

The Dock Box

September 2014

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Scott Bade

COMMODORE'S CORNER



What Do You Want From the Club?

I've asked myself this question recently, and here is my answer:

I'd like the GPFBC to be: a social club that allows my wife and I to meet other GPF residents, enjoy our beautiful park, and do some good for the community.

As the commodore this year, my personal goal is to leave the club in better shape than when I inherited it, and to place it on an upward trajectory for the future. I feel an obligation to the prior boat club board members and volunteers that worked hard to build something worth preserving – and I believe the boat club is worth preserving.

We've had some outstanding events this year with great attendance; most recently the Regatta was a big success thanks to the leadership of Vice Commodore Ron Mack, and help from a lot of volunteers. Rear Commodore Charlotte Adamaszek has done a great job spicing up the General Membership meetings, and other events, with leadership, good food and drinks.

Looking to grow. I believe that attracting new members is key to the sustainability of the club. We've got about 100 families that are currently in the club – which is a good number. We've done word-of-mouth marketing for years, and we are going to start doing some more proactive messaging to the community in the future. I'm interested in your opinion on what the club can do better to attract members, please send me a message.

Being a boater, one of my personal goals is to get more boat oriented activities on the calendar for the future. Ron Mack and I recently distributed fliers to all of the boats in the harbor in an effort to find new members. Stayed tuned.

Scott Bade - Commodore, Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club (commodore@gpfbc.com)

Member Appreciation Picnic

This year's members' appreciation picnic was a great success, boasting 84 members and their families in attendance.



The weather was outstanding and the food even better. Very special thanks go to former Commodore Chris Harrison for preparing the delicious pulled pork (called "Barbecue" in the South). Thanks to the many members that helped pull the pork and having it ready for sandwiches.



For those of you who don't know, Chris arrives early in the morning, 7:00 A.M., to begin preparing the pork by smoking it on a special grill provided by the

Parks and Rec's department. He remains there all day long even when the weather is not cooperating and a little help from a friend, named "Makers Mark", he begins the long process of firing up the grill with charcoal, making sure to keep temperature just right, basting the meat with his "secret" rub to bring it to eating perfection. Things were perfect this year in all respects. Thank you Chris and to everyone who brought a dish to pass.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

September: Lobsterfest Sept 13

October: Halloween Party, Oct 25

November: General Membership Meeting, Nov 7

(www.gpfbc.com/events for full calendar)

Grosse Pointe Farms Regatta



Vice Commodore's Message

By Ron Mack



I would like to take this opportunity to offer my most sincere thanks to all the Regatta volunteers who so generously donated their time and talents to make this year's Regatta the great success it continues to be year after year.

This event is the high point of Grosse Pointe Farms social events during the entire year, and very well may be best family friendly event in all of the Pointes, which boasts 15 family friendly events, spanning 3 days during the weekend preceding July 4th. We are very fortunate to be the driving force behind this event, which would fall far short of success without the dedication of our fabulous volunteers.

I would also like to thank Dick Huhn, Director of Farms Parks and Recreation, and his staff for their help and cooperation with set up, distributing Regatta Programs and other items for which we required assistance.

This year attendance was one of the largest in years thanks to our wonderful residents, and of course, the great weather which provided sunshine and warm air.

If for any reason you missed this year's festivities, you will surely want to plan on attending next year if you are able, and if your schedule permits.

Ron Mack, Vice Commodore (vicecommodore@gpfb.com)

Pointes in History

How our lake was named according to the Grosse Pointe Guide of 1930:

By Suzy Berschback



The first Europeans to explore the shores of Grosse Pointe, was Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle and his party who on the 12th of August 1679, which is known on the calendar as St. Clair's Day, arrive in Lake St. Clair on board the Griffon the first vessel to sail this lake. Its Indian name was "Otsiketa", signifying sugar or salt, and probably referring to the salt springs near Clinton River, which were well known in the earliest days of the Country. The sun was setting and flooding the waters with its golden hues. The little band of hardy explorers fell on their knees giving thanks to Heaven for their prosperous voyage. On the lofty stern of the Vessel was LaSalle, future explorer of the Mississippi; by this side Henry de Tonty his captain of brigade; nearby Father Louis Hennepin. Sixteen French voyageurs and a small number of Indians comprised the crew. As they rose from their devotions, Father Hennepin addressed them a short discourse and concluded by saying: This is the feast of Ste Claire, let us commemorate it by bestowing her name of this beautiful sheet of water. "I hereby solemnly baptize it Lac Sainte Claire, by which it will be henceforth known." This little lake also had various other names; one was Lac Chandiere, (Kettle) from its round shape. On the Dutch maps it is called Kandekio, on some of the French maps; Ganatchio.

