



# THE OLD MAN

## WINE AND CHEESE AND ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS FOR 2004

MRSA ushered in December with the annual wine and cheese party, the officers' elections, and a review of the budget. Although there were sightings of snow, and flurries in the air, the weatherman decided to wait until 36 hours before dumping a half-foot of snow on us. Since we were out of Belvedere Yacht Club by 10 or 10:30, this didn't affect the party. Due to the upcoming Belvedere Christmas party, there were plenty of festive decorations, so we started the season in good spirit, with great spirits.

Our food table was groaning with the weight of the assorted appetizers on it—many approached dinner entrees, with meatballs, shrimp, and other assorted goodies. As usual, we had no problem

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## JANUARY 2004 COMMODORE'S BALL

There may be some changes in MRSA this year, but I like the Gibson Island Club too much to change that venue for the Commodore's Ball. Despite their rising prices, I have booked them again for this year's Commodore's Ball, to be held Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. Harvey Paskins has graciously agreed to emcee the event, and it's worth going to for that reason alone! The Pedestrians, a Northern Virginia band, has agreed to make the very long drive out here to play for us. Two of the members have worked with both Wes and me, and we've had the pleasure of seeing and hearing some of their performances. We're lucky to be able to get them, and I hope you will enjoy their music. The website [www.geocities.com/pedestrians\\_2000/](http://www.geocities.com/pedestrians_2000/) has some information about them.

The rising prices have forced us to increase the price to \$45.00 per person, for those paying by January 10<sup>th</sup>. After January 10<sup>th</sup>, the price increases to \$50.00 per person. The price covers hors d'oeuvres, buffet dinner with carving table, assorted desserts, coffee, tea, the awards program, and dancing. When you consider that you get a great dinner, with great company, wonderful entertainment, and great music, the price looks cheap!

Part of the awards ceremony will include the presentation of the flags to the new officers. Everyone who can be in town should plan to attend, and welcome in the new Board of Governors. I have sent out all the invitations—if you haven't received one by now, there's a serious problem, and you should contact me so that I can correct it, if it's associated with MRSA. Postage on the invitations alone comes to about \$55, so I considered eliminating them. Rather than break with tradition just yet, though, I thought I'd let the membership have some say. Please contact me with your opinion, if you feel strongly one-way or the other.

I'm working on my "no snow" dance for the Ball, so we should have great weather conditions. Remind your fellow members to attend with you, and let's start the New Year with a bang. Reservations and advance purchase, per above, are required, so contact Sheryl McNair, 410-437-8998, email [sammcnair@yahoo.com](mailto:sammcnair@yahoo.com), 384 Eagle Hill Road, Pasadena, Md. 21122 on or before January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

Sheryl McNair



*Commodore Sheryl McNair*

## **2004 OFFICERS OF THE MAGOTHY RIVER SAILING ASSOCIATION**

- Commodore:** Sheryl McNair, 437-8998
- Vice Commodore:** Jill McCutchan, 360-1163
- Rear Commodore:** Bob Seay, 647-9395
- Fleet Captain Cruising:** Loura Bonham, 439-0507
- Fleet Captain Junior Training:** Rich Hughes and Susan Kirkendall, 437-3630
- Treasurer:** Jim McCutchan, 360-1163
- Secretary:** Kathy Dougan, 255-2040
- Race Committee:** Gene Gottschalk, 439-0211
- Protest Chairman:** George Benisek, 268-4187
- Race Gear Chairman:** Scott Barnhart, 757-0203
- Race Marks Chairman:** Roger Bartholomee, 255-7330
- Scorer :** Ed Tracey, 975-0407
- Membership Chair:** Ed Poe, 296-6428 (H), 539-3400 (W). Assistant Chair: Peggy Poe.
- Immediate Past Commodore:** Alan Kirkendall, 437-3630
- Ship's Store:** Lewis Neisner, 647-0694
- Old Man Editor:** Fred Betz, 647-3824, Assisting: Carolyn Stamps, 437-5337
- Web Master:** Ed Tracey, 975-0407, or sailfastmd@comcast.net.
- Fleetmaster:** John Taylor, 315-7759

