



# Seamphore



March 2016

37° 12' 20" N, 76° 26' 11" W  
www.seafordyachtclub.com

Volume 36 # 3

From the Helm.....

Another SYC year is underway!! Spring is just around the corner – and even closer is the upcoming Burn Your Socks Party! I've always wondered just how this tradition came about, but first (just in case you have also been wondering), a few words about the seasonal transition prompting the celebration.



Of course the meteorologists will say that Spring begins on March 1. But astronomically the Spring equinox (and its Fall counterpart) marks the moment when the center of the sun's disk appears directly overhead at the Equator. This year, the vernal equinox will occur at 04:30 am coordinated universal time (12:30 am Eastern Daylight Time) on Sunday, March 20.

The equinoxes should not be confused, by the way, with the day experiencing equal hours of daylight and darkness. That day has been given the title of equinox. This year, the Spring equinox in Seaford occurs on March 16. Its date depends on latitude.

Now, back to sock burning. Yachters, or so the story goes, tend to wear deck shoes sans socks between the vernal equinox and winter. Allowances are made for the sensitive of foot on days when temperatures fall below 30 degrees Fahrenheit and winds top 17 knots. They call it the "wimp-chill factor."

According to the Annapolis Maritime Museum Director, Jeff Holland, the tradition began in the mid-1980s thanks to a fellow by the name of Bob Turner, who managed the Annapolis Yacht Yard.

"He spent winters working on other peoples' boats," Mr. Holland explains. "At winter's end, Captain Turner would end up with socks home to a variety of debris and dried varnishes and fiberglass goop. One day, which happened to be the Spring equinox, he shed his socks, headed out onto the pier with a paint-roller tray, put the socks in and doused them with lighter fluid, and tossed in a match."

The rest is history. The Annapolis Maritime Museum picked up the tradition in about 1990 as a way to promote local interest. And the tradition has spread up and down the East and West coasts and even inland to most of the rest of the country <sup>1</sup>.

Our thanks to our Secretary this past year, Jo Longnecker, and to all the SYC Committee Chairs for 2016 for their efforts as we prepare for the new year. We are all looking forward to the publishing of the annual SYC Directory in the coming month and, as always, a lot of work has gone into the collection of the information needed for the directory. According to Jo, all that remains is for Paul Blais to convert the files into the format needed by the printer and for the printing firm to then do its thing. Our incoming Secretary, Winnie Feldhaus, will be distributing the Directory at the upcoming March Dinner Meeting.

Merle and I would like to thank all those who helped in putting on the Annual Meeting this past month including Ben Huggin, David and Carol Miller, Sandy Hopkins, Toni Gay, John Leist, Tom Feldhaus,

Donna Gilroy, Walt Ulbricht, Bill Heath, Bill Willshire and Jandy Strickland. Thanks to all of you – we could not have done it without you! We are looking forward to working with all of the Club's many, many volunteers, and to getting to know all of you in the coming year!

*Malcolm Burgess, Commodore*



## DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT YOUR LIMERICK FOR SYC's 2nd ANNUAL LIMERICK CONTEST!

1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners will be awarded on March 15 at St.Patrick's Day Dinner hosted by Bill & Joan Edmonds.

Limericks are humorous poems with 5 lines.

- o The 1st, 2nd & final lines rhyme with each other.
- o The 3rd & 4th lines rhyme with each other.
- o The 5th line yields a surprise ending & rhymes with lines 1 & 2.

We already posted the winning limerick by Merle Burgess Here are the 2nd & 3rd place winners to get you motivated!

