

FOUR *Seasons* Yacht Club

Newsletter

FSYC

Volume 15 • January 2011

Remembering Cathy Jo

It is with a very heavy heart that I announce that Captain Cathy Jo Dice Getter, the wife of past Four Seasons Yacht Club Fleet Captain, Captain Ron Getter, recently lost her battle with cancer.

If you moor your boat at Four Seasons or are a member of the Yacht Club, it would have been almost impossible not to have come in contact with Captain Cathy Jo at some point. For the many years that Ron served as Fleet Captain, she was always at his side with a helping hand when it came to our club. You couldn't help but notice decorations of bunting around the clubhouse during our summer holidays. Cathy Jo was also instrumental in the development and management of True Coarse Captain's School, a long time dream of Captain Ron, Cathy Jo, and Captain Dick Devoe. Her vision did not stop there. Captain Cathy Jo along with Marsha Herzog created the Yacht Club's Women in Boating. What began as a simple meet in the clubhouse and review some general boating safety quickly became an annual class complete with study materials, tools, and even an on-water class teaching women how to navigate their vessel through the locks.

It is for what Captain Cathy Jo had started for women that the Four Seasons Yacht Club



would like to continue her legacy of dedication to education for the women of our club. We have created a Scholarship in the name of Captain Cathy Jo Dice Getter to honor a woman within the club, by providing one lucky female the opportunity to attend the OUPV Captains Class along with First

Aid/CPR in March of 2012. This Scholarship will provide the funding for all classroom activities and materials as well as fees for the required physical & drug screening. It will be a wonderful opportunity for someone who is willing to dedicate the time required to complete the course. Many of you who knew Captain Cathy Jo have asked how you could pay your respects. It will be through your donations that we will honor Cathy Jo through this scholarship.

Donations can be made by check to FSYC and sent to our Treasurer Captain Marianne Mabry which will be placed in the scholarship fund. We will also be accepting donations throughout the coming season at club events. At the end of the season, we will draw a name to identify the winner of the 2012 Captains Class Scholarship. If you are interested in putting your name on the list for the drawing, please send your information to Commodore@fourseasonsyachtclub.com. No donation is necessary to be added to the list.

Captain Rich Mowery,
FSYC Commodore

From Your Commodore



Even as we are in the midst of winter, your Bridge Officers and Members of the Board of Directors have been busy preparing for the 2011 season. Planning and scheduling of events, approving an operating budget, updating of the Club's By-Laws were just a few of the tasks completed during November & December.

Along with planning for the new season, the Biennial Spaghetti Dinner was an event that we have been working on for months. I really hope you were able to attend. Special thanks to Vice Commodore Bob Pattison and Rear Commodore Bill Baehr for their efforts in making this yet another premier event. I really appreciate not only the Bridge Officers and Board Members, but all of you who have made my first year as Commodore successful, a year that I am very proud of. I look forward to serving in the coming season and hope to continue our growth, not only in membership but in the areas of boater safety and education.

A part of that growth includes our newly created Education Committee, who will be chaired by Captain Tim Koch. Tim has quickly taken the reins and is establishing relationships with the Cincinnati Sail & Power Squadron, Local Coast Guard Auxiliary, as well as private organizations in our community.

I also appreciate and acknowledge the efforts of my predecessors who have established the reputation of the Four Season Yacht Club as the premier yacht club on the river. It's all about the people. Heidie and I are ready to start the season and be rid of this cold weather. Our 2011 events are just around the corner beginning with the March Madness Party on Saturday, March 19th in the Clubhouse.

See you soon. Be safe.

Captain Rich Mowery, Commodore
commodore@fourseasonsyachtclub.com



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Secretary Mary Alice Koch
Treasurer..... Captain Marianne Mabry

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Health & Welfare Heidie Mowery
Membership..... Jo Baehr
Newsletter Bob Pattison
Clubhouse Bob Pattison
Communications Bob Pattison
Quarter Master Brenda Adams

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B-Dock..... Jim Sutliff, Phil Mayleben, Tom Woeste
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From the Vice Commodore



Happy New Year to All!

