



The Sycamore Islander

DECEMBER 2010 | VOLUME 89 NUMBER 12

President's Letter

It is a pleasure to convey the State of the Island in the last month of 2010. We are in such great shape--I feel sure the best in our 125-year history. The grounds are in beautiful condition, with our newly renovated clubhouse overlooking it all. We are so very fortunate to have such a good caretaker as well as competent and dedicated officers and supervisors who continue to manage our complicated affairs.

You may recall that I planned to step down as President after this year. Vice President Jim Drew is the nominee for President in 2011 and Bill Marmon is on the ballot for Vice President. These two have shown outstanding interest and participation in Club activities and are sure to be noteworthy leaders in the upcoming years. The election of officers and acknowledgment of appointed supervisors will take place at the December 8 meeting.

Of course we always use the occasion to celebrate the holiday season in a cheerful gathering. **The December 8 meeting will start at 8:00 p.m. in the home of Silvija Strikis and Miguel Browne in nearby McLean, Virginia. See last page for a map and directions to 1232**

Providence Terrace. We encourage you to bring hors d'oeuvres, light cocktail food, or a dessert for the post-meeting festivities. We also could use a few people to help Silvija and Miguel set up before the meeting and to straighten up afterwards. Please contact Jim Drew (jdrewesq@aol.com) or me (davidwiner@verizon.net) by email if you would like to help with these arrangements.

The December meeting is also the time in the year when we review the budget and other business related to salaries and major expenditures. Our prized Treasurer, Alan Gelb, will present the facts and recommend next year's budget. Naturally, our outgo must closely match our income, and we expect Alan to propose needed remedies to achieve a balance.

Last year we paid tribute to Joe Hage for his energy, good humor, and faithful service as caretaker during the particularly stressful renovation. We should repeat this year for his amazing support during and after the scheduled restoration work. Joe continued to perform tough additional jobs through his own recognition of what needs to be done. Note recovery from Snowmageddon, Potomac flood, and a gang of repair/maintenance chores, some quite extensive. Thanks, Joe. Thanks, thanks, thanks.

There are many others who regularly contribute to the Club's well being. But I particularly want to mention some because their efforts so often go unseen. Treasurers Alan and Caroline Gelb, and Financial Secretary Lisa Kliefoth produce voluminous work in keeping this high-dollar operation financially sound and free of complications to the members. Please give them a nod or handshake of thanks when you see them.

Of course, you know of Carol Beehler's work because you see it every month in her issues of the *Islander*. But I do wish to acknowledge the creative talent she uses to inform us so gracefully about the business and activities of the Club.

I hope we will maintain this year's pace of planned activities through the coming seasons. A few of our events in 2010 did not attract expected numbers—perhaps because of inadequate publicity. I encourage all the event organizers to work up attractive announcements and get them in the *Islander* ahead of time. If you have an interest you would like to share with us in a Club-wide activity, please bring your idea to an officer. Make something happen.

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year to all Islanders!

DAVID WINER
President

Minutes for the November 10 Meeting

Attendees

Quorum present with the following in attendance: John Membrino, David and Jane Winer, Marianne Ross, Drew Walsh, Jim Drew, Bill Marmon, Tryon Wells, Judy and Bobby Benjanira, Bernard Veuthey, Cora Shaw, and Roman Kulbashny. Caretaker extraordinaire Joe Hage also in attendance.

Meeting was called to order by President David Winer at 8:08 p.m. on an unseasonably balmy evening at the Club, made even balmier by a cheerful fire and Jane Winer oatmeal and chocolate chip cookies in large bags. Coffee by President David.

Minutes of the October meeting were approved subject to correction of the spelling name of the amateur archeologist who presented at last meeting. It is Doug Dupin, not not Dubin.

Communications

President Winer reported that Silvia Strikjs and Miguel Brown, in McLean, Virginia, had offered their house for the December 8 Christmas Party meeting. More details to come.

