

The Helm!



Issue 4

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

September 2010



The Chief Commander's Report

Ahoy Commanderos!

Hardly believing it already, but it seems the boating season (at least for us in the Great Lakes) is slowly drawing to a close. It's been a busy year for us here at the CCCC for sure. Our annual Rendezvous, this year held in Huron, OH, drew a record crowd of nearly 300 people and 70 Boats!! Some of the finest vessels I've seen in a long time. Kudos and thanks again go out to Matt O'Donnell and Tim Toth on a job well done!!!!



In regards to the "inner goings on" of the club here, we have lots happening. We are looking into some possible changes as to our e mail list server as we seem to be outgrowing the "yahoo groups" site. We are also looking intently into changing our corporate status as a club to a "non-profit" organization for tax and accounting savings.



We may also be looking into the possibility of a revamping and updating of our club bylaws here and there to "finesse" them as our club has grown and changed over the years.



We are actively seeking some input from the members regarding future rendezvous sites. Even though its a fact that the largest concentration of our vessels still resides here in the Great Lakes area, we have received much feedback from members wishing to attend rendezvous' in a few new locations. So its time to "step up" to the proverbial plate here folks! Don't just inundate us here with "have it here" or "how about there??"----- we need members who are willing to actually chair and volunteer to make a rendezvous happen.



Our membership roster is still steadily growing and new Commanders are showing up all the time!! A good sign!!



I had the pleasure of attending our 7th annual "Motor City Motley Crew" rendezvous this past weekend at the ever opulent and stately Detroit Yacht Club. We had a light crowd this year but a few of the regulars braved the rain showers Sat am and a few even partook in the Bloody Mary assembly tutorial put on by yours truly on Main Dock aboard Mike Adam's pristine 47 Commander. We even met new members George and Colleen. That had just returned from upstate NY

where they plucked the flybridge off Whitney's 55 Commander for replacement on their own newly acquired 55 footer!!

A great time was had by all.

As autumn and quieter boating days approach I wish for one and all, fair skies and calm seas out on the horizon!!!

- Scott Anderson

The Archivist's Report

The month of August 2010 was the third busiest August on the message board in eleven years. We had 375 posts. Of these, 82 were archived with 37 attachments.

Since the beginning of the year, the message board contains 2733 posts. Of these, 933 have been archived with 326 attachments. Links to photo albums of projects and the rendezvous have also been archived.

The archiving committee plans on having Superdisk 6.0 available in the spring of 2011. We are also collecting materials for Resource Collection Volume II which does not have a publication date scheduled in the near future. We really appreciate all the members who take the time to document their projects with photos and detailed "how to" instructions. We also like when members share PDF copies of manuals, diagrams and brochures. Your contributions help to preserve EVERY ASPECT of our beloved Commanders.

The **SuperDisk** is sold to Commander Members. The proceeds are used to finance and support many of the things our Club offers, including its periodic newsletter, in-the-water events, website, charity, etc.

Treat yourself and your Commander to the best resource on the care and repair of these great boats!!

<http://www.commanderclub.com/Archive/Superdisk.htm>

-Char Pike

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Treasurer's Report

Quick note to bring our club members up-to-date with our financial status. Currently, the club has about \$9800.00 in our account. Our income comes from three different areas: 1) Commission on the Sale of items through our Dock Shop (Café Press); 2) Donations from club members (selling their boat through our website, or just wanting to donate); 3) Rendezvous. Our expenses are minimal; taxes and accountant fees, legal registration fees, orders for burgees and t-shirts, artwork, miscellaneous reimbursements for Rendezvous expenses. For the past several years we have made an annual donation to the Mariner's Museum for the maintenance and archiving of Chris Craft records. Last year we donated \$1,000.

This year our Rendezvous was the biggest ever. We were fortunate to have the Fred Hudson interview, as he has since passed away. Hopefully, many of you had an opportunity to view it on line. With this additional expenditure, we did not walk away with a profit, however, we did almost break even.

The Executive Committee is now in discussion regarding the legal set up of our club. We are in discussion with our accountant and pursuing the possibility of re-establishing ourselves as a non-profit organization. This will save the club in taxes each year. We will keep you informed as we progress.

- Lyn Orphal

Webmaster's Report

Our website CommanderClub.com continues to attract members and other boating enthusiasts from all around the world. With over 800 publicly available pages and 1,250 pictures it is indeed an attractive source of information.

So far this year we have had 52,521 visits to our site. That is up a healthy 24% compared to last year. On average each visit results in almost 10 page views which sums up to a grand total of 502,000 pages viewed on our site in eight months. The busiest day was August 8th with 403 visits and a whopping 3,808 pageviews. Why so many that day? It was the Monday after the Rendezvous and lots of people looked at lots of photos.

Our Dockshop is another online offering that continues to be very popular with our members. The most attractive items are of course the SuperDisks, while the wall calendars usually are the best sellers around the Christmas holiday season. This year we also added a "Styled in Fiberglass" sport bag which proved to be a big hit.

- Alarik von Hofsten

The Membership Chairman's Report

A letter and sticker mailing went out on June 8th to 35 new members, and a September 17th mailing went out to 53 additional new members. There are now 1257 distinctly registered members in the official Chris-Craft Commander Club Registry.

- Whitney Pillsbury