

The Dock Box

APRIL, 2013

Vol. 24, No. 1



Ken MacKenzie
COMMODORE'S CORNER

As your new Commodore for 2013, I want to welcome all members to another year of fun with the Boat Club. It's been a GREAT year so far with Winterfest, Wine Tasting Party, Feather Bowling and the Commodores Ball under our belts. Of course, there are many fun events still on the way. Take a look at our list of upcoming events in this edition of the Dock Box.

The Regatta is right around the corner and we welcome your help. Should you have time to give us a hand on Saturday, June 29th please contact Vice Commodore Scott Bade @ 884-9223. It's a fun filled day and a great way to get to know other Boat Club members.

I would like to thank all the people on the Bridge & Board for their support so far this year and I look forward to working with them in the future. A big THANK YOU goes out to Vice Commodore Scott Bade and his wife Eileen for simplifying the membership dues process.

We will be looking to fill some bridge and board positions for 2014 as a couple members are stepping down after several years of

service. If you or anyone you know might be interested in joining the bridge or board, please contact me @ 590-1179. It's a fun group of people and a great way to get involved with the club.

We are hoping to add some new events this year such as the golf outing & steak dinner in June @ Selfridge Field and possibly a new event in October to replace the Halloween Party. The next event is the Membership Appreciation Picnic which will take place on May 24th @ the park and is free to all Boat Club members and their families. Last years picnic was a huge success due to the delicious pulled pork made by PC Chris Harrison. Chris has been kind enough to offer to BBQ for us again this year.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Commodores Ball and made it a huge success. A good time was had by all. Good food, good friends and lots of dancing.

Hope to see you on Friday, May 3rd for our General Membership Meeting and at all the other fun events we have planned for the coming year.

WHERE DID THE WATER GO?

If you listen to the news media Lake St. Clair has apparently dropped to historically low levels, with no end in sight and we'll soon be able to walk over to Canada. Or has it? Let's take a look at the data.

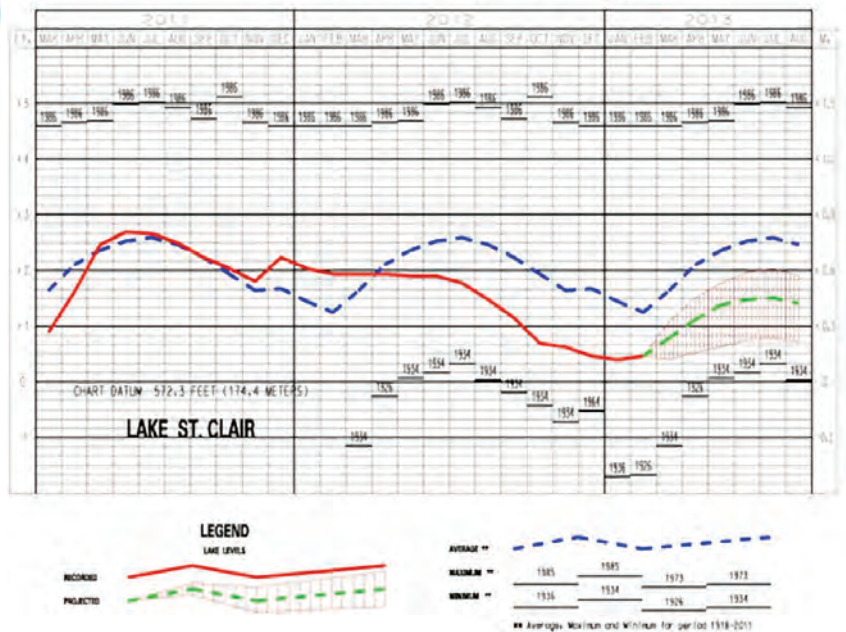
I should start by saying; I am an eternal optimist, so I am literally taking a "glass is half full" view on this issue.

It's just the Wind! Well not quite, but the wind does play a role in our perception of falling lake levels. Our lake is very shallow and the lake level can change by as much as a foot, simply by a sustained wind from the West. The wind will literally blow the water to the other side of the lake. Check out the water levels after we've had a few days of high winds from the West.

