

The Helm!



Issue 1, Number 3

The Executive Committee's Bi-Annual Newsletter for the Members of the Commander Club

March 2009

Spring is Coming



You can tell that Spring is upon the northern hemisphere... If for no other reason than the amount of posts on our Yahoo! Groups page are increasing rapidly.



As you look to the start of another boating season, take the time to review the safety of your Commander. A yearly review of your systems should always be at the top of your list. Check your bilge pumps, hoses, electrical systems, fire suppression devices, etc. If you haven't already, create a check list of things to review on a regular basis. These simple things can ensure that your Commander remains in tip-top shape and continues to bring you and your family boating bliss.



I'd also like to take a moment to remind you of the **Chris Craft Commander Club Rendezvous** – a celebration of our 10th year as **THE** resource for all things Commander. This year's Rendezvous is taking place at the Kent Island Yacht Club on the beautiful Chesapeake Bay. It is shaping up to be the best yet... check out the details of the event on our website (www.commanderclub.com), and sign up today. If you've attended past Rendezvous', you know what a great time it is. If you haven't attended an official Rendezvous – take this opportunity to see what it's all about and come celebrate our 10th year with us! You won't be disappointed.



Chris Orphal

Chief Commander
Chris Craft Commander Club
www.commanderclub.com

Club Donation

With great fanfare, suits, ties and big smiles, Rob Cutchins, on behalf of the entire organization, handed over a \$1000 check to Mariner's Museum Vice-President, William Kogar and Chris Craft Archivist, Jerry Conrad.

After the flashbulbs dimmed, and the ties were loosened a bit, Rob was invited to the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new research library, which houses the Chris Craft archives. Many dignitaries and other important museum contributors were present to witness this great event.

The new research library is located on the campus of Christopher Newport University, in the Paul S. Tribble Library.

The club hopes to become regular contributors to the museum as it continues its archiving work on the exhaustive documentation kept by Chris Craft Corporation from the 1920's through the late 1970's when it turned over this collection to the Mariner's Museum.



l to r: William Kogar, Jerry Conrad, Rob Cutchins

Summer Rendezvous July 16-19

Executive Committee

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Celebrating 10 Years as the Leader!

In 1999, gas prices were on average, \$1.16 per gallon. Detroit's Tiger Stadium closed, and Jesse Ventura became the Governor of Minnesota. Also, in November of that year 5 enthusiastic members of the Chris Craft Antique Boat Club's email forum decided it was time to venture out on their own to see if they could make it as a club. The Chris Craft Commander Club was born, and from there, membership grew annually.

Today, the Chris Craft Commander Club, Inc., supports well over 1000 members, and remains the quintessential resource for owners of Commanders (and other fine Chris Craft models). What remains amazing to many is the fact the organization remains a "dues-free" club. No dues have ever been asked of members, and yet, the benefits continue to get richer and more abundant as time marches forward.

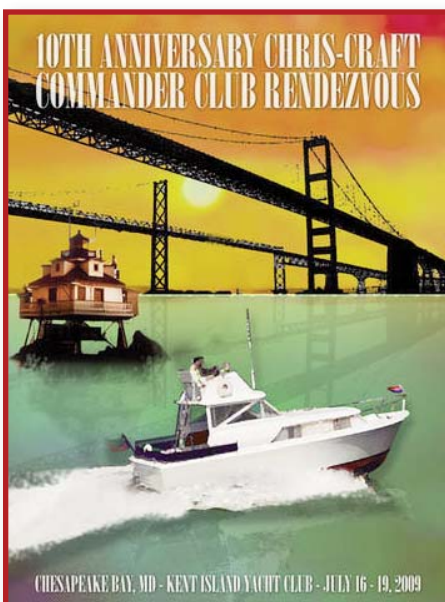
How do we continue to provide such a magnificent benefit to our members? Member support. Without each of the club's members, and the support they lend to each other, the organization would have faltered long ago. Instead,

we continue to see members helping each other daily, as they try to keep these boats running, keep them in great shape and continue the legacy that Chris Craft started 45 years ago, when they debuted the 38' Commander Express in New York.

We, as an Executive Committee, are committed to making your membership experience a great one. However, it takes more than the dedication of 6 individuals to make the club work. Your continued and undying support of our mission is critical.

You have supplied this support for 10 years, and we ask that you continue to do the very thing that has made this club what it is today - **KEEP HELPING EACH OTHER!** We'll do our best to handle the grunt work. You continue to provide each other the support and technical advice, and I guarantee you, we will be looking at visiting this subject again when we celebrate 20 years!

Warm regards,
Rob Cutchins,
Founding Member/PR Charimain



2009 Rendezvous: You Are Invited!

You are cordially invited to join other Commander fanatics for 4 days of fun, food and great camaraderie. Those of you who have attended a Commander Club Rendezvous will instantly drum up great memories from past meets of newfound friendships, great boat tours, spectacular boat rides, and terrific food and drink. What you can't be prepared for, having attended a previous event, is the spectacular 2009 soiree planned by event hosts, Eileen Powers and Fred Delavan. Unlike any other rendezvous you've attended, this one will top the cake.

To experience it, you have to register and attend. For those who haven't attended a club gathering, you are in for the time of your life.

Don't blame us if you walk away wishing there was just one more day in the event, or wish you had more time to chat with newfound friends, or one more chance to see the beautiful Chesapeake Bay. That's just the way it goes! Details found at: www.commanderclub.com Don't miss it!