



THE  
**Masthead**

Volume XLI No. 5 • A Publication of Masthead Cove Yacht Club • December 2024/January 2025

# Change of Watch 2024



# HUNTINGTON TO ANNAPOLIS AND BACK (PART TWO)

By Captain Gary Schacker and Admiral Wendy Grand (*Exhale*)

*In the previous issue of The Masthead, we left off with Exhale in Georgetown, MD. Their journey continued...*

## July 28, 2024: Georgetown to Langford Creek, MD – 49 nm, 8.5 hrs

The Chester River, where we found our next anchorage, was recommended by our friends from Cape May. It was secluded, calm and idyllic. But the next morning, unexpected 15-knot southwesterly winds rolled in, and our anchor drag alarm went off. We raced to deck, narrowly avoiding grounding as we raised the anchor in a frantic, well-coordinated maneuver. With adrenaline pumping, we decided to sail on, heading toward Rock Hall.

## July 29, 2024: Langford Creek to Rock Hall, MD – 19.2 nm, 5 hrs

The winds allowed for a smooth sail down the Chester River. We navigated Rock Hall's square harbor, dodging obstacles and shallow spots. We briefly ran aground but quickly freed ourselves. Once docked, we explored the town by bicycle and enjoyed a relaxing evening by the marina's pool.

## July 30, 2024: Rock Hall to Annapolis, MD – 18 nm, 3 hrs

As we entered Annapolis Harbor, we were met by hundreds of Optis—small racing sailboats—swarming the waters. Despite the heat index soaring to 105 degrees, we spent three days exploring the city, including a memorable tour of the U.S. Naval Academy. Annapolis was the highlight of our trip, marking our final destination.



*City Dock, Annapolis*

## August 1, 2024: Annapolis to Magothy River, MD – 14.3 nm, 4 hrs

On our way up the Magothy River, we encountered a massive cargo ship under the Naval Academy Bridge. When hailed, the ship's captain informed us they were having steering issues, prompting us to motor out of the way swiftly. We anchored in a beautiful but noisy waterskiing area. Despite the distractions, the night was peaceful.

## August 2, 2024: Magothy River to Georgetown, MD – 44.6 nm, 6 hrs

Weather alerts for severe thunderstorms and Tropical Storm Debby began flooding our phones. We quickly made the decision to return to the safety of Georgetown's marina. Storms rolled in with rain, lightning and sweltering heat. After one more night of oppressive weather, we decided to leave the boat and head home to wait for calmer conditions.

## August 12, 2024: Georgetown, MD to C&D Canal – 26 nm, 4 hrs

Upon returning, we hired Jeff Moorman, an experienced delivery skipper from St. Michaels. The upper Chesapeake was littered with debris from the storms, and we spent hours dodging logs and branches before stopping at Schaefer's Canal House for the night, though sleeping under the highway bridge proved difficult.



*East River at 3AM*

## August 13, 2024: C&D Canal to Cape May, NJ – 70 nm, 11.5 hrs

The Delaware Bay was calm and beautiful, a stark contrast to our earlier crossing. We motor-sailed back to South Jersey Marina for a well-earned rest.

## August 14-15, 2024: Cape May, NJ to Huntington, NY – 161.8 nm, 25 hrs

The final leg was an impressive 25-hour nonstop journey. Conditions were perfect as we motored through New York Harbor and up the East River, whirlpools swirling beneath us in the calm waters. After a stunning night's passage, we reached our mooring in Huntington, exhausted but elated.



**Editor's note:** This is an abridged article, as condensed by ChatGPT. The full version, with additional stories and details, can be found by scanning the QR code or clicking on [this link](#).

# A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMODORE



Happy Holidays!!! This year went by very quickly. We just closed out another great MCYC season with our annual Change of Watch. We thanked our outgoing board and welcomed our incoming board for 2025.

Our fall was quite busy. We had our Decommissioning, annual meeting and the check presentation at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, as well as our CoW.

As we close out the last few days of this year, I want to thank all of you for making this wonderful club what it is. We look forward to 2025, as we usher in our 50th year of MCYC. This is a milestone that we will mark and celebrate. Your board is working hard to make it memorable.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season, spending quality time with family and friends. I will see you soon.

