



Anchorline

Newsletter of the Grosse Pointe Sail Club

VOLUME 2011

MARCH

NUMBER 3

OUR SIXTY THIRD YEAR 1948-2011

COMMODORE....

CHRIS BEHLER



I have been asked many times... What does our boat name, Valkyrie, mean? In honor of my Norse heritage, here it is (source - Wikipedia):

“In Norse mythology, a valkyrie (from Old Norse valkyrja "chooser of the slain") is one of a host of female figures who decide who will die in battle. The valkyries bring their chosen to the afterlife hall of the slain, Valhalla, ruled over by the god Odin, where the deceased warriors become einherjar. There, when the einherjar are not preparing for the events of Ragnarök, the valkyries bear them mead.” The valkyries ride winged horses and the fallen warriors will fight a great battle (part of Ragnarök) against evil at the end of time.



The Ride of the Valkyrs (1909) by John Charles Dollman

So there you have it... wings (sails), warriors, strong women, battle, mead, good vs. evil... kind of like sailboat racing... right? Did I mention mead?

Speaking of battles, proof copies of the 2011 Roster are coming out and pending any final revisions, printing and distribution will occur shortly. Ted Williford reports that it is looking 'fantastic'. I haven't seen anything yet (just the data and text going into it) and I am looking forward to seeing the real thing. The Roster is a tough item to get out, ask any past Commodore. There always seems to be some detail or piece of information to 'fix' before printing. I'm hoping that

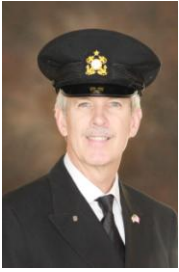
the new process engineered by Ted and the 'Little Blue Book' folks will make it much easier for future Commodores. A couple of Blue Book staff members are excited enough about our club that they have submitted applications for membership... how cool is that?

Membership...the renewal process greatly affects the Roster printing. The great tide of renewals has come in for 2011 but there are still some stragglers that we hope and expect will renew for 2011. Those individuals that we still have high hopes for will still be in the 2011 Roster. It does make it a lot easier if the renewals come in early so keep that in mind. It would be a big help in the future.

I have been asked about reciprocal rights at other yacht clubs. I have received some specific invitations from clubs for our members to have use of their facilities and I will get them up on the club website soon. Generally speaking, if you have your GPSC membership card for the current year you are welcome at area yacht clubs for dinner and such. Often they will not ask for the card but I would assume they are going to ask so have it with you. Typically the clubs accept only credit cards for payment. Some will allow for interclub billing where you sign a billing slip. It is sent to our club, we pay them and bill you for the charge plus a percentage (10% at the moment). It has fallen out of favor since credit cards are accepted and GPSC has not been seeing much if any of this activity in the last few years. There has been some fraud involving nonmembers using the interclub billing system. GPSC received a charge slip from a DRYA club recently and we could find no record of this individual in our membership roster nor had we heard of them. The DRYA club had not asked for ANY kind of ID but just accepted their word and signature for the charge. Not a good procedure to say the least. Other clubs have commented on the problem, it is not a GPSC issue... it is happening to all clubs, and I suspect that you will need to show ID and your GPSC membership card in the future if they haven't asked in the past.

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VIEW FROM THE VICE



.... Vice Commodore E. DAVID MACDONALD

I just learned that March 1 marks the first day of meteorological Spring. I like that because I don't think I can wait for March 20 (1921 hrs) to come around. I am ready for Spring now! So with that, let's all think Spring, sunny thoughts, happier days, etc. I feel so much better now.

I am writing this after attending the Dry Dock, better recognized as the Spring (there is that wonderful word again) Euchre Tournament at **P/C Kurta's** home. What a great time! Six Euchre tables and 1 Pinochle table were active throughout the evening. I met **Claudia and Tom Stieber** for the first time – very nice folks. I played Pinochle for the first time in a long time. **Glenn Housey** and **Pam and Rob Sharrow** were very nice about helping me relearn the game. And I have to say how formidable the women were at Euchre that night. They swept the first three places of the tournament with **Amy Thelen** taking third place, **Sheila D'Angelo** taking second, and **Fran Partridge** winning first place. Wow! The ladies gave those boys some kinda thumping. Many thanks to **Ruth and Darius Hummel**, our Dry Dock Chairs, for organizing this event and **P/C Beth Kurta** for hosting it.

