

# YANKEE POINT NEWS!

Volume 118

March 1, 2010



**The Ides of March (March 15<sup>th</sup>, I looked it up) is only two weeks away!** - Have you seen the buds on the trees? The eagles are building their nests now too. Soon the Ospreys will be back and spring will be here. The shades of brown are starting to fade and we will start seeing that new green of spring. Is there anybody out there not tired of white? My sympathies go out to my old friends in Maine, I can imagine the piles of snow and the several months of mud season they have to look forward to. Here at Yankee Point we have basically gotten the place ready to go except it's tough to get rid of those wet leaves just yet. As soon as we see a consistent 50°F we will begin bottom painting. All of the boats are prepped we just need it to get a few degrees warmer. Get ready. You will be on the water before you know it.

**Kiwanis Boat Auction:** Put it on your calendars now - the date for the Auction is Saturday May 8, 2010. So far they have 26 boats donated and they are expecting 45 by the time May rolls around. The deals are there to be had as usual. Also don't forget the Nautical Flea Market where you can get rid of your old boat stuff and get some new stuff to fill up your garage or boat house!

**NOTICE TO YOU MARINERS OUT THERE - LORAN-C Signals ceased transmission on February 8, 2010.** Your equipment isn't broken, it's just worthless. Might as well pull it off the boat along with the antenna. Consider it spring cleaning.

**NEW SAFETY PRODUCT-** Ken Abrams noticed a new safety product on the market that is worthy of mention. It replaces the bulky horseshoe buoy which as everyone knows is tough to throw and sometimes takes some wrangling to get out of the holder. This is a **Mustang™ Survival Rescue Stick:: MRD100** which is basically thrown like you would throw a stick to a dog (it's that simple). On landing in the water it inflates into a horseshoe float for a person. They say it can be thrown 100' and they even include a practice stick! It retails from \$140 to \$160 but is available from the discount houses as well. We can order it or you can. It is such a good idea that I thought it worthy of mention wherever you get it. Here is what it looks like:



Check it out at this website: <http://www.mustangsurvival.com/products/product.php?id=538&mc=11>

**YP Poolside Café-** Well we're back in the "Temporarily Closed" mode again as we had to part ways with our cook. Karen is looking for a new Chef so if anyone has any ideas, please give her a call at 804-462-7018.

**Bath House Showers** – As you know if you use the showers here at the marina, the shower stalls have been looking a little shabby lately. It's understandable. They are probably 20 years old! This winter we considered removing and replacing them but after completing the installation of the Fibersteel™ walls last year tearing them out to replace the stalls didn't make much sense. So we did the next best thing. Last month we replaced all of the hardware including valves and then we rolled and tipped the stalls with Awl Grip including non-skid on the stall floors. After all we are a boatyard and doo fiberglass painting all the time! Also we got rid of the shower curtains and installed glass doors that should keep the floors relatively dry. Take a look they came out beautifully thanks to Mike Kues, Mike McCartney and Leonard Scott.

**We are still talking to the Yacht Club!** Before I sent out the February newsletter, I called the Chair of the YPYC Planning Committee to be sure that they really wanted to part ways. To make a long story short, they still wanted to talk and while the official decision stood at final separation between us, there appeared to be a window of opportunity. I modified my verbiage slightly to keep the dream alive! Contrary to popular belief we do want to keep the club at the marina but in a more reasonable form. So talk we did and I think we have the foundation for an agreement that will allow us to share the use of space above the Ship's Store in such a way that it will be a benefit to both the Yacht Club and the Marina and its slip holders. I just saw an email from the Commodore that there will be a meeting on March 20, to go over the details but for some reason the word "Share" or the idea of sharing the space was not obvious to me from that letter. I think that everyone should understand what we have been discussing.