Reports

In absence of the Treasurer, President Winer reported that the Club must be careful to file with the IRS amounts paid to vendors and contractors in excess of \$600 per year. The Club has been negligent in this and is taking necessary corrective action.

Financial Secretary Lisa Kleifoth was also absent, but President Winer commended her for excellent job on collecting and accounting for club dues.

Captain Tryon Wells reported on plans for the WorkFest on November 12. He also reported that lockers were in the process of being installed.

Membership Chair Peter Winkler was also absent but Bill Marmon reported again on the meeting in September of the special committee to recommend rules for reopening the Club for new members.

Canoeing Supervisor John Membrino reported that two abandoned kayaks were available for best offer. President Winer again authorized Membrino to dispose of the kayaks at his discretion.

Old Business

Tryon Wells reported that he had given some consider-

ation to the suggestion at the last meeting about starting a Club "listserv" as a means of encouraging and facilitation communication among club members.

Tryon said that while he felt the idea had some merit, he did not want manage a listserv. Consequently the field is open for any member who would like to offer to manage and maintain a club listserv.

Wells also reported that Hilary Thompson, son of legendary and deceased John Thompson, has donated books on river lore to the Club. These are now housed in the clubhouse.

President Winer reported that Paul Hagen had donated a framed picture of Sibley's *Backyard Birds* to the Club.

New Business

There was discussion about where to put fall leaves. Jim Drew suggested that a compost pen be built on the upstream side of the island as a potential buffer for the erosion suffered each year. Wells noted that the Club at some point in future needed to get serious about the erosion or face the reality of a much reduced Sycamore Island.

Membership

There was a long and energetic discussion about membership and the need to formulate new rules for opening the Club to new members. (Currently the waiting list is closed.)

A motion was made by Drew Walsh, and adopted unanimously, that Peter Winkler and the special membership committee be charged with submitting a report at the March 2011 meeting of the Club that would 1) report on membership "demographics", i.e. the number of members, number of waiting list members, number of persons on the waiting list and an estimate of when the waiting list would be exhausted; and 2) options for opening up the Club for new members taking into consideration the possible undesirability of creating a decade-long waiting list as in the past.

Club members are encouraged to express their views on the membership issue and may write letters to the Islander or to Peter Winkler, membership chair.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
BILL MARMON
Co-Recording Secretary

Treasurer's Report Sycamore Budget, 2010 and 2011

With the end of the construction project, we are now thankfully back to a normal operating budget. Following the decisions of the December 2009 meeting, our 2010 budget was \$78,315. This is about the same as in 2007 allowing for the increase in the price level since then. To this we must add the annual debt service on construction bonds, which is close to \$10,000. This means that our total annual 2010 budget would be \$88,315. Our 2010 spending is likely to be about \$87,644. We will end the year with a reserve of about \$62,000, somewhat less than our goal of one year's expenses. We will still of course owe on the bonds, as we have only started to pay them back.

In 2010 our income from dues and charges will be \$83,000, which is also very close to the level in 2007 allowing for the increase in prices since then and adding in the \$10,000 for bond repayment. But in total our income is about \$5,000 short of our current operating budget. This is mainly because, with the collapse in interest rates, we now get very little interest income on our bank balance. When rates were high we earned some \$5,000 per year.

Even before adjusting the 2011 budget for inflation (over the last year inflation has only been about 1%), we will therefore need to increase income. We may be lucky in 2011 and incur little capital and repair costs, and so be able to come in under budget. But again, we may not be so lucky. I would therefore like the Club to consider a dues and charges increase at the December meeting, to put us on a solid footing for 2011 and 2012.

ALAN GELB
Treasurer

Annual Fishing Derby

While I meant to write about the annual fishing derby two months ago, a number of things got in the way. However, these things ended up being quite fortuitous because as we all know, fishing stories get way better over time! So with apologies to all participants if any of the facts are wrong. . .

