

THE RIVER VIEW VIEWS

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Hello Everyone,

Summer's flying by like it usually does, and August is coming to an end. Sad as it is, we've had some fun times and good memories. We had a couple of great rendezvous.

First: Mac Ray Harbor. We got lucky with August weather; it was hot and sunny. Carol and I took the Pritchard's across Anchor Bay to the Tin Fish for dinner, thinking we could take a beautiful boat ride, sit on the outside deck and watch the sunset and listen to the band play. It ended up being a little more crowded than anticipated, and even though Carol was not fully dressed we still were allowed in for a good meal. Mac Ray's was celebrating "Marina Days" while we were there. They had tents set up, food, games, prizes and a market place that unfortunately for me, sold purses! The staff was very polite and helpful. I not only received a discount on my well but when I asked them for a light bulb to fit my stern light that they did not have, they went to West Marine, bought the bulb, brought it back and did not even charge me for it. Now that's pretty good service!

Next stop for us was to be Grand Bend but unfortunately due to weather conditions the club

decided to skip Grand Bend and go to Port Huron. To which we had a very smooth ride, great weather, again a helpful staff that even welded Ethan's handle bars on his electric scooter right there in the dock masters work shed.

Next we were off to St. Clair, it took me exactly 31 minutes to get through the first bridge in Port Huron to the St. Clair bridge. I know this because the bridge operates on the ½ hour and it was closing just as I pulled up! St. Clair Harbor is brand new! In fact, we had the opportunity to observe the marina dedication, complete with a parade, speeches, appearance by Candice Miller and best of all a "Free Lunch". Even though we did not have any sand, the club proceeded with the ritual of the Commodore burial. It was very exciting, everyone had a great time. You must be there to appreciate it! And, I am told that that is all I can share with you or the ancient RVYC burial Gods will curse me. (If they haven't already.) Other than that we had a fantastic dinner with Hunt and Barbie at Charlie's Crab North of town. And on Sunday we traveled home in the mist.

I have to send out a big thank you to Herb, who put in a lot of his time to schedule these rendezvous, and make an

itinerary for each day. As everyone who travels on these trips knows, the weather and several other factors can throw a wrench in your trip that was planned months ago. So thanks to Herb and his easy going nature we are able to make the most out of his well planned, well thought out rendezvous.

See you at Algonac!

Commodore
Dave Passmore

From the Vice

Our Lake Huron trip was fun, fun and short. Carol and I drove to Port Huron, spent an enjoyable day playing games and checking out the area. We stayed the night on the Sherman's boat after an evening of Classic 31. The next morning I found a Tim Horton's and everyone had their yearly doughnut at the dock. Thank you Ron and Ruthie for letting us stay the night on your boat.

September 1 & 2, Labor Day weekend brings the club to Algonac Harbor. We haven't been there in a while and look forward to this weekend. I myself like spending outings in our own state of Michigan.

The following Friday, September 7, is the September meeting at Kean's.

September's last rendezvous will be the progressive dinner at Belle River starting on the 22nd. All are welcome to join in, even if you drive up.

The events for October are the Haul-out party on the 6th and the square dance at the Lazy J Ranch in Milford on the 20th. The

square dance is an expensive outing for the club so invite your friends and neighbors to the party. This will help to reduce the cost to the club.

So mark your calendar:
September 1&2 Algonac Harbor Club rendezvous.
September 22&23 Belle River progressive dinner.
October 6 Haul-out party at Kean's
October 20 Square dance at the Lazy J Ranch, Milford Michigan

See you there,
Vice Commodore Joe

Look up, what do you see? Belle Isle!

Our historical journey around the Detroit River wouldn't be complete without acknowledgment of that piece of land that makes us turn left or right every time we leave Kean's Marina (serving boaters since 1931). Native Americans called the island "Mah-nah-be-zee" or Swan Island. The 982 acre Belle Isle Park Island was originally settled by French colonists, who name it Ile aux Cochons, or Hog Island. It was so named because it was safe place to keep their livestock. In 1879 it was renamed Belle Isle which translates to "beautiful island", but I am not sure in what language. As you know, many of the attractions have closed: Detroit Boat Club, Anna Scripps Whitcomb Aquarium, a zoo and a golf course so overrun that it is virtually closed. The island park was used as a military public relations effort during World War II. It was a reenactment of a pacific island invasion by the Navy and Marine Corps. The island was temporarily renamed

