

# THE RIVER VIEW VIEWS

Volume 23 Issue 3

March 2009

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**From the Commodore**

He announced six more weeks of winter? Can we believe a large rodent? Then again, his prognostication is on average better than all the "Tracker 4", "Doppler 7", and "Cross-Calibrated GPS 2.0" espoused by our smiling weather heads on the weather channel (which would be more correctly named the commercial channel).

So what else are you going to do in February? Ahh ...the Boat Show! Talk about a mere shell of its former self. The only reason P/C Jean and I ventured to the *soon to be closed* Cobo Hall Boat Show this year (see related story on Monica Conyers) was free entry tickets and we would just slip over to The Joe for a hockey game that evening (see note at the end of this article.). As Ernie would say, "Long gone are the Oceans, Vikings, Four-Winns, Thompsons, Jeffersons, Beneteaus and Hunters." (Sailboats) Remember the sailboats? And if you haven't been keeping up with Reid Stowe and his 1000 days at sea on a 72 foot sloop, his February was exciting when he capsized in a south Atlantic storm. Reid said, "I liken this boat to a steel and fiberglass (Ferralite) bottle with a deep keel. We put 42,000 pounds of junkyard lead and

steel into the bottom of our keel and cast it in cement. The water tanks are built on top of that out of Nida-Core (honeycomb fiberboard) and epoxy so there are many tons of water on top of the ballast." How many of us have capsized in February?

Back to the boat show; if you were in the market for a bass boat or pontoon boat, the boat show was a must! And our daughter Pam and son-in-law Dave did just that; purchased a 19' deck boat from Wilson Marine of Lake Chemung. Lake Chemung is a fond memory in our families' boating history; when we had our first boat, a 17' Sea Ray shore boat, Chemung was a favorite lake where we launched from the DNR ramp and where the girls learned to water ski and tube. Also the first place I damaged a prop; but as it turned out not the last.

Speaking of buying and selling, most of you by now know that P/C and Treasurer Lynn Koleski has found a buyer for the house on Long Lake and is in the market for a boat. We anticipate she will be a major buyer at the nautical auction at the May 1<sup>st</sup> Membership Meeting to be held in the now named Banquet Hall (see P/C and V/C Baran's article).

We are still looking for membership renewals. As discussed at membership meetings last fall; we have reduced the number of meetings this year and will not have membership meetings in March or April: the first membership meeting will be May 1<sup>st</sup> so you need to email, mail or deliver your renewal form and check to P/C and Treasurer Lynn Koleski.

Upcoming events include: Cadieux Café feather bowling March 15<sup>th</sup>; Zoo walk and dinner at Howe's Bayou on April 5<sup>th</sup>; and, Purple Rose Theatre on April 19<sup>th</sup>. A post-bowling group acted as an advance party and dined at Howe's Bayou in February.

We are happy to announce they still have Abita Beer on tap and serve some great New Orleans Cajun entrees. Fellow bowler Dennis Kunkel and I had an interesting experience in paying our tabs. It turns out both of us have the same Northwest Visa Worldperks credit cards and, yep, our server mixed them up and it was a week later before we discovered the error. And that included a visit to Xochimilco's by P/C Jean and I where the waitress compared Dennis's credit card with my drivers license and proclaimed everything was in order. During my subsequent investigation of credit card charges I discovered that Xochimilco's had increased the amount billed vs. what I had totaled on the slip after adding the tip. Only about \$.54, however, son-in-law Dave did experience Xochimilco's increasing his bill by \$4. I am going to say something to them next time but as the saying goes, "cash is king."

Those of you that have been to a hockey game at The Joe recently can appreciate this cell phone shot:



See ya'll at the Cadieux Café.

