



The Docksider



Winter 2011



THE HELM

A GREAT 2011 SEASON

2011 was a great year with loads of fun. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended, assisted or ran the events and rendezvous.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in the 2012 season, hopefully starting with an early spring.

Commodore Linda Onstwedder

THE EVENTS

Put-in Bay Rendezvous

September 9th to 11th

With major threatening weather moving thru the area, this event unfortunately had to be cancelled.

Steak Roast

September 18th

A mountain of mushrooms cleaned, 20 pounds of onions sliced (without a tear ... really) and a truly impressive amount of tenderloins cooked to perfection were the perfect match for a great September Sunday afternoon at the littlest club. Many thanks to hosts **Anne** and **Lee Nyboer** along with **Maxine** and **Lou Hartman** who helped make this event a big success.

Chili Cook-off

October 1st

by Maj-Britt Black, Vice Commodore

Our 7th Annual GPBC Chili Cook-Off was a great success! Neff Park was bedecked in its autumn finery, compliments of **Chris Hardenbrook** and his masterful team. 56 GPBC members, including 6 youth, enjoyed appetizers presented by our accommodating guests, chili (of course), brats, Caesar Salad (thank you, **Comm. Linda Onstwedder**), and homemade cornbread muffins (thanks to **PC Wayne Onstwedder**). Dessert was individual servings of spumoni ice cream from Chocolate Bar Cafe,

www.grossepointeboatclub.com

Username=GPBC (upper case)

Password=sunshine (lower case)

Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/gpbc/photos/sets/>

Grosse Pointe Boat Club

2011 Bridge

Commodore - Linda Onstwedder

Vice Commodore - Maj-Britt Black

Rear Commodore - Phil Gilbert

2011 Board & Officers

Chris Greiner

PC Jim Grenda

Lou Hartman

PC Anne Nyboer

John Woodhouse - Membership

Sharon Stellingwerf - Secretary

Sheri Allor - Treasurer

Jim Miller - Legal Council

PC Bill Quinlan - Fleet Captain

PC Dale Scrace - Equipment

PC Phil Allor - Webmaster

Sail Race Committee

Jay Kaiser

Lee Nyboer

George Young

drizzled with chocolate sauce and topped with whipped cream. Beverages included our mandatory beer and wine, but this year we were also treated with hot mulled cider. Yum. Indeed, there was only one thing that we ran out of...and that was red wine! Must have been the autumn chill in the air.

We are so appreciative of our talented chili chefs, for, without them, we obviously wouldn't have been able to have a chili cook-off at all. They were:

- ⤴ **Phil Gilbert** ~ Batten Down the Hatches, Chili Delight
- ⤴ **Chris Greiner** ~ Styled in Class
- ⤴ **Tracey Harding** ~ Texas Chili
- ⤴ **PC Dave Hohlfeldt** ~ Fine, Fat, Field Four Smoked Pheasant Chili
- ⤴ **Bill Koenig** ~ Fire in the Hole
- ⤴ **Mike McDonnell** ~ Chili Blanco
- ⤴ **Dante Rapacchietta** ~ Life is Good

Our gratitude also goes out to our “volunteer” judges, who were solicited as they arrived at the event. After much deliberation and serious reflection (and a couple of beers), three victorious chilies were selected. 1st place Chili Champion was **Bill Koenig**, 2nd place winner was **Tracey Harding**, and 3rd place went to **Chris Greiner**. These Chili Cook-Off contestants will be feasting on flavorsome meals with gift certificates from Bucci's and from Bogart'z Sports and Music Cafe.

It has been suggested by a few members that perhaps all guests attending the Chili Cook-Off should have the opportunity to vote for our chili winners, and that is definitely being taken under consideration for next year...

Everyone seemed to have a good time at our last-event-of-the-year-at-the-Littlest-Club. High praises to our hosts of this year's Chili Cook-Off: **Jon and Susan Hartz**, **PC Don (a.k.a. The Weiner Man)** and **Paula Smolenski**, and **Jim and VC Maj-Britt Black**.

Square Dance

October 30th

Some of the best made plans just don't pan out and unfortunately this was one of those. Due to limited projected attendance this event had to be cancelled.

Sinbad's Tug Ride

December 17th

CHRISTMAS TUG RIDE *by Maj-Britt Black, Vice Commodore*

This may have been spur-of-the-moment, but tonight was possibly one of the most fun Grosse Pointe Boat Club events to date. Seventeen members enthusiastically donned their warmest apparel and boarded the 65-foot-

long tugboat, circa 1925, owned by **Marc Blancke** of Sindbads At The River. *Sindbad*, as she is affectionately called, was originally steam- and coal- powered, and in a previous life, she was a fishing boat on Lake Erie.

