



THE GULL

AQUIA HARBOUR YACHT CLUB

December 2009

Volume 22 Issue 8

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- Christmas Party
Dec 12
- New Years Eve
Dec 31
- Change of Watch
Celebration
Jan 16

Merry Christmas
Happy Holidays
All Hallow's Eve,
Chanukkah
Kwanzaa,
St. Lucia,
St. Nicholas Day,

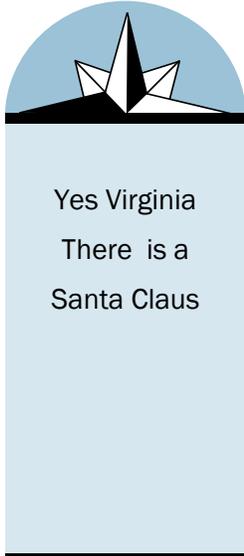
Ramadan,
Juletide,
Weihnachtszeit,
Dagur nemenda,
Winter Solstice,
Just to name a few.

Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

Dear Editor—

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in *The Sun*, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?
Virginia O'Hanlon

By Francis P. Church,
first published in *The New York Sun* in 1897



Yes Virginia
There is a
Santa Claus

We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of *The Sun*:

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect

Francis P. Church's editorial, "Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus" was an immediate sensation, and went on to become one of the most famous editorials ever written. It first appeared

as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no child-like faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa

over a hundred years ago, and was reprinted annually until 1949 when the paper went out of business.

The work of has since become history's most reprinted news-

Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

paper editorial, appearing in part or whole in dozens of languages in books, movies, and other editorials, and on posters and stamps.

Commodore—Jim Haislip



The year is almost gone, and this will be the last article from me as Commodore., and

it brings to mind the words written in needlepoint and framed on my grandmother's bedroom wall." All guests bring pleasure, if not in the coming then in the going."

It's been an interesting year and I would like to thank all of the Bridge for their service. Truly

Dodi, Thank you for your gentle and sometimes not so gentle advice.

John, Thanks for stepping in and good luck next year as Commodore, I'm sure you will continue to sail the club forward.

Brian, Great trip planning

and honors for your work with the clubhouse.

MJ, great note taking and another giver of advice gratefully accepted.

Steve, Treasurer for life, thanks with the numbers and as always your input.

And Sue, IPC—great talks, and really great chicken soup.

Somewhat like a ships log, i.e. that water spotted, wrinkled book where you recorded significant events of your cruises. Like, for instance, how many guests you had on board when you departed vs how many you had upon your return; Exactly what time the engine broke, how deep the water was supposed to be, that sort of thing. I've kept notes of important items in my term as Commodore. Not all my doing, just im-

portant events.

We have more members now that when we began this year.

Clubhouse Fridays are going great

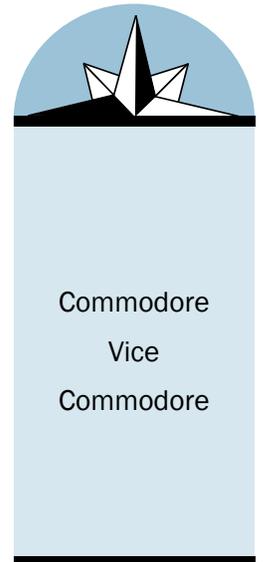
New siding on the clubhouse.

We have a Sea Scout Ship And so on.

Thanks to all members for all you do.

Jim,

Ps: I was going to conclude this article with a few sharp retorts concerning the rather caustic email I received lambasting me over among other perceived deficiencies, the annual Christmas vs Holiday party fight but decided that to do so would not be in the spirit of the season, would it? So I'm not.



Commodore
Vice
Commodore

Vice Commodore—Dodi Bunker



Our Vice

Commodore is travelling for the Holiday; yachting, cruising, flying, to, from or around somewhere, for

some time. But she wanted me to tell you all that she hopes you had a great Thanksgiving and looks forward to seeing you again soon.

There's nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child. ~Erma Bombeck,

Rear Commodore—John Malatak

‘Tis the Season

‘Tis the season – to do a lot of things. We are all going to be busy the next several months preparing for the holidays and then dismantling decorations, tossing wrapping paper, recovering from too much food and “adult beverages”, travel, etc. etc. Our ‘club’ is also busy ‘cause ‘tis the season for the Shore Committee, headed by Tom Klapak, to orchestrate two very significant shore related activities – our club Holiday Party (December 12th) and the Change of Watch (January 16th). Please mark your calendars to attend and participate in both events. After learning of what our Shore Committee has planned for both events, you don’t want to miss either of them.

Another significant event we have in December is our

General membership meeting, Tuesday the 1st. Why is this meeting ‘significant’? Because during this meeting the AHYC will be presented the Charter to Sea Scout Ship 212 by the Capitol District Office of the Boy Scouts of the USA. Please, please do attend our meeting, as we don’t want to have a small number in attendance for this ‘historic’ moment in our clubs history.

