



## CSSM ANNUAL DINNER TALBOT COUNTRY CLUB FRIDAY JAN 9, 2009

Vice Commodore Epprecht welcomed members and guests to the Cruising Sailors of St Michaels Annual Dinner for the 27<sup>th</sup> year.

Fred Tompkins offered the invocation.

Before dinner we had an appetizer table including Oysters and Clams on the half shell, Swedish meatballs and spanikopita which was passed. There was a cash bar for all to partake. Dinner included a mixed green salad drizzled with balsamic vinaigrette. The entree choices were Flat Iron Steak with a mushroom sauce or Salmon with a dill cream sauce. Both entrees were served with basmati rice and asparagus. There was an assorted dessert buffet following dinner.

Vice Commodore Epprecht began the after dinner program by observing a moment of silence for the two members who we lost this past year. Alan Brown and Hugh Kabler.

Next Irv Hetherington introduced Jim and Linda Montague and Dick Tanczos introduced Jim and Pam McCloud as their guests and prospective members.

A unanimous vote on accepting the revised guidelines was taken and passed.

Next we recognized all of the Past Commodores who are with us tonight.

Bill Dutton 1996  
Les Anstey 1997  
Fred Tompkins 1999  
Alex Collins 2000  
Ted Clark 2001  
Linda Tompkins 2002  
George Weckel 2004  
Terry Burke 2005  
Mike Gates 2006  
Tom Cornwell 2007



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Commodore Denny Sokso was introduced and gave the following remarks:

"In 2008 we added one new boat to the CSSM fleet. Please join me in welcoming Wendy and Fritz Moritz. In 2008 three boats captured the distinctive title of "Honorary Member". The Collins, Cox's, and Hutchison's. Please join me in congratulating them.

As the outgoing commodore I would like to thank all of you for making this a great year. As you know it takes more than a Commodore to make it a successful year. I would like the following 2008 club officers to stand and be recognized:

- Mike Epprecht (Vice Commodore),
- Ann Ellis (Purser) and
- John Schell (Flag Lieutenant).

Thank you for your efforts. Without you my job would have been impossible. You may be seated.

How many first time Cruise Captains do we have with us tonight? Please raise your hands. Thanks you all for taking the bold step for the first time.

Third I would like to thank our 2008 social directors Joan and Stephanie. Thanks for volunteering and for doing a great job.

It's now time to officially install our new Commodore. Mike Epprecht would you please come forward. Mike you have been very busy these last several months. Thanks to you and your assistant Dave Lovelady the members can now access the CSSM website and easily obtain information regarding all aspects of the club. The amount of effort was monumental and we thank you and Dave for this.

Mike it is with friendship and gratitude I now pass along the Commodore's Flag to you. The club is in good hands and will surely benefit from your leadership. Members and guest please join me in welcoming Mike to his newly elected position."

Commodore Sokso presented the flags of office to the 2009 CSSM Officers:

Commodore Mike Epprecht  
Vice Commodore Joe Day  
Flag Lieutenant Judy Tanczos  
Purser Jean Saballus



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The new Commodore made the following remarks:

"It is an honor to be selected to be your Commodore. At one point Pam & I thought we were going to join the ranks of the stink potters, but that did not occur. In light of the fuel prices we experienced last summer that was a great decision or lack of one.

It has been interesting to go through the rich history of this organization as I was preparing for this meeting. We really are blessed with a great and diverse collection of members. The organization has evolved and I am sure the evolution will continue. Looking back over time, it makes one proud to be a part of this group.

What is on the horizon for 2009? As you all know, we have established a website which contains a lot of information and features. This website is not intended to replace anything that we have been doing in the past, but rather to provide a readily accessible place to find information about the current events as well as our rich history. We do need more photographs, so please get them to me either electronically or hard copies, I will return your photos.

Our cruise schedule is shaping up very nicely with 16 cruises covering 68 nights. There are two long cruises in planning, Alex Collins is going up the Potomac to Alexandria during the beginning of June and Stan Hutchison is planning a trip up the James River in the beginning of August. We still have days available in September and October, so let me know if you would like to lead a cruise. At our January lunch we will present the schedule as it exists at that time and finalize most of the dates. We will then send it out to the membership along with other off water events that are scheduled.

**WINTER LUNCH MEETINGS:** We are planning lunch meetings Jan through April to discuss topics of interest to the group. The Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> lunch topic will be Communications. In Feb we have a guest speaker to talk about engines and how to keep them running. These subjects were top choices among the 10 members who responded to the questionnaire that was sent out. March and April topics are still up for grabs, so please respond to the questionnaire so that we can accommodate your preferences. We will have a similar lunch in October and the subject will be winterizing your boats. The lunch meetings will be held at the Miles River Yacht Club which is undergoing some renovation to their Kitchen but they are committed to work with



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us to make our lunch meetings a success. Please feel free to attend these lunches to share your experiences and partake in the fellowship. A notice will be sent out shortly requesting members to sign up.

