

# Mieco Beach Yacht Club Annual General Meeting

5:30 pm January 30, 2024, Marshall Islands Resort

## MINUTES

**Committee:** *Commodore Mark Stearns, Vice Commodore Cary Evarts, Secretary Rebecca Raab, Treasurer Lynda Rhodes, Publicity Director Karen Earnshaw, Social Director n/a Membership Director Gary Ehram, Quartermaster Don Arkin*

1. The Annual General Meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm.

The Commodore asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

2. The agenda was approved unanimously.
3. The minutes of the previous AGM meeting April 18, 2023 were approved unanimously.

### Old Business:

Committee Member Reports:

**Commodore:** Mark Stearns

Uliga Moorings – Currently, all moorings that appear to be safe are occupied. Two of Matt Holly's connected to the ship in the center need work and it is not advisable for people to use. Matt is due back in Majuro soon.

Eneko and Enemanet MBYC Moorings – Have all been inspected. Four at Eneko are serviceable. One was refloated. Six at Enemanet are serviceable. The one furthest SE was sunk at the ship with the official club mooring and line in front of it refloated and made serviceable. The second mooring was moved back to shallower waters. It is useable but a bit of work still needs to be performed. Mark is due to work these items in the near future.

Since RMI borders have reopened last year, we have seen a continuous increase in yachts traveling through RMI. Approximately 30 so far. Thank you for everyone joining the yacht club. It is nice to see new people around.

David Jerling on Dignity passed away in December and was given a respectful burial at sea. Thank you to those that helped, Rob on Morwena, Kirsten and David on Lucile, Lola and Billy on Moonbird, Mark on Uno Mas and to Cary and Karen on Seal especially, for the use of Wasabi. Leander was also present. Unpaid hospital morgue fees are expected to be traded out for volunteer work at the hospital.

Kwajalein is now checking yachts out of the country. A handful have successfully done so over the past six months.

Mark has on his agenda to speak with the new Bikini Atoll Mayor to see if the cruising permit fee can be made reasonable again. One boat in 2023 was able to visit Bikini for a nominal amount. Karen stated that Lani Kramer used to be a liaison officer for Bikini dive coordination and could be contacted to start the process.

Cruisers volunteered at the Volunteer Veterinary Clinics multiple times throughout the year. Dog aggression seems to be down with fewer people actually bitten. However, people still are noticing the dog packs and are uncomfortable walking through town.

Volunteering for the Canvasback Wellness Center Optometrist Clinic is available for the next two weeks. Rick and Lauren from Canvasback have been to yacht club dinners. It would be nice to support them. Karen stated that Canvasback has had numerous clinics over the years and are a great group of people to work with.

**Vice Commodore:** Cary Evarts

A thank you was sent out to Mark for helping coordinate club interactions throughout the year. It was a great club mooring event with use of Wasabi to dive, inspect, and maintain the lines. Thank you to Brian Kirk for dive tanks and help with floating the mooring that needed to be relocated.

With more yachts showing up, committee members will be in discussion for more yacht club activities, like in years past. There is discussion of bringing back Trivia Night and Beer Can Races and maybe some racing if there is interest.

**Financial Report:** The treasurer is off island. Cary presented that the current bank account balance is \$3,100.00.

**Membership Director:** Gary Ehram

On December 15, 2023, \$1,108 cash was transferred into the bank account. Current cash on hand is \$50.

Lots of new members over the past few months.

**Quartermaster:** Don is not on island. The club merchandise was brought out at the previous MIR yacht club dinner and quite a few items were sold. Thank you to Karen.

**Public Relations/Social Director:** Karen Earnshaw

There were five original members of the MBYC in early, 2004. This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding. A vote was taken and passed, for the implementation of a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary party. The new committee members voted in this evening will work on setting a date and organizing the event.

The MBYC Website has been refurbished and relaunched. Much work has gone into this from Karen and also with the help of Katrin from yacht Esmerelda. The website ( [sailingmarshallislands.com](http://sailingmarshallislands.com) ) now has a subscribe button.

For future press releases for the Marshall Islands Journal and for [Sailingmarshallislands.com](http://Sailingmarshallislands.com), please send Karen nice photos and stories, especially with kids of the outer islands as you visit, underwater photos, etc to help show the yachting community interaction with the communities as we travel through the Marshall Islands.

Because of Covid, the MBYC committee meetings have dwindled, needing a quorum of 4. Now that borders are open and people are here more, the committee meetings should be reestablished to help with future club activities.

**Secretary:** Secretary Raab is off island. Angie volunteered to do the meeting minutes.

**New Business:**

**Election of Committee Members for 2024:**

All nominations were seconded, voted on and approved by the majority of club members present.

Commodore: Mark Stearns

Vice Commodore: Cary Evarts

Secretary: Lauri Jenson

Treasurer: Angela Stearns

Social Director: Combined effort with Gary Ehram and Karen Earnshaw

Membership Director: Gary Ehram

Quartermaster: Ben Vroom

Public Relations Director: Karen Earnshaw

2). Financial report: see above

3). Following elections, Commodore Mark stated that some yachts are leaving within the next few days. Thank you to Esmerelda for helping with Dignity, providing dinghy transfers to shore. Lucile has been here throughout Covid and is soon departing. They will be missed.

4). There will be volunteer help asked for to help cover the costs of Dignity's morgue fees. Mark is working with the Secretary of Health regarding these requirements.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Angela Stearns, February 6, 2024