

# TMTA NEWS

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Our 39<sup>th</sup> Year

February 2004

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This new format for the newsletter will be used in the future so that we can distribute the newsletter primarily by email. If you are getting the newsletter by email, we will not send it by snail mail to save the Association the cost of printing and mailing. IF you would like it to be sent to several email addresses, please let us know, that is no problem at all. If you don't have email, we will continue (reluctantly) to mail the newsletter the old way. Thanks for your cooperation.*

## President's Message by Mark Drexler

Hello Fellow TMTA Members,

It looks like winter is going to be with us for a long time. This time of the year gives us some valuable opportunities in our Industry. Many of us use the time to catch up. Many of us are pro-active and use this time to re-tool our business to be ready for the spring time and our **BUSY** season.

Now is the time for members of TMTA to take a look at the direction of your organization. Are you satisfied with the works of your Board of Directors and Officers? Do you have ideas on how we can better meet the needs of our members and your business? Are you willing to more actively participate in guiding the organization?

In April, we have election of Officers and Board Members. Are you interested in shaping the future of TMTA? Are you willing to give up some of your time to better our Industry? If you are willing to serve on the Board of Directors or as an Officer let me know. If you do not want to become a Director or Officer I ask that you continue to actively support us by attending the meetings and sharing your ideas and experiences. We cannot be effective as an organization unless we have your input and support.

In closing, it is my sincere hope that you will attend as many meetings as possible. I promise you we will have Good food, Good fellowship, a good program and a few **SURPRISES**.

See you on February 18th. Mark

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## Next Meeting's Speaker Herb Austin. The meeting will be held on Feb 18, 2004 at 6:30 PM

- Pilot House Restaurant, Topping, VA Call (804) 462-7018 to make your reservation. If there is no answer, please leave a message!
- Guest Meal Fee: \$15.00
- Menu: Tossed Salad, Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Fried Oysters, Vegetable of the Day, Rolls & Banana Pudding

PLEASE BE SURE TO CALL FOR RESERVATIONS AT LEAST BY MONDAY SO THAT THE PILOT HOUSE CAN BE READY FOR US!

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**February's speaker** will be Herb Austin. His topic will be risk assessment, which seems particularly appropriate given what we have all been through in September 2003 with Isabel. He has some ideas to present to marina operators and will use MS Power Point© with his talk. We also hope to get an update from Don McCann of the NNPDC on the status of the Marine Trade School survey.

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## TMTA Name Tags are In! By John Hornsby

At our January meeting, Pete Hall and Guy Sorensen were wearing samples of our new name tags. We have gotten these made in order to help everyone get to know each other better. All the name tags are now in and I've discovered one error just in taking them out of the box. There are probably a few other errors and we need each member to check their own tag to see if it's correct. Come to our February meeting to check out your tag. Also we have made an attempt to get tags for guests who attend regularly, but have probably missed a few. New members will get name tags, but there may be a delay as we have to order in batches of at least eight to get a reasonable price.

The name tags will be displayed at the entrance to the meeting room at the start of the meeting. Please turn in your tag as you leave the meeting so we don't experience shrinkage as people take them home and forget them for the

next meeting. If we have to replace a lost name tag, there will be a \$10 replacement charge.

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## **Governmental Forum** by Pete Hall

### **Virginia Clean Marina Program Funding**

The Virginia Clean Marina Program is seeking funding from the General Assembly in order to continue operation. Current funds for the Program will run out the end of June 2004. The Program, which has been funded by the Federal Government up to now, will have to rely on state funding from here on out.

As a member of the Marina Technical and Environmental Advisory Committee, the body that coordinates and helps to administer the Clean Marina Program in Virginia, I have taken it upon myself to do whatever I can to assure that state funds are made available to continue this worthy program.

I have enlisted the help of Delegate Harvey Morgan, who has introduced an amendment to the Governor's Budget that provides "general fund dollars in both the first and second year of the biennium to continue operation of the Virginia Clean Marina Program. This program encourages marina owners and operators to better control the non-point source pollution associated with marina operation and recreational boating through the voluntary implementation of best management practices." These funds would come out of the Department of Conservation and Recreation's budget.

To cover both sides of the aisle, I have also contacted Senator Nick Rerras (Republican, 6th District) and Senator John Chichester (Republican, 28th District), to enlist their aid in the Senate. Senator Chichester is Chairman of the Finance Committee and is a member of the Agriculture Conservation and Natural Resources Committee. To date I have not had a response from either Chichester or Rerras, but I am forever hopeful.

In a recent e-mail from Tom Murray of VIMS I learned that Boat US and MOAA (Marina Operators Association of America) lobbyists are working in support of my efforts to secure the needed funds for the Virginia Clean Marina Program. I have taken these steps and made these contacts on behalf of TMTA, and I am hopeful that they will bear fruit for the benefit of the Association and the marine industry in the Commonwealth.

I also received a letter from Delegate Albert C. Pollard, Jr. regarding our collective concerns about the bottomland royalty proposal currently under consideration in the General Assembly. He stated that he is currently working on an amendment to a bill that would exempt existing commercial docks as well as those permitted prior to July 1, 2004. This amendment will also forgive past assessments on existing commercial docks.

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## **Maritime-Based Skills Training Project** by Guy Sorenson

The Virginia Workforce Council recently held an organizational meeting regarding the Maritime-Based Skills Training Program that Dr. Barbara Bolin is leading. The purpose of the project is to create a pipeline of skilled workers to meet maritime-based business and industry needs by increasing employment levels and closing skills gaps of potential workers. This project was initiated by the Secretary of Commerce and Trade through Virginia's participation in the National Governors Association Workforce Policy Academy.

During this organizational meeting, the Northern Neck Marine Trades School initiative was mentioned in a very positive light, with interest expressed in the possible use of the survey developed for that project to be used as a basis for another survey directed at Shipyards.

Representatives from community colleges, ship building, ship repair, workforce development and maritime training for sea-going personnel attended this organizational meeting.

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If you are receiving this Newsletter via mail and would like to get it via Email, please contact Ken Knull at [ken@yankeepointmarina.com](mailto:ken@yankeepointmarina.com) or call 804-462-7018

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