



Volume XLI No.2• A Publication of Masthead Cove Yacht Club • May 2019



Commodore Brad Simon and Membership Chair Karla Marrero congratulate new members Scott and Stephanie Malin, Dave and Fiona Robinson and Steve and Vivian O'Reilly.



Guest Speaker Pam Setchell, President of Huntington Lighthouse Preservation Society



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Commodore, Brad Simon
Avanzare

Ahoy me Mateys! Spring is finally in the air. The days are longer, the weather is warming up and I can hear the splash of boats happily being placed once again in the water. Can cruising, racing, raft-ups and imbibing with our favorite beverages be far away? Not a chance with the group at Masthead Cove Yacht Club.

My boat *Avanzare* is sitting all alone in Lloyd Harbor, but I have seen white mooring balls planted and in short time there will be boats of all shapes and sizes growing out of the water.

For those of you who are still in the process of getting your boat ready for the season, the following link has a great checklist from BoatUs: <https://bit.ly/2O-8nOk9>.

I just returned from a quick visit to the navigation refresher course presented by Greg Barbato. I was pleased to see many members actively on laptops and charts following Greg's lesson and plotting a course to future fun. If you have not had the pleasure of attending one of Greg's refresher courses, you should consider this in the future. The useful information will certainly help you in knowing where you are on a cruise. Or, if your electronics go down, this could be the difference between safely reaching a port or running into trouble.

As we head into May, our first event will be the Annual Boatyard Barbeque, held at Coneys Marine on Sunday, May 5th. This is your opportunity to invite any friends or sailors you may have met over the winter, introduce them to current members, and enjoy some great food, drink and conversation.

The 7th annual Huntington Safe Boating Week and Waterfront Festival will kick off on May 18th and run through May 24th. On May 19th, please come down to the Huntington Waterfront Festival and Craft Fair at Mill Dam Park. Stroll around to the booths and pick up some goodies for the upcoming season.

Over Memorial Day weekend, many of our members will be sailing over to Saugatuck Harbor Yacht Club for our annual Memorial Day Weekend Cruise. What a great opportunity to have a shake down cruise and to put what you have learned in the Navigation refresher course to work. The theme at Saugatuck this year will be the "Summer of Love" or "Hey man where's my boat" as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Woodstock. This should be a fun event. June 8th is our commissioning Raft up in Lloyd Harbor and on the 21st of June, a flotilla will be heading off to Liberty Landing.

Well, it is time for me to head out to *Avanzare* and hank on the sails. I am looking forward to seeing you out on the water and at the various land events over the Summer. Until then, safe boating and please join me as I have my first Dark and Stormy of the season.

Brad

A Word on the Masthead Race Beneficiary

Stan O'Marra

Past Commodore

Given the recent discussion of changing the beneficiary of the Masthead Race I'd like to share my thoughts on the topic. Unlike some of the other more "seasoned" members of the club, I did not know Carol Marcincuk very well. One of our very few interactions was meeting at the first Change of Watch that Ursula and I attended as prospective members. As I remember it she was not supportive of our membership given our weak sailing resume. She was correct. We learned to sail as members of Masthead and leaned heavily on the more experienced members for guidance. These members would consistently and frequently talk about the contributions that Carol had made as a very active member and leader of the club.

The change in the Masthead Race's beneficiary to the CSHL Carol Marcincuk Fund occurred during my first year or two on the board of MCYC. The circumstances allowed us to partner with a local, yet world-renowned research organization in a very direct way to honor an active past commodore while helping to fight the disease that took her life and has affected so many others both within and outside of our club. I'll never forget Dr. Nicholas Tonks, who had worked closely with Carol, excitedly showing us a piece of equipment that had been purchased with our prior year's donation and telling us how it would be used to further the cause. Opportunities for such a direct connection are rare. During my time on the board the topic of changing the beneficiary for the Race came up every couple of years. In the absence of a change in the level of engagement on the part of the Lab or concerns about the use of our contributions I see no reason why we should ever entertain such a change.

The membership of MCYC has changed over the years as is typical of such an organization. While encouraging involvement of newer members and evolution of the club's activities is vital, it is also important to hold on to traditions, and remember those who worked to build Masthead into the thriving, vital organization it is today.

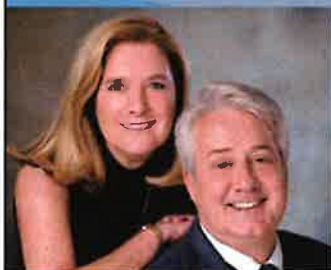




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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS Vivian and Stephen O'Reilly



Masthead Cove YC's newest members, Vivian and Stephen O'Reilly have been sailing and racing in the Huntington Bay aboard Water Music for many years with HYC and LHYC.