After a rain-out on August 14, September 18 dawned as a gorgeous day for the annual fishing derby.



JOHN BUTLER

Zach Butler's smallest fish—a small mouth bass.

The water was relatively clear, not too high, not too low, and ran delightfully, so you could let your canoe drift and it barely moved at all. George Malusky had as usual planned this day for maximum fishing success. With George's blessing, some headed out in canoes, some fished from the shore, but all had smiles on their faces.

Success was relatively quick for many. When the fishermen/women all returned, a few good stories ensued (I vouch for the accuracy of none of this). The beautiful morning ended with George cooking his usual bountiful feast. Thanks to George for organizing this fun event!

JOHN BUTLER

Please mark your calendars for the Club's **Winter Bird Walk** for members and friends on Saturday February 26, 2010. Winter is a great time for birding along the Potomac River and Sycamore Island often hosts a terrific mix of winter residents such as Pileated and Hairy Woodpeckers, Bald Eagles, Nuthatches, and Carolina Wrens. The river in the vicinity of the Island also draws a variety of visiting waterfowl, including Red Head Ducks, Buffleheads, Grebes, and Mergansers. The outing will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the clubhouse. We will walk the Island and part of the towpath and conclude at 11:30 with coffee, pastries and an accounting of the morning's sightings. For more information or to sign up, contact Paul Hagen, phagen@bdlaw.com.

Discovered on Sycamore Island: Max Karant's Document of Smithsonian Aircraft

"Do you know if Max Karant was a Sycamore Islander?" Joe Hage asked on a ninety degree Thursday in late May. Joe was trying to house clean and was attacking some of the old books and papers accumulated in the clubhouse. My reply, "Never heard of him." Our thoughts were that he may have been a club member or perhaps a visitor.

The volume Joe was paging through is a black plastic looseleaf binder with a 2½ inch spine. The spine has "MAX KARANT" typed on a yellow plastic label, and a similar label is on the outside front cover. It is filled mostly with xerox copies of perhaps 250 pages of information. This notebook is probably from the late 1970's judging by the dates on some of the pages. It has been on Sycamore Island for some time. The binder seems to be a catalog of aircraft and parts located at the Smithsonian Institution Silver Hill Maryland warehouse facility. The facility is located outside of southeast Washington, just off the Suitland Parkway and Sliver Hill Road, near the Bureau of the Census complex of buildings.

There are sections of the notebook related to buildings, e.g. "Building 10," and "Building 20," with lists of aircraft stored in the buildings. For example, in Building 10 the listing shows Allison 501 (T-56), 1955, Dehavilland DH-4, 1917, and Northrop N1M Flying Wing, 1940. Building 10 also seems to house "Welding & Storage, Sheet Metal, Wood Shop, Machine Shop—duplicate parts, Chemical Shop—strip, clean, brighten, plating, Paint—spray booth, and Sewing Room."

There are some typed pages with information about a particular aircraft, and also pages that are copied from aircraft journals, newspapers, aircraft history books, and airplane sales brochures such as the one for the ERCOUPE. The aircraft described range from about 1907 to the late 1970's. I was impressed with the structural drawings of the Boeing-Stearman "KAY-DET" Primary Trainer, the 1912 Benoist Type XII tractor biplane and the Minneet JM-360 U.S.A. Flying Flea. Other examples include eight pages detailing Northrop's Flying Wing, eight pages describing the Boeing B-29 and B-50 and the related Boeing KC-97 and C-97 Stratofreighter, and the North America F-100D Super Sabre.

I would imagine that many of the aircraft described in this volume have now been restored and placed into the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum in the Washington and Dulles Airport facilities.

So, if you are interested in airplanes, balloons, and other aircraft, take some time to read this volume. The scope of the aircraft range from commercial airplanes such as the Cessna, military aircraft from WWI to Vietnam from the United States and other countries, to the German Messerschmitt Me 163B-1A rocket plane flown in combat on July 28, 1944. The volume is on the bookshelves in the Clubhouse pool table room. It is an interesting example of the occupations and interests of Sycamore Islanders.

