



# BOWSPRIT 2014

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Chip Spence – Commodore

## Commodore's Watch

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It has been a wonderful year for BYC. The year began with a big unknown, where was the club going to light? As it turned out, I feel that most everybody is very happy with the outcome of the unknown. The facility has seen a lot of use during the year. Joe Blair has orchestrated card night at least once a month. The kitchen is being used by our weekly cooks but also regularly by some of our live aboard members. And Sunday evenings leftovers and a movie has been proctored by Cathy Colley.

With the help of Jacque Potts' training, we have about 18 licensed ham radio operators. David Neipert has taken the lead on setting up our base station with a personalized call sign of K5BYC. Before the end of this month, an antenna will be erected that will truly give us a global reach. It will assuredly cover the Gulf of Mexico well so that we can assist sailors crossing the Gulf.

How can anyone forget the our Murder Mystery Night? Jacque Potts did a wonderful job of finding talent. Surprising to most is that we really did have talent exude from some actors, not all mind you, but some.

Dinners have been exceptional. I believe we had fewer pot luck dinners this year than last which shows we have many members participating. We could always use more cooks so get ready for 2015.

## Commodore's Watch Continued

The Whitworths' and Colleys' were instrumental in arranging cruises. Brenda and I were fortunate to be able to participate in both. A bareboat charter to the Caribbean and a Royal Caribbean Lines cruise also to the Caribbean.

Two Charter boats were chalked full of BYC members and a fun time was had. Just ask those sailors. I believe the number was 26, BYC members who sailed on RCL. We had a wonderful time mixing with friends and some playing a very loud card game. I didn't play so I am not sure what all the ruckus was about.

There are many other memorable events in 2014 but if I listed them all, the editor would get after me.

Now we come to the end of the Year. THE Commodore's Christmas party is on the 13th along with a fun gift exchange. A New Years party follows on the appropriate date.

But the date I am looking most forward to is January 10th, 2015. This is the OFFICIAL changing of the guard for the leadership of BYC. I fully expect that incoming Commodore Jim Robertson can and will exceed the successes of 2014.

I look forward to seeing all at the closing events of 2014 and look ahead to 2015.

Sea Ya on the Water,

Chip

## Ham'n It Up At The BYC

For those that are interested there is a new e-mail address on the books at the club. It's Ham@BayYachtClub.org. The purpose of this address is for all of those interested in the Ham radio activities the club is involved in to communicate with each other in mass.

If you would like to be included on the distribution list send an e-mail to webmaster@bayyachtclub.org and we will gladly set you up.

## Guest Writers Corner

### AL'S BLUE WATER RULES, # 12, 13 and 14

The Caribbean voyage of the pink catamaran *Con Amour* ended without further incident; she entered Port Canaveral and sailed down the Indian River to Diamond 99.

We have three more rules to go. Rule 12 was developed during my first voyage to Grand Bahama aboard Jabberwocky, my 27 foot Bristol. Friend Bob Wilfong and I were sailing close inshore near Palm Beach at a moonless Oh dark thirty. Noticing a bright, unblinking orange light to seaward we decided to sail over and check it out. Halfway over, we spotted a fast moving set of running lights. We soon discerned a small Coast Guard boat which rumbled up alongside. The man at the helm said we did not want to go there. The manned 50 caliber machine gun on his bow was convincing.

After we returned to Diamond 99 Marina a couple of weeks later, I found out that that orange light signified a submarine parked on the surface, probably with a problem.

#### **Rule # 12: Don't mess around with unblinking orange lights at sea.**

I was standing on a dock at Cocoa Fla. when I formulated rule 13. I spotted a Pivar 35 or 38 trimaran a hundred yards out on the Indian River heading into the same dock. It was obvious where he was headed so I drifted over to offer help with the lines. When he was 50 yards out, I began to back away. Pivar's were wickedly fast on flat water and this one was only beginning to slow down. At 30 yards the middle aged man (husband) on the bow, holding a mooring line, started yelling at his wife who was at the helm. By the time she deciphered the message and turned the wheel, it was too late. At a good six knots, that Pivar climbed up on the dock and stopped, all in a second and a half!

#### **Rule # 13: Approach docks or any other unmoving object just above minimum steerage. Boats don't have brakes and what if you miss a shift?**

My last rule is a killer. I don't mean funny; I mean the dead kind of being killed. This one occurred several years later with Jabberwocky II, a 28 foot Bristol. We left Annapolis in the afternoon, turned south on the Baltimore channel. Soon dark, we were sailing along on a broad reach in gentle airs, maybe five knots. Again, Bob Wilfong was with me at the tiller; family was safely asleep below. Around two am I began to feel a little queasy. Not exactly sick, but as if something was wrong. The feeling was getting stronger. Finally, I thought I heard something, turned to look back.

There was a bow light above me at 45 degrees, and a rolling wave coming up our stern. Between the two, I was staring at the bow of a ship! There was no time to discuss the subject. I reached over, shoved the tiller into Bob's stomach, and we left the channel as a wall of steel slid by us. We got back into the channel right behind her churning props, tips barely breaking the surface. Watching those props depart, I understood: they were transmitting their sound below the threshold of hearing, through the water and the hull of my boat was acting like a speaker at maybe 12 cps. Couldn't hear it but I was feeling it. I had a radar reflector, but nobody was watching the scope up there.

#### **Rule #14: Check your six often! This can happen at sea as well.**

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Contact John Huddleston for more information.



<mailto:bowsprit@bayyachtclub.org> for information about advertising.

# December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Morf	4	5	6 Harbor Lights
7	8	9	10 Morf	11	12	13 X-Mas Party
14	15	16	17 Morf	18	19	20 Pot Luck
21	22	23	24 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31 <i>Party</i> 			

## Member Items For Sale

Looking to unload some of those precious items that you no longer need?

We can help. Send a message to [bowsprit@bayyachtclub.org](mailto:bowsprit@bayyachtclub.org) and we will list your item for sale.

Ad must be renewed monthly (but you'll have sold it by then so it won't be necessary).