

SeaGate Yacht Club  
Friendship & Boating Since 1976

# The BURGEE

October 2023  
Published Bi-Monthly



## Things to Remember

*Tiffany Tokar-Vlasek, Commodore*



As I write this today, Monday September 25, we have just two weeks ago passed the 22nd anniversary of the attacks on September 11, 2001. I wrote the article at the end of this Burgee on the weekend right after that event. This is out of the norm for our Burgee but I respectfully ask that you read and reflect....



**Also remember:** The end of this year is coming up on us fast! Please join us for our Commodore's Ball at the beautiful Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club in Corona del Mar on November 11. As always, the Huntington Harbour Holiday Boat Parade is yearly fan favorite, and Christmas and New Years Eve will be here before we know it. Time sure flies when you're having fun.

## Things to Anticipate

*Grace Toy, Vice Commodore*



Hi Everyone! Save the date for an east coast New Year's Eve party. The theme will be "Denim & Diamonds" and you can **Dress it Up** (or not) as you want. This year, we'll be doing things a little differently, and will celebrate NYE on east coast time.

WHEN: 6 p.m.  
WHERE: Bonaire Clubhouse  
DRESS CODE: Denim and / or Diamonds  
(Casual or Fancy, up to you)



Once we celebrate NYE at midnight, Eastern time, with DJ Emiliano, we will be streaming music to continue the party for those who aren't ready to call it a night! A flyer with all the details will be coming out soon. See you all there!



## *Chris Johnson-Pasqua, Rear Commodore*

It is a real honor to serve and represent you, the membership, as your Rear Commodore in 2023. As the Rear Commodore I am responsible to oversee and help with the club's water-based activities.

Now that fall is here, let's look back and reflect on our summer boating events: From June through September, our ongoing event Tuesday Cruizn continued to be one of our most popular events – be sure to read more about them below.

July was our Sunday Brunch Duffy Cruise to Huntington Harbor Yacht Club. Our thanks to Joseph Davydovits and Felicia Emad for hosting a fabulous event.

September was the Avalon Cruise. We had 37 members and 8 boats participate this year. There was never a dull moment and always something to do, from fishing, miniature golf, bike riding, golf cart tours, shopping and just hanging out with good friends. I would like to personally thank and recognize all of the boat owners who provided their own personal resources for this successful event...



Bob Gallucci & Susan Lipman – Adagio      Elliott & Debra Wainer –Encore II  
Staff Commodore Ray & Jan Nagele – Yorkshire Rose  
Ron & Lisa Ratkelis – Full Deck      Pat & Cindy Surridge – Shadow  
Kevin & Candy Cloud – Sea Cloud      Craig Koehler & Doria Maricol – To The Max  
Floyd & Mira D'Angelo – RO III

... and a special thanks to the board for all of their work hosting an enjoyable weekend.

Looking forward, we have our annual dock party on Oct 13<sup>th</sup> hosted by Judge Advocate Sue Westover-Giali and Staff Commodore Dale Giali. This year's theme is Pirates of the Harbour. Come dressed as your favorite pirate and bring an appetizer to share. Cost is \$10 per member, \$15 for non-members. The party will be on the Bimini Docks (between 16198 and 16200 Bimini Lane) from 1:00 to 5:00. Please RSVP to Sue by Oct 7<sup>th</sup>.

The last boating event of the year is the annual Huntington Harbor Holiday Boat Parade. This year's theme is "The Power of Music". Robin Clark and the Clark family have once again graciously donated the use of their boat, the Fin-Tastic to decorate and participate in this year's event. If you love to build and decorate, or just want to get together and socialize with club members, we will have our kick-off meeting on Thursday Oct 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Windspun Club house. Come join us to enjoy a bowl of chili and to share your ideas. We will meet on Thursday's and Saturdays as needed to build the decorations. We will install the decorations on Saturday December 3, and the Boat Parade is Saturday and Sunday December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to seeing all of you as you help us build this year's decorations.

The best and most satisfying part of these events is that each is developed and executed by member event hosts. Find an event that piques your interest and jump in! There is even a special brunch held in your honor hosted by the board. Everyone is needed to keep our club strong and successful.



