

Subject: Commodore ball more protocol

Protocol Matters

By Joe Hellner

Recently, Commodore Darryl Discher of Sue Haven Yacht Club wrote in to ask, “When the ranking officers line up to greet a commodore at their ball what is the proper form of greeting. It seems that some clubs think that the shaking of the Commodore’s hand is required after the salute.”

I assume Darryl is referring to the part of the Commodores Ball ceremony where the ranking officers salute the Flag with hand-over-heart (when uncovered) and then salute the Immediate Past Commodore.

Shaking hands and other forms of personal interaction like hugging are actually violations of protocol and disruptions of the formal ceremony. The time for shaking hands, hugs, chatting, etc is the receiving line, which is also when the guests meet the Commodore and 1st Mate.

What sometimes happens during the ceremony is people will spontaneously make a heartfelt personal gesture, such as shaking hands, to the Immediate Past Commodore and 1st Mate because of good times shared and for a job well done. This is OK because friendship and goodwill are an important part of yacht clubs and boating and a major reason for holding the Commodores Ball. However, such gestures should never be expected or demanded and persons doing them should keep it brief because they are disrupting the ceremony.

2. Receiving salutes is a final duty and special honor for the outgoing Commodore, performed in front of members and guests to celebrate and give thanks to the person for years of good service to the Club, especially the final year as leader of the Club.

No virus found in this incoming message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 8.5.445 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/3156 - Release Date: 09/24/10 06:34:00