**Website:** <http://mrsa.sailnet.com>  
 MRSA is a member of CBYRA, CBYCA, and Boat U.S. (Member #GA 80366 S).

## **COMMODORE'S COMMENTS**

An awesome responsibility, being Commodore. What if I come up with a great idea, and everyone dislikes it? Well, I hope everyone will like my "themes" for the year. They aren't very original—following in the footsteps of previous Commodores, I would like to expand our membership. To that end, I would like each member to bring at least one guest to an MRSA event this year. The sailing experience speaks for itself, the camaraderie of our members will become visible to prospective members, and we should be able to increase membership easily. Theme two is to encourage existing members to participate more—racers race more, cruisers cruise more, and juniors train more—perhaps even encourage some "cross-training". Please let me know what the club needs to do to make events easier to attend, and which should be eliminated, or added. I read my email at least 5 times per week, and take phone calls. If you have ideas, let me know. My third theme is to encourage members with children to participate more by having "kid-friendly" activities. I have asked Vice Commodore Jill McCutchan and Fleet Captain Cruising Loura Bonham to incorporate some new ideas respectively into our membership meetings and our cruises.

Based on past experience, I know how much hard work can be involved trying to expand our Junior Training into racing regattas. However, I would like to offer more opportunities to our juniors, and am looking for volunteers who could assist in such endeavors. We have worked hard to improve the condition of our Junior Training fleet. While it's not in the class of some fleets in this area, our juniors can compete with them, and have fun while learning about racing. Some members have pursued ideas in this area, but it takes hard work to bring them to fruition. Along that line, we need someone who could notify Junior Trainers, and their parents, of summer CBYRA junior regattas, figure out how to get some of our boats to the events, and support the juniors in these efforts. If a few people could volunteer, we could spread the workload, and it might even be fun!

One of the things an MRSA member needs to do is read the bylaws. It took me a while to read more than was absolutely necessary, but I finally read the whole thing. I was startled to discover many differences from how we actually do business. I have asked George Stamps to head a committee to review the bylaws, and determine what, if anything needs to be revised.

Thanks to the 2003 Board of Governors! Every one has worked hard to ensure a good year for MRSA, which resulted in high membership, good overall participation, and a full Junior Training program. A special thanks to Al Kirkendall, for being there to support all of us, in whatever we needed, and never criticizing any of our mistakes. Thanks also to John Aellen and Dave Blanch. Despite having no children in the Junior Training program, both have worked selflessly several years to support the program. I'm afraid of getting in trouble by omitting someone else particularly deserving of thanks, so I'll stop there.

Best wishes for the New Year, and let's spend more of it sailing!

*Sheryl McNair*

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**For sale:** Spinnaker pole from 32 ft sail boat. 3" diameter 137.5" long. West Marine sells a similar pole as a kit for \$564. This one is all set up for \$175. Call Myron Dorf, 410-255-8330.

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**For Sale:** Mercury 3.3 outboard motor. (LIKE NEW) 2 cycle engine, very little use. \$500. Call Charlie Deigert at 410-239-8470 or E-Mail at [Deigert2@msn.com](mailto:Deigert2@msn.com)

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**For Sale:** Power Boat, '88 4Winns Sundowner 225, 22.5ft, cuddy cabin, 5.0L V8, very good condition, runs great, many new items, very well maintained, enclosed head, \$6900; Mark Walker, 410-647-2468

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**For Sale:** – 2002 9.9 HP Mercury Longshaft outboard. Used only several times. Owner moving to Florida – must sell. \$1300. Contact Jim McCutchan at (410) 360-1163.

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**For Sale:** CAL 25, fully equipped for cruising; sleeps 4; 4 sails incl. radial head spinnaker & gear; 8 hp Yamaha o.b. w/elect. start; bottom painted late July; \$4,500 delivered. Call Dick Ober, 410-321-5772

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**For Sale:** '85 Wavelength 24- *Ghost Dancer*- Recent CBYRA High Point and Magothy Cup winner with great race record yet still family friendly. Great boat with many sails, new Tacktick compass, 5 HP Nissan outboard, new halyards. \$6500 Contact Chris Lindsay, 410-439-8832 or [Clind13290@aol.com](mailto:Clind13290@aol.com) for info.