But we still do not know if Max Karant was a Sycamore Islander or just a visitor.

After writing the above I searched the Internet for information about Max Karant. He was a lifelong aviation advocate. After some time spent as managing editor of *Flying Magazine* he was the assistant general manager of the Maryland-based Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) from 1948 to 1978. In 1959 he founded *AOPA Pilot*, serving as editor for 18 years. In 1997, he passed away in Gaithersburg, Maryland, at the age of 83.

Each year, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association honors fair, accurate, and insightful coverage of general aviation issues by non-trade news media with the Max Karant Journalism Award for Excellence in Aviation Coverage. The Karant Awards memorialize the former newsman and founder/editor of *AOPA Pilot* magazine.

Karant wrote a book that was published in 1998, *Max Karant: My Flights and Fights*, with Charles F. Spence. The book description says: "Max Karant was one of the most colorful and controversial figures in aviation history—a fierce advocate for the rights of private pilots and an accomplished aviator who made five Atlantic crossings, circumnavigated South America, and flew as a WWII correspondent. This fascinating memoir blends Karant's most unforgettable flights with his winning struggles to open up the airline-dominated skies for private fliers during aviation's greatest expansionary period."

GERALD S. BARTON

Year-End Support for the Potomac River

As members of the Sycamore Island Canoe Club, we enjoy unique access to one of region's treasured natural resources—the Potomac River. Access to the Island and the river allows our members to pursue diverse outdoor interests from paddling to fishing to birding and even the occasional swim. None of this is possible without a clean and vibrant river.

The overall health of the Potomac River has improved in recent decades but many challenges remain. As the year draws to a close, members may want to consider a year-end charitable donation to one of the organizations working tirelessly to conserve and improve the health of the Potomac. The three non-profit organizations highlighted below have taken the lead in this effort with unique areas of focus. Each draws on the support and participation of Club members.

Potomac Conservancy Potomac Conservancy works to protect the health, beauty, and enjoyment of the Potomac River and its tributaries through land protection and advocacy for sound land use practices. In addition, the Conservancy works to preserve and restore the Potomac's scenic landscapes and enhance river-related recreational opportunities. Recent efforts of the Conservancy have focused on improving local stormwater regulations and pressing the federal government to investigate the causes of inter-sex fish now found in the River. Club member Bill Eichbaum currently serves on the organization's Board of Directors. More information on the Potomac Conservancy can be found at <http://www.potomac.org>

The Potomac Riverkeeper The Potomac Riverkeeper was established in 2000 and promotes community action to improve water quality in the Potomac and enforcement of existing federal and state laws governing the Potomac watershed. The organization often undertakes "compliance sweeps" focused on pollution dischargers and comments on new or renewal discharge permits with the aim of improving water quality. PRK's approach is to take direct action against specific polluters, filing lawsuits as necessary, using pro bono services of five law schools and several law firms. Club member Mac Thornton serves currently as the Chair of the Board of Directors. More info on the organization can be found at <http://www.potomacriverkeeper.org/>

C&O Canal Trust The C&O Canal Trust works in

partnership with the National Park Service to protect, restore, and promote the C&O Canal National Historical Park. The Trust is uniquely focused on preserving the towpath, including the rehabilitation of historic structures and locks, re-watering key sections of the canal and restoring the ecological health of the park. One of the Trust's priorities is restoring all of the locks from Georgetown to Seneca to full operation. More information on the Trust is available at <http://www.canaltrust.org>

Members of the Club benefit greatly from the ongoing work of these and other organizations dedicated to conserving our nation's river.

