

Merry Mariners Newsletter December 2008

Fellow Merry Mariners,

As the year draws to a close, I would like to reflect on some of my fondest memories of the 2008 Merry Mariners' year:

- great boat outings twice each month (almost!) and attended by 1/3 of our members each time
- three super land trips to Moat Marine, Ringling Estates, and Babcock Ranch
- our first silent auction
- delicious, member-prepared buffet dinners
- interesting speakers at the business meetings
- special discounts and a shopping weekend at West Marine
- multiple 50/50 payoffs
- countless, fun-filled hours building the MASH 4077 Rescue Helicopter
- Klinger, Hot Lips, Hawkeye, and the rest of the MASH cast
- the Cardboard Boat Regatta and winning first place in **all** categories
- celebration party at the Shriners' Club
- displaying the helicopter at the Cape Coral Library
- shipping our helicopter to the Armed Forces Military Museum in Largo
- Merry Mariner shirt and cap orders
- a well-attended and enjoyed Holiday/Christmas Dinner at Porto Bello
- Santa arriving with gifts, including SeaTow coupons, and with a **real** beard!

Unfortunately, several of my memories of this year were not so fond. The loss of Lorri Angelucci and Dennis Bastyr, both active and revered members of our boating club, brought that into stark perspective. Lorri and Dennis will be deeply missed.

One note of business...although access to the Merry Mariners website will remain the same (www.merrymariners.org), as of January 1, 2009, access to the membership roster will change. The password will then be **boat-2009** instead of boat-2008.

That being said, my fondest memories of the year would not have happened without the support I've received from the greatest bunch of boaters in Cape Coral. It has truly been my pleasure to serve as your Commodore the past two years. Ginny and I wish all of you Happy Holidays and a joyful and healthy 2009.

Al Phelps, Commodore