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**For Sale:** LASER 28 Farr designed, Kevlar hull and deck, 10hp Bukh diesel. The Laser 28 is a truly fast and fun boat to race, and a very satisfactory weekender for the fam. "Hyder Ally" is slightly modified with jumpers, flicker and fat head mainsail. Consistant winner in PHRF or MORC on the Chesapeake. Asking \$18,000. Contact Tom Price (410) 437-5897 email [tprice@usna.edu](mailto:tprice@usna.edu)

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**For Sale:** Perfect boy's boat - 12' alum. "Landau" Jon boat with trailer. Excellent, low use Yamaha 5hp motor, 2 seats, fishfinder, rod holders, anchor, gas tank. A whole package for the young fisherman on the Magothy! \$1,000. Tom Price, 410 437-5897 or email at [tprice@usna.edu](mailto:tprice@usna.edu)

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**For Sale by Owner:** Complete set of Encyclopedia Britannica. 45 volumes. Excellent condition. \$1,000.00 or best offer. No longer needed. Got married last month. Wife knows everything.

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Please contact the editor at [febetz@toad.net](mailto:febetz@toad.net) when your classified ad is no longer needed. .... THANKS !!

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*Wine and Cheese continued form Page 1 column 1*

taking on all that food, and most serving platters were fairly empty at the end of the evening. Approximately 45 people attended, and Commodore Al Kirkendall had to silence the gatherers with a whistle to start the election process. Nominated, and elected to the MRSA Board of Governors for the 2004 year are: Commodore, Sheryl McNair; Vice Commodore, Jill McCutchan; Rear Commodore, and CBYRA and PHRF Delegates, Bob Seay; Fleet Captain Cruising, Loura Bonham; Fleet Captains Junior Training, Sue Kirkendall and Rich Hughes; Secretary, Kathy Dougan; Treasurer, Jim McCutchan; and Race Committee Chair Gene Gottschalk. Also agreeing to serve are Fleetmaster John Taylor, Red Book Editor John Hubbs, and, to transition in, Kevin Dunn for Old Man Editor. Those not mentioned will continue, per the 2003 Red Book list of Officers and Chairpersons. Happiest probably was Past Commodore, Al Kirkendall! Great job, Al, for a great year for the club.

Not to be outdone by all the area stores, our ship's store had a half-price sale for discontinued merchandise. Ship's store manager Lewis Neisner commented, "We did about \$600 in sales!" (Perhaps I misheard him...) I'm sure a lot of those items found their way under someone's Christmas tree.

Although reservations for the event were not needed or expected, several people volunteered to help with set up and clean up, and both were accomplished speedily and with relative ease. Thank you, and thanks also to Jim and Verna Wilson for making the arrangements with Belvedere Yacht Club.

