

Fifty Is Nifty for Alberg Sailors

Have you ever wondered what it takes to make a boat club survive the test of time? Most of us don't think much about it in the beginning, but with the passage of time, we realize that there must be something special about a club if it can move into its 50th year. In our case, the club is the Chesapeake Bay Alberg 30 One-Design Association.

Barbara and I did not know about the club when we bought our Alberg 30 *Halcyon* in 1978. We did know that we wanted a boat that would be capable of taking us anywhere our growing skills and desire led us. The Alberg 30 is a classic beauty. Its rugged construction and sea kindly behavior gave us comfort as we sailed offshore on our trips to Maine. The accommodations were more than adequate for our family of four, and it was capable of carrying more stores (out of sight) than any other boat

its size that I know of. Fortunately for us, we saw a group of Albergs cruising the Sassafras River where we moored *Halcyon*. They encouraged us to join the club, and it

success of any club. But the A30 club has lasted 50 years. There has to be another reason or reasons that this club continues to thrive and meet the sailing needs of

its members. The schedule of events in the 2013 handbook shows that there were 17 racing events, three rendezvous with attendance of approximately 80 members each, numerous cruises (two lasting nine days), and special interest events such as the children's cruise, the weekend rendezvous, and maintenance weekend.

In 50 years, there isn't anything that hasn't been fixed or replaced at one time or another on somebody's boat. We all look forward to February as "the beginning of the boating season." Four seminars are scheduled every year on racing, cruising, maintenance, and a variety of other topics. This is a great time for new members to get to know everybody and to benefit from



Alberg 30 Association 2014 commodore Renee Cooper and her husband David.

has truly been a 34-year love affair.

So, obviously the boat associated with the club is a prime contributor to the

their experience. Did I mention the after-seminar parties? They're fantastic! These activities keep us involved with racing and cruising and surely contribute to the longevity of our association.

There is one other factor that contributes to the success of the A30 association, and that is the members themselves. I have never been in the company of so many people that want to lend a helping hand or encourage you to be a part of what is going on.

In January, our commodore Lanny Helms will turn over his responsibilities to the incoming commodore for 2014, Renee Cooper. Renee has an interesting background, having moved to the United States from Vienna, Austria, and worked as an au pair. She met her husband Dave and found that they had much in common and were both sailors since childhood. In 1995, they sailed their A30 *Cookin* from Annapolis to Bermuda and back. In 1999 they sailed from Annapolis to Greece with many stops along the way (returning home by plane, while *Cookin* was shipped back as deck cargo in 2003). The needs of a growing family, Nikos (10) and Sophie (8), have kept the Coopers a little closer to home. Renee has used this time to serve the A30 Association as fleet captain, rear commodore cruising, and vice commodore in preparation for her responsibilities as 2014 commodore. Her goals include many special activities for the A30 Association around the Annapolis waterfront and a spring trip to Bermuda on *Cookin*. alberg30.org

The Alberg 30 *Cookin* has sailed thousands of offshore miles, as well as many on the Chesapeake.

~Jim and Barbara Palmer

