



Anchorline

Newsletter of the Grosse Pointe Sail Club

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OUR SIXTY SECOND YEAR 1948-2010

NUMBER 6

COMMODORE...



BETH KURTA

This is not the article I had planned to write this month. I had planned to merely recap the great GPSC events from the spring and summer and encourage participation in our upcoming fall events. I will do these things, but must first acknowledge the losses our Club has suffered in recent weeks.

This is the first Anchorline in a long time that does not have the fingerprints of its editor, **George Fuller** on it. George was great at collecting articles and remembering what items should be included each month and poking those of us who owed an article. His dedication to Sail Club communications will be dearly missed.

The 2011 Commodore's Ball will not be the same without the presence of **Tom Gibney**. Tom always made sure that the visiting Commodores and our own Past Commodores were lined up correctly for introductions. This is a task that requires diplomacy and charm, which made Tom the perfect coordinator.

Both of these men have their names on the Leaker Trophy, the highest honor bestowed by our club. This honor was much deserved by each of them and they will be dearly missed. I know you will join me in keeping **Beth Gibney** and **Marge Fuller** in your thoughts and prayers during the coming months.

Each month, I would get a phone call from my dad after he received his copy of the Anchorline. He was always encouraging me and loved to know what was going on in his Club. His was the voice in my head when I wrote my articles – I didn't want to disappoint my biggest fan. It is hard to contemplate that my fan is gone and harder still to write about it. **Darwin Brightbill** was only a member of the Grosse Pointe Sail Club for one year, but he was proud to be part of such a fine group of people. I want to express, from the bottom of my heart, how grateful I

am for the love and support of the membership during these past weeks. Your cards, calls, flowers and meatloaf cupcakes helped to sustain me, Frank and our boys. If I have said it once, I have said it a million times, this is the greatest Club on the Lake and I am honored to be a part of it.



Now, back to my regularly scheduled article...

It is hard to believe that summer is over and we are squarely into fall. It seems like only yesterday we were preparing for our spring and summer series, regatta and rendezvous. Before our thoughts go too far into the cold, dark days of winter, let's pause to remember how great the summer has been for the Grosse Pointe Sail Club.

May:

- On Memorial Day, we enjoyed a very well-attended pancake breakfast put on by our Directors. Thanks to **John Raguse, Paul Schaap, Nancy McPherson, PC Peter D'Angelo, PC Bill Kuester, VC Chris Behler and RC Dave MacDonald** for their help in putting together a great breakfast. It is always a great way to kick off the season and we couldn't do it without the help of our members.
- Later that day, our Fleet Chaplain, **Elaine Kuester**, presided over our traditional Fleet Blessing. It was beautiful to see the boats on the water again after the long winter.
- On May 25th, the GPSC Signature Tuesday Night racing series began. Running these races is undeniably the main mission of our Club and this year's Race Committee did a wonderful job! Special thanks to **Denise Cotter** for all of her efforts in

leading our Race Committee. I truly appreciate the hard work and dedication of our Club members – the racers, committee members and dock workers alike. Thank you all for your support!

June:

- This year's June rendezvous was again held at Edison Boat Club. Big thanks to **Com. Bill Kuester** for stepping up as Fleet Captain and putting a terrific weekend of events together.
- **Andrea Solak** organized another successful Sail for Life Blood drive. This year's winner was **Com. Mike Comerford**. I had the privilege of presenting Mike with his flag and he and **Maureen** were grateful for the award. It was so good to spend a few minutes with them.



July/August:

- We began the month up with our Regatta activities. **John Raguse** and **Fred Chapman** did a fantastic job putting together all of the details. Thanks to both of you! Thanks, too, to the Regatta Committee for all of their work and to the members who participated in the Regatta events. We are starting to think about next year's race and will share some potential improvements with you in the coming months.
- The Port Huron to Mackinac race was well-attended by Sail Club members this year. We had a great time on the porch of the Governor's Residence and will work on making this an annual event.
- Tuesday night racing continued with the Summer Series in July and August. The videos at Marge's were a hit thanks to **Jenny Stacey** and **Eric Lemley**. Make plans to join us next year on Tuesday nights, you'll be glad you did.
- The Ladies Race was down in participation this year, and we are working on ways to improve this race for next year. For those who did participate, it was a good race with a good party afterwards. Thanks to all who participated!