## Summer Luv'n

Even if you missed SGYC's biggest mid-year festival, you can still get a feel for what it was like. Just hop in the shower with these lyrics and give it your best Danny or Sandy, then *Cruise* through the attached photos:

(To the the tune of "Summer Lovin', from *Grease*)

*(Verse 1) Well, on August 19, under the summer sun so bright, Over a hundred SeaGate members, and guests in sight, Gathered at the clubhouse, oh, what a delight, For a "Summer Luv'n" Party, everything felt just right.*

*(Chorus) Summer Luv'n, had us a blast, Taquizas Jimenez, catered the repast, Music by DJ Emiliano, memories that'll last, Oh, those summer nights, oh, they went by so fast.*

*(Verse 2) SeaGate Yacht Club's car show, sixteen cars so fine, Classics and customs, they all did shine, In a sea of admiration, the members inclined To crown Paul's '66 Caddy, favorite of the line.*

*(Chorus) Summer Luv'n, had us a blast, Taquizas Jimenez, catered the repast, Music by DJ Emiliano, memories that'll last, Oh, those summer nights, oh, they went by so fast.*

*(Verse 3) Kirk, Kevin, Dave, and Michele, they made it all come true, "Summer Luv'n" they organized, for me and you, Vance and Dick, the Car Show's debut, While Aurelia's camera captured moments, not a few.*



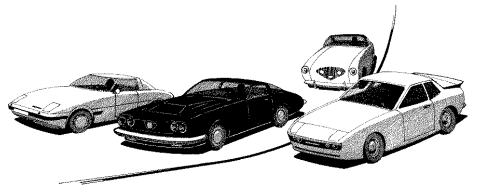
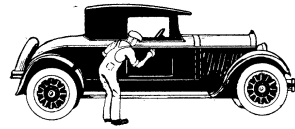
*(Chorus) Summer Luv'n, had us a blast, Taquizas Jimenez, catered the repast, Music by DJ Emiliano, memories that'll last, Oh, those summer nights, oh, they went by so fast*

*(Outro) Oh, those summer nights, in SeaGate's embrace, With laughter and joy, in that beautiful place, "Summer Luvv'n" we'll remember, every smiling fac, In the warmth of summer, our hearts did race!*

by Port Captain Kevin Rew,  
and ChatGPT.



  
**SUMMER**



THE HOSTS OF THE SEAGATE YACHT CLUB

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# Catalina

We are thrilled that SGYC was able to bring back our fan favorite Catalina Weekend Boat Trip. We had 8 boats join us and 37 members. On Friday night, we had a fun courtyard dinner at the Catalina Courtyard and Suites Hotel, catered by the Catalina Island Hospitality Group. We enjoyed spaghetti and meatballs, garlic mushrooms, chicken alfredo and garlic bread and a Caesar salad. Members played card games and relaxed and enjoyed fire side friendly conversations.

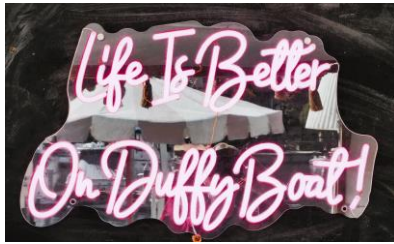
On Saturday morning, we rented electric bikes, golf carts and just ran around the island. Ron and Lisa Ratkelis were so generous and took a few members out fishing with them on their boat, and everyone caught a few fish. A few members played mini golf, and many just hung out on their boats soaking up the sun.

We really did luck out that Friday and Saturday were just absolutely beautiful, blue sky sunny days. A group had lunch together and headed down to Luau Larry's afterwards for silly drinks and sillier hats. On Saturday evening we went to The Pancake Cottage for a private catered Taco dinner. We gave out prizes for even more silly hats and once again, enjoyed each other's company.

On Sunday morning, it was time to head home so off our flotilla of boats went and some of us were on the Catalina Flyer, playing more card games and having one last Mimosa or coffee drink. It really turned out to be a memorable weekend.



# Tuesday Cruz'n



One of our most popular events is Tuesday Cruisin'. This is a Duffy event on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, June thru September. This year's events were coordinated by Michele Murray, who deserves a big round of applause for all of her hard work and extra efforts which made this season a resounding success. This year, on a rotating basis, club members gathered at Pelican Isle, Golden Road Brewery and Beal's BBQ. Michele has generously offered to be our host again next year!