One final item from me this month is that this article will be my last as your Rear Commodore. The next article I write for the “Gull” I will be ready to assume the helm of our club as YOUR Commodore. I’m looking forward to the opportunity to serve in this capacity and working with our 2010 Bridge to plot a safe and enjoyable journey during 2010. I want to take this forum to publicly thank Commodore Jim Haislip for his service to our club as well as our other bridge members,

Vice Commodore Dodi, Fleet Captain Brian, Secretary “MJ”, and Treasurer Steve for all they have done to keep the club moving forward and seeking sunny spots filled with fun. I’m going to be proposing several new concepts during my tenure as your Commodore and want you all to know that I’m open to all suggestions and seek your input regarding ‘our’ issues and programs. I do know that right out of the slip, we need a Rear Commodore. We also need volunteers for our various committees. Some may think that the bridge is the backbone of the AHYC. Well, not really. The back bone is our committees and their structure. Without committees and leaders on these committees we have no club. So..... please step forward and do what you can to help me and the 2010 Bridge meet success next year by **HAVING FUN ALONG THE WAY.**



Secretary—Mary Jane Surina

Happy Holiday Wishes to you and your family. I cannot believe that Christmas is right around the corner. My how time flies when you are having fun!

I was out of town due to death in family but I understand the New Members Appreciation night was a huge success. Thank you Dodi

for organizing this event.

A friendly reminder – don't forget the membership dues are due in January 2010. The first one to renew their membership will get five 50-50 tickets for the drawing at the February membership meeting or a free drink.

Also, don't forget about the Christmas Party and the COW events coming up.

Please come to the monthly meetings and buy 50-50 tickets. The proceeds help build our club checking account!

MJ Surina CAP

Fleet Captain—Brian Vukolic



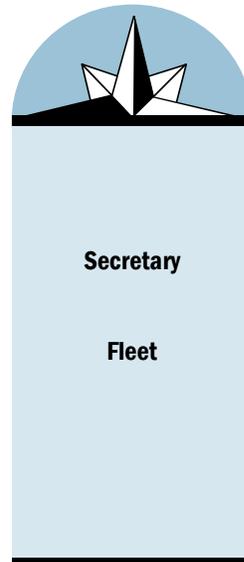
AHOY THERE and greetings to all from your Fleet Cap-

tain! Where did November go?! It's hard to believe it's December already and the boating season has just about come to an end for 2009. It was a great year. We started the year off with a trip to Colonial Beach and a great turn out. We had over 9 boats and around 30 members. Those numbers set a trend for the rest of the summer on all fleet trips. As your Fleet Captain, I

assumed the billet with little to no experience and have grown from the positives, the negatives, and my own mistakes that have come along with the billet. I would like to thank everyone that has given me advice and helped me along the way. Throughout the year numerous members have had great ideas and trips planned, but remember unless you communicate them to the fleet Captain. Most of the members in the club do not get the information. The fleet Captain doesn't plan trips that he wants to do, He plans what the members would like to do and ensures that everyone get

the details. I would ask that for the 2010 season that we all work together and unit as a club to make it the best possible year it can be. As most of you know, I have just received orders to move to Camp Lejuene at the end of May 2010. I have sold My boat "No Worries", but I do have my eye on a few! I will be the acting Fleet Captain for the 2010 bridge until Darrel takes my place upon me executing orders. To all thank you and it was a pleasure working for you!

Respectfully your Fleet Captain,



Secretary

Fleet

Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall. ~Larry Wilde, *The Merry Book of Christmas*

Treasurer—Steve Martino

Well the Turkey was cooked
then eaten, December is upon
us, and the other Holiday
(Whichever you observe) I
call it Christmas is coming
fast. Plan wisely, be careful,
but most important, please
enjoy it. Happy Holidays!



12/1/2009 Account Balance

ASSETS

Cash and Bank Accounts

AHYC Checking	989.23
Emergency Fund	0.00
Impress Fund	26.51
Monthly International or Event Friday's	456.43
Welfare Fund	21.79

TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts 1,493.96

Other Assets

Clubhouse Bldg Fund	0.00
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TOTAL Other Assets 0.00

TOTAL ASSETS 1,493.96

LIABILITIES 0.00

OVERALL TOTAL 1,493.96

Christmas is a time when you get homesick - even when you're home.
~Carol Nelson

The Origin of Santa Claus

Nicholas was born in Parara, Turkey in 270 CE and later became Bishop of Myra. He was only named a saint in the 19th century.

Nicholas was among the most senior bishops who convened the Council of Nicaea in 325 CE and created the New Testament.

In 1087, a group of sailors who idolized Nicholas moved his bones from Turkey to a sanctuary in Bari, Italy. There Nicholas supplanted a female boon-giving deity called The Grandmother, or Pasqua Epiphania, who used to fill the children's stockings with her gifts. The Grandmother was ousted from her shrine at Bari, which became the center of the Nicholas cult. Members of this group gave each other gifts during a pageant they conducted annually on the anniversary of Nicholas' death, December 6.

