

THE RIVER VIEW VIEWS

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FROM THE HELM!

Basketball coined this phrase and the 2002 Championships are in full frenzy. Top seeds are being ousted early by lower seeds (Kent St. is now the new "Gonzagas"). Perennial favorites are going home (MSU, Florida, Kansas, and Gonzagas). By the end of March, the Basketball Team Champion will be crowned, as well as the winner of many the office pool.

The weather is crazy, too—one day it's nice and the next day it's cold and rainy. Right now, the landscape is brown and bleak. Occasionally some snow will fall to whiten the drabness. The crocuses, hyacinths and daffodils become more confused with Mother Nature and her weather patterns as each warming period comes and goes. We humans aren't much better, wondering how Spring can be here already.

Speaking of Spring and MADNESS, you should be in a Middle School with Spring Break just weeks away. New Spring fashions (most of which don't match the dress code) are displayed in the stores and "Spring Love" is developing! It's sheer MADNESS...but isn't all this MADNESS fun to watch, feel and be involved in?

That's what RVYC is like. After our March meeting we had another delicious potluck and 18 members attended the Gem to see that hilarious comedy, "Late Night Catechism." The play definitely gets the audience involved. Having front row seats, F/C Ed was on his best behavior for he didn't want to be on the short end of Sister's ruler. Then there was the cell phone incident, which

for a fleeting moment many of us, as well as Sister, had thought was Jill Martyka's. Talk about MADNESS — Sister swiftly strode to the culprit and probably the young lady is still serving her penitence. Performances continue, in case you would like to see the play. You certainly don't have to be Catholic to enjoy the play, but you will laugh harder if you have attended Catholic school.

MADNESS is spilling over into the bowling league, too. With three more sessions left and a large group vying for third through tenth places, some unbelievable splits are being made, long strings of strikes are being recorded (though nobody can "cash" in on the strike ball jackpot, which is close to \$700), and record high as well as record low games are being bowled.

Why stop? The MADNESS shouldn't, especially if you make the April meeting. The auction is returning, as well as the auctioneer—P/C Norm. (It should be a hoot!) Besides the items that members bring, the Board has okayed it for Norm to auction off the RVYC apparel that we have in stock. Plan on attending and bring plenty of CASH.

Last bit of MADNESS—the May meeting is being changed to **May 10th** (second Friday) and will start at **7:30 pm** promptly **at the Belle Isle Coast Guard Station** (not at Kean's). No dockage for boats—just cars. Snacks and drinks can be brought into the station, but **no alcohol**. There will be a short meeting and then the presentation on flares and fire extinguishers (bring outdated

MARCH MADNESS...

ones to practice with). What's MADDENING to me is I will miss both meetings because of prior travel plans made last year. That's MARCH MADNESS!

**Commodore
Jean "Mary" Pritchard**

FROM THE VICE!

The weather is teasing us now. I don't know about the rest of you, but I definitely have a case of Spring fever.

Remember that our April meeting will be at Kean's on Friday the 5th, 8 pm. The nautical auction will follow. One man's junk is another man's junk!

FYI: The Coast Guards of the U.S. and Canada will be escorting freighters through the Detroit River up to Lake Huron when they can. Boaters are required to stay at least 200 feet from the freighters and even further if they are carrying anything potentially dangerous. I've read about this twice last week and it's been attributed to 9/11.

**Vice Commodore
Lynn Koleski**

FROM THE REAR!

Our Fleet Captain and the Board of Directors have put together an ambitious schedule for this coming season. I am sure everybody is as excited as I

am. There is an activity for everyone, from week-long trips to a Saturday party. The main activity I'm in charge of is our

VENETIAN WEEKEND.

Decorations, decorations, decorations! This year's theme is **RIVERBOATS** and I have pictures if you need ideas.

List of Some Events: Indeed, this will be a great year. April 5th **membership meeting** will be followed by the **annual auction** of new, old, used nautical items. May 10th meeting with the **U.S. Coast Guard** presenting a "**Flare Demonstration.**" May 18th, our **Fitting Out Party.** May 25th begins a memorable **Memorial weekend** in **Wallaceburg.** June 8th is

VENETIAN.

Boat Parade, Blessing of the Fleet and an appropriately themed dinner to follow. Prizes for decorated boats! June 9th we can all recover at the **Commodore's Bloody Mary Party.** June 22, **Metro Beach.** July 3rd begins **Lake Erie week.** July 11th starts the **Gold Cup Races,** then July 27th we head to **Crystal Bay.** More to follow!

**Rear Commodore
Ray Brown**

BARAN'S BLABBERING!

As you can see, Spring is in the air (it's snowing as I write this), on the calendar, and in the

hearts of boaters. Certainly hope any more snow alerts are just over-reactions by our TV weather reporters! Other than that big iceberg the size of Rhode Island floating off of Antarctica, this winter has been rather quiet and dry. Great for pedestrians and drivers, but not so good for boaters and water levels.

Thank you to **Diane Dawes** for getting the Club's burgee blessed recently at Mariner's Church. Can't have too much divine intervention when it comes to boating, especially with low water!

