

THE RIVER VIEW VIEWS

Volume 23 Issue 8

August 2009

Commodore

Ed Pritchard
734-502-1674

Vice Commodore

Jim Baran
313-584-5016

Rear Commodore

Hunt Taylor
248-475-9238

Treasurer

Lynn Koleski
734-420-5391

Secretary

Carolyn Roth
248-982-4675

Past Commodore

Joe Bacile
248-471-5002

Director

Mike Schrage
313-343-0201

Director

Jim Roth
248-982-4809

Fleet Captain

Ruthie Sherman
248-408-7117

Sunshine Lady

Carolyn Roth
248-982-4675

Newsletter Editor

Carolyn Roth
248-982-4675
email: jrcstime@yahoo.com

Web Site

www.rvyc.info

Commodore's Corner

As you will read in RC Taylor's article, the Big Stud Warrior ceremony was great entertainment and I feel honored to join the ranks of RVYC Big Stud Warriors. Thanks again to PC Ron Sherman for acting as the master of ceremonies and for the improvised burial "hole." And I was so caught up in the momentous occasion that I forgot to put out the Poker Run flag signaling cards for purchase. We will make up this opportunity at the September rendezvous.

After two somewhat stormy days in Lexington, *Just Perfect* and *FloatnStroke* headed north for Port Austin. Aboard *Just Perfect* were PC/Treasurer Lynn Koleski and PC Joe Clapper; aboard *FloatnStroke* were PC Herb Alfaro, Juice Alfaro, PC Jean Pritchard and myself. *FloatnStroke* kept three miles off shore and went through several fog banks before reaching the Harbor Beach waypoint. The good news with fog banks is no wind, so the water is flat; only it is difficult to see. We emerged just north of Harbor Beach (gas was \$2.99/gal) to sun and a breeze out of the northwest that kicked-up one to two foot waves, little did we know these would be the last waves we would see on this rendezvous. Yep, Thursday through Saturday was

virtually becalmed; good for us, bad for sailboats.

The trip from Port Austin to Sanilac on Thursday encountered Lake Huron that, as the saying goes, "was flat as a hamburger." *FloatnStroke* navigated the trip with the poor man's auto pilot; set the rudders straight and effect any steering changes by adjusting the trim tabs. Back in Port Austin, there were only six other transient boats, this included a 20' wide catamaran sailboat that kinda looked home made. He was from Grand Island, MI and heading for Key West; to arrive just in time for the October Fantasy Fest. We promised to look for he and his wife on Sloppy Joe's Duval Street camera.

Also found on our dock, after finishing a correctly ordered dinner at The Bank, was long time member Bob Casa. Bob mainly uses his trailer to travel to Florida, and is occupying his daughter's house near Harbor Beach this summer. We had some cocktails with Bob as we caught up and he shared RVYC stories involving long time members Roger Bartlett, Bill Fine, and Bill Nesbitt. During Bob's visit PC/Treasurer Lynn Koleski discovered her first appliance malfunction of the trip. As it turns out Lynn has more issues with onboard appliances

than with docking; in fact, her stern-in docking at Port Austin, Sanilac, and St. Clair was executed "just perfect" on the first try. She announced that all females in the club should be able to stern-in boats and will organize a rendezvous comprised of this activity, more on this later.

So we fell into a nice rendezvous routine; cruise on FLAT water under cloudless skies, successfully docking, eat, drink, do cross word puzzles, read, golf, and congregate on a boat in the evening for games and cocktails. As usual the women won the Sequence game, assorted people won at 31, and PC Joe Clapper was the big winner in LRC by garnering a pot that had rolled over twice. And the final Classic count was one jumbo and three liter bottles; not bad for only having RC Taylor three of the seven nights of the rendezvous. All the rendezvous participants agree that the combination of flat water, uncongested marinas and no mechanical problems, other than the afore mentioned appliance situations (one operator error) resulted in one of the best rendezvous experienced in years.

In July I received an e-mail request from a Professor Peter Gaunt, a British academic historian based at the University of Chester, in north-west England. PC/Treasurer Lynn Koleski remembers Armin, anyone else?

