

# The Dock Box

AUGUST, 2011

Vol. 22, No. 3



## Gene Carswell COMMODORE'S CORNER

This year has proven to be a very challenging year for the Boat Club. We have had many great and enjoyable experiences including the Regatta most recently as well as some saddening news with the recent passing of John Frank who was a current member of our Board. While we are accustomed to highs and lows, this year seems to be exceptional. In addition, we have experienced some mid-year turnover in our board with the resignation of a few key individuals due to competing priorities and commitments. These challenges have been met by a tremendous amount of support from our membership and as a result most members have not even noticed this taking place.

To point out a few of the highlights from this year, we must start with the overwhelming success of our spring race series accounting for another record level of participation. I must also point out the hard work and dedication of many volunteers that enables this to happen in a very organized and professional manner. The Regatta was another huge success this year with very positive feedback from participants, sponsors, and the community. Again, the coordination of such an event requires a great deal of planning, participation, and cooperation from many volunteers and the City. We are looking ahead to the Lobster Roast and October "Halloween" Party which are sure to be great events as well.

While it is clear that nothing comes easy and hard work does yield positive results, it also highlights the level of commitment that our Bridge, Board, and Membership have to this great organization. It is our mission to enhance the lives of those in our local community by contributing to the betterment of our park which is primarily through our activities and volunteerism. I must say that we have demonstrated

and continue to live up to this expectation through the hard work of our supporters and our membership. In the face of many challenges that would have crippled similar organizations, our group has risen to the occasion and continues to make the most of this year.

We have had a laser focus on executing the plans and activities that you have been a part of and enjoyed this year. Just recently we have turned our attention looking ahead to the next year. We are actively working to upgrade our website and try and further enhance our communication strategy to better serve our members. In addition, we have a few Bridge and Board vacancies for the 2012 year that we are looking for volunteers to fill. These items are very important to the long term success of our organization and are a high priority for us during the second half of this year. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or would like to volunteer in any capacity, please reach out to myself or another member of our Board as we would welcome your support and feedback.

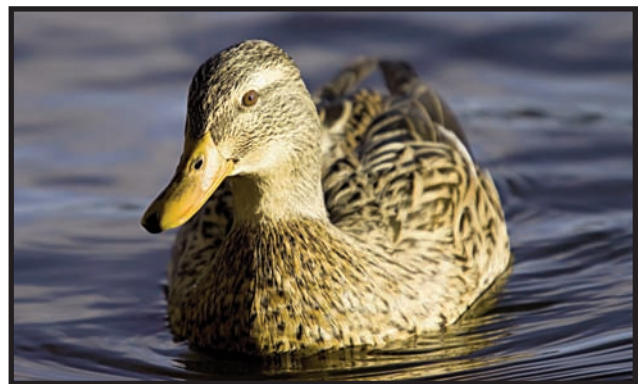
Again, I would like to personally thank our great group of leaders on your 2011 Bridge and Board for our success to date as well as the many volunteers that generously provide their time and resources in support of our club. Please take a moment to reflect on the great company that we share in the Boat Club and make a point to reach out and connect with your fellow members that you may not know. I am sure that this would not only yield positive results for each of us individually but would also help to further strengthen our club. I am very proud of this club, our members, and what we have accomplished together and am confident that we are capable much more as we look ahead.

— Gene Carswell

## DUCK DIE-OFF AT PIER PARK

Have you notice a sick or dead mallard duck at the Farms Pier Park recently? I found a sick Mallard under the boat lift the weekend of August 6th, 2011. I reported the sick looking duck to the Pier Park. They mentioned that this is normal for this time of year and report these events to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Dead waterfowl are tested at the DNR by concentrating the toxin from the bird's blood and testing it on mice. I called Michigan DNR Wildlife Biology Specialist Tom Cooley to talk about this yearly phenomenon. Tom confirmed this is indeed a normal seasonal occurrence. He went on to say that during long hot periods and lower water levels, spore forming type-C botulism bacteria can grow at the bottom of the lake. The ducks accidently consume the thriving bacteria when feeding. This bacterium is normal in Lake St. Clair.

