

# TMTA NEWS

Volume 13, Issue 12

Our 39<sup>th</sup> Year

March 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

Fellow TMTA members,

Your Board of Directors and Officers have been busy. We are trying hard to put together the Marine Trades School project and it looks like this is really going to happen soon. We are still pursuing information and tax data on the Boat Tax situation. We do not want this to be put on the side. We intend to make this an ongoing project. We have been monitoring the Bottom Land tax issue and feel that this will be brought forth to a conclusion that will benefit our members.

If any or all of these issues are of interest to you, please attend the March meeting where we will be giving you detailed information on all these subjects. I ask each and everyone to talk to your business associates and invite them to the meeting to hear about our Marine Trade School Project. This has a potential of doing good things for our industry, while helping to enhance the boating industry in our area.

We will be talking about the election of Officers and Directors and of a special event that will be held in April. I know you will be excited about the presentation we will have about the Trade School. I look forward to seeing each of you on March 17th.

Sincerely, Mark Drexler

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### Next Meeting's Speaker Tom Murray. The meeting will be held on March 17, 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, Steamed Shrimp, Fried Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Grilled Vegetables, Rolls, Apple Pie
- 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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**March's speaker** will be Tom Murray. His topic will be an update on the status of the Marine Trade School survey. Sounds like there has been a tremendous level of interest (over 300 positive replies to the survey) in the school from Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland and Delaware. This one has the earmarks of a great undertaking!

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**TMTA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS** will be nominated and voted on at this month's meeting. The nominating committee has contacted each of the current officers and directors and most have agreed to continue in their respective positions if the voting members so chose. They are:

President	Mark Drexler
Vice President	John Hornby
Secretary	Dianne Franck
Treasurer	Pete Hall
Directors:	Janice Clark, Ken Knull, Louis Muse, Rob Redfern, Guy Sorenson,

## Governmental Forum by Ken Knull

The latest newsletter from VAMI indicates that the legislation on Bottomland Royalties will be acted upon shortly. Several modifications are being considered. House Bill (HB182) passed the House of Delegates on a 78-21 vote. That Bill removed VMRC's authorization to assess rents and royalties on the use of State Owned Bottomland. However, The Senate's version of the bill (SB606) was amended to exempt fees for ship building, ship repair and ship cargo transfer industries and utilities. That bill passed the Senate by a 40-0 vote. VAMI is working to include marinas and watercraft dealers in the exemption in HB182 and SB606 which would add a specific exemption for "riparian owners of ...commercial facilities engaged in the *selling or servicing of watercraft.*" Based on the VAMI input, it appears that the measure will pass and VMRC would no longer have the authority to assess rents and royalties for the use of State-owned Bottomlands by marinas and boat dealers. As an editorial note, the italicized words above are my own doing. It does not appear to be clearly defined that marinas are exempted since they may or may not sell or service watercraft but may merely offer slip rentals. I would be more comfortable if they included the words "*selling, storing or servicing of watercraft*" specifically in the exemption.

### NMEA Seeking Technical Director

The NMEA (National Marine Trade Association) is reconfiguring its Standards Committee and is seeking candidates for a newly created position of Technical Director to oversee continued development of the NMEA 2000 Standard, NMEA 0183 and the Installation Standards. All resumes and salary requirements are to be sent to the NMEA National Office: [director@nmea.org](mailto:director@nmea.org)  
If you know of any qualified candidates, pass it on.

### The VIRGINIA CLEAN MARINA Program gets an interim leader and he is from the TMTA!

TMTA Member and Treasurer Pete Hall has been appointed to the position of Marina Technical Advisory Specialist for the Virginia Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. The appointment follows the resignation of Harrison Bresee, who held the position since January of 2001.

In this capacity, Hall will continue the operation of the Virginia Clean Marina Program. To date eighteen marinas have achieved the Virginia Clean Marina designation and twenty are currently pledged to become VCM's within the next year. Although the appointment is temporary, Hall plans to work closely with the pledged marinas to help them toward certification.

If you are a pledged marina, have completed the Clean Marina Checklist, and are ready for the formal site visit by the Marina Technical & Environmental Advisory Committee give Pete Hall a call at 804-684-7768 to set up an appointment. Also, give Pete a call if you would like to sign a pledge to become a Virginia Clean Marina.

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### BOAT TAX News

We finally have some feedback from Lancaster County on boat tax revenues. Sonny Thomas, Commissioner of the Revenue, provided the following information from 2003 data that is now available:

Category:	Number of Boats:	\$ of Revenue:	Taxable Value of Boats:
> 18 feet	2,228	\$353,393.61	\$23,246,830.00
<= 18 feet	1,809	\$ 41,651.04	\$ 2,737,950.00

The Lancaster County Tax Rate is \$1.52 per hundred dollars of taxable value. Since local real estate tax revenues are up significantly due to the recent re-assessments, this might be a good time to bring the subject up to the Board of Supervisors. One proposal would be that a decal would be sold similar to the county decals for cars showing that a county permit had been issued. The permit could be sold at a fixed price, e.g. \$20.00 per boat (the logic being that all boats are using the same waters no matter what their length or value). This would go a long way to encouraging boaters to keep their boats in county for repairs, etc.

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## **One Of TMTA's Longest Standing Members: White Point Marina, Inc.**

The marina began in the 1950's by Norman Turner, a local business man and boater, who needed a safe harbor for his cruiser and a few boating friends. The Redfearns purchased the marina in 1966 and moved from Richmond, Virginia. Robert Redfearn, Sr. gradually expanded the facility to the present size until his retirement in 1985. Robert Redfearn, Jr. started his White Point career in the family business during summers while a student in high school and college. After college, graduation, marriage and a brief career in sales, Rob Redfearn returned to business in 1976. He became president of the corporation upon his father's retirement. The current facility covers three acres of waterfront on the northwest branch of the Yeocomico River, a tributary of the lower Potomac River. The colonial seaport of Kinsale is nearby. The marina has fifty wet slips, of which forty are covered. A swimming pool, tennis courts, picnic areas, a yacht club building, grill and transient slips, are other amenities provided for boaters who find White Point a quite and friendly, family oriented marina. A sixty-ton marine railway with covered work sheds provides the haul out capabilities for the service department. Major refits are the specialty for the experienced staff who service mostly pleasure craft and some commercial vessels. 2004 will mark the 38th year of ownership for the Redfearn family. Providing quality service with honesty, integrity, and friendliness have been the hallmarks that have helped sustain the level of customer satisfaction needed to sustain that longevity.

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## **Welcome Back Member !! Marine Fabricators, Inc.**

We would like to welcome back Marine Fabricators, Inc. The owners are Charlie Avera, Randy Moubray and Gary Grabb. Their business is located on Rt. 3 in Topping, Virginia. Marine Fabricators has over 20 years experience in metal fabrication for the marine industry. Their welders are AWS certified and can handle all types of custom aluminum and stainless steel metalwork. They specialize in Marlin and Tuna Towers, Rod Holders and Radar Arches configured to match your boat and your specifications. Marine Fabricators also offers a full line of fiberglass products such as Hard Tops and T-Tops which are custom designed to compliment your boat and tailored to fit your personal needs. [www.marinefabricators.com](http://www.marinefabricators.com)

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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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Note: There are fifteen "members" who have not yet paid their dues. We will send out the newsletters to these companies this month but will have to discontinue sending them in the future unless dues are paid in full. Please send in your dues! Your membership is vital and the work that TMTA is doing for the Trade School, the Boat Tax issue and the Bottomland Royalty legislation is pretty important stuff that will benefit all of us. We need everyone's support.

Editors: TMTA Board of Directors  
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