

THE RIVER VIEW VIEWS

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December 2007

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From the Helm!

Hello everyone from New York City. We're here for the last few days before Christmas Eve and we're taking the time to send out the last newsletter of RVYC's 52nd year. Just want to say that it was an honor this year to be your Commodore, and want to thank the bridge members for their help and commitment. We started the year with the gas prices at \$2.00 and ended with it being \$3.50. If that's a trend we all may be dry docked this summer. The rendezvous this year were fantastic. We had fun with the club coming up our way to MacRay Harbour, as were the new rendezvous to St. Clair and Algonac.

Thanks to Therese and Mike Schrage for their hospitality in their beautiful home for the Christmas Party. It was an awesome turnout! Even snow nor sleet will keep this club from partying!

I look forward to seeing you all at the Commodore's Ball, and spending the evening with everyone. By the time you read this the hustle and bustle of Christmas may be over, and we'll be on to the New Year. Here's to a healthy and safe 2008!

Your Commodore, Dave

From the Vice!

Christmas is coming very soon and it may be a white Christmas as well. Merry Christmas to everyone and Happy New Year also.

The party at Mike and Therese's Home was great. Thank you Mike and Therese for opening your home for all of us to enjoy. Their home is a perfect setting for parties and I think everyone had a good time.

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.

Please let the bridge know if you will be attending and of course send money.

A few members have asked about the Boat US group discount number. This group number entitles our members to a special renewal amount of

\$12.50. The number is GA81901Y. When applying or for renewing your membership just state the group name and give the group number for this special group rate. Merry Christmas!

I will have the literature at the next meeting for anyone interested.

See you at the Ball!

From the Rear!

Is that left or port?

Well we all knew it would come to this – a GPS system that can be used on water as well as land (note: I can't believe Pat has not gotten one of these yet.) Dual use GPS, dubbed "Dupus", is the latest in cutting edge technology to help you navigate equally while traveling by boat or car. It operates in two ways: Marine Mode, which is the default, and Automotive Mode. Not to be outdone, a Silicon Valley company is marketing what they say is the ultimate, all in one, device strategically named The Maxwell Smart. Yep, they have integrated: MP3 Player, GPS, high speed Internet access, and Cell Phone (with text messaging, email checking, etc) into a dynamically packaged unit that can fit on your belt, in your ear, or on your wrist. However, early users are reporting some concerns that the developers are working to address. For example, one west coast boater reported that when listening to the MP3 player the GPS responds to the song's message. Apparently the song *Fly Me to the Moon* redirected the boat's navigational system to a heading it thought was the Moon and ran aground

on shoaling! There is also a tendency for the water and land systems to switch back and forth. Alert users claim the only way to insure you are in the correct mode is to listen to the voice prompts: if it tells you to turn left, it is in land mode; if it says steer to port, it is in water mode. Trouble can occur when you tell it to do something. For example, if it tells you to steer to port and you respond, "Do you mean left?" it will revert to the land mode and try to direct you to go west on I-94; similar to driving in the car with you wife (more on that later). Another issue with The Maxwell Smart is when boaters are using their VHF radios. Again, the mixing of marine and land terminology confuses the GPS. For example, if you were to use terminology normally reserved for people driving trucks of a southern persuasion i.e. "Breaker, breaker what is your 20?" "Do you copy?" "Come back" and "Do you have your ears on?" the GPS will assume you are on land and direct you to Kean's (serving boaters since 1931) via Jefferson Ave. Now if you use the commonly recognized, accepted and appropriate nautical VHF commands this will not happen. So as we move more rapidly to this all inclusive application, we can save ourselves a lot of trouble and money (fiberglass replacement) by starting now to use appropriate nautical salutations and acknowledgements commonly know as procedure words or prowords. Here are the most common phases: "wilco" – your last message has been received, understood and will be complied with; "roger" – I have received your last transmission satisfactorily; "say again" – repeat last transmission;

"affirmative" – your are correct; "negative" – no; "over" - this is the end of my transmission to you so go ahead and respond; "out" - this is the end of my transmission and no answer is required or expected. To avoid problems with future technology, let's all remember to use the proper terms now. Unless you are like some who still use Loran – in which case just continue to use the poor man's integrated GPS: the hailer, compass, paper charts, and arguing with your spouse about stopping at a 7-Eleven for directions.

Rear Commodore Pritchard

January Anniversary's

Ron & Ruthie Sherman – 3

January Birthdays

Norm Crain – 8

Therese Schrage – 11

Karen Bunge – 15

Bev Niermann – 16

Eleanor Button – 27

Denise Armstrong – 27

George Perron – 28

From the Sunshine Person:

Following is a lovely letter of thanks from the Capuchin Mission in regards to our donation. Thank you.

Editor's note: I cannot get my scanner to work correctly therefore the letter is not attached. I will send out under separate cover when I work out the problem.

RVYC IS PLEASED TO INVITE YOU TO THE 2008
COMMODORE'S BALL HONORING
COMMODORE DAVE PASSMORE AND HIS LADY
CAROL

JANUARY 26, 2008

TO BE HELD AT THE LAUREL MANOR

COCKTAILS 6:00 P.M. – 11:30 P.M.

DINNER 7:00 P.M.

DANCING – 9:00 P.M.

THE COST IS \$55.00 PER PERSON WHICH INCLUDES
DINNER, DANCING AND AN OPEN BAR.

JANUARY 26, 2008

NAME _____

HOW MANY ATTENDEES _____ @ \$55.00 per
person

CHECK AMOUNT: _____

Please return this portion of the flyer to Treasurer
Ron Sherman:

4400 Green Lake Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48323

Your check must be received by January 12th, 2008