

# TMTA NEWS

Volume 13, Issue 9

Our 38<sup>th</sup> Year

November 2003

*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.*

## Presidents Message by Mark Drexler

Your Board and Officers are working hard to assist local government in getting a Marine Trade School started in our region. In order to make this a reality we need to have the backing and support of all of our members. Your input and active participation is valuable so this endeavor will become a reality. Please let your board members or officers know about your suggestions and input as we progress in this endeavor.

At our last meeting, we had a discussion about legislation concerning the taxing of land under the docks and piers at marinas. I am drafting a letter in opposition to this proposal and it will appear on our website and be sent to you as an attachment to a future email. I have also been in contact with Delegate Harvey Morgan's office and have invited him to our November meeting. Normally we do not have a speaker at this meeting; however I think that if we can get Delegate Morgan to attend we should take advantage of it. As of this time I have not heard from Delegate Morgan but we have obtained a commitment to speak at our November meeting from Delegate Albert Pollard, who is on the Chesapeake Bay Commission that is reviewing this proposal. We also hope to have Tom Murray from VIMS who is spearheading the actual needs analysis to give us a short update on the status of that effort.

See you on the 19th!

Mark

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### Next Meeting: FAMILY NIGHT!

**November 19, 2003**

**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: Salad, Roast Beef and Fried Oysters, Stir Fried Veggies & Desert

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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**The November meeting is very likely to be a great meeting for both information, food and socializing.**

The Pilot House usually outdoes itself for our family night meetings and this time should be no exception. However we have the added bonus of having some direct feedback from at least one elected Delegate to the State Legislature who serves on the Chesapeake Bay Commission. Albert Pollard, Jr., just won reelection and has served on the commission for some time. He can give us a first hand description of the Bottomland Royalty issue and hopefully eliminate the rumors that are floating around that marina owners are going to be hard hit by the contemplated reinstatement of the royalty charges for using state owned bottom land. DON'T MISS THIS MEETING!

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## **The Tidewater Marine Trade School Project is in full swing.**

A meeting was held on October 20, 2003 at the Ingleside Winery with members of the committee working on the Trade School Project. Guy Sorenson, Keith Ruse and I (Ken Knull) attended the meeting for TMTA. Don McCann was there from the NNPDC and Tom Murray represented VIMS. Abbitt Woodall is the Community Representative from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VADHCD). Here is an update on the plan and progress to date:

The VADHCD has offered a grant to fund a feasibility study to determine if a marine trade school can be developed and sustained in our area. The TMTA, VIMS and the Northern Neck Planning District Commission are heavily involved in the planning and the Northumberland County Board of Supervisors has offered to be the public body that administers the funds (a public body is required for this purpose). The Lancaster Board of Supervisors has also joined in and has put the project on a high priority basis as well. One stick in the ointment is that the VADHCD can only authorize funds to be used for studies in Virginia. Most of us strongly feel that we need to canvas an area from North Carolina to Delaware to ensure that there are enough interested businesses to sustain a full time school.

The VADHCD wants the project to move along at a very rapid pace. To this end they organized this meeting to develop a full scale plan from planning the feasibility study to finding a location and applying for funds to put a school in operation! They brought in a facilitator to run a SWOT analysis and then form the outline of a plan along with dates and responsibilities. We were a little shocked at the speed that they proposed. They want a full proposal for the entire project submitted by March 24 in order to qualify for a Community Improvement Grant which could make up to \$750k available for the project.

Here is the plan outline as proposed during the meeting as recalled from my notes, sorry if it is confusing, the meeting was confusing to me too!

Objective: To provide quality job training to new and existing workers and to bring additional business and economic vitality to the region.

Identify the Needs: both of businesses and workers

Identify the Demand: Determine the curriculum needed by the marine industry.

Identify the Trainers: Determine who will teach the courses.

Identify the Locale and Site: Determine sustainability (how many trainees will there be and are there enough for a full time school). The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) has offered scholarships or funding for students.

Provide a Link: between the newly trained workers and the marine business that will employ them. Also provide preferential treatment with regard to hiring; hopefully obtain certification such as with ABYC Certifications, etc. The VEC has offered assistance here as well.

