



News of the International Order of the Blue Gavel, District 1

57 Individuals Caught in the Wind

By Jim Hinckley
President, IOBG, District 1

Since the September 2008 Fall Change of Watch, a tremendous amount of time and energy has been exerted by your new board. First of all, David Kutz, 2nd Vice President and Membership Chairman, established an "E-Alert" communications system for District 1. This has been extremely helpful and useful for passing on important news concerning IOBG. In addition, he sent out renewal notices for District 1, not once, not twice, but three times either by direct mail (snail mail) or the E-Alert system. David and Mary Nye Meyers also composed two letters that were mailed to existing member yacht clubs of District 1 and prospective new yacht club charters of District 1 respectively, inviting these clubs to have their Past Commodores join us in Hood River along with District 5 for our Spring Meeting and learn first hand what IOBG is all about. In addition Ullie Marquardt, our treasurer, was busy sending in dues to International and sharing membership information with Louise Condon, our District Executive Secretary, to update our District Roster. I must apologize for District 1, on some misinformation or lack of information, but the roster was mailed out in March. If you have any changes or additions to the roster, please use the blank insert located in the roster to make these corrections and mail the corrections to P/C Louise Condon. If you find that your name was listed in the roster, however, left off your club roster printed in the back of the book, it was due to the fact that your dues had not been received prior to the time the roster went to the press. Again I apologize for any errors and omissions, and please bear with us as we correct these mistakes for the next printing. We are also going to print the District By-Laws in the next roster for 2010. Thank you Louise and Ullie.

The last weekend of April, District 1 held a joint Spring Meeting in Hood River, Oregon. As the title of this article suggests, 57 individuals attended this meeting. Saturday evening the entire group motored to Cascade Locks to board the Sternwheeler for a superb three hour cruise. Some members of the group were seen exiting the "pilot house" after a short stint at the helm.

The first weekend of May was Seattle's Opening Day Ceremony with the theme of Wild, Wild, West. Rather than duplicate news, glance at Betts' article for complete coverage.

What lies ahead? We have the Okanogan Invasion this July 10 and 11 at the Westbank Yacht Club in Kelowna, British Columbia. Mike Parish is arranging for a motorhome rally to meet in OMAK, WA. At Wally and Mary Hill's residence on Thursday, July 9, caravan to Westbank on Friday for a "Christmas in July" weekend. Our Fall Change of Watch will be hosted by Des Moines Yacht Club and the spring meeting will be held in Kennewick, Washington, at Clover Island Yacht Club's new clubhouse. More details will be coming.

For the Good of the Order, Jerry and Jackie Rudd are now our new Supply Officers for District 1. When you see Carol Kovarnik, give her a big thank you for taking over as interim supply officer last year. Don Espeseth is now practically 100% recovered from an extensive major open-heart surgery that he underwent in April, and lastly our membership in District 1 is stronger than ever.

When you see your "Officers," thank them for their hard work and dedication to the District, a component of a worldwide organization dedicated to "*preserve the proven traditions, customs, and ethics of yachting so that they may not be lost to those yet to come*". We can all be proud and thankful for the vision of Ev Henry, P/C of Rainier Yacht Club.



1st Vice President's Report By Robert Weber

Ahoy all. The Board has been very busy making improvements throughout our organization, and making District 1 a great and fun organization to belong to. When you see your fellow members make sure you give them a pat on the back and lots of thanks.

I want to thank all those involved in the organization of the Spring Meeting at Hood River, Oregon. The meetings went off with out a hitch, and the Dinner cruise on the paddle wheel boat was excellent. We were wine and dined in five star quality, with the breathtaking view of the Columbia.

Summer is upon us, and I hope all of you have been enjoying the recent sunshine that we have been waiting so long for. Looking to the future, summer will soon be over and our Fall Meeting is just around the corner. Our Fall meeting will be held September 18 through 20, 2009, at the Des Moines Yacht Club. We have several events planned, so please be sure to look at the Hotel Flyer, and the Meeting Flyer and make your reservations by September 8, 2009. All attendees will need to make their own reservations with the Hotel, and additionally, with Bob Weber at (206) 310-9102 to ensure proper counts are provided to the caterer. Most important, the dinner on Saturday, September 19, will be a BYOB event with mixers provided. There will be a few spaces available at the Yacht club for motor homes, so please provide this info also if you'd like a space. Cost for the event will be \$90.00 dollars per couple, checks made payable to IOBG District 1.

The Des Moines Yacht Clubs address is 22737 Marine View Drive, Des Moines, WA 98198. The Best Western Hotel Executel is located at 20717 International Blvd, Seattle, WA 98198.

I hope to see you all there at Des Moines in September, where we are sure to have a lot of fun. Until then, enjoy your summer, and be safe.

2nd Vice President's Report By David Kutz

MEMBERSHIP

At the Hood River Meeting we had the pleasure of inducting two new past commodores (and their lovely spouses) to IOBG District 1. Welcome Aboard Robert (and Diane) Burns, P/C Emerald Rose Yacht Club and Al (and Debbie) Boardman of Kingston Cove Yacht Club! We look forward to your participation and enjoying the camaraderie of the Blue Gavel.

