

THE RIVER VIEW VIEWS

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April 2003

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FROM THE HELM!

The weather has turned to spring, finally! We went up north a couple of weeks ago to find about 2 feet of brand new snow. Luckily, our neighbor offered Chuck the use of his snowblower. Even so, it took hours to get up the drive. I think we are all in agreement this was a long, cold winter. However, one sure sign of spring is watching a fishing boat go up the river early in the morning, which we did.

Had a good turnout at the Polish Yacht Club for dinner before the April meeting. Great food, great company. This led to a good attendance at our first 'normal time' meeting of the year, where we welcomed 2 new members, **Donald and Karen Bunge**. Looking forward to seeing more of them in the coming months.

The Whirlyball outing was well attended and we all had good laughs, especially those watching me get rammed by other players so often. I'm sure (?) it wasn't personal. Always knew I could paint myself into a corner; now I know that I can get pinned in one, also. Really very hard to get out of.

After the games, Ruthie and R/C Ron invited us over for an impromptu 'afterglow.' They miraculously fed the multitude with the proverbial loaf of bread and basket of fish, (actually chicken, pizza, etc.) and kept our whistles wet, too!

Looking forward to the auction after the meeting on May 2nd. See you there.

Commodore Lynn

FROM THE VICE!

The season "For Fun's Sake" is upon us. The activity in the boatyard has been great as we all prepare to enjoy the new year.

Our next meeting on May 2nd will feature an auction of nautical items that can be used by somebody else. This is always an interesting session, and you may find something you need like I did last year. Remember, all the items for auction are provided by the membership. The items can be gently used, or be excess things that you no longer need but are still usable. All of the proceeds go into the Club's treasury to help pay for our "For Fun's Sake" parties.

On Saturday, May 17th, the Club will host the annual Fitting Out Party, 4 pm at Kean's. Burgers, dogs, and such. Please bring a dish to pass. Your imaginations have given us some very fine accompaniments, so far. Hope to see you all there.

A Marina Conversation:

At a marina in Miami, a group of senior citizens were sitting around, talking about their various ailments.

"My arms are so weak I can hardly lift this cup of coffee," said one.

"Yes, I know. My cataracts are so bad I can't even see my coffee," replied another.

"I can't turn my head because of the arthritis in my neck," said a third, to which several nodded weakly in agreement.

"My blood pressure pills make me dizzy," another went on.

"I guess that's the price we pay for getting old," winced an old man as he slowly shook his head.

Then there was a short moment of silence.

"Well, it's not all that bad," said one woman cheerfully. "Thank God we can all still run our boats!"

Vice Commodore Ray

FROM THE REAR!

Hello again from the Rear (that just doesn't sound right to me – I'm always behind).

It's been an interesting April – recovering from my broken hand, trying to get everything ready on the Boat for a May 5th launch, fighting the snow off – what else?

I've seen a lot of you down at Kean's "getting ready" and some already in the water (we already had a cocktail party on Heart Smart – thanks Lee and Mary Lou).

Let's talk about Venetian. It's right around the corner (already??). Get your Island decorations out and get ready for a great time.

We have an excellent DJ lined up, great food planned, and a lot of fun for everyone. So invite your friends and family to partake in the festivities!

The dates are set:

Parade and Blessing of the Fleet will be Saturday, June 7th at 1:00 pm
Venetian party, Saturday evening, June 7th
Commodores' Bloody Mary Party Sunday morning, June 8th

I do not have the final costs nailed down yet, but I expect it to be in line with the past Venetian costs, in the \$15 per person range. I need to get an initial count of participants, so let me know if you plan to attend and the number of people expected. You can contact me at the following:

Email: ronalddsherman@aol.com
Phone: 313-667-9360

Did anyone of you get the location for this from the last newsletter?

N 42 38.215
W 82 30.591

It is the last red buoy (R "A36", FI R 4S) in the St. Clair River before the entrance to Chenal Ecarte on your way to Wallaceburg.

Now that you all are close to being "on the boat" with your charts and GPS, try this one:

N 42° 33' 12"
W 82° 44' 52"

Note: This is in Lake St. Clair and you will need to know its location real soon!

I'll provide the answer in the next news article. See you soon at the docks!

Rear Commodore Ron

LETTER TO THE EDITOR!

In the 16th & 17th centuries, everything was transported by ship. It was also before the invention of commercial fertilizer, 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.

It didn't take long for methane to build up belowdecks and the first time someone came below with a lantern, KABOOM! Several ships were destroyed before somebody figured out what was happening.