(continued on next page)

Reminder: Lobsterfest Saturday, September 13, 2014:

A quick reminder about our upcoming Lobsterfest. This is traditionally one of our best parties. Join your friends on the beach for an old fashioned lobster dinner and bonfire. Get details on the website at <http://www.gpfbc.com>. If you're interested in attending please contact Charlotte at: rearcommandore@gpfbc.com



First Regatta Cup Race

The annual Grosse Pointe Farms Regatta weekend witnessed the first sailing regatta as a part of the festivities in many years. The race was the brainchild of the race committee (led by chairman Brian Sullivan - shown below). The race was a reverse start meaning that all 16 boats



started at a specified time based on their individual ratings so that every boat had the opportunity to be at the finish line at the same time. And in fact, the finish was very exciting! The top 10 boats all finished within a few minutes of each other with a tight battle to the end for the 2nd and 3rd place boats finishing in a group of five boats within seconds of each other. The inaugural winner of the The Grosse Pointe Farms Cup was Mike Fozo on his sailing yacht "Bazinga!". Mike keeps his yacht at the Farms Pier and regularly crews with the crew on Crescent Sail Yacht Club's Flier (who came in a close second). It was a race that both the sailors and the spectators claimed was one of the most exciting ever held during the Regatta weekend! The winner gets their name permanently engraved on the coveted perpetual trophy which will be displayed at the boat house throughout the year.



Now that everyone knows that this exciting race is part of the Regatta festivities, GPFBC expects this event to grow every year by leaps and bounds!

-Brian Sullivan

Pointes in History (continued from previous page)

Its widest part the shoreline of Canada is not visible from the American side. Its waters are usually clear and the shoreline is shallow in some places for a great distance. The waters of the lake on a clear day during the summer months are dotted with myriads of sailboats, yachts and speed boats. Good fishing is also to be had in the waters of the lakes and the sport is still of such quality that the angler can catch a goodly string of Bass, Perch and Pickerel. The Sturgeon and Muskellunge are not as plentiful as they were in the early days, but with patience and the right bait the angler is generally rewarded. It is not unusual for Muskellunge weighing from twenty to forty pounds to be caught with rod and line each season. Thousands of wild ducks and other water fowl are to be seen on the lake in the spring and fall of the year end to the lover of wild life is a sight not to be forgotten. In the winter, skating and ice boating are sports that entertain and form the pastime for weekend parties. The horse racing on the ice of the pioneer days is gone, and is to be found only in the memory of the old descendants, each community have their own Water Front Parks and docks which provide facilities for swimming, fishing and all water sports, but are available only to the residents of that community and their guests. A great many homes on the waterfront have their own private pools, docks and boat houses, but no boat liveries or docks are available to the public. Hunting, trapping and fishing was also a mode of getting a livelihood at this early day. The woods and marsh abounded with game. Fishing was something of a pastime for the lake was full of fish, and they were only caught to be eaten at once. Fresh fish could be obtained summer or winter, and no effort was made to preserve them beyond the needs of the day on which they were caught, for salt (a preservative) was very expensive almost worth its weight in gold.

Suzy is a Farms Boat Club member who is passionate about sharing our community's history with the next generation. She is the community affairs manager for Beaumont Grosse Pointe and the former Grosse Pointe Historical Society director. Along with Madeleine Socia and Ann Marie Aliotta, Suzy has published four local history books with Arcadia Publishing. They can be purchased at the GPHS and Amazon.com.

Special Thanks to Previous Dockbox Editors.

For many years the Dockbox was produced through the volunteer efforts of two very special people:

Pete Toenjes - Dockbox editor

Charlie Krasner - Dockbox designer

Pete and Charlie did a great job, and the boat club thanks them for their dedicated service.

Call for volunteers: 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 commodore Scott Bade know (commodore@gpfbc.com)

Welcome Aboard!

New Members (since March 2014)

Gregory & Kathleen Haack

David Gross

Cyndi Flower

Annmarie Newman

Karen and Marc Leyser

Linda MacLake

Richard and Jackie Canny

Gregory & April Cheesewright

Susan & Tony Capizzo

2014 Bridge and Board Members

Commodore: Scott Bade

Vice Commodore: Ron Mack

Rear Commodore: Charlotte Adamaszek

Board Member & P/C: Ken MacKenzie

Secretary: Ridene Soltesz

Treasurer: Steve Sicklesteel

Race Chairperson: Brian Sullivan

Membership: Eileen Bade

Committee Member: Kathryn Oldham

Committee Member: Jim Babiarz

Committee Member: Carey White