

Welcome to:

# THE DOCKBOX



Your Grosse Pointe Farms Boat & Social Club Newsletter

April 2016, Volume 61, No. 1

## ***Greetings fellow Grosse Pointe Farms Boat & Social Club Members! Happy 2016!***



The GPFBC has already had a strong start to 2016! We began with the warm and friendly Winter Wine Wonderland on January 23rd. Great wine, great food, great friends. This was followed by one of our annual volunteer events, the Winterfest on the Hill on February 6th. It was fabulous to have our Club represented by our own members out in our Farms community. Our members dished out a record number of Coney Dogs to our neighbors and friends. We then threw the annual Feather Bowling Championship of the World, which was held on February 26th. Wasn't that a party? The Feather Bowling was followed on by the Spring Themed General Membership Meeting on March 4th. Great attendance, again wonderful food and drink which resulted in a warm, enjoyable evening during the drab, cold winter. And, finally, the annual Commodore's Ball commenced on March 19th. Whew!! What a schedule so far! All of the above parties and events thoroughly advanced our 2016 Theme of "Camaraderie". Why? Because we had amazing attendance and an abundance of friendly, fun people which transformed what could have been normal, obligatory boat club events into jolly, convivial parties that everyone enjoyed. Thank you to all who attended and all who helped make each and every one of these parties and events a resounding success!!! We also have some fun upcoming Club events which are detailed further in this Newsletter.

***We have a new 2016 Bridge and Board! Please welcome them when you get the chance, give them a hug, and, thank them for their 2016 service.***

### **2016 Bridge and Board Members**

Commodore: Rita Charvat  
Vice Commodore: Glen Logan  
Rear Commodore: Brian Sullivan  
Past Commodore: Ron Mack  
Secretary: Susan Mills  
Treasurer: Steve Sickelsteel

Race Chairperson: Stephen LaMont  
Membership Chairperson: Scott Bade  
Committee Member: Jim Babiarz  
Committee Member: Tanya Bartoszewicz  
Committee Member: Carey White  
Dock Box Editor: Cheryl Pavic Henner

The big news is that Spring is here and we are back to the Races! The Grosse Pointe Farms Boat & Social Club Sail Boat Races, that is! Every Thursday Evening, during the Spring and Summer Sail Boat Races, our Boat Club Members are welcome to join the races to:

1. Coordinate and Run the Sail Boat Races - 50 boats last year! Call Steve LaMont (568-322-1077) if you would like to assist.
2. Watch the many Sail Boat Race Starts on Lake St. Clair (the 1st Start is at 7:00pm sharp) - magnificent!
3. Race on a boat!! Contact Steve LaMont (568-322-1077) if you would like to get hooked up with a sailboat that needs crew.
4. Cheer on the sailors as they hit the finish line! There is no better way to spend a Thursday evening at the Farms Park or anywhere else, for that matter.

***The Grosse Pointe Farms Boat & Social Club is all about Fun, Conviviality and Camaraderie. Come by and experience it!***

***Sincerely,***

***Rita***

# From the Vice Commodore – The Grosse Pointe Farms Family Fun Weekend & Regatta Planning



Spring is here and with it comes the anticipation of another Michigan summer at Pier Park and on beautiful Lake St Clair! The GPF Boat Club will feature many exciting activities over the summer, however our premier event—and our biggest fundraiser of the year—is the Grosse Pointe Farms Regatta. For this year's Regatta, the 65<sup>th</sup>, activities are scheduled to begin Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup> and will continue through Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

While most Grosse Pointe Farms residents are quite familiar with this event, some of you may be wondering just “What is the Family Fun Weekend & Regatta?” This is a weekend festival—officially held the Saturday prior to July 4<sup>th</sup>—celebrating Pier Park and bringing the residents of Grosse Pointe Farms together. Main events include a Saturday evening fireworks display, live music and a host of child and family focused activities. Though this is a “City” event, the Boat Club hosts and directs the majority of these activities in close cooperation with Pier Park staff.



*Children's Art in the Park at the 2015 Regatta & Family Fun Weekend*

**Itinerary.** As the new Vice Commodore, I am responsible for planning and coordinating the Boat Club's participation in the Annual Family Fun Weekend & Regatta. The main activities include:

## **Friday – July 1<sup>st</sup>**

*Children's Art in the Park*

## **Saturday – July 2<sup>nd</sup>**

*Decorated Bicycle Parade*

*Pie Eating Contest*

*Face Painting*

*Inflatable Boat Race*

*Rubber Ducky Race*

*Sand Castle Contest*

*Table Decorating Contest*

*Various Children's Games*

## **Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>**

*Pet Parade*

*Regatta Boat Rendezvous*

For 2016, we are also looking to take advantage of the excellent tennis courts at Pier Park and host what will hopefully become an annual Regatta Tennis Tournament. So, the best way I can think to sum up the Regatta is...

