



From the Helm

CMA is starting a new year in great condition, thanks to our past Commodore, Jim Nealey, and the other officers, board members, and most of all, the club members who have contributed time and energy to make this a wonderful past year. It's a hard act to follow, but I think we have opportunities to make it an even better year to come.

With the excitement and buzz from the astounding performance of the multihulls that just competed for the America's Cup, there is likely to be increased attention to multihulls and their superior performance. For those of you that missed it, the American trimaran beat the Swiss catamaran 2-0 to bring the cup back to the U.S. During the races, both boats did better than three times windspeed, and even did twice the windspeed going to windward! I predict a lot more interest in us on the racecourse.

We are already the fastest growing fleet in Chesapeake Bay racing, and I would not be surprised to see more multihulls turning out and more yacht clubs wooing us for their races. Our new fleet captain, Doug Dykman, has been doing a great job of setting up our racing schedule for the coming season.

But CMA is not just about racing. There are plans afoot to grow our cruising activities with more events, more organization, more financial support from the club, more camaraderie, and just plain more fun. If you haven't done so, check the cruising page of our web site to learn about the excellent activities that Terry Boram, our Rear Commodore and Cruising Coordinator has in the works. A couple of new rendezvous are being planned this year, with plenty of advance notice and club support. There will be good food, good parties, and maybe a CMA t-shirt or cap for each cruiser.

All of us are really dedicated to building the cruising program for the club, in part because it is a great way to build a community among multihull sailors on the Bay. There are a lot of cats and tris on the Bay that either know nothing about us or feel that we have nothing to offer them. It would be great if more of them felt that CMA was a good home club for them, and it might bring out a few new racers as well. We might even be able to expand our ties to the beach cat community as well. Several large multi owners came from that group, and many of them crew on larger boats as well.

Our next meeting on Sunday, Feb. 28, will be about cruising. See the notice below and on the web site (which you of course have bookmarked!). As usual, we will have a Board of Directors meeting in the hour before the meeting and all are welcome to attend, and even more welcome to step forward and volunteer to get involved in club activities.

Finally, a gentle reminder to those of you who have not yet paid your dues. You know who you are.

I am semi confident that someday the snow will melt and we will be sailing again.

Larry Forgy
Commodore