



Breezes AND Blows



Ocean Springs Yacht Club

January 2025

**100 Front Beach Drive
Ocean Springs, MS 39564**

Commodore's Report



Happy New Year!

I hope that everyone enjoyed their holiday season. We have a lot of work ahead of us for 2025 and I am excited to get started. I have spent most of my December meeting with members and employees of the Club regarding their goals and

ideas for the Club and I look forward to continuing to get more input. Together, we can work to make the Club a better place.

On January 18, 2025, the Club will hold its Change of Watch Ceremony. The Change of Watch will start at 1PM but Past Commodores and their Spouses are invited to a luncheon that begins at 11:30AM. This is an important ceremony to formalize the transition from the 2024 Board to the 2025 Board. While a few postponements and the fire interfered with our plans to hold this event last year, I really look forward to bringing this tradition back.

As a military veteran, I strongly feel that tradition and ceremony are important. While we bring the Club into the future, we must be mindful of our past and respectful to our rich heritage. On that same note, I look forward to gathering more ideas from our Past Commodores to ensure that the Club is giving proper consideration to our legacy.

This year, the Club will establish two ad hoc committees: a Strategic Planning Committee which will focus on our future, and an OSYC History Committee that will focus on preserving our rich heritage. These committees will work together to ensure that we respect our history while paving the way for our future.

Finally, the January Board Meeting will take place on January 16. This meeting will mostly be used to welcome our new Board Members and to lay out the framework for this year.

I am looking forward to 2025 and most of all I look forward to seeing you at the Club!

Mike Ramsey,
Commodore

2025 Flag/Corporate Officers

Commodore - Michael Ramsey
Vice Commodore - Sandra Carter
Rear Commodore - Wendie Dana
Fleet Captain - Cyndi Moncreiff
Treasurer - Meade Tyler
Secretary - Vince Smith



Board of Governors

2nd Year Board Member - Nancy Duckett Allen
2nd Year Board Member - Bruce Small
1st Year Board Member - Robert Dalgo
1st Year Board Member - Drew Demboski
Past Commodore - Carroll Kovacevich



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From the Vice Commodore,
Sandra Carter



Wow! It's hard to believe how quickly 2024 is headed to our rear-view mirrors, as we enter the 2nd half of the 2020's decade! I am thankful that all my fellow club members reading this will be sharing our entry into another year of fun, fellowship, family, food and festivities at "Our Club". Mark and I wish you all a most joyous and prosperous 2025.

Speaking of 2025: another full slate of activities is forming up, and I hope to restore several maritime traditions into the mix. Starting off the New Year, the Polar Plunge will take place at 10:00AM, location to be determined. Hopefully, the participants will be rewarded with a raw winter day to "enhance" the fun (Personally, I plan to attend as a spectator!).

Next up will be the Change of Watch Ceremony on January 18th at 1:00PM. This revered tradition is loved by many, as it looks back to the past, and honors the future. I hope you can make plans to celebrate this occasion, as well as the Commodore's Ball, which will occur on March 22, 2025.

Friday, April 11th signals the start of Regatta Season! We start off with three days of the Hobie MidWinters/April Fool's Regatta, then on to more huge sailing events until we close with the Shearwater Regatta in mid-October. Please come out to cheer on our sailors as they vie for the trophy; and please consider volunteering at this event. Together, we will keep our Club on the list of favorite places to drop anchor.

As for volunteer service, I'm a firm believer in the adage, "Everyone brings something to the table". Please consider lending your area of expertise to a committee, holding office as a Board member, on a contingency team (think storm prep), or anywhere your strengths will come to bear. I can attest to the personal satisfaction of playing a role in our Club's ongoing endeavors.

Lastly, I want to thank all members for placing their confidence in me as I assume my duties as a "Flag". It is my solemn promise to value your suggestions, ideas, and visions as we incorporate continued improvement in the Club's "product" and uphold the premise that "OSYC is the Place 2B!"

Sincerely

Sandra Carter
2025 Vice Commodore

From 1974 Commodore
Robert "Bob" Rashka

During the month of December 2024, OSYC received a donation of six quarts (1 1/2 gallons) of pure Grade A maple syrup. It is intended to be used for a pancake breakfast to be held at the Club in January.





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From the Rear Commodore,
Wendie Dana



The end of the year is here and 2024 had been busy with events. We look forward to what 2025 has to bring and the Social Committee is already working on so many ideas.