PAUL HAGEN

Notes from the Island

Thursday, November 4, 2010

Water Level at Little Falls: 2.80 Water Temperature: 54

Well it looks like we are finally getting some autumn rainfall. It's kind of miserable actually, especially after all those sun-filled days. I'll miss looking out my window and seeing the sunlight, captured by a million yellow leaves and amplified by a mirrored-glass river. It's amazing, like a caretaker's dream, when the river is that still, the reflection on the water is so precise that the river just seems to disappear, all you see is the reflection of leaves and trees. Right now the river is omnipresent as the rain and wind ruffle its surface and the runoff turns it muddy brown. It's also quite noisy as the rain hits the river.

The winter birds are arriving, not a good sign. I've seen a few more american coot. I've also seen my first pied-billed grebes of the season, and the gulls have started their winter congregation out in the open water. I also saw a little group of juncos. These small song birds are also known as snow birds. I see the eagles almost daily now.

Someone cut down our erosion-control honeysuckle bush! I was sweeping the leaves from the steps at the ferry landing when I noticed it was gone. I'm afraid it fell prey to a pack of well-intentioned Weed Warriors. I saw a group of them on the towpath on Saturday and I think our little invasive honeysuckle, standing all by itself, was an easy target. We planted the young bush last workfest, to help keep the bank from washing away.

Next time we'll have to plant a non-threatening native bush, maybe a spicebush would be safe. Now that daylight savings time is over, I think its going to get pretty quiet down here.

Sunday will be a big day though, and I expect a crowd of eager beavers here for the WORKFEST! Besides the regular chores, like bringing in the docks and raking the leaves, I have a nice list of chores for all ages.

I see many turkey vultures and the shorter-tailed black vultures. I saw twenty of them feeding on a deer carcass on the side of Clara Barton Parkway. It looked like a scene from the Serengeti, a pack of vultures surrounding a stripped rib cage. I guess all the roadkill is helping them to flourish while other birds are struggling.

I forgot to mention that the Club has been the lucky recipient of a portion of John Thomson's library. The Thompsons decided that this would be the best place for some of John's collection, so Hillary brought down two big bags of books. The books all have something to do with the river or the canal. Most are out-of-print whitewater guides, but some are cool history books signed by the authors. Thanks!

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

Water Level at Little Falls: 2.87 Water Temperature: 51

We had the workfest on Sunday and it was another huge success. We had fun but we also accomplished a lot as well. I was impressed at how efficiently the docks were brought in and how everyone worked together to rake up the leaves. We also repaired the canoe shed, fixed the gutter, and replaced the damaged screens. We installed some new brick work, cleaned the gutters, and scrubbed the Club kitchen. The big news is that we installed the new lockers! All the lockers are not installed but you can see how awesome it is going to be when we have them in place. A special thanks to those who worked on this project. Those guys were here at 8:30 and did not quit until it was dark!

It's hard to believe, but that was the 17th workfest that I've led. Ironically there is always a lot of work for me on the day after the workfest. I spent yesterday putting all the tools and other stuff back where they belong. I also sorted through the gazillion life vests and got rid of a few of the old, dirty, and damaged ones.

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Water Level at Little Falls: 3.15 Water Temperature: 51

You've heard the expression, "busy as a beaver," well

these beaver down here are getting busy. First they dammed the canal and now they are harvesting our young mulberry trees. One beaver was even able to tight-rope itself onto a log crossing a ravine, balancing on a limb only four inches in diameter, chewing on a branch five feet off the ground. Never thought of beaver as nimble climbers.

We got the well restored to working order. It turns out that there was a leak in the underground pipe to the outdoor shower. It was apparent that the pipe was not installed properly and it was no surprise that it had broken since it did not have the proper coupling.

Wednesday, November 24, 2010

Water Level at Little Falls: 3.08 Water Temperature: 49

Tryon finished putting up the last of the lockers this week and they look awesome! I have assigned lockers to those that requested them and I have posted the list in the locker room. Of the 18 full size (6') lockers, there are only three left. We have plenty of the 3-footers and the 2-footers. If you want a locker please let me know and I will assign you one. Please don't take a locker without checking with me first. Thanks.