Here is the crux of his e-mail: "I have for some time being trying to contact any

surviving relatives of my father's cousin, Joan Gaunt, who although born in Ireland of mixed British and Irish parents, was brought up and spent most of her life in America after her parents emigrated there around 1920. We know that Joan Gaunt lived for a long time in and around Detroit with her husband, Armin W Stapfer. I chanced upon your excellent and very interesting web-site a few days ago, as it features an Armin Stapfer (The name is so unusual, we know that Armin and Joan lived for many years and indeed died in Detroit, so that I am fairly confident that this is the right Armin.) I appreciate that it is a long shot - he was your commodore a quarter of a century ago now and I know that both Armin and his wife Joan died many years ago, Joan in 1986, Armin in 1991, but I wondered whether some of your longer-serving members might recall Armin and maybe his wife Joan (I have no idea whether she was involved in matters nautical and active in the RVYC) and might have some information about them. I am particularly keen to find out whether Armin and Joan had any children of their own or maybe children from a previous marriage (I don't know whether either had been married before) or any other (younger) relatives who might still be alive and with whom I might be able to make contact." [end of email]

By the time you are reading this newsletter those docking at Kean's (serving boaters since 1931) will have received

dockage contracts for 2010. The Zero (0) Dock fees have gone up from \$50 to \$125 depending on where the boat is stored and the payment schedule. The least expensive option and the one selected by the Commodore (to no one's surprise) is prepaid with outdoor storage for \$2685. The most expensive contract on 0 Dock is monthly payments with indoor storage for \$5206.

Our next club function will be the traditional Labor Day rendezvous this year at St. Clair's Moore Marine Harbor. Last year's Harbor Master Avery Armstrong is now in-charge of the Marina and the Golf course, the new Harbor Master stated that he has "three big clubs" coming in for the Labor Day weekend and will try to locate our slips in close proximity; but it is all based on boat size. His statement, "no one is ever satisfied and everyone gets pissed off" (I think Avery has his work cut out with this guy!).

Remember the bridge opens every half hour and hail the bridge operator on Channel 9 so he knows you are waiting. At 5:30 p.m. on Saturday night of the rendezvous we will have a full-fledged membership meeting in one of the pavilions.

For the balance of 2009, we will have the following meetings in Kean's Banquet room.

Friday, October 2, at 8 p.m. with the traditional bake sale and nominations for the 2010 Bridge.

Friday, November 6, at 8 p.m. with Bridge elections, losers drawing, Poker Run winners and pizza on the club.

Friday, December 4 at 8 p.m., our annual Christmas meeting/party hosted by PC/Treasurer Lynn Koleski

See you in St. Clair.
Commodore Ed

Vice Views

You wouldn't know it by the weather, but this summer is more than half over with. Temperature-wise, it got a late start, but it sure kicked in with a vengeance. Time always flies by when you're having fun.

Our traditional Green and White party took place in a somewhat untraditional location this year – under the canopy in Kean's Marina parking lot. The threat of rain was hovering but it managed to hold off. Wind was a bit of a nuisance, but again, we dealt with. And speaking of "deal," Commodore Ed got us caught up on poker run cards, though I believe he fell behind again at the latest rendezvous. Oops. Food by Halina was tasty and plentiful, and folks had plenty of libations to wash it down with. All in all, another good time was had by all who attended.

The next boat outing is planned for Labor Day weekend at St. Clair. It seems we may even have a General Membership meeting while up there on Saturday the 5th. Officers have been requested to wear their whites, if they can find them,

since they haven't been worn in a while! Docking snafus aside, we always manage to have a good time there, too.

Another good meal is in the planning – the Progressive Dinner at Metro Beach in September. It's interesting to see how creative folks can be in organizing the preparation and serving of the various courses. After-dinner beverages always cap off a great evening.

Hope to see you soon,
somewhere, for Fun's Sake!
V/C Jim Baran

View from the Rear

The RVYC August rendezvous began with the first stop being Belle Maer, onwards to Lexington and Port Austin in the days to follow. The flotilla departed from Kean's Saturday morning August 8th that included *Just Perfect* with PC/Treasurer Lynn Koleski and PC Joe Clapper aboard, PC Ron Sherman and Fleet Captain Ruthie Sherman aboard *Paige of Summer*, aboard *FloatnStroke* were PC Herb Alfaro, Juice Alfaro, PC Jean Pritchard and Commodore Ed Pritchard with Barbara and I invited to ride on "*R*" *Time III* along with Director Jim Roth and Secretary Carolyn Roth. The flotilla arrived at Belle Maer Harbor in the pouring rain around Noon and after everyone docked and were tied in the party began on "*R*" *Time III*. Bill and Elaine Middlekauff along with Carol and PC Dave Passmore came over from their boats to join in the party as the rain continued.

