

COMMODORE'S CORNER

A GREAT BIG THANKS TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE MERRY MARINERS THAT SHOWED UP FOR THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY PARTY.

The last count we had about 86 members present enjoying the festivities and the music of 60/40. There were some interesting sightings this year at the party: Wes Sims in his Christmas Tree hat, the single girl's table dominating the 50/50 prizes, Kate Rouse joined us even though it had been only a couple of weeks from her accident, the walker didn't slow Kate she was full of her normal exuberance, the women again this year showed that they could really boogie.

According to Bob Purrone we had almost record signups for the first three cruises in 2016. It is good to have so many of our snowbird members back and participating. Speaking of participating I want to thank Joann and Mike DeGeorgio, Rick and Connie Ziemba and Tom and Doris Golembeski for providing samples of decorations for the 2016 Cardboard Boat theme. Which is if you haven't heard Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. I also would like to thank our greeters Margaret Dorin, Pat Lamandri and Marianne Bell. Thanks also to Jeanne Irvin for her high bid on the 1 year Sea Tow membership. It was sad to say goodbye to Rick Ziemba who is giving up his role of Chairman of the Cardboard Boat Project to Gary Kuhns in 2016. Of course Rick and Connie are here and have already provided support for the project. Rick has a "wicked kiss" Hershey's that is. Rick brought a giant Hershey Kiss decoration as a model of what we can do for decorations to support Willy and his crew. Joanne DeGeorgio provided some great examples of candy and has agreed (YEAH!!) to Chair the Decorations Team.

You may have noticed if you attended that there was a concentrated effort to increase club member participation in this year's Cardboard Boat Project. All members entering were asked to commit to participate in one of four teams. As a club it is absolutely essential that more members support activities other than pot lucks, meetings and boat trips. It isn't fair to the 10-15% that routinely do all the work for the 85-90% to come along for the ride or you could say boat ride. Working together makes for a stronger, more

vibrant club and builds friendships and excitement. Even snowbirds that may not be here full time can help out on teams like the decorating, or costume teams.

The point here is if I haven't put "the arm" on you it is coming. Thanks to those that signed up whether it was with enthusiasm or reluctance you have taken the first step to make Merry Mariners a better experience and a better club.

Costumes Team: 16 members signed up- Team members will help research, procure, manufacture, assist members in costume selection, and or show up in costume on April 16 to support Willy.

Decorations and Spirits Team: 27 members signed up-Team members will working independently under the direction of the Team Leader or in concert with the Team Leader to manufacture simple candy themes decorations and provide the enthusiastic support of the Golden Tickets activities as well visual effects supporting the Willy Wonka boat.

Merry Mariners Choral: 17 members signed up. Under the direction of Leader Janet Biggio they will research songs to support the Willy Wonka theme as well as develop any skits to make the theme come alive. This will include rehearsal and performance on Regatta day as well as at the pizza party.

Thanks again everyone for your support during the year, looking forward to getting your increased support and participation in 2016.

Commodore Paul Jones