Stephen heads the HYC Regatta Committee, and managed Junior Sailing program for a number of years.

Vivian and Stephen are looking forward to new sailing adventures with old and new friends at MCYC. They plan to sail most of the MCYC cruises this season, so please say hello when you see them!

Navigation Refresher Class



Captain Greg Barbato discussing the finer points of navigation with MCYC members

Boys 'n Buoy / Gals 'n Gales

First Offsite a Big Success – Thanks, West Marine!

By David Tuck, "Glory" and Scott Gerber, "Late Harvest"

As MCYC members know, the Club has established an informal "offshoot" group – Boys 'n Buoy / Gals 'n Gales – which meets on the last Monday of every month to talk about a variety of sailing topics over burgers and beer. For the February meeting, the group was treated to a great evening of information – and deals! – at West Marine.

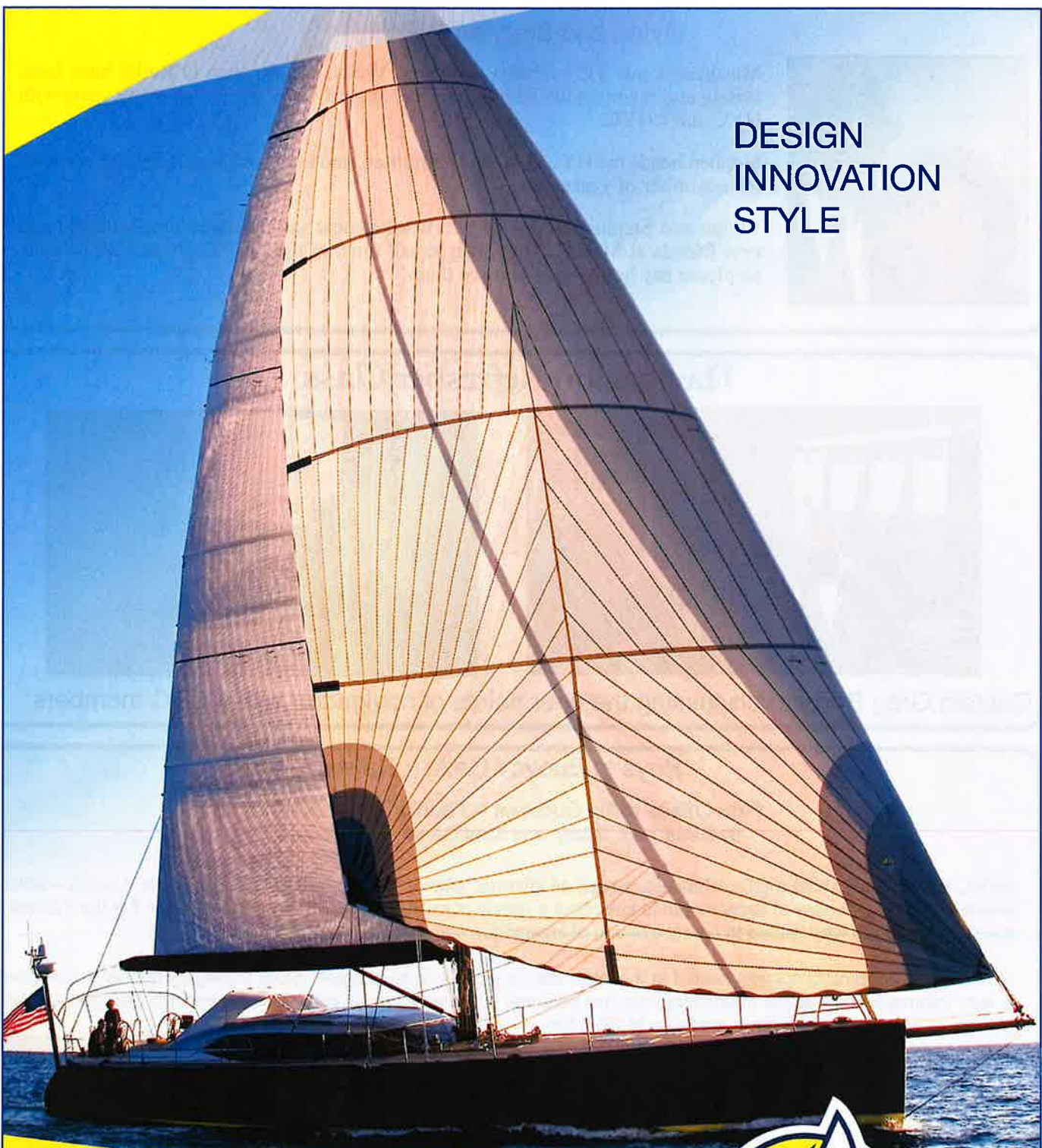
On February 25, B'nB/G'nG was hosted at the West Marine location in Huntington. Store Manager Heather Kozak gave a very informative talk about everything from her personal successful career path, to the corporate changes at West Marine, to tips for the great deals available at West Marine, including the upcoming big spring sale. Then she and store colleague Tom Renner treated us to pizza and beverages.