The bacteria can cause a disease in water fowl commonly known as Limber-neck. Limber-neck is characterized by paralysis of the neck muscles and pharynx that interferes with swallowing and with raising or controlling the head. Type-C botulism inhibits the nervous system's ability to communicate with muscles. Feather can also become loose.



If you find a sick or dying bird in the harbor or lake, report it to the Pier Park. Dead waterfowl can smell and poison other animals that feed on the carcass.

For more information check out: [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr), search keyword "limberneck".

## THURSDAY NIGHT RACES

The 2011 Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club Thursday Night Races continued to grow this year with registration in the recently-completed June series up to 43 boats. An additional jib and main section was added and the two spinnaker sections combined into one. The final race in the spring series was held on June 30th followed by the awards celebration at Pier Park. We managed to complete all five races and avoid most of the thunderstorms that have been frequent on Lake St Clair this summer. Following the June 30th race, flags were presented to the first three finishers in each section by Commodore Gene Carswell.

For the Spring Series, the following skippers took home flags:

<b>JAM A</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>FUGUE STATE</b>	<b>Kevin O'Brien</b>
	2nd	MIKA	Jerry Lohmeyer
	3rd	LORAX	Ralph Deeds
<b>JAM B</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>ESCAPE</b>	<b>Bret Zimmerman</b>
	2nd	SEGEL SCHNELL	Ron Utz
	3rd	LANKAYAN	Reggie Beckius
<b>JAM C</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>MEIL</b>	<b>Nick Trost</b>
	2nd	RASCAL	Jerry McNamara
	3rd	SURGE	Shahe Momjian
<b>CAL 25</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>NEVER ALONE</b>	<b>Paul &amp; Ross Nuechterlein</b>
	2nd	SCARED STIFF	Jim West
	3rd	SECOND WIND	Don Healy
<b>Spinnaker</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>WEATHER EDGE III</b>	<b>Colt Weatherston</b>
	2nd	LADY LUCK	Paul Lady
	3rd	PRIME TIME	David Grover

A dedicated group of volunteers made the races and the party possible. Committee members on shore, including Jackie Morrow, Diane Carpentier, Eileen Furest, George Gerow, Gil Schumacher, Victor Attar and several others, made sure the races started on time and then recorded the finish times. Jackie Morrow, with a lot of help from other committee members, organized the awards party.



Ralph Deeds Photo

Jim Soltesz's Chasing Rainbows lives up to its name.

The Summer Series of five races began August 4th and continues through September 1st. Club members are invited to watch the races from Pier Park and attend the awards party scheduled for September 1st. We are always looking for volunteers to serve on the Race Committee. No experience is necessary, and you may find that we have a lot of fun! Please contact David Morrow at 313-640-9756 if you are able to help.

## REGATTA RECAP:

The Annual Farms Regatta was a tremendous success thanks to the efforts of our volunteers, led by the planning committee. Special thanks to our event champions:

Children's Art in the Park The Gene Carswell family  
Decorated Bike Parade\* Kathryn Oldham  
Pie Eating Contest\* Bob Malicki  
Face Painting/Novelties\* Nadine Pendolino  
Inflatable Boat Race David and Jackie Morrow  
Rubber Duckie Race Chris Harrison and family  
Sand Castle Contest Mackenzie/Hollerbacks  
Pie Baking Contest Peter Toenjes  
Children's Games Tanya Bartoszewicz  
(Sun) Pet Parade The Boehmer family  
(Sun) Rendezvous Chris Harrison / Gene Carswell

Thanks to our sponsors, who helped us raise over \$3,000 to support our year's events and activities:

BLUFIN SUSHI  
DR. CLARK JOHNSON  
MORGAN STANLEY SMITH BARNEY  
BEAUMONT HOSPITAL GROSSE POINTE  
COLLEEN DYER AGENCY:  
MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU  
FRANNET  
KENMAC, LTD.  
TADASHI CAMEY  
THE BRECHT FAMILY  
CONNELL BUILDING COMPANY  
DREW AND JENNIFER DUNGAN  
RAINY DAY ART SUPPLY  
LAW OFFICE OF JOEL A. HARRIS, PLLC  
THE THAMS FAMILY  
FRANK & COLLEEN BRAYTON  
RAYMOND JAMES FINANCIAL  
SERVICES: JEFF BRAYTON  
PINNACLE COIN AND CURRENCY, INC  
EDIBLE ARRANGEMENTS