*Chris Johnson-Pasqua*

## SGYC Ship Store



This has been a great year for our Ship Store and I can't believe the year is almost to an end..

We have tried a few new items for sale such as the SGYC engraved items like wine glasses, coffee and beer mugs, coozies, and cheese boards.

New logo'd ladies' jackets were a big hit last month. These were high quality jackets that I was able to secure at over 80% off, then pass that savings on to you. Just a reminder that we never make a profit on the merchandise we sell. We pass all of those great prices directly to you!

Mark your calendar for December 2nd from 12:00 to 3:00. Stop into the Clubhouse for our Annual Holiday Boutique Thank You! Cheer in the holidays with a toast and shop til you drop! We promise some delicious charcuterie platters as well as great sale items from the Ship Store. See you there!

*Margee Lennard*

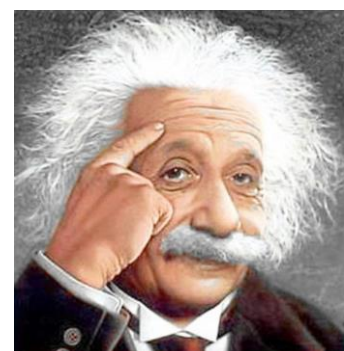


*On Board with...*

## Albert Einstein!

Though not a member of Seagate Yacht Club, Albert Einstein was, indeed a sailor – and a terrible one! True story, the guy whose name became synonymous with Genius was daft at piloting a boat. So say at least 30 more skilled mariners who, at some point, pulled him out of the water when he capsized near his Long Island cottage. Go figure!

*(Source: Readers Digest, Sept 2023)*



# Where in the World is our Burgee?



In early September, SGYC Members Michael & Doris Dix traveled with a Seagate Burgee . . .



to South Africa, where they were able to exchange our colorful flag for one from the Royal Cape Yacht Club in Cape Town.

Established so that “the sport of yachting can be taken seriously”, all EIGHT of Cape Town’s boat owners gathered, in 1904, to form the Table Bay Yacht Club, holding their 1<sup>st</sup> race on April 5, 1905. By using all of their Clinker-built gaff sloops as well as some of their lifeboats, there were a total of 9 contestants. Ten years later, the club changed its name to the Cape Yacht Club, then was acknowledged by the king, forming the Royal Cape Yacht Club.

If you ever get a chance to visit, look for your club’s flag, now flying high in their rafters, and soon you can expect to see theirs flying in SGYC headquarters in the Bonaire clubhouse.



Doris Dix & Michael Dix, Communication Chair

- *NOTE – One of the outstanding benefits of being a member of the SeaGate Yacht Club is the reciprocity that our members enjoy with other yacht clubs. Whether traveling around Southern California, across the United States, or around the world, check to see if there is a yacht club nearby and drop in for a visit. Visiting other clubs is a great way to meet new friends. Call and make a reservation, and when you stop by show them your membership card. The next time you travel, don’t leave home without it!*

Chris Johnson-Pasqua



# New Member News

Erika and Frank Coburn

We were invited by Erin Ledford to a fun get together this past summer at the clubhouse. We joined the club because we wanted to get to know some new great people close to where we live.

We live on Fairfield Circle here in the harbor, we've lived here in the harbor for 31 years and before that we lived in Westminster when we first got married in 1989.

Frank is recently "retired" after having a double lung transplant in March of 2021. He had a boat repair business for 39 years here in Huntington Beach. I am a personal trainer and I'm still doing that a little bit on the side. We love being with our two daughters, who are "grown and gone." We love hanging with friends, relaxing on the boat, being with our sweet dog, playing pickle ball, riding bikes on the beach, and just enjoying life, which we consider "every day is a gift" these days!!

We have thoroughly enjoyed everything we've done so far, the cruising on the Duffys, the car show, every time we have been with the members we are very excited and have enjoyed everyone we have met so far! We always leave saying "we are so happy we joined!"



# More New Member News

Elissa Warantz



I joined the club just this past month (August 2023), at the suggestion of my neighbors on Bravata, Cleve and Mark. I moved here from Houston, and I've lived in Huntington Beach for 17 years (downtown for 12 years, then here). Before Houston, I lived in the SF Bay Area for 25 years, and before that Michigan and New York.