Extending their generosity further, our West Marine friends offered a special promotion of \$15 savings on purchases of \$100 or more. At the end of the night they held a raffle for attendees. Gary Schacker won a bucket of marine cleaning supplies, and a \$150 gift certificate was won by Harvey Stern. Congrats to both of them!

We're grateful to all the boating merchants in the area who we support. And an especially BIG thank-you to West Marine of Huntington for the gracious hospitality and royal treatment!



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Lighthouse Foghorns to be Upgraded

While not everyone is happy about this change over, the Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound will be replacing traditional sound signals — foghorns — with marine radio-activated sound signals.

The system is used to warn boaters of visibility issues on Long Island sound. In both the new and old systems, a fog horn sounds to let boaters know when visibility is below 3 nautical miles

Mariners that need to hear the sound signals during periods of reduced visibility will be able to activate them on demand by turning their VHF radio to channel 83A and keying their microphone five times consecutively. This will activate the sound signal for up to 60 minutes. Mainers wishing to activate the signal will need to be within a maximum of 1 mile from the lighthouse. The concern is boaters wanting to try out the new system again and again creating unwanted noise at all hour's good weather or bad. In our area this could cause a disturbance to local residents.

The current sound signal type and characteristic will not change due to this conversion. All light characteristics, equipment and patterns will also remain unchanged. The foghorn at these lighthouses will NOT automatically activate during times of low visibility! It must be activated by mariners in need of the audible signal in the manner listed above.

For more information regarding the lighthouses affected please google

USCH Notice to Mariners

USCG Light list

Huntigtonboatingcouncil.org

The following lighthouses will be getting the upgrade:

Connecticut

New Haven: Southwest Ledge Light

Norwalk: Greens Ledge Light

Groton: New London Ledge Light

Greenwich: Great Captain Island light

Fairfield: Penfield Reef Light

Old Saybrook: Saybrook Breakwater Light

New York

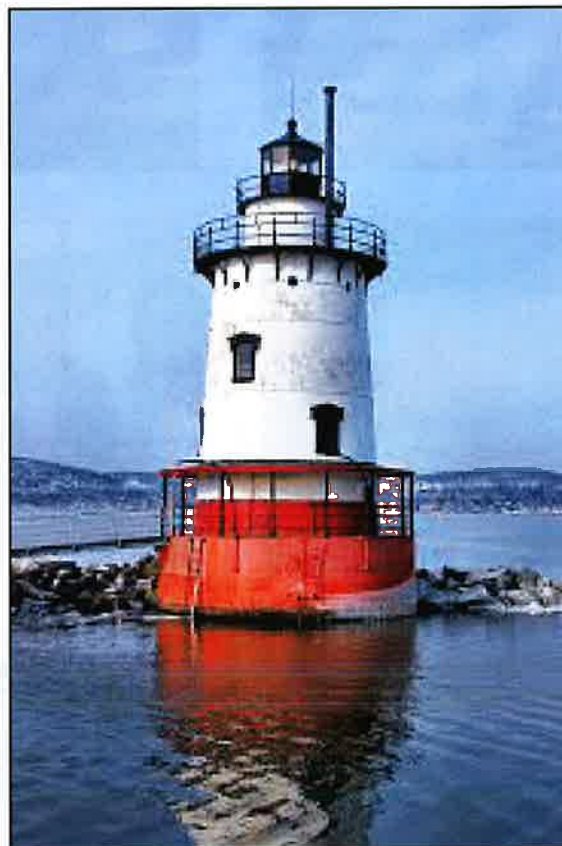
Fishers Island: North Dumpling Light

Race Rock Reef: Race Rock Light

Montauk: Montauk Point Light

Huntington Bay: Huntington Harbor Light

Orient Point: Orient Point Light'



According to the Coast Guard the new MRASS technology is less expensive and requires less maintenance than the foghorns, which use older technology.

