



From the Quarterdeck by David Hazlehurst, Commodore



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FBYC Web Site: <http://www.FBYC.net>

It is an honor to be elected Commodore and I look forward to my year in office. Let me use this column to give you a perspective of the club and its operation. Clearly we have an outstanding location and our facilities are first rate. And for the first time ever we have a waiting list for membership, a good indicator that the club is both well managed and has an appeal to outsiders.

We operate on a sound fiscal basis, and thanks to the work of the Long Range Planning Committee during the past year we have a clear vision of what we want to do to improve our facilities, specifically what we will offer to our members over the next ten years. The output from this planning process gives us a vision of what we can accomplish over time provided funds are available. And here the Finance Committee comes into play by analyzing past expenditures and forecasting our future income stream. Based on recent experiences we built in capital expenditures for items like dredging in 2002 and engine replacements on Mr. Roberts earlier this year. Repairing and/or replacing the bulkheads on Jackson Creek is our next major money sink.

But just once in a while a break comes our way, as it has done

with the docks damaged by Hurricane Isabel. We are probably the only property owner in Middlesex County whose docks were covered by insurance. This happy outcome is a result of our having coverage under a US Sailing group policy. This reimburses us to the extent that we can return our Jackson Creek and Fishing Bay docks to their original condition. A much happier result for us than for any of our neighbors. And at this time we believe that there is every prospect our four docks will be returned to their pre-Isabel condition in time for the 2004 sailing season at little cost to the club.

Our new clubhouse continues to attract members and rarely a weekend goes by during the season without some activity. Holding our Annual meeting and Awards dinner at the club in October was well received and hopefully will become an annual event. It clearly makes little sense to hold functions where we have to pay to use another facility when we have a first class one of our own.

During the off-season our four sailing Divisions, Cruising, Juniors, Off-shore and One Design are busily preparing for 2004 and a draft schedule of events will be presented to the board in their December meeting. Readers get a

preview of this schedule in this issue of the Log and your comments, as always, are welcome. Staffing over 40 sailing events is an ongoing challenge and many of you will be receiving calls to help. The only way we can operate a schedule of this magnitude is with members help so please respond promptly and affirmatively when called.

Happy Holidays to one and all!

