



January 2026



Flag Officers 2026

Commodore: George Burns III
Past Commodore: Tom Safford
Vice Commodore: Greg Kowal
Rear Commodore: Tom Wik
Secretary: Chris Piede
Treasurer: Rachel Foley

Committee Chairs

Facilities: Charlie Kuell
House: Lydia Evans
Membership: Tracy Smith-Dengler
Social: Mike Dinoto
Education: Alan Freville
Race and Recreation: Jason Schmidt

Appointed

Dockmaster: Brett Christy
Newsletter: Sarah Nash Wallace
Website: Donna Bjurlin

Note From the Commodore – George Burns III

The cycle of the seasons continues. We had our first meeting of the year at the Elks Club on Central Avenue in Dunkirk on Tuesday January 13th. We will hold our meetings there on the 2nd Tuesday of the month until the club reopens. My goal is to keep these under an hour. We went a bit over that on Tuesday....

A few notes keep in mind;

1. Safety is paramount. Whether you are on a work party, on your boat at the dock or underway, or enjoying the camaraderie around the clubhouse we need to look out for ourselves and our shipmates. Those working the barge need to wear a floatation vest and hard hat. Those hanging over the edge from the dock need to wear a floatation vest or aid. Please make sure that those staying on their boat over night get safely to their boat.
2. We are members of the club to enjoy boating and the social experience of interacting with each other. It should be a place of refuge from the craziness of the world 50 yards away.
3. At our annual meeting the required work hours went from 10 to 15. Everyone should have a plan to meet these requirements.
4. Potentially, we might want to consider moving the annual meeting into October so that those who go south to escape the winter can attend. It seems as if it's always a struggle to get the bare minimum of members in order to vote on anything. Changes to the ByLaws need even more members present.
5. We plan to hold a preseason party in early May to honor our Life members/ "Legends". More to follow on that.
6. We are also going to institute an "Ancient Mariner" designation for the most senior member of the club. This designation will remain as long as that member remains a member in good standing.

See you next month. I'll miss the April meeting because I plan on walking the Portuguese Camino.

(Editor's note – for more information on the Portuguese Camino see [www.pilgrim.es>en>portuguese-way](http://www.pilgrim.es/en/portuguese-way))

Notes from the January 2026 DYC Meeting:

Secretary – Chris Piede noted that during our October meeting, Tom Safford suggested **moving the annual meeting and banquet up to late September or October to increase attendance of voting members**. More to come on this.

Membership -- Tracy Smith-Dengler

New Member Applications: John Good (Stephanie McCann, Tracy Smith-Dengler)
Jared Trinkle (Tracy Smith-Dengler, Mike Swenson)

Senior to Life Member: Four members upcoming in May 2026

Waiting List Status: 30 Currently on Waiting List

Membership Status: 89 Active Members with 88 Assigned Slips

Membership Planning 2025: Digitize DYC Member Records

Notes: A few members were missing work hours from 2025 that require resolution

Treasurer's Report – Rachel Foley discussed the decision for Life members and members without boats to be required to pay the infrastructure fee, as approved at the November 2025 meeting. This was verified and bills will go out including that fee. **If you haven't gotten your annual invoice** with fees and dues yet, please email Rachel at rachel.foley@yahoo.com and she will make sure you get your copy.

Facilities – Charlie Kuell noted that more bubblers have been installed, and that damage has not been bad so far this year. One of our rowboats came loose in a storm but was retrieved out by Jerboa Street – thank you to the Kuzdale family!! The big project for 2026 will be Pedestals on North Dock, which will be done in small segments. Plans are being made for **Tuesday night work parties this year starting at 5 pm** – a survey for participation in these will be included in our annual bills, so keep an eye out for that!!

Education – Alan Freville discussed that we need a better way to get students, particularly older students from the main level to the lower level of our docks to get into the sailboats easier. A floating dock was discussed, also the possibility of rebuilding the dock at the end of East Dock. More to come on this.

Newsletter – Sarah Nash Wallace asked for members **to forward pictures and/or family news to her if you'd like it to be shared in the Newsletter**. Also, if you didn't get your invoice yet for this season, please email Rachel Foley and she will get that to you.

Webmaster - Donna Bjurlin has taken over this important position, and is working with Tracy to form an Automation Committee. More on this to come!

Rear Commodore – Tom Wik is looking for input for long-range planning, and is ready to start these meetings before the season starts. If you have ideas, please contact Tom!

Vice Commodore – Greg Kowal noted that members need to be aware that **our work hour policy has increased from 10 to 15 hours per season**. Please plan accordingly so that your hours are completed. A reminder will go out to members with their dues/fees invoices.

Member News



Donna Bjurlin has purchased a Morgan 462 in Florida, with plans to sail it to Tortola once she's finished working on it – beautiful boat, Donna!

Marv and Tina came down to visit and check it out. Hopefully she'll be sailing soon!



Mike and Sarah Wallace have been taking their hybrid boat *Just One More* to Savannah Georgia; through the Erie Canal, down the Hudson River, and down the ICW. Quite an adventure! They met up with Kirk and Sharon Frey in Little River, South Carolina for dinner at the Captain's Club in the Myrtle Beach Yacht Club. A great meet-up with DYC members!



**Next Meeting: Tuesday February 10th 2026 – 7 p.m. Dunkirk Elks Club
Online Meeting via Zoom**



Brrrrrrrrrrrr!!!! A reminder that the change of seasons can still be beautiful!!