The purpose for the stop at Belle Maer was to have a somewhat local destination to celebrate the annual "Burial of the Commodore" and inaugurate our current Commodore, Ed Pritchard, into the saintly class of "Big Stud Warrior". PC Dave Passmore had planned an on-the-water burial event at the local sand bar swimming hole where the bow of Dave's boat was to become the ritual burial site, but due to the rainy weather that plan was canceled. However, as the afternoon progressed and a break in the clouds developed our forward thinking and action oriented Fleet Captain Ruthie Sherman rallied the tribe for an alternate burial site. As if by magic, a blue tarp and bags of sand appeared on the grass section behind the Sherman's boat and this was quickly anointed the official burial site. Everyone gathered for the ceremonial face painting and feather head dressings thanks to the endless supply of paint and feathers supplied by the Sherman's and Alfaro's. Our mighty "Big Stud Warrior Wanna Be", Ed Pritchard, was summoned from his boat by the sound of drums and the traditional war chant and marched across the grass to the burial site. PC Ron Sherman took control as the acting master of ceremonies for the improvised burial "hole" and the ceremony began. Sand had been spread on the blue tarp where ED was told to lie down with more sand dumped over his body. All the traditional anointments were summoned from the Gods, my favorite being the cleansing waterfall of firewater. Firewater of Southern Comfort was the

name of the chosen anointment with more going in his mouth than over his head. Ed made it through the ceremony with flying colors and now became truly the "Big Stud Warrior"! Activities continued well into the evening far past what I remember.

Sunday, August 9th, the flotilla departed for Lexington, MI by way of the North Channel into the St. Clair River, onwards to Port Huron, under the Blue Water Bridge with Lexington on the horizon. As we came under the bridge and entered Lake Huron we found ourselves in the middle of a sailboat race that must have been the concluding leg of the race. There were at least 40 or 50 sailboats tight hauled and beating for the finish line. The finishing mark was set to the East of the shipping channel so all the sailboats were bearing down on the channel which was a beautiful site.

Even though there was a stiff wind the lake was fairly calm and the ride was very smooth. I have a hint for anyone going to Lexington by boat. It's the second water tower not the first one. We all arrived safely and were docked together in the Lexington Harbor. The public beach next door provided a cool place to swim along with the harbor rock jetty that provided a place to explore. Cocktail hour on the dock that evening also had a very cooling effect.

Monday morning dawned hot and sunny only to be replaced intermittently by frequent threatening clouds and wind.

This did not keep the shoppers from hitting downtown Lexington along with the golfers from hitting the links. (By the way, Herb and Ed lost to Hunt and Jean - front back and overall). Fleet Captain Ruthie Sherman drove up Monday to join the group on the docks bringing a brownie with ice cream topped with a banana brown sugar cinnamon sauce dessert that was to die for. Dinner and cocktails were held on the docks Monday night followed by cards and Classic. What could be better?

The Roth's along with the Taylor's returned to Kean's on Tuesday, while the remaining flotilla continued north to Port Austin.

Regards, RC Hunt Taylor

Treasurer's Report for August

Green & White Report 2009

Expenses:

Catering \$371.00

Total \$371.00

Collected:

33 Paid Dinners \$330.00

50/50: \$ 41.00

Leftovers Sold \$ 30.00

Total checking deposit: \$2,199.29

Fleet Captain's Report

Please see the updated schedule attached, especially the itinerary for the St. Clair rendezvous.

Also note new details about the Sept 26th Progressive Dinner, the October 4th Cemetery Walk and the December 5th Holiday Nights and Dinner at Greenfield Village.

Sunshine Report

Our best wishes are extended to PC Ken Wilkerson for a speedy recovery following recent hip surgery.

Kudos to Hunt Taylor and Jim Roth for putting forth their best efforts during the recent Keans Venetian Day. Mike Litt promised to award two cases of champagne to the dock with the best light show on their respective boats. Hunt and Jim were up to the challenge; in fact, rumor had it that they planned to share their portion of the fine prize with the Club at the Belle Maer burial ceremony if 100 dock won. However, the competition was tough and the prize went to 200 dock (well deserved) which was led in their efforts by RVYC former member Bob Abernethy.

From The Editor

Please see Commodore Ed's current tally of the current Poker Run tournament on the last page of this newsletter.

For the Month of August ... the simple list ...

Thirty-four ... the number of letters in the word *supercalifragilisticexpialidocious*. August 27 marks the 45th anniversary of the film "Mary Poppins". Let her flying umbrella carry you away!

September Birthdays

P/C Lynn Koleski - 14

Mary Lou Tusset

Keith Armstrong - 22

Beth Armstrong - 27

September Anniversaries

Don & Mary Lou Tusset - 5

FLEET CAPTAIN'S RVYC 2009 Schedule of Events

Please email Ruthie @ apaigeofsummer@sbcglobal.net to add your name to any event or sign up at any RVYC function in the Rendezvous Sign Up Book.

Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 5th & 6th - St. Clair Charles F. Moore Harbor

Participants: Alfaros, Baciles, Koleski (with Crains), Middlekaufs, Passmores, Pritchards, senior Roths (with Conrads), Roths (junior), Schrages, Shermans, & Taylors

The St. Clair Marina is full for the weekend, but if you can't come by water, come by land to participate!

