

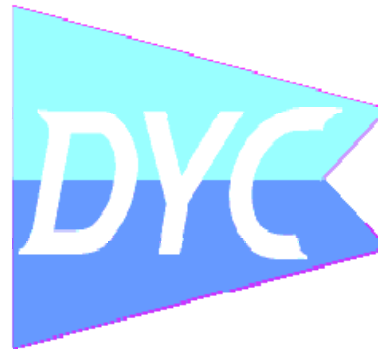
RANGE MARKS

Volume 15 Issue 8 <http://www.dahlgrenyachtclub.org> Dec 2008

The Official Newsletter of the Dahlgren Yacht Club

Board of Governors

Commodore	Darrel Webb
Vice Commodore	Roger Poole
Secretary	Keith Ofsowitz
Treasurer	Paul Schaeffer
Dock Master	David Hagar
Asst Dock Master	John McLaughlin
Membership	David Shuttleworth
Social Governor	Corrie Sirkin
Training/Seamanship	Joe Carro
Racing Governor	Denis Bessette
Newsletter Editor	Ron Cox
Ex Officio Governor	Joe Futcher
MWR Representative	Craig Ulrich



Dockhouse Telephone - (540) 663-3696

E-Mail Address bog@dahlgrenyachtclub.org

From the Commodore:

I hope everyone has had a great holiday and is refreshed. I am looking forward to the banquet on the 12th of January. I hope to see everyone there.

This has been a very busy season for the Board. We have finished work on the dock and are looking forward to the spring. I hope we do not have as many problems as last year. Hopefully we will get passed this winter with no damage to the pier or other facilities.

I received a call from NAVFAC (Public Works) this week, a new power metering system has been installed at the club house. This system monitors the electrical power usage for the club. We have experienced a significant cost growth in power usage.

The members of the board will be meeting this week to evaluate the cost growth and look at solutions.

I want to take this opportunity to let the membership know that there will probably be increases in the basic membership and slip fees for the next year. The board will only recommend increases, if we cannot find ways to supplement the current budget (Cost Cutting). The increases will not be large. The board is only looking at covering the cost growth of the power utilities at this time.

We will have more details at the general membership meeting.

I want to thank all the membership for their support this past year.

Darrel, Commodore DYC

BOG MEETINGS:

Executive Summary:

The DYC BOG held its monthly meeting on 12 December 2007. The club currently has 200 members and current assets of \$13,825.34. The race season is over. The dock work for repair and replacement of the damaged pilings is complete. An issue of noncompliance resulting from a Virginia Marine Resource Commission (VMRC) inspection of the dock to ensure compliance with our dock work permit is being addressed. JD's has been reserved for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 12th, 2008. Darlene Keating is working hard to make it a great time – obtaining a speaker, getting door prizes, etc., please contact her if you wish to offer any help or suggestions.

The next DYC BOG Meeting is the DYC annual meeting on 12 January 2008. Please check the website at <http://www.dahlgrenyachtclub.org/> or contact the BOG at BOG@DahlgrenYachtClub.org for any questions.

Social:

DAHLGREN YACHT CLUB ANNUAL BANQUET

Come join us for the Racing Awards and a Wonderful Dinner

When: Saturday, January 12th, 2008

Where: JD's Ballroom and the River Range

What time: Meeting 1700

Happy Hour: 1730-1930

Guest Speaker: Neil Blum

RSVP NLT JAN 7, 2008

Cost \$20 per person

Please send to: DYC, P.O. Box 90,

Dahlgren, VA 22448

or D. Keating

1631 Lakeview DR

Colonial Beach, VA 22443

***Remember, Always Wear Your Life Jacket...
You Never Know What You Are Going To Run Into!***

>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>



Whale-size hunk of debris is a big mystery on a barge



A large piece of debris lifted from the Intracoastal Waterway in Virginia Beach on Saturday now rests on a barge on the Portsmouth waterfront.

(steve stone photos | the virginian-pilot)

By steve stone

The Virginian-Pilot

VIRGINIA BEACH

The Intracoastal Waterway is clear today and officials have begun an inquiry they hope will explain how a huge piece of debris ended up in the channel.