*For Fun Sake,*  
Commodore Ed Pritchard

### Vice Views

March ... in like a lion ... out like a lamb! About two more weeks of Winter, according to the calendar, and then Spring. We'll see. And, can you believe daylight savings time begins March 8<sup>th</sup>? Remember when it was the first weekend in May? Besides the first robin of Spring, we can look forward to Feather Bowling at the Cadieux Café. The day is Sunday, the date is March 15<sup>th</sup>, and the time is 4 p.m. Get there early to get your teams together.

The game has its origins in western Flanders, Belgium, where it is known as 'trabollen.' The Cadieux Cafe is proud to be the only home of Feather

bowling in the United States. The game is rarely played in Belgium, and visitors from the old country are often astonished to see the game preserved as it is here.

Any number of participants can play the game. Once this is settled, the players are divided into two teams, a red team and a green team. If there are more than three people on a team, players may have to stay on opposite ends of the lane from their teammates. When the teams are set, a coin flip is used to determine which color starts. Teams take turns rolling 12 balls (six for each team) and may knock their opponent's balls out of the way, similar to Bocce. The game is over when one of the teams reaches ten points or more (winning by two points is not required).

An average game takes about forty-five minutes. After the game, we'll have a Club meeting while waiting for our dinner.

It was nice to read the note in the last newsletter regarding the call from Pete Mischung. Pete was already a long-time member when I joined the Club in 1990. Time flies when you're having fun.

Speaking of Fun, hope to see you at the Cadieux Café and then at the Detroit Zoo in April, with dinner after at Howe's Bayou, *for fun's sake!*

V/C Jim Baran

## **Greetings from the Rear**

The Venetian Theme, Parade, Blessing of the Fleet and Party

The 2009 Venetian Blessing of the Fleet is scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 2009. The theme of this year's Venetian is "Favorite Sports Team". This means that everyone, and I mean everyone, should decorate their boats, their dogs, their children, their wife and their dock with sports memorabilia from their favorite sports team. The definition of one's "favorite sports team" is whatever sports team in the world that you somehow favor. It could be a football team with the worst record in the world (I can't think of a good example). It could be your favorite professional baseball team. It could be your favorite high school team. It could be your favorite college team. It could be the college where your life savings were used to put your children through those eight years of schooling and still not having diplomas to show for it. It could be your favorite Australian Football team. It could be Al Capp's favorite European soccer team.

Barbara and I have a problem. Her favorite sports team happens to be any team from Purdue University. My favorite sports team is any team from the University of Virginia. Now, who do you think won this argument? Of course I did because I get to decorate the starboard side of Martouki with UVa stuff and Barbara will be decorating the port side of the boat with PU stuff. The point

is whatever sports team you choose, the idea is to decorate and have fun. First place prize will be season tickets to the Detroit Red Wings, second place will be season tickets for the Detroit Tigers, and third place will be season tickets for the Detroit Pistons (The commodore is still working all this out and may be subject to change). Last place of course will be season tickets to the Detroit Lions.

The club did receive official approval and sanctioning from the U. S. Coast Guard for the official parade route from Kean's Marina down to the Belle Isle Bridge circling back around in front of DYC and back to Kean's dock where the blessings will be delivered to each yacht, punctuated by a cannon shot.

You cannot have a favorite sports team without having a "tailgate party". All the details for the "tailgate party" have not been worked out along with trying to get as many boats docked stern-in at the Kean's 100 Dock. The preliminary plan is to have a tailgate menu featuring Barbeque (ribs, chicken, pulled pork), an assortment of side dishes, dessert and UVa's world famous "trash can" Hawaiian Punch (Jim Roth, "I'll be contacting you regarding some grain alcohol").

Schedule of events for June 13, 2009:

7:00 am - 2:30 pm - boat decorating  
1:00 pm - set-up tables and cover cooking area  
2:45 pm - blowers on

5:30 pm - start cooking; mix and taste "trash can" punch; and, taste again  
6:30 pm - dinner

As additional details are formulated and agreed upon they will certainly be communicated in next month's news letter.

