



MHYC

"The Affordable Family Boat Club"

FORE & AFT

March/April 2008

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Hello Everyone, as this is my first column as your new Commodore, I will try to be brief and yet fill you in on recent events, and some thoughts for this year.

Those of you who were able to attend the Commodore's Ball had a great time with good food, music and dancing, and socializing until the hotel kicked us out. We welcomed two new members to the Club that night, **Frank Bunker** (friend of Linda & Charlie) and **Glenn and Ruth Marczewski**, who keep their boat at McKinley.

It is unfortunate that many of our members were not able to attend the Commodore's Ball this year due to being out of town or other obligations, even though the date for the event was decided last June and has been known by all the members since last summer. Because of this, we will be looking to move the event to a different month in the future to avoid vacation conflicts. Any ideas on that from all of you will be welcomed.

We have a new slate of Club Officers this year, and they are:

Commodore - Mike Schultz
Vice Commodore - David Erbstoeszter
Recording Secretary - Karen Erbstoeszter
Treasurer - Robert Wolf
Member at Large - Linda Brown
Member at Large - Steve Shaw
Membership Chairman - Charlie Brown
Newsletter - still open
Webmaster - MaryAnn Wolf
Safety - still open
Sunshine - Karen Schmidt

I want to thank all of these people for volunteering their time and efforts to help the MHYC to prosper and grow in 2008. Please contact me if you would be able to help us fill the two open positions on the Board.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please keep in mind that the Chili Dump is on **April 19th** at Barnacle Bud's, and the Commissioning Party, Family day/open house is on **May 17th**. More information on those events will be sent out in the near future, but be sure to mark your calendars now for these events.

MEMBERSHIP

We now have the 2008 roster available by email. It will soon be sent to you.

It is unfortunate that we have had a few members not renew with us, but I am hoping that all of you will be working hard to add new members to the Club this year, and I will be talking to all of you about that.

Mike Schultz, Commodore

SOME RAMBLING THOUGHTS ON WATER by Charlie Brown

On Sunday, May 22nd, the Milwaukee Journal had a multipage article on the current, and growing problem of the uses and conservation of water. We want to boat in it, but a lot of other states want Lake Michigan water for drinking and industrial uses.

So, one un-nerving statement in the article is that Georgia is considering re mapping and extending its borders so that they fall across a reservoir currently in Kentucky. The obvious idea is to allow them to tap into another state's waters.

Not much of a step from that, to some other drought-struck states demanding their part of the resource called the Great Lakes watershed.

This is a growing and contentious situation, and what to do about the Great Lakes compact has a serious potential effect on citizens of Milwaukee, as well as the boating community. This is *not* something that we can just sit and watch develop, but something that we need to express our opinions to our government. ***To that end, please take a few moments, and send or e-mail your thoughts (not just a "pre-prepared form letter") to your congressional delegation expressing your concerns and your possible thoughts on future directions.***

Spring Commissioning -- in spite of looking out the window and seeing a foot of snow on the roof, it is time! Time to look at all the moldy, outdated flares on our boat and bring them up to date. Time to take all the fire extinguishers out a bracket, and bump them with a rubber mallet or 2 x 4 so that they actually can work. Time to see if the batteries left in the boat fully charged last fall still have any semblance of a useful life. AHH-boating. Just think, if global warming is a true fact, we may have year around boating in a short time.

LMYA-WHAT AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP OFFERS YOU

Most boaters join a yacht club for a place to use and store their boat. The LMYA exists to enhance those experiences and make sure that others in the future will be able to do likewise. The LMYA expands the horizons of boaters. It brings new people to different places. We encourage camaraderie and education among members. Through the exclusive Cruising Card™ no other organization can offer, you a better investment in boating's future, with discounts at participating marinas and Clubs.

A yacht club joins as a voting member of the LMYA. Further benefits are available to individuals of these LMYA member clubs. There are two types of individual membership — Sustaining and Life. A sustaining member pays annual dues and renews the membership. A Life member pays once and is a member for life. All members get the SPREADER. It's a quarterly publication update on all that is happening in boating on Lake Michigan. New members get a complete roster and renewal members get updated inserts.

If you are a member of one of the affiliated clubs listed on this site, you are already eligible to join. Boaters and other non-club organizations can become a contributing member. Such applications must be made to the Board of Directors for consideration.

For lack of a better comparison, the LMYA is the "NRA" of boating. We are a group of people who get involved. We are interested in our sport. We want to improve the sport and increase the ways we can utilize boats and water sport activity. Recently, we have caused to be re-traced prohibitive trailering rules. We are fighting to open the FOX locks in Wisconsin. We are fighting to clean up toxic hot spots in Illinois. We are fighting restrictive anchoring laws in Indiana. We are watching restrictive and prohibitive so-called "grey water" discharge legislation in Michigan. We need your support. You need to be a part of the LMYA!

