



March 2009

Commodore's Comments:

Hi Everyone,

Spring is back with a promise of another warm Summer for us to all enjoy. Let's hope we don't see a repeat of the Monsoons like we had last Summer, or the high gas prices. Those of us who were able to attend the February Event at the Discovery World Museum had a wonderful time exploring all there is to see and do there. The hands on exhibits were a lot of fun, and the aquariums were spectacular. We spent about five hours there, and then all met for dinner at the Riverfront Pizzeria and Grill. See the Website for all the event pictures.

We had an event planned for March, but unfortunately, there was very little interest expressed by the members in attending the event. So, once again, I am asking for ideas from all of you for fun events you would like to see us do. These do not have to be just boating events, they could just be meeting somewhere for dinner, going to a special event somewhere as a group, having a party to celebrate someone's birthday, or whatever you can think of. We are working with Skipper Bud's to schedule a Captains Led Cruise for us sometime this summer. Some of the ideas suggested so far are: a trip across the Lake, or a trip to Racine, Sheboygan, or Kenosha. And, we would like to make the trip up to Door County and the Sturgeon Bay area to visit with the Wilson's and do some cruising in that beautiful area. Please get back to me with your thoughts and ideas on all of this.

We are making an effort to get the Fore & Aft out each month, but we need your input. It is difficult for the same few people to try and write new information each month to pass on to the members, and it sure would be nice if each of you could give us some information about things that you and your family have done that would interest all of us. It does not have to be a boating story, as it could be about a vacation or trip you took, or any event in your family's lives you care to share. It could be just a quick bit of info about an unusual event or something that you were involved in, or witnessed. Think of some fun things to share with all of us and pass them on to a Board Member. Remember, this is YOUR Club.

I have been working hard on updating our Website, and I invite all of you to please take a look at the site and let me know your opinions and ideas to make it even better. Dave Erbstoesz and I will be sharing the duties of Webmaster for now, so please feel free to contact either of us. I will be asking for your thoughts on our 2009 schedule of Events in the near future. Our website address is: <http://www.mhyc.org>

Hints from HEL(m)OISE

To start off with, we are all now staring at the fact that it is less than a month from the official launch date. Some have probably got everything all done by now, (???), but then there are the 90% rest of us. So here goes for a few thoughts on a few items sometimes missed before launch date.

Bilge Pumps--we all have them, but how many people actually know whether it actually works? You know how to check them, right? You just lift the float switch, or turn the dash switch on, and if the motor runs you're all set, right? Well HEL(m)OISE bought a used boat some years ago, and set about checking everything out. Quickly found out that both the float switch and the dash switch certainly got the motor to run, but after the bilge was flooded for cleaning, the pump motor ran but nothing came out. Further investigation found that the impeller was slipping on the shaft! Took a new pump to fix that!

Other pumps—well, the shower stall, and other sump-pumps are not as critical. But how long has it been since you actually checked them for flow? This could save you from a wet and very messy carpet.

Starting and house batteries - how long has it been since you checked the age on your batteries? Most new "sealed for life" batteries do have a simple "indicator" on one cell, but that is no real assurance that other cells are OK. If yours are more than three or so years old, consider the cost of new batteries versus the cost of a water tow!

Speaking of batteries, do you have an assortment of cells aboard for hand-held VHF, portable GPS, flashlights, and other such odds and ends?

And how about checking your Navigation lights, and getting the bulb numbers? Then laying in an assortment of the critical bulbs on board?

And, all of your canvas is waterproof, right?? Well if not quite so, this is a tip straight from Sunbrella. First, clean the canvas, then after fully dry, spray on one or more light coats of "303 High-tech Fabric Guard", and enjoy a drip-free summer. For more care info, try www.sunbrella.com.

And a final thought on the cost of fuel. HEL(m)OISE has heard that twin-screw boats can run more economically at Slow-No-Wake speeds by switching off one engine. However, the theoretical saving might be offset by the drag of the non-rotating screw. Also the boat might be slightly crabbing, which would tend to make it a bit less efficient. Sounds like a good idea, but anyone that has had any experience trying this, please send your comments to the editor, via MHYC Commodore.

More later, HEL(m)OISE

Membership Thoughts by Charlie Brown,

We now have really professional-looking tri-folds, so the next step is to effectively use them. Simply leaving them at various locations has not yielded very good results, so I am suggesting a

different approach. Boats and boat launch-ramps seem to go together, so I propose that club members spending some time this spring at the several launch-ramps in the area, and talk to those boaters that are possible members. (That means talking to anyone actually OWNING a boat, USING a boat, or INTERESTED in boating! And remember, size of the boat is not an issue as we are looking for trailer boaters also.)

So, I am asking for volunteers who can spend a bit of time at a launch-site contacting boaters, handing out the Tri-Fold to interested parties, and discussing the club, what we do, and the enjoyment it brings. If you are up to spending an hour or two, please-please!!! Contact; Charlie Brown 414-881-9060 or Email, boatercharlie@execpc.com.

REMEMBER, even though Uncle Sam needs you, MHYC needs you at least as much, so help the club you enjoy by investing a few hours of your time.

Thoughts from our Safety Chairman – Frank Bunker

Just wanted to say a few words to remind our members -- to keep it safe out there when you launch your boat for the first time this year.. remember to check all the safety items to make sure they are on the boat & functioning properly (Fire Ext., PFD's, Navigation Lights, Batteries, Horns work for sounding your signals, ropes/lines are up to full strength & not frayed, and don't forget to share your float plan with people still at home before you launch for that first spring trip!) .. good luck, be safe and have fun... and don't forget to tell fellow boaters about the "Affordable Family Boat Club"... MHYC !

RECALL INFORMATION FROM THE OFFICE OF BOATING SAFETY:

Name of product: Kidde XL Fire Extinguishers Units: About 167,000

Distributor: Walter Kidde Portable Equipment Inc., of Mebane, N.C.

Hazard: The pressurized cylinders in the recalled fire extinguishers could lose pressure and fail to operate. In the event of a fire, this failure could put a consumer and property at risk.

Incidents/Injuries: None reported.

Description: This recall involves the Kidde XL Fire Extinguishers with model numbers FX340SC, FX340H, FX340GW, XL5MR, FX210R, FX340SC-2, FX210W, XL2.5TCZ-4, E-340-3 and with manufacture dates between October 2007 and April 2008. "Kidde" and the model number can be found on the label on the front of the extinguisher. The manufacture year is on the bottom of the extinguisher. If your extinguisher is one of the listed model numbers and is marked with the year 07 or 08, contact Kidde to determine if you have a recalled extinguisher.

Sold at: Department, home, and hardware stores nationwide from October 2007 through April 2008 for about \$35.

Manufactured in: Mexico

Remedy: Consumers should immediately inspect the pressure gauge. If it points to the red zone, contact Kidde to receive a free replacement extinguisher. If the gauge is not in the red zone, but you have questions about an extinguisher within the listed model numbers, please contact Kidde for additional information.

Additional details are available at the following web sites. Please cascade to all members ASAP.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09151.html>

<http://www.kidde.com>