The change will still not occur until January 2011. The basic situation is this, Karen and I are here all the time and we can definitely say that the YPYC uses the space they have been leasing less than 33% of the time that they (we) are paying for! Monday through Thursday, with a few exceptions during the season especially in the evenings on Wednesday and Thursdays, there simply is nobody using the place. As business people in a down economy, we have to make the best use of the assets that we have. We have proposed a way to share the facility and both reduce the cost to the YC and enhance the benefits of having a slip here at YP. If we can pre-schedule the days that the YC wants the use of the facility and then pro-rate the leasing charges to a daily rate, the YC could end up spending less than half of the amount that they currently spend on the facility. That amounts to possibly lower dues or any number of other options for YC members and also would allow Karen and I to utilize the space for what I wrote about in last month's newsletter. There are other details of course. There will be a relocated kitchen facility that will be available to the YC during the pre-determined dates that have been agreed upon annually and there are other points as well. We are also looking into the feasibility of expanding the waterside wall of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to the pilings of the deck and adding a partial third floor on the water side that would accommodate a patio like setting to sit and watch the sunset and enjoy your favorite drink and appetizer. I MUST EMPHASIZE HOWEVER THAT NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE BY EITHER SIDE BUT THAT'S THE GUTS OF THE PROPOSAL.

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The upper floor of the Ship's Store building will still be renovated by YPSM and the changes will be made in order to enhance to possible uses of the facility. Most importantly of all to our slip lease holders is that the facility will become the **Yankee Point Marina Activity Center** for the dates not pre-negotiated to be reserved for the YC use. A family membership will be included in all slip lease contracts. In addition we will be including a full family pool membership in the slip lease contracts. This greatly enhances the value of a slip lease in our opinion. What we are trying to achieve is a balance that both helps the YC remain here and provide an all inclusive family friendly atmosphere that will bring the whole marina family together because of shared interests (we are all here to enjoy boating and the camaraderie of other boaters) and provide a facility that can be used for multiple purposes. We think that being able to operate without a board of directors and various committees should make for a flexible and fun Center. For example, we envision the space being able to support:

- Special events like dances, sports nights (we will add Direct TV and a big screen TV) which will be on an ad hoc basis based on the desires of the participants in the Center.
- The ability to reserve the space for family, business or other events (i.e. wedding receptions or dinners, catered meetings, DIY workshops, etc.)
- Catering by the Pool Side Café via an intercom direct to the café.
- Handicapped accessibility (we are looking at exterior elevators to get folks and the catered food etc. up to the second floor).
- Basically we want to better use the space so that it is used most of the time rather than occasionally and it is welcoming to any and all.

We are still working out the details but we may also be offering membership at a nominal cost to non-slip lease holders. We hope to work closely and cooperatively with the Yacht Club in this transition.

**Part Time Store Clerk Needed:** Laura Dent has decided to enjoy her retirement more fully by giving up her bi-weekly stint as store clerk for our marine store. We wish her well and thank her for her help over the last five years. We now have a position open for store clerk every other weekend (Bill Haglan works the opposite weekends). If you are interested, the salary won't make you rich but it is a great way to meet people and keep up with the goings on in the area and the benefits (great store discounts, yard discounts, etc.) make it worthwhile for sure. If you are interested in joining the Yankee Point team, please contact Karen at 804-462-7018.

**Winter Hours are still in effect:** The Ship's store, the marina and yard and the Pool Side Café are closed on Sundays until April 1.

**Canvas Work Sail Cleaning;** Now is the time to gather your sails for cleaning and order any canvas work for next year. Our subcontractors tend to get booked up early and it is always first come, first served. Let us know what you need as soon as possible so that you have your gear back for the spring launch.

**BOATS/GEAR FOR SALE:** We have taken title to a couple of nice sailboats that were abandoned in our yard. The wheels of justice grind slowly but we now have two used sailboats to go along with the beautiful Penobscot 14 rowing dinghy that Wayne Bishop built for us.

-1976 Morgan 28' Out Islander will be going up for sale shortly. It has a Yanmar engine and is surprisingly good condition. It currently lacks sails and while we would sell it now for \$2k (as is).

- 19?? Advance 16' Day Sailor complete with two sails, full boat cover and trailer listed for \$3,000.

- 2009 Mahogany Penobscot 14 Rowing Dinghy with custom rudder and four oars listed for \$8,000 OBO.

We also are selling a 50 foot tapered mast/boom/spinnaker pole that would make a great flag pole. The price is \$500 if you are interested. A regular flag pole of this size cost more than \$5,000!

Fair Winds,

Ken and Karen

Yankee Point Sailboat Marina  
1303 Oak Hill Road  
Lancaster, VA 22503  
Return Service Requested

BULK RATE  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Permit No. 40  
Kilmarnock, VA 22482