*Sheryl McNair*

**MRSA 2004 Budget**  
**NOVEMBER 2003**

DESCRIPTION	REVENUES		EXPENSES		REVENUES	EXPENSES
	2003 Budget	2003 YTD	2003 Budget	2003 YTD	2004 Budget	2004 Budget
1.0. Membership:	0.00	75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1.1. Dues	10,500.00	10,025.00	0.00	0.00	10,500.00	0.00
1.2. Initiations	750.00	950.00	500.00	176.30	750.00	500.00
2.0. Cruising:	0.00	0.00	200.00	317.91	0.00	200.00
2.1 Magothy Madness	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.0. Education:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.1. Junior Training	8,500.00	9,159.57	5,700.00	5,370.91	8,500.00	5,700.00
3.1.1 Repairs	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	961.15	0.00	1,500.00
3.1.2 Storage	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.2. Monthly Meetings	0.00	196.00	375.00	84.00	0.00	375.00
4.0 Social Events	0.00	1,240.00	0.00	1,280.00	0.00	0.00
4.1. Commodore's Ball	3,200.00	2,602.50	4,350.00	3,884.90	3,200.00	4,550.00
4.2. June Meeting/Picnic	0.00	0.00	300.00	224.00	0.00	300.00
4.3. Annual Picnic	0.00	0.00	150.00	73.12	0.00	150.00
4.4. Parade of Lights	0.00	0.00	350.00	0.00	0.00	350.00
4.5. Winter Planning Party	0.00	0.00	225.00	33.99	0.00	225.00
5.0. Racing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.1. Bay Racing	1,500.00	596.25	1,100.00	815.00	1,500.00	1,100.00
5.2. Wed. Night / River Racing	4,900.00	4,960.00	3,700.00	746.38	4,900.00	4,000.00
5.3. Day Sailing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.4. River Races	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.5. Insurance - Regattas	0.00	0.00	400.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
5.6. Race Parties - Wed. night	0.00	0.00	500.00	232.89	0.00	500.00
5.7. Race Marks	0.00	0.00	350.00	200.00	0.00	350.00
6.0. Insurance - Liability	0.00	0.00	1,750.00	2,206.00	0.00	1,750.00
7.0. Interest Earned	100.00	2.59	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00
8.0. Logo Merchandise	1,200.00	1,082.00	800.00	597.24	1,200.00	800.00
9.0. Commodore's Discretionary	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
9.1. General & Administrative	0.00	0.00	400.00	263.32	0.00	400.00
9.2. Publications	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.2.1 Old Man Publication	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,002.82	0.00	1,500.00
9.2.2 Red Book	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,541.61	0.00	2,000.00
10.0. Junior Dinghy Fleet	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.1. Sales	500.00	1,750.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
10.2. Procurement	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
11.0. Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,650.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31,150.00</b>	<b>32,563.91</b>	<b>31,350.00</b>	<b>20,011.54</b>	<b>31,100.00</b>	<b>31,100.00</b>

The MRSA Budget is prepared by the outgoing and incoming MRSA Officers, and is based on past year experience and projected changes for the coming year. The MRSA is a not-for-profit organization whose purpose is: “ ..... to promote the sport of yacht racing and cruising and to participate in the training of juniors and adults in the skills of sailing and seamanship and to further the sailing art, skills and social association of those who enjoy sailing.”. [quote from By-laws of the Magothy River Sailing Association, Article II, Section 1.]



**Laura Bonham, Fleet Captain Cruising**

Laura and Michael joined the MRSA in 2000. They live in Pasadena and have a teen-age son, Bradley. They sail a Cal 33, *Frequent Flyer*, which is kept at their home on Cornfield Creek. They've sailed the Chesapeake since 1978, and were members of The Haven Yacht Club on Swan Creek. This is Laura's first time as an Officer of the MRSA.



**Jill McCutchan, Vice Commodore**

Jill and Jim also joined the MRSA in 2000, and live in Pasadena, and keep their boat, a Pearson 30, *Great Escape*, on Cornfield Creek. They race with MRSA and Jim is Treasurer for the second year. Before joining MRSA they sailed a Coronado 25 on San Francisco Bay for four years. This is also Jill's first time as an Officer of the MRSA.

## **PARADE OF LIGHTS**

Approximately 40 people attended the MRSA Parade of Lights gathering at the Annapolis Marriott, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Although the weather outside was frightful, inside, it was so delightful...actually, the weather was pretty decent, considering past parades. It was cold enough outside for one to appreciate the hot cider, though. The Marriott surprised us, and assigned us to a different room, overlooking Ego Alley. As the desk clerk said, "It's as close as you can get to being waterfront without a balcony". So the view of the boats was close up and personal, and those who didn't want to venture into the cold found no need to do so. Our treasurer, Jim McCutchan arrived carrying appetizers, but sans Jill. He said, "She's parking the car". We expressed our concern that she was out there trying to find a parking space by herself, with no one to walk with. Two minutes later, Jill arrived—having parked easily, a block or so away. She was recognized and given a space close by. Nice to have good connections! Most others' parking stories involved greater distances, but everyone there found a space. For future reference, there was easy parking in the stadium, and fairly frequent shuttle service.

We were all so busy socializing with our friends, and watching the beautiful lights, the outlandish getups, and the extravagant decorations, that no one took pictures. Guess you had to be there. For those who couldn't make it, plan to come next year.