Best regards.  
VC Hunt Taylor

## **From The Editor**

Just another reminder to please fill out and return your 2009 membership renewal form to Lynn Koleski by March 15<sup>th</sup> so you will be included in the 2009 roster. Again, the membership form is included in this newsletter.

In addition to the many events planned for the next several months by our Fleet Captain (special thanks to Ruthie for such a great agenda), there are two more fun dates soon approaching, those being St. Patrick's Day and April Fool's Day.

Since everyone is Irish on March 17<sup>th</sup>, there is no need for an historical rendering on this holiday. However, for April Fool's Day, there may be a few facts some of us may not know about this auspicious day.

### April Fool's Day History 101

The history of April Fool's Day or All Fool's Day is uncertain, but the current thinking is that it began around 1582 in France with the reform of the calendar under Charles IX. The Gregorian Calendar was

introduced and New Year's Day was moved from March 25<sup>th</sup> – April 1 (new year's week) to January 1. Communication traveled slowly in those days and some people were only informed of the change several years later. Still others, who were more rebellious, refused to acknowledge the change and continued to celebrate on the last day of the former celebration, April 1. These people were labeled "fools" by the general populace, were subject to ridicule and sent on "fool errands," sent invitations to nonexistent parties and had other practical jokes played upon them. The butts of these pranks became known as a "poisson d'avril" or "April fish" because a young naïve fish is easily caught. In addition, one common practice was to hook a paper fish on the back of someone as a joke.

This harassment evolved over time and a custom of prank-playing continue on the first day of April. This tradition eventually spread elsewhere to such places as Britain and Scotland in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and was introduced to the American colonies by the English and French. Because of this spread to other countries, April Fool's Day has taken on an international flavor with each country celebrating the holiday in its own way.

In Scotland, for instance, April Fool's Day is devoted to spoofs involving the buttocks and as such is called Taily Day. The butts of these jokes are known as April 'Gowk', another name for cuckoo bird. The origins of the "Kick Me" sign can be traced back to the Scottish observance.

In England, jokes are played only in the morning. Fools are called 'gobs' or 'gobby' and the victim of a joke is called a 'noodle.' It was considered bad luck to play a practical joke on someone after noon.

The list goes on and on in many countries with their specific customs of honing in on "fools".

So, no matter where you happen to be in the world on April 1st, don't be surprised if April fools fall playfully upon you!

#### **April Birthdays**

Barb Leone – 7  
Choux Wingert – 8  
Ray Lacey – 12  
Ron Bickel – 16  
P/C Jim Baran – 18  
P/C Jean Pritchard – 20  
Hunt Taylor – 24  
Bob Nixon - 25  
Diane Deptula – 26

#### **April Anniversaries**

Joe & Carol Bacile – 7

## **RVYC 2009 Schedule of Events (Updated March 2009)**

Please email Ruthie @ [apaigeofsummer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:apaigeofsummer@sbcglobal.net) to add your name to any event or sign up at any RVYC function in the Rendezvous Sign Up Book. As we get closer to the boating season, further details will be updated on events. The dates currently posted will remain the same, but the few with question marks have not been finalized as yet... too early to set up!

### **Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 4 p.m. - Feather bowling at Cadieux Café**

Dinner immediately following at 5 p.m.

Participants: Alfarnos, Baciles, Barans, Koleski, Pritchards,  
Shermans & Thuls

Directions The Cadieux Cafe is located at latitude 42° 24' 6", longitude - 82° 55' 36". This location is sometimes translated as 4300 Cadieux Road (on Detroit's historic lower east side). Take the Cadieux Exit (exit number 223) off Interstate 94 and head southeast (toward the lake) on Cadieux Road for about a mile. The Cadieux Cafe will be on your left (a few blocks past Warren Ave.). You can't miss it, even if you try!

### **Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 3 p.m. - visit Detroit Zoo**

Following with dinner at 5:30 p.m., at Howe's Bayou located at 22848 Woodward Ave., Ferndale 48220, tel. 248-691-7145.

