

The Helm!



Issue 2

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

September 2007

From the Chief Commander...

Greetings Fellow Commander Club Member!

Welcome to the next edition of the Helm! If you're a northern hemisphere boater like me, the sad end of the 2007 boating season is fast approaching. Of course it lends itself to one of the best days of the year – unwrapping the boat after a long winter's nap, and getting her ready for the next boating season! How many more months 'til March???

A lot of great things have been happening with the Chris Craft Commander Club lately, all of which continue to build upon the success that we've enjoyed since the club was founded back in November 1999. This August, we had one of the most successful Rendezvous in the club's history. This year's event was held in Algonac, MI, on the grounds of the old Chris Craft factory. In addition to a spectacular turnout, the club and its members were able to raise over \$500 which was donated to the Algonac Historical Society (which continues to spotlight the heritage of Chris Craft). On a side note, if you think you'd like to host next year's Rendezvous, please visit the website – applications for hosting are due by October 31st.

With a successful Rendezvous behind us, it was time to move onto continuing the mission of bringing further improvements to the club. Have you been to the Dock Shop lately? If not, then it's time to surf over there to see the new offerings – most notably the **new and improved SuperDisk 2.0 (Complete and Upgrade Editions)**, and an expanded apparel line. Just in time for the holidays, it's a great way to shop for your Captain or First Mate!

While the above items are easily visible, the

Executive Committee has continued to work behind the scenes through scheduled monthly conference calls to discuss club matters. We now have a much-improved (and clean) membership data base, as well as an automated process to welcome new members to the club. If you're a recent new member, you no doubt have received a nice welcome letter, and quite possibly a phone call from our Membership Chairman, Whitney Pillsbury.

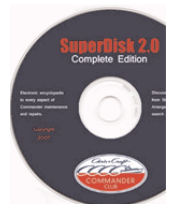
Coming soon to a mailbox near you will be the long overdue, and much anticipated Styled in Fiberglass. It'll be packed with articles and photos for you to enjoy. As always, if you have a story you'd like to share, please forward it to our Public Relations Chairman, Rob Cutchins.

As a club, we've certainly come a long way over the years, but two things have remained constant... our love of these classic Commanders and a steadily increasing membership ready to offer help and insight in restoring, repairing and preserving them. Thank you for being a part of it all!

Chris Orphal
Chief Commander

SuperDisk 2.0 Released

The long awaited release of the club's SuperDisk 2.0 is finally a reality. This hugely successful resource disk is in its 6th year, and has been lauded by many as the Club's single most important contribution to its members. This item is available through the club's **Dock Shop** (www.commanderclub.com).



We're online at www.commanderclub.com

Executive Committee

Contact Info...

Chris Orphal,
Chief Commander
Chris.Orphal@acresgroup.com

Rob Cutchins,
Public Relations
robert@commanderclub.com

Char Pike,
Archivist
charpike@yahoo.com

Alarik Von Hofsten,
Webmaster
alarik@alarik.com

Whitney Pillsbury,
Membership Chairman
WPillsbury@aol.com

Lyn Orphal,
Treasurer
impalass@mc.net

www.commanderclub.com

Membership News

Since Whitney Pillsbury took over as the club's Membership Chairman, much has been happening behind the scenes. His first task was getting the nearly 1000 registered member's information into a safe, central location. The Commander Club is now utilizing an online database that allows the Executive Committee to access the data from anywhere. Now when a new member enters their registration data on **commanderclub.com** it is automatically logged on our secure server. New members will automatically get a welcome email and be directed to an informational page after clicking the [SUBMIT] button. Immediately following, our Membership Chairman receives an alert on his phone! Mr. Pillsbury is making every attempt to call each new member right away to welcome them aboard! If the truth be known, he's probably just showing off his new iPhone!

Pillsbury says, *"New members are so moved by a simple phone call. They love talking about their Commander (some registering their newly-acquired Commanders). At first they think I'm selling something, but then they light up like a kid in a candy store. It's really exciting knowing that we have such a vast and diverse membership, and I'm honored to maintain this digital logbook of some of the finest boats ever designed and built."*

Future plans include the ability for members to search and find fellow Commander owners with similar models/engines/questions/answers, etc.

We are already reaping the rewards of our new membership system, and we look forward to continued improvements on this already successful process.

Now Over 850 Members Worldwide!



The Chris Craft Commander Club
215 Idlewood Avenue
Portsmouth, Virginia 23704-1525