

## THE HISTORY AND FUTURE OF THE LEWES YACHT CLUB POOL

**“I can’t possibly imagine anybody wanting to swim in a Pool instead of the Delaware Bay”, said Captain Roland Marshall in 1986 when the Lewes Yacht Club Pool was being proposed. Today, Captain Marshall says, “he’s a true believer and a supporter of the importance of our wonderful facility.” The idea of this current focal point of LYC, membership activity and pleasure, was formulated under the leadership and vision of deceased, former Commodore Francis D. Reardon. With organizational help from his brother Bill Reardon, Janise Mason, and original Pool Chairman, Dr. Jonathan Sharp, the Lewes Yacht Club Pool became a reality 20 years ago.**

**“You would have thought it was World War III”, says Dr. Sharp, when commenting on the contentious proposal to build a swimming pool at the Lewes Yacht Club. According to Sharp, “most of the old time members were vehemently opposed to the building of the pool. The original plan was to put the pool in the front yard, but local neighbors complained, so we got permission to build it next to the inlet from DNREC. A vote was taken by the membership which was called a Poll in those days rather than a referendum. Despite the contention, The Pool concept received overwhelming support with 70% of the membership voting in favor of the idea. The pool was contracted to be built by Joe Melchiorre, the deck was designed by architect- Jennifer Thompson, and the deal became a reality. The original life guards were Josh Sharp, Preston Schell, Christopher Schell, Guy Wiggins, and Bret Jackson.” Interestingly, it was decided by our first Pool Chairman, University of Delaware Chemist and Marine Biologist, Jonathan Sharp, that Bromine was to be used instead of Chlorine as the pool sanitizing agent. Research by Sharp indicated that Bromine was less of an irritant on the skin. Regardless of the recent switch to Chlorine, much to Dr. Sharp’s dismay, he says the following: “Despite all the changes and controversy in the building of the pool, the pool operation is a great success.” Thank you Jonathan Sharp for your service to Lewes Yacht Club and your work over the years for the LYC POOL.**

**That is the history of the pool. Time, like it does on so many people and inanimate objects, takes its toll. The LYC Pool is no exception. The 20 year old pool that has served us so well, has under the joint Chairmanship of Laurie Carter and Judson Bennett, for all intents and purposes been completely rebuilt. In determining what needed to be done, the best comparison is to that of an archeological dig. All the original plumbing including many of the old pipes that were fractured and dysfunctional, have been replaced, the pool has been completely replastered right down to the original concrete shell, and the old concrete deck has been replaced with attractive pavers. A new fence has been resurrected and a new automatic vacuum cleaner has been installed We have basically a brand new pool. The Pool chemicals have been changed from Bromine to Liquid Chlorine with new Chlorine and Acid Feeder Pumps. This will be a much more efficient and less expensive operation, which will save the Club thousands of dollars in the years to come. Laurie and Jud will be sharing the duties as Chair Persons with Laurie overseeing all the technical aspects of the pool operation and Jud overseeing the general day to day operation. The new Pool manager is Melissa Bliele and the new Swim Team Coach is Scott Bliele. These folks are school teachers and real aquatic professionals who know their business. We expect a continued and positive future for the LYC Pool for at least another 20 years .**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Judson Bennett and Laurie Carter-LYC Pool Co-Chairs**