September/October:

- The Fall Rendezvous was a well-thought out event with lots of planned activities set to take place at Metro Beach. Unfortunately, it was too windy to move forward with most of these plans, but Com. Kuester came through again and we had a lot of fun at the Park for dinner and some members were still able to go over to Thames River and Metro Beach later in the weekend.
- The Fall Series was a lot of fun, even if one race had to be abandoned due to too much wind! We had some new faces on the dock and great participation.
- The Frostbite should be renamed to the "What a perfect fall day to sail" race. I can barely remember the last time it was a cold race. Of course I have now jinxed it for next year. You're welcome. This was again a fun race with members and their crew. The following Chili Party was top notch with 16 entrants for the best chili. The winner was **Com. Dennis Cotter!** Thanks to **Nancy McPherson** and **Andrea Solak** for putting together a great party with help from a wonderful committee of volunteers.

Now that the sailing season is over, it is time to start planning for the Fall Party, Dry Dock, Annual Meeting and Christmas Party. There is a flyer about the Fall Party elsewhere in the Anchorline, but I want to mention that this year will be a departure from the traditional lobster roast in order to capitalize on the timing of the party date and celebrate Halloween together. It promises to be a good time and we won't have to wear bibs!

I want to clarify a personal item that may be confusing to those of you who do not know me well. We recently voted on the membership of Joseph Monforte, who is my stepfather. He and my mom have been married for over 30 years and he has raised me as his daughter. I was fortunate to have two dads in my life. My parents have recently bought a house in the Park and are moving back to the area and want to be active in the GPSC and decided to join the Club. So, I still have a dad who is a member - Karma is a weird thing isn't it?

Now for the topic I have been dreading – the ROSTER. I am falling on my sword and will go down in the Sail Club history books as the Commodore who didn't publish a roster. Due to lots of reasons, it began to make sense to skip this year and publish the 2011 roster early in the year. Believe me when I tell you that this decision was not made lightly and that I have lost more sleep over it than I care to admit. I hope you can forgive me. Feel free to call me with questions.

Yours in Service – Beth

VIEW FROM THE VICE

.... Vice Commodore Chris Behler



Interesting year for weather I would say. Fairly solid wind conditions for sailing, perhaps unusual for lake St. Clair, and a bit much on some days (cancellation of Fall Race 1 due to gale winds). C.F. Pickle was out doing the Ensign Nationals this year in 25 to 30 knot winds. It was my first race where pumping on a small boat meant using the hand held bilge pump. Besides Tom Fraser as skipper, the crew consisted of Chris Grow, Dennis Cotter, and myself. Let's just say we weren't last. We got a good look at some very well set up and sailed Ensigns. Ensigns have a very shapely stern I must say. This all took place mid August up in Hessel, a small town in the Les Cheneaux Island area of the UP.

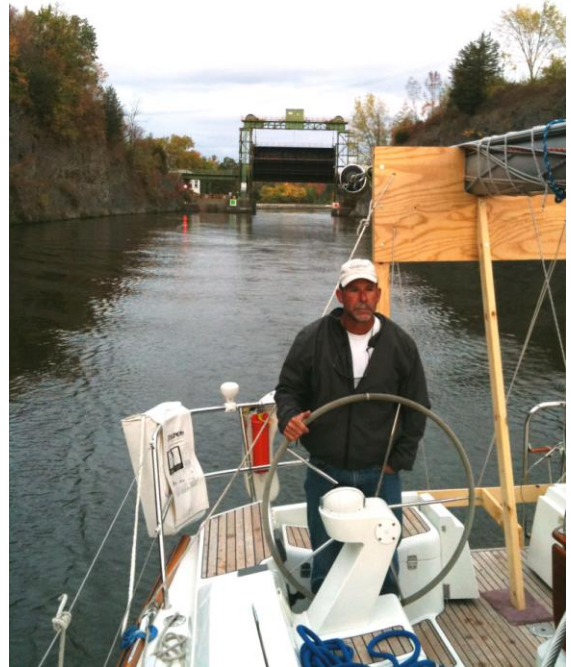


C. F. Pickle, Tom Fraser and Dennis Cotter

There are quite a few racing options it seems. This year was the second sailing of the Huron Cocktail Race. The Idea is to race port to port starting in Port Huron and ending in Rogers City. This race was held the last week of July and our club was ably represented by Tresor, Howard and Sharon Riley, and Rapture, Larry and Lynne Haggart. Tresor and Rapture were 1 – 2 in the final standings.

Mark Craig is planning on doing the Marion to Bermuda race next year and Pat Clark, Sandy Davis and I helped Mark move the Boat to Newport for winter storage. The weather and experience were great. We did a couple of overnight legs in lakes Erie and Ontario utilizing the fair winds and at one point we were a week ahead of

schedule. Pat, Sandy and I have a collection of pictures and experiences to share at some future time.