Our future members (the OSYC kiddos) got to be in the Christmas parade. They had a great time and so did their parents. We have had ornament decorating and gingerbread decorating and karaoke Christmas singing and even Santa stopped by. The Christmas party was a hit and glad for all that came out. The Holiday Bazaar was so successful, we are looking to do one in the spring.



We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and Hanukkah with your family and friends.

Happy New Year!

Best Regards,

Wendie





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More December Event Photos
From Your 2024 Social Committee Chair,
Wendie Dana





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From the Fleet Captain, Cyndi Moncreiff
FleetCaptain@OSYC.com



Greetings, OSYC Members -

Welcome to 2025 and all of the opportunities that come with another round of sailing events at the Ocean Springs Yacht Club! I am excited to be back on the OSYC Board

again, this time as your Fleet Captain, and look forward to working with all of you and with the Ocean Springs Sailing Squadron and our Club staff on another year of successful regattas.

For those of you who don't know me, I served on the Board from 2011 through 2016, and as the Club's second ever female Commodore in 2015. Many of you likely have met me as the "pool girl" who keeps up with the water quality and helps our staff to maintain our Club's pool for your enjoyment.

We'll be asking the membership to volunteer to help host our regattas, and to work as a part of the Club's sailing crew both on and off of the water to ensure that our regattas continue to be safe and memorable events for participants. Our Club truly is a renowned catamaran sailing destination; people travel from around the country (and in some cases from overseas) to what many consider to be one of the best places on the Gulf Coast to put a boat on the beach and on the water.

Cyndi Moncreiff
OSYC Fleet Captain



2024 Ocean Springs Sailing Squadron





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From the OSYC Board Secretary,
Vince Smith



Happy New Year All,

I hope and pray we have all had a merry and blessed New Year. 2024 is in the books, but we do have some last year's business to deal with in 2025. The club membership, after voting down a proposed dues increase, voted to hold a special called

meeting in February after a financial audit to revisit the needed dues increase.

The Board of Governors set the date for the called meeting for 6:00pm, February 24, 2025, at the OSYC club house. The formal meeting notice with agenda items will be published per our bylaws not more than 6 weeks and not less than 2 weeks before the meeting date.

OSYC bylaws are on the OSYC website in the member section. An excerpt of the meeting and proxy bylaws are supplied in this newsletter to provide clarity. Look for the formal meeting notice, agenda, and proxy forms between January 13 and February 10. The Club Treasurer will provide supporting financial reports in advance of the meeting.

We all look forward to 2025 being another year of sailing, socializing, and enjoying our beautiful views, and beautiful people. Thank you for the opportunity to serve another year as the club secretary. I hope to see you at the board of governors' meetings on the third Thursday of each month.

Best Regards,

Vince Smith

OSYC Secretary

Excerpt from OSYC bylaws regarding club membership meetings:

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 1. There shall be one regularly scheduled General Membership Meeting per year, on the 1st Monday of November after November 5th. This will be the Annual Membership Meeting, and its main order of business shall be the election of officers and members of the Board of Governors for the following year. Other Club business will also be considered.

Section 2.

(a) Special membership meetings may be called by the Board when, in its judgment, the interest of the Club so requires.

(b) Other membership meetings shall be called by the Commodore when he/she is requested to do so by ten percent (10%) of the Class A and A/C members in good standing.

(c) Notice of call for all membership meetings shall be sent to members no less than two (2) weeks, nor more than six (6) weeks, in advance of the meeting, and must include the purpose of the meeting. Only matters relating to the call will be voted upon at a special meeting unless a majority of the Class A and A/C members present approves an expanded agenda.

Section 3.

(a) At all membership meetings, business shall be conducted and actions taken only if a quorum is present. A majority shall rule, except as may be provided elsewhere in these By-Laws.

(b) A quorum of the general membership shall consist of at least ten percent (10%) of the current Class A and A/C members in good standing present at any general membership meeting, exclusive of proxies.

(c) If at any membership meeting, no quorum shall be present, the presiding official shall postpone the meeting after fixing a date for a substitute meeting.



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Section 4. Only Class A and A/C members in good standing may vote at a general membership meeting, except that:

(a) In the absence of a Class A and A/C member from a general membership meeting, the voting privilege may be exercised by the spouse of such member.

(b) In the absence of both member and spouse, a member in good standing may designate a proxy to exercise the voting privilege. The proxy shall be a Class A member in good standing, which does not include the spouse of any such designated Class A member.