HINTS FROM HEL(m)OISE

FLOAT PLANS (suggested by) HEL(m)OISE

I am certain that most of you have seen pre-printed float plans that seem to have been designed for somebody undertaking an extended ocean cruise. Perhaps what we really need is a concise float plan tailored for the one day to one week cruises. Plus, it should be more useful for your on-shore friends. In addition to the float plan included here, there is one from the US Coast Guard that we can get from Mike if you are interested. Final thoughts and notes on a float plan : make absolutely certain that you let your contact person know that you have either arrived at your destination or returned home.

Also making your own custom float plan with pre-printed information and owner and boat details will make things a lot easier.

FLOATPLAN,

Date filed ___ \ ___ \ _____

Coast Guard Phone Number _____ - _____ Fax number _____ - _____

Person reporting this missing boat _____

Date & time of last contact with owner/operator ___/___/___, ___:___ AM / PM

Possible (area or location) of last contact _____

Contact person's Address _____ phone _____

Date & time of report to The US Coast Guard ___/___/___, ___:___ AM / PM

Boat owner/operator _____ Age _____

Owner/operator's home address _____

Home telephone _____ Cell phone number _____

Email address _____

Boat name _____

Wisconsin registration number _____ HIN _____

Boat Make _____ Model _____

Length _____ Ft. Hull color _____ Canvas color _____

Boat has VHF (Y/N) _____ & monitors channel _____

Number of people on board _____

Number of PFD's kept onboard the vessel: _____

Port of departure _____ Departure time/date _____/_____/____

Intermediate stops _____ Estimated arrival time/date _____/_____/____

Intermediate stops _____ Estimated arrival time/date _____/_____/____

Intermediate stops _____ Estimated arrival time/date _____/_____/____

Intermediate stops _____ Estimated arrival time/date _____/_____/____

Anticipated destination port _____

Anticipated arrival time at destination port _____

PAST COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

My, what a winter we have had. But it didn't stop MHYC from some excellent monthly events. We enjoyed our first Friday Fish Fry at Alioto's with Dick and Karen chairing this event. This was a warm and socially excellent gathering after the holidays.

Next we enjoyed a Brunch in February at Thunder Bay arranged by Mike Schultz with the help of the Erbstoeszers. Oh so many choices of great food. We were able to have the back room where we've held two Commodore's Balls in the recent past for this event. Charlie then showed some photos of an April storm at the Art Center and water's edge.

And we held another successful Commodore's Ball and auction. With a smaller group this year, we moved to the Concourse Room at the Clarion Hotel. **Thank you Ruth and Walt Olsen** for your generous donations of a stainless steel propane kettle barbecue grill, plus a couple of propane canisters; a quart of blue bottom pain; a "Boater's Dry Box 12"x6"x10" high, and some nice ½" dock line. We appreciate your thinking of MHYC as you "clean house."

There were many nice donations including a dinner certificate from **Great Lakes Marine Services Inc**, to the Wilson House in Port Washington won by Andy & Ellen Baugher, a small folding table and two chairs from **West Marine**, was won by Woody and Mary Wilson, and a \$100 gift certificate from **Skipper Bud's** won by Steve and Mary Beth Bucher. *Be sure to thank our donors when you visit their stores and marinas.* **Mary Beth Bucher** and **Sue Tatge** helped **Bob Wolf** with the auction. There were other great selections this year donated by members, including some who could not attend, we thank you all.

Dave Hall as always was wonderful entertainment. His music, his voice and his repartee!

It's so nice to have music throughout our social hour, and he expressed an interest in our Club.

Review the calendar of events for 2008, and choose the one you'd like to take a leadership role in making it happen. **Dick and Karen Schmidt** handled the Fish Fry, and will next be in charge of the Chili Dump. Thank you for your contributions Dick and Karen. Contact Mike Schultz or Dave Erbstoeszser so one of them can help you chair or work on the upcoming events.

Thank you for electing me to be Commodore last year. But it's not one person who does it all. **Mike Schultz** was a significant leader this past year, and will make a fine Commodore. **Karen Erbstoeszser** prepared excellent minutes very timely. Speaking of Minutes, the last two general meeting minutes will be sent to members in a separate email. And **Bob Wolf** as always makes sure our bills are paid, and collects all that is due us. We'll again be bringing the donation lighthouse to events to help the Club defray costs. And **Marilyn Koerner** was helpful in many ways as a member-at-large and event chair or significant helper on several events. Her St. Patrick's Day decorations at each table at the Commodore's Ball were very nice and fun to take home. Our past commodore, **Ellen Baugher**, played a very important role in several ways last year via the Communication Committee which I set up to assist the clear and timely communication to all members. While we weren't able to fix the website, we have moved the Fore & Aft from mailing at increasingly higher costs, to emailing. This also enables us to stay in touch in a timelier manner than if all is sent by mail. The general meeting minutes and recent MHYC activity photos will be mailed out to you in a separate email soon.

And now we look forward to some new members on the Board: Dave Erbstoeszser and Steve Shaw. Our Club lives on as new members join us, then at a suitable time, help us with running the Club and events. Thanks for saying "Yes" to the call to serve.

Linda Brown, Past Commodore