Calm seas and a prosperous voyage,  
George



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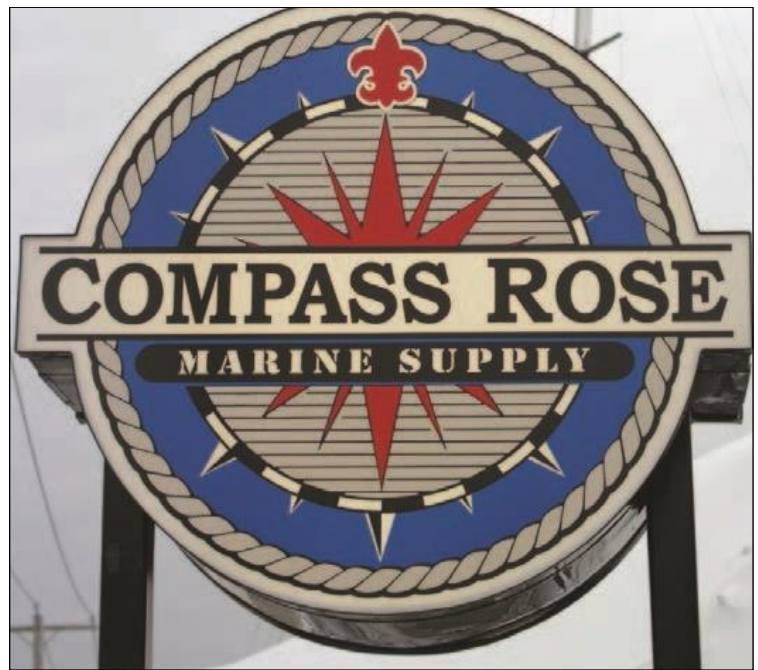
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# THE WOMEN SKIPPERS RACE: CHALLENGING CONDITIONS, GREAT CAPTAINS AND A REPEAT WINNER

BY ED DICKEN (*HAT TRICK*), FLEET RACING CAPTAIN

This year's Women Skippers Race certainly proved to be an adventurous and adrenaline-filled one. We had five boats registered, with one boat dropping out prior to the start. The weather conditions were very challenging, even for the experienced racers, featuring chilly rain and strong winds. Some captains reported gusts over 30 knots!

I congratulate all the boats that finished – *Exhale*, *Frankie Anne*, *Loki 4* and *Lulu* – including a special congrats to Wendy Grand and her *Exhale* crew, who won for the second year in a row!

I'd also like to sincerely thank Steve O'Reilly, for the use of his boat, *Water Music*, as Committee Boat, and for all of his help running the MCYC Women Skippers Race!





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# New Members! Welcome, Wards – and Welcome Back, Levines

By Karla Marrero (*Optimistic*), Membership Chairperson



Tom and Margaret Ward

MCYC is growing! We're delighted to announce that Margaret and Tom Ward have joined the club. The Wards, who live in Northport, own a Pearson 303 named *Sophia*, which they keep at Huntington Yacht Club.

We're also pleased that joining Masthead – again – are Lois and Eliot Levine from Huntington, who were previous, longtime members of the club. Eliot served as Commodore in 1996. The Levines are members of Huntington Yacht Club, where they keep their boat, *Tiger Lily*, a 46-foot Hunter.



Lois and Eliot Levine

Please join me in sharing a warm “Welcome aboard” to the Wards and “Welcome back” to the Levines!

## MCYC: A Club With a Giving Heart

*Board Members Visit CSH Lab With Donation from The Masthead Race Event*

In keeping with our longstanding tradition, MCYC members helped give back to the community through our annual Masthead Race and After-Party by supporting the research being done by Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. This year, we raised more than \$4,500 toward the Lab's important work.

Several club board members presented the proceeds of our efforts in-person at the lab, where Dominique Stanley, Director of Annual Giving and Development, talked about the significance of our donation and gave us a tour of the facility. We also met with Dr. Peter Westcott (*pictured, far right*), who discussed the current projects he and his team are undertaking. The work is fascinating and will lead to important medical developments.

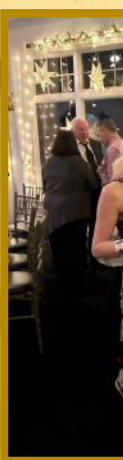
Following our visit, Dominique said, “We are extremely grateful to [MCYC] for your interest in the work happening here on this campus and, of course, for your continued support and friendship throughout the years.”





