

## Commodore's Message February and March

On March 23, get ready for the first of two big happenings for members. Director **Roger Hanney**, who is the Striper Derby coordinator for the club, has added a second striper derby (the other is the annual October derby).

But what makes this derby significant, besides being new, is that it will be tied into our annual picnic **AS WELL** as a chance to be named Washington Outboard Club Angler of the Year. Let me explain.

It has always been my feeling that our annual striper derby in October has been underplayed. By that I mean not the organization of the event (thank you **Rick Tietz** for all the years of making sure the event runs smoothly) but by the celebration. I felt that event should be our biggest celebrated event of the year, with a banquet/awards dinner to follow the next week, complete with a huge raffle and fun for all, derby participants and non-derby participants alike.

Roger's first move as derby coordinator was to add a second derby. As we discussed it at our board meeting on how and when to have it, director **Rich Alcartado** suggested we tie in the luncheon and awards that usually follow the weigh-in to our annual picnic (generally held in April).

Secretary **Guy Brown** then chimed in, reminding me that when both of us were members of another fishing club and I was derby chairman, that I instituted a green jacket to be awarded to the Angler of the year (it's the golfer in me and the traditional green jacket awarded at the Masters).

The Angler of the Year will be based on an accumulation of points at the Spring and Fall derbies. The top 10 places will get points (as well as prizes) and the combination of the points in the two derbies will determine Angler of the Year.

As a result of the entire board getting on board for a new derby, we will have a lot going on on March 23. For complete rules and start and finish time as well as picnic times, please see click on the "[Striper Derby and Picnic March 2019](#)" on the website. It should be a great time!!!

**RAMP** – Member **Cal Gladden** (who has had a lot of experience with ramp construction) as well as non-member **Ross Peabody** (a West Sacrament engineer who has worked with Gladden) and member **Rich Alcartado** (who has done a lot of work on the ramp), are going to do an electronic on-the-water survey of the area around the ramp. Once that information is compiled, Gladden will present a comprehensive plan to the board on what he recommends is needed to improve the ramp. To date, NO MONEY has been spent, and Peabody is donating his time and expertise, and Gladden is donating his boat and electronic equipment to do the survey.

**BYLAWS** -- On the website is a copy of the proposed bylaw changes as approved by the board. Please take a look at them as they will be presented at the March member meeting to be voted upon.

**VFW HALL** – The VFW Hall has been our meeting place for years. It is a perfect setting, with kitchen for our special events, a bar for those who like to indulge now and then, and a large and

small meeting room for our general membership and renewal meetings as well as our board meetings. And the rent has been reasonable.

However, parking has been an issue the last few years. There is no working relationship between the VFW Hall and the funeral parlor across the street (where we park). We are caught in the middle and have paid the funeral parlor for the right to park (a little over \$900 a year). I was just informed that that fee may go up next year.

That means we either pay the possible fee increase or park on the street and the grass church lot next to the funeral parlor. That may also go away as it is rumored that is up for sale (besides, parking on that grass in the winter is muddy and messy).

I mentioned at the February membership meeting that if anybody knew of a place that may be suitable for our meetings (complete with kitchen and bar AND ample parking) to let me know and I would pursue that lead. I got a few suggestions. but one was in Woodland (too far) and the other was not big enough (we need at least a room big enough to hold 125-150 people for our special events).

Let me make this clear: **I AM NOT SAYING WE ARE GOING TO MOVE.** The VFW Hall is perfect for our needs, sans parking. But, if the parking fee is exorbitant I want to be prepared. Of course, if the membership does not mind parking a few blocks away or in mud during the winter, then this is all a moot point.

Stay tuned.

**ELECTIONS/JOB DUTIES** – Even though elections are not until December, I will be hammering the need for nominations at every meeting. We will have two openings this year for a two-year term for directors. Also termed out will be the commodore, vice commodore and secretary positions and those are also two-year positions.

Secretary Brown has developed a job description for each position, giving you an idea of time needed and job duties. He has also developed a nomination sign-up sheet for each position and it will be available at each meeting now through November when nominations close. Please take the time to consider running for a board position.

If you look on the website under **“Contact Us”** you will see the four directors now have specific job duties – VFW Hall/Parking, Volunteers, Food, Striper Derby. Any questions concerning any of these areas should be directed to those directors.

**WEBSITE** – More and more information is now on the website. From all the minutes from the membership and board meetings, to this message, to a list of calendar events for the year in addition to the monthly calendar, to ... Please take a look at the website monthly (remember to refresh to update from the last time you looked at it).

**RENEWALS/NEW MEMBERS** – If you have not fulfilled your two club functions (membership meeting, volunteering for a job, giving blood) you only have two more months to do it until the renewals in June.

For new members, under the new membership guidelines instituted this year, in addition to the two club functions required by all members, TWO ADDITIONAL volunteer requirements are needed. To date, according to secretary Brown, only 23 percent (16 of the 70 new members

taken in in June) have met that requirement. You only have three more months to meet those requirements. It is **YOUR** responsibility to see those are met or you will not be allowed to renew your membership. It is **NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY** of the club to call you and remind you of where you stand and the limited volunteer opportunities remaining (the Spring striper derby is one, though).

**APRIL STEAK DINNER** – Our next steak dinner will be April 20. Tickets went on sale at the February meeting and will continue to be sold at our March and April meetings. Tickets are \$10 each and only 150 will be sold. See [“Steak Dinner April 20, 2019”](#) on the website for more information.