



Change of Watch/Year End Party Report by Captain Pam Miller

Hello all,

I wish everyone could have been at this year's Change of Watch party. The new venue at Maxine Barritt park was perfect -- beautiful view, a nice cool breeze and plenty of space to spread out. Thank you to Beth for getting up early and getting there first to reserve the space before anyone else arrived.

The mimosas prepared by Lois were refreshing and the breakfast treats from Jane and Marge delicious. The appetizing food and drinks sat atop the sailing tablecloth made by Judy Karr years ago and it still provides a festive air to all our activities. The blue and white tablecloths on the picnic tables provided a nautical flare along with the anchors used as centerpieces. The quilt banner made by Miriam Staveley was on display as well as the Bitter Ends pennant. The 13 photos and 4 articles of the Bitter Ends that were published in the Gondolier this past year were posted in chronological order on a huge banner.

After the morning's social, the activities were kicked off by a raffle of drawstring bags made by Jill. Six lucky winners walked away with 2-tone colorful bags that had various prints on the inside of the bag. Captain Marge welcomed the troops and Ann gave a quick Treasurer's report and announced the club fiscally sound.

Pam then announced the Series 2 race award winners along with those achieving Perfect Attendance and recognition of those who had capsized. For those interested, attached is a summary of the winners and the score for each sailor and the # of races completed in series 2.

Captain Marge provided a wonderful summary of her successful year as Captain and the club's achievements which were many. Most significant was the addition of 7 new members through a combination of sailors who joined from the Open House, those who signed up after taking the Spring Learn To Sail, and others who tested in at various times throughout the year. Another major accomplishment was sailing for a total of 23 days throughout the year with no cases of Covid -- everyone deserves a huge pat on the back for always wearing their masks and social distancing. Unfortunately I don't have Marge's notes or I could include more information but if you've kept in touch reading the weekly minutes from Jane, you'll know we had an eventful year.

Marge distributed gifts to her Board and the many volunteers who work so hard to make the club a success. Individuals received darling sailboat earrings and delicious chocolate.

The highlight of the day were two special awards. One was the Shipmate Award and as Marge read the traits of the individual who won everyone was trying to guess the winner but confusion arose when it appeared the traits described couldn't always be attributed to one member. As it turns out, it was the first time a 'tie' had occurred in Bitter Ends history and Jane Gallagher and Pam Miller were named as the Shipmates of the Year since they both achieved an equal amount of votes.

The 2nd major award of the day was Marge conferring Honorary Membership to Lois Steketee. Lois is a founding member of the club from 1976 and she was recognized for her 45 years of service to the club, which included being Captain and too many chairpersons to name. Marge presented Lois with a beautiful crystal award that was inscribed with her years with the club and recognized her dedication and service. She was also given a large collage of photos prepared by Nancy Marik along with a memory book and a photo frame for her desk. Lois was speechless and overwhelmed with joy and expressed her love for the club and all the members she has served with.

These 2 different awards were followed with Vice Captain Lois giving a Hershey kiss to all the members present to thank them for all their help throughout the year since she wasn't as available as she hoped she could be. She then presented outgoing Captain Marge with a beautiful quilted table runner made by Jill that depicted Marge's year as Captain. The quilt is a work of art and Marge was very pleased with the presentation.

The day's events concluded with Pam being inducted as the new Captain. An overview of focus for the upcoming year was provided and then the summer activities were discussed.

The day ended with much more socialization among the sailors and anchors and many congratulations given to Lois, Jane and myself. All in all a wonderful day for the Bitter Ends.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer,  
A very 'wordy' Captain Pam