The first question: Just what the heck is the massive, whale-shaped bundle of wood pulled from the waterway?

It is suspected of damaging the cruise ship Spirit of Nantucket on Thursday, forcing its captain to ground the vessel to prevent it from sinking.

"I've never seen anything like it, and I've seen everything there is to see on the waterfront," said Bob Crofton, president of the company that raised it. "I think it was built by aliens."

While it is likely of more Earthly origin, it is a perplexing sight - huge and likely quite old.

It measures 40 feet in length and is 7 to 8 feet tall, and is about 13 feet wide. Crofton estimates it weighs 30 to 40 tons.

It appears to be fashioned mostly of solid timber and has the remnants of metal plates and spikes in it.

Worms have left artistic channels on its surfaces, and other marine life appears to have made it a home.

Boaters stared as they sailed past the hunk resting on a barge at Crofton's Portsmouth facility near the Midtown Tunnel along Scott's Creek.

Crew from the Nantucket also came by to see it.

"It looks like a section of an old, very old, blockade chain that was used to prevent entry of vessels into rivers or bays," said Tom Ruszala, director of nautical operations for Cruise West, the company that operates the Nantucket.



The mass is 40 feet long, 7 to 8 feet tall, and about 13 feet wide.

It has several wooden posts sticking out of what used to be its top. They look as if they might once have been bollards used as mooring lines for ships.

The mass curves to a point, or bow, at one end to further enhance the nautical mystery.

Attesting to its age, the 7-foot spikes driven through its width - once presumably flush with the wooden surface - now protrude several inches from the rotted mass.

Crofton shook his head. He has no idea what he is going to do to dispose of it.

"You can't sink it, it will just float back up. And you can't cut it with chain saws," he said.

Whatever it is, now that it is out of the water, the Coast Guard has lifted restrictions on vessels in the area where it was found, a few miles north of the Pungo Ferry Bridge.

A survey team from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which maintains the waterway, used sonar to locate the debris Thursday. The corps then hired Crofton Industries to remove it.

Divers and workers spent much of Saturday trying to lift it, and just after 9:30 p.m., a crane was able to load it aboard the barge.

Within minutes of moving it out of the area, corps personnel surveyed the waterway and confirmed that the draft, which had been reduced to 7-1/2 feet, was back to the minimum of 12 feet in the area.

Col. Dan Anninos, the corps' Norfolk District commander, praised Crofton's fast work clearing the busy channel that is especially popular with recreational boaters. It runs for 1,090 miles from Norfolk to Miami.

Finding the source of the debris may prove "tough," said Terry A. McCann, a corps spokesman.

He said investigators will examine it for evidence of where it came from, but that may be lacking.

"We'll see what the object tells us," he said.

The corps also will question people who work daily along the waterway.

For instance, "we are checking with the operators at the Great Bridge Locks to see if they will recognize the object as something that came through there," McCann said. "It may have been on a barge."

He said anyone with information about the object can call the corps.

McCann said the incident underscores the importance of mariners alerting authorities about obstacles so they can be marked and removed.

"It's the responsibility of mariners, whether they see something, hit something or if they have lost something in the water that may be an obstruction, to notify authorities," McCann said.

The corps estimates that locating and removing the debris will cost about \$50,000 - an expense that could fall to whoever is responsible for dropping it in the channel, if that's how it got there.

As for the Nantucket, it has been moved to Colonna's Shipyard in Norfolk for repairs.

There has been no estimate from the vessel's owners, Seattle-based Cruise West, on the cost to fix the damage - a foot long, 2-inch-wide gash in its hull and rudder damage.

None of the 66 passengers or crew aboard was hurt in the incident, which occurred as the vessel was on a 10-day cruise from Alexandria to Charleston, S.C.

Steve Stone, (757) 446-2309, steve.stone@pilotonline.com

TO HELP

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers asks that anyone with information about the object pulled from the Intracoastal Waterway to call them at (757) 201-7606.