



Anchorline *Express*

VOLUME 2010

JUNE
OUR SIXTY SECOND YEAR 1948-2010

COMMODORE...



BETH KURTA

Just when you thought you were safe from hearing from me until September – surprise! Welcome to the Anchorline *Express*. The Grosse Pointe Sail Club has too many things going on during the summer months for us to be out of touch. I thought we would try out a more formal, yet informal, communication instead of clogging your inbox with a bunch of emails. Since it is summer, though, the Anchorline *Express* will be brief and to-the-point.

I received approval this week from the Governor's office for the invitation to the July 20th event at the Residence on Mackinac Island. You will receive a separate email with the invitation to this new event. I am looking forward to celebrating many GPSC sailing successes on the Island!

Robb Sharrow, Vicky Colwell and Liz Behler Linabury are working hard to get the roster updated and printed in the coming weeks. If you have not already done so, please go to the members only section of our website www.gpsc.org and check your contact information and let me know of any changes. What is listed on the website is what will be printed in the roster.

I spoke with Terry Solomon (Director of Parks and Rec for GPP) this week regarding a couple of items to benefit members of GPSC. First, for entrance into Windmill Pointe Park for non-Grosse Pointe Park residents, simply show your GPSC membership card and you should be able to get into the park without incident. Second, a book exchange is now available at the inside gate house. Once you have finished reading a book, feel free to go to the gatehouse to exchange it for another book to read during the summer. The lifeguards and other GPP residents will participate in this program as well, so a good selection should be available for your summer reading enjoyment.

Congratulations to GPSC members who have had great success at recent Regattas. **Mark Craig** and the crew of

Solutions took a first place at the Mills Race last weekend. **Gordon and Andrew Morlan** on **Avatar** and **David Klaasen** on **Macho Duck**, along with their crews, represented GPSC at the NOOD Regatta with 2nd and 5th place finishes respectively. Great job to each of you!

I would be remiss if I did not mention the tragic events at Bayview Yacht Club during the NOOD Regatta. Frank and I were at a Commodore's Ball when Com. Burton received the news that an accident had taken place at Bayview. I was impressed by the way the DRYA Commodores rallied around Com. Burton and his Lady Jane and with the composed demeanor they were able to maintain. I emailed Com. Burton offering my personal support as well as the full support of the GPSC membership for anything he or the members of BYC might need. Following is a portion of the response I received "Thank you Commodore for your thoughts. Right now we are just reacting to the storm, reefing, and helping those in need. It looks like a beautiful day for racing, so run a great race for the fleet tonight, as you always do. That is what we need right now-some on the water fun." In my opinion, that was a real class act.

Don't forget to come up to Marge's after the Tuesday night races! I look forward to seeing you soon at an upcoming event.

Yours in Service – Beth

GPSC Upcoming Events:

June 19	River Days Parade of Lights
June 21	Sail For Life Blood Drive
June 21	Target Fireworks
June 26	Rum Challenge
July 6	Start of Summer Series
July 10	Regatta and Awards Party
July 20	Mac Party at Governor's Residence
August 6	Ladies' Race and Party
August 31	Last Summer Race and Party
Sept 4-6	Fall Rendezvous
Sept 7	Start of Fall Series



GPSC Represented in MGM GRAND DETROIT PARADE OF LIGHTS

The 4th Annual Detroit River Days Festival returns this weekend! The river walk has been extended and you may now walk, run or bike along the Detroit River from the Renaissance Center to the newly opened section of the William G. Milliken State Park and Harbor, Michigan's first urban state park! Check out the website (link is below) to learn about the various festival events and activities.

This year, four members will represent GPSC in the MGM Grand Detroit Parade of Lights! **Misselaineous, C-Babe, Classy and Tresor** have each entered this signature event.

Be sure to come down on Saturday night and be entertained by MC Hammer, scheduled to perform at 9:30 PM on Michigan Lottery Stage. Then stay to enjoy the MGM Grand Detroit Parade of Lights and cheer on our members! This is a lighted boat parade that will begin around 10:00 PM. The parade is a judged event (details at the link below). Your cheers and applause are welcomed! You may view the parade anywhere along the river walk.

There is a \$3 admission fee this year! The fees will help supplement the sponsor dollars. Your support will add another positive spot light on this great resource which is our Detroit River!

<http://www.detroitriverdays.com/index.php>

<http://www.detroitriverdays.com/parade.php>

Come out and enjoy Detroit!

Welcome New GPSC Members

Bob Gregory
Jay Kennedy
Frank Murray

We are glad you joined!



2010 SAIL FOR LIFE BLOOD DRIVE



On Monday, June 21, 2010 the Sail for Life Regatta will be held in the Tompkins Center at Windmill Pointe Park.