It was a perfect evening. The seas were calm, winds were light. It may have been 26 degrees, but these boaters scoffed at the temperature; in fact, we welcomed the chilly winter air. After all, how lucky can one be? We love to board our boats, whether they be power or sail, all summer long, but what an opportunity this was...to be on the water in the wintertide. The air was crisp and invigorating, and it felt good on the only exposed part of our bodies – our cheeks. The company was of course great. There was plenty of beer, wine, sesame chicken, and veggies with cheese provided by Sindbads, and the salmon mousse (thank you, **Paula Smolenski**) certainly hit the spot. The views were amazing...sparkling night lights abounded and reflected off the water, and Christmas lights everywhere were gorgeous. We appreciated renewed views of the old and new architecture of Detroit and Windsor. No one else surprisingly shared the Detroit River with us; the few lonely souls working the night shift at the Coast Guard were probably glad to wave and greet us from the shore. Signaling Edison and Bayview Yacht Clubs with one long and 2 short blasts, and then sounding our deep, loud horn while crouching under the arched echoes of the Belle Isle Bridge was exhilarating. There was the pilot house of the Dossin Museum freighter proudly looming out into the Detroit River. **Captain Marc** mentioned that he enjoys going by the Hiram Walker distillery in Windsor, where of course the famous Canadian Club Whiskey is made...*Sindbad* lingers for a moment as **Marc** savors the aroma of the mash wafting from the building. The 5-story Wintergarden atrium rises proudly from the Ren Cen – beautiful, elegant and ethereal, all decked out in shimmering glass and steel. Snow begins to gently fall around us, lining the edges of our transportation which was adorned in strands of tiny colorful Christmas lights. Occasionally, a few brave members break into their favorite Christmas carols. **Jim Black** remarks about the girl in the nude on the second floor of the Ren Cen....oh, did you miss that?

Marc Blancke and **First Mate Joe** were gracious hosts, helping everyone feel ultra comfortable. Abundant thanks to **Director Chris Greiner** for getting the whole thing started and to **VC Maj-Britt Black** for making the final arrangements. This may become an annual GPBC true frostbite cruise!

After about an hour of meandering along the Detroit River, *Sindbad* realized she must return to her home, but we were all a bit sad that our adventure was ending. We could see the twinkling lights of the Roostertail, then the brightly lit sign of Sindbads beckoning us. We quietly passed the dry-docked boats, sheathed in their pale shrink wrap, calmly snuggled side-by-side in their winter beds, waiting and wondering when the seagulls would again be singing their summer song. How beautiful the gossamer figures looked. As we docked and threw our lines out, some of us embraced and wished each other a Merry Christmas, while others stayed at Sindbads for one last GPBC get-together meal of the year. All in all, this was quite simply one of my personal favorite Grosse Pointe Boat Club memories.

THE LUFF

Sail Race Reports *from Jay Kaiser*

I have heard all the comparisons – “like watching paint dry” “I’ve seen grass grow faster” – but for the skippers and crew, and for us on the dock, cutting through the water at 4 mph can be plenty exciting. Here is a summary of just the start of our 2011 season’s last race:

In the first start we saw Nick Trost, Tom Kressbach and Don Healy tightly packed and charging the line, Jim Miller had gybed in from windward and was just late to the pack. Nick took a leeward position and charged the line at full speed, unfortunately too full, as he was over early. (We did sound a horn, but with the wind blowing onshore, it was unlikely he could hear). From there progressed an upwind battle - maybe I exaggerate - it was a very close fetch. But it was all about climbing to windward. Tom seemed to be having trouble staying up where he usually finds himself, come to realize later that they were sailing upwind with their boom topping lift still set - aargh! Don climbed to an early and commanding lead to get the gun and 1st by several minutes. Jim overcame his late start and finished 2nd, Tom finished 3rd.

In the second start - Wow! There was Peter Polasek doing a Vanderbilt start (sail away from the line turn around and sail back for a timed start) and hit the line full and by. The big surprise was Larry Warren, who, as a self-confessed novice to the game, has had trouble being even in the vicinity of the starts all year ... well not tonight, here he is, sails sheeted home and roaring in just to weather of Peter's rail and not even half a boat length behind. Talk about a learning curve. Not exciting enough? Just when you would think there should be no more room with Peter, Larry and the mark, there is Mike Marsh, barging "just a little" so that we had three boats rail to rail ripping at the start. Bob Krueger and the Birch Bunch, including third generation four year old granddaughter, were right there in it and George Young, well it was a conundrum why they decided to take an excursion down river with two minutes to their start. Larry let Mike slip in when he would have been within his rights to shut him out. What happens to nice guys? Larry got trampled, getting bad air from almost everyone and had to take a clearing tack - not a bad idea, but a bad deal on a fetch.

George made up his time from his excursion to finish 1st and....almost ...save his time on Peter. Peter took first by 16 corrected seconds. George was 2nd and Mike 3rd.

Hard to believe another year of Wednesday Night sailing has passed under the keel. The second series results are as follows: In the first start it was: Don Healy 1st, Tom Kressbach 2nd, and Nick Trost 3rd. In the second start: Peter Polasek was 1st and get this - a three way tie for 2nd Bob Krueger, Mike Marsh and Brad Birch; George Young 3rd, only 1 point away from making it a four way tie.

Thanks so much to the folks who stood their watches on the dock, chief cannoneer and line judge Al LeChard, timekeeper and commentator Syd LeChard, and our time recorder - she can make the back of an envelope look official - Adrienne Murphy.

THE CREW

Members News and Notices

Check out www.grossepointeboatclub.com for news about upcoming events, sail race results, membership roster, photos and more!

THE BILGE

Nautical Tidbits

I'm hoping that I don't jinx this given our mild winter and lack of snow it seems that there would be a negative impact on the lake levels, but water levels are still well above the usual seasonal winter lows? The chart below tracks the lake levels over a ten year cycle.

