

The Dock Box

MARCH, 2012

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Cyndee Harrison COMMODORE'S CORNER

I first became aware of this club in 2005, when our family was still fairly new to the area. One of the routines that we had adopted upon moving here was spending the week before the 4th of July gathering up the decorations for our kids' bikes, pulling out the bins of tablecloths, helping our son Coleman make his award-winning pie, and otherwise preparing for what had become one of our favorite days of the year -- Regatta.

We got up early that Saturday and loaded up the minivan-- bikes, baskets, and tots in tow. But once we got there, we realized that there was no bike parade. No pie contest. The city had provided musical entertainment and fireworks, but Regatta as we knew it just didn't happen. It was only after approaching our neighbor Mike Proffitt that we learned that the bulk of Regatta activities weren't provided by the city but rather by the Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club. We further learned that because most of the members were no longer able to volunteer for this annual event, they were likely going to donate their monies to the city and dissolve the club altogether.

I'm proud that through my husband Chris' leadership, a renewed membership drive ensued and we acquired over a hundred new families that year. I'm also proud of the fact that thanks to a lot of committed neighbors and friends, the following year's Regatta was one of the biggest and best in recent memory. But as proud as I am of these folks, the fact is that it was a pretty easy sell. Grosse Pointe Farms is a community of people who are deeply engaged in and committed to their community. Encouraging them to become a part of a social club that's based on our incredible waterfront park is not difficult. So why would this fifty-plus-year-old organization ever come so close to the brink of closure?

Together, we learned that growing and maintaining a healthy membership base for the Boat Club really is a matter of always mindfully "recruiting down" -- meaning that we must always seek out younger families as well as those who are new to our town. We must also work to engage our members and provide opportunities for every single one of us to be a part of the fun as well as being a part of our service to the community.

As a club, we've learned many lessons, all based on a shared love for this place that we call home. I am excitedly anticipating that 2012 will be another landmark year with still more lessons learned.

It is our stated mission to "encourage, promote, and teach safe

boating and to further the interest and growth of the Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club and to promote and improve boating facilities and other recreational activities to serve the community" (GPFBC Articles of Incorporation, State of Michigan--Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, 05/03/1971).

This mission is primarily achieved through our activities and volunteerism. The bulk of our activities and functions are held at our incredible Community Center building where we are always given carte blanche and run-of-house. As you surely know, we enjoy a symbiotic relationship with the city park which is tremendously tipped in our favor. We also, on occasion, make gifts to enhance the life of our park. In the past, we have provided benches, trees, and the most recent gift of the telescope viewer on the observation pier.

This year, we have been asked to partner with Pier Park on a project that exceeds the scope of anything we've done in the past. The Parks and Harbor committee has identified a need for a fishing/observation deck that will likely be completed over the summer. This deck, approximately 15' x 24', will be located directly north of the volleyball courts and will extend beyond the existing iron fence out to the edge of the seawall. If our club provides the supplies, estimated to cost around \$7,000, then the city is able to supply the labor for its construction.

At our most two recent Bridge and Board meetings, we made several decisions that were based on this project: The Board will launch a fundraising campaign in order to cover help recover the cost of this project. Cyndee will chair a small sub-committee to develop the plans and will coordinate with the city to arrange for the bronze plaque(s) recognizing donors. The GPFBC will fund the project (\$5,000 from our existing funds + \$2,000 based on fundraising projections).

The deck will be named in memory of Past Commodore George Gerow. A fiduciary oversight committee will be formed with five members appointed by the Commodore. This committee will identify future project funding, develop a simple yearly budget, and make other recommendations to the Board regarding our finances.

I am thrilled to share this long-lasting and meaningful enhancement to the life of our park and invite you to please get involved -- I would welcome you to help with the fundraising for this deck and/or serve on the fiduciary oversight committee. Contact me directly at 313-410-2343.

REGATTA 2012

Please join us on Monday, March 12th @ 7:00 for a Regatta planning meeting at 419 Belanger. Many volunteers are needed for this FUN FAMILY event. We will have a short meeting to explain the volunteer positions that need to be filled. Refreshments will be served. Any questions, please call Ken MacKenzie @ 590-1179. Thanks!