MR. C'S CAR WASH  
GIFTS AFLOAT  
BIKE TECH  
JERRY'S PARTY STORE  
NEXT LEVEL HEALTH & FITNESS  
THE SECRET GARDEN  
BOB MALIKI  
CHARVAT THE FLORIST  
ED LAZAR STATE FARM  
LYNDA AND JERRY WEBSTER  
MERIT WOODS PHARMACY  
THE CROCE FAMILY  
THE MAITLAND FAMILY  
THE RUMORA FAMILY

We especially thank the staff of the City of Grosse Pointe Farms who were, as always, exceedingly supportive of our efforts.

## ROAD RALLY SCAVENGER HUNT RECAP

I had participated in a few road rallies before but this was my first time putting one together. There were nothing but rave reviews about it. I am very happy participants enjoyed it so much. Here is a little bit about how it was put together: The first thing needed was developing clues such as anagrams, crossword puzzles, etc, when solved led to a location somewhere in Grosse Pointe. When underway, each team had to find their team numbered envelope for their next clue and location. Also, some fun and silly tasks were necessary along the way. One task was buying only ten grapes and having the receipt to prove it. At every location a photo was necessary to prove the team was there. Points were awarded for each picture and task. There were even bonus tasks to earn extra points. Teams were even timed and got bonus points for early completion. The team with the most points wins.

The hardest part of putting the Rally together was organizing the clues so each team went to different locations at different times.

At the end of the Rally we had snacks and a slide show of everybody's pictures. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped hide the clues and setup the snacks.



### A VOLUNTEER'S PERSPECTIVE

Behind every GPFBC event are volunteers who plan and staff the event. It's as much fun helping behind the scenes as participating in the activity.

For the recent Road Rally, Pete Toenjes created the clues and locations for the events. This took a lot of thought and time. Pete and the volunteer called key people in the city, at various locations involved in the clues, to let them know about the Road Rally so there were no surprises. Farms Public Safety was notified of the locations and I couldn't help think they were camped out as some watching the fun. Volunteers then hid the clues around Grosse Pointe. Pete and the volunteer made new friends in our community and took the opportunity to publicize the GPFBC.

Unfortunately the volunteer that hid the clues had knowledge of the locations and could not participate in the actual Rally. After the teams returned it certainly was a lot of fun to see team photos at the locations and hear everyone talk about figuring out the clues!