I saw two red-tailed hawks on the Island yesterday. They are really big when you see them up close! I'm hoping they decide to nest here.

There was an eagle hanging around its nest all day yesterday as well.

Proposed Officers and Supervisors 2011

Officers

PRESIDENT Jim Drew
VICE-PRESIDENT Bill Marmon
RECORDING SECRETARY Ann Marie Cunningham
CO-RECORDING SECRETARY to be determined
TREASURER Alan & Caroline Gelb
FINANCIAL SECRETARY Lisa Kliefoth
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Peter Winkler
EDITOR Carol Beehler
ARCHIVIST Larry Heilman
CAPTAIN Tryon Wells
DEPUTY CAPTAIN John Stapko/Drew Walsh

Supervisors

FINANCE Bill Eichbaum
LAW Maurice Tobin
CLUBHOUSE Karl Kosok
GROUNDS Carol Kavanaugh
CARPENTRY/PAINTING Charles Pill
WEBSITE Tryon Wells
ENTERTAINMENT George and Shelley Malusky
CAMPING/PARTIES John Noble
CANOEING John Membrino
SWIMMING Larry Heilman
RELIEF CARETAKING Alison Burns

Sunday, November 28, 2010

Water Level at Little Falls: 3.0 Water Temperature: 44

I hope everyone had a nice holiday. One club member's family brought their Thanksgiving feast down here to the Island.

It looks like the persimmons have eluded us this year. The flood waters back in March really did a number to that little island and our fruit tree.

The beaver have really gone too far this time. It's one thing to cut down a young box elder and drag it away but this latest destruction is unforgivable. I came home the other night to discover that my satellite TV wasn't working. I did all the trouble shooting and then got on the phone with the service department. We couldn't find the problem and it was decided that I needed a technician to come out. We had checked everything, everything except the cable leading from the dish to the house. I decided I would dig it up in the morning and when I did I couldn't believe it. The #&*#* beaver had chewed through my TV cable! I cancelled the service call and went to Radioshack to get what I needed to splice the two ends back together. With the help of relief caretaker Karen Foreit we got the ends spliced and we got the cable reburied and my TV is working again, just in time to watch football.

I saw my first wintering buffleheads. There were ten grouped by the dam when I paddled there the other day. I've also spotted my first mergansers of the year. I'm not crazy about the arrival of the cold weather but I do enjoy seeing these wintering birds for a change.

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Water Level at Little Falls: 3.0 Water Temperature: 44

The rain is on the way so the river will get cloudy again, and it is supposed to go up to about 6.5 feet, but yesterday the water was the clearest I have ever seen it. I paddled down to the dam and everything was perfect. The sun was shining bright, there was no wind, and I could see the bottom of the river for the entire trip! I was surprised to realize that the river here is not that deep. I guessed that it was an average of twelve feet deep until I got up near the dam where it was too deep to see the bottom. The water was so clear I could even see where the chains for the warning bouys were attached to the river bed!

There has been a lot of drama around the Island lately. It's like an eco reality show here. The beaver have taken center stage and I have another episode to con-

vey. I left for the hardware store right after dark. I was gone for about thirty minutes. When I returned I heard the sound of a branch falling as I walked up the path. I didn't think anything of it until I had reached the top of the boardwalk where I discovered a big beaver, red-handed, cutting down a young mulberry tree. It did not seem particularly alarmed that I had come home and I could still hear him munching away. I ran inside and got the camera and by then the stupid animal had decided that it should make a dash for the water. I took pictures of it as it flopped its way to the river and I got one good picture on the boardwalk as it stopped, turned, and looked at me. After it had disappeared into the depths, I went to inspect the damage. I walked around the newly felled mulberry and I heard another beaver across the field. That beaver took off as soon as it saw me coming and I chased after it. I stood on the bank like a crazy person, throwing branches and logs at the beaver as it swam safely out of range. I went in and had my dinner and later discovered that those buggers had come back onto the Island and retrieved their fallen prize. I was curious to know where they were taking our trees—at least 12 so far—and it did not take long to find their new lodge, right here on the Island.

