



the Ocean Breeze

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"Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the Friends"

Editorial Staff

Debbie Dion
Editor

Cdr. Mark Larson, AP
Consulting Editor

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The Bridge

Commander
Mark Larson, AP

Executive Officer
Walter Kirk, AP

Education Officer
Steve Rahn, P

Administrative Officer
Peter Dion, SN

Treasurer
Craig Christiansen, P

Secretary
Debbie Dion

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SPECIAL EDITION CHANGE OF WATCH

- Outgoing Commander's Remarks - Mick Holroyde
- Presentation of Awards
- Installation of Bridge & Members-at-Large
- Commander's Remarks - Mark Larson
- Photo Collage

Dates to Remember

December 11 - Annual Christmas Party

Indigo Run Golf Club - 6:30 p.m. Happy Hour



Featuring vocal entertainment from a small ensemble of seven from the Hilton Head Shore Notes starting between 7 and 7:15 p.m.

Support the Toys for Tots program by bringing an unwrapped toy.

Support the Deep Well Project by bringing dry or canned food.

PC Holroyde thanked all members of his 2017 Executive Committee (including assistants). He further recognized PC's Barb Sommers, Joe Etter and Larry Tremetiere for their support and wise counsel during his tenure as commander.

Accomplishments noted were:

- Strong balance sheet (Craig Christiansen)
- Increased membership
- Vital relationship with Freedom Boat Club, which feeds our ABC course (Larry Tremetiere)
- Increased Vessel Safety Checks (Larry Tremetiere)
- Implementation of mentor program for new members (Glenn Crews)
- Development of membership tracking system (Mark Larson)
- 185 attendees at 7 classes and 10 seminars; 61 ABC class attendees (Pete Dion + instructors)
- Magellan Cruises (Mike Gilroy)
- Boating activities to several new destinations (Barb Sommers)
- Inclusion of Beaufort and Tybee Light squadrons in some of our social events
- IT achievements including pay by credit card, Drop Box, new website (Paul Hoyte)
- Second year of "Day on the Water" for Bluffton Boys & Girls Club (Bob Newbert)
- Attendance at area boat shows and Grand Opening of West Marine to showcase Virtual Trainer (Glenn Crews)
- Newsletter publications (Debbie Dion)

Awards presentation:

- Special Distinction of 25 years of membership - Walter Kirk & Richard Clarke
- Education Officer, Pete Dion, recognized four instructors with the most teaching hours: Klaus Loehr, Barry Moore, Steve Rahn, and Mark Larson
- Commander's Cup - Barb Sommers
- Lew Ward Award - Paul Hoyte
- "Catch the Spirit...Pass it On" - Glenn Crews

As his last act as Commander, Mick expressed his personal appreciation to all of his Executive Committee members for their many achievements over the last 12 months.

District Commander Roy Stevens performed Dismissal of Bridge and installed new Commander Mark Larson for the 2018 Watch Year.

Installation of new Bridge by Commander Mark Larson

Installation of Members-at-Large by Commander Mark Larson

Remarks from Commander Mark Larson



Commander's Cup Award - Barb Sommers

AWARD RECIPIENTS

Commander's Cup - Barb Sommers

Lew Ward Award - Paul Hoyte

"Catch the Spirit...Pass it On" - Glenn Crews

Freedom Boat Club Appreciation Award - Steve Sherman

Richard Clarke - 25-Year Member Award

Walter Kirk - 25-Year Member Award



Lew Ward Award - Paul Hoyte



"Catch the Spirit...Pass it On" Award - Glenn Crews



Larry, Mick, Steve Sherman - Freedom Boat Club



25-Year Member
Walter Kirk



25-Year Member
Richard Clarke



District Commander Roy Stevens administers the Oath of Office to incoming Commander Mark Larson.