Our social committee, Joan Collins and Stephanie Sokso, have a number of events in planning and they will be announced when the details are known.

The Commodore's Picnic will be held on August 22 at the Commodore's house. Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup> at the St Michaels Library. A full year of events and we hope you will be able to join us.

One note, as an event is announced, please respond quickly with YES, NO or maybe. It really helps the organizer get a handle on the size of the event. This is even more critical for the social events.

Our membership status took an interesting turn this year as the Class of 1994 Aged UP to Honorary Status, however, all three boats are still sailing.

We currently have 18 Active Members so there is room for 7 new members.

Your new officers have met several times to look at the up coming year and I am proud to say that we have an energetic group with lots of ideas. Joe Day as well as being Vice Commodore continues to do great things with our logo items which can be found on the Website under the Ship's Store heading. Judy Tanczos has remarkably fast fingers on the computer and has been very helpful in reformatting forms and list for the website and distribution to the members. Jean Saballus is watching the money and she is tough, don't try to stiff her.

We are planning to produce a yearbook which will contain profiles of all members, all cruise reports with photos, meeting minutes and other information. This will be a bound and contain about 100 pages. More on this later, however, write great cruise reports.

We also have a couple of members who are going to lead a group to enter a float in the St Michaels Christmas Parade. Anyone interested in helping see Mike Gates or Dick Tanczos



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One of the topics we discussed was looking at Naval Traditions that we can incorporate into our group. One thought was a Flag Raising Ceremony during the first cruise of the year. Another that seems appropriate is the tradition of Rendering Honors to the Commodore as his boat passes. Along those lines, I have found a relative inexpensive Salute Cannon that each of you could purchase to properly render honors.

We look forward to a fun year with good weather and lots of fellowship."

AWARDS PRESENTATION:

### **Craig Kelting, Cruise Captain of the Lower Potomac Cruise this summer presented the "Green 1 Award" to Voyager.**

"During our Potomac River cruise, 7 boats sailed from Carthagena Creek across to The Glebe and anchored for the night. The cruise captain had provided detailed directions to the anchorage, which was only about 10 nautical miles away. Everyone but the Commodore was anchored early. Eventually, I talked to him on the VHF, and confirmed the directions to the anchorage. At the time, he was approaching the Glebe and was little more than a mile away. Time passed, but Voyager still did not appear. Lynn Gates reported seeing the top of a mast above the trees that appeared to have headed in the direction of another creek. Another VHF conversation with the Commodore took place, and it was determined that Voyager was in fact up in Kingscote Creek. After further directions, Voyager finally joined the rest of the fleet in The Glebe."

### **Irv Hetherington presented the "Hang In There Award" to Falconer:**

"I'm going to present one of CSSM's positive awards....the Hang-In-There-Award. This is awarded to any member or members who 'sticks with it long after most of us would give up.'

This year the Hang-In-There-Award is being presented to Falconer, that's Jean and Don Saballus.

Falconer started their award quest early in the season during the Lower Potomac Cruise. They apparently anticipated much competition for this award from another CSSM member, a not to be named commodore.



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Falconer had no choice but to Stick-With-It (so to speak) when Cole's Point Marina assigned them a docking space with inadequate depth. This resulted in the need for Falconer to wait well into the next day for a high enough tide to refloat. They were the first to arrive at the marina and the last to leave.

Falconer's cruising obstacles didn't end there however. In an effort to improve their alternator charging performance during the Maine Cruise Jean and Don decided to replace their European style charging system with a more conventional alternator regulator system. After working for weeks to get the system "right" they left for the Havre de Grace cruise late with an "apparently" intermittent alternator/regulator. After much on-board trial and error and contemplation, it wasn't until Cape May that a Pasco technician convinced them that the system had been working correctly.