Make it a point to attend the RVYC **April 5th** meeting. We're back to our usual schedule of **First Friday, 8 pm, at Kean's Marina.** This meeting will be informative, with **Treasurer Pat Thul** giving instructions on how to access Club info online, and also displaying a "catalog" of sorts on what's new in our **Ship's Store.** **Mary Hall** will take individual orders rather than second guessing what you want or don't want!

(No promises, but the 2002 RVYC roster might even be ready for distribution that night.)

Jim and I thank the Club and its members for all your kind thoughts extended after the passing of his mother. Stella Baran was a typical Polish mother/grandmother but not the stereotypical mother-in-law; I was lucky.

Editor Linda Baran



“AHOY MATIES”

The RVYC May meeting will be held on
May 10th

Mark your calendar!

In order to set up the program on flares and extinguishers that we had planned to do with the U.S. Coast Guard, we needed to change our meeting time, date, and location. The meeting starts **promptly** at **7:30 pm** on Friday, **May 10th**, at the **Belle Isle Coast Guard Station**.

The Club's business end of the meeting will be brief so we can learn about shooting off flares and using fire extinguishers safely.

Bring your outdated flares and/or fire extinguishers and your flare gun, too.

Be advised – snacks and drinks are welcome,
but no alcohol.

Don't forget -- mark your calendar now!

2002 RVYC SCHEDULE OF EVENTS – APRIL THRU SEPTEMBER

April

- 5th - Membership Meeting @ Kean's on Friday, 8:00 pm
 - Auction Night – bring old, used, new nautical items to sell
 - All proceeds go to RVYC
- 7th – “Lord of the Dance” matinee performance @ Fox Theatre
 - Contact P/C Diana Wilkerson
- 13th – Bowling, Royal Oak Lanes @ 5:45 pm
- 27th – Bowling, Royal Oak Lanes @ 5:45 pm (last night)

May

- 10th - Membership Meeting @ Belle Isle Coast Guard Station on Friday, 7:30 pm
U.S. Coast Guard Flare Presentation
- 18th – RVYC Fitting Out Party @ Kean's
 - Bring a dish to pass
 - Hot dogs/Brats/Burgers - Pop & beer provided
- 25th – 27th – Memorial Weekend Rendezvous to Wallaceburg**

June

- 7th - Membership Meeting @ Kean's on Friday, 8:00 pm
- 8th – Venetian
 - Blessing of the Fleet
 - Boat Decorating Contest
 - Dinner Party & Dancing – Contact R/C Ray Brown for reservations
- 9th – Commodore's Bloody Mary Party
- 22nd–23rd: Metro Beach Rendezvous**

July

- 3rd–7th Fourth of July Rendezvous to Leamington & Pelee Island**
- 5th – Membership Meeting on Friday, 8:00 pm, Location TBD
- 7th–12th Lake Erie Rendezvous**
 - One week trip
 - Visiting Cleveland, Vermilion, Put-N-Bay
 - Contact F/C Ed Pritchard if interested
- 11th–14th–Gold Cup Races
- 26th–27th– Crystal Bay Rendezvous

August

- 2nd - Membership Meeting @ Kean's on Friday, 8:00 pm
- 10th – Green & White Party @ Kean's
- 11th–15th – Lake Huron Rendezvous**
 - 5 day trip prior to Sarnia
 - Visiting St. Clair, Lexington, (maybe) Port Austin
- 17th – John Kean's Day @ Kean's Marina
- 16th–18th – Sarnia & Highland Games Rendezvous
 - Limited reservations – 9 slips guaranteed; on a waiting list for 6 more – contact F/C Ed Pritchard if interested
 - Deposit of \$13 (U.S.) required.
- 31st – Sept. 2nd - Labor Day Rendezvous to Chatham**
 - Those off of work may leave Friday, August 30th
 - Hat decorating contest
 - Pancake breakfast
 - Light decorating of boats contest, sponsored by Chatham

September

- 6th - Membership Meeting @ Kean's on Fri. @ 8:00 pm
- 14th - Tentative start-up for bowling - Contact Barb Leone if interested in joining a team or if you have a team (Coed) that wants to bowl
- 21st–22nd – Cove Rendezvous**
- 28th – Bowling

March Birthdays

5 – Bob Krupka
9 – Shirley Bartlett
17 – Kelly Thomas
20 – Mike Boyle

March Anniversaries

25 – Roger & Shirley Bartlett
30 – Norm & Mabel Feliks

Other March Dates

3 – Meeting @ Kean's/Gem Theatre
17 – St. Patrick's Day
20 – First Day of Spring
28 – Passover
31 – Easter

April Birthdays

5 – Mabel Feliks
7 – Terry Dawes
7 – Barb Leone
16 – Ron Bickel
18 – **P/C** Jim Baran
18 – Larry Thomas
20 – **Comm.** Jean Pritchard
25 – Robert Nixon
26 – Diane Deptula

April Anniversaries

7 – Joe & Carol Bacile
16 – Dan & Greta Jablonski

Other April Dates

1 – All Fool's Day
**5 – RVYC Meeting , Kean's, 8 pm
(Nautical auction to follow)**
7 – Daylight Savings Time begins
15 – Federal Income Tax due
22 – Earth Day
24 – Secretaries Day

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RIVER VIEW YACHT CLUB MEMBER

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