The other drama that I watched unfold concerned a pied-billed grebe and a bald eagle. Again I was by the dam and there was a wintering duck resting there. I noticed the eagle, swooping and diving above the river. I didn't understand what was happening until I saw the little splash of the grebe as it dove below the surface to escape the eagle's talons. The eagle would circle around (the water was so clear that it could probably watch the duck as it swam) and wait for the duck to pop up again. Once the duck was on the surface the eagle would try to swoop in from its blind side, but every-time the duck would dive out of danger. I watched the eagle hunt for twenty minutes, making several attempts at grabbing its prey. It must have been torture for the eagle to have such a tasty meal just out of reach. I was beginning to fear for the duck, thinking that maybe it would become too exhausted to dive, but it was the eagle that finally gave up and perched back on its nesting tree. How ingenious, from an evolutionary point of view, for the duck to adapt to an environment where its predators cannot follow.

JOE HAGE
Caretaker

The Sycamore Islander

6613 80th Place
Cabin John, MD 20818

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Happy Holidays

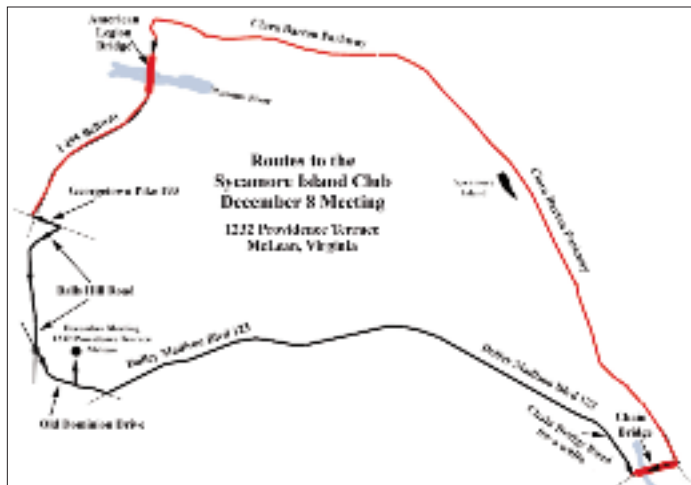
Directions to 1232 Providence Terrace, McLean, VA

From Chain Bridge

Cross Chain Bridge into Virginia. Take a right at the end of the bridge onto Chain Bridge Road (Route 123). Stay on Route 123 past the GW Parkway and the CIA and the road name-change (Chain Bridge Road becomes Dolley Madison Blvd.). Turn right at the light onto Old Dominion Drive. Take your second right onto Providence Terrace and find 1232 on the left.

From 495

Cross the American Legion Bridge into Virginia. Take the first exit labeled Georgetown Pike - Route 193 (do NOT get on the GW Parkway). Stay in the left lane of the exit ramp to turn left onto Georgetown Pike at the light. Take an immediate right at the next light onto Balls Hill Road. Follow Balls Hill Road and turn left at the first light onto Old Dominion Drive. Take your second left onto Providence Terrace and find 1232 on the left.



The Sycamore Islander is the monthly newsletter of the Montgomery Sycamore Island Club. Every attempt is made to publish the *Islander* before the second Wednesday of the month in advance of the monthly meeting. Articles, photographic essays, drawings, announcements, letters to the editors—any materials of interest to the membership and waiting list—are welcome. Text and graphics may be sent as email attachments to: Carol Beehler, cbeehler@comcast.net. The deadline for inclusion in the January issue is January 3.

January Meeting: Off-Island

One of Jim Drew's first tasks as President will be to invite a member to host the January 12 off-island meeting. If you would like to provide this service to the club, please let Jim Drew know at 202-462-3836 or e-mail jdrewesq@aol.com.



JOE HAGE