Falconer's cruising obstacles still weren't over. At 4 am somewhere off Montauk, NY in the Atlantic Jean radioed Karaya and Fiscal Stray that Falconer was "taking on water." This got everyone's attention on all three boats. In the darkness off duty crew members went on deck to take in sails and start motoring back to a "sinking" Falconer. Jean and Don then reported that they could not run faster than 1500 RPM without severe engine vibrations. Eventually Falconer limped into Jamestown, RI, replaced a faulty bilge pump switch and all four engine mounts. Although Falconer fell behind she was undeterred and continued on her Maine Cruise. "

### **Mike Epprecht presented the Red 42 award to Voyager:**

"As you know, we have provisions for special awards for special situations. I am pleased to report that I was witness to one such special situation in June on the Cruise to Havre de Grace. Cruise Captain/Commodore Denny Sokso in charge, at least for most of the cruise. As you know our other awards are annual and must be given up at the end of the year but some memories deserve a more lasting place on our mantles and as you will hear from others, Denny deserves an award that will bring back the nightmares of that day on a continuing basis. Denny, please step forward. I am pleased to present the "Red 42 Award" for close encounters, actually intimate encounters with a buoy Red 42."

### **Mike Gates, who sponsored our only new member in 2008 made this presentation to Fritz and Wendy Moritz:**

"ABOUT 4, MAYBE 5, YEARS AGO MANY OF US WERE INTRODUCED TO AN ATTRACTIVE, HUMOROUS, SAILING COUPLE NAMED PAUL AND



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WENDELL. THEY WERE, AND STILL ARE, CREW ON THE VESSEL PAGAN FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT RACING ON THE MILES RIVER. PAGAN IS OWNED AND CAPTAINED BY BILL BROWN WHO IS A PAST MEMBER OF CSSM. PAGAN IS ALSO CREWED BY MARIANA WHO IS THE DAUGHTER OF OUR OWN VIRGINIA AND BARRY ALBERT.

THROUGH THAT ASSOCIATION VIRGINIA AND BARRY DECIDED TO SPONSOR THIS COUPLE. OVER THE ENSUING YEARS THEY OCCASSIONALLY WOULD ACTUALLY CRUISE WITH CSSM. THE UNIQUE THING IS THAT SINCE THAT INITIAL INTRODUCTION, THEY HAVE NEVER MISSED A CSSM PICNIC, A PARTY, A LUNCHEON, AND HAVE BEEN TO MORE ANNUAL DINNERS THAN THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM. THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THEY ALWAYS COMPETE WITH JUDY WECKEL FOR BRINGING THE BEST HORS DEAVOURS TO ALL THESE FUNCTIONS.

I HAVE A PHOTO FOR OUR NEWEST AND ONLY INDUCTEES FOR 2008, TAKEN THEIR QUALIFYING NIGHT ON THE SOUTH RIVER IN HARNESS CREEK. FRITZ AND WENDY MORITZ."

### **Mike Gates presented the "Drag Racer Award" to Orient:**

"THE SECOND MOST COVETED AWARD THIS EVENING IS THE 'DRAG RACER AWARD - AWARDED TO THE BOAT THAT MANAGED TO DRAG THE GREATEST DISTANCE AT A SCHEDULED ANCHORAGE DURING A CLUB SPONSORED CRUISE'.

FRITZ AND WENDY WERE A LITTLE LATE ARRIVING AT THE ANNAPOLIS CRUISE, AND THERE WERE NO MOORINGS IN THE CENTRAL HARBOR, BUT THERE WERE MOORINGS IN SPA CREEK. FRITZ SAID " NAH I WILL SAVE THE 25 BUCKS AND ANCHOR OVER HERE". AROUND MIDNIGHT FRITZ WENT TOPSIDE TO RELIEVE HIMSELF AND DISCOVERED HE WAS JUST ABOUT ON THE DRILL FIELD OF THE NAVAL ACADEMY, HAVING DRAGGED ABOUT 100 YARDS FROM WHERE HE 1ST ANCHORED. THE DRAG RACER AWARD GOES TO ORIENT".

### **Terry Burke presented the "Practicing Sailor Award" to Voyager:**

"Buoy 42 is a mark that will forever bear a scar from messing with the Cruise Captain of the CSSM. The real perfidy is not the damage which Voyager did to Buoy 42, but what transpired next. Chinook Wind, on



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observing this manifestation of 1<sup>st</sup> class seamanship helped assess the damage and determined that neither Voyager nor buoy 42 were holed and likely to sink. Chinook Wind continuing to stand by as Voyager attempted to get underway, it was observed that Voyager could not steer. The skipper of Voyager determined that its rudder was bent. Skipper Sokso assured Skipper Burke, that his Marina of Choice was close by. On hearing this skipper Burke took Voyager in tow making for this mythical marina while waiting for TowBoat US to complete the task. The hook up time was approximately two hours into the future. On becoming aware of this Skipper Sokso decided to transfer Cruise Captain Power to Skipper Weckel. Chinook Wind and Voyager continued toward this Marina in Nirvana Land. After approximately one hour of constantly being pulled to Port, Chinook Wind thought it might be prudent to have a better idea of the exact location of the marina in the sky. After some back and forth, it was decided that the great marina was 15 nautical miles away, in the wrong direction. On learning this information, Chinook Wind and Voyager decided on full stop to assess the situation and await the arrival of TowBoat US. During his hiatus, crew man, Chuck Ellis joined Skipper Sokso on board Voyager and inquired as to why a certain lever was in the up position. Skipper Sokso had an awakening and determined that the autopilot was still on. Upon disengaging the autopilot and determining that Voyager had steerage and could make proper way, Chinook Wind retrieved crewman Ellis and broke off the tow. Voyagers cancelled Tow Boat US and both boats renewed their efforts to rejoin the cruise. TowBoat US felt that their efforts to reach Voyager deserved a \$200 payment in any case.

