

## **THE LORE... of the “SOCK BURNING”**

As the last snowstorm of the winter mercifully passes us by, **Boater Friends** will gather on the banks of the **Forked River**. Like most get-togethers, this Annual Tradition will involve meeting your fellow slip mates, spirited drinking and boat talk, but for the real reason; “Celebrate the coming of spring”.

I have experienced first hand the original tradition of “**The Sock Burning**” in Annapolis MD. Please, Let me share the following:

### **The Lore:**

Each year, on the vernal equinox, fellow boaters and friends gather and burn their socks to celebrate the coming of spring. Technically, the Equinox is on the Day of Spring early in the wee hours of the morning. Untying their shoes, they tossed their old socks on the flames with great fanfare. One woman burned her bra to loud cheers. On occasion a spontaneous chant or speech about the whisking away of the winter cold would be heard.

As nautical traditions go, sock burning is hardly distinguished, nor is it widespread. But the all participants were in the mood for whimsy. The long winter is unpleasant for many, but in **Forked River** a town whose identity is tightly anchored to sailing or boating alike, it is regarded as a tragic error on the part of Mother Nature to put us through the winter doldrums. It would mean- four months of dry-docked boats, vacant marinas and gusting winds squandered on furled sails.

"You can never start spring too early," or “Celebrate the coming of Spring too late”

The gentleman who started the sock burning, a longtime Annapolis marine worker He explains, “There were several bad winters back in the mid-70's, he said, with the winter of '77, when the bay froze, particularly brutal. So on the first day of spring that year I rounded up my fellow boat workers, bought some beer and held the first sock burning.”

Boating (in general) socks are regarded the same way that shackles are to a prisoner. No one wears sock in the summertime, and a sure way to herald warmer weather is to char the dreaded things to ash. "It's should be illegal to wear socks in spring and summer," As you know!!

“Hence, the beginning of a **Silver Cloud Marina** Tradition that should live on coming years.”

JOIN US!!! “ENJOY LIFE”

**By Mike Palmer-**

**36 Hunter- “Lady L”- Slipped: Wilbert’s Marina**