***There will be something fun for everyone!***

**Volunteer.** In order for the Regatta to be a great success, we need volunteers (that means you) to help plan and run the various activities! Volunteering (I promise it will not be too much work) is a great opportunity to have fun, meet some of your neighbors and give back to our wonderful community. We can use volunteers of all ages. If you are interested in volunteering—and I really encourage you to give it a try—please send me an email ([vicecommodore@gpfbc.com](mailto:vicecommodore@gpfbc.com)) at your earliest convenience.

**Advertising and Sponsorship.** Lastly, everything at the Regatta is free to GPF residents, so we count on local business and individual sponsorships to fund these activities. In return, we provide a great opportunity for businesses to get some low-cost advertising in our annual Regatta Program and on signage placed over the Regatta weekend throughout Pier Park. We offer multiple levels of sponsorship, with a variety of ad sizes and placement opportunities. If your business or someone you know might be willing to help, please email me ([vicecommodore@gpfbc.com](mailto:vicecommodore@gpfbc.com)).

***I am looking forward to a great summer and a great Regatta!***

***Glen Logan, Vice Commodore***

## Past Commodore's Speech from the March 2016 Commodore's Ball



As Chairperson of the Committee for the Commodore's Ball, I have the honor of proposing the first toast. The first of many I hope. So in welcoming and thanking everyone for being here tonight, I propose a toast to the Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club. But not just to the Boat Club, but to Boat Club friendships. So let's drink to friendships like those here tonight.

Once again, welcome everyone, and thank you all for being here tonight.

Before I get started, I would like to recognize our past Commodores who are present with us tonight. Please stand when I call your name. Scott Bade, Cyndee Harrison, Chris Harrison, Matt Rumora, and Steve Sickelsteel. Also, I would like to recognize Dave Charvat and Charvat Florist

for arranging the flowers for the beautiful centerpieces. And Dave, I know from where I will be ordering my Mother's Day Flowers!

I would like to begin by thanking a few people. First my wife, Theresa, who has supported me in every way during the last three years of my tenure as bridge officer. And thanks Theresa for the great amount of help you gave me with the Commodores Ball. Next I would like to thank last year's Board of Directors who also supported me greatly: Rita Charvat, Glen Logan, Steve Sickelsteel, Ridene Soltesz, Scott Bade, Carey White and Jim Babiarz.

I have been asked to talk a little about last year, 2015 as your Commodore, and to give a brief recap of the last 3 years during my tenure on the Bridge. With regards to last year, thanks to Glen Logan, we continued to have the best parties of any similar club in the area. Our Feather bowling party had record attendance with 52 members and guests present. We continued to have lively socials after our meetings, and thanks to Scott Bade, we began the tradition of a Harbor Mixer on the patio of the activities building, where we invited all the boaters in the harbor to join us. Also thanks to Scott, our membership has surged. And thanks to Chris Harrison, our membership appreciation party was better than ever. And Chris, your smoked pork is the best. It is The Best! We look forward to having it again this summer. Thanks to Brian Sullivan our Thursday evening racing series had the largest number of boats participating in recent memory, a total of 49. And as you can imagine with 49 boats in the fleet, the sail racing awards parties were over the top. And thanks to Rita Charvat, we began a new tradition called Thirsty Thursdays, where the club shows up at the outer wall, to cheer on the Thursday night racers, and of course, to have a few cocktails. Our sponsorship of the Grosse Pointe Farms Annual Regatta and Family Fun Weekend experienced a record turn, out according to the farms parks and recreation department. And the Lobster Roast once again was a big hit. But most importantly, not a single one of the things I just mentioned could have been accomplished without the dedication, and the selfless gift of time of our volunteers. And you all know who you are, and we all know who you are. So with that said, I would like to propose another toast this evening, to all our volunteers. It is you who make this club the best damn club of its kind in the area. To our volunteers (here, here!).

As far as a brief recap of my three year tenure on the bridge, three years ago as your Rear Commodore and social chairperson, I continued the tradition started by Mark Jason, of having spirits at the our meetings, as well as beer and wine, and having a themed social and food after all membership meetings. Also we began the tradition of not just going to the Cadieux Cafe for feather bowling, but to have a feather bowling "tournament", with a trophy and individual awards. This trophy is on permanent display here at the Farms Activities Building. Two years ago as your Rear Commodore, and chairperson for the committee for the Grosse Pointe Farms Regatta and Family Fun Weekend, the club earned a record net income from the regatta, of almost \$5,000. And last year as your Commodore, we reinstated the tradition of presenting flags to the flag officers, and we reinstated the tradition of recognizing a Boat Club Member, as member of the year.

