

NSHSA Spring Planning Meeting 2008

The Spring Planning Land Raft kicked off this year on February 23rd on the third floor of the Tidewater Marine Outfitters building; everyone was high and dry.

Eighteen boats were represented at the meeting:

Adventure Bound, Annie Eileen, Aquila, Big E Nuf, Champagne, Dolphin, Eternity, Mast Confusion, Narsilion, Padozary, Paisano, Penury's Prize, Sena 'Nuff, Silent Running, Therapy, Tomorrow Came, Valkyrie, and Windsprint

The day started off with a Chili Fest & Sides as supplied by the membership with plenty of food to go around.

At about 2:45 Commodore Earl Greene started the meeting with a call for roll call.

Afterward Paul Matrangola of Tidewater reminded the group that anyone needing an extra couple of feet could find some good deals on Hunters and in the store as it is reducing its inventory and preparing to move back to its original location.

Bill Ubelacker was introduced as the New Web Master; and he spoke on the new features available to the club membership. He also had a laptop ready for anyone needing assistance with creating a log on for the private membership only areas of the website.

Earl announced the silent auction that was taking place that day with items donated by the membership to help fund the coffers of the club.

Purser Linda Ubelacker presented a review of the budget and the fact that we went over budget last year; as Earl put it... We spent like Government Employees... Everyone was in agreement though that we had a very active and very good raft season last year and well worth it. Linda also presented to the membership the new style Club logo shirts which are embroidered golf style short sleeve shirts. They are available for order at \$20.00 each in white... other colors may be available, but the background of the club burgee will be the same color as the shirt.

Earl reminded the membership that up to \$100.00 can be spent by a sponsoring raft Captain without the need of prior authorization.

Earl also put out a call for assistance to the Boat members who lost their Captains last year. Specifically we are looking for anyone who can assist John Molnar who is taking the lead on helping JoAnn prepare Windependent for sale; specifically with waxing the hull and putting on a fresh coat of bottom paint. Winnie of Bert & Ernie was looking for assistance with her fuel system as the boat has sat for a couple of years; and the Winner of last years "Lead from Any Boat" Tom Schmidt offered his services. Judy of Mast Confusion who was in attendance at the meeting was deeply touched at the offer of help with preparing for the season.

Tom Schmidt again put the call out for anyone interested in joining the current nine members signed up for the Captains course that Starts March first in the same room as the meeting at Tidewater. By self advertising and putting a class together; Tom was able to significantly reduce the cost over publicly offered courses.

There was nothing to report from the Vice Commodore, Secretary, or anything further from the Purser.

Champagne is working on sponsoring a sail on the French Riviera in the June-July time frame of 2009. This is considered the off season and better pricing is available, as most of Europe waits for August to go on Holiday.

Paul Borchardt reviewed the Schedule and reminded the group to check the website, and that anyone who would like to sponsor a raft but may be hesitant to take on the task to see Tom for assistance. This year will also be planned a Delmarva cruise clockwise around possibly kicking off after Father's day for two weeks.

The Memorial Day Raft will be held again at the Maryland Yacht Club and will feature a Race and Fleet Photo; additionally we will hold a Commodore's Ball at the Baltimore Yacht Club with a date yet to be determined.

A final reminder from Earl to the group was the number on the back of your membership card can be used for a discount on a Boat US membership.

Afterward a not-so-silent Auction was held on the left over items to rally the crowd to increase the offers.

The meeting concluded at about 4:00 leaving time for everyone to check out the sales in the Tidewater Store.



By Eddie Sabol