Locking down to the sea, Mark Craig on Solutions

Now that I'm back from my adventures it's time to get to work for the sail club. The club race events are nearly done and their success is due to the efforts of many race volunteers. We have a core of skilled members who put these races on and I hope to expand this group in the coming months by putting on at least one race seminar if not several. I intend to have current race volunteers at these seminars to provide information, advice and answer questions. As more seminar information comes out I hope you will take some time to at least take a look at what race management is all about and hopefully help out next year if you haven't already done so in the past.

As I write this I have a pot of Chili heating up for the Frost Bite party today. There are many indoor events coming up in the cooler months and I hope to see a good turnout so we can all get together and share our summer stories. Shared experiences help bind the club together, whether they are happy or even sad (which we have had lately with member health issues). See you soon.

Chris Behler

VIEW FROM THE REAR



....Rear Commodore E. DAVID MACDONALD

Well, the GPSC Summer Sundown Series for 2010 is nearing an end as I write this article. There is only one more race to go. I was one the dock quite a bit this season.

I also set marks twice, once with **P/C Bill Kuester** and once with **P/C Howard Riley**. I have a special place in my heart for the Mark Set guys. I remember learning to set marks from our dear friend **George Fuller** a number of years back – when we used to set 6 or 7 of those things a race. This season we only had to set 3 per race. Anyhow, I kind of adopted the Mark Set boat and crew, along with the Patrol Boat, and built a published schedule for the year. You can see it on the GPSC web site under Racing/2010 Sundown Series Races/Committee Boat Assignment Schedule. It helps keep clear who is doing what on what date, as they do with the schedule for the dock workers.

I also learned to score a race with Quickscore and was able to get preliminary results to Marge's Bar 3 times this year. This is not a good average, but the effort was made to enhance the Marge's experience of those who went there after the Tuesday night races.

Videos of the Sundown Series races were back at Marge's for the most part, thanks to videographers **Jenny Stacey** and **Eric Lemley**. Those in attendance saw some really wild finishes on a couple of the videos – like the one with one Crescent boat ramming another Crescent that was fighting the wind and current to round the finishing mark. Kapow!

The GPSC Regatta had wind this year. And the Regatta cocktail party the night before was....eventful? memorable? notable? I struggle with how to adequately describe it, but it will definitely add to the lore of the Club for years to come. Anyhow, it is soon to be released in video. It is titled "Past Commodores Gone Wild." As is customary with this event, many new members were volunteered as bartenders, adding to the magic of the evening. We would like to thank **Julie and Rick Abramovich, Judy Francino and Doug Gentry**, and **Bernadine and Mike Sherwood** for the excellent job they did. And special thanks to the hosts of this year's Regatta Cocktail Party, who shall remain anonymous. Also, a big thanks to **John Raguse** for chairing this year's Regatta. It was a smashing success.

I also want you to know that we were successful in acquiring federal tax exempt status for the GPSC from the IRS. The GPSC is now officially a 501 (c)(7) organization, which defines us as a social organization. **P/C Dennis Cotter** and I

worked diligently in the winter and in the spring on this matter, along with a CPA, and were able to resolve this matter in our favor. We are now fully compliant with the 2006 federal law for tax exempt organizations.

I took sailing lessons at Crescent Sail Yacht Club this summer. It was a great program. We learned to sail on Flying Scots. In August, the Commodores Club Summer Outing at Edison Boat Club presented an opportunity to test my newly acquired sailing skills. They put on Flying Scot Challenge Races for the Past Commodores, the current Commodores, and spouses / others. **VC Chris Behler** and I entered to race in the current Commodores race and came in 4th out of six. Then we learned that the race we were just in was a makeup for the 2009 race, which was cancelled due to lack of wind (sound familiar?). So Chris and I went back out and raced in the 2010 current Commodores race. This time we came in 3rd out of seven! That third place finish netted me my first official sailing trophy. Let it be known that Chris skippered the boat. I was only his trusty crew on this little adventure. Also, **VC Behler** was the crew of the first place finisher in the Past Commodores race. So, that night, Chris walked home with 2 trophies. It was a fine showing for the GPSC at the Commodores Club Summer Outing - and an excellent showing for our **Vice Commodore, Chris Behler!**

Well, that's it for now. I have to buy hotdogs, buns, condiments, etc for the last race party (AUG 31). I have to pack for vacation (flying out SEP 1), and I have my Adult Learn to Sail Student Regatta on AUG 29. It looks like this season is ending pretty much like it started - fast and furious. Please pass the Red Bull.

Dave MacDonald

November 19 Dry Dock

Mark Your Calendars

Plans are being finalized for an evening event and will be sent to you via email.

