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A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMODORE

This is my last Commodore's Column, even though my official duties will not come to an end until after the passing of the gavel at the Anniversary Banquet. This is my last opportunity, however, to publicly thank all the people who helped make the last year a successful one. My goals this year were to try some new things, gain new members and get them more involved, and find opportunities to get us out on the water more, sailing our boats. Any one of these items is a big lift, but I feel glad that we were able to accomplish all of them.

Was everything perfect? Probably not, depending on who you ask. But we worked very hard to bring some creativity and fresh ideas to the fleet and give it a boost into the next 50 years. With more new members than in many years (one at Michigan City Sail-In, and probably two), we have a chance to blend old traditions while creating new ones, honor and share the history of the club while we make history, and keep the fleet relevant and fun for us all, regardless of how long we've been members.

It takes a team effort. If you are not involved yet, now is the time as we begin our next half-century. For those of you listed below, please know that you have my eternal gratitude for the work you have done and continue to do for Catalina Fleet 21. The fleet would not exist without you.

Carolyn DeAre as editor of Fleet Sheet and many years of lending creativity and editorial talent in covering the waterfront of news. The DeAres and Stones for coordination of the Margarita Party. Carolyn does make some of the best margaritas on the planet. I was sorry to have missed it. Bill Thompson for managing the directory for so many years. Thank you for your flexibility of enhancing the data fields to include additional The DeAres for printing and distribution of info. this year. the directory. Pat Shereyk for managing membership and compiling membership data. **Ed Kita** for his photographic Jim Graham for contributions at events and photo archives. being liaison to the CYC and his harbor captain work, recruiting new members in Wilmette. Joszf Stawarz for stepping up and filling the webmaster void. Eric Hillenmeyer for modernizing the treasurer position and getting Zelle up and Cat Hillenmeyer for creation and data mining of the banquet survey, leading the charge on the successful Michigan Cruise thereby getting us out on the water after many years of no cruising, and for chairing banquet committee. Laura Pohl for coordinating the Michigan City Ribfest, Montrose Harbor Season Opening Event, banquet assistance, fresh ideas, and support.

Harold Hansen

Commodore Catalina Fleet 21