

Presidents Message by Mark Drexler

Next Meeting:
March 19, 2003
6:30 PM

- Pilot House Restaurant, Topping, VA Call (804) 462-7018 to make your reservation.
- Guest Meal Fee: \$15.00
- Menu: Crab Cakes, Fried Oysters
-

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

Inside this issue:

<i>Best Management Practices</i>	2
<i>Legislative Update</i>	2
<i>Deadline for RCC / TMTA Scholarship</i>	3
<i>Benefits of Membership in TMTA</i>	3
<i>2003/2004 Officers Slate Proposed</i>	3

Fellow TMTA Members,

What a good time to be involved in TMTA!!! Our membership is growing and with each new member comes new ideas and energy that helps us grow as individuals and an organization.

Your Board of Directors and Officers are

working very hard to keep everyone informed about things that will help each of us in our businesses. The March meeting will feature two guest speakers who will give us some insight on financial issues as well as the Clean Marina Program. In addition we will have election of Officers and Directors for the upcoming year.

We will also give you some information on a very special give-away to take place at our April Meeting.

I look forward to seeing each of you at our meeting on March 19. Bring a prospective member and be prepared for an informative and fun evening. Mark

HEADS UP! Don't Miss the April 16th

The final meeting of TMTA for this season will be held on April 16. There will be a drawing for a FANTASTIC PRIZE that you won't

want to miss. It involves major league sports, comfort and distance. More clues will be forth coming at the March meeting (March 19) and

in the next newsletter. You have to be at the April 16th meeting to win. So set the date on your calendar today!

March 19 Meeting Speakers—Tom Murray and Eric Nost

In last month's newsletter the text of a letter to Tom Murray of VIMS appeared. That letter requested a comprehensive study of the personal property boat tax in the areas served by TMTA. Tom has

designed the study and begun work on it. He will present his plan at the general meeting on March 19.

Additionally, Eric Nost from CNF Financial, will give a short pres-

entation on investment strategies in today's market. Eric is an avid boater and is sure to have a great idea where to invest those huge profits that the marine industry is always accused of making.

Best Management Practices

This new feature of the TMTA Newsletter will highlight a series of BMP's for Marina Management. These are taken directly from the Virginia Clean Marina Guidebook and might provide assistance to each of us.

This month's BMP is Staff Training:

A well trained staff will routinely minimize pollution, inde-

pendently answer patrons questions, and perform their duties more efficiently. The proper training will also contribute to a faster response time during emergencies.

Train the staff on the following Storm-water Pollution Prevention Plan:

- Used oil management

- Spent solvent management
- Proper disposal of spent abrasives
- Disposal of vessel wastewater
- Spill prevention and control
- Fueling Procedures
- General Good Housekeeping
- Painting and Blasting Procedures
- Used Battery Management

2003 General Assembly Update from VAMI....

In the January issue of this newsletter we reviewed several bills that were before the legislature in Richmond that relate to our industry. Here now is a follow up on the status of those bills.

The **following bills have passed** the House and Senate and await the Governors signature.

HB1525 Waterway 'pass through' zones which allows localities to enact ordinances establishing 'pass through' zones in portions of waterways within their territorial limits where watercraft traffic congestion routinely poses a significant safety risk to persons in the designated area.

HB 1526 Personal Watercraft Penalty allows localities to establish minimum distances from the shoreline that personal watercraft may be operated in excess of the slowest possible speed required to maintain steerage and headway.

HB 1681 Private Piers establishes size specifications for the VMRC private pier permit exemption. No permit would be required if the piers do not extend beyond the navigation line or private pier lines

established by the Army Corps of Engineers, and the piers do not exceed 6' in width and any "L" or "T" head construction does not exceed 25' in length and the piers are determined not to be a navigational hazard by VMRC.

The **following bills** have been passed by or failed to report in either the Finance Committee or the Agricultural, Chesapeake & Natural Resources Committee. In other words they **have been defeated for now at least**. It is possible that they could be reintroduced in the next session.

HB 1603 Corporate Income Tax Surtax would require Virginia corporate income taxpayers to pay an additional five percent surtax on their tax liability for taxable years beginning January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2004.

HB 1660 Personal Flotation Devices for Children would require all children under the age of 7 to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD on recreational vessels under 21 feet.

HB 1711 Watercraft and Aircraft Sales and Use Tax would increase the sales and use tax on watercraft

and aircraft to 3 percent. SB 760 Personal Watercraft Education Course would require all owners or operators of personal watercraft to successfully complete a boating safety course approved by the Director of the Department of Game & Inland Fisheries or an equivalent course in another state or country.

SB 761 Regulation of Outdoor Lighting Near Public Waterways would allow localities by ordinance to regulate outdoor lighting near public waterways so as to minimize glare and water surface reflections that may interfere with the ability of boat operators to maintain visual contact with illuminated navigational aids.

And lastly, the **following bill was tabled at the request of the patron of the bill** after discussions with VAMI lobbyists.

HB 2832 No Discharge Zone. Passage of this bill would have allowed the State Water Control Board to promulgate "no discharge" regulations at Smith Mountain Lake that are more restrictive than federal law.

Deadline for Rappahannock Community College Scholarship Nears

The annual TMTA Scholarship deadline is April 30. Any full or part time student is eligible but members and their families and member's employees and their families receive preference. Other eligibility criteria include:

- Must show interest in the marine industry.
- Must reside in Tidewater, VA in an area served by TMTA.
- Must possess a 2.5 high school GPA or 3.0 GPA for continuing college student.
- Applicant must be enrolled in a technical, business technology or engineering program of study.
- Must demonstrate leadership, good citizenship, community involvement and academic standing.

Interested students must apply to the college for the scholarship. Be sure to note your involvement in TMTA.

Benefits of Membership in TMTA

Every once in a while it is a good idea to remember just why we participate in TMTA. Here are a few of the benefits:

1. Networking among marine professionals. This is the best practical knowledge base and it is available for the asking at every meeting.
2. Participation in informative meetings and seminars by experts in the industry.
3. Participation in a large lobbying block for legislative issues that affect the industry (VAMI).
4. Preferential treatment for the TMTA sponsored scholarship to RCC.
5. Free subscription to this sterling publication!
6. Free listing on the TMTA website. Access to the TMTA library (which includes access to the ABYC CD's).

TMTA Board Proposes 2003/4 Officers Slate

The Nominating Committee for next year's officers has presented the slate of officers to the TMTA Board.

Officers:
 President— Mark Drexler
 Vice President— John Hornby
 Secretary— Kathy Morse
 Treasurer— Pete Hall

Directors:
 Lewis Muse
 Janice Clark
 Rob Redfern
 Ken Knull

TMTA Welcomes Another New Member!

Note: If you would like to receive this newsletter online, please let me know at ken@yankeepointmarina.com