FEATHER BOWLING

What a great evening it was. It was another very successful and fun feather bowling event. Rear commodore Mark Jasin did a great job coordinating things. Those that have never been feather bowling with us don't know what their missing. All the food was delicious, especially the mussels. I think we had a record crowd of 20 plus this year. Some of us hung out late into the evening and partied with new friends. Every year the attendance increases as news gets out. Don't miss next year!



2012 BRIDGE ELECTED

At our Annual General Membership Meeting on November 4th the new 2012 bridge and board was elected. Thanks to all who served on the 2011 Bridge and board.

Similar to last year Sandy MacKenzie made her World Famous spinach pie. It was so good there were no leftovers. The meeting was held at the Kerby field house due to the flood repairs underway at the Boat house. Repairs are due to be completed sometime in January.

2012 Bridge and Board

Commodore – Cyndee Harrison

Vice Commodore – Ken MacKenzie

Rear Commodore – Mark Jasin

Treasurer – Sandy MacKenzie

Secretary – Ridene Soltesz

Membership - Jim Babiarz

Race Chairperson – David Morrow

Board Members – Gene Carswell P/C

Board Members – Peter Toenjes P/C

Board Members – Tanya Bartoszewicz P/C

Board Members – Bob Malicki

LEARN TO SAIL WEBSITES

To suggest additional websites to publish please e-mail us with "Top Web Sites" in the subject line.

Boat Safety

U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety
www.uscgboating.org/

Local Sailing Schools

Bayview Yacht Club
www.byc.com

Detroit Yacht Clubs
www.dyc.com

Crescent Yacht Club
www.crescentsail.com/

Official Sailing Rules

www.drya.org/

Online Educationals

www.learntosail.net/

www.youtube.com/user/seasensical

www.skippertips.com/



FAN PAGE!

Become a Fan of the GPF Boat Club on Facebook! Upload/share photos/videos of family and friends at our events. Share thoughts about current activities and ideas for new ones.

2012 THURSDAY NIGHT RACES

Once again this year the Boat Club will sponsor the Thursday Night Race Series off Pier Park in June and August. Last season we had more than 40 boats registered, continuing a trend of increased participation over the past six years.

This year's racing will begin on May 31st and continue on June 7th, 14th, 21st and 29th with the first series awards party following the racing on the 29th. A second series will be held on each Thursday in August beginning August 2nd and concluding with the final race and awards ceremony on August 30th. A final race sponsored by the Grosse Pointe Power Squadron may be held on a Saturday in October.

The Race Committee is looking for volunteers to help with setting marks,

signaling starts and recording finishes, and assisting at the awards parties. Late last year we were saddened by the loss of long time committee member George Gerow, and we will need someone to handle the starting cannon this year. The start line extends eastward into Lake St Clair from the seawall near the gazebo, and spectators may view the racing from the east end of beautiful Pier Park. The first section of racers starts at 7 pm with other sections starting at five-minute intervals. Spinnaker, jib-and-main and one-design sections will participate. Bring some refreshments, come on down and enjoy the view, and see what's involved in running a race.

Call Dave or Jackie Morrow at (313) 640-9756 if you are able to help or would like more information.



RACING RULES SEMINAR

Club member Jim Soltesz has arranged a review of the racing rules of sailing to be presented by noted local sailmaker and racer Wally Cross of Quantum Sail Design Group and Wally Cross Sailing. Wally will illustrate his talk with a slide show and will take questions relating to the rules.

The seminar will be held at 7 pm on Tuesday, March 27th at the Community Building at Pier Park and will be open to Boat Club members, participants in the Thursday Night Race series, and other interested sailors.

Whether you are a novice racer just learning the rules or you have been racing for years, we are sure Wally will help you gain a competitive edge. Please spread the word to those you know who may be interested. There is no charge for the seminar, but those planning to attend should RSVP to Jim at salty117@comcast.net or (313) 882-7409 by March 13th so that we know how many will be attending.