Commander Mark Larson administers the Oath of Office to his Bridge (L to R)

Craig Christiansen, Treasurer
Walter Kirk, Executive Officer
Mark Larson, Commander
Peter Dion, Administrative Officer
Debbie Dion, Secretary
Steve Rahn, Education Officer



2018 Executive Committee (L to R)

Paul Hoyte, Member-at-Large
Craig Christiansen, Treasurer
Debbie Dion, Secretary
Mark Larson, Commander
Walter Kirk, Executive Officer
Peter Dion, Administrative Officer
Steve Rahn, Education Officer
Glenn Crews, Member-at-Large

Commander Mark Larson expressed his sincere appreciation to the members for having elected him Commander for 2018. He stated that it is a privilege and honor to follow those who have come before him. He promised he would take the office enthusiastically and with respect for the duties and obligations that come with it. To all of his opposing candidates for this office, he thanked them for a rigorous and above-board election campaign. He promised no tweets moving forward. He thanked the new Bridge and Members-at-Large for stepping up to their roles for the coming year. He recognizes that it's a significant contribution of time and talent, and he thanked them personally and on behalf of the squadron for their commitment. He's excited about what we can accomplish in the coming months. He believes we have accomplished a great deal under Mick's watch and that we have a solid base to build on. **Below are 'direct' remarks from Commander Mark Larson:**

As a result of last year's member survey, we decided to track member participation during the year.

- We currently have 176 members.*
- We had 54 different events which members could participate in during the year - education, boating, social or civic.*
- (70%) of our members participated in at least one event.*
- (43%) participated in at least one of our boating events.*
- (60%) participated in at least one of our social events. We've had solid participation, but we can do more.*
- 20% of our members did not participate at all,*
- and 40% participated in 3 or less of the activities.*
- We will be reaching out to them to find out why.*

When we took our member survey about this time last year, you gave us some good marching orders. We were reasonably successful in our progress, and soon we will be coming back to you to get your own view of that and to solicit more ideas from you. However, we know we must do better. We were fortunate to add 30 members during the year, including three transfers from other squadrons. We know we must do better because we lost approximately the same number. Of course, there were wholly personal, relocation, and other family reasons for some of those departures; but some were telling us with their feedback that we weren't meeting the expectations they had when they joined. We have great opportunity going forward as I see it.

- The new members Mick referred to earlier do not include 19 people from our October ABC class, who submitted applications for membership. They all may not complete the process, but many will and that will be a great start.*
- Mike Gilroy and Barb Sommers have both agreed to head up our boating activities again for the coming year. They set a baseline last year with nine events, several of which were on weekends to accommodate a wider spectrum of members. We had to cancel 8-10 other planned outings because mother nature did not cooperate, but more in number and variety are on their way for 2018.*
- Pete Dion has run a first-class education program, recognized as such by both the District and National. Mick has already shared the impressive participation numbers for our classes and seminars. And Steve and Pete have a full schedule already set up for the coming year.*
- You will soon be seeing our new squadron web site. Let me tell you that it is not only beautiful, but it has state of the art functionality that you will love. Thanks must go to the creative and dedicated design team of Paul Hoyte, Nancy Stermer, Glen Crews and Bob Newbert.*
- Walter Kirk and his merry band of inspectors did well over 100 vessel safety checks last year, and I expect we will see more in 2018. By my count we have 45 owned boats in the squadron, so we've been very productive inspecting vessels elsewhere in our communities. Many of the 2017 inspections will repeat, and our participation in two boat shows, the grand opening of the new West Marine store, and the effort that Glen Crews has made to get our promotional information in the hands of many retailers and marinas in the area should grow our vessel safety check audience.*
- Debbie Dion has done a great job at improving communications across the squadron; I know she has some great ideas for 2018.*
- One of our three basic purposes of the squadron - the others being our boating and social activities - is our civic activity, and I would like to see us do more in that area in the coming year.*

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to ask all members to volunteer to help out in planning and operating an activity. There are 10 to 12 folks that carry the vast majority of the workload. Please. They could use more help. We are looking forward to a great 2018. This Executive Committee works for you, so please take every opportunity to tell us what we can do better. Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to represent you.