Your Bridge, Officers & Board of Directors have been busy this winter planning for a Great 2011 Boating Season. The New Event Schedule should be finalized shortly and available on our Club's website.

The Club is financially sound due to a record high number of Members and good planning. In fact, your Board of Directors recently increased funding for the TGIF Parties and Saturday Coffee & Donuts, so these popular clubhouse activities should be better than ever.

The Club House will soon enjoy Direct TV as our service provider. This change will allow members to view expanded programming in high definition plus we can turn off the service in the winter time when not in use to save \$. When at the Marina, you may notice that the exterior siding of the Club House got a fresh coat of paint this past fall and it looks great. New mini-blinds were also installed.

The Newsletter continues to be very popular with Members and Advertisers alike. We ask Members to continue their support of our loyal advertisers by patronizing their businesses. We couldn't publish this Newsletter without them. We begin our new advertising year with the next Newsletter in April 2011. If you would like to promote your business in our Quarterly Newsletter, please contact me for more information.

Stay warm.....See you on the docks soon!

Vice Commodore Bob Pattison

vicecommodore@fourseasons yachtclub.com

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From the Fleet Captain



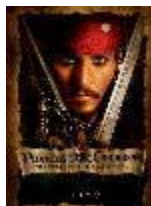
"ICE IN THE HARBOR! What a dreary site to see boats covered with shrink wrap on all except me" That's because I'll be the first out..... "Don't you see?"

We have a great line up of events this year. The budget has been set, the by-laws revised and updated. The website

looks great and this is the first newsletter. So what's holding you back ("WE HAVE FUN") this year?

I hope everyone had a great holiday – good – it's over. Time to commence Yachting. Fishing tournament is May 28th. Don't forget to renew your fishing license. Last year my son and I caught a Shovelhead Catfish weighing in at 62lbs and 5'-2 1/2" long. What's in your tackle box? Got any good fish stories?

I went to Ft Lauderdale in early December to escape the snow and cold. Met an old friend who took me out on his boat to see Lauderdale from the water. Now I know why they call Ft Lauderdale the Yacht Capital of the world. I have never seen so many Yachts' in one place.



Johnny Depp's yacht was a modern day Pirate looking vessel, very cool, but only 85 feet, Gee Whiz. As we cruised up the New River through downtown Lauderdale the yachts and estates got larger and larger. I didn't know but my friend Paul

was taking me to the Pirate Bar-N-Grill for dinner. We watched the sun set and finished our Rum to make the day a Pirate's Life for me.

The bottom line, at least for me, is that being a pirate is pretty much the best. At the end of the day, we can get in our boats, cast off our lines and set out for the high seas with all the adventure you want to make of it.

ARGHH

Bob Ware – FSYC Fleet Captain

fleetcaptain@fourseasons yachtclub.com

Cincinnati Sail & Power Squadron
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From the Rear Commodore



The Summer of 2010 was a record setting season.

We set records for: most events, most attendance, least attendance, most rain, least rain, most heat, most fish caught, most new events and most family type

events. BUT BEST OF ALL the most fun, "WE HAVE FUN"

We listened to our members and have trimmed the number of events for this year. We have a great year planned. See the 2011 Calendar of Events on our website: www.fourseasonsyachtclub.com

Get those applications in and let's get "Rolling on the River."

Captain Bill Baehr - FSYC Rear Commodore
rearcommodore@fourseasonsyachtclub.com

From the Treasurer



Happy New Year from Your Purser! Hope everyone had a Very Blessed Holiday Season! The club has ended up the year with a good balance to start 2011 thanks to all of your memberships. Looking forward to another great year with the enhanced schedule of events.

On a personal note, my Mom and I took an overnight trip to Marietta, Ohio a couple of weeks before Christmas. If you haven't been to Marietta, it is a quaint river town upriver from Cincinnati. We stayed in the historic Lafayette Hotel which is right on the river. The bar and restaurant (The Gun Room) in the hotel are very nice. There are quite a few shops on the main street and the Marietta Brewing Company (of course we had to visit there). The Fenton Glass Company is just across the river in West Virginia. Makes for a nice weekend. The hotel offers different packages throughout the year. The best part though, was the time spent with Mom. Priceless!!

