

THE RIVER VIEW VIEWS

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From the Helm

Hello Everyone,

What a great Haul Out Party! We had absolutely perfect weather, plenty of food and thanks to Ron and Ruthie's successful kidnapping we were even blessed with the presence of Mary Lou Payette and her daughter Michelle. Everyone had fun catching up and visiting with Mary Lou. I hope this means she'll attend more club functions in the future without the kidnapping.

The Square Dance is next Friday, October 26, @ 8:00 p.m. The event is again held at Lazy J ranch on Hickory Ridge Rd. just south of M-59 in Milford. Admission is \$20.00. Jon Jordan asked that more people try to bring finger food to go with the Sloppy Joes, last year we had too much dessert and that made it difficult to dance!

Christmas Party! Mike and Therese Schrage have volunteered their house as the place to gather. This year's meeting/party will be held at the Schrage's on Saturday, December 1st @ 7:00 p.m. Their new home is located on 1012 Whittier Rd. in Grosse Pointe Park, 48230. Keeping with tradition we ask that each person

bring a gift valued at \$5.00 with your own name on it.

Our Nomination and Bake Sale meeting went very well. RVYC made good money on just a few items. Approximately half of the club was nominated for one of the four offices. Unfortunately, only a few accepted their nominations and they are as follows: (looks like a few might be a close race):

Secretary: Carol Bacile

Rear Commodore: John Roth

Treasurer: Lynn Koleski

Directors: Jim Baran
Pat Thul
Jean Pritchard
Ray Brown
Jim Roth

Next year's Bridge (2008) will consist of Joe Bacile as our Commodore. Ed Pritchard as our Vice Commodore and Dave Passmore as Past Commodore. Along with most of the great people listed above. So bring your voting pens a couple hanging Chad's and your recount requests to the election meeting on November 2nd @ Kean's and don't forget your appetite RVYC will be supplying all you can eat pizza.

Commodore Dave Passmore

From the Vice

The progressive dinner at Belle River was very progressive. We progressed from **cocktails** to snacks back to cocktails and finally dinner and dessert. There were two parties: Shermans, Alfaros, and Pritchards in one group, and Thuls, Joe Clapper, Lynn Koleski and the Baciles in the other group.

The first group had Jean Pritchard's minestrone soup, Joyce Alfaro's salad and Ruthie Sherman's now famous Beef Wellington with raised RVYC letters in the crust. Our bunch had potato soup provided by Joe Clapper and Lynn Koleski, salad by Judy Thul and finally Chicken Cacciatore with fettuccini on the Lido Deck of Sh-Boom.

After dinner I brought our left over chicken to Paige of Summer and exchanged it for left over beef. We all enjoyed dinner very much and had a great time. After a break of **cocktails** we progressed to Juice's Paradise for desserts of ice cream sundaes. Jean Pritchard started a whipped cream fight and everyone got a little sprayed. I think we were a little sprayed before the whipped cream came out, but the whipped cream tasted and felt good after all the other food we ate. A little nitrous gas never hurt anyone either. Herb is still cleaning his carpet.

After dessert, we progressed to; you guessed it, **cocktails** and played Thirty-One. I don't remember who won. Carol and Joyce progressed me back to our boat. I slept good.

Hunt and Barbie Taylor arrived Sunday morning, and brought more booze, **Bloody Marys** for everyone!

Sunday we progressed to the pavilion for breakfast. We made boiled omelets. Everyone seemed a little skeptical. We all brought ingredients to add and each person fixed their omelet the way they liked. After about 15 minutes in the boiler, breakfast was served: omelets toast and coffee.

The up-coming events are the square dance on October 26 and Northville Downs for dinner and races on November 17. These are both fun outings and I hope to see many of you there.

See you at the races,

Vice Commodore Joe

Boat Club or Yacht Club?

Some recent guests on Float n' Stroke, having been over-served on the 100 dock and consumed several tastes of Float n Stroke's whisky of choice, commented on the number of boats moored on Belle Isle as we made our way out of Kean's Marina (serving boaters since 1931). A debate ensued as to whether it was the Detroit Yacht Club or Detroit Boat Club. Rather than cut the debate short and after paying respects to Kwame, we took the crew for a ride to see the real Detroit Boat Club.

It was the river, named Detroit (de trois -- the (straits) by the French that brought a group of the town's most respected citizens together in 1839 to found the Detroit Boat Club, the oldest rowing club in America.

By 1839, Detroit's population hovered at 9,000. Its metropolitan area was bounded by the Detroit River on the south, Grand Circus Park on the north, St. Antoine Street on the east, and Third Street on the west. Little remains today to remind us of those early days of the city -- except the river.

The names of the founders of the Detroit Boat Club are the same names that can be found in any historical accounts of the early days of Detroit and Michigan - - not to mention city street signs. Names like E. A. Brush, Alpheus S. Williams, S.H. Sibley, Alfred Brush, J.H. Farnsworth, James A. Armstrong and John Chester. The club's original home, on the outskirts of the city at the foot of Hastings Street on the near-eastside, but was destroyed by fire in 1848. It had housed the club's first two rowing boats which were raced on a two-mile course from hog Island (Belle Isle), past Walkersville (stopped for a taste?), to the clubhouse. The popularity of rowing continued to grow. By 1873 the club was ensconced in plush quarters at the foot of Joseph Campau, the easternmost end of Detroit, and had become the center of all water sports. A half-dozen new clubs formed nearby including the Polish Yacht Club. When its Joseph Campau lease expired in 1889 the City of Detroit invited the DBC to move to Belle Isle. The Detroit Yacht Club, which had been on the landward side of the Belle Isle Bridge, also went over to the island at that time when informed that the city needed their old site for its new bridge approach. As was expected in the early 20th century, the DBC clubhouse was lost to fires in 1893 and 1901.

