

# The Propeller Club of the United States

## PORT OF NORFOLK

P.O. BOX 3072, NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23514



### Celebrating 75 Years

In 1922, a group of maritime industry men, met in New York City to discuss mutual maritime problems and the future of American shipping. In 1923, this group formally organized and established the Propeller Club, Port of New York. This laid the keel for the Propeller Club of the United States. This club was followed by the Port of Boston and the Port of New Orleans that same year. Other major ports soon joined and four (4) years later the Propeller Club of the United States was formally established and headquartered in the Washington DC area.

In 1931, a group of maritime industry leaders in the Hampton Roads area, including L.G. Hogshire (NBC Lines), M.N. Lawrence (Norshipco), Joseph H. Godwin (Joseph N. Godwin Co.), Leon T. Seawell (Seawell, McCoy, Winston and Dalton) and other local maritime leaders, met at the Virginia Club, Seldon Arcade, Norfolk, Virginia and established our local chapter and named it the Propeller Club of the United States, Port of Norfolk.

This year, 2006, we celebrate our seventy-fifth year. While some Port Chapters have fallen by the wayside, our club is still going strong with the leadership of dedicated and hard working officers and board members. Each year, we lose some members due to transfer, change of jobs and other reasons, but due to the hard work recruiting by officers, board members, and members, we recruit enough new members to maintain a stable membership. Our membership is diversified with members from all walks of the maritime industry and from companies that do business with maritime companies. Past presidents are from law firms, shipping agencies, marine shipyards, marine consultants, tug companies, pilot associations, insurance underwriters, marine terminals, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, labor unions and stevedoring, marine suppliers and marine associations.

For years we have hosted two (2) golf outings per year, two (2) oyster roasts per year, Maritime Day each year and membership luncheons in November, January, February, and March of each year. The golf outings are held at different golf clubs in the Hampton Roads area. The oyster roasts were originally held at the Pilots Association Facility at the foot of Bute Street in Norfolk, Virginia. When the Pilots Association moved to its present

location at Lynnhaven Inlet, the Propeller Club moved its Oyster Roast party to NIT where it is held twice a year.

On or about 1980 we had our first applications for membership into our club by two (2) local women. Ms. Sharon Baines and Ms. Mary Ann Heider, both employed by Anders Williams Shipping Agency. We now have several lady members who are very active. We also have five (5) ladies on our board of Directors. For the 2003-2004 club year, Captain Patricia McFadden was the first woman to server as our club president. She did an outstanding job.

Our club contributed to many local and national charities, including the Red Cross and The Seaman's Friends house. We also made a contribution to Hurricane Katrina victims. When Nauticus was built, we made a large donation to the project and we are recognized on a plaque inside the entrance. We also made a substantial contribution to the construction of the Schooner Virginia. We have also given scholarships to various high school and ODU students. For years we sponsored a Sea Scout Troop and a Student Port at ODU.

This year, our seventy-fifth year, we will host the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference and Convention on October 10-13, 2006 at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott. With a dedicated committee and hard work by all members, we know this convention will be the best ever and the most successful. "Let's Go".

Buzz Sawyer  
Historian  
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