This brings our total membership in District 1 to over 150 members. Early this summer we also had a few more renewals and we are in very good shape membership wise. True we are down from the 200 plus members we enjoyed several years ago, but we have grown in the past couple of years with the additions of new chapters and members.

Earlier this year, with the help of Mary Meyers and Louise Condon, we sent out letters of invitation to all past commodores from all of our chapters, active and dormant. Recruiting is a never-ending job, but we could really use the help of our current members to interest your past commodores (and current commodore) to join Blue Gavel. There is still plenty of time to sign up your P/C's for the Fall Meeting in Des Moines on September 18 and 19. The membership application is online on the District 1 page of WWW.IOBG.ORG (Go to [Chapter Information](#))

If you have any questions about signing up your new past commodores from your club, please give me a call at 360-271-1105 or e-mail DavidKutz@aol.com (put IOBG in the subject line)

IOBG E-LERT SYSTEM

The IOBG E-Lert system is alive and well and continues to grow.

The purpose of the e-Lerts is to improve communications. You'll be reminded of events and meetings, and we'll make announcements for the general good of IOBG and boating.

If you've NOT signed up for the e-Lerts yet, please let me know. Also **we'll need to know when you change your e-mail address** in the future. If you have an important item you'd like to share with our members, we'd be happy to post that too but no salty jokes though.

GENERAL BOATING ISSUES

As I reported in Hood River for the Recreational Boating Association of Washington (RBAW) the final budget approved by the Legislature and the Governor were not kind to boaters. In a word, state funding for boating got **killed**. The Boater Gas Tax Refund Account was raided to fund State Parks, as was the NOVA (Off Road Vehicle Recreation) account. Combined, that was just under \$19.4 million, of which just over \$9.8 million was boater funds. In return, boaters received nothing of immediate value. We also lost the \$2 million that was previously funded for the Boater Activity Account. The only consolation is that the cuts are not permanent and we are not the Lone Ranger; all agencies that deal with outdoor recreation were negatively impacted with funding cuts because of the huge state budget deficit.

RBAW will be regrouping its legislative efforts over the summer and fall and will be ready to work towards re-building our boating programs in the 2010 Legislative Session. We have nowhere to go now but UP. For the full boating Legislative Report, go to www.rbaw.org.

On the National Boating Federation front, ETHANOL is the big issue this year for boaters. The EPA is proposing E-15 now which means 15% ethanol in fuel. We have heard many reported problems in older marine engines with E-10 and the National Marine Manufacturers estimate over 12 million boat engines could be negatively affected by the higher percentage of ethanol. For information on how you can weigh in to help stop this nonsense, go to <http://capwiz.com/nmma/home/>

Have a great and safe summer and fall boating season. See you in Des Moines in September!



District Director's Letter

By Mary Nye Meyers

District 1 was once again well represented at the 2009 Spring Regional meeting held June 4 – 7 in Portland, Oregon. Attending from our District were Marion & Gerva Hughes, Mike & Roxanne Parish, IOBG President Jerry Rudd & Jackie, Art Kovarnik, Jim & Betts Hinckley and Mary Nye Meyers.

The meeting was hosted by our neighbors in District 5. The Thursday regional meeting and luncheon was held at the Portland Yacht Club followed by a barbeque dinner the next evening at Tyee Yacht Club. Thank you to District 5 and all those members who made the weekend so memorable.

The Spring Regional meeting is held in conjunction with the Portland Rose Festival, Queens Coronation and Knighting Ceremony. Jerry Rudd of Totem Yacht Club-Dist. 1, the current International President, was knighted last year at the Rose Festival. This year's honoree was IOBG President-Elect Ray Thompson (District 8). Ray will be installed as the new International President at the Annual Convention to be held this October 21-25 in Orlando, Florida. The Renaissance Orlando Hotel at SeaWorld will be the hosting facility for the meeting. Learn more about the Renaissance Orlando Hotel at SeaWorld at their web site at www.renaissanceseworldorlando.com. As soon as they become available, registration forms and schedules will be posted on the IOBG web site at www.iobg.org.

At the April 25, Hood River spring meeting held in conjunction with District 5, District 1 members were asked to express their concerns and preferences towards the upcoming proposed changes to the International Bylaws. After a very beneficial discussion, I was requested to

cast your votes on the Official Mail Ballot. On June 4 at the IOBG Spring Regional meeting in Portland, a committee was chosen to count the ballots and I am happy to report that the results coincide with the decisions of the District 1 membership. The results are as follows:

Proposition 1 - **Code of Conduct** - PASSED (83%)

Proposition 2 - **Alternate District Directors** - PASSED (93%)

Proposition 3 - **Duties of the Area Vice Presidents** - PASSED (100%)

Proposition 4 - **District Vote Allocation**

- Option A - Maintain the current formula - FAILED (13%)
- Option B - One vote for each additional 50 members - FAILED (0.4%)
- Option C - Paid members in increments of 50 or any part thereof - FAILED (0.7%)
- **Option D - Paid members in increments of 25 or any part thereof - PASSED (76%).**

As a reference for more detailed information about the above propositions, please visit the IOBG web site's Home Page and click on the [Bylaw Election Information](#) link.

