



Commonwealth Yacht Club Membership Newsletter



June 15, 2007



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From the Commodore and Board: While anchored out a few weeks ago with friends, we were discussing things nautical and the subject of flags came up. Here's some trivia for you. What is the oldest US flag still in use today? Here's a hint. It was created by Congress in 1848. It's the US Yacht Ensign. That's the flag you see on boats that looks like the US flag except that it has the anchor surrounded by 13 stars. While our national flag has evolved over the years with the addition of states, the Yacht Ensign hasn't changed since 1848. It's OK to fly either on your boat. With July 4th just around the corner, make sure your boat is properly decked out with either a US flag or Yacht Ensign flying from the transom.



Events Update from the Rear Commodore: "Pray tell who is second" In 1851 Queen Victoria watched the finish of the yacht race around the Isle of Wight. As the schooner America crossed the line she is reported to ask, "Pray tell who is second". "There is no second ma'am" was the alleged reply. The winner is always the first over the finish line, right? Not so fast, we're talking about the Commonwealth Cup, the 2nd annual sailboat race of the Commonwealth Yacht Club, which will be held September 21 and 22. This year, as last we are using a PHRF handicap system, (pronounced perf). PHRF is a locally administered handicapping system that uses the perceived speed potential of a yacht as the basis for the handicap. The handicap may then be adjusted based on the performance of the class of yacht. In most fleets there is no credit for lack of sailing skill or boat preparation. The boat is based on the yacht being sailed by a top-notch crew with the best equipment. The PHRF system handicaps yachts, not sailors. The lower the number of the handicap, the faster, potentially the yacht can sail. The handicap is then applied to a Time on Distance (TOD) or Time on Time (TOT) method. With TOD a fixed time allowance, based on the length of the course is used to compute the corrected time. An advantage of TOD is that it is simple and you can tell exactly where you stand at any point in the race. With this handicap system, the skill and preparation of each boat plays a big part in who wins and who comes in second.



Events Update from the Fleet Commander: Cruise Nuisance – Wine & Cheese at Pisgah Bay on June 23rd is our next Cruise Club outing. You can even come by land, but why would you want to? See the web site for details. We really need boaters to get signed up for the July 14th cruise to and party at Fat Daddy's Bar and Restaurant. Again, if you don't want to cruise that far, you can drive down and join in the fun. We recently made a day trip to check the place out. See the photos on the back of this newsletter. The live band and lively crowd add to the atmosphere created by the only tiki bar honky-tonk on the lake. If we have enough people sign up, we will rent out the upper deck and have a private party. We need about 50 to make this happen. If not, we'll join the locals. Either way, it promises to be a roaring good time.



We hope to see you soon at the Club, in the Marina, or just on the water.....





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From Fat Daddy's May 27

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Fashion and Talent Show



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