Great Lakes Link. A clear fact is that Lake St. Clair is fed from Lake Huron through the St. Clair River. The level of water in Lake St. Clair is tied

Continued on Page 2

LAKE ST. CLAIR WATER LEVELS - MARCH 2013



MAY 3RD GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Bring your taste buds the may 3rd general membership meeting because Phyllis Kerlake, Mary Lou Smith, and Janet Toenjes have volunteered to provide the food for the social after the meeting.

WHERE DID THE WATER GO? — Continued from Page 1

directly to the levels of the Great Lakes to our North and West.

It's Chicago, They're Stealing our Water! It is true that about 340 billion gallons of Great Lakes water each year is diverted through the Chicago Diversionary and Ship Canal. Seems like a lot huh? Well, not so much. The Great Lakes have over 6 quadrillion (with a Q) gallons of water, that is 6,000,000,000,000,000. So 340 billion gallons is literally a drop in a very large bucket.

The truth is, there is also a lot of water diverted INTO the great lakes. "The truth of the matter is that diversions add more to the Great Lakes than they remove," said Adam Fox, a water resources planner with USACE.

The Ogoki and Long Lac diversions, which divert water from Hudson Bay into the Great Lakes, pour more water into Lake Superior than the Lake Michigan diversion at Chicago and the New York Barge Canal

diversion, located between Lakes Erie and Ontario, take out of the lakes. (Source: voicenews.com, 12/7/2012).

Natural Cycles. Most scientists agree that what is more likely to play here is just a natural cycle. The lake levels are driven by the amount of evaporation and the amount of precipitation that occurs. If we have a very cold winter, the ice pack on the water reduces evaporation. Who remembers the 1980's when we were putting sandbags along Lakeshore to keep the rising lake back (1986 had the highest recorded monthly average)? In the 1920's and 1930's the lakes were much lower than they are now (you can see the data at our website at: www.gpfb.com/waterlevels).

So my approach is to not panic, open another cold one on the deck of my boat and sit back and enjoy the water. Now if the darn fuel prices...

— Scott Bade, vicecommodore@gpfb.com

2013 COMMODORES BALL

For more photos, visit: www.flickr.com/photos/66750390@N07/sets/72157633122500230/



Above, Ken MacKenzie with Phyllis Kerslake. Right, with Mary Lou Smith.

The 2013 Commodore's Ball honoring our new Commodore Ken MacKenzie was a blast this year. Phyllis Kerslake, Mary Lou Smith, and LaVaughn Mithen were honored for the contributions the boat club. The event was held at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. Food and drink were excellent! The DJ was great too. It was a truly enjoyable evening.



Ken and Sandy MacKenzie



LaVaughn Mithen and Ken

FEATHER BOWLING

A great time was had by all at our annual Feather Bowling event. With a small group this year, the players decided to have only 2 teams, boys vs. girls. The team format proved to be very competitive, with the boys edging out the girls by only 2 points. See everyone next year at this fun, annual event!

— Ron Mack



Top left, Bruce Forni and John Contrell, bottom left: Teresa Mack and Nancy Contrell. Above, John Contrell and Ron Mack and Nancy Contrell

PREPARING FOR THE 2013 REGATTA

The Grosse Pointe Farms Regatta is scheduled for June 29th and 30th at the Pier Park. What is the Regatta, you may ask. The Regatta is the city's premier annual event. It is a two-day festival celebrating the park and bringing citizens of Grosse Pointe Farms together. It includes fireworks, live music and many other activities. Note that this is a "City" event. The boat club provides a lot of the activity, but we work closely with the city. As the new Vice Commodore, one of my responsibilities is taking the lead on the planning the Boat Club's participation in the annual Regatta. The boat club plays a key role in planning and coordinating many of the activities for the day. Here are just a few of the planned events sponsored by the club:

- Children's Art in the Park (Friday)
- Decorated Bicycle Parade
- Pie Eating Contest
- Face Painting
- Inflatable Boat Race
- Rubber Duckie Race
- Sand Castle Contest
- Table Decorating Contest
- Children's Games
- Pet Parade (Sunday)
- Regatta Boat Rendezvous (Sunday)



Heidi Sanders, 1st place table decorating contest.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

As you can see, many of the activities are geared towards families, but there is something for everyone. You should bring a blanket, some chairs and plan to spend the whole day at the park.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The boat club is looking for members that are willing to contribute a little of their time to helping plan and run the various events. This requires very little commitment and is a great opportunity to meet some of your neighbors, and to give something back to the community. We'll take volunteers of all ages.