Have a safe winter! Looking forward to the Spaghetti Dinner and upcoming early Spring events.

Captain Marianne Mabry, FSYC Treasurer
treasurer@fourseasonsyachtclub.com



From the Secretary



The Headline Reads: FSYC SECRETARY WILL RETIRE at the end of this year. I will have served as Secretary for the FSYC for six years - not the all time record, but a fairly long time. I will retire at the end of the year and would love it if I could find my replacement

before years end. If you or someone you know might be interested in serving as Secretary for the FSYC, please contact me or any Board Member. You can contact me at mary.koch@pnc.com or 513-379-5166. Remember.....WE HAVE FUN!

Mary Alice Koch
mary.koch@pnc.com



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2011 Upcoming Events

Mark Your Calendars

FEBRUARY

Thursday, Feb 3, 7:30 PM
FSYC Meeting - Clubhouse

MARCH

Thursday, March 3, 7:30 PM
FSYC Meeting-Clubhouse

Saturday, March 19, Time: TBD
March Madness Party!
NCAA - 1st Weekend of Tourney
FSYC Clubhouse
Hosts: Baehr

APRIL

Thursday, April 7, 7:30 PM
FSYC Meeting-Clubhouse

Saturday, April 16, 2:00 PM
Pre-Easter / Martini Party
FSYC Clubhouse (Easter is 4/24/11)
Hosts: Mowery

MAY

Thursday, May 5, 7:30 PM
FSYC Meeting-Clubhouse

Saturday, May 7, 4:00 PM
Kentucky Derby & Hello Party
FSYC Clubhouse
Hosts: Mayleben, & Membership

Saturday, May 14, 10AM - Noon
Mini Course Topic: TBD
Hosts: Education Committee

Saturday May 21, 9 - 5 @ FSM
Boat Safety Inspections
Fire Extinguisher Service
Hosts: Education Committee

Saturday, May 28, Time: TBD
Marina Fishing Tournament
Hosts: Woeste

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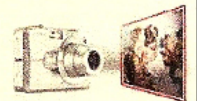


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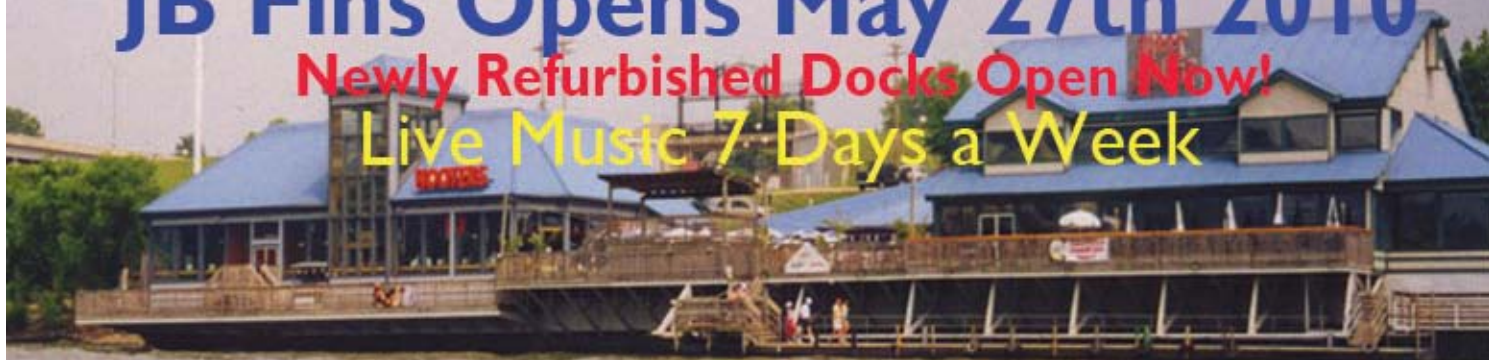
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Membership Committee



Happy New Year!