I'm a semi-retired attorney doing business and employment law. My hobbies are lap swimming, Pilates, birding, photography, and painting (watercolor and pastels). I have only been to two events so far, and I'd have to say my favorite was the lunch at the Long Beach Yacht Club –

but only because it included a cruise on Mark and Cleve's wonderful yacht!

**And  
Congratulations to  
those who got  
their Burgees!**





## Trivial Pursuit Which of these facts comes as a surprise to you?

- 1 The word “Yacht” comes from the Dutch word “jacht”, which means “hunt”. Originally, yachts were small, fast sailing vessels used by the Dutch navy to pursue pirates and other ships.
- 2 The world’s biggest yacht, the Azzam, stretches almost 600 feet in length. It’s owned by the Emir of Abu Dhabi, and reportedly cost over \$600 million to build.
- 3 The fastest yacht in the world is the World is Not Enough, which set a speed record of over 80 miles per hour in 2004. It was built for the James Bond movie of the same name.
- 4 Chances of having a SGYC function aboard the Queen’s yacht, the HMY Britannia, died in 1997 when the boat was decommissioned and turned into a floating museum.

*(Thanks to Yacht University, yachtuniversity.com)*

## Future Events

Date	Event	Location	Hosted By
Oct 14	Dock Party	Seagate Docks	Judge Advocate Sue Giali
Nov 11	Commodore’s Ball	BCYC	Comm Tiffany Tokar-Vlasek
Dec 2	Ship Store Boutique	Clubhouse	Margee Lennard
Dec 9-10	Holiday Boat Parade	Seagate Docks	RC Chris Johnson-Pasqua & SGYC Board
Dec 31	New Year’s Eve Party	Clubhouse	VC Grace Toy

# Members Making Waves



## BIRTHDAYS

### October

10/2 Deborah Fairon and Bob Axel    10/5 Marsha Hendler  
10/6 Dianne Rector    10/7 Jerry Cassidy    10/11 Marguerite McEntee  
10/14 Jan McKnew    10/15 Billy Maddox    10/17 Bett Walton  
10/18 Rich Edwards and Renell Gochman    10/20 Joyce Zimmerman  
10/21 Lisa Ratkelis    10/22 Derek Gallup    10/23 Dave Murray  
10/26 Bob McCormick and Gordon Hunt    10/29 Grace Toy  
10/31 John Humphreys and Roxanne Grey and Evanne Connors

### November

11/1 Rich Rector    11/2 Kirk Zimmerman    11/10 Sean Mullan  
11/12 Pam Oneida and Caron Mount and Kathy Bayless  
11/13 David Lampert  
11/16 Steve Pisano and Gary Moore    11/17 Linda Thiele and Robert Oklejwicz    11/18 Cristi Ulrich  
11/19 Jon Boulware and Dick Kappes    11/21 Robin Clark    11/22 Regina O'Brien  
11/24 Francis Okino and Patricia Oklejwicz    11/27 Sharon Tarpo    11/28 Dan Torla and Tricia Pratto  
11/30 Cathy Kelly



## ANNIVERSARIES

### October

10/1 Cristi and John Ulrich    10/6 Melissa and Mark Jones  
10/12 Uta and Jim DeClerck  
10/15 Kay and Ron Nelson    10/17 Mona and Ron Jones  
10/19 Marguerite and Michael McEntee  
10/21 Dianne and Rich Rector  
10/30 Sandy and Cliff Meier

### November

11/11 Patricia and Robert Oklejwicz  
11/12 Debbie and Steven Cerbantees  
11/16 Mary Shebell and Merle McCormick    11/18 Candy and Kevin Cloud  
11/21 Maryann and John Boryszewski    11/25 Mira and Floyd D'Angelo



**NOTE:**

We try to keep names and dates as accurate as possible.  
If you notice an error, please contact our Membership Coordinators,  
Craig and Kristi Whittacre!

**Laser Guided Sunset !!**

We may never see a picture of the elusive Green Flash at sunset here in the SGYC Burgee, but here's a photo of the HB Sun's final Ray as it blasts across in front of the Bonaire clubhouse one day last month. Can we all agree, sunset is the greatest show on earth!



**Have a Great Harbor / Sunset / Seagate photo?  
Please share it! Contact any of the people below,  
and maybe you'll see it here in the next issue!**

**An Honor to go to Work  
By Tiffany Tokar-Vlasek**

Friday night, September 14, 2001: the phone rings, and a voice says, "Hi, TWA crew scheduling looking for First Officer Tiffany Vlasek. Good news, we're going to extend your rest."