Notes from the Race Committee

October...Yikes!!! By the time this article is released in the Anchorline the Frostbite will be over...thus ending the race season for the Grosse Pointe Sail Club. On behalf of the Race Committee, we hope you had a great racing season. Believe me, after a couple months of rest, the Committee will be starting to plan for the 2011 racing season...the Club's 50th year.

Now what more can be said??? Not much. However, there is one more something, I think, to say...Thank you. Thank you to many, many people.

First, a belated thank you to Tom Gibney, who, with Beth, was missed very much on the dock this year. Tom was always ready to lend a hand in the Club, from entertainment to race to being a friend to everyone in the Club. His laugh was infectious. His presence on the dock under appreciated.

Com. Michael Comerford was unable to be on the dock committee this year. We missed him also. Michael did many jobs on the dock, from Principal Race Officer to manning the Patrol boat. His presence on the dock was always professional and he always had an Irish story to make one laugh.

To Maureen and Beth...two of the best recorders on the dock committee, thank you. Please know that you both were missed on the dock this season. And know that there is always a place for you.

Over and over committee chairpersons are named and thanked along with their committees, who never seemed to be named. I guess the chairperson is supposed to go and thank his committee on behalf of the leaders, which doesn't seem to ever happen. Or maybe, those that do the thanking don't want to name the committee personnel because they might leave someone out and hurt their feelings. But in this article, I am going to attempt to name everyone, or almost everyone, on the dock committee. I say almost, because I am sure I will miss someone, but I hope not. And please don't be hurt, if I do forget you, because I do want to thank you, but I am human.

So here goes...a thank you to those who worked the dock this year rain or shine...wind or no wind...Fred Baer, Com. Howard and Sharon Riley Marie Mainwaring, Barb and Norm Samra, Pat and Dee Clark, Nancy McPherson, Megan Cassidy, Prudy and Charlie Billiu, Debbie and Fred Chapman, Phil McAllister, Com. Larry and Lynne Haggart, Nick and Joan Piccione, Com. Beth Kurta, Com. Bill Kuester and Elaine, Com. Dave MacDonald, Paul Schaap, Mike McDevitt, George Sirdenis, Dave Charvat, Tristan, Brendan and Com. Dennis Cotter, Judy, Andrew and Com. Gordon Morlan, Doug Gentry, Judy Francino, Com. Chris and Sheila Behler, John Raguse, Candy Dunn, Com. Jim and Ridene Soltesz, Com. Peter and Sheila D'Angelo, Com. Bob and Glory Schappe, Com. Jerry and Fran Partridge, Eric Lemley, Jenny Stacy, Dr. Gregory Charvat, Dan Ritter and Suzanne Prohaska.

The Dock Committee works hard, but they also have a good time on the dock. **All** the dock personnel are very professional and our races would not be as well respected as they are if not for our Dock Committee. If you have worked on the committee in the past, but have not worked on it in a few years, remember the good times and sign up to work the 2011 race season. If you have never worked on the dock before, join us. There is always one of the veterans who is willing to take a new person under their wing. Trust me, by the end of the second race you work, you will be a pro!!

A Few GPSC Scenes from Summer 2010



Bayview Mackinac Race 2010



GROSSE POINTE SAIL CLUB PRESENTS



Halloween Heads

.....just costume your head (wig, mask, make-up, etc)
Or, scarier still, come in your usual head!

When: Saturday, October 30, 2010, 7:00 P.M. to

Where: Tompkins Center

What: Cocktails at 7:00

Dinner at 7:30, provided by POLISH VILLAGE CAFE

Music from 8-11:00 by Celebration DJ

*** prizes and surprises ***

Earlybird Special: \$20:00, R.S.V.P. including check by October 20

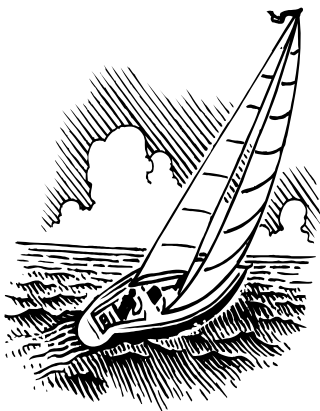
After October 20, \$25.00 per person

R.S.V.P. deadline : October 27!!!!

Send check to: Nancy McPherson
1122. S. Timberview Tr.
Bloomfield Hills, Mi. 48304

Grosse Pointe Sail Club
Look inside for more information

Upcoming Events:



November 5

Awards Party

November 19

Dry Dock

November 26

Santa Claus Parade

December 3

Annual Meeting

December 5

Christmas Party