At the start of a new year, the Membership Committee starts gearing up for the upcoming membership drive. This year, we are starting right away.

You can go online to the FSYC website: fourseasonsyachtclub.com and fill out a 2011-2012 Membership Application Form. It is in the "Members Only" section. Print it and mail it, along with your check, to our Treasurer Marianne Mabry at the address on the form.

Getting your renewal (or new) application in before the May 31st deadline assures you will receive a plastic membership card and you will also be included in the 2011-2012 Roster Book.

We have another fun-filled season of events planned, so don't miss out on all the fun. We'll see you on the docks soon!

Committee Chair Jo Baehr

Health and Welfare



So we're a few months into this winter blah stage and the sun is shining today. How great is that?



It's hard to see past the cold days & snow we have had to endure the past few months. Seems old man winter wanted to come early this year! Don't let that get you down. We're almost at our half way point to warmer days!!!

Our club has done a great job at staying healthy this past year. A few surgeries to report, some minor illnesses and even a loss of a dear friend this past fall. All in all a good year behind us.

Looking forward we hope to see brighter days ahead for everyone. Take it easy, drink lots (and not all alcohol, either) of fluids and try to get some exercise. Go to the mall...walk a little and take in the sights. Gather with friends and share good boating stories and before you know it, SPRING will be here!

Please remember to let myself or a bridge member know if there is a need/concern of a fellow boater so we can make sure they know they are being thought of. As always, stay safe & warm these next few winter months.

Heidie Mowery - FSYC Health & Welfare Committee
health&welfare@fourseasonsyachtclub.com



"How rude of me, I've been talking about my boat all night. I haven't given you a chance to talk about it."

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Education Committee



The FSYC Education Committee would like to announce that there will be three "Mini-Courses" this year on May 14, July 9 and Sept 10 immediately following coffee and doughnuts.



The Sept. 10 course will be on "Winterization" and we have some ideas for the other two dates but welcome any input from our fellow members. If you have a topic you would like to learn more about, or feel that other boaters would be well served in learning about a specific aspect of our hobby, please let me know at (513) 623-4848 or at takmak@zoomtown.com.

Chairman Captain Tim Koch - FSYC Education Committee

Note from the Quartermaster



As we approach the upcoming boating season (it can't start too soon for me) the club house is awaiting the warm weather and good times that we always have at FSYC. All the decorations have been inventoried and stowed in their boxes awaiting the season to begin. If you are hosting an event this coming season please do not hesitate to use what we have on hand for your event. Please contact me if you are interesting in seeing what we have, I will be happy to send you a copy of the inventory. Reduce, Reuse, And Recycle. Also please note that the Club will be supplying the coffee, OJ, and milk for the Saturday morning Coffee and Donuts. You will not have to put these items in your budget when buying the donuts. I will try to keep milk and OJ in the frig, however please check prior to your breakfast. There is nothing nastier than bad milk.

Think Spring,

Quartermaster Brenda Adams

A-52 (Still working on a name for the new boat)



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The Beacon from Lighthouse Point Yacht Club - Aurora, IN



When Debbie and I moved to Lighthouse Point Yacht Club, we joined a local yacht club. Let me first explain the Lighthouse Point Yacht Club is not really a yacht club, it's a marina. The local yacht club we joined is the Rising Sun Yacht Club. We attended two events our first year with the club.

The annual fish fry was held June 12 at the LPYC and the Christmas Party at the Drawbridge Hotel December 4.

The fish fry was a lot of fun. It reminded me of the FSYC Pork Roasts from years ago. It was held in and around the LPYC gazebo. Everyone brought a side dish to share. There was more food than we can eat. I won a little money playing a game of chance called the River Race. It involved buying a plastic critter, then routing for your critter as it moved down the board on the roll of the dice.

