

## Commodore's Corner



Well it looks like the real spring is finally here. Seems like we had a practice spring in February—the warmest KJ and I remember in the eight winters we've been here—followed by a reminder of winter and now, this. You can usually gauge the weather by the number of informal gatherings at the marina, and we've been picking up the pace lately.

This is my first time writing a Commodore's Corner since officially taking the new office last month. I want to personally thank Eric Hoffman, our first commodore of Southport Yacht Club, for having the vision, skills and drive to form the Club. I have had the good fortune to work side by side with Eric over the past two years as we worked to lead the Club in the right direction. He's done a great job and left behind a living legacy. We

couldn't have had a better person for this vital role.

I want to thank the SYC membership for their vote of confidence in my ability to head such a great group of individuals with a common purpose—to have fun on and around the water. It will be an honor and a privilege to hold the position of commodore in 2017. Due to our efforts to stagger the term lengths of board members in order to have a continuation of 'institutional knowledge,' I will hold this position for a year. Under this new effort, one half of our board and officers will be replaced every two years.

I look forward to lots of new ideas to make our lives on our boats and the water more enjoyable here in Southport. I would like to congratulate our newest SYC flag officers, Vice Commodore Chris Webster; Rear Commodore Sandy Gibson; and our newest Board Member, Denise Farr. I look forward to working with each of you along with our current board members and committee chairs in 2017.

The SYC Annual Meeting was a huge success. The weather was too good (is there such a thing?). Everyone was outside as the band played on inside the community center. What other organization has its own house band? Thanks to the Privateers for once again putting the music in our events.

We also welcomed several new members to SYC at the Annual Meeting. We'll soon be sharing a roundup of new members and all they bring to our fine group of mariners.

I would like to extend my personal congratulations to this year's Ship's Bell Award winners. Pat Lynch and Cheryl Serra are symbolic of the kind of dedication and willingness to help our organization grow and be what we all expect and desire. The time and energy that these two provide is unparalleled and my hat is off to both. Job well done.

The food at the Annual Meeting was excellent and the attendance was over the top. A great day was had by all who attended. Thanks to the organizers of this event, Sandy Gibson and her crew, Kerri Farr, Karen Johnston, Cindy Killian, Colleen Smith, Amy Stafford and Colleen Webster. It's a lot of work and you all pulled it off. Bells to you all!

Some things we're looking forward to:

With the race committee headed by Jamie Deal and Scott Kaseman we are well on our way to the successful 2017 Southport Yacht Club PHRF Series. We've had several meetings to iron out the myriad details that need to be



addressed. Steve Karch and Dick Booth did a fantastic job of securing SEVEN sponsors to support the series, including our signature sponsor, REMAX Essentials and our very own Club member, Bob Percesepe (<http://www.bobpercesepe.com/>).

Club member Gwen Tanner of Mad River Designs (<https://www.facebook.com/madriverdesigns/>) was the first to jump in to sponsor one of the after-race parties. Our other generous after-race sponsors are Frying Pan (<http://www.fryingpansouthport.com/>), American Fish Company (<http://www.americanfishco.com/>), Holmes Security (<https://www.holmeselectricsecurity.com/>), Captain Newton's Inn (<http://captainnewtonsinn.com/>), The Southport Trading Co. (<http://southporttradingcompany.com/>) and J & J Boat Services (<http://www.jjsboatservices.com/>). We'll have a big ad about the PHRF series and our sponsors—to whom we are so grateful—in a special publication of the State Port Pilot, a magazine called Cape Fear Coast, next month.

The PHRF series is a big event. As a Club, we are proud to be hosting it. We need our members to help support it. Please take a look at the many ways you could do that

in this issue of KILO.

The Club's events calendar for 2017 has been prepared by our new Rear Commodore, Sandy Gibson, and it's packed with exciting trips and Rendezvous throughout the summer. You can see the calendar here: <https://sycnc.org/calendar/>.

I don't want to wish away the spring but I'm looking forward to having the boats out on the water again this summer. I look forward to seeing new shores and sunsets with you all!

*"Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than those you did. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from safe harbor. Catch the wind in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."*

— Mark Twain

Sam



*Artist rendering of the 2017 Southport Yacht Club PHRF Series T-shirt (it's all about the T-shirt, right?)*