"Uh,...ok...why?"

"Well, we've got a trip for you tomorrow...."

And so it began...after being glued to the news for four days straight, I was being sent into battle, so to speak. From an airline pilot's perspective (as well as the rest of humanity), these attacks are so unbelievably heinous. To think that some idiot would take my airplane away from me, and use it to kill thousands of innocent people is beyond comprehension. But now my company was calling and asking for my help.

Crew scheduling had no details really, just take an airplane to Portland, OR, fly to STL and then deadhead home the next day. Since we don't provide service to Portland from SJC, I questioned what was happening. Was this a ferry, a charter or what? They didn't know...so I went to bed, got up Saturday morning and got ready to go to work. My husband Vance (also a TWA pilot), walked me out to the sidewalk and told me that he loved me; our goodbye hug and kiss was a little longer and tighter than normal. "Fly safe," he said. As I drove around the corner, I looked back and he was standing there waving while our cats played at his feet, our American flag waving behind him.

I arrived at the airport, met the Captain, and we discussed what was going on. Apparently, we were repositioning an empty aircraft to Portland and we would fly a load of passengers to STL. We had all kinds of new security measures that we had to comply with, such as a full interior inspection of the aircraft, as well as many other things. Under the circumstances, the Captain said we would not rush, and we would not leave until we both agreed that the flight could be conducted safely and we had met all new security requirements. I did a complete a thorough exterior inspection, and because we had no flight attendants on this leg, I secured the galleys as well. I then helped the ground personnel inspect the cabin, and eventually made my way up to the flight deck to assist the Captain and get myself ready to fly.

We finally got under way to PDX. At cruise, the Captain and I discussed how the next leg would go. We talked about the new flight attendant briefing, how we would secure the cockpit, what we would do in the event that someone tried to gain access to the flight deck, etc. This discussion went on for the whole flight. There were company memos to read, and the Captain pointed out a little part of the flight dispatch document that contained a disturbing paragraph; it basically said that all aircraft would now be subject to in-flight interceptions by military aircraft, and that if we were intercepted, we would monitor the emergency frequency and follow any instructions from the intercept aircraft. "My God," I muttered, after reading it. "Yup," was his only reply.

We landed in PDX and the ground crew immediately jumped into action. The Captain went to get the paperwork, I prepared the flight deck for the next leg, we got catering, aircraft was fueled, our New York-based flight attendants came on board (they were practically catatonic with grief), and we began to board the passengers. We did all this rather quickly, and soon were ready to go. The agents closed the cabin door, flight attendants gave the "cabin secure" and closed the cockpit door...and then it opened again. The door was locked from our side but the flight attendant was able to open it from her side. We opened and closed the door a bunch of times to no avail. The door was not locking properly. Unbelievable.

Since we didn't have our own maintenance in PDX, we contracted with DAL. I happened to look out onto the ramp and saw the two Delta mechanics running towards our jet. You have to understand...mechanics don't run. Ever. Ultimately, they had to remove the door completely and mess around with it, but they had it fixed in short order. This soon became a team effort because we had the door out in the jetway and the Captain held onto it while the mechanics worked on the latch at the top. I became the designated "fastener holder." I had one set of screws in one pants pocket, another set in my other pocket, and a third set in a coffee cup in my hands. While this was going on, one of our agents approached me with a story. Turns out we had four Portland-based firefighters on board that were trying to get to NY to help in the recovery efforts. They had waited for 18 hours at a charter company to get out but never could. They gave up, came to the commercial terminal and tried all the airlines to find one that could give them a reasonable fare. Walk-up fares are close to \$1200, and since they were paying for this out of their own pockets, they were hoping someone would cut them a break. No one did until they tried TWA. Our agents gave them the 14-day advance fare (\$400) and put them in First Class. I about fell over when I heard this. These guys were taking their own time, leaving their families to fly cross-country to help out and I was going to get to fly them there. So awesome. I decided I had to share the news.