The Christmas party is the biggest RSYC event of the year. New bridge officers were sworn in and a number of awards were presented. One of the awards was the "Ding-a-Ling" award. This less than prestigious award is presented to a member with the worst show of seamanship during the previous boating season. The 2010 winner was Randy Meyer. Randy ran out of gas and had to be towed back to the harbor. Some new friends of ours, Joe and Fran Rhoda knew about my anchor dragging incident after the WEBN fireworks. Refer to the previous 2010 fall edition of the Beacon for full details. Well, it didn't take long for everyone in the room to hear my story and the club officers decided I deserved to receive the first ever runner up Ding-a-Ling award. I am so proud.

In other news Barb Kroell and Ken Marcotte "Borderline Fool" invited some FSYC and RSYC members over to their house to ring in the New Year. We had Jeff and Jill Gramke "Get Aweigh", Mike and Christy Scherer "Calliope", Tom and Marty Dalton "Stardust" and Debbie and I "Carmen Ohio". Later that same weekend Debbie and I traveled to New Orleans for some Cajun cooking and great seats in the Sugar Bowl. Go Bucks.

Past Commodore Captain Mike Hoffer


PA Denny Update



I am happy to report that, according to the Foundation for Ohio River Education (FORE), the PA Denny has been sold to Captain R. C. "Heck" Heckert. Captain Heckert also owns the 125' paddlewheeler "Dixie" that recently made news in the Marietta Times after getting stuck between bridge piers on the Little Kanawha River. Apparently Captain Heckert has the wherewithal and experience to make the necessary bottom repairs and had plans to use it for family excursions. However, my contact at FORE has also recently seen an article saying that the Denny had been purchased by a group of investors who are planning to return it to use as an excursion boat.

Whatever the future brings it is good to know that the PA Denny continues to ply the Ohio and her Tributaries and will not be sold for scrap as will the Becky Thatcher after sitting unused for several years and sinking in her moorings last year.

Captain Tim Koch





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Dress For Success Outing

Ladies of FSYC, are you full of the winter blues? Need a FSYC chick fix? How about an FSYC evening of shopping to support Dress for Success (DFS) at their 4th Street Boutique. The Boutique is a high-end thrift shop that was created to provide substantial support to DFS. Donate your gently used clothing, and while we're there pick up some high-end threads at bargain prices.

Marsha Herzog, a board member of DFS, and Mary Alice Koch would like to invite the ladies of FSYC to make a group trip to DFS on Thursday evening, February 17 @ 5:30. Enjoy wine and cheese, unload some of your gently worn clothing, find great bargains, and learn how DFS supports the women of Cincinnati.

If you are interested, please contact either Marsha 513-410-0711 or Mary Alice at 513-651-8463.

More about DFS:

Dress for Success Cincinnati (DFSCincy) offers programs which help women secure and retain employment. It is part of a national program, which has 70 affiliates in four countries. DFSCincy, located downtown Cincinnati at 135 West Fourth Street, is accessible by public transportation. It operates by referral and appointment only, with referrals from approximately 100 agencies including job training programs, homeless shelters, substance and domestic abuse centers, halfway houses, literacy initiatives and programs serving women who are physically challenged.

DFSCincy offers three programs:

1. The Simply Suited Service provides a suit and coaching to a woman before she goes for a job interview. A second suit is provided once she gets the job. Most clothes for Simply Suited are donated through clothes drives and from manufacturers.

2. The Professional Women's Group (PWG) is a comprehensive support program as well as a professional affiliation for women employed at least one month. Each small PWG group meets monthly to address issues which effect job retention.

A meeting features an expert who leads a discussion followed by a period for networking. Topics include conflict resolution, effective communication, corporate etiquette, investing, childcare, filing tax returns, etc.

The new Leadership Program is an outgrowth of PWG and designed for longer-term PWG members. Approximately 30% of the women served through Simply Suited participate in the PWG program.

3. The Career Corner/ Resource Directory offers computerized facilities for women to update resumes, write cover letters, and search for jobs, housing assistance, childcare and other support services. DFSCincy has developed a Directory to help its clients overcome employment barriers, such as childcare, dental, financial, legal, medical, housing, psychological, human relations and physical appearance problems.