(c) No current officer or member of the Board of Governors or their spouse may be designated as a proxy.

(d) The written proxy must be designated as a general or special: In the absence of such designation, the proxy shall be considered as special, and restricted to voting on specific matters in the published agenda of any such meetings.

(e) No member designated to vote a proxy for another member may transfer or sub designate such proxy.

(f) To register a proxy, a voting member must complete the form provided in the formal announcement of the scheduled meeting and return it to the Club Secretary no less than three (3) days prior to the scheduled meeting.

(g) The Club Secretary will provide in the announcement of any general membership meeting:

(1) An agenda for the meeting.

(2) A proper proxy form.

(3) Notice that in the event that after designating a proxy, the member or spouse shall attend the meeting, the previously registered proxy shall be revoked.

(h) No member may vote by mail.

Section 5. Any membership meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order. If questions arise over parliamentary

procedures or interpretations of the Bylaws, the By-Laws Committee Chairman or an appropriate member of the committee shall act as Parliamentarian.

A Tribute to Robert "Bob" Pocreva from 1974 Commodore Robert "Bob" Rashka

A grand old man inhaled his last breath in Ocean Springs last month. He had moved to Ocean Springs from Pensacola, Florida three years ago. He was not a member of OSYC. However, his son is an active and winning catamaran boat racer and a past OSYC Commodore, Joe Pocreva. Joe was Commodore of OSYC in 2020. Bob Pocreva died on 4 December 2024.

At every regatta at OSYC in the past three years, Bob Pocreva could be seen assisting John O'Shaughnessy and Cyndi Moncreiff operating the radios and keeping track of and assuring the safety of all OSYC sailors and visiting race participants.

A memorable event for me was to see Bob Pocreva dressed in a Naval Commanders uniform at our last cardboard boat regatta. Bob stood at attention on the north side of our pool each time two cardboard boats were launched at the west end of our pool and raced the length of our pool. Each boat carried two crew members, 12 years old or younger. Many families did a remarkable job of building and waterproofing cardboard boats.

Bob Pocreva was a retired USAF Command Pilot. His son, Joe Pocreva, is a retired USAF physician and is now Chief of the Emergency Room at the Biloxi VA Hospital.



Photo credit: J.J. O'Shaughnessy



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From Your Club Manager, David Danna
Office@osyc.com

Greetings OSYC'ers!

We have much to be grateful for as we reflect upon 2024 and look forward to 2025.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank our 2024 Commodore Carroll Kovacevich, Flag Officers, Board Members, Committee Chairs/Members for their dedication, time, and effort this past year.

For many private clubs nationwide, a primary reason people join them is for privacy (exclusivity), and to experience a lifestyle with their family and friends while enjoying amenities in a relaxed environment.

Being a member of a private club also comes with a price. We are not a public facility that is open to anyone. The organizational model in private clubs is the opposite from public industries that are dependent on maximum output efficiency and volume. In short, public industries don't have dues.

At the end of the day, a private club is a non-profit organization with limited dues resources to cover monthly/annual expenses. The goal is to be financially responsible and to secure the long-term viability of our club.

The challenge facing many private clubs is to have a financial strategy to address pre- and post-pandemic rising costs/inflation. That is, a long-term approach, not a short-term band aid. Aside from normal operating costs, fiscally responsible clubs also need to have a "rainy day fund" for unforeseen events (hurricane) or unexpected expensive repairs in order to avoid the financial abyss.

As we head into 2025, I am more than confident that our new Commodore Mike Ramsey and Board are well-equipped to address the club's evolving needs and issues.

We sincerely appreciate your continued support and look forward to a great 2025.

Please let us know if you have any questions, need any assistance with accessing your account, (if you are member #A01353, and are reading this come to David's office and claim your bar bucks prize), setting up your payment method, or scheduling your payment-call us in the office, 228-875-1915 or email us office@osyc.com.

There's a shadow on the road behind. There's sunlight on the road ahead.

David Danna
General Manager
office@osyc.com



**2024 OSYC FALL / WINTER HOURS
CLOSED ON MONDAYS AFTER LABOR DAY**

UPSTAIRS ONLY EXCEPT FOR EVENTS

| | KITCHEN | BAR |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|
| Tue, Thu, & Fri | 12:00-8:00 | 11:00-9:00 |
| Wed | 2:00-8:00 | 2:00-9:00 |
| Sat | 11:00-9:00 | 11:00-10:00 |
| Sun | 11:00-8:00 | 11:00-9:00 |