the annual End of Summer at Tantallon, which is another PRYCA sponsored outing. We have also planned an anchor out in Currioman Bay for those who will not be going to Tantallon.

Now, we may be pressing our luck a bit with the next trip. But you never can tell, sometimes October is a beautiful time of the year. In any case we're planning to go to Crisfield on the 5th and return home on the 8th (that's Columbus day). Billie & Suzanne make wonderful tour guides.

I'd like to thank the members of the Cruise Committee for planning the 2001 season schedule:

Pam & Bill Mudd  
Ken Semler  
Ruth & Gary Golden  
Chuck & Sandra Johnston  
Don Thayer  
Bob Jackson

On following pages is a draft of the 2001 Cruise Schedule:Nancy Jackson

But first some more ancient sea lore:

A first rate ship of the line might carry as many as 100 cannon. Since deck space was a valuable commodity cannon balls were stacked in a pyramid formation. This was accomplished by putting the first layer in dimpled copper plates known as brass monkeys. Since cast iron cannon balls and brass plate expand and contract at different rates, it might be possible enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey... yeah, we know what you were thinking. At any rate if there's anything worse than a loose cannon it's loose balls.

Watching your P's and Q's. As we said before, sailors were often advanced a month's pay prior to a voyage. When this was gone, they were often times allowed credit. It was the job of the

bartender to keep score by writing down the (P)ints or (Q)uarts consumed. And it was the sailor's job to make sure they didn't write down too many, or minding one's P's and Q's.

Shake a leg. In order to keep sailors from deserting (especially impressed sailors) they were often confined to the ship while in port. To soften the blow, wives and sweethearts were allowed on board. When it was time to muster a watch, the call "show a leg" went out. If a leg from a hammock was clean shaven or wore a stocking, it was assumed to be female, otherwise, the owner was expected to make muster. Later, the phrase came to be: "Shake a leg."

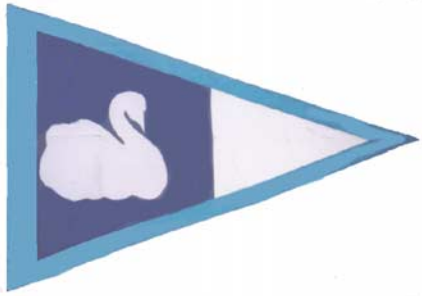
During the CIYC Change of Watch Dinner Dance we will introduce the Blue and Gold Choir. Comprised of volunteer and impressed singers they/we will sing the Navy Hymn.

### **The Navy Hymn**

Eternal Father, strong to save  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

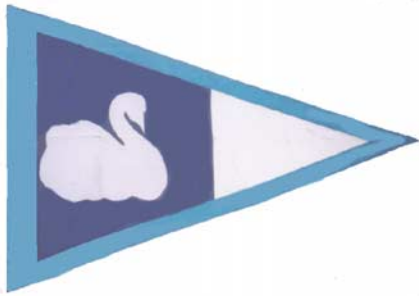
Click the speaker to hear the Navy Hymn.





## CIYC 2001 CRUISING SCHEDULE

	DATE	DESTINATION/ACTIVITY
<b>MAY</b>		
Saturday	26	Point Lookout or Point Kinsales
Sunday	27	Puddleby
Monday	28	Return Home
<b>JUNE</b>		
Saturday	9	50 <sup>th</sup> Potomac River Festival
Sunday	10	with boat parade at Colonial Beach
Friday	15	Cobb
Saturday	16	Island
Sunday	17	Days
Saturday	30	Dennis Point Family Cruise
<b>JULY</b>		
Sunday	1	Fireworks? Dennis Point
Monday	2	Return Home
Friday	20	PRYCA Float-In at Fort Washington
Saturday	21	“ “
Sunday	22	Leave Fort Washington for Old Town
Monday	23	Old Town
Tuesday	24	Return Home
<b>AUGUST</b>		
Friday	10	Solomon's Island
Saturday	11	Baltimore
Sunday	12	Baltimore
Monday	13	Oxford
Tuesday	14	Oxford
Wednesday	15	Solomon's Island
Thursday	16	Return Home



## CIYC 2001 CRUISING SCHEDULE

	DATE	DESTINATION/ACTIVITY
AUGUST		
Saturday	24	Dog Days at Colonial Beach
Sunday	25	11:30 AM Delegate Meeting
SEPTEMBER		
Saturday	1	Tall Timbers
Sunday	2	Tall Timbers
Monday (Labor Day)	3	Return Home
Friday	7	Great Wicomico
Saturday	8	Great Wicomico
Sunday	9	Return Home
Friday	21	End of Summer at Tantallon or
Saturday	22	Currioman Bay anchor out
Sunday	23	Return Home
OCTOBER		
Friday	5	Crisfield
Saturday	6	Crisfield
Sunday	7	Crisfield
Monday (Columbus Day)	8	Return Home

WHAT: CIYC Change Of Watch Dinner Dance

WHERE: Shymansky's Dockside

WHY: Why? Because we love you!

DRESS: Business suit, Black-tie optional.

DINNER: Fried Chicken or Roast Beef

BAR: Cash

HOW MUCH: \$30.00 per person!

WHEN: In the evening.

NO, STUPID, THE DATE! Oh yeah, Jan 27

IS THAT ALL? No, The National Football League has agreed to hold the Super Bowl the following afternoon so that we can watch Maryland's own Baltimore Ravens stomp the living daylights out of those awful New York Giants

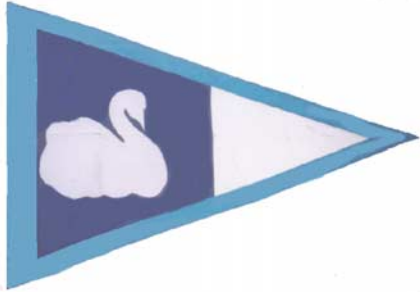


**YOU  
MUST**

Need glasses if you can't read this. By now you've gotten an invitation to the CIYC change of watch dinner dance. You should

**RESPOND**

promptly so that we can do some meaningful planning (how many beef to kill, etc.)



# COBB ISLAND YACHT CLUB Membership Application

I would like to join the Cobb Island Yacht Club.

Captain \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup>  
Mate \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Boat Name \_\_\_\_\_ Power or Sail

Length \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Manufacturer \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed, please find our one time Yacht Club membership fee of \$30, as well as my annual dues of \$25.

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Cobb Island Yacht Club and mail to:  
Ken Semler, Treasurer  
4410 Lady Trisha Court  
Pomfret, MD 20675-3248

Address any questions to Chuck Johnston  
(301) 259-4628

Acceptance of the applicant recommended by two current members.

Member's  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Member's  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Cobb Island Yacht Club**

Office of the Editor

P.O. Box 295

Cobb Island, MD 20625



***The Mission:***

*Boating Safety*

*Education in seamanship*

*Partnering with the community*

*Sail and Power events*

*Organized cruises, raft-ups and gunkholing*

*Monthly newsletter*

*PRYCA events and*

**so much more...**

[HTTP://ciyachts.tripod.com](http://ciyachts.tripod.com)

Join us! For information:

[www.ceejays@erols.com](mailto:www.ceejays@erols.com)