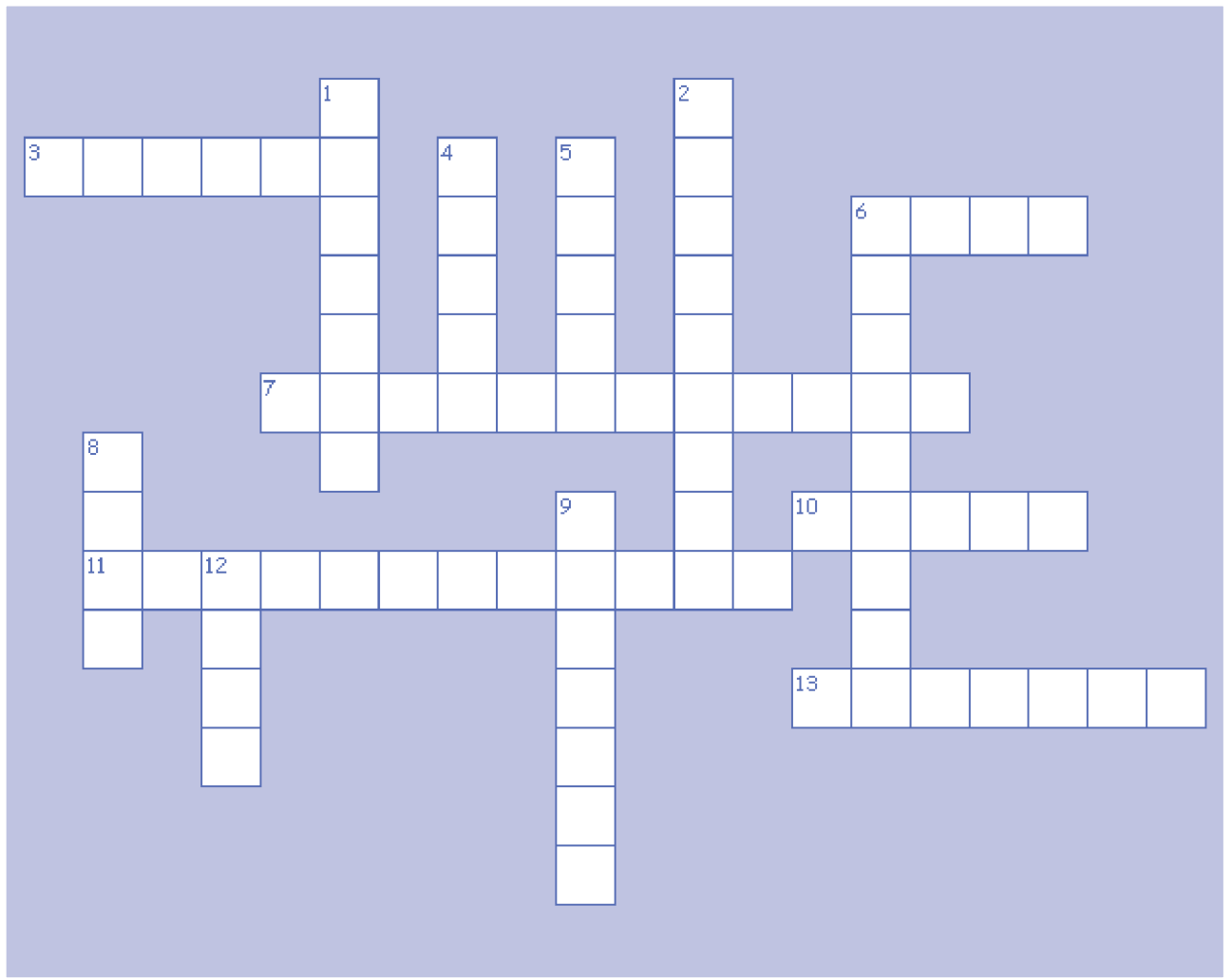
— Diane Carpentier

### 2011 EVENT CALENDAR



- **Sailboat race awards party**  
Thursday, September 1st, after races at Pier Park
- **Lobster Roast**  
Saturday, September 17th, 6:30 pm, Pier Park
- **Halloween Party**  
Saturday, October 22nd, 8:00 pm  
Glenn Williams house, Mack Ave.
- **General Membership Meeting**  
Friday November 4th  
6:30-9:00, Pier Park

# CROSSWORD KNOW YOUR BOAT CLUB



## Across

- 3. Officers
- 6. Racers round
- 7. Common to all 5 Pointe names
- 10. Officers advisors
- 11. Fall beach favorite event
- 13. Biggest Boat Club Event

## Down

- 1. Our most valuable assets
- 2. Thursday night vessels
- 4. Quackers
- 5. Election \_\_\_\_\_ of Officers
- 6. Community Center (more commonly known as)
- 8. How we honor our Commodore
- 9. It's in your hand
- 12. Floating fun



Donna Boydston Illustration

## A ROUGH DAY ON THE LAKE

By Peter Toenjes

It was a cool Friday afternoon in early October and I wanted to get one last sail in on Spiritus before the end of the season, my long time 22 foot friend.

So what if I lied about having to take my wife to the doctor, work would still be there on Monday. Besides, work sucked since the downturn in the economy. The company wasn't hiring replacements and was expecting everyone to make up for it. Enough complaining about work, let's get back to the day on the lake.

The boat, tired from the long hot summer of Thursday night races and weekend excursions, looking forward to a long winter's nap. Sail cover was a little faded, tiller cover worn, teak needed a touch up and a few spider webs still lingered. Even though Spiritus was getting old, the motor started loyally and the jib and main were prepped without event. I unmoored and pulled out of the harbor. The skies were overcast and I checked the windssock for wind direction and speed. Northeast and standing straight sideways. At least 15 knots of wind. It's going to be a sleigh ride.

I noticed a few kids hanging around the observation platform looking from the grey mounted telescope I heard was donated by the local boat club. One of these days I will have to join that club. Everyone says it's the best around and I hear they do a lot for the community.