2nd Place: Jim Richardson  
There once was a leprechaun named Judy  
She had a very nice booty  
Her husband named Jim  
Said with a grin  
That's why I'm always in the moody

3rd Place: Gene Barton  
When sailing up the Back Creek  
Some sailors are varnishing teak  
Some are just thinking  
The rest are beer drinking  
And most, like their boats, are antique

Enter as many entries to as you like NO LATER

THAN: March 8, 2016 to Fran Butterfoss:

[fran.butterfoss@coalitionswork.com](mailto:fran.butterfoss@coalitionswork.com)

## March Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	29	1	2	3 Bridge	4	5 Club Rental
6	7	8	9	10	11 Happy Hour 6:00	12
13	14	15 Dinner Meeting	16	17 Bridge  St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Burn Your Socks
20 Palm Sunday	21 Semaphore Deadline 6:00 PM	22	23	24 Bridge	25 Good Friday	26
27 Easter Sunday	28	29	30	31 Bridge		

### **Racing News:**

#### **Upcoming: Spring Regatta, April 30th**

The Spring Regatta is our first race for this season. It will occur on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, the day before Flag Raising. Art Dister is the SYC sponsor for the Spring Regatta race.

#### **Upcoming: Staggered Start Race, May 21<sup>st</sup>**

The Staggered Start Race will occur on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Mike Webb will sponsor the Staggered Start Race. The race schedule and remaining races that need sponsors are posted on the SYC website

**Tom Feldhaus**, Racing Chairman

### **House & Grounds:**

H&G picked up a new dock tent this month and got two of the large tent panels repaired. The men's bath house toilets are under repair but should be ready for the Burn Your Socks. Two of the club's AC units are being repaired. Please leave all doors open in the club.

**Mike Brower**: House & Grounds

### **The March Dinner Meeting**

The March dinner Meeting will be held on March 15, hosted by Joan and Bill Edmonds. It will be a celebration of St Patrick's Day. The meal will be a traditional corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots and Irish soda bread meal. Dinner will be followed with a variety of delicious desserts.

Once again, we will be entertained by the Shanty Grass Band. Many of you have heard them the past few years and know that they are delightful. If you haven't heard them the past few years, you'll be in for a pleasant surprise. So, plan on staying a bit after dinner to enjoy the wonderful music.

The winners of The Limerick Contest will be announced at the dinner and there will be prizes for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners. We will get to hear the winners read their limericks which will be fun.

Irish or not, if you wear green, you will have more fun! Hope to see you on March 15!

*Joan & Bill Edmonds*

### **Dinner Meetings:**

Thank you to all the past years' dinner hosts and helpers for the delicious meals the members have enjoyed. Thank you to all our volunteer hosts for the upcoming year. Sign- up sheets were available at the January meeting and will be passed around again at the March dinner meeting. We need more volunteers to help with the meals. It usually takes around 10 members to help prepare and serve our monthly meals. We have all our 2016 monthly dinner hosts; now we need more helpers. Thank you so very much!

*Audrey Moore and Marti Coffield, Monthly Dinner Co-Chairs*

### **HAPPY HOURS:**

Happy Hours are off to an awesome start! We've had two happy hours in February and they've been lots of fun. On February 12, we had lots of Champagne and Chocolates and a large turnout of members. On February 19, Kelli and Bill Willshire provided us with a bushel of oysters. So, we had a mini Oyster Roast which was delicious! Fran Butterfoss led everyone outside to view the Space Station going overhead at 6:53 pm. We had an excellent view; so, the second happy hour was wonderful.

Next happy hour is on Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Come out and enjoy drink, food and conversation with your fellow SYC members.

*Joan & Bill Edmonds; Happy Hour Co-Chairs*

# **ANNUAL BURN YOUR SOCKS PARTY**

Hosted by Jim and Linda Blotter

**Saturday March 19, 6:00 PM until ???**

**DON'T MISS IT !!!**

**Help celebrate the Vernal Equinox and the coming of Spring**

You bring **SOCKS** to burn.

We provide: Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks, Snacks, Salad, Potato Casserole, Corn on the Cob, Bratwursts and Fixings and Dessert (S'MORES and more).

\$15.00 for adults; \$7.00 for children (12 and under)

Happy Hour (drinks and snacks) at 6:00 PM

Dinner at 7:30 PM followed by a bonfire for S'MORES to cook and SOCKS to burn.

This is an indoor/outdoor informal **SPRING** party - please dress for the weather!!

Reservations with the phone committee are required (they will call you in March). To change reservations later,

call Donna Gilroy by March 16th at 757-766-1584