*Sheryl McNair*

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## **SEA FAN LOG: NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2003**

We arrived back on St. Croix on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Debbie met us at the airport, we did some quick provisioning, and climbed aboard *Sea Fan*. It was really great to be home again. We did minimal work that evening - just got enough of the big stuff out of the saloon so we could manage. We spent the next four days putting things back in order. One additional project was to repair the sunshade on the jib, where it was splitting in four places, plus some sail tape on a tear. On Monday we rented a car for 3 days and drove around the north and west ends of the island - some of the roads were really hairy, and we finally gave up on the "scenic drive" when it became a narrow track full of water-filled potholes and tall grass. We ended our day with a major provisioning at the Pueblo. Tuesday morning, Jane did laundry (stinky - we will never leave dirty clothes on the boat again) while Steve made a trip into Christiansted and the boat store. Finished by 1030, we drove out to the east end of the island. Point Udall is the easternmost point in the U.S. There is an interesting Millennium Monument there - four large buttress-shaped pillars in the cardinal directions. In the center is a tall hollow metal pole with long narrow slits in it. Looking through the slit, you see a rod sticking up, which marks the position of the rising sun on January 1, 2000. From the other side, it marks sunset. This is a rather neat modern version of Stonehenge and other prehistoric astronomical calendars. Next we stopped to look at the huge radio telescope out there. It is 82 feet in diameter, but is one of 10 such stretching from Hawaii to St. Croix, called the Very Long Baseline Array. Working together, they scan the skies with the power of a telescope that is 5000 miles wide!!! This gives resolution

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that would show a football on the surface of the moon.

Wednesday we toured the St. Georges Botanical Garden. It was beautiful. Most fascinating was the medicinal herb garden. We also saw some pretty awesome trees. The Sausage tree, with fruit pods 12" or more long, weigh up to 15 pounds, look like big sausages, and were used to make beer. Then there was the Cannonball tree, whose fruits looked like, guess what? And hard and heavy, too. The Turpentine tree is called the Tourist Tree here, because the sun turns the bark red and then it peels. Lots of flowers, and a marvelous collection of cactus. In the afternoon we went to the Cruzan Rum factory for a tour and tasting. Strangely, they make all the rum here, but only bottle a little. The rest is shipped to Florida where it is bottled and distributed worldwide. If you lived near the factory, you'd smell the molasses and yeast - smells like rum.

It's 10PM on Monday the 10<sup>th</sup>, and it's raining. I mean, it is REALLY RAINING. It's been raining steadily now for 6 hours, sometimes just a misty drizzle, sometimes a downpour, sometimes a thunderstorm. Fortunately, the boat doesn't leak, so we're dry. But it's raining so hard now, so loudly, that it's impossible to sleep. Every time it lets up a bit, you think you'll get to sleep; then it starts pouring, the wind picks up, and the waves bounce back and forth between the hulls and between the boat and the wall. At least it keeps the bugs away. They did predict numerous showers, but these are more than showers. For sure, some of the roads we explored here on St. Croix are impassable now. Tuesday: It rained all night; one station reporting from St. Croix measured 5.98 inches of rain overnight!!!! The water is mud colored, the power was out island-wide all morning. We inventoried all the books on board (202 plus 60 we plan to trade away) and re-shelved them. Now it's time for a nap. Wednesday: Still raining; it's predicted to continue what

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they call "unsettled" for the next few days - courtesy of a low to the north, and we're stuck in a trough. We are heartily sick of rain. The humidity is so high everything is damp, and I sure don't want to wash mildew when it won't dry.

Boredom has set in.

Thursday: Heard on the weather that in the 36 hours ending Wednesday night, one station on St. Croix got over 20 inches of rain - and a report that cars were floating away. San Juan weather warns of dangerous, life threatening flash floods for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. We hope to leave tomorrow, as rain should diminish, and winds will be south or southeast.

Only scattered showers forecast for Friday, so we left for St. John at 8:15. Good thing we left early, and arrived in Salt Pond about 2; by 3 PM it was pouring and it rained hard all night. In the morning, the water was mud brown and large portions of the beach were washed out. Saturday was better, though the water was cloudy; by Sunday we could see the bottom, so we went swimming in the afternoon. We heard the salt pond had grown to the point the trail to Drunk Bay was under water. After spending several days in Salt Pond, moved to Maho Bay, where we had access to laundry and shopping in Cruz Bay. We started serious cleaning work, both inside mildew and bottom crud. Also did laundry up at the campground. The mosquitos ashore are fierce. There are more boats here, so we have some social contacts, too, as the cruisers are starting to arrive.