MCYC Members Reconnect and Welcome the New Season at the Spring Brunch





MCYC Officers and Directors

MCYC Annual Spring Brunch

Once again, Masthead members enjoyed the hospitality of The Head of the Bay Club on Sunday, March 24th. Special thanks to Vice Commodore Gary Matthesen for pulling the event together. This year’s guest speaker was Pam Setchell, President of the Huntington Lighthouse Preservation Society. Pam provided a history of the Huntington Lighthouse and a presentation of the many Lighthouses situated throughout Long Island Sound. This tied in very nicely to Cruise Fleet Captain, JP Nel’s cruise plan “Do the Loop”. Commodore Brad Simon introduced the Officers and Directors and managed to get them all up for a photo op. Rear Commodore, Shirley Nel manned an array of Ship’s store items including a few new items. Past Commodore, Dave Cordts set the tone for this year’s Boat Yard BBQ at Coney’s Marine which happens to fall on Cinco de Mayo. So, it will be tacos and margaritas instead of beer and burgers. Past Commodore, Jackie Martin reminded the Club of Safe Boating Week and the Waterfront Festival on May 19th and the ever popular Meet the Commodores which be held on May 23rd at Northport Yacht Club. Membership Chair, Karla Marrero introduced our new members and gave a push to all members to extend themselves to potential new members. Fleet Race Captain, George Link has several bay races in the works in addition to the Masthead Race. As the saying goes a “good time was had by all”.



Past Cmmodore Jackie Martin discussing Safe Boating Week



Commodore Brad Simon addressing the membership



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Masthead Cove Yacht Club

“Experience the joy of boating while sharing the fun in the good company of other sailors”

What could be better on a summer weekend than joining fellow boaters in a pretty North Shore cove tied off to a mooring, or tied beam to beam on a single mooring in a “raft-up?”. With mouth watering smells of delightful food grilling on BBQs you can join boaters hopping from one boat to the next to enjoy the company of fellow boaters. Those inclined will jump off the stern of their boat, swimming over and boarding the next boat. Adults and kids will be enjoying the water on rafts, noodles and tubes. What a sight. Some of the boats are on their own while others belong to a boating or yacht club. Many boats will be flying distinctive burgees of the various clubs off the sail boaters’ spreaders or power boaters’ bows. One such club is Masthead Cove Yacht Club (“MCYC”), where the Captain of the outer boats keeps a VHF radio on the ready to give instructions to the next boat preparing to come alongside, or “raft-up”. It’s very well organized.

There are typically two types of clubs spotted on the waters. The more traditional “brick and mortar” club that offers a Clubhouse, restaurant, pool, tennis and docking facilities, along with a launch and dockhands to take you to your moored boat. The other type is a club on paper only. MCYC is an example of a “paper club.” There is no Clubhouse or structures to maintain. The only real assets are the club’s moorings in Lloyd Harbor, Oyster Bay and Port Jefferson that are available for club use. Of course, we consider our members real assets as well!

The idea of a paper club is to keep costs down. As most boat owners know, the word “BOAT” really means “break out another thousand”. With dues of only \$165 a year, MCYC holds many social, racing and cruising activities. Cruises range from day or weekend trips, to longer ones, lasting one or two weeks with ports as far East as Newport, Block Island or Martha’s Vineyard.

A visit to MCYC’s website makes clear the founder’s message of “Enjoy your boating experience in the good company of other sailors and have fun doing it”. One of the strengths of MCYC is combining the enjoyment of sailing to philanthropic and community service endeavors. Each year MCYC supports the “Day in the Sun” program where skippers and their crews volunteer to sail with physically and intellectually challenged Special Olympians and their families

The club also holds an Annual Masthead Race with all proceeds going to Cancer Research at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. It is held in August in the Huntington Bay area. Since the race began in 2006, members of MCYC have raised over \$80,000 in memory of their former Commodore, Carol Marcincuk. Carol, who died of ovarian cancer in 2004, was an avid sailor and a beloved employee of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory.

MCYC’s membership is limited to 100 sailboats over 20 ft., who berth within Huntington’s waters. The club also accepts a limited number of Oyster Bay boaters. According to Commodore Brad Simon in addition to belonging to MCYC, many members also belong to “brick and mortar” clubs. MCYC offers a relaxed atmosphere and camaraderie which attracts many seasoned boaters as well as those new to sailing.