Marsha Herzog, Mary Alice Koch



A-Dock News



Happy New Year! So far this winter the weather seems as bad if not worse than last year. Snow & ice are breaking records again. Hope this does not turn out to be a crazy Spring as well. Not much to report on this year as of yet. Heard through grape vine that a few boats may be for sale (getting out of boating) and some looking for a larger purchase. Seems "A" Dock has some growing issues.

A number of "A" Dockers got together for a rehab party New Years Day (see picture). Thanks to Dave (tiki bar) Roy & Angela Bartlett for their hospitality hosting the event. I found out at the party that "A" Dock has a cheer. See Jason Reiter (Time Bandit) for the correct verbiage. Not much else to report on at this time. Brenda, Mathew and I are still working on names for new boat. Trying different ones out. See what you think of below. Take Care, see everybody in Spring.

Tom Adams

"Oh -Y- Knot" (A-50)
A-52 "A" Dock Captain

C-Dock News

While mapping out their holiday road trip to sunny Florida, Capt. Tim and Mary Alice Koch (Mary Time II, C-27) discovered that the Delta Queen is now moored in Chattanooga and is serving as a floating hotel / bed and breakfast.



She was decommissioned in 2008 after losing the congressional exemption that kept her in service since 1970 and opened as the Delta Queen Hotel in 2009. The

rooms are the original small staterooms you would expect on a boat of her vintage but nicely appointed. The common spaces are large gracious Victorian decorated rooms including the dining room / dance hall on the lower deck, the Betty Blake Lounge on the main deck and the Texas Lounge (bar room) on the upper deck. We had a great evening exploring the boat and the adjacent "trendy" North Shore restaurants and shopping district as well as the aforementioned Texas Lounge. It's a shame that she is no longer able to accommodate people on overnight trips, but you do get a feel for what it must have been like to travel on the river in such a historically elegant fashion.

We plan on a return trip during warmer weather. For more information visit: deltaqueenhotel.com. The Florida portion of our trip was with friends and relatives who have the common sense to get the h*** out of Cincinnati during at least some of the winter and we welcomed the new year by exploring the back bay area off Fort Myers Beach in a rented pontoon boat on New Year's day...great way to start off the new decade!

Captain Tim Koch



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B-Dock News

Dock Captain Phil Mayleben writes:

Wintertime at FSYC.....

Everyone is in hibernation and another article complaining about horrible Cincinnati winter weather is pointless. Writing about boating in the winter is pointless as well. Gas prices next summer will likely top \$4.00/gallon and it has me considering alternative energy sources. Is it time to go green, give up on fossil fuel, and switch to something practical?

Wind is out of the question since river currents will offset any speed made good. What is left, maybe an all electric boat? Imagine twin high efficiency 100 HP electric motors silently moving the boat along. No more nasty gas guzzling inefficient polluters belching exhaust and oil into the pristine Ohio River.



Al Gore would be thrilled and the fish won't have that nasty taste in their gills. Let's see, 100 HP is equivalent to 75 Kilowatts. If the motors operate at 200

volts they will require $75,000/200=375$ amps each. Wow that is a lot of current!

I wonder how many car batteries are needed for 200 volts. $200/12=17$. Gosh 17 batteries and 375 amps. If I use giant sized 100 amp hour batteries I can run for about 16 minutes (on one motor). Then I can wait the rest of the summer for the giant solar array duct taped to the Bimini top to bring the system back up to a full charge. All of that lead may exceed the capacity of the boat. I would be better off using shore power and a long extension cord. An electric boat is not the answer.

A real electric boat or submarine uses nuclear power. Envision traveling for years without stopping for gas! It's not fair, enriched uranium should be on the shelf at Wal-Mart next to the lawn fertilizer. Why should the Navy have all of the fun? I am not getting any closer to an answer. I am not going to be able to reconfigure the boat on a beer budget anyway. Guess it is time to bite the bullet clean the bottom to the best of my ability, make certain the propellers are straight and fill 'er up with 89 octane unleaded!

I hope everyone survives the winter and has a Happy New Year.