When they determined the role that manure played in these explosions, they began stamping the bundles with the term, SHIP HIGH IN TRANSIT. This let the sailors know to stow it high enough off the lower decks so water that came into the hold would not touch the volatile cargo and start the production of methane. Thus evolved the term S.H.I.T. which has come down through the centuries and is in use to this day.

You probably did not know the history of this word. I always thought it was a golf term.

Submitted by:

Past Commodore Lee

Memorial Day 2003 in Wallaceburg

Where: Wallaceburg is a leisurely 2-hour trip from the St. Clair River down the Chenal Ecarte. Walpole Island Bridge is a swing bridge about 45 minutes from St. Clair River and opens on the hour daily from 7am to 11 pm. Time your journey to arrive 10 minutes to the hour. Enter the Sydenham River at the forks, continuing to Wallaceburg Municipal Docks. Baseline Road Bridge, Lord Selkirk Bridge and Walking Bridge are open from 8 am to 10 pm. Please note: these bridges are closed from 12 noon to 1 pm and 3 pm to 4 pm as a result of heavy traffic conditions.

Note – when leaving Wallaceburg going at 5 knots, allow 1.5 hours to reach the Walpole Island swing bridge, so if you want to hit the bridge at 2 pm – leave Wallaceburg at 12:30

When: May 24 – 26

Participants: As of April 15: Baran, Wilkerson, Pritchard, Sherman & Peterman, Koleski, Vauris, Brown, Dawes, Clapper, Alfaro, Tusset, Thul (Sunday only)

Marina Telephone number: (all Canadian marinas monitor channel 68.)

Our Wallaceburg Marina hostesses: Janet (519) 352-7354 ext. 251 or Melissa (519) 352-7354 ext. 222.

The Club will monitor Channel 72 while on the water.

Movement:

Saturday May 24:

- Based on the bridge opening information, plan your trip to arrive at the Wallaceburg docks by 1 pm
- Boat light decorating contest (based on the theme: "Card 68 where are you?")
- Hors d'oeuvres party on the shuffleboard courts at 4:30pm – bring some chairs and a dish to pass
- Dinner is on your own

Sunday May 25:

- Wallaceburg docks complimentary pancake breakfast (pumpkin?)
- Afternoon golf at the Baldoon Country Club or visit the Wallaceburg & District Museum
- Pot luck dinner on the shuffleboard court – bring a grill, something to grill and a dish to pass

Monday May 26:

- Visit one of the nearby restaurants for breakfast
- Do some shopping, a short walk to the liquor store in the Wallaceburg Mall – stock up on the Classic!
- Movement back to home marina. Schedule departure based on bridge opening – it is a workday in Canada.

Fleet Captain Ed Pritchard

April Birthdays

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

April Anniversaries

- 7 – Joe & Carol Bacile
- 16 – Dan & Greta Jablonski
- 19 – Michael & Kris Boyle

Other April Dates

- 26 – Last Night of Bowling

May Birthdays

- 4 – **P/C** Lee Vauris
- 5 – Becky Schlice
- 15 – **P/C** John Seedott
- 17 – Jill Martyka
- 23 – Bob Caza
- 27 – Patti Jordan
- 28 – Roger Bartlett

May Anniversaries

- 7 – John & Peggy Cornwell
- 18 – Pat & Judy Thul
- 20 – Ken & Diana Wilkerson
- 24 – Ron & Ellen Bickel

Other May Dates

- 2 – **Meeting @ Kean's, 8 pm Auction following**
- 5 – Cinco de Mayo
- 11 – Mother's Day
- 17 – **Fitting Out Party, 4 pm**
- 17 – Armed Forces Day
- 19 – Victoria Day (Canada)
- 24/26 - **Wallaceburg Trip**
- 26 – Memorial Day (Observed)

You know you're from Michigan when.....

Your year has 2 seasons: Winter and Construction.

At least 1 member of your family disowns you the week of the Michigan/Michigan State game.

Half the change in your pocket is Canadian, eh!

You drive 86 mph on the highway and pass on the right.

Your idea of a traffic jam is 20 cars waiting to pass an orange barrel.

You know how to play (and pronounce) Euchre.

You know how to pronounce "Mackinac".

You've had to switch on the "heat" and the "A/C" in the same day.

You bake with SODA and drink a POP.

You know that Kalamazoo not only exists, but it isn't that far from Hell.

You design your kids Halloween costumes to fit over a snowsuit.

Driving in the winter is better because the potholes are filled with snow.

The word "thumb" has geographical, rather than anatomical significance.

You show people where you grew up by pointing to a spot on your left hand.