The Blood Drive will be set up from 3-9 pm.

Crews of sailing vessels, power boaters, friends and the community at large are asked to donate blood in the name of a boat or a person. A tally will be kept and the winning boat or person will be awarded First, Second and Third place flags at the 2010 GPSC Awards party. In addition, we would gladly accept cash donations to the **American Red Cross of Southeastern Michigan** as "counters" for the competition. Registration forms will be made available.

To sign up for an appointment time:

Go to www.redcrossblood.org

Sponsor code: **gpsailclub**

The Grosse Pointe Sail Club is proud to join the American Red Cross of Southeastern Michigan and its community to provide life saving help.



2010 GPSC Regatta Party

Saturday, July 10, 2010

At

**Tompkins Center
Windmill Pointe Park**

Join in the fun and support our club

All members, their families, and

friends are invited to the

Regatta party beginning @ 16:30

**Music and beverages will be provided,
and a buffet will be available for purchase.**

**National Coney Island Coney Dogs, Greek Salad,
Chips, Potato Salad and more are on the menu.**

(Awards for the GPSC Regatta will be presented during the party.)

VIEW FROM THE REAR



....Rear Commodore E. DAVID MACDONALD

Well, the GPSC sailing season has begun. Four races have been completed so far, with the fifth one set for June 22.

The first race had good weather and an even better party afterwards with many people filling the Tompkins Center Patio. Grilled hot dogs and Labatt's Blue were plentiful thanks to the efforts of GPSC Entertainment Chair **Nancy McPherson** and her crew of volunteers. I saw **Glenn Housey, Fran Partridge, Holly Burns, Elaine Kuester**, and the Hot Dog Chef of the Year – **Fred Chapman**. Well done everyone!

The second race again had great weather, but little wind. The boats ran a shortened course. **Tristan Cotter** manned the cannons that evening and did a fine job. **VC Behler** and I tried to get preliminary results to Marge's Bar afterwards, but a software glitch interfered. There were a few people (2 tables full) at Marge's after the second race, but not as many as had been hoped. Those that were there enjoyed the videos of the race made by **Jenny Stacey**.

The third race was held in weather that threatened rain, but only sprinkled. I was dressed in my foul weather gear, which many admired because of its newness. **Jenny Stacey** again filmed the race and I informed our Mark Boat that the videos of the race would be shown at Marge's that evening. Someone must have overheard this communication because the crowd at Marge's was more than double from the previous week. Again, there were no preliminary results to announce. This time because of the concern that the inclement weather might have on the Club's laptop. We will try again for upcoming races.

Of special note: On **Saturday June 26**, the GPSC will be defending its 2009 Championship against NYC in the annual NYC – GPSC Rum Challenge Race. Starting and finishing will be in front of the Grosse Pointe Club. Spectators are invited to the Grosse Pointe Club to view this challenge race. Be sure to come out and cheer on your Club as team GPSC goes for 2 wins in a row in this intensely competitive inter-club sailboat event.

Well, that's it for now. See you on the dock, at Marge's, or somewhere else equally as fun.

Dave MacDonald

Memorial Day GPSC Fleet Blessing by RC MacDonald

I have participated in the Memorial Day Fleet Blessing before, but this was my first time in uniform. I got to the park entrance just before noon, all charged up and ready to go. But we met with a slight delay. The Deacon who was to perform the blessing had not arrived yet. When he arrived, he entered through another park entrance. Finally, through the use of cell phone technology, we found each other and were able to proceed. Boy Scout Honor Guard to the fore, two abreast, followed by the smartly attired GPSC Bridge and the Deacon - we proceeded in parade to the dock.

Once we were lined up at the dock, **Elaine Kuester**, GPSC's **Fleet Chaplain** and coordinator of the Fleet Blessing, gave the signal to the boats to proceed. The blessing was led by the GPSC Commodore's boats, starting from oldest present to the most current. **Frank Kurta**, First Gentleman of the Club, held the loud hailer for the Deacon as he gave each boat their blessing. **John Raguse** followed with a cannon salute which signaled the GPSC Bridge and the Boy Scouts to give a military hand salute to the passing boat.

I must say that I was so caught in the moment that not only did I give **P/C Haggart** the traditional military hand salute, I also extended to him a special salute, which he recognized and returned with alacrity.

Quite a number of the boats were dressed for the Memorial Day holiday. We thank them for their efforts and hope more can do the same in the future, because there is nothing more pleasing to a sailor's eye than a fully dressed sailboat.

After the ceremony everyone proceeded to the concession stand where the GPSC Bridge treated the Boy Scout Honor Guard to a well earned lunch.

