

THE RIVER VIEW VIEWS

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From The Commodore Elect

Well, the Commodore's Ball is less than a week away and we hope to see all of our boating friends there. Again and for the last time, here are the details:

The up coming Commodore's ball will be on Saturday, January 26, 2008 at Laurel Manor. The cost will be \$55 per person and the festivities will begin with cocktails at 6:00 PM. This year's ball will be in the Maple Room downstairs. Music will be provided by Thomas & Thomas. We hope that many members will join in to honor Commodore Dave Passmore. It will be an enjoyable evening of dinner and dancing. Hope to see all of you there. Camaraderie is one of the best things about being a member of RVYC.

Now for a nautical tidbit, if you are like me, do you wonder what the origins of the words we use today are? Here is one to ponder.

[Manure:](#)

In the 16th and 17th centuries, everything had to be transported by ship. It was also before commercial fertilizer's invention, so large shipments of manure were common.

It was shipped dry, because in dry form it weighed a lot less than when wet. But once water (at sea) hit it, it not only became

heavier, but the process of fermentation began again, of which a by product is methane gas. As the manure was stored below decks in bundles you can see what could (and did) happen.

Methane began to build up below decks and the first time someone came below at night with a lantern, BOOM!

Several ships were destroyed in this manner before it was determined just what was happening.

After that, the bundles of manure were always stamped with the term "Ship High In Transit". This meant for sailors to stow it high enough off the lower decks so that any water that came into the hold would not touch this volatile cargo and start the production of methane.

Thus evolved the term "S.H.I.T", (Ship High In Transport) which has come down through the centuries and is in use to this very day.

You probably did not know the true history of this word. Neither did I.

I had always thought it was a golf and bowling term.

See you at the Ball!

Vice Commodore Joe

Vice Commodore Elect

A View of the rear by the Rear
2007 – quite a year.

The year began on a very somber, reflective note as we lost two Past Commodores, Lee and Chuck. Both enjoyed a high level of respect and love by members and were viewed as trusted advisors by many in the boating world. The loss of these two key members was a challenge to not dwell on the events, but as you know Lee and Chuck would say, “Have a drink and have some fun!” So here are some of the highlights as seen from Float n’ Stroke of 2007:

- Gasoline at \$4.20 a gallon (a highlight?)
- “Hot” golf at Maumee Bay
- Emron II in the water
- Ladder ball
- \$500 in gas for Bayfield smoked fish
- Canadian dollar stronger than the US dollar – good by Canada!
- Discovery of some new ports of call: Port Huron Muni, MacRay Harbor and Port Clinton
- New docks at St. Clair Marina
- Long Island Ice Tea at the Venetian
- Challenges of the State Reservation System
- Fantasy representing RVYC in the inaugural Detroit River Festival and, for the most part, staying operational and afloat during the parade of lights
- Appearance, albeit brief, of Past Commodore Cieslak
- New members Helms and Middlekauff

- Heart Smart morphed into RTime III
 - Jon Jordan elected to vacate Kean’s Marina (serving boaters since 1931)
 - Sh Boom Sh Boom successfully adjusted to life on 100 dock
 - Fish flies
 - Venetian boat decorating prizes: P/C Brown, V/C Bacile and Hunt
 - Polish food catering
 - Jet fly-over during the Gold Cup Races
 - Single boat rendezvous at Metro Beach
 - No Boat! - first place in bowling league
 - Reverend Mary Jean blessing the fleet
 - Successful events hosted by the Vice: Fitting Out Party, Haul Out Party
 - Poker Run winners: P/C Clapper, P/C Koleski
 - Mass quantities of Canadian whisky consumed
 - Commodore’s burial at St. Clair
 - Final square dance
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SUPERBOWL SUNDAY!

We will be having our Super Bowl Party at Kean's upstairs in the meeting room as usual.

There will be a brief meeting starting at 5:00 p.m. The food and festivities will begin after the meeting. Please bring a dish to pass and your money for picking squares. As you know the teams are N.Y. Giants and the New England Patriots. So please come and cheer your team on!

February Birthdays

Ed Pritchard – 2
Jim Roth - 4
Bob Cieslak – 6
Judi Giroux – 7
Carol Passmore – 8
Barbara Taylor – 12
Joe Clapper – 15
Joe K Clapper – 18
Pat Thul – 23
Jeff Niermann – 24

February Anniversaries

Don & Judi Giroux – 4
Jim & Carolyn Roth – 15
Don & Barb Leone – 22
Dave & Carol Passmore – 24

See you at the Commodore's Ball!!!!!!