Thank you for your support, input and encouragement during my term as your District 1 Director. Please feel free to contact me regarding any concerns or questions about IOBG or the IOBG web site.



From the Vice President

By Mike L. Meyers

I am looking forward to the Fall 'Change of Watch' meeting this September at Des Moines Yacht Club and to the exciting times to come.

My thanks and gratitude to President Betts Hinckley, the current Board, Past IOBGA President Jackie Rudd and all the members for their confidence in me and the great team we have gathered. Thank you to Cindy Davidson, Treasurer and Hazel Parsons, Sunshine for joining me on the 2009-2010 IOBGA Board. We still have openings for Secretary and Vice President. If you are interested in joining our fun Board, please contact me or Betts Hinckley.

I welcome your support and advice in this new era that we are entering for District 1. This will be the history-making Board with the first MALE President...that even makes me nervous! Let's show the other Districts that it can be done.

I do have some thoughts and ideas for our year, focusing on activities, new members and having fun but I would appreciate any ideas, advice and guidance. To quote the current International Auxiliary President, "Let's have fun fundraising!"

See you in September...

Welcome Members of the International Order of the Blue Gavel



**THE WORLD'S LARGEST
HOTEL CHAIN™**

**Best Western Airport
Executel**
20717 International Blvd
Seattle, WA 98198

September 18 & 19, 2009

Call **(800) 648-3311** or email your reservation request to reservations@apexecutel.com by September 8, 2009, to reserve your accommodations with in the IOBG Group Block. Rooms are available at \$89.00 per night (plus 12.4% tax) single or double occupancy

Hotel Features

- 140 newly renovated guestrooms complete with Best Western Global Amenities including refrigerators, in-room coffee, hairdryer, iron & board.
- Complimentary deluxe continental breakfast served in our Boulevard Café, including Sunday. Served daily from 5:00am to 9:30am. Now serving make-you-own Belgian waffles!
- Heated indoor swimming pool and spa.
- On site fitness center and sauna.
- Business Center
- Free Wireless Internet Access in all guestrooms & public areas
- Boulevard Café and Lounge. Café open for dinner Monday – Saturday (closed Sundays).

Location

- Convenient Airport location; just 1.5 miles south of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Free 24-hour airport shuttle service.
- 5 miles to Boeing Museum of Flight.
- 15 miles to downtown Seattle attractions.
- 5 miles to SouthCenter Shopping Mall.

Each Best Western hotel is independently owned and operated.



IOBG DISTRICT 1 FALL MEETING RIDE THE WAVES SEPT 18-20, 2009

Come join us at the Des Moines Yacht Club in Des Moines, Washington and Ride the Waves. We have a full weekend of fun nautical events planned, to include meet a friend bingo, knot tie instructions, flare demonstrations, and a dinner provided by Apogee, finishing with Simon the Disc Jockey for our evening dance.

All events will be held at the Des Moines Yacht Club, and accommodations will be provided by the Best Western Executel Hotel located only 2 miles from the Des Moines Yacht Club. There will be plenty of free time and lots of sites to see only a short distance from the Hotel and Yacht Club.

Please see the Best Western Hotel Flyer and make your reservations by September 8th, 2009. Additionally, please call Bob Weber at (206) 310-9102 by September 8th, if you are planning on attending the Fall meeting, so appropriate counts can be given to the caterer. There will also be a few spots available at the Yacht Club for Motor Home owners, so please provide this info also when you call and reserve.

Schedule of events are as follows:

Friday September 18th: 4:00 pm to 6pm registration and no host bar at Des Moines Yacht Club lounge.

Saturday September 19th: 8:00 am to 9:00 am Board Meeting at Des Moines Yacht Club Ballroom

8:00 am to 9:00 am Auxiliary Meeting at Des Moines Yacht Club lounge

9:00 am until completion General Meeting at Des Moines Yacht Club Ballroom.

2:30 Lunch provided by Des Moines First Mates in the Ballroom

2:00 pm to 4:30 flare demonstrations, knot tying, friend bingo

**6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, cocktail hour at the Des Moines Ballroom
BYOB**

7:00 pm to 8:00 pm, dinner served by Apogee

8:00 pm to midnight, dancing provided by Simon, please note that you will need to bring your own bottle for dinner, mixers will be provided.

Cost for all events held at the Des Moines Yacht Club will be \$90.00 dollars per couple, checks made payable to IOBG District 1. Send Payments to Bob Weber, 2617 NE 4TH ST. # 123 Renton, WA 98056. Payments for Hotel accommodations will handled directly by the Hotel.



Participants at the joint District 1 Spring Meeting in Hood River, Oregon, enjoyed a three-hour cruise on a Sternwheeler.