

THE RIVER VIEW VIEWS

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November 2007

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Hello Everyone,

I hope you are ready for the Holiday Season! We just now put the boats away, the sleds are coming out and soon Carol is decorating, so we are on our way. Is there ever enough time to get fully prepared?

Our election night came off without one single hanging chad or electronic failure. Well, almost. Not wanting to be outdone by recent presidential elections, we did have a recount that ended a three-way tie for the directors and that put an end to our traditional tie breaking tactics. I'm sure this tie breaker lends a better outcome than the Florida tie breaker did! A thank you to all the nominees who participated, the club cannot continue without the support of its members and the volunteers are the one's that keep it going! So again **Thank You!** to all people that accepted their nominations. And please welcome Our 2008 Bridge; Commodore Joe Bacile, Vice Commodore Ed Pritchard, Rear Commodore Pat Thul, Treasurer Lynn Koleski, and the New Director's; P/C Ray Brown and P/C Jean Pritchard. This is a fantastic Bridge with very experienced RVYC Members that will do an excellent job

taking RVYC into the future and at the same time help reduce Gas prices! Also at the November meeting, we were thrilled to accept new members, Mary Ann & Rick Helm. We voted them in unanimously after hearing their name would be an appropriate addition to the club. Welcome!

The RVYC Christmas party and December meeting this year will be held at Mike and Therese Schrage's [house](#) 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 small dish to pass, their favorite adult beverage and a \$5.00 gift to share (and NO, the wrapping paper cannot be included as part of the \$5.00 cost.) So please attend and remember "It's For Fun's Sake!"

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!! Hope to see you at the Party!

Commodore,
Dave Passmore

From the Vice

Well, the boats are all put up for the winter. It was a great boating season. Jim and Carolyn Roth christened their new boat early in the season, sold their old boat late in the season and enjoyed the labors of fleet ownership all summer. Ruthie Sherman cooked a mess of food for all to enjoy and, as always, the liquor flowed very nicely. Fleet Captain Herb Alfaro served RVYC well and has volunteered to do another tour in 2008. Hurray for all the members who helped make this summer a blast!

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.

Vice Commodore
Joe Bacile

From the Rear: That Great Sucking Sound

As Float n Stroke was getting ready for winter with plenty of red pop, green sierra and a nice white plastic cover, a sailboat sought help tying up on the wall by Kean's (serving boaters since 1931) large hoist-well. The

sailboat driver complained that she had tried several slips but the water was too shallow and expressed concern on the ability to get into the hoist slip. The suggestion to, "just pull up your centerboard" was met with a disingenuous glance and the often heard explanation, "global warming is ruining the Great lakes." So what about these Great Lakes? There are several theories depending on where and how you live. Some people living near Lake Superior don't buy global warming as the reason for dropping water levels — a conspiracy theory is more popular. They say Lake Superior was drained through the St. Mary's River to raise the levels of Lake Huron and Lake Michigan. They describe this by comparing it to pulling the plug on a giant bathtub. They claim that's what is happening in the Great Lakes, the largest of which -- Lake Superior -- recently hit its lowest point on record for the month of September. The Canadians quickly piggybacked on this theme saying the Great Lakes -- specifically, lakes Huron and Michigan -- may have sprung a leak. Their claim is that a "hole" caused by dredging in the St. Clair River has effectively pulled the plug on both, which are fed by Superior. "Once you take away the hard gravel cover, you expose soft sand that naturally erodes," a Canadian Great Lakes activist says. "The Georgian Bay Association estimates that 2.5 billion gallons of excess water are sucked down the St. Clair each day." It was puzzling and a little suspicious that the Canadians were quick to jump on the bathtub drain theory;

especially since articles in The Detroit News and reports from several keen (serving boaters since 1931) boaters at the November Meeting declared that the St. Clair River bed is indeed covered by rocks and boulders. In a related story, P/C Jean's sister complained that this summer while bare boating in the North Channel the boat was constantly listing to the southeast. It was explained to her that sailboats under way have a tendency to list (see related blog by Reid Stowe) she replied "even when tied up in a boat slip?" A Canadian source, under condition of anonymity, reported currents as high as 15 knots around the Trent-Severin area and described the sensation of water going out of a bathtub drain: sound familiar? Yep, the real truth has been revealed. The Canadians have been draining the Great Lakes via The Georgian Bay. The Source, sporting a Burka to hide his or her identity (luckily it was at a Labor Day Halloween party where everyone's' attention was on the young woman with the Fredrick's of Hollywood Goldilocks costume) explained that to strengthen the dollar, the Canadian government in conjunction with some Canadian whisky makers have secretly tripled the number of barrels being aged – which requires vast amounts of water. So we are not really losing Great Lakes water, it is just being recycled in the hopes that as U.S. boaters drink more Canadian whisky they will be oblivious to the fact that their boats are resting on the bottom of the lake. Now we have to focus Al Gore on the Canadians!

One final note, as of November 1, 2007 Lake Superior is up 3.5 inches from this time last year, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and is only a foot below normal. That's the closest to normal the lake has been in more than a year, after having been as much as 20 inches below normal earlier this year – maybe someone put the plug back in?

R/C Pritchard

P.S. Hope to see you at The Commodore Ball on January 26, 2008. Treasurer & P/C Sherman will take your check at the December 1, 2007 Christmas party. The planning committee has been working overtime to make this a memorable event for Commodore Passmore.

From the Sunshine Person

Our members Joann Giffer, Ron Bickel and Mary Lou Tusset continue to recuperate from their recent hospital stays. Our best wishes are extended to all of them for speedy recoveries and continued good health.

As reported in our last newsletter, at our past few meetings we have discussed donating our personal time and resources to the Capuchin Mission over the holidays in memory of our Past Commodores Lee Vauris and Chuck Koleski. RVYC was originally scheduled to help serve breakfast at the Mission on

Saturday, November 24th, but that event has been canceled by the Mission. The director of volunteer services at the Mission suggested we recontact them at the beginning of the New Year 2008 to reschedule another time. Also, I will continue to accept personal checks to those wishing to contribute to the Mission in memory of Lee and Chuck and I will deliver any contributions our members may wish to make to the Mission in time for the Christmas holiday. Checks may be mailed to me at 47199 Seven Mile Road, Northville, MI 48167, they should be made payable to the Capuchin Mission.

And, for those of you who do not have email access, we recently sent out a note about the passing of Mr. Richard Ivey. He and his wife, Kitty, were RVYC members until they retired to Florida several years ago. They frequently joined the Club at the Chatham rendezvous. They had a wooden Chris Craft named KITTY IV. Several members have asked for their current address which we are unable to find, if anyone does have it, please let us know so we can send a card to Kitty Ivey from the Club.

Carolyn Roth
Sunshine Person

December Birthdays

Lori Ann Kingston 1
John Roth – 19
Joe Bacile – 26
Judy Thul – 31

December Anniversary's

Don & Karen Bunge – 27
Keith & Beth Armstrong – 31
Dave & Mary Hall - 31

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

JANUARY 26, 2007

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, 2007

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