

The Dock Box

February 2015

Volume 60, No. 1



RON MACK
COMMODORE'S
CORNER

Greetings, Happy New Year, and welcome to 2015 at the Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club.

First I want to say what an honor it is to be selected as your Commodore for 2015. Scott Bade set a high standard for me to follow. I promise to do my utmost to meet that standard and ensure you enjoy another great year at your club.

This year marks our 60 year anniversary, and represents a significant milestone in the history of our group. As such, your bridge and Board members are planning some new and exciting changes to enhance our schedule, in addition to supporting our community in our usual volunteer activities.

We have another great flag officer team this year. **Rita Charvat** has agreed to fill the Vice Commodore position, and we welcome new member **Glen Logan** who will be joining us as the Rear Commodore. Steve Sicklesteel will again be our treasurer. **Ridene Soltesz** will continue as secretary, and **Scott Bade** will cover the membership chair. Steve, Ridene and Eileen Bade all deserve a big "Thanks" for all the work they do, and have done in the past. **Scott Bade** will take over the helm as Dockbox Publisher, with the retirement after many years of **Pete Toenjes**. **Brian Sullivan** and **Ric Schmidt** will continue as Thursday Night Sail Race Chairs.

In addition to the flag officers, we have a very capable Board of Directors. **Brian Sullivan, Carey White, Kathy Oldham, Tanya Naumenko**, have all agreed to continue on with the Board. **Scott Bade** will continue on the board as past Commodore. **Pete Toenjes**, after many years of service, has resigned his post as Board Member. Pete deserves a big thanks for many years of help and guidance, and volunteer work. We look forward to seeing Pete at the social functions during the year.

Finally, I want to mention our numerous volunteers and activity Chairpersons. They are the life-blood of our club and without them we could not succeed. Because of them, we continue to have activities such as Wine Tasting, Feather Bowling, Commodores Ball, Membership Appreciation Party, Thursday Night Sail Races, Boating Rendezvous, Lobster Roast, and our excellent social get-togethers following every General Membership Meeting. And not to forget the volunteers during the most prestigious event in all the Grosse Pointes, The Regatta. We are very fortunate to be the co-sponsor of this event, along with the Grosse Pointe Farms Parks and Recreation department.

I look forward to the 2015 season and to the leadership role you have entrusted me with. Considering all the dedicated volunteers we have, I am confident it will be another memorable year.

Respectfully yours,

Ron Mack - Commodore, Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club (commodore@gpfbc.com)

Recent and Upcoming Events

www.gpfbc.com/events for full calendar

January: Wine tasting, January 24
Winterfest, January 31

February: Feather Bowling, February 27
March: Commodore's Ball, March 21

Membership

By Scott Bade, Membership Chair

The club membership has held steady at right around 100 families. We've had some great recent success in attracting new members to the club through outreach efforts to the boaters in the harbor. One of my goals is to add 25 more families this year.

The club is the best kept secret in GPF. Consider this: Our dues are very affordable; many events provide free food and drinks (you will usually recoup your membership fees in the first one or two events); you don't need to own a boat to join; the club is a great way to meet people and build lasting friendships with other Farms residents; the club gives you a chance to give something back to the community and to enjoy our tremendous park.

We had a great deal of interest recently at the Winterfest, where club volunteers helped the city staff by manning several posts including serving hotdogs. I believe we'll get 5 or more new families from this event.

This year: We plan to start reaching out to new homeowners that come into the Farms. We also plan to continue to reach out to the boaters in the harbor.

Commodore's Exception: We have begun to allow non-GPF residents into the club under certain special circumstances: 1) if they have participated in the Sailing Series race for at least 1 season, and 2) if they lived in the Farms within the last year. (Note: joining the club does not allow park privileges, so these members will need to be escorted by a GPF resident with a park pass to enter the park)

We can always use your help. Please drop me a line if you know of a family that might be interested, or if you'd like to help in recruiting.

Scott Bade, Membership Chair (membership@gpfb.com)

Help Needed

Call for volunteers:

1. We're looking for a new volunteer to do the Dockbox layout. You don't have to be a writer. Can be done on either a Mac or PC. If you know someone, please let Scott Bade know (membership@gpfb.com).
2. Looking for members that want to help out at Regatta in July. Lots of fun, and you get to give a little back to the community. Let Ron Mack know at commodore@gpfb.com.

Welcome Aboard!

New Members (since Sept 2014)

Sean Rush

Larry and Susan Monahan

Jim and Michelle Rossow

Doug & Joelle Gilmour/Smith

Glen & Cindy Logan

John & Laurie Keogh

Kathy Klebe-Stanek

Winter Wine Wonderland Event – January 2015

This year's Winter Wine Wonderland was held on Saturday January 24 and the Pier Park Community Center. The event was better than ever as more than 90 people attended and were treated to more than 60 wines from around the world.

The event was coordinated, once again, by our own **Tanya Naumenko**. Tanya and her family do virtually all of the work for this event, including serving the wine; and the club is very thankful for their continued service.

Special thanks to **Bill Matouk** of **Woods Wholesale Wines** on Mack Avenue in GPW. Bill has been a loyal supporter of this event and we encourage members to support Bill by purchasing products in his store.