Many thanks to the following people for making this another successful GPSC Fleet Blessing:

Elaine Kuester for organizing the event, The GPSC Bridge: **Commodore Beth Kurta, Vice Commodore Chris Behler, and Rear Commodore Dave MacDonald, John Raguse**, the gunner, **Frank Kurta**, the loud hailer holder, The Boy Scout Honor Guard: Representing **Troop 86** Troops Leaders **Tony Gennaro** and **John Ecclestone**, Scouts **Jack Ecclestone, David Pingree, Anthony Gennaro, Steven Rigg** and **Joseph Kurta**, Representing **Pack 147** Cub Master **Frank Kurta** and Cub Scout **Nicholas Kurta**, The skippers and crew of the 18 boats that participated,

And let's thank God for the fine weather we had for this year's blessing.

DYC/GPSC Rum Challenge History – PC Larry Haggart

The inaugural event was held in 2004. It was the first start of the DBC/GPC Regatta held June 26. It was a huge success, because we put 30 boats on the starting line (10 from GPSC and 20 from DYC), which was the largest single class of the entire season. The DYC won the event by a score of 52 to 57, even though GPSC boats took 1st (Scrimshaw) and 2nd (Rapture) overall, and 5 of the top 10 finishing places. This was the first indication that the scoring system seemed to favor the club with the most entries, but the DYC steadfastly refused to employ an average finish methodology, as proposed by GPSC. The DYC held an awards party at their club and invited all the racers from both clubs to participate. We all shared in the difficult task of consuming all of the rum in the varnished wooden commemorative box, which Bill Lynch had created just for the event.

In 2005, we again put 30 boats on the starting line (10 from GPSC and 20 from DYC), which was the largest class of the season. This time the GPSC had 7 of the top 12 finishers, but still came up short in the overall results, losing to the DYC. As we had done the previous year, we scored the same number of boats from each club, using 70% of the fleet with the fewest number of boats (i.e., GPSC had 10 boats, so we used 7 boats from each club). Of course the larger fleet had better odds of finishing boats in the top 14, since there were double the number of boats trying. We used DRYA points awarded for each boat finishing, and the club with the lowest score won. So once again, the DYC won by a score of 49 to 56. A perpetual trophy was donated to be awarded to the winning club (see attached photo).

In 2006, the GPSC made an all out effort to get more boats to register for the race, in the hope that we could level the playing field a bit. We raced 12 boats that year, while the DYC raced 17. Unfortunately, the 2 additional boats racing for the GPSC, turned out to be more inexperienced racers on boats that were strictly optimized for cruising. So, the higher number of boats entered, did not help our results. The DYC won again, by an even wider margin (59 to 79). This prompted a more vehement protest from the GPSC about the unfair scoring system. We negotiated back and forth hoping to convince the DYC that the fairest system was still an average score from each club. They would not hear of it, in spite of the endorsements received from several notable racing gurus at US Sailing.

Finally, they agreed to an unorthodox approach originally suggested by PC Frank Ferry of the GPSC to be employed for the race in 2007. The winning club would be the one that finished the most boats in the "Finals Group." The number

of boats that comprise the Finals Group was determined by a formula based on a ratio of the number of boats starting from each club, rounded down to an even number. Here's how it worked: the number of boats starting for the club with the fewest starters (GPSC), were divided by the number of boats starting for the club with the most starters (DYC), multiplied by the total number of boats starting, and then reduced by 20%. If the resulting number is not an even number, then the next lowest even number will be used. Yes, this was the scoring system adopted that year, and believe it or not, with 27 racers on the line (11 from GPSC and 16 from DYC), the GPSC finally won the Rum Challenge by a score of 9 to 7 (the respective number of boats in the Finals Group of 16). We took home the trophy and held the awards party on GPSC turf at Windmill Point Marina, where the traditional case of rum was enjoyed by all racers from both clubs.

Using the same unusual scoring methodology, the competition continued in 2008 (DYC winning) and 2009 (GPSC winning), and in both years, the results were determined by the first tie-breaker, because both clubs had the same number of finishers in the Finals Group each year. The tie-breaker reverts to the DRYA low point system applied to all boats from each club that finish in the Finals Group. So, as weird as the methodology may seem, it has produced some very close finishes the last 2 years, and everyone seems to be satisfied, if not happy, with the way it is working, although last year, participation dipped to only 17 boats. The DBC and GPC seem happy to provide the host event for the Rum Challenge "regatta within a regatta," because we still put a lot of boats on the starting line.

In 2010, who knows which club will win. The GPSC will do our best to put together a winning team, but the winds are often fickle, and the DRYA points are scored on a "time on time" basis, which nobody understands. All we can do is make our boats go as fast as they can. The party is always fun, regardless of which team wins.