FEEDING FRENZY !!! When we hear loud splashing, it's usually not a swimmer or kayaker, it's a bar jack feeding frenzy. These silvery streamlined predators, averaging about 12" long, swim in packs, searching for the abundant schools of minnows near the surface. They attack, streaking through the water with many splashes and leaps. If you are lucky enough to be in the water with mask and snorkel, you can get right in the middle, and the bar jacks ignore you, so focused are they on their prey. They just continue the feeding frenzy as if you weren't there. Morning, noon, or night, they prowl the bays like a pack of wolves. If they are right by the boat, we can scoop them up with a net, though we don't eat them because some may carry ciguatera.

We ended the month partying. Two nights in a row we had a crowd aboard for happy hour. The boats from the Caribbean 1500 (passage from Norfolk VA to Tortola BVI - 1500 miles) have arrived, most after a stop in Bermuda, and other cruisers are arriving now that hurricane season is over. So it was Bob and Joanne on *Alize*, Dick and Liz on *Kia Orana*, Jack and Judy on *Sailbad the Sailor*, John and Po on *Jaimie*, Dick and Bev on *Silent Passage*, Susie and Emory on *Susannah Gale*, and Robert and Elise on *Iron Mistress*. What fun! Then the party moved to *Alize*, and after four nights of parties, we spent a quiet evening alone aboard.

DECEMBER began with yet another party, this one on *Alize*. On Tuesday, Steve hitched a ride to Red Hook on *Kia Orana* to pick up new raw water pump. We inventoried our other problems - the 'Lectrasan is running extended cycle, the water maker has low feed water pressure, the stainless needs cleaning, paint chips need sanding & painting, two burgee halyards have come down, there's chafe on the sail cover. It is a boat. Thursday we thought we'd go to Salt Pond (or Newfound Bay), but the square waves on the nose were really jarring us, so we ducked back into Leinster Bay, where we will meet *Glory* of Christiansted with Dan and Jaye and David aboard.

Tropical storm Odette appeared on the scene, southwest of Haiti, moving north-east - rather reminiscent of Lenny. We watched as it slowed, stalled, then sped up and

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whacked the Dominican Republic. We had several days of cloudy weather with off and on showers. Not too conducive to swimming, etc., but we did get our head problems fixed. Friday *Glory* arrived, and we had great happy hour with all aboard.

After a couple of days in Leinster, we headed to Salt Pond, our favorite place, on the 8th. Next day Jane made a trip by dollar bus to Cruz Bay and did laundry. Then Thursday, we both went in and did some shopping, mailed bills, etc. We're set now til just before Christmas, when we'll be in Maho or Francis Bay for celebrations with other cruisers. Went snorkeling around the rocks, and on the way back I found a spotted eagle ray just slowly cruising around our boat, digging in the bottom for shellfish and other tidbits. Spent about 15 minutes following it around - beautiful!

Routine now is chores, rest, relaxation, swimming, etc. Life is hard.

Next stop was Great Lameshur Bay, with good snorkeling out around the point - really nice elkhorn coral and lots of fish, including a immense scrawled file fish. Then we headed into Red Hook for fuel, and sailed up to Francis Bay. When we went to pull in the jib, the block broke! It was very difficult to get the jib in, but we managed. Next day Jane went back to Red Hook by ferry, for haircut, used book store, hardware store, and a new block. Imagine my surprise to learn that Island Marine doesn't carry blocks. And they call themselves a marine store. Anyhow, next day was Steve's turn to head to St. Thomas, returning with a new block, filters for the water maker, and oil for the saildrives.