On both occasions, a fire tug grounded in a shallow area and was unable to extinguish the fires (see February Riverview Views on Scott's Middle ground). They all agreed the next clubhouse must be fireproof and in 1902 the first U.S. concrete boat club was dedicated.

DBC legends are plentiful, but one epitomizes the club's sporting tradition. During a 1923 regatta in Detroit two middle-aged Grand Rapids Canoe Club oarsmen issued a challenge to any pair whose total ages equaled or exceeded their own -- 114 years -- to a match race in double sculls at a mile straightaway. DBC members W.A. (Pop) Warner (of baseball fame), 74, and Capt. Fred Walker (of Classic fame), 70, -- 144 years between them -- saw the challenge on the club's bulletin board and vowed to take them on. They won by a whisker. Since 1873, the DBC blue and white colors have flown at every national rowing regatta, and DBC oarsmen have won 54 events and eight national team championships. In 1956 the Detroit Boat Club put seven members on the U.S. Olympic team and brought home two silver medals. Sailing arrived in 1899 and the DBC regatta is the oldest sailing race in Michigan. Few know that member commodore Dr. Charles Godwin Jennings and his 65-foot schooner, Agawa, won the first Mackinac Race held in 1904. In 1969, the Boat Club and Detroit Yacht Club faced eviction from Belle Isle because the city of Detroit, owner of the land the clubs sat on, felt the clubs were too slow to integrate. Both clubs

held \$1-a-year open-ended leases. An out-of-court settlement reached in the 1974 in which the clubs agreed to accept blacks headed off the eviction.

In 1992 rent on the Detroit Boat Club property jumped from \$1 to \$100,000. Utility payments fell behind and membership continued to drop. The club filed for bankruptcy citing a \$1 million debt. The city announced plans to take over operation of the building. In 1996, the boat club members voted to move out of the city. As the next Venetian parade passes by the Detroit Boat Club lets raise an oar in salute to this boating landmark.

Speaking of sailing, have you seen the latest posts from Reid and Soanya? To celebrate finally getting some rain to fill their water tanks, they posted pictures of their wet t-shirt contest; I think Reid won. Also, at the November meeting will be board / bridge elections. Please make every effort to attend. Food will be provided.

Rear Commodore Pritchard

Sunshine Person's Report
Carolyn Roth

At the past two meetings we have had a discussion about doing something of a charitable nature during the upcoming holiday season in the name of the club. The final discussion ended up that this year we would make individual donations from interested club members to the Capuchin's in memory of our late Past Commodores Lee Vauris and Chuck Koleski. Both Lee and Chuck were very fond of

the Mission and the wonderful job they do. Anyone who is interested in contributing can give me a personal check payable to the Capuchin Mission Association. I will personally deliver the checks by year's end to the Mission.

Also, we are going to donate our time to serve breakfast at the Mission located at 4390 Connor on Saturday, November 24th, from 8:15 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The Mission only needs about 8 of us, I already have approximately ten people on the sign-up sheet but if any one else is interested, please contact me and I will add your name to the list. With the 24th being the Thanksgiving weekend, some of those signed up may, for various reasons, not be able to attend. I will call those who donate on a first sign up basis to help serve. I think this is a great way for us to share our memory and respect for Lee and Chuck for all they did for the Club. Checks may be mailed to me at 47199 Seven Mile Road, Northville, 48167. If you want to be included on the sign-up sheet, you may call me at 248-982-4675 or email a note to me at jrcstime@yahoo.com

On another note for those who do not have access to email and/or who have not heard, our long time friend and member, Joann Giffer, was recently hospitalized for a mild heart attack. Joann is now resting and recuperating at home. Joann, please know everyone at RVYC is thinking of you and sends their best wishes to you.

My last item for those who do not have access to email, Ron Sherman recently sent out a note regarding the passing of Mike Drawe on October 6th. While Mike was not a member of RVYC, he was friend to many of our members. Mike and his wife, Kim, own *Luck of the Drawe*, a white and navy 39 foot Sea Ray docked at Kens. Our

deepest sympathies are extended to Kim Drawe and her family.

November Anniversaries

Jack & Lori Ann Kingston – 3
Norm & Jo Anne Crain - 12
Ron & Lisa Austin – 18
Jim & Linda Baran – 22

November Birthdays

Jon Jordan – 14
Dale Binkley – 17
Pat Binkley – 18
Ron Sherman – 25
Herb Alfaro – 27

Jean Pritchard has sent me some very interesting Mathematical Conversions for your reading pleasure. Here are a few:

Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter = Eskimo Pi

2000 pounds of Chinese soup = Won ton

1 millionth of a mouthwash = 1 Microscope

Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement – 1 bananosecond

Weight an evangelist carries with God = 1 billigram

Time it takes to sail 220 yards at 1 nautical mile per hour = Knotfurlong

16.5 feet of silver in the Twilight Zone = 1 Rod Sterling

Half of a large intestine = 1 semicolon

1,000,000 aches = 1 megahurtz

Basic unit of laryngitis = 1 hoarsepower

Shortest distance between two jokes = A straight line