Coordinates: 42° 49' 12" N, 82° 29' 05"
Harbor Phone: 810 329-4125 or 586-530-5132
Radio: Channel 9

This is our biggest turn out of the year, let's make it special!

Saturday 8:45 a.m. Blowers on. Leave Kean's at 9:00 a.m.

Saturday after check in, shopping in town, as it is the only day stores may be open for the holiday weekend.

5:30 p.m. Membership meeting

6:30 p.m. Dinner on shore in the pavilion -cook out with your own meat/fish and a dish to pass. Or dine out at a local restaurant of your choice.
Evening kibitzing on the dock with "a little taste" or whatever suits your fancy.

Sunday breakfast on your own.

Sunday 3:00 p.m. light hors d'oeuvres on the dock.

Sunday 7:00 p.m. TOGA PARTY!! This evening is "college night" in St Clair Harbor. Wear your best party sheet/toga and join us for pizza which will be delivered on the dock. Cost to be divided up and collected per person that morning. Juice and I will make a salad to accompany the pizza. Bring your favorite college drink! Or partake of the multi-alcohol infused watermelon "jug". Games on the dock, Thumper, FizzBuzz, Quarter bounce...just like the old college days! (Sorry, fellas, no panty raids!) Bring your quarters as we will be playing for moolah, not doing shots when messing up with games!! There will be a special prize for the best Toga "outfit"!

Monday 9:30 a.m. Group Breakfast ... we just may need it badly!

Monday 11:00 a.m. head for home ports.

Progressive Dinner at Metro Beach - Saturday, September 26th

Participants: Alfaros, Baciles, Barans, Pritchards

Here is a reminder of how it works. I will put the names in a "hat" and pull out a name for soup, then a name for salad, and again for entree. If no one else signs up for this event, I will also assign an appetizer to accommodate the 4th couple. You will then have one dinner group of 8. The last day to sign up is September 12th. If you want to join in after that, you must recruit another 2 couples to make up a dinner party of 6. Please do not ask to join in as a single couple, as it causes everyone else to scramble when they played by the rules and should be able to prepare for the "big event" without last minute glitches. On September 13th, I will email all signed up participants to tell them what their course will be. If others sign up before the 12th, on the 25th I will email who their group will be. My family did this up north. Everyone made a theme for their table, and had favors to give as gifts (silly dollar store items). It really was a blast. It is up to you what you want to do. Have fun, fuss a bit and enjoy yourselves! Bon appetit.

Sunday morning egg boil. Bring an ingredient to share.

Oakwood Cemetery Walk in Northville - Sunday, October 4th (Date Changed)

(Historical, not scary!) See Carolyn's details below

Participants: Baciles, Lynn Koleski, Pritchards, Roths (senior), Shermans

[note from Carolyn Roth: Tickets to the cemetery walk must be purchased in advance, since I live in Northville it's handy for me to do. We need to get them as soon as possible because we want to do this in a group and get an early start time. The event is from 5 to 8 p.m., tickets are \$10 each. Please call or email me and I will put you on the list. Plans include meeting prior to the walk at our house for a warm libation, go to the walk then back for a potluck supper.]

Month of November - possibly visit Thanksgiving Day Parade Company

(Details to follow)

Christmas Party - Friday, December 4th -

At Lynn Koleski's home.

**Saturday, December 5th - Holiday Nights and Dinner
at Greenfield Village**

Participants: Pritchards, Shermans

Tickets are now available and we need to purchase by the end of August,
price is \$66 per person.

Dinner is at 5 p.m., followed by a walk through the Village.

Please notify Ruthie as soon as possible to get on the list and get your
payment to her.

Saturday, January 30th, 2010 - Commodore's Ball –

To be held at Laurel Manor

Poker Run as of 8-16-09

	1 st card	2nd card	3rd card	4th card	5th card	6th card	7 th card
Alfaro, Juice	X	X	3 clubs	King spades	10 spades		
Bacile, Carol	X						
Bacile, Joe	X						
Baran, Jim	X	X	King hearts				
Baran, Linda	X	X	6 diamonds				
Brown, Barb	X	X	2 clubs				
Brown, Ray	X	X	5 diamonds				
Clapper, Joe	X						
Drawe, Kim	X						
Koleski, Lynn	X	X	7 diamonds	Queen clubs			
Pritchard, Ed	X	X	8 diamonds	4 hearts	Ace diamonds		
Pritchard, Jean	X	X	8 spades	King diamonds	10 diamonds		
Sherman, Ron	X	X	3 spades	3 hearts			
Sherman, Ruthie	X	X	5 spades	Queen diamonds			