While underway, ex Cruise Captain Sokso contacted Pro Tem Cruise Captain Weckel and attempted to retake control of the cruise only to discover that Skipper Weckel in less than one hour had completely changed the cruise plan and anchorage.

On rejoining the cruise some two hours later, Skipper Sokso did manage to reclaim authority over the Cruise. His hope was this would all die down and go away. NO WAY. We are here to memorialize Buoy 42 by presenting the Practicing Sailor Award to Denny Sokso."

### **Terry Burke presented the Fortitude award to Joan Collins:**

"This award is not often a serious award but tonight a member who exhibits quiet silent strengths and long suffering obedience will be recognized. During the Annapolis cruise one boat was in the process of mooring when the Skipper thought he left the boat in gear. This Skipper instructed his first mate to 'Hurry Back' to the wheel and help keep the boat in control. The first mate, ever faithful wife, hurried and





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tripped. The Skipper managed to secure the boat. The spouse, who was enduring a great deal of pain from a separated shoulder somehow managed to get off the boat, into the dinghy, out of the dinghy (this is something I can barely do in normal times) and make her way ashore. A waiting Policeman secured an ambulance which transported Joan and Alex to the hospital. Wing in sling, they made their way back to the boat, spent the night and sailed home the next day. Weeks later, surgery has returned Joan to a whole woman. To a woman of unbound courage, fortitude and strength, Joan Collins is truly deserving of the Fortitude Award."

**George Weckel presented the "Perpetual Award" to Voyager:**

"The Perpetual Trophy Award is usually passed annually from attic to attic in hopes that it will never be found. When found, it is awarded to the individual or individuals who remain cheerful no matter what happens.

The 2008 CSSM cruising season has been eventful – some events have been more noteworthy than others. The voting is over and all ballots have been counted. One event stands out that qualifies this year's recipient or recipients as worthy winners of the Perpetual Trophy.

The joy and responsibility of command; the anticipation of a well-planned journey; the sudden jolting of unanticipated disaster; the relief of salvation attained; the relinquishment of command and the re-establishment thereof are all emotions experienced by this year's winner and his worthy crew. Through all this travail they remained cheerful and resolute. Never an angry word or "expletive deleted" was heard. Their demeanor, shining like a flashing "Nun in the Night" carried them forward undaunted and seeking yet unattained horizons.

For their cheerfulness and calm presence in the face of adversity this year's CSSM Perpetual Trophy Award goes to Dennis Sokso and his first mate, Stephanie. May they display it prominently as a beacon of hope that 'should be left to starboard'."

**Mike Gates presented the "Keels Wheels Award" to Orient:**

"YOU REMEMBER THE STORY ABOUT ORIENT DRAGGING TOWARD THE DRILL FIELD, WELL NOT ONLY DID HE DRAG --- HE BUMPED --- HARD.



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THE MOST COVETED AWARD - KEELS WHEELS AWARD "GOES TO THE CAPTAIN WHO RUNS AGROUND AND GETS FREE WITH SKILL, FINESS, AND/OR OTHER ASSISTANCE".

THEY SPENT THE NEXT TWO NIGHTS IN SPA CREEK!"

**Denny Sokso presented the Cruisingest Sailor Award to Salt Shaker, Mike and Lynn Gates:**

"Established in 1977 this award is presented to the member who has logged the most number of nights on sanctioned cruises for the year.

These two smiling faces are always welcomed on aboard. They are always willing to lend a hand, sponsor cruises, and love to party at the drop of a hat. This year they logged twenty-three cruise nights. They won this award in 2006 and 2007 and now for the third consecutive year the 2008 award goes to Lynn and Mike Gates."

**Mike Epprecht presented the "One and Only Award" to our Past Commodore Denny Sokso along with the Past Commodore Flag.**

Mike Epprecht closed the meeting and thanked all for coming and wished all a safe drive home.