



March/April 2021 Newsletter
Also available online at www.wardroomclub.org

NOTES FROM THE CLUB PRESIDENT

Greetings everyone! I hope that as we begin the Spring season and warmer weather that this newsletter finds you and your families continuing to do well and staying healthy and receiving your vaccinations as soon as eligible.

The ongoing pandemic: We passed the one year anniversary of dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic in mid-March and yet we have a long way to go to see the end of this major health threat. The United States seem to be attempting to do the best which they are able to do to continue to test the population, treat the patients who have the virus, and open up the opportunities for everyone of almost all age groups to receive one of the three vaccines. The state of MA will begin offering the vaccine to everyone over the age of 19 years of age on 4/19/21 and other states are doing the same. The news is that the younger age populations will begin receiving the vaccines by this summer or hopefully by the end of the year. CDC is still discussing whether a vaccine booster will be required for us depending on the tests being conducted as to the length of immunity the various vaccines provide for the long term. So stand by!

The social restrictions for both the civilian and federal populations have slowly been changing to provide more chances to for people to get together and attend certain venues, however, as a club are not even close to knowing what the situation will be for us to consider meeting in person in October. The BOG is keeping up to date on this and you will see that the VP has a short note in his section about this.

I have been holding routine discussions and Zoom meetings with the BOG about a variety of issues affecting the club including our finances regarding monthly revenue, income, expenses and the lack of new membership activities for this season, and more.

This newsletter's format: We believe that it is very important to communicate with you even though there may not be many new topics or issues directly affecting or pertinent to the club to share with you. *The result is that this newsletter is a shortened version and notes posted from fewer officers.* This one is not being developed by the printing company then sent out to members in the usual formal printed version used online and in mailed copies. Instead, this one is being compiled by me and will be sent by email to all members with an email address, and a printed copy of this will be sent by the Secretary to the 20 members who do not have an email address.

There are multiple reasons for this decision and the primary one is to help control club expenses. The club's highest expense each month is to pay the printing company approximately \$500.00/month to prepare, print, and mail the USPS version to over 100 members (80 of which are members who request it in both versions; however we are working to decrease this number).

The printing costs are not fixed expenses and therefore are the easiest for us to control versus other expenses such as club insurances, website maintenance, and more. So, we made the decision to only send out 1 newsletter for the 2 months of January and February, and then combine the months of March and April for an e-version edition only. This has had an immediate positive effect on our bottom line. (The treasurer offers more information in his section below.) We hope and expect that you will support our decisions.

Resources for you to enjoy in lieu of enjoying speaker presentations at our meetings:

I want to share with you links to two excellent virtual Zoom presentations that occurred in the past couple of months. I know you will enjoy them if you missed them the first time.

1) **“A Conversation on Leadership”**: I informed you via special message on 2/9/21 about the one hour virtual event sponsored by the USS Constitution Museum on 2/23/21 from 1300-1400. Former Secretary of the Defense, General James Mattis, was the featured speaker on the topic of “A Conversation on Leadership,” followed by a Q&A session. He was introduced by Gen. Joseph Dunford, USMC (Ret.), Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 2015-2019. *It was excellent!* The museum shared with me the link to share with our membership as long as we knew that it was a ”Private YouTube link” and asked it not to be shared with any individuals’ or organization’s “social media”, but it could be shared in our newsletter. Paste either link directly into your browser: <https://youtu.be/u0ixl8QomP4>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0ixl8QomP4>

2) **“An evening of conversation with CDR John Benda, 76th Commanding Officer of the USS Constitution”**: I had planned for CDR Benda to speak at one of our dinner meetings this season prior to the cancellations. However, in lieu of that, we were so fortunate to be invited to the virtual Zoom presentation by CDR Benda from the gun deck of the ship that was sponsored by the Massachusetts Bay Council of the NLUS, held on 3/1/21 from 1900-2000. *It was excellent!* I asked Council leadership, also members of the WRC, if they would share the link for you to enjoy and they agreed. Courtesy of the MBC, paste this link directly into your browser: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QrikBD-uqvgLUG9_rcjjY7D4n6cPQsH0/view?ts=605de526

