

The Dock Box

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Scott Bade COMMODORE'S CORNER

Hello boat club members!

To those that I have yet to meet in person, I look forward to that opportunity. I am the incoming commodore, serving as the Vice Commodore last year.

I want to start out by thanking my predecessor Ken MacKenzie, the outgoing commodore. Ken and his wife Sandy are long time club members, serving on the board for many years. They have had a big hand in the rejuvenation of the club over the last 10 years or so. If you know Ken, you know a fun-loving guy that is always thinking of others. Ken will continue to serve on the Boat Club board. Thanks for everything Ken!

A quick word about me

My wife Eileen and I have been boat club members for about 5 years, have been married for 26 years and both work in technology. We are boaters and one day on our way through the park we noticed a raucous party going on in the pavilion (I can't dispute my wife's claim that I cannot walk past a party). This happened to be the annual member appreciation picnic, and we had such a nice time that we joined on the spot. We have two teenage daughters, Erika is in college and Nicole is a senior at GP South High School. We also have a 10 year old Yellow Labrador named Bailey that is obsessed with eating, swimming and retrieving a tennis ball. Our power boat is currently in slip #6 along the grass in what we jokingly refer to as the GRYC (Grass Roots Yacht Club – Dave Charvat gets credit for the name).

What the club means to me

Our club charter mission of the club is as follows: "Promote the enrichment of community life in Grosse pointe Farms by providing leadership and support for park-related activities."

To me the key word here is "community". The boat club is about meeting and spending time with other people in the community. These bonds are what make Grosse Pointe Farms such a special place. The club uses fun events to get people that otherwise would not meet to get to know each other. We also raise funds for some very important community enrichment projects. At the end of the day, the investment in time to the club pays off for me many times over through lifelong friendships.

What the board does

The boat club board is all volunteers. We have 9 voting members, and 4 emeritus members. We hold a series of "Bridge and Board" meetings for board members, and a couple of "General Membership" meetings for the entire club (all meetings are on the calendar page of our website at www.gpfbc.com). The Commodore officiates all of the club meetings and is generally the executive leader of the board. The Vice Commodore is responsible for all activities done in conjunction with the City of GPF. The biggest of these events is the annual Regatta (June 27-29) which culminates with the fireworks in the park on June 28. The Rear Commodore is responsible for all other club events

(not affiliated with the City).

Consider joining the board

Everyone thinks that becoming a board member is going to consume a lot of their free time. That is not necessarily so. Thanks to the work of previous generations of board member, the processes and events are very well defined and you get lots of help from others on the board. There is of course some work, but everyone that goes through it says that the time spent and the opportunity to give something back to the community is well worth it.

Board structure changes

In order to be more conformant to our bylaws we recently instituted the concept of "Emeritus" board members. Emeritus board members are non-voting board members that have served past the 3-year term prescribed in the by-laws, but continue to provide tremendous value in experience. The purpose of this minor change is to allow these members to continue to serve the board, while being true to our bylaws.

Boating

One of my personal passions is boating. A lot of the members of the club are not boaters, and that is great. The club has a rich history of sailboat races out of the Farms Park. In the past, the sailors that participated in the races often did not participate in other club activities, and vice versa. One of my goals is to change that and provide better support to the races, while integrating the sailors more into the general club. I've asked Brian Sullivan, our new race committee chairman, to assume a more active role on the board. He has already brought some great ideas. I'm looking forward to working more closely with the sailboat racers and enjoying their competitions on Thursday. Now we need to get the power boaters more engaged!

My goals for the year

My overarching goal for the year is to leave the club better than when I inherited it. Along those lines I have the following specific goals:

- Increase club membership to 150 families (we are currently at 123 families). I believe that all we need to do is continue to share the value of the club to the community.
- Increase participation at club social events by 20%. We are off to a good start; the first two events of the year had strong participation.
- Find two new board members so that we are prepared for the succession of our current board.

I'd love to hear from you if you have suggestions (my e-mail address is below). Hope to see you at the Member Appreciation event on May 23, 2014.

Sincerely,
Scott Bade

Commodore
Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club
commodore@gpfbc.com

10TH ANNUAL

WINTERFEST

ON THE HILL



February 1, 2014:

Twelve intrepid GP Farms Boat Club members braved the cold, snow and rain to volunteer their time, talent and good cheer to make this year's Winterfest one of the best. Mary Lou Smith, Lea Stoyka, Peter Toenjes, Paula Trueman, Jocelyn and Mitchell Dombrowski, Pat Marchand, Charlotte Adamaszek, Jackie and David Morrow, Steve and Lisa Sicklesteel and Tanya Naumenko, who arrived early to set everything up for us, served 1,300 Dearborn hot dogs and 40 lbs. of chili and buns from Mark's Quality Meats of Detroit. The hot dogs were grilled expertly by Ron Carloni and Cindy Gasiewski of Pier Park. Dick Huhn expressed his personal thanks and appreciation, as well as that of the City of Grosse Pointe Farms and the Hill Association, to our Club. Dick stated that the GPF Boat Club is an integral part of the city and community and that our volunteers perform an invaluable service. Great job volunteers!