One of the newer members, Keith LeClaire, said he joined largely for the access to sailing that Huntington and surrounding waters provide. When we contacted the MCYC, my wife and I were warmly welcomed and began attending events the club holds year round.. As new sailors, we appreciate safety in numbers when sailing with the club. In the short time we’ve been members we’ve made lasting friendships, gained sailing knowledge and have fully participated in all that MCYC has to offer.”

Continued on page 13

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Fleet Cruise Captain JP Nel, points out that MCYC is an active cruising club. “The Memorial Day cruise is the first club-sponsored cruise each year (otherwise known as the shakedown cruise). It is a long weekend cruise to a Connecticut-based port that attracts over 25 boats. It is usually a themed cruise, followed by a Blessing of the Fleet and a boat crawl on new members’ boats or veteran members with new boats.” He says that either way, it is a great opportunity to socialize with fellow members. Following that cruise is the NYC cruise to Liberty Landing, and then the Summer cruise with this year’s destination being historic Mystic Seaport. JP explains that you can cruise on your own to the destinations or enjoy the safety in numbers as you gain experience.



According to Dave Cordts, Past Commodore, MCYC, like other clubs, has a tradition of hoisting the newly minted Commodore up the mast at one of the formal raft-ups held at the club’s Lloyd Harbor mooring in early summer. Dave can attest first hand to the bird spikes on the spreaders. This is the official commissioning of the club.

MCYC also has several land-based events throughout the year. Our Spring brunch welcomes new members to the club. The boatyard BBQ, held at Coneys Marine, is a come-as-you-are event where members and non-members alike are welcome. The Decommissioning party offers the chance to socialize and swap stories of summer adventures.



At the annual meeting, members are asked to vote for a new Board and discuss business as it relates to the growth and policies of the club. Our Change of Watch Party in December welcomes the new board members and offers the opportunity to dress up and celebrate another successful year for our club and its membership. Year end trophies are awarded for excellence in racing, cruising, sportsmanship and more!

For more information about MCYC ,go to the website www.mastheadcoveyc.org.



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Woodstock 50th Anniversary

Annual MCYC Memorial Day Cruise to Saugatuck Harbor YC

Sat May 25 – Mon May 27 The fleet will be departing from Bell 8 on Saturday morning. As we have a number of boats in the fleet, closer to the date, Captain Peyton will provide start times to space out arrival times.

Saturday night cocktail hour starts at 1600 hours, with special cocktails prepared by Captain Dave to help get you in the mood to play the Mating Game, an interesting take on the Newlywed Game, where 3 or 4 teams of couples are asked “boating” questions. The couple gaining the most points for the correct matching answer wins the game

As this year’s theme is the 50th Anniversary of Woodstock, dress in your most festive peace and love attire and maybe make the cover of The Masthead and win a special prize. Capt. Bob and Admiral Helene will again serve as our official judges. There will also be a prize for the best brownies. Do not forget to bring your BBQ for poolside grilling and dining. Reminder no glass poolside.

On Sunday we have a number of events planned, starting the day with a trip to Sheffield Island Lighthouse for those interested. The ferry from the Water Street dock in South Norwalk starts running at 11:00 and can bring you back at to the dock by 2:00, (plenty of time to join in for the afternoon festivities). Their contact is (203) 838-9444. Next up, King Neptune arrives for the individual Boat Renaming Ceremony. Remember, if your boat has a new name you will need King Neptune to ward off the evil spirits. King Neptune and his Sea Goddess will then conduct a Blessing of the Fleet followed by Free the Feet - Walk into Spring Ceremony, where each boat brings a winter sock, symbolic of Freeing the Feet to be burned in a small urn.

After the Blessing and the Freeing of the feet, there will be a Progressive Cocktail Party/ Boat Tour on new member’s boats, old members with new boats or any member that want’s to open up their boat. We will break up into groups and progress around to all boats in play. Each group will have 15 minutes per boat, which should be a great cocktail party and lead-in to either poolside BBQ number #2, or dinner in town. One person in each group will serve as the official timekeeper.

Sunday Schedule

1430 - King Neptune and his Sea Goddess will conduct individual boat renaming ceremonies

1530 - King Neptune and his Sea Goddess will conduct a Blessing of the Fleet at the Boat ramp. Free the Feet - Walk into Spring Ceremony

1600 -1800 Progressive cocktail party and boat tour

**MCYC Memorial Day Cruise to
Saugatuck Harbor Yacht Club
May 25th-May 27th**

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