The DRYA Seminar circuit is going well. The GPSC has been very active in these seminars through either hosting an event (Feb 9) or by our presence in the presentations. If you go, you are sure to see GPSC member **Dr. Steve Liroff** kicking off the evening with his introductions. He is the person actively organizing and running many of these events. Hats off to **Steve** for his commitment and the quality of these informative gatherings. Other GPSC members have served as presenters, **Dr. Rob Welch** with Medicine Afloat (Feb 23), or have been major contributors like **Janie and Ted Williford** for the CPR instruction at EBC (Mar 2). It's good to see our Club so well represented within the sailing community. And to hear the nice feedback the DRYA gave to some of our members for the fine job we did hosting the Feb 9 DRYA seminar.

Let's not forget our indefatigable DRYA delegates **P/C Larry Haggart** and **P/C Bob Schappe**. **P/C Haggart** forwards the DRYA Executive Committee Meeting minutes to us directly for timely distribution to you by our wonderful Electronic Communicator, **Bill Harbert**. I hope these have been of some value to you.

Commodores Behler, Raguse, and myself are putting together the annual marine event application to the USCG

for this year's GPSC races with the help of **P/C Bill Kuester**. The package is nearly complete with the application forms, NOR, and the charts done. The final piece to complete will be the SI's and then we are ready to go. From this effort we can also determine the flag order for the year. We also had to wait on the DRYA Hot Stove (which the GPSC also hosted on Feb 24) for the final decision on the consolidation of the PHRF classes for the regatta. With that, we will forward with our information to **Jim Kraft**, who is again our Awards Chair this year, to proceed with the flag order. Thanks for volunteering again this year, **Jim**.

Speaking of volunteering, this is your Race Chair speaking (my other hat). The big board for sign-up for Tuesday night race dock assignments is out. It made its first appearance at the Spring Euchre Tournament and a number of people signed-up that evening. **Jenny Stacey** is the person in charge of finding volunteer dock workers (formally called Race Support), so be sure to seek her out and help the cause by volunteering to be a spotter, or a recorder, or work the halyards, or even be the gunner (a great job – except for the clean-up). Remember – your Club needs you for its continued success. Plus you get to go to a really great party in November for having signed-up and been a dock worker. All volunteer dock workers are invited. So defend your right to party and be a dock worker this year (my little riff on the Beastie Boys song).

Well, that's it for now. The Spring Party is almost upon us. Until then, au revoir, auf wiedersehen, y nos vemos. Which is a few ways of saying, I hope to see you there.

Dave MacDonald

RACE COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES

Spring is almost here and our first race will take place soon! Must mean the GPSC 2011 Race Committee is looking for help. There are a variety of jobs to perform and there are experienced club members who can help get you started. While much of the action is on the dock, we are also looking for on the water help and extra power boats for mark set and patrol. If you would be interested in participating in race management for the 2011 season please contact Com. Dave MacDonald or Jenny Stacey.

The 50th annual GPSC Tuesday Sundown Series and Sunday Fall Series are open to all seaworthy monohull sailing yachts. All races start and finish off Windmill Point Marina, located in Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan.

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|------------------------|--------------------------|
| River Challenge | May 22 |
| Spring Series: | May 24 through June 28 |
| Summer Series: | July 5 through August 30 |
| Fall Series: | September 6 through 27 |
| Ladies Race: | September 11 |
| Frostbite Race: | October 9 |



VIEW FROM THE REAR



....Rear Commodore JOHN RAGUSE

As March gets underway there are lots of planning meetings going on for the upcoming boating season. The annual DRYA Hot Stove meeting at the Tompkins Center was a very well run and insightful meeting. We discussed the process for running a successful regatta from a race management perspective and several examples were provided to assist clubs getting organized including Briefing Papers for the Race Management Team Boats that explain the day's events for our power boats on the race course, due dates for submitting race instructions to the DRYA for website publication and internal distribution amongst the DRYA race officials on regatta day, and the anxiously awaited class splits for the upcoming season. The following class splits were proposed for the 2011 season:

A/B Course

1. C&C 35
2. PHRF 2 (93 – 150)
3. NA 40
4. BEN 36.7
5. IRC B
6. PHRF 1 (90 and lower)
7. J 120
8. IRC A

C Course

1. J 105
2. Flying Scott
3. Crescent
4. Cal 25
5. PHRF 3 (153 and greater)
6. Express 27

New for this season is that all PHRF boats will start in their respective class regardless of their sail configuration and each boat will compete against each other (i.e. J&M, Asymmetrical and symmetrical spinnaker are all in one class). The system is flexible in that if you registered under one rating and want to race with a different configuration you must contact the race committee no later than before the five minute warning before your class starts. Assuming there will be a few last minute racers changing configurations to best suit their situation, play it safe and call in well before the five minute warning. Saturday racers should reference the superb FAQ on the DRYA website regarding the new multi-sail PHRF class configuration.