Dock Captain Tom Woeste writes:

Wow, what a winter so far. Cold temps and lots of December snow. My family has chased away the winter blues by spending some time again this year at an indoor water park resort. It's a great place to pretend it's summer time. Another reminder that summer is just around the corner is the boat show. Also, planning the upcoming activities for the club helps us focus on good times to come. Looking forward to another year of great boating times and yacht club activities.

Dock Captain Jim Sutliff writes:

Have had a busy winter shoveling snow. When will it end? But alas, spring is just around the corner!! Days are getting longer and before we can finish eating our delicious spaghetti dinner we will be thinking about boat cleaning and waxing. Hope everyone had a safe and wonderful holiday. Will see you all on the docks soon for another fun filled year.

Pleasant Boating Dreams!!!

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REMEMBERING CATHY JO DICE-GETTER

Our Four Seasons Yacht Club owes a great deal of its energy to the dynamic duo of former Fleet Captain Ron Getter and Cathy Jo Dice-Getter. Together they stimulated the growth of club membership and initiated a vigorous social calendar. Cathy Jo teamed up with friend Marcia Herzog to create the Women in Boating classes. Though a professional woman in Dayton, OH (realtor, auctioneer, liquidator), Cathy Jo also worked with Ron as administrator as he expanded the True Course Captain's Class.

On November 16, 2010, God called Cathy Jo home. What a gal. As we reflect, we settle on words like poised, lady-like, grounded, genuine, thorough, self-assured, beautiful, organized, determined with a quiet strength. Her soft-spoken words and gentle smile enhanced the gift she had for listening. She never had to raise her voice because we all wanted to hear her contribution. Cathy Jo cultivated friendships by being sincere as well as charming.

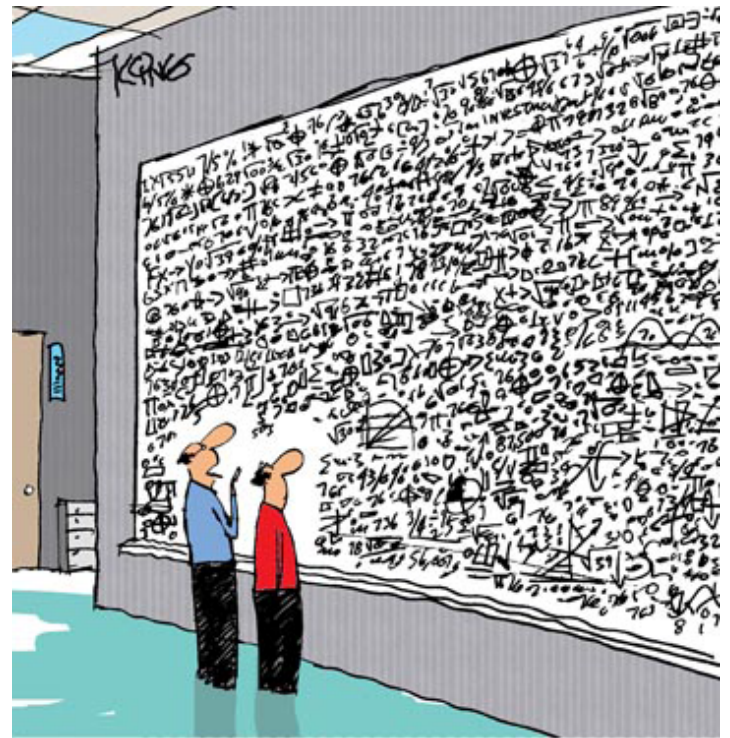


Picture this: It is Manchester Island on any July 4th; there are at least half a dozen Four Seasons boats at anchor. These boats have all order of anchor lines, fenders, jet skis, inflatable toys and other appendages dangling from their silhouettes. Early in the day, one of the inflatables quietly leaves its berth and makes it way through the calm waters. It is Cathy Jo and Ron who have taken it upon themselves to provide each vessel with authentic stars