Bella Jima and Detroiters were treated to the sight of an island invasion without the bloodshed. It was conducted after the invasion of Iwo Jima. The island was home to a large herd of European [fallow deer](#) for more than 50 years. However, this isolated population fell prey to disease at the close of the 20th century. In 2004, the last of the 300 animals was captured and moved to the zoo property where some will remain as exhibits when it reopens as a nature center. In an effort to get more people on the island during Labor Day weekend, this year the Detroit Indy Grand Prix, sponsored by Firestone (I didn't think they were still in business) will be held on September 2. Unfortunately most of RVYC will be attending the Labor Day rendezvous at Algonac Harbor so we will miss the constant drone of turbine engines and arguments in French and Italian languages but most of all seeing Kuame get into an Indy car during the celebrity charity race! Belle Isle is also the place where former D12 member Bugz was murdered in 1999. (RVYC participants of past Zuckey Lake pontoon boat rendezvous can appreciate this piece of Belle Isle history.) On May 21st, 1999, Bugz, a friend, and his friend's cousin were spending the afternoon at Detroit's Belle Isle Park. An altercation arose when a man sprayed Bugz' friend's cousin with a high-powered water gun and she took offense. A heated argument ensued which escalated into a fistfight, and Bugz intervened on his friend's behalf. At this point, a friend of the man with the water gun went into a car, drew a rifle, and fired at Bugz, who was looking away at the time. He was hit three times at close range, once in the

neck, and once in the chest. The men then ran Bugz over in the car. An ambulance was called, but due to traffic on the bridge to Belle Isle, it took them thirty minutes to get onto the island. Bugz was rushed to a nearby hospital, but was unable to be resuscitated.

On another note of interest, some of us have been following Reid Stowe on his 1000 days at sea trip. Yes I know it is a sailboat, but his and Sonya's (23 year old woman that is accompanying him) blog and web cam pictures are very interesting. For those of you unaware, they sailed out of NYC on May 1 in a 72 foot schooner with the objective of spending 1000 days at sea. Their trip became more exciting two weeks out when they ran into an ocean freighter at night and broke their bowsprit, you can view their daily blog and see pictures at <http://1000days.net/home/> Reid Stowe

Hope to see everyone at Algonac Harbor; Fleet Captain Alfaro has requested Algonac to put us all

along the long wall at the east end of the harbor so we can pretend we are in Chatham.

Rear Commodore Pritchard

September Birthday's

Lynn Koleski – 14
Mary Lou Tusset – 16
Keith Armstrong – 22
Beth Armstrong – 27

September Anniversary's

Don & Mary Lou Tusset – 5

Message from the Fleet Captain:

In reviewing the remainder of the club boating functions I offer the following :

September 1, 2 & 3, 2007 finds the RVYC at the Algonac Harbour Club in Algonac, Mi. The following members have signed up to participate in this Labor Day event:

The Pritchard's on Float N' Stroke – 34' x 12'
The Sherman's on Paige of Summer – 45' x 15'
The Passmore's on Boweevil - 34' x 12'
The Bacile's on Sh Boom – 31' x 12'
The Jordan's on Patti's Recess – 25' x 8.5'
Joe Clapper on Bell Ringer – 38' x 14'

To date, the abovementioned boaters plan to attend. A \$40.00 deposit per vessel is required and should be handled individually by each attendee. You may contact Michelle at 810-794-4448. You should do this as soon as possible as other clubs will be doing likewise. They are anticipating up to ten boats from the RVYC, so if you did not indicate your desire to participate earlier then by all means call ahead and express your desire to attend on the Labor Day weekend. I should also point out that the harbor handles slip assignments on a first-come-first serve basis, so it would seem prudent to co-ordinate arrival times for all attendees.

The holiday weekend rates are:

Finger docks.....\$55.00 per nite
3 nites.....\$150.00
Drive-up wells.....\$65.00 per nite
3 nites.....\$180.00
day rate (12pm – 6pm).....\$30.00 per day

NOTE: DOCKAGE FEES WILL BE CREDITED FOR EMERGENCIES, BUT NOT REFUNDED!!!!

We have tee times at Middle Channel Golf Course on Harsen's Island for Sunday, September 2 at 11:30 a.m. Appropriately Float n Stroke will provide the transportation to the course. Greens fee for 18 holes with cart is \$37.00.

The final event for the year takes place at Belle River Marina in Canada on September 22, 2007. This event brings the group together in a way that might otherwise not happen. It's a fun time and a great way to make the membership even more cohesive. If anyone wishes to participate that has not signed up just let me know and I'll do the rest. So get o board and join the fun. After all, it's your club.

Good Luck and Good Boating, Fleet Captain Herb Alfaro.