

## **Cedar Mar Yacht Club**

Commodore's Dinner 10/30/21

### Commodore's Remarks

First of all, I'd like to welcome you all to the 2021 Commodore's Dinner. As you can obviously see, we've experienced a serious loss of members. It used to be, at one point in time, that we were growing so fast that we were outgrowing our traditional venues for events and had a hard time finding places that could hold us; now, we are shrinking, and we need to find smaller venues *OR* grow the club once again. I would much prefer to grow the club.

Beyond welcoming you to this annual affair, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Charley Webb for his years of service as Commodore, and in other positions along the way. Charley stayed on as Commodore way beyond his "normal" term because we couldn't find anyone to step up to take his place and we had a few people leave who were normally in the queue for moving up. Also, Charley hung in there while COVID-19 wreaked havoc with many companies and organizations. For his efforts, and as a way to say "thank you" to Charley, we have this parting gift. It's a replica of an ancient astrolabe, which is an instrument used by early astronomers to measure the altitude of stars and planets to help them navigate dangerous and unfamiliar waters. We appreciate what Charley has done and wish him all the best, calm waters and following seas. We

also have something else for Charley, but the supply chain problems we are all experiencing has reared its ugly head and we have to delay presenting his second gift until we can get things worked out.

We appreciate the time and effort Charley made to help the Cedar Mar Yacht Club survive in extremely difficult times. And that's what I would like to talk to you about tonight.

It's clear to me that since the outbreak of the pandemic, many clubs, including ours, have had to curtail a lot of their normal activities. Consequently, many members felt that the club wasn't really doing anything, so why bother joining or renewing their membership. As a result of COVID, we cut back on our events, such as the Lobster Fest, we didn't hold elections and as a result, we've lost nearly 30% of our members. Of course, there are other reasons, but that seems to be the big one.

Recently, I stepped in to help and was appointed "interim Commodore" by the Bridge & Board to give Charley a rest and to assist in getting things "back to normal". As such, I would like to get back to "regular order" as quickly as possible. That means holding elections as soon as possible and bringing back "normal" activities, such as the Lobster Fest as soon as practical. Most of us has been recipients of the miraculous

COVID vaccine and we should be able to gather without too much risk.

I've convened a Bridge & Board meeting for tomorrow morning at the home of Pat & Bill Templeton and we will be working on our 2022 Events Calendar. For now, please know that we will be working very hard to put Humpty Dumpty back together again and continue to build our membership once more. What we really need now are members to step up and help out wherever and however they can. That doesn't mean you have to hold a position on the Bridge & Board or volunteer for every event. But it does mean that I would personally request that you think about boating friends that would possibly be interested in joining our club. Reach out to them or let us know and we'll reach out to them. And, speaking about joining our club, I am a firm believer that you have to give people a reason to join, so I'm asking you to think about what we can do to attract more members. Maybe we should reach out to "old" members to recruit them to re-join. Maybe we should offer more educational programs (like the mid-winter educational seminar), perhaps we should continue the joint picnic with other clubs (such as the Tall Oaks Yacht Club) that we held after "The Last Hurrah". From what I saw, it seemed to be a big success and people really liked it.

Anyway, I'll end here with a plea to help us get back to "normal". If there's something you'd like to see us do, please

bring it to our attention. Conversely, if there's something you don't like, please let us know that too.

I hope you have a wonderful dinner. Please enjoy the evening and the music by Ricky DJ. It's my pleasure to serve as Commodore of this great and historic organization once again. I hope to see you once again at the Holiday Brunch right here on December 5th!