# The Annual MCYC Change of Watch

An Extraordinary Party and Very Special Award Winners





Following a great sailing season, we topped off 2024 with an awesome Change of Watch event. The appetizers, drinks and dinner were great, we tore up the dance floor with our best moves, and the camaraderie was warm and wonderful! AND some very well-deserved awards were presented. Hearty Masthead congrats to this year's recipients:

- *The Masthead Award, Shirley and JP Nel (Nels' Belle)*
- *Phil Dworkin Sportsmanship Award, Ed Dicken (Hat Trick)*
- *Past Commodore's Trophy, Jim Reichel (Scapegoat)*
- *Wally Hughes Seamanship Award, Wendy Grand and Gary Schacker (Exhale)*
- *Brittania Cup Cruising Award, James Robinson (Balance)*
- *Seaford Marine Distance Trophy, Rich Correll (Loki 4)*
- *Women Skippers Race, Wendy Grand (Exhale)*
- *The Bent Anchor Award, Tom Gatto (Smiling Tiger)*



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# THE SUNSHINE CORNER

BY VALERIE LINK (*ESCAPE PLAN*), SUNSHINE COLUMNIST



Hello again, fellow MCRYC sailors. I'm pleased to share our latest member news!

**Wedding Bells! Congratulations to:**

Linda and David Kessler (*Rash Decision*) on their son's engagement  
Kat and Curt Lee (*Risky Sunsets*) on the engagement of their son  
Valerie and George Link (*Escape Plan*) on their daughter's engagement



**The Next Generation! Congrats also to:**

Ginger Bourguignon and Rich Correll (*Loki 4*) on the birth of Rich's great-grandson  
Wendy Grand and Gary Schacker (*Exhale*) on the arrival of their grandson  
Mary and James Robinson (*Balance*) on the birth of their granddaughter

**Heartfelt Condolences to:**

Emma and Bill Hendler (*Nereid*) on the loss of Bill's mom  
Damian Lopez (*Yacht C*) on the passing of his father

**Good Vibes and a Quick Rally to:**

Matt Berger (Associate)  
Scott Malin (*Passion*)  
Cathy and Jim Martinolich (*Odyssey*)  
Lee Stern (*Daddio*)



Thanks to everyone who has reached out with their news, as well as what they've learned about fellow members! Please continue to send both happy and not-so-happy updates about you and/or others in the club to [sunshine@mastheadcoveyc.org](mailto:sunshine@mastheadcoveyc.org).



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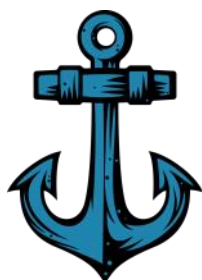
# The MCYC Decommissioning: Food, Drink, Socializing AND...

a “Fun”draiser! THERE’S STILL TIME TO ENTER TO WIN!

While some MCYC members are preparing to winterize their boats, and others sneak in a few late-season sails, everyone enjoys partaking in our annual Decommissioning gathering.

Held this year again at Ketewomoke Yacht Club in Halesite, Vice Commodore JP Nel (*Nels’ Belle*) put on a wonderful event, with delicious food, libations and great company.

Also at the Decommissioning, Kat Lee (*Risky Sunsets*) announced the MCYC Super Bowl Pool, an awesome way to help raise money for the club, as well as for a few lucky members. And the good news is, there’s still time to enter for a chance to win as much as \$750! To buy a box (\$25 each), contact Kat at **516.313.0785**. **THE DEADLINE IS JANUARY 27**. Don’t miss the opportunity to win big bucks, while benefiting MCYC!



# SHIVER ME TIMBERS!

## MCYC PIRATE DAY IS A GREAT SUCCESS!

By George Link (*Escape Plan*), Port Captain and Commodore

Arrrrrgh! I'm happy to report on yet another fun-filled Masthead Pirate Day. Although the race was abandoned due to lack of wind, we had a great raft-up, complete with exciting activities by enthusiastic participants. The winners of the Treasure Hunt for the golden totem were Kat and Curt Lee of *Risky Sunsets*. Claiming top prize in the Scavenger Hunt were Kat Allen and Max Shlansky from *The Reach*, and the Spirit Award went to Kat and Curt on *Risky*, for the second year in a row. Blimey!





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