

The Propeller Club of the United States

Port of Norfolk

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<http://www.propellerclubnorfolk.com/>



APRIL 2008

NEWSLETTER

THE BRIDGE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thanks to your fantastic support, your Propeller Club has had a very successful 07-08 membership year. Attendance at all our annual events has been great and the Club Officers and Board of Governors appreciate your support. The Fall Golf Outing and Oyster Roast turned into a great event even though "mother nature" did her best to ruin the day. Our membership luncheons were well attended and our guest speakers were as much of a diverse group as we have had in years. As we wind down the busiest part of our year and start to enjoy spring and summer, I would like to bring to your attention some of our last few planned events and hope to have your continued support:

- 17 April 08 – Spring Oyster Roast at Crumbley Rec. area at NIT
- 23 May 08 – National Maritime Day Celebration & Luncheon
- 31 May 08 – Annual Membership Meeting on the American Rover
- 10 June 08 – Spring Golf Outing at Riverfront Golf Course

As many of you may know, my term of office will be expiring at the end of June. There is a saying that "life flies by in the blink of an eye" and I'd like to say it has been a great pleasure and honor to serve as your President for the past 18 months. George Fischer (ACL) will be taking over the reins as your President and I ask that you please support him as much as you have me. He has been a great contributor to the club for many years and I am certain under his leadership the club will continue to thrive. Thank you.

Ray Wittersheim

FROM THE PROGRAMS CHAIRMAN

A sincere thanks to the Norfolk Propeller Club members for their participation in this year's luncheon's held at the Towne Point Club in Norfolk. We had a total of 7 luncheons beginning in September and ending in March. We averaged over 70+ members for each luncheon, and everyone's comments were very positive on the location, the food, and of course, the guest speakers.

Our guest speakers were Nash Bilisoli (Vandeventer Black), Jeff Keever (VPA), Bobby Wilder (Head Football Coach of Old Dominion), G. William Whitehurst (Former Congressman), Ed McCarthy (APM Terminals), Rear Admiral Jeffrey Brooks (U.S. Fleet Forces Command Director Fleet Maintenance), and Col. Dionysis Anninos (Commander Army Corps of Engineers). This year's speakers were a varied group that offered insight into their respective jobs and responsibilities, all the while providing valuable information to the maritime industry as well as their civic involvement within the community.

Don't want to forget to mention the bar sponsors this year. Those that sponsored the bar at our luncheons were Tecnico, MHI (2), ACL, Bay Diesel (2), and Kuehne Nagel. Thanks to the companies for their participation, and thanks for doing your part in making our luncheons a tremendous success.

I would also like to express our thanks to the Student Ports Association for their participation in our luncheons. Each luncheon had a terrific showing from the Student Port, and we thank them for their involvement with the Norfolk Propeller Club.

In closing, the success of the luncheons comes from the participation of its members. Just as a reminder, we begin our luncheons for 08/09 in September. Please check the web site for further details. Again, many thanks for your wonderful support!

Kind regards,
George Fischer
Program Chairman

OYSTER ROAST – 17 April 08

Our Spring Oyster Roast will be held at NIT on Thursday, the 17th of April. We hope to have clear weather with a tremendous turnout like the fall 2007 Oyster Roast (1500 attendees). The menu will consist of fried oysters, oysters on the half shell, clam chowder, barbecue, fried chicken, French fries, Soda and plenty of cold Beer. The special VIP area, for members only, will be offered again this year at the Crumbley House, on property. Hope to see you there, and please stop in to visit the VIP area. There's also a great incentive for non-members to join our Club because it entitles them to the \$30 member ticket price, otherwise it's \$40 for this same event! (Late payers will also be assessed \$40....Best deal is to pay early and join up!)

Please car pool and use the Ruthven Street entrance to our off-site parking along Terminal Boulevard as plenty of shuttle buses will be available to take you straight to the gate. There is limited parking available for handicapped persons just outside the gate entrance, if needed. And PLEASE, help us respect our neighbors nearby by making use of the offsite parking as towing will be enforced in the private neighborhood next to NIT.

For tickets or to display your company banner, please contact Winnoga at 628-2669.

Bob Armbruster & Steve Hagen
Co-Chairmen

NATIONAL MARITIME DAY

Please join us for a special luncheon as we celebrate National Maritime Day on Friday, 23 May 2008 from 1130 to 1330 at Half Moone Cruise and Celebration Center (at Nauticus on the downtown Norfolk waterfront).

Guest speaker: Sean Connaughton, Maritime Administrator, U.S. Department of Transportation

Topic: "America's Advocate for the U.S. Maritime Industry"

Attire: Business

"Cape R Class" Ready Reserve Force Ship will be pierside and open for tours.

The following sponsorship levels are being offered:

Admiral (\$2,000) includes 16 tickets

Commodore (\$1,000) includes 8 tickets

Captain (\$500) includes 4 tickets

Mate (\$250) includes 2 tickets

Individual tickets may be purchased for \$35 per person before 25 April; cost will be \$40 after 25 April.

Deadline for all sponsorships and registrations is 16 May.

Register online at www.vamaritime.com. Look for "events" under the "navigation heading to find the National Maritime Day Link. For more information regarding the luncheon, please call (757) 628-2681.