From left, clockwise: Mitch & Jocelyn Dombrowski, The Duck, Peter Toenjes working hard supervising, Jackie Morrow Slingin' Chili.



Right: Dave Morrow, Paula Trueman, Pat Marchand & Lea Stoyka, Steve & Lisa Sicklesteel, Cindy Gasiewski & Ron Carloni... grillin' masters.



POINTES IN HISTORY:

THE HISTORY OF FARMS PIER PARK

by **Suzu Berschback**

The private Waterfront Park of the Village of Grosse Pointe Farms is located at the foot of Moross Rd. 10 ½ miles from Detroit. The land embraced in the park site measures 11006 ft. in depth and has a frontage of 270 ft. on Lake Shore Road and Lake St. Clair.

The first piece of land was purchased from the Hammond Realty Co. in 1911, for \$33,000. With a frontage of 140 feet and four hundred feet in depth undeveloped, later in 1925, the village acquired additional land adjacent to the park making the frontage two hundred and seventy feet, at an additional cost of \$41,000.



A sea wall was then built 1100 feet out into the lake and the intervening 700 ft. of water was filled, creating the depth of park to 1100 ft. A pier was then built alongside the full length of the park, a boathouse was erected and a boat harbor created.

There is also a fine bathing beach; bathhouse, locker rooms, and play grounds were installed at an additional cost of \$70,000. This price included the cost of landscaping, planting of trees, shrubbery, building of walks and driveways, also equipping the park with electric lights on high ornamental iron standards.

Suzu 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, Suzu has published four local history books with Arcadia Publishing. They can be purchased at the GPHS and Amazon.

2014 GPFBC

THURSDAY NIGHT RACING

There are any number of reasons that people join in action of the GPFBC Thursday Night Races in June and August:

- Racing Sailors that compete in the other series want an opportunity to freshen up their skills during the week
- Cruising sailors want an excuse to hit the dock and enjoy a sunset sail, perhaps beginning their weekend a little early
- Race committee members and other community members like the in-your-face action at the start and finish of each race that happens often just inches from their seats by the cabana.
- Families embrace the fact that two, three and even four generations can

get out together to participate in memories that they will share forever. • Friends, old and new, cherish the opportunity to spend time, often as they have since they were kids reliving their Huck Finn victories.

I love our sailing series at the Pier for all of these reasons. That is why I take the advice I was given many years ago and put a very important meeting in my calendar every Thursday at 5:00 PM... And that is the best reason of all: It forces you to put down your pen, close your laptop and head down to the lake that we in the Farms live here to enjoy. Work can wait... join us at the lake for great competition in the true Corinthian spirit!

If you have any questions about how to get involved, please call me at 313-407-0411 or email me at bsullivangp@gmail.com.

Sail Fast!

— Brian Sullivan and the GPFBC Race Committee



Photo by Mike Florian

WINTER WINE WONDERLAND WRAP-UP

The Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club kicked off the 2014 year with the Winter Wine Wonderland on January 25th at the Community Building from 7-10 with approximately 100 attendees. Rosemary and Bill Matouk from Woods Wholesale Wines sponsored the event, and there were approximately 60 different wines from around the world for tasting.

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.

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.

The event was a success in every way. The Boat Club raised almost approximately \$650 from this event for general operating expenses. A Special thanks to Bill and Rosemary Matouk. Thanks to all who attended.

WELCOME ABOARD!

Let's all welcome our newest members:

Tony & Michelle Koss

Lea & Dave Stoyka

FEATHER BOWLING

On February 7, 2014, the 22nd Winter Olympic Games: Sochi 2014 took a back seat to the 2014 Feather Bowling Tournament hosted by the GPF Boat Club at the Cadieux Cafe. Over 30 members attended dinner and/or bowling at this year's event. New this year is the beautiful Feather Bowling Trophy which was selected by Ron Mack. The 2014 winners will have their names engraved upon the trophy and it will be placed in the Pier Park Library for all to see. The winners of this year's contest are: Scott Bade, Paula Trueman, Ron Mack, Greg Scheppler, Bob Hynes, and Jackie Morrow. Many thanks to Ron Mack for organizing everyone into teams. Also, for keeping tempers under control during the "sudden death overtime."



2014 BRIDGE & BOARD MEMBERS

COMMODORE
Scott Bade

VICE-COMMODORE
Ron Mack

REAR-COMMODORE
Charlotte Adamaszek

TREASURER
Steve Sicklesteel

SECRETARY
Ridene Soltesz

MEMBERSHIP
Eileen Bade

RACE CHAIRPERSONS
Brian Sullivan
Rick Schmidt
Board Members
Ken MacKenzie P/C
Kathy Oldham
Peter Toenjes P/C

EMERITUS BOARD MEMBERS
Tanya Bartoszewicz P/C
Gene Carswell P/C
Cyndee Harrison P/C

Clockwise from top: Brian Sullivan enjoys a mussel - Yum! Marylynn Sullivan "Tossing the Rock," Paula Trueman, Scott Bade, Ron Mack, Theresa Mack, Greg Scheppler, Charlotte Adamaszek, Jackie Morrow & Charlotte Adamaszek displaying the new Feather Bowling Trophy.