Overall it has been a very productive three years, and so very much fun, I wish that I could do it all over again. So thank you very much for the opportunity to be part of the leadership of the club for the past three years, and count on me to be available in the future to continue to help the club in any way I can.

**Thank you!**

**2015 Commodore Ron Mack**



## Boater's Corner

### By Scott Bade, GPF Boat Club Membership Chairman & Past Commodore

*This is a first in a series of articles on boating. The plan is for this column to be about the boating lifestyle. It will contain information for boaters and non-boaters. I'll solicit information from other boaters and experts on various topics to provide both information and humor. We'll see how it goes.*



When people find out I have a boat, they have mixed reactions. Some view boating as an expensive hobby that people are thrilled to get out of. We've all heard the old saying about the "two happiest days in a boater's life—the day they got their boat, and the day they sold their boat." To me these are not "real" boaters. They describe people that probably should not have gotten a boat in the first place. I have sold several boats over the years, but only to make room for another boat.

Real boaters are people that love to be on the water, love the lifestyle, and/or they love the challenge of tending to, and improving their vessel. Sailors in particular will get this gleam in their eye when they talk about skimming silently across the water harnessing the wind and their skills. Power boaters are a little different breed, which fall into a few broad categories.

#### Living in a Boating Paradise

We are fortunate to live next to Lake St. Clair. Our lake has it all—great sailing, and wonderful power boating destinations. To me, one of the greatest attributes is the fact that we're connected to the Great Lakes, so from Lake St. Clair you can literally get to any body of water in the world. Where you go is only limited by your imagination and your budget.

We live in one of the most concentrated boating areas in the country—which is anchored by the Nautical Mile in St. Clair Shores.

#### Boating Lifestyles

**Cruisers** are advanced boaters that travel on their boats. This includes both power and sail boats. Some travel great distances, such as doing the "Great Loop" (Google that one). Cruisers often use a boat similar to the way people use RV campers on the highway. For obvious reasons, Cruising requires greater preparation, and more advanced equipment. Continued.....next page



## Boater's Corner continued.....

**Day boaters** are people that generally don't sleep on their boat. They use their boat during the day and return to their slip. Day boaters ski, wakeboard and often anchor their boat in shallow waters and swim and party with other boaters. On a warm summer weekend you'll find thousands of boats anchored in the shallows. Popular spots are Art Van's (north of the GP Yacht Club, in front of Art Van's former estate), Anchor Bay (near MacRay marina), the river shallows near the mouth of the St. Clair River (Strawberry & Gull Islands and Big Muscamoot Bay are popular spots). Our own Kerby Cove (small cove between Pier Park and Crescent Sail Club) is a small, but popular day boater anchorage. I would categorize myself as a day boater with cruising aspirations. We have done a number of longer overnight trips, including a visit to the North Channel last summer—which is one of the premier destinations on the Great Lakes (I'll talk about that trip in a future article). In fact, we acquired my current boat in order to make longer trips more feasible. Most of the fun of Cruising for me is in the preparation and the journey—sort of a “man vs. nature” thing.

There is a third style of boating lifestyle that I'll refer to as the **Harbor-Cottage crowd**. These folks generally leave their boat in the harbor and visit it on weekends—like an up-north cottage. Sometimes these boaters will establish a community and build elaborate decks, picnic areas and tiki-huts on the docks. I know boaters that drive every weekend to the Cedar Point marina because they love the harbor community that they've established there.

The one common element to all boaters is fun and recreation. Boating is fun, and it builds friendships and community. I hope you enjoy this column and if you have any ideas for a future column, please let me know.

*(Scott and Eileen are on their third power boat - a Sea-ray 44 Sedan Bridge, docked at the Pier Park. They have 2 daughters and an elderly Labrador Retriever named Bailey, who also loves the water)*





## GPFBC 2016 Calendar

Jan 23, Winter Wine Wonderland

Feb 6, Winterfest (City Event)

Feb 26, Feather Bowling

Mar 4, General Membership Meeting

Mar 19, Commodore's Ball

June 2, Spring Sailboat Racing every Thurs. thru June 30

June 11, Membership Appreciation Day

June 30, Sailboat Racing Award Party

July 1, Annual Grosse Pointe Farms Cup Sail Race

July 2, Regatta (Boat Club/City Event)