Ben Schill, Chairman

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & AMERICAN ROVER CRUISE – 31 May 2008

We will hold our annual meeting on the 31st of May on the American Rover. Prepare to set sail from Town Point Park for a relaxing trip down the Elizabeth River. Food will be catered on Rover by Omar's Carriage House with warm hospitality provided by the Rover staff. Once

again we will have our “cruisers” serenaded by many favorite tunes by the “HeadLyners”. New officers and board members for the 2008-2009 year will be introduced. We will begin boarding at 5:45pm and return by 9:00 pm Saturday evening. Tickets will go fast for this event so please book early! We look forward to seeing everyone for this great evening with our membership!

Jordan Watkins

SPRING GOLF OUTING – 10 June 2008

The Propeller Club Spring Golf Outing will be held June 10th at the Riverfront Golf Club, in Suffolk with 0900 shotgun start. Box lunch will be provided with dinner afterwards. The tournament will be post flighted. Cost: \$95 per person, \$380 per 4-some. After the tournament there will be a two entree and two vegetable buffet included in the fee. Flyer to be mailed to members shortly.

We hope to see you there! Registration will be via the Propeller Club Website:
<http://www.propellerclubnorfolk.com/>.

Mark Wilder, Chairman

ODU SCHOLARSHIP



On Monday October 15, 2007, the Propeller Club of the United States, Port of Norfolk (represented by Ray Wittersheim), presented a check in the amount of \$50,000.00 to the College of Business and Public Administration at Old Dominion University thereby officially establishing the “Rolf Williams Memorial Endowed Scholarship”. Funds from the investment returns of the initial donation will be used to provide an annual scholarship to a student at the Norfolk, Virginia, University.

Annually, a rising senior in Maritime and Supply Chain Management or a graduate student in the Master of B.A. Program with a concentration in the Maritime, Ports, and Logistics Management curriculums will always be eligible, after meeting certain other requirements, to receive and benefit from the scholarship made possible by the clubs’ generous donation.

The \$50,000.00 donation was made possible by the generous and overwhelming support from not only the local port community but the international port community during the club’s hosting of the International Conference and Convention in Norfolk in October 2006.

Rolf Williams was a leader in the Hampton Roads maritime community for years and a true ambassador of and for the Port of Hampton Roads. He founded numerous maritime related businesses including Anders Williams Ship Agency, Marine Oil Service and Port City Transportation. He was known throughout the waterfront as a true gentlemen, a good

businessman, knowing when to diversify thereby allowing his Ship Agency business to survive and as an individual who cared passionately about providing good service to his customers. He was a man of his word and his reputation was nothing but impeccable. He was very actively involved in port organizations serving as president of the Hampton Roads Maritime Association, the Hampton Roads Shipping Assoc. and as President of the Propeller Club of Norfolk during 1963–1964.



It is a very fitting tribute that the endowed scholarship will benefit a student in the Maritime field, an area that Mr. Williams loved and spent his life embracing and supporting.

To the left is a picture of the Williams family, Ray Wittersheim and Dr. Wayne Talley.

Ben Schill

ODU STUDENT PORT



The annual ODU scholarship for the academic year 2007-2008 was presented to William J. Fediw on 20 April 07 at the College of Business and Public Administration Awards Ceremony. The award was presented by club treasurer, Tom Ackiss. Will is 22 years old, and is an ODU senior graduating with a BSBA in Maritime and supply Chain Management. He is an Officer Trainee in the United States Coast Guard, pursuing a Coast Guard career in Prevention (Vessel inspection, container inspection, pollution investigation,

and port contingency operations). He is married and is the proud father of a newborn.

The new slate of officers for the Student Port Club at ODU for the academic year 2007-2008 is as follows:

President: Will Fediw
Senior VP: Jason Strickland
Junior VP: Amanda Doherty
Treasurer: Sara Rona
Secretary: Andrea Pembroke
Web Admin: Andre Marable

Ben Schill

INTERNATIONAL SEAMEN'S HOUSE

Every year, the Norfolk Club provides a generous donation to the International Seamen's House in Norfolk. This donation helps to provide services to seamen on ships calling in the Norfolk area. The Seaman's House is always looking for donations of toiletry items, men's' clothing (used and clean) and magazines (used is fine). If you come across items that you would like to donate, please drop them off at 1222 West Olney Street, Norfolk; telephone (757) 623-4222. In addition to the generous donation by our club, our Student Port has donated their time and energy via their "sweat equity" project at the Seamen's House. Thank you for your donation of both funding and time!

MEMBERSHIP DUES

As a result of recent By-Law changes that were approved at the January membership luncheon, the Club's fiscal and membership year have changed from July--June to a calendar year (Jan. – Dec) to coincide with the recent change by the National Propeller Club. As a result of this change, and to make the dues transition as easy as possible, dues renewal notices will be sent to you within the next couple of months. The renewal in the amount of \$90.00 will cover the period of July 1, 2008 to December 31, 2009. This is calculated by taking the newly approved annual membership dues amount of \$60.00 per year, dividing it in half for the period of July 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008 = \$30.00 and adding the full year membership amount of \$60.00 for the period of January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009 which totals \$90.00. Dues renewal notices will be mailed to each member in lieu of email distribution as in the past.