Heading toward the Detroit River on a broad reach I noticed a few white caps forming. The wind was definitely pickup up. I had second thoughts about this trip now since I was the only one on board. Undeterred, I pressed on. After about 15

minutes the wind was really starting to howl and I wish I had reefed the main to reduce sail area. I was getting over powered regularly and threw on a life jacket. I had to attend to the main sheet constantly spilling the wind the keep control of the boat. The rudder was pulling like a crazy Rottweiler after a squirrel. Spiritus groaned and I heard items below deck shift and fall as the boat heeled beyond its comfort zone. My legs were starting to fatigue and shake from the stress of pulling the rudder. There was a lot of strain on the old boat and I hoped it would hold together. Just then I heard a loud snap and then lost all steerage. The rudder had broken. I was floundering and getting knocked down hard by the heavy wind. The boat was lying almost on its side then rounding up into the wind, cycling back and forth. I let the main free and lunged across the cockpit to free the jib sheet, nearly falling overboard. The boat was now bobbing and pitching like a note-in-a-bottle on the high seas. Both sails were whipping back and forth, cracking in the strong wind. Like bull whips, the jib sheets were also whipping back and forth with the rhythm of the snapping head sail.

I got myself together and lowered my outboard engine quickly, started it and headed directly into the wind so I could lower the sails. First the main and then the jib. Both came down while jumping between correcting course with engine's thrust and pulling the down haul lines. All this was going on while the boat was crashing up and down in the rollers that had developed. Needless to say I was headed back to port to lick my wounds. Pulling into my slip I tied up and put away the sails. I thought to myself, next time I will check the weather forecast.

Come out and play!  
 Bring your friends and neighbors to  
 join in our great schedule of events!  
 Call Cindy Toenjes, (313) 885-9190  
 for more information!



**NEW HALLOWEEN PARTY EVENT:**

Saturday, October 22nd from 8 until midnight at Glenn Williams house on Mack Ave. Come for a SCARY fun filled evening of Halloween fun! Start with a stroll through the yard and Spook House and end with dancing the night away to a DJ. Beer, wine and light hors d'oeuvres will be included in the price which has not yet been determined. (approx. \$20 members/\$25 non-members) This event is open to boat club members and their guests. Look for more info in early October.

**2011 BRIDGE**

**COMMODORE**

Gene Carswell

**VICE-COMMODORE**

Cyndee Harrison

**REAR-COMMODORE**

Ken MacKenzie

**TREASURER**

Sandy MacKenzie

**SECRETARY**

Ridene Soltesz

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Peter Toenjes P/C

Tanya Bartoszewicz P/C

Greg Nehra

Brenda Brieden

**MEMBERSHIP**

Cindy Toenjes

(313) 885-9190

**NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Please join us on Friday, November 4th @ 6:30 for our next General Membership Meeting. After a brief meeting we will enjoy Sandy MacKenzie's delicious homemade spinach pie along with a Greek Salad. Beer and wine will also be provided by the club along with a light dessert. Hope to see you there.

**WELCOME ABOARD!**

Please welcome our most recent new members:

Jeffery & Jane Frost  
 Chris & Cindi Meyer  
 Jim & Cindy O'Conner  
 Fred Zosel

We look forward to seeing you at our next event!

**OUR CONDOLENCES**

We are very saddened to hear about John Frank's passing. John was only 57 and a resident of Grosse Pointe Farms. John died suddenly, Saturday, July 16, 2011, shortly after the death his mother, Irene. John is survived by his brother, Michael and children, Barrett, Evan, John and William. John was a very well liked member and will be missed.



John Frank



Come aboard for family, friends & fun!

**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/](http://www.uscgboating.org/)

**Local Sailing Schools**

Bayview Yacht Club  
[www.byc.com](http://www.byc.com)

Detroit Yacht Clubs  
[www.dyc.com](http://www.dyc.com)

Crescent Yacht Club  
[www.crescentsail.com/](http://www.crescentsail.com/)

**Official Sailing Rules**

[www.drya.org/](http://www.drya.org/)

**Online Educationals**

[www.learntosail.net/](http://www.learntosail.net/)

[www.youtube.com/user/seasensical](http://www.youtube.com/user/seasensical)

[www.skippertips.com/](http://www.skippertips.com/)

