

Commodore's message for December 2018/January 2019

A lot has happened since I became commodore last February, and the never-ending improvements and movement forward will continue into 2019.

The ramp has been my main drive and concern and this is where we stand:

Our ramp team, put together and headed by member **Cal Gladden**, who has built many ramps in his business career, involves Gladden, member **Mick Ramos**, and non-member **Ross Peabody**, a West Sacramento resident and engineer. The three of them have a general plan in mind but it will be tweaked and refined depending on an underwater survey.

We received two bids to do that survey (\$6,000 and \$12,000) and Gladden will look at the lower bid, see if it will give us all the information we need, and then develop a plan. Gladden reassured me that he will make sure the entire plan will be presented to the board in a way they can understand what needs to be done and why. Gladden also emphasized he is well-aware of the possible cost and our tenuous position to pay or finance anything, and will present as tight as possible plan.

Stay tuned.

PALM TREE TRIMMING/VOLUNTEERS NEEDED -- We will be having a major, MAJOR work day(s) to clean up and remove the palm trees that surround our storage shed. The fronds are getting messy and one palm tree is encroaching into our shed. We have contracted with a tree trimmer to do the work on Jan. 11 (Friday) and Jan. 12 (Saturday), beginning at 8 am each day. The tree trimmer will do all the necessary work and have his truck there to haul off the fronds as well as the palm tree that is to be removed.

What we have to do is get enough volunteers for this rigorous work to carry the fronds to his truck and load them in so he can haul them away. We have set up two, four-hour shifts each day to do this work. Please contact Steve Rath (pattirath@sbcglobal.net, (916) 275-4968). This is a good time for new members who have to fulfill their two-volunteer obligation to volunteer.

TIDES – Secretary **Guy Brown** has secured about 100 tide books from NOAA (free of charge) and will have them for distribution at either the January or February general meeting.

You can also access our tides by visiting the website (washingtonoutboardclub.org) and click on the “tides” heading.

Or, you can print out each month (or the whole year) by visiting this link and hit print: https://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/images/tides/2019tides_north.pdf

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING/DINNER – For those of you who thought we eliminated our annual free Christmas/Thanksgiving dinner, that is not the case. It has just been shifted to our first meeting of the year to help celebrate the New Year and introduce the new board. So come early (dinner from 5-6:30 pm with meeting to start at 7 pm). On the menu will be a great carnitas dinner with all the fixin's. It is anticipated to be a tight fit so please be patient.

SHRINER'S HOSPITAL TOY DRIVE – This year's toy drive for the children at the Shriner's Hospital was an OVERWHELMING SUCCESS!!

A total of \$660 was collected during the November and December membership meetings as long as several toys. With the cash, **Susi Alcartado**, who co-ordinated the drive along with board member and husband **Rich**, was able to purchase \$899 worth of toys. Approximately 150 toys were delivered to the Shriner's Hospital through the Washington Outboard Club.

Needless to say club members should be very proud of what you did, and should be very grateful and appreciative of the work of Susi and Rich.

NEW OFFICER, BOARD MEMBERS – At the general membership meeting in December, **Tom Harina** was elected as our new purser. Also elected to the two board positions were **Roger Haney** and **Dean Needham**. Existing officers with one more year to serve are **Gary Voet**, commodore; **Thurman Watson**, vice commodore; and **Guy Brown**, secretary.

I would like to thank **Sonja Craighton** for her five years of tireless service as purser. Also to our two outgoing board members, **Steve Rath** and **Ernie Hallet** as well as our past president **Tom McKenzie**.

STOP USING OLD ENTRANCE!!! – I cannot emphasize strongly enough that use of the old entrance is prohibited. The City of West Sacramento has sent out a mandate to all the clubs who use the Port facilities to stop entering using the old access road. **PLEASE USE THE NEW ENTRANCE** as the city's patience is growing thin as some are still using the old entrance. ****As a note, the city did respond to my concern that the entrance marked by the cement barriers should be widened a little to make it easier for those towing boats to enter. The first two cement barriers have been repositioned, opening up the entrance.*

DO NOT ANCHOR IN CHANNEL – At our December board meeting, while discussing an unrelated matter, it was mentioned that a person was anchored in the deepwater channel. Director **Sam Bobb** immediately said that the channel is a navigable water and anchoring was prohibited.

I must admit that I did not know you could not anchor in the channel and some of the other board members and officers were also unaware of this.

Bobb provided this to me to share with the membership:

“According to Auxiliary officer Harrison of the US Coast Guard at Rio Vista, it is illegal to anchor anywhere in the deep water channel.”

Please take note.