MAY 25 IS MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

The summer is coming fast and the pool will be open soon. Lucky for you are a member of the boat club. As in years past, members and their families will be able to use the pool on May 25, from 5-9 pm, one day before the pool officially opens. The club will supply food and beverages. The menu has not been firmed up yet but I'm sure the food will be delicious. This is a great way to kick off the summer! Be there or be square ;-)

WINTERFEST 2012

Thank you to all the volunteers who passed out hotdogs to the hungry Grosse Pointe Farms/Grosse Pointe City residents. It was a beautiful day and a good time was had by all.

BOMB SQUAD

By Peter Toenjes

Aunt Sandy had a sister that moved out of her Berkley, Michigan home to an assisted care facility. Aunt Sandy is my wife's Aunt. She's one of those Aunts that get adopted into the family because she was one of those best friends of my wife's parents. I was helping clean out the home during a nice fall day. As I was rummaging through the basement I realized this lady was a pack rat. I had spotted a very large artillery shell. It was army green with an aluminum tip. It was about eighteen inches long and as thick around as the fat end of a baseball bat. I thought to myself, "It was a tank round! Cool!" I had to have it.

I asked if I could keep it and Aunt Sandy said, "Sure, I don't want it." I was thrilled to have it. I brought it home and took it apart and checked out its inner workings. It was real. It was very heavy and was made of quality made brass, steel, and aluminum components. I reassembled it and put it on display in the dining room. My wife was very happy.

The next summer my wife was having a garage sale. A man came up asking if we had any military items. My wife knew of the tank round and thought this might be a good opportunity to get rid of the giant dining room displayed phallic symbol. The man took one look at the bomb and freaked out. He quickly warned my wife, "That that thing could be live!", and left in a hurry. My wife panicked and called the police. The police in turn called the Michigan State Police Bomb Squad. In half-an-hour the Northville bomb squad was in front of my home x-raying the bomb in their large van. All the neighbors came out to view the circus attraction on McKinley Avenue. My wife called me at work several times to give me developments of what was happening at home. I couldn't stop laughing. I laughed harder each time she called. I kept my workmates informed. Everyone at work kept asking for



updates each time they heard my phone ring.

The Bomb squad couldn't determine the safety of the shell so they offered to take it to their station and examine it there. My wife said, "That's great, please take it."

After my wife called, for the last time, I heard that she let them take it away and keep it. I was not happy. After all, it was not hers to give away. I hung up and immediately called the Northville bomb squad to retrieve it. They were very nice and offered to drop it off at my work since they had someone out in the field with it anyway. I said, "That would be fine." And we set a time of 2 o'clock pm that afternoon at my work.

After reflecting a minute about what I just did, I thought that a large bomb squad truck pulling up to the front of my work might raise a few eyebrows. I called security and told them what was happening. At 2 I headed to the front lobby and there it was...the Michigan State Police bomb squad truck. Also the head of security was unexpectedly there to meet me. I knew him well so as I took possession of the boxed up shell. I told him everything that transpired this morning. We both had a good laugh while we were walking to my car to store it.

That night my wife, daughter and I all went out to dinner. When we pulled up to the restaurant I told my wife, "I found another shell at a garage sale near work and it was in the back in my car." She said, "No you didn't." in a disappointing voice. I excitedly said, "Yes I did." I opened the back of the truck and she said, "Oh my God, not again!" I held a straight face as long as I could. Finally after busting out laughing, I told her it was the same shell that I got back from the Northville Bomb squad. We still had a nice dinner after the eventful day. No hard feelings.



2011 EVENT CALENDAR



March 2

General Membership Meeting
6:30 – 9:30 pm, Community Center

March 22

Self defense for women
5:00 – 7:00 pm, Community Center
(New)

March 24

Comodore's Ball, War Memorial

March 29

Self defense for women
5:00 – 7:00 pm, Community Center
(New)

March 31

Easter Egg Hunt
*Volunteers Needed: Call Ken
MacKenzie 885-1371*

May 4

General Membership Meeting
6:30 – 9:30 pm, Community Center

May 25

Member Appreciation Day
(Pool opened for GPFBC members)
5:00 – 9:00 pm

May 31 – June 28

Every Thursday, Sail Boat Races

June 30

Regatta / Fireworks

July 27

General Membership Meeting
6:30 – 9:30 pm, Community Center

August 2 – August 30

Every Thursday, Sail Boat Races

August 4

Ice Cream Social
*Volunteers Needed: Call Ken
MacKenzie 885-1371*

August 11

Fishing Rodeo

August 24

Family Campout

October 13

Fall Harvest

November 2

Annual Meeting 6:30-9:00
(election of officers, dinner)
Community Center



WINTER WINE WONDERLAND

The Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club kicked off the 2012 year with the Winter Wine Wonderland on January 28th at the Community Building from 7-10 with approximately 150 attendees. Rosemary and Bill Matouk from Woods Wholesale

Wines sponsored the event, and Pamela VP from VP Catering created a fabulous menu for the occasion. There were approximately 60 different wines from around the world for tasting and also some locally brewed beer as well.

This was a member and guest event and much fun was had by all who attended. All attendees received a "raffle" ticket when they checked-in for a surprise door prize. Six gifts of two bottles of wine each were distributed to attendees. Our boat club member, Jim Hollerbach, won one of the door prize of two bottles of wine donated from Woods Wholesale Wine.

There were many G.P. Farms residents who attended this event that were not members, but thoroughly enjoyed themselves and left with new member information. We had a new family join the boat club that evening, welcome to John and Nancy Cottrel who have recently moved back to Grosse Pointe Farms.

The event was a success in every way. The Boat Club raised almost \$2,000 from this event for general operating expenses. A Special thanks to Bill and Rosemary Matouk and Pamela VP. Thanks to all who attended.

GPFBC PRESENTS: SELF DEFENSE FOR WOMEN

This important program will be held in two sessions, Thursday March 22 and Thursday March 29th from 5-7 pm. This program, presented by Ian Kinder of LiveSafe Academy, is open to all ages of women--seniors, college students, and others. Bring your girlfriends or your family members!

The cost is \$25 per session, payable directly to LiveSafe Academy at the door. Attendance at Session I is required in order to attend Session II. Space is limited, RSVP to Cyndee at (313) 417-5558.

These two evenings of instruction build upon one another. The first 2-hour is a focused presentation of critical skills. Students will learn palm, elbow and knee strikes, the fighting platform, patterns of movement and skill integration through the use of striking pads.

The second workshop combines the skills and training methods taught in the 1.5 hour course with important talking points, scenarios, kicks to the shins and eye gouges. In this class, students will have an opportunity to practice life saving self-defense skills full contact against a padded assailant. Students will also have an opportunity to practice diffusing confrontations verbally while learning to identify when an assault is imminent (attendance at the first session is necessary).



2012 BRIDGE

COMMODORE

Cyndee Harrison

VICE-COMMODORE

Ken MacKenzie

REAR-COMMODORE

Mark Jasin

TREASURER

Sandy MacKenzie

SECRETARY

Ridene Soltesz

RACE CHAIRPERSON

David Morrow

BOARD MEMBERS

Gene Carswell P/C

Peter Toenjes P/C

Tanya Bartoszewicz P/C

Bob Malicki

MEMBERSHIP

Jim Babiarz

(313) 885-9190

WELCOME ABOARD!

Please welcome our most recent new members:

Frank & Betsy Schulte
John & Nancy Cottrell

We look forward to seeing you at our next event!



NEW MEMBER JOINS THE BOARD

Ridene Soltesz is a newly retired English teacher from Utica Schools. The timing was right when she was asked to fill in as secretary. She and husband Jim have lived in the Farms for about 35 years and have sailed aboard Chasing Rainbows, their C&C 29 Mark 2, since 1982. Jim's the racer; she's now of the fair weather and fun persuasion. Ridene says she has survived hail storms, lightening, dense fog, hoards of mosquitoes and flies, relentless rain, rocks, and close encounters with freighters on sailing trips in her younger years. Jim and Ridene have two daughters in their 20's, one in Chicago and the other in Midtown Manhattan- both great places to visit. Let's all welcome Ridene in her new position.



Ridene Soltesz



Come aboard for family, friends & fun!



Words and pictures welcome! Send you your best: If there's room in a Dock Box we'll put it in! Contact Pete Toenjes at (313) 885-9190.