Actions Underway now include:

Don McCann is to write the formal preliminary plan by February 10, 2004 and submit it to Abbitt and the team.

Don and Tom Murray will develop the demand survey using one that Tom has used before for a similar venture in Florida. The plan is to complete the survey and tabulate the results by the end of January. The Institutes of Marine Science in VA, MD, and NC will provide assistance with the distribution and tabulation.

Don will identify the site and do the preliminary environmental plan. The site must be identified by January 30, 2004. Note: the Northumberland County Board has offered a site in Reedville that might be perfect. There is also the potential of using a VO Tech Center. One key thing we learned is that for state money to be used to build something like this, the land must be owned by a government agency. If anyone has suggestions for sites that fit that bill please get to Don, or one of the team members on the TMTA committee.

Don, Keith Ruse and I (Ken Knull) will develop a list of currently available training and develop a list of trainers that would be available. We will need the support of TMTA members for this.

Don and Tom Murray will develop a preliminary budget for the planning grant and will include an initial curriculum. They will use course offerings from ABYC, ABBRA, the Landing School, and various product schools (e.g. Yanmar, US Paint, etc. as guidelines).

Marilyn Toulson will provide VEC supporting programs by the third week of November.

The first public meeting will have to be held for the general plan in Northumberland County  
The second public meeting will have to be held for the specific plans in Northumberland County

An Environmental Impact review process will begin on February 1.

The NNPDC will take responsibility for writing the grant application which must be submitted by March 24, 2004.

Further updates to follow.

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## **Storm Damage Brings out the Best and the Worst**

If you have had a particularly good experience with your insurance provider or pier reconstruction company, one of the functions of our organization is to spread that word. Please contact the editor or one of the officers so that we can get the word out.

- 1.) Yankee Point Sailboat Marina was fortunate to have procured dock insurance through the auspices of ABBRA. Note: we got a much better rate for the insurance because we belong to ABBRA. They recommended Starkweather and Shepley Inc., which is an insurance broker out of Providence, RI. They represent the Great American Insurance Co. and primarily deal with marinas. This made dealing with them very simple in the aftermath of the storm because they had been there before in many other locales. Yankee Point Sailboat Marina can recommend them highly as the most responsive insurance company they have ever dealt with. They have already paid over half of the approximately \$400k damages and are keeping ahead of the reconstruction work; (thankfully we did not suffer any significant damage to any of our customer's boats). They can be contacted at 16 Broad Street, Westerly, RI 02891. The phone number is 401-596-2212. Ask for Carter Holliday.
- 2.) Coastline Marina Construction has been rebuilding our dock systems at YPSM as well. They have been extremely accommodating and are using extremely heavy duty materials including 35 foot pilings going a minimum of 15 feet in the mud, 3 x 8 stringers and cross members (all through bolted) with all stainless steel screws for the dock boards. They can be reached at P.O. Box, 611, Montross, VA 22520. Phone is 804-493-8987. They are concentrating on commercial construction as opposed to private docks.

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## GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS – Reported via VAMI Newsletter

Hopefully Albert Pollard will shed more light on this subject during our meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> but here are some excerpts from the VAMI Newsletter:

The Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC) approved proposing the lifting of the 15 year old moratorium on rents and royalties for the use of state owned bottomlands or subaqueous beds to the 2004 legislature. The CBC unanimously agreed not to give VMRC the option to collect unpaid rents and royalties retroactively!

There appears to be a lot of work for the CBC to do to determine exactly who is to pay for what and how much will be assessed but there does seem to be a plan to allow for private marinas that provide jobs to compensate for the rents due for use of the bottom land. This may be good news for marinas with employees. It is unclear if there will be charges for the big users such as the shipyards and the small users such as private homeowners.

Interestingly, the monies proposed to be collected from the use of bottomland will be proposed to be used for the Marina Waterways and Habitat fund which is tasked with improving the marine habitat and waterways, including “the removal of obstructions or hazardous property from state waters”. Do you suppose this means they will clean up all of the debris from the storm that is floating around state waterways after Isabel?

Marinas and Boatyards were exempted from bottomland use permits, except for dredging, in 1966. That exemption was repealed in 1970.

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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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TO: