

The Dock Box

December 2015

Volume 60, No. 2



RON MACK
COMMODORE'S
CORNER

Greetings, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year from your Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club.

It is with mixed emotions that I step down from my post as your Commodore, and turn over the responsibility of guiding the ship to a most capable successor.

On the one hand I am saddened, and I wish I could continue in this leadership role. Not only was it a very productive and rewarding year, but let's face it, it was a lot of fun! On the other hand I am happy to turn over the helm, because it is important to give other members this fabulous opportunity to become so involved, and work not only with our membership, but with many other members of our community. I am also happy because next year's bridge is not only extremely capable, but hard working and creative; with Rita Charvat as your new Commodore, Glen Logan as Rear Commodore, and stepping up to the challenge, our newest bridge member and Rear Commodore, Brian Sullivan. And, as our social chairperson, Brian.....let's party! And it goes without saying, that next year, as your Past Commodore, I will be available to help the bridge where ever necessary.

Please allow me to recognize, and thank a few people who have helped me along the way during the past 3 years on the bridge. First my wife, Theresa who supported me in every aspect of my responsibilities. Next, Scott Bade who filled the position of Vice Commodore 3 years ago, as this position opened unexpectedly. Scott played a substantial role in keeping the club viable during the past 3 years, and was instrumental in strengthening the club to where it is now. Thanks also to Rita Charvat, and Glen Logan for their unfailing support in keeping club functions fun and ongoing. And thanks to Brian Sullivan for filling the position of Rear Commodore for next year. And thank you Steve Sicklesteel our treasurer, and Ridene Soltesz our secretary, and all the board members for your support. I also especially thank all the volunteers, for without your help our club would not be able to function. Finally, for those who may not have been informed, your Boat Club Board decided to reinstate the tradition of recognizing a special Boat Club member each year. This year's recipient of Boat Club Member of the Year is Chris Harrison for his many years of hard work, and his dedication to your Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club.

With respect to our new Commodore, the Commodore's Ball will be held in Rita Charvat's honor on March 19 as she will be our 2016 Commodore. This is a members only event, with the exception of the Commodore, who may invite guests. The event will be held at the Pier Park Community Center. In the past, this event has been held at the War Memorial, or Pier Park. We are switching venues to Pier park this year to make the event more economical, as the War Memorial has substantially increased its pricing. Dinner, dancing, and beverages will be part of the night, as well as some surprises. We are working on the pricing, and it will be lower than the \$60 per person last year, hopefully we will be in the \$50/person range. This event is the highlight of the year, and promises to be a wonderful get-together for our club members.

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Recent and Upcoming Events

www.gpfbc.com/events for full calendar

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|-----------|---|
| January: | Winter Wine Wonderland - Pier Park, January 23 rd |
| February: | Winterfest on the Hill - GP Farms Hill, February 6 th
Feather Bowling - Cadieux Café, February 26 th |
| March: | General Membership Meeting & Social - Pier Park, March 4 th
Commodore's Ball - Pier Park Community Center, March 19 th |

Membership

By Scott Bade, Membership Chair

The club membership has held steady at right around 110 families. We've had some great recent success in attracting new members to the club through outreach efforts to the boaters in the harbor. One of my goals is to add 25 more families this year.

The club is the best kept secret in GPF. Consider this: Our dues are very affordable; many events provide free food and drinks (you will usually recoup your membership fees in the first one or two events); you don't need to own a boat to join; the club is a great way to meet people and build lasting friendships with other Farms residents; the club gives you a chance to give something back to the community and to enjoy our tremendous park.

Next year: We plan to start reaching out to new homeowners that come into the Farms. We also plan to continue to reach out to the boaters in the harbor.

We can always use your help. Please drop me a line if you know of a family that might be interested, or if you'd like to help in recruiting.

Scott Bade, Membership Chair (membership@gpfb.com)

Welcome Aboard!

New Members

Mark and Michelle Montone

Karl & Theresa Gigante

Don & Carmel Mckeon

Liz Rohan

Jan & Kevin O'Brien

Tobias & Rachel Roberts

Jim Lieder

Robert & Paula Haran

Jeremy & Cheryl Henner

Karen Schoof

Elizabeth Zachary

Mark & Kristina Holowinski

Cameron Lawrence

Matt Kemper

Brian & Angela Potter

Thomas Sullivan

Scott McColl & Aurelie Saigh

Patrick & Susan Mills

Help Needed

Call for volunteers:

1. 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 Scott Bade know (membership@gpfb.com).
2. Looking to help out at Winter Fest on the Hill on February 6th. Lots of fun, and you get to give a little back to the community. Let Ron Mack know at commodore@gpfb.com.

Winter Wine Wonderland Event

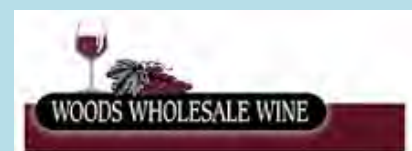
Saturday, January 23, 2016 7:00pm, at the Pier Park Boat House

Wonder how to wine taste? Observe the appearance of the wine in the glass to for its color, clarity and check to for sediment.

Discover its aroma; maybe it's fruity, or has a floral scent. Check the palate to find if the wine has a sweet, oak, nutty, or vanilla taste, to mention a few flavors. -Enjoy Responsibly- This event is open to the public. Please share the news of this event with your community.

\$25 for Club members

\$30 for Non-Club members



Commodore's Corner Continued...

With this our 60 year celebration as the Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club, it is notable to mention that our club has a long and honorable history.

Year after year the GPFBC continues to partner with the G P Farms Department of Parks and Recreation to provide meaningful and memorable events for the residents of G P Farms and their guests. A Few Examples are the Fishing Rodeo, the Ice Cream Social, the Winterfest on the Hill, and under the Direction of next years Vice Commodore, Glen Logan, we will again be sponsoring the Grosse Pointe Farms Regatta 2016, which is arguably the most prestigious event in all the Points. Fifteen fun, family friendly events over the 3 day weekend of the GP Farms fireworks display.

Over the years our Fund Raising Events have allowed us to continue to donate items to the Park. And these are substantial donation items, most recently the Gerow Observation Deck on the north east side of the Park, overlooking Lake Saint Clair. This past year, we donated a high-end recycle container, and we donated \$500 to the Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation Fire and Shade Campaign, which will provide a Fire Pit Gathering Space near the skating rink, and a Canopy System adjacent to the swimming pool.

Our Race Committee, under the direction of Brian Sullivan, continues the Tradition of sponsoring the Thursday Night Sailboat Races. We are a Strong and Proud Club, and we are getting Stronger & Better. I am especially grateful, once again, to our Past Commodore Scott Bade for taking the next step, and taking the club further into the age of High Tech.

Our Race Committee has added a race to the schedule, that being the Grosse Pointe Farms Cup, returning the tradition of a sailboat race as part of, and during the Regatta. Our Social Activities are not lacking either. Under the direction of this years Rear Commodore Glen Logan, we continue to enhance our club parties and get-together's. Our summer meetings & socials are now held outside on the patio of the Pier Park Activities Building which is directly next to the marina (Boat & Social Club). Our Member Appreciation Picnic has been moved back to the second weekend in June to provide for better weather. Other enhances are in the works. And we are also Proud of our new enhanced dynamic web site at gpfbc.com, which provides our membership, potential members, and the community with substantially more current information on our activities, and allows for on-line applications, payments, and even more to come in the near future.

Yes, we in fact are Strong and Proud, and we are getting Stronger and Better thanks to our Long and Honorable History.

So lets raise a glass, wherever you are while reading this message, and toast the Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club. Hear, hear!

Ron Mack

Commodore, 2015 - Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club

Winterfest on the Hill 2016

Every year, our GPF Boat Club participates with the "Winterfest on the Hill".

What do we do? We volunteer our time handing out hotdogs and letting the community know who we are! But we can't do that without your help.

We need volunteers to help work at the tables, working 2 hours shifts. We also need help with setup and break-down.

Your reward? There is an after party event for volunteers as a thank you, free of charge!

Never been to Winterfest?

The city provides fun activities for everyone.

The big event is the Chili Cook-Off. There are also ice carving demonstrations,

food and drinks, cookie decorating, and even s'mores available for cooking!



The event is **February 6, 2016** from 11:00am - 3:00pm

Please email vicecommodore@gpfbc.com if you can be available to volunteer for this event.



A Word From The Vice Commodore

Hi Everyone!!!

Welcome to December 2015! It has been a great year for the Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club! We've enjoyed 12 months full of fun-filled events. Activities like the Winter Wine tasting, Feather Bowling and club meetings disguised as parties (it's brilliant) are the reason this is such a fun club. We had record participation and in the Regatta and Family Fun Weekend. We had an amazing time at our Thirsty Thursday sail racing events, which made its debut this summer. Our club also has one of the best sail racing committees on Lake St. Clair, which resulted in over 50 boats participating in our races this year.

Although the snow is about to lock us in for the winter, I still look forward to the fun times in store during the colder months. We have plenty of ways to get together with our club friends and neighbors throughout the winter. So even when it's dark and seems late when it isn't, plan to shake off the chills, get out there, and feel the warmth of camaraderie by joining us at our club activities! That's part of my Winter survival plan!

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you in 2016!!!

Sincerely,

Rita Charvat

GPBC Vice Commodore

From the Rear Commodore

To our members -

Well, summer is over and our boats are neatly tucked away until spring but that doesn't mean we can't still have fun! We have our always popular Wine Tasting scheduled for Saturday, January 23rd (more details to follow). And since this event is open to the public, be sure to invite your friends, family and anyone else who has a taste for fine wine.

Next up is feather bowling at the Cadieux Cafe on February 26th. We have the lanes reserved from 8-10 PM and we will also have reserved tables prior to bowling for those interested in dinner and/or drinks.

On a different note, I'd like take this opportunity to thank all of you for warmly welcoming me to the club and allowing me to serve as your Rear Commodore. I had no idea what to expect when Scott Bade first asked me to join, but It's been a great experience and I'm looking forward to an even better year in 2016!

Until then, stay warm and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

P.S. - If anyone has questions or any suggestions for other social events or outings, please feel free to contact me at glenlogan17@gmail.com or at (313) 671-7169.

Best Wishes,

Glen Logan

GPFB Rear Commodore

A Brief History of the Boat Club...

The Grosse Pointe Boat Owners' Club was founded in 1955 and had twenty-two members. In 1957 the name was changed to the Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club. From 1955 the Club assumed responsibility for the annual Regatta (held since 1953). The early Regattas included a review of decorated boats, boat races and an elected queen. As community interest grew so did the size and scope of the Regatta. Raffle tickets and brochure advertising were introduced to help finance the weekend. The program of events was regularly expanded to include activities for young and old. The club itself grew today it has about 115 member families. In addition to the Regatta, the Club present for the community such events as the Thursday Summer Series (sailboat races), Winterfest on the Hill, and a Blessing of the Fleet Ceremony. Club activities are now year around and include the Commodore's Ball, Wine Tasting, Feather Bowling, 2-Sail Boat Race Parties, Lobster Roast, and Boat Rendezvous to name a few. The Club has always taken an active interest in the Pier Park. The Grosse Pointe Boat Club will continue to improve its community-wide activities in its effort to enrich our quality of life. We believe this kind of effort has helped Grosse Pointe Farms to become one of the finest communities in which to live.

2015 Bridge and Board Members

Commodore: Ron Mack
Vice Commodore: Rita Charvat
Rear Commodore: Glen Logan
Past Commodore: Scott Bade
Secretary: Ridene Soltesz
Treasurer: Steve Sickelsteel

Race Chairperson: Brian Sullivan
Membership: Scott Bade
Committee Member: Tanya Naumenko Bartoszewicz
Committee Member: Jim Babiarz
Committee Member: Carey White