Participants: Alfarnos, Baciles, Koleski, Pritchards, Shermans & Thuls

### **Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> - Purple Rose Theater in Chelsea, MI**

Show at 2 p.m., followed with dinner at The Common Grill.

We have play tickets for 23 and dinner reservations for 23 as well.

They will put us at tables of eight.

They agreed to separate checks by couples.

We MAY carpool in two or three vans, details to follow.

Directions are below if you are driving yourself.

Participants: Baciles, Barans, Crains, Helms (6), Rose Loose, Passmores,  
Pritchards & Shermans (4) & Thuls

Directions: The Purple Rose Theatre Company is located at 137 Park Street in Chelsea, Michigan: 1 hour from Detroit, 2 hours from Grand Rapids, 15 minutes from Ann Arbor.

From Detroit/Ann Arbor/Points East Take I-94 westbound to the Chelsea/Manchester exit #159. The exit ramp will curve sharply to the right to a traffic light (M-52.) Turn left at the light and travel approximately 2 miles north on M-52 until you reach downtown Chelsea.

The first downtown traffic light will be at the intersection of Park Street and M-52. Park Street is labeled as South Street on the opposite side of M-52. Turn right at this light. The theatre (brick exterior) is on the left side approximately 100 yards down Park Street. Parking is available on Park Street or in the municipal lot next to the theatre.

The Common Grill is 1 block from theater, walking distance. They have a great website with menus and such at [www.commongrill.com](http://www.commongrill.com).

**Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday & Sunday, May 23-24 - Cove Marina**

10 boat wells reserved.

Participants: Alfarnos, Baciles, Pritchards & Shermans

**Venetian - Saturday, June 13**

Theme is Favorite Sports Team

Participants: Alfarnos, Koleski, Pritchards, Shermans, (senior) Roths, Taylors & Thuls

**Put-In-Bay – June 26 & 27**

With weekday(s) before or after for those who prefer the quieter island. This is still to be finalized after discussion at next meeting.

**Fourth of July Holiday at Bel Mar Harbor - July 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>**

(details to follow)

**July 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> - Metro Beach**

(details to follow)

**Green and White Party - Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>**

(details to follow)

**Lake Huron Trip - August 8<sup>th</sup> thru 15<sup>th</sup>**

Ports of call: Lexington, (bury the commodore??) Port Austin, East Tawas, Caseville (cheeseburger in paradise festival), Port Huron

**Labor Day Weekend, September 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> - St. Clair City Boat Harbor**

Toga party on the 6<sup>th</sup>

**Progressive Dinner at Metro Beach - Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>**

(details to follow)

**Oakwood Cemetery Walk in Northville - Sunday, October 11th**

(historical, not scary! details to follow)

**Month of November** - possibly visit Thanksgiving Day Parade Company  
(details to follow)

**Christmas Party - Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**  
(at Lynn Koleski's home)

**Month of December - Holiday Nights and Dinner at Greenfield Village**  
(possibly on a Saturday?)

**Saturday, January 30th, 2010 - Commodore's Ball**  
To be held at Laurel Manor.

## RIVER VIEW YACHT CLUB MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – 2009

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner Name \_\_\_\_\_

Is your Spouse/Partner also a Member (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Your Birthday (D/M) \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Partner's Birthday (D/M) \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Anniversary (D/M/Y) \_\_\_\_\_

Boat Name \_\_\_\_\_

Make of Boat \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_ ft Beam \_\_\_\_\_ ft

Home Port \_\_\_\_\_

Dock and Well Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to River View Yacht Club, Inc. (\$10 per member renewing). Please bring a check and this form to the next club meeting, or send to:

Treasurer Lynn Koleski  
39576 Village Run Drive  
Northville, MI 48167

**Please complete the entire form.** This information will be used to create this year's roster and update the RVYC.info Web Site. Prior year information will **NOT** be used. **REMINDER:** dues are payable on/before **MARCH 15, 2009**, so that you will be included in the 2009 roster.