Reading opportunity: “The Ship’s Whistle”: Bulletin from the Massachusetts Bay Council, NLUS. We are fortunate to have as one of our long time members, CAPT Ivan R. Samuels, USNR (RET), who is also a long time member of the MBC and currently VP of Membership and Editor of their e-mail bulletin. The President of the Council is also one of our Associate members, Steve Schnitzer. I asked if I could share with you the link to this month’s bulletin, not only because you will see their recent award presentations to active duty service members, but because they describe the recent changes to the Navy Recruiting Command structure and address an important maritime issue: Maritime Centric National Defense Strategy. (FYI: The Navy League is unique among military-oriented associations in that it is a civilian organization dedicated to the education of our citizens, including elected officials and the support of the men and women of the sea services and their families. Paste this link into your browser for their website and bulletin: https://www.massbaynavyleague.org/pdf/The_Ships_Whistle_APRIL_2021.pdf

We will be back to you in May so please take care of yourselves and your families and, as always, feel free to contact me if I can be of help to you in anyway. Be well! Mary Jo

CAPT Mary Jo Majors, NC, USNR (RET); Email: CAPTMAJOD@aol.com; Cell: 617-285-2571.

NOTES FROM THE CLUB VICE PRESIDENT

I hope these notes find you safe and well and, like me, looking forward to a COVID free world someday soon! The catchphrase is no longer “Hide and Survive”; it is “Smile and Revive”. First, I feel that with everyone vaccinated, we can return to a normal season later this year. Even if the USCG Base Boston is not available, we have been working with our caterer to find function halls that can host us. It might be an American Legion Post or the like, and most likely not in downtown Boston, but wherever it is we can make it work. We will keep everyone advised.

Second, I urge everyone to get vaccinated as soon as you can. Do not wait for the “one and done” vaccine, get whichever one you can as soon as you can get it. It will not be long before your vaccination record will become more important than your driver’s license. In that regard, please note that State and National vaccination databases are being built, so no matter where you receive your vaccination, whether it was from your doctor, your hospital, or your community, you and others should have access to that information. You should also assume that being vaccinated will be a prerequisite for many activities, including Club meetings.

Last, probably one of the biggest effects COVID had on the Club was in recruiting new members. There was just no effective way to do it, so we look forward to a return to normalcy and a robust Class of 2022! If you know a prospective member, please let me know.

Col. Robert Donaghue, USMC (Ret.); Email: ip350haven@comcast.net; Cell: 617-840-0267.

Notes from the Club Treasurer

The final tally of 2021 annual dues collections is 99% of the 302 members who pay dues. This overwhelming support enabled our club to maintain its strong financial standing. The end of the October 2020-May 2021 Club year is approaching, and although it has been over a year without monthly meetings since February 2020, the fixed expenses of the club continued. It is because of our successful dues collections and careful financial management of variable expenses, that we will begin the next club year a little better than when the pandemic forced the shutdown more than one year ago. A hearty thank you to our members!

CDR Earl “Bud” Watson, USNR (RET); Email: wardroomclub@gmail.com; Cell: 617-694-2688.

TAPS - We regret having to announce the passing of longtime club member, LT Edward J. Cloutier, USNR, (RET) on 1/25/21. Ed was born in Webster, MA, and following his active duty Naval service, became the founding member of American Executive Management, a leading executive search firm with a worldwide client-base, specializing in strategic business planning for clients within the design, engineering and construction industries. He became a member of the WRC in April 1995. He was an active member of yacht race committees in both Marblehead and Gloucester, and was also active in the hobby of the restoration of antique automobiles. Memorial service: due to the ongoing pandemic, will be held at a later-to-be announced time and location.

“Sunset and evening star and one clear call for me! And may there be no moaning of the bar, When I put out to sea, Twilight and the evening bell, And after that the dark! And may there be no sadness of farewell, when I embark; For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place The flood may bear me far, I hope to see my Pilot face to face, when I have crossed the bar.” Alfred Lord Tennyson