I grabbed the PA at the front of the aircraft, and stood in front of the First-Class cabin so the passengers could see me as well as hear me. I informed the passengers that the cockpit door issue had been resolved, the mechanics were finishing up the paperwork and that we would be under way shortly. I apologized profusely for the delay but stated that, considering the events of the week, that this was not an issue we could ignore. I then added the following: "I also wanted to share some good news. It has come to our attention that we have four Portland firefighters on board that are going to New York at their own expense to help in the recovery efforts." At this point, all the passengers started to clap, and I felt myself start to lose it. It took every ounce of restraint I had to not burst into tears, but my voice started to crack anyway. I said, "Gentlemen, thank you so much for what you are doing. We will get you there." I turned around and went up to the cockpit. I had to just sit down, close my eyes and breathe deeply; I was so overcome with emotion.

Once again, we got under way. The first hour or so we picked our way around some weather and then the skies finally opened up and we had smooth sailing the rest of the way. One of the things that was so different on this day was that the ATC radio was dead silent. The Captain called for a radio check more than once, because it was so unusually quiet. Every reply sounded something like... "TWA, this is Denver Center, we're here. We got you."

About halfway through the flight, I left the flight deck to use the lav. As soon as I came out, there was one of the firefighters standing there waiting for me. He grabbed my arm and thanked me profusely for my words. He said that as I was talking about them, he looked over at his buddy and saw tears streaming down his cheek. They were so touched by all of our efforts on their behalf. I assured him that we were the ones that were honored to be able to transport them, if only partway on their journey. While we were talking, all the other guys came up and talked to me too. They said that everyone at their firehouse was involved in this. Co-workers left behind were covering their shifts; their spouses all fully supported them as well. They said that even if all they do is vacuum someone's house, or mow a lawn, or just stand behind another firefighter to catch them if they fall, then that would be enough. Wow. One of them handed me a wadded-up T-shirt. He sort of thrust it into my hands, and as he turned away said, "It's an X-large and I wore it yesterday so you might want to wash it." He had taken it out of his bag just to have something to give me. I was again completely overwhelmed.

As we got in-range to STL, we called our ground personnel over the radio and gave them our ETA. We also told them about the firefighters and asked them to do everything they could to make sure these guys connected to their LGA flight. After we landed, we taxied to gate D-6. The LGA flight was leaving from D-4. Perfect.

After shutting down the aircraft, I jumped out of my seat to say goodbye and good luck to them and all the other passengers. An agent came on board and escorted the firefighters next door to the LGA flight and right into four more First Class seats. Everyone thanked us for a safe flight. Most of these people had been stuck in PDX for three or more days and were finally going home. I was glad to be able to get them there. Yesterday, it was an honor to go to work.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

You don't have to be a board member to suggest, host or assist at an event!

Have an idea you think the members would enjoy?

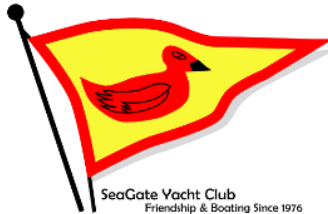
Contact any board member with your suggestions!

Many Thanks to all who contributed to this issue.

To see all event pictures, visit the website at [SeagateYachtClub.com](http://SeagateYachtClub.com)

View past Burgees here:

<http://www.seagateyachtclub.com/HTML%20Files/Burgees%20Past.html>.



SeaGate Yacht Club  
Friendship & Boating Since 1976

## The BURGEE

(Published Bi-Monthly)

SeaGate Yacht Club

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Huntington Beach, CA 92649

(714) 351-9959

<http://seagateyachtclub.com/>



A member of the Southern California Yachting Association

## SeaGate Yacht Club

### Your 2023 Elected Officers:

Commodore: Tiffany Tokar-Vlasek,  
Vice Commodore: Grace Toy  
Rear Commodore: Chris Johnson-Pasqua  
Jr. Staff Commodore: Melinda Johnson-Pasqua  
Treasurer Laura Roskelly  
Secretary: Marilyn Schwartz  
Assistant Secretary: Michele Murray

### 2023 Appointed Officers:

Membership: Craig & Kristi Whitacre  
Port/House Captains: Kirk Zimmerman & Kevin Rew  
Communications: Michael Dix  
Fleet Surgeon: Dr. Mark Monroe (Staff Commodore)  
Webmaster: Austin Dix  
Judge Advocates: Dale Giali (Staff Commodore) & Susan Westover-Giali  
Roster: Robin Erickson