The Nicholas cult spread north until it was adopted by German and Celtic pagans. These groups worshipped a pantheon led by Woden –their chief god and the father of Thor, Balder, and Tiw. Woden had a long, white beard and rode a

horse through the heavens one evening each Autumn. When Nicholas merged with Woden, he shed his Mediterranean appearance, grew a beard, mounted a flying horse, rescheduled his flight for December, and donned heavy winter clothing.

In a bid for pagan adherents in Northern Europe, the Catholic Church adopted the Nicholas cult and taught that he did (and they should) distribute gifts on December 25th instead of December 6th.

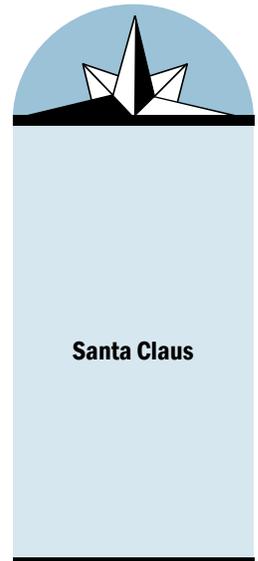
In 1809, the novelist Washington Irving (most famous his *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *Rip Van Winkle*) wrote a satire of Dutch culture entitled *Knickerbocker History*. The satire refers several times to the white bearded, flying-horse riding Saint Nicholas using his Dutch name, Santa Claus.

Dr. Clement Moore, a professor at Union Seminary, read *Knickerbocker History*, and in 1822 he published a poem based on the character Santa Claus: "Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The stockings were hung by the chim-

ney with care, in the hope that Saint Nicholas soon would be there..." Moore innovated by portraying a Santa with eight reindeer who descended through chimneys.

The Bavarian illustrator Thomas Nast almost completed the modern picture of Santa Claus. From 1862 through 1886, based on Moore's poem, Nast drew more than 2,200 cartoon images of Santa for *Harper's Weekly*. Before Nast, Saint Nicholas had been pictured as everything from a stern looking bishop to a gnome-like figure in a frock. Nast also gave Santa a home at the North Pole, his workshop filled with elves, and his list of the good and bad children of the world. All Santa was missing was his red outfit.

In 1931, the Coca Cola Corporation contracted the Swedish commercial artist Haddon Sundblom to create a coke-drinking Santa. Sundblom modeled his Santa on his friend Lou Prentice, chosen for his cheerful, chubby face. The corporation insisted that Santa's fur-trimmed suit be bright, Coca Cola red. And Santa was born – a blend of Christian crusader, pagan god, and commercial idol.



AQUIA HARBOUR YACHT CLUB Holiday Party

Where: AHYC Clubhouse

When: Saturday, December 12th, 2009 at 7 PM

Hot Hors d'oeuvres & finger foods!

We will again have a **Thieves Gift Exchange**. If you'd like to join, bring a wrapped gift between \$10 and \$12 - either one gift per couple or one gift per individual (or none). Each gift you bring entitles you to one gift in return.

**OPEN TO ALL AHYC FAMILY MEMBERS
PLEASE BRING TWO NON-PERISHABLE FOOD
ITEMS** FOR THE HOMELESS**

**peanut butter, jelly, canned goods, crackers, canned ham, breakfast cereals, juice, powdered drink mixes, soups, tuna, pasta, sauce, gravy mix, box mashed potatoes, cookies, pop tarts, snacks, pancake mix, syrup, etc.

PS, Santa might come in from the North Pole!



First Place

Outdoor Christmas Display

Commodore

PRYCA Delegate
CBYCA Delegate
AHYCA Steward

Community Action

Vice Commodore

Education and Training
Gull Editor
Health and Welfare
Webmaster
Historian
Education and Training

Rear Commodore

Supply Officer
Shore Chair

Jim Haislip

PC Curt Johnson
Tom Kenavan
D Adams / G Sirbaugh \
Dwight Schmidt

Dodi Bunker

Jim Haislip
Linda Witson
Keith Klapak
Tom Kenavan
Tom Klapak

John Malatak

Steve Martino
Tom Klapak

Fleet Captain

Fleet Chair
Service
Fleet Surgeon

Secretary

Telephone
Membership
50/50

Treasurer

IPC

Brian Vukelic

Dwight Schmidt
Joanne Hess

Mary Jane Surina

Steve Martino

Susan West

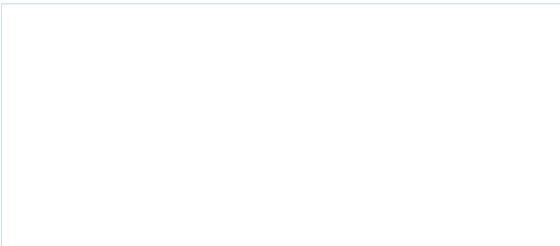


Aquia Harbour Yacht Club

P.O. Box 905
Stafford, VA, 22555

**FIRST ON THE
WATER**

**We are on the Web
www.ahyc.org**



PRYC.Delegate@ahyc.org
CBYCA.Delegate@ahyc.org
Historian@ahyc.org
Webmaster@ahyc.org
Fleet.Surgeon@ahyc.org
Stewart@ahyc.org
Health.Welfare@ahyc.org

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