Pointes in History

Grosse Pointe Timeline 1600-1775

Special thanks to the GP Historical Society

(This space is a recurring article on the history of Grosse Pointe)

- **1679** Lake Sainte Claire was so christened by Father Louis Hennepin, Chaplain to LaSalle, because their vessel, the "Griffin," entered the waters of the Lake on August 12, the feast day of Sainte Claire.
- **1712** The only warlike event in the history of Grosse Pointe is a battle which took place at Windmill Pointe in 1712, and which probably gave Fox Creek its name. There are two somewhat conflicting accounts but both agree on the following: The Fox Indians from Wisconsin established a fortified village within pistol shot of Fort Pontchartrain. Trouble developed between them and the French, and Dubuisson, the acting Commandant who had succeeded Cadillac, was able to gather quickly an army of 1200 friendly Indians. The Fox warriors only about 300 in number cut off as they were from food and water, after nineteen days of siege, took advantage of a stormy night to try to escape. The pursuing French and Indian allies overtook the Fox at Windmill Pointe and a hard fought battle took place. Two Hundred Fox warriors were killed and 100 were captured, however, promptly escaped. The women and children were taken back to the Fort, where their Indian captors were allowed to kill them at the rate of four or five a day. In addition to the two accounts of the battle that have come down to us, a great many Indian skeletons, tomahawks and other implements of war have been unearthed in the higher ground of Windmill Pointe near the mouth of Fox Creek.
- **1740** Burton's History of Detroit states that most of the river front has been taken up for farms, from which we may conclude that at least a part of Grosse Pointe was settled that early.
- **1758** The property now occupied by the Grosse Pointe Club was in the possession of Nicholas Patenaud.
- **1760** The surrender of Detroit to the English caused many of the French settlers to leave Detroit and occupy their farms in Grosse Pointe.
- **1763** Grosse Pointe Farmers, because they were French and Indians friendly to them, were able to continue living almost as usual in spite of the siege of Detroit by Pontiac.

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Winterfest on the Hill 2015

The first of our cooperative events with the City of GPF took place on Saturday, January 31 with **Winterfest on The Hill**. The event saw great weather, and was well attended by families from throughout the Pointes.



This year the Park, City, and Farms all coordinated their Winter parties together, and it made for a great time. Many people rode the new Grosse Pointe K-Line Trolley up and down Kercheval and attended multiple events.

As usual, we believe that the Farms put on the best party with something for the whole family. The Farms offered free hotdogs, hot drinks, along with music and dancing. There was ice carving, putt-putt golf and a unique animal petting exhibit.



The Boat Club assisted the city by serving food, and manning various events.

The event staff is treated to an amazing afterglow party sponsored by the Bologna family.

-Scott Bade



Pier Park – Something for Everyone

By Olivia M. and Bianca P. - Staff Writers for the Brownell Bronco Press

All year round, the Farms Pier Park is open to residents of Grosse Pointe Farms. It has endless activities; from swimming in the summer to ice skating on the frozen basketball court in the winter, the park has an activity for everyone.

In the summer, the most popular thing to do in Grosse Pointe is to swim. What better place to do than at your local park? It's a great place to meet up with friends, swim, lay on the beach and get lunch.

One of the most popular events is the annual one night campout. There is also an indoor movie and a late night bonfire that make this night very special. Also, the 4th of July celebration is packed with fun. The fireworks show makes the night shine. During the winter, you can go ice skating, get some hot chocolate and warm up inside the Orton Activity Building. Paddle tennis tournaments also take place at the courts behind the activity building.

During the fall and the spring, there are many more fun events. There is the Fall Fest, with a corn maze and hay ride. In the spring, the annual Easter Egg Hunt is always a great memory to share with your family.

The park is incredibly important to the community because it connects the community in a fun and positive environment.

For more information, visit the Grosse Pointe Farms Parks and Recreation site at:

<http://www.grossepointefarms.org/departments/parks-recreation-1>

Pointes in History (continued from page 3)

- **1774** Captain Alexander Grant, commander of the British Navy on the Great Lakes, married Therese Barthe, a sixteen year old French Catholic of Detroit. Grant had previously served in the same army with Washington at the surrender of Fort Duquesne, and with Lord Amherst on Lake Champlain, where he had been detailed to Naval Command. Probably in 1775 Grant bought a 640 acre farm in Grosse Pointe and built a house know as "Grant's Castle," described in an early newspaper as being sixty feet wide and two hundred and eighty feet long, just south of where the unfinished John Dodge house now stands. Grant bought the farm from his brother-in-law, John Askin, and Askin later became the father-in-law of Elijah Brush, the founder of the well-known Brush family, which has also been much associated with Grosse Pointe.

Grant was also Lieutenant Governor of the county which caused him to entertain the great Tecumseh and other Indian chiefs at his Grosse Pointe estate, and he was a member of the Governor's Executive Council, which for many years ruled nearly half the continent. In addition to his family of one son and eleven daughters, who are described in an existing letter as the finest girls in this part of the country, Grant purchased from the Indians a three year old boy stolen from his home in the Ohio Country. He adopted this boy and when he married Judith Campau, gave him the farm later owned by T. P. Hall.

It is still a mystery how Grant was able to continue in Grosse Pointe after the United States took over Michigan in 1796, but he lived there until his death in 1813, a few months before Perry's victory on Lake Erie.

- **1775** Gregor McGregor and Francois Millehomme, both owners of Grosse Pointe property, figure in the records as being involved in brawls in the City.

To be continued: Next edition: 1775 - 1900

<http://www.gphistorical.org>



GP Historical Society Farm House

2015 Bridge and Board Members

Commodore: Ron Mack
Vice Commodore: Rita Charvat
Rear Commodore: Glen Logan
Past Commodore: Scott Bade
Secretary: Ridene Soltesz
Treasurer: Steve Sicklesteel

Race Chairperson: Brian Sullivan
Membership: Scott Bade
Committee Member: Kathryn Oldham
Committee Member: Jim Babiarz
Committee Member: Carey White