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PROPOSED NARRATIVE FOR
WHARF GANGPLANK MARINA LIVEABOARD DAY
(Saturday, October 9, 2021)

Are we rocking and rolling yet? Later, we may play some popular music. But here on the water, we mean *physical* rocking and rolling. We may even feel this Events Barge rock and roll underneath us as we meet today.

When most marinas or boat clubs are first built, a meeting place is usually included from the start, often built at the same time as the docks. To boaters, a clubhouse or pavilion is this important. Boating is very much a social experience. And, as much as we care about our boats, they do, well, have less space than houses.

Living aboard a boat in our community usually involves a unique and positive recasting of identity. Most boaters that move here wish to be involved in our group and we uniformly welcome them into our midst. This spirit of camaraderie is quite pleasant but also physically necessary. We live on machines in a location that can become dangerous. We look out for each other, especially in winter.

Politics, profession, and net worth are left at the marina gate as we blend into a community of equals. United by the sheer physicalness of our existence, we "rock and roll" together when wind and waves hit our docks. We prepare for storms together. When we see a boat returning to port, we move to help it dock. We form a colorful and unique community, united in a vitality of living, and also bonded together by the sheer amount of work necessary on a boat.

This Events Barge is the only (element) from our original, "legacy" marina. The barge was brought (towed) here when we moved in 2019. I'm going to quickly recount a few of my favorite memories:

- Our marina is a family and we gather here for Thanksgiving. I remember one cold November when we partitioned off the Barge in the middle and heated one side.

- A few winters ago, we put up tarps around the entire perimeter and heated, or tried to heat, the entire barge.

On this barge, we routinely welcome all new boaters - and we strive to welcome transient boaters - There have been introductions of new Significant Others - Halloween parties - and quite frankly, a lot of parties for no reason at all.

- We try to include as many people as possible. Within POWYC, our social group, it is possible for interested persons from shore to join as (Community?) (Associate?) members.

- We do our "Hi-ing and Goodbye-ing" here. I have seen hundreds of birthday parties - and going away parties, where we usually sing "Happy Trails To You" - We celebrate great moments in members' lives - And we mournfully observe passings.

As Jason (has summarized) (will summarize), we greatly appreciate, and depend upon, our advocates on shore. A few years ago, after great political help from a woman on shore named Marge, we temporarily named this floating pavilion the "Marge Barge."

Each week, we usually have two regular events: Happy Hour, a pot luck group party most Thursday nights. Every Sunday morning, we hold what we call our Captain's Coffee, started 20 years ago by our POWYC founder, the late Stan Grubaugh.

I PREFER THAT JASON OR TARA CALL OUT THAT I'VE BEEN DOING IT FOR 15 YRS.

THEN PLEASE ASK ME PUBLICLY: HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING HERE?

Just walking back and forth on our docks becomes a furiously compressed version of a sidewalk on land. We pass by familiar faces, new faces, and faces of people whose names we are embarrassed that we an't remember.

Our community numbers 125 or so, and, as if on a ship - we must give and take - serve and be served - speak and listen - lead and follow - (3-4 MORE)

TO CONCLUDE:

President John F. Kennedy - by the way, an avid yachtsman - perfectly nailed the basic bond between people and the sea when he said: "All of us have in our veins the exact same percentage of salt in our blood that exists in the ocean, and therefore, we have salt in our blood. In our sweat, in our tears. We are tied to the ocean. And when we go back to the sea - whether it is to sail or to watch it - we are going back from whence we came."

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POSSIBLE EXTRA REMARK IF TIME PERMITS:

By one count, 2.5 million people live in the greater Washington, D.C. metro area. We could estimate the number of D.C. waterfront liveboards at around 250. That works out to about one in 10,000. Viewing a summer-sunset-to-die-for, we may be astonished that all 2.5 million don't want to be boaters - while the harshness of winter weather may have us pause to consider that maybe those other 9,999 folks aren't so dumb after all.

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NOTES FOR JASON & TARA -

JASON PLEASE INCLUDE: GPSA was founded on Sept. 10, 2001, and we elected Susan Carpenter as our first President. Upon returning home, she fell asleep in her chair - slept through the night - was awakened by first televised news of the "9-11" attacks.

JASON PLEASE CONSIDER mentioning the late Ed Johnson, GPSA "Anchor" for several critical years.

HOW ABOUT TARA speaking about the thrust of her entry and immersion into the Wharf Gangplank community?