After a couple of days in Francis Bay, we spent two nights anchored in Newfound Bay, well protected from the swell by reef. Then a night in Water Creek, all by ourselves, and back to Francis Bay on December 23<sup>rd</sup> to get

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ready for Christmas festivities. That evening there were 14 aboard for happy hour. Then on Christmas eve, after a rainy afternoon, it cleared up enough we had 14 dinghies rafted together for another happy hour, passing our hors d'oeuvres from dinghy to dinghy. Great fun. Christmas day we went up to the restaurant at Maho Bay for dinner with a couple dozen other cruisers. Turkey, ham, stuffing, potatoes, salad, veggies, cranberry sauce, pecan pie - the whole nine yards. Great fun. We stayed in Francis Bay Friday night, then moved to Salt Pond. Good choice. Sunday, a cold front came through - unusual because they usually don't get this far - with a high behind it. It seemed chilly Monday morning, as the overnight low was 71°. The weather forecast is unpleasant; Monday through Thursday will see winds increasing to 20, 25, 30 knots, with a swell from the north building to 11 feet. Things will be really uncomfortable on the north side of the islands, so we'll just stay here on the south side and be comfortable. Monday we went to Cruz Bay for laundry and shopping, and when we came back on the dollar bus, it was so full we had to sit on the floor - and others had to stand. The beach looked like Coney Island -solid people, beach chairs, towels. There were at least 3 times more people than we've ever seen before! We heard that all the resorts, taxis, etc. were sending everyone here because the north side beaches had already become unpleasant and dangerous. So I expect it will be busy here until at least Thursday.

December 31<sup>st</sup>. We'll greet the New Year here in Salt Pond, protected from the 25 + knot winds and 8 to 11 foot seas. The beach is still much busier than normal. Today, a father was snorkeling with his two early teen daughters, and one was exhausted trying to swim back to the beach against the wind and waves. They grabbed the dinghy, and we helped the girls aboard to rest and warm up, and then Steve gave them a ride to the beach in the dinghy. Well, Steve is cooking tonight, a great skillet pasta with ricotta and mozzarella; we'll be in bed before midnight. Happy New Year.

Note our new email address if you've not got it before. We'd love to hear from you. We receive email via a satellite phone that is quite slow, so please do not send pictures, messages with lots of addresses, or a reply that contains the original message. Thanks

*Jane and Steve Gardner, seafan35@safe-mail.net*

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Editor's Note: Jane and Steve Gardner have been living aboard their Island Spirit Cat *Sea Fan* for several years now, and keep her in the Carribean. Steve was the MRSA Commodore in 1999. Those MRSA'ers that attended the Eileen Quinn Bluewater concert this past summer may remember her song about the life of cruisers: "What Do You Do All Day?". Now you have the real answer!

*Fred Betz*

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR AND BEST WISHES FOR A  
SUCCESSFUL 2004**

**AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL MRSA MEM-  
BERS ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY !**

**1974 - 2004**

## **THE JANUARY 2004 CALENDAR, PLUS AND MINUS**

1/5/04 BOG Meeting, at McNair's,  
1900 hr.

1/17/04 Commodore's Ball, Gibson  
Island Club, 1830 hr.

2/7/04 Cruise Planning Party and  
Pot Luck Dinner, Belvedere YC,  
1800 hr.

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**MRSA 2004 DUES  
RENEWAL FORM IS  
ENCLOSED**

**PLEASE RENEW YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP BY  
JANUARY 15, 2004**

**THANK YOU!!**

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## **FEBRUARY CRUISE PLANNING AND POT LUCK DINNER**

Saturday, February 7, 2004, is the date of our cruise planning/pot luck dinner to be held at the Belvedere Yacht Club, at 6:00 p.m. We will be discussing the new cruise schedule for the upcoming sailing season and attempting to fill the slots open with volunteer cruise leaders.

Those attending with the last names beginning with A thru M, please bring a salad or side dish, and those with last names beginning with N thru Z, please bring an entrée'. Water, soda, coffee, tea, beer, wine, and cake will be provided by MRSA.

Directions to BYC: Turn onto College Parkway from MD Rt. 2, Ritchie Highway. Turn left on Jones Station Road and left again on Alameda Pkwy. Continue to end of Alameda and find BYC on your right. From College Parkway headed east, turn right onto Jones Station Road, right on Alameda Pkwy, and then as above.

Help would be greatly appreciated for set up at 5:00 p.m. or tear down/clean up after the event. Please respond if you can assist with your RSVP.

*Laura Bonham*

### **THE OLD MAN**

Magothy River Sailing Association  
P. O. Box 1135  
Pasadena, MD 21122  
<http://mrsa.sailnet.com>



*photo by Bill Paul*