SPONSORS NEEDED

Everything at the Regatta is free to GPF residences. There is a great opportunity for businesses to help sponsor the event, and to get some low-cost advertising. We offer multiple levels of sponsorship, with a variety of ad placement opportunities. If your business or someone you know might be willing to help, please contact me at the e-mail address below. Check our website for the latest information: www.gpfbc.com. I look forward to seeing all of the club members at the Regatta on June 29th!

— Scott Bade, vicecommodore@gpfbc.com

2011 EVENT CALENDAR

January 25

Winter Wine Wonderland

February 2

Winterfest (City Event)

Feb 22

Feather bowling

March 1

Gen. Membership Meeting

Mach 23

Commodore's Ball

May 3

Gen. Membership Meeting

May 24

Member Appreciation Day

May 30

1st ½ Sailboat racing starts every Thursday thru July

June

Golf Outing, TBD

June 29

Regatta (Boat Club/City Event)

July 19

Gen. Membership Meeting

July

Boating Rendezvous – TBD

August 1

2nd ½ Sailboat racing starts every Thursday in August and September 5

August

Ice Cream Social (City Event), check city calendar

August

Fishing Rodeo (City Event), check city calendar

September 14 or 21

Lobster Roast – TBD

September 27

Road Rally

October

Farm's Fall Festival (City Event), check city calendar

October 19

Boat Club Fall Party

November 1

Annual General Membership Mtg.

Bridge & Board Meetings

Jan. 11, Mar 27, May 22, June 19, July 24, Aug 21, Sept 25, Oct 16 and Nov. 13.

WELCOME ABOARD!

We look forward to meeting you at our next event. Let's all welcome our newest members:

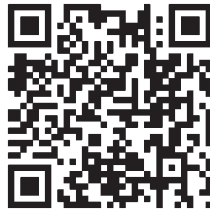
Douglas Fox

Mike and Pat Marchland

Bret and Carrie Tigges

Joseph and Michelle Smith

Carey and Jennifer White



NEW RENEWAL POLICY

As you know the boat club is an all-volunteer organization, and we collect a modest \$50 in annual dues from each member family (\$35 for singles). This money is used to cover some of the basic costs of running the club, including insurance, and food and refreshments at various events. The board works hard at keeping costs down, and I hope you agree that the \$50 or \$35 in annual dues is one of the best values around. You need to only participate in one of our major events to recoup your investment.

In the past the club had each member family on a unique renewal date. This made the collection of dues a year-round process. In order to simplify the renewal process, we are moving everyone to a May 1 renewal date. As part of this process we are giving everyone full credit for dues that have been paid (rounded to the end of their renewal month) and prorating the renewals to get everyone on a May 1 date.

You should have received a renewal invoice by May 1. Please pay soon if not already done so we can update our database. We have also implemented the option to pay on Paypal instead of sending us a check.

If you have any questions, my e-mail address is listed below. You can also get information from our club website at: www.gpfbc.com. We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming boat club event!

2013 BRIDGE

COMMODORE

Ken MacKenzie

VICE-COMMODORE

Scott Bade

REAR-COMMODORE

Ron Mack

TREASURER

Sandy MacKenzie

SECRETARY

Ridene Soltesz

MEMBERSHIP

Eileen Bade

RACE CHAIRPERSON

David Morrow

BOARD MEMBERS

Cyndee Harrison P/c

Peter Toenjes P/c

Tanya Bartoszewicz P/c

John Cotrell

Kathryn Oldham

Bob Malicki

Gene Carswell P/c



Charles Krasner, 2012

Words and pictures welcome, send us your best. If there's room we'll put it in the next newsletter. Contact Pete Toenjes at (313) 885-9190.