

Presidents Message by Mark Drexler

**Next Meeting:
Sept 17, 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

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>Treasurer's Note</i>	2
<i>September Speaker - Sawkins & Mansfield</i>	2
<i>Listing of Board Members</i>	2
<i>Government Affairs—Bottomland Rent</i>	3
<i>Marine Trade School Exploratory Grants</i>	3
<i>Board Goals for 2003-2004 Set</i>	4

Dear Fellow TMTA Members,

I hope that everyone has had a good safe and profitable summer. As we get started on a new year of meetings we should all commit ourselves to making this year a good one for Our organization.

TMTA is committed to supporting the concept and implementation of a Marine Trade School in the very near future. Funds have been obtained thru federal and state grants which will get us started. We need your input and assis-

stance in seeing this effort thru to a positive conclusion.

The TMTA Board of Directors and Officers will continue to gather information and stay up to date on the Boat Tax issue. We will continue to update current tax information as it relates to the marine industry and will focus on obtaining tax relief as the opportunity presents itself. We are asking for everyone's continued input and suggestions.

The Tidewater Marine Trade Association cur-

rently has 75 member companies. We want to maintain all current members and will actively try to increase during this year. It is the responsibility of every member to make TMTA grow. We do this by speaking positively about TMTA , by attending the meetings and most important by your active participation.

I hope to see you on September 17th at the Pilot House.

Mark Drexler

TMTA Meeting Dates

Full Meeting:
 September 17, 2003
 October 15, 2003
 November 19, 2003
 January 21, 2004
 February 18, 2004
 March 17, 2004
 April 21, 2004

Board Meeting:
 October 1, 2003
 November 5, 2003
 January 7, 2004
 February 4, 2004
 March 3, 2004
 April 7, 2004

Treasurer's Note— Pete Hall

Dues notices were mailed out on the 21st of August , payable by September 15. If you haven't already done so, please send us your dues today.

It is important for you to renew your support of TMTA for the benefit of all involved in the marine trades in Virginia. Your Board of Governors continues to strive to provide the kinds of services and programs that will benefit you and your business as well as the marine industry as a whole.

The Board has been working on a program to eventu-

ally eliminate the personal property tax on boats. In view of Virginia's present financial state this program will take some time to come to fruition, but we continue to work toward that end.

Another program the Association is taking an active part in is the establishment of a Marine Trades School that will provide qualified technicians and service people that are sorely needed in our area. (See article elsewhere in this newsletter).

Other ongoing benefits of membership are your free listing on the Association's

website, free newsletter which is now available on line at www.tmtav.com, monthly dinner meetings with great speakers and topics for good discussion, and much more.

So , please, don't hesitate, send in your dues payment today! And while your at it mark your calendar to attend the regular monthly meetings.

September Meeting Speakers— Sam Sawkins & Peter Mansfield New PVC Dock Building Technology

Peter Mansfield and Sam Sawkins will present their new company: ArmorDock, Inc., and its new product: ultraviolet resistant PVC pilings at our first fall meeting on September 17th.

Their product is guaranteed for 50 years and might be a replacement for the soon to be outlawed salt treated pilings that we all have been using up to now. The new technology can be used to sleeve

existing pilings or to build new docks. It can be installed with existing pile driving equipment. Four patents have been applied for as well as UL approvals. Be sure to be at the meeting to get all of the details for this timely product.

TMTA Board Members are here for you!

Officers:

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

Committee Chair Persons:

Publicity: Linda Hornby
Education: Guy Sorenson
Membership: Janice Clark
Gov't Relations: Pete Hall
Newsletter: Ken Knull
Boat Tax: John Hornby
Library: John Hornby

Board Members At Large:

Clark Deming
Louis Muse
Rob Redfearn

Government Affairs— Legislative Commission Eyes Bottomland Royalties

Virginia's Delegation to the Chesapeake Bay Commission in June began hearings on rents and royalties for the use of state owned bottomlands.

There is a moratorium that has been ongoing since 1988 that is due to expire this year. Luckily for us, the 2003 General Assembly rejected the budget language that would have cancelled the moratorium and allowed the state to begin collecting rent and royalties.

If that language had passed or if it should be brought up and passed again it could

mean (by my interpretation at least) that many of us might have to pay royalties or rent to the state for the use of the land that our pilings are driven into. If there was ever a time for us to get active with VAMI to defeat this thinking, it is now!

The Chesapeake Bay Commission is supposed to conduct hearings on lifting the moratorium and present its findings to the 2004 General Assembly. The General Assembly has the power to make the royalties retroactive!

It occurs to me that all of us should be contacting our local representatives to be sure that

they understand our concerns about this issue. Silence might be costly.

Supposedly VMRC has been sending assessments regularly to those affected businesses. So you should know if your business is affected. In 1966 marinas and boatyards were exempted from bottomland use permits but that exemption was repealed in 1970.

VAMI is representing our interests at the hearings. We should give them all of the support possible on this issue .

As reported in the VAMI Summer 2003 Newsletter .

\$50k Marine Trade School Exploratory Grants Received

Don McCann of the Northern Neck Planning District Commission has written and received approval for two grants totaling \$50,000 to pursue the feasibility of putting a Mid Atlantic Marine Trade School in our area.

The current plan is to target an area from southern New Jersey down through South Carolina to determine what the interest levels would be in locating a trade school here. Support has been received from a number of sources:

- The American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) has expressed an interest in using our proposed school to present their

curriculum.

- The Northumberland Board of Supervisors has voted to serve as the funds administrators for the grants.
- Kyle Schick has volunteered space at his marina for the school. Kyle indicated he has several buildings that could be made available and he also has a brand new travel lift that would be handy for the school.
- Tom Murray from VIMS is the primary coordinator of the study.

There is a meeting on Wednesday afternoon, Sep-

tember 10, at 3:00 PM at the NNPDC offices in Warsaw to discuss the next steps in the feasibility study. Any and all interested parties are welcome. I sent out an email notice on the meeting in early August.

Note: if we don't have your email address please get it to either Ken Knull or Pete Hall so that we can include you in any future notices about this and other subjects.

TMTA BOARD SET GOALS FOR 2003 –2004 SEASON

The board adopted the following goals for the upcoming season:

1. Induct 10 New Members and retain our current members.
2. Actively participate in the feasibility study for the Mid Atlantic Marine Trades School and push for implementation.
3. Stay current with the boat tax issue.



Welcome Back!

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