July 3, Annual Kerby Cove Flotilla Party

July 15, Harbor Mixer and General Membership Meeting

Aug 4, Summer Sailboat Racing every Thurs. thru Sept. 1st

Sep 1, Sailboat Racing Award Party

Oct 8, GPFBC Power Squadron Race

Nov 4, Annual General Membership Meeting

Bridge and Board Meetings: Jan 20, Mar 23,

May 18, July 20, Aug 17, Sept 21, Oct 12



Check for updates  
at: [www.gpfbc.com](http://www.gpfbc.com)

Rev: 0416B

### "Thirsty Thursdays" Sail Boat Racing Begins on June 2<sup>nd</sup>

*Get a jump on your weekend celebration and come down to watch local sailors strategize their way across the starting line located right off the far east seawall of the park. The view is great and six separate boat class starts add excitement to the ambiance. Racers start showing up around 6:30 pm or so and the first class start is at 7 pm. Bring your favorite beverage, hors d'oeuvre, and perhaps a chair and join us for the fun!*

**Contact Stephen LaMont, Racing Chairman at 568-322-1077 for questions or additional information.**

### Two Most Important Rules of Racing





Past Commodore Ron Mack presents the 2015 Grosse Pointe Farms Boat & Social Club Member of the Year Award to Past Commodore Steve Sicklesteel at the 2016 Commodore's Ball



2016 Feather Bowling Champions ( left to right ) :  
Chris Baetz, Bob Malicki, Craig Baetz, Mike Stoyka, Glen Logan, Mary Sue Forni, Chris Harrison. Not pictured: Nancy Cottrell

### HELP WANTED!!!

**We are in need of a volunteer to serve as  
Treasurer of GPFBC**

Our fellow Board member, Steve Sicklesteel, has faithfully served our boat club for his 3 year term, is ready to step down and have another member serve as Treasurer. We ask members who are interested, to consider joining the board and serving your club as the next Treasurer.

Responsibilities include:

- \*Keeps track of club accounts
- \*Manage and track incoming cash, such as dues from the club
- \* Pays bills, and reimburses members for club events
- \*Reports financial balances of the club meetings
- \*Creates written financial statements
- \*Checks the post office box at the local post office

If you are able to serve as treasurer or know a person who would be a good fit and would like to nominate that person, please email: [secretary@gpfbc.com](mailto:secretary@gpfbc.com).

Thank you for your consideration in supporting your club.

Sincerely,

**The GPFBC Bridge & Board**

### Upcoming Events!!!!

[www.gpfbc.com/events](http://www.gpfbc.com/events) for full calendar

June 2	Spring Sailboat Races Begin, including
June 2	Thirsty Thursday's!
June 11	Membership Appreciation Day
June 30	Sailboat Racing Award Party
July 1-3	Annual Family Fun Weekend & Regatta

### News from the DockBox Editor, Cheryl Pavic Henner:

In an effort to save on expenses, the DockBox Newsletter will be sent to club members via e-mail with a link to our website to read it directly and/or print out. This will begin with

the next Newsletter. This is standard practice at most clubs in the area. ***If you would still like receive a hard copy of the DockBox Newsletter, please contact our DockBox Editor, Cheryl Pavic Henner at [pavhen@gmail.com](mailto:pavhen@gmail.com)***





# 2016 Grosse Pointe Farms & Social Boat Club Feather Bowling Party





# 2016 Grosse Pointe Farms Boat & Social Club Commodore's Ball





## Remember to Renew Your Membership for 2016!

**The club is the best kept secret in GPF:** This year's dues have not changed, and continue to remain very affordable. Members will continue to enjoy the many benefits of the club as well, including an expanded list of social events, boat races, and food and drinks that are free or offered at a reduced cost (you will usually recoup your membership fees in the first one or two events). Remember, you don't need to own a boat to be, or remain a member.



**This 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.

**Commodore's Exception:** We do allow non-GPF residents into the club under certain special circumstances: 1) if they have participated in the Sailing Series race for at least 1 season, and 2) if they lived in the Farms within the last year. (Note: joining the club does not allow park privileges, so these members will need to be escorted by a GPF resident with a park pass to enter the park)

**We can always use your help:** Please drop me a line if you know of a family that might be interested, or if

**Fill out application and pay online at:**

**<http://www.gpfbc.com/membership/>**

or

Send application and check to:

Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club

PO Box 36491

## Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club Membership Application

Adult Member Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Type:**

Single (\$40/Calendar Year) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Family (\$60/Calendar Year) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check out our website for the latest calendar of events: [www.gpfbc.com](http://www.gpfbc.com)

Stay updated by becoming a "friend" of the Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club on Facebook!