and stripes bunting which formerly had seen service in America's celebrations at our nation's capital. Cathy Jo would see to it that every boat was properly adorned with one of these beautiful red, white and blue patriotic veils. Later in the day the little boat would return – equipped with a camera-wielding Cathy Jo. “Smile!”...click. She would have the portrait she had assembled for the Yacht Club news. Those visits to Manchester were not just beers and floating and sun tanning. Numerous conversations of substance took place while strolling the beach, sitting on the swim platforms with our feet in the water, floating in the midst of the party barge, during an exquisite meal, or under the canopy of a brilliant Milky Way. Cathy Jo added much to each of these conversations. One 4th was particularly sad because Cathy Jo had just experienced the devastating loss of her son, Ben (“Benji.”) This grief touched all of our lives. She leaned heavily on her faith, renewing herself in God's comfort, and immersed herself in Dayton community projects.

The loss of Cathy Jo has reinforced for us just how important it is in life to have good friends. With Cathy Jo it was not only about having fun, but about cultivating relationships. We all feel the loss of Ron's loving partner and friend and will be honored to perpetuate the fruits of her efforts. We remain Ron's devoted friends.

The Daltons and the Scherers



“...And that, in simple terms, is how you winterize your boat.”

Courtesy: The American Boating Association
Publisher of Boating Magazine, Americanboating.org

Boater Code of Conduct



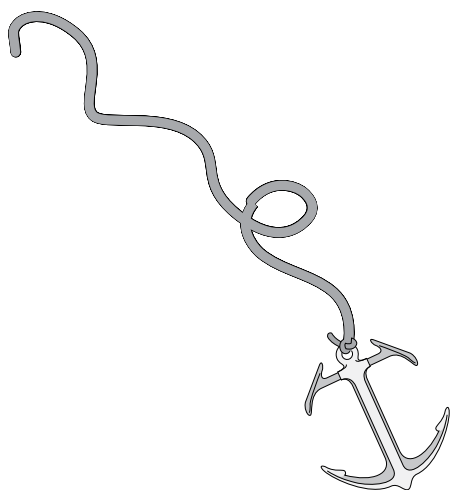
In 2011, the Division of Watercraft is introducing a list of best boating practices known as the "Boater Code of Conduct" to promote boating safety awareness. These boating safety awareness tips are included in the Division's 2011 Calendar/2010 Annual Report. Each quarterly issue of Buckeye Boater this year will feature 3 of the 12 recommended best boater practices.

JANUARY – Topping the list of the Boater Code of Conduct and recommended best practices shared by safety organizations everywhere is a reminder that all boaters should properly wear an [approved life jacket](#) or other personal flotation vest while boating. Nearly all of the boating-related fatalities occurring on Ohio waterways involved boaters who were not wearing a life jacket when their incidents occurred, including the 16 boating victims who died on state waterways during 2010. Life jackets save lives and many senseless tragedies can be avoided simply by properly wearing a life jacket or flotation vest anytime while boating.

FEBRUARY – Taking an approved boating safety education course is fun and a sure way to increase boating knowledge. Ohio law requires persons born on or after January 1, 1982 to successfully complete an approved [boating safety education course](#) or state proficiency exam if they operate any watercraft greater than 10 horsepower. The state law, enacted in January 2000, also applies to supervising persons. Last year, more than 14,000 boating safety education cards were issued to Ohioans.

MARCH – One of the many great things about boating in Ohio is that public launch ramps and adjacent parking facilities are free of charge. On busy boating days, some launch ramps can see a lot of activity. Another item on the Boater Code of Conduct is to be courteous to other boaters when using a launch facility. When [launching or loading](#) your boat, secure your vessel at the courtesy dock. Do not cause delays for other boaters who are waiting to use the launch docks and lanes.

By attaining knowledge and experience, boaters can also become good stewards of our waterways and facilities in providing a good example to others including future generations of Ohio boaters.



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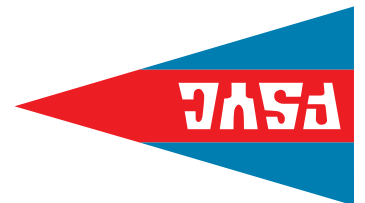
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