Regatta planning is well underway. There are two simultaneous committees working to ensure a successful event. Com's **Behler, MacDonald, Schappe** and yours truly are working on setting up the details for the race instruction. We are having a point to point race this year with hopes of a spinnaker finish at the Windmill Pointe Marina! If the wind gods permit this could be an extraordinary sight to see followed by a great picnic afterwards on the Tompkins Center patio. **Fred and Deb Chapman** are working on the details for the event Friday night and the party Saturday afternoon. Although we have a great list of volunteers we could always use an extra hand or two to help out with some smaller tasks. This is a great opportunity for a new member to meet the membership in a very fun way. If you are inclined please feel

free to drop me a line or call Fred Chapman. In any event mark your calendar and plan to participate in the GPSC Regatta activities Saturday July 9th!

The DRYA Wednesday night seminar series has been a roaring success. Attendance is averaging 80 sailors depending on the topic. I attended the weather presentation which was absolutely fantastic. The course was taught by the highly respected and well humored Pat Healy, who happens to be a "who's who" in the weather and sailing communities. His sailing resume is very impressive having taught sailing at the Naval Academy for eleven years, he was the Canadian Nationals sailing coach in the Olympics (won 5 medals) and Pan American games (won 22 medals). He topped that off by running the Louis Vuitton Cup which lead up to the 1995 Americas Cup! If you were fortunate enough to attend you can easily see why his experience is so demanded: his sense of humor is priceless and he has the gift of presenting technical topics and makes them very easy to understand. His use of common sense for anticipating weather situations was very insightful and his perspective on weather related websites was also appreciated. During the break I spoke with new member **Jeff Clark**, the **Chapmans, Schappes**, and a host of other members. We were all stunned at the opportunity we were experiencing and knew what a privilege it was. Don't miss this one if we are fortunate enough to get him back next year and don't let the title "Weather for Poets" incline you to pass. I was not able to attend the Medicine Afloat class given by our own **Dr. Robert Welch** due to an overseas business trip. I was disappointed to miss such an important topic. Knowing Rob the way I do, I regretted missing this important class. Skippers should go to the DRYA website to download Rob's presentation slides and keep them in a binder on-board your boat in case you ever need them. Hopefully you will never need to reference it, but if a serious medical problem occurred, at least you have a guide to address the problem, which might just buy you enough time to get back to shore for proper medical attention. It's the least thing we can do as responsible boat owners.

Before I begin to write my article each month, I like to review last year's Anchorline to see how our club has progressed. The opening paragraph from **P/C Kurta** welcomed all the members who preferred to receive their Anchorline electronically for the first time! Where has the time gone? I assumed we were receiving this electronically for years when in fact it's only been one year! For those of you who haven't checked lately our website has a wealth of information thanks to **Com Behler's** relentless efforts keeping it current. If you ever have the need to get an events calendar, look up someone's number or whatever, there is a ton of information out there. I find it extremely useful when out of town and need to reference something. As long as you have internet access (via computer or smart-phone) you have access to a wealth of resources should you need it.

Spring Party March 19th! Think Launch

Happy March Birthday To the following members

Com. Chris Behler
Jay Bonahom
Tom Caulfield
Com. Dennis Cotter
Ann Eatherly
John Jamieson
James Kraft
Com. John Raguse
Com. Ken Suddick

Spring Party, Party, Party!

Date: Saturday, March 19, 2011

Time: Cocktails at 19:00 hours

(beer, wine, pop, set-ups, BYOB)

Dinner at 19:30 hours

(Com. Fraser's corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, garden veggies, salad, bread sticks)

Members please bring an appetizer or a dessert to share

Music brought to you by The Commodore

20:00 to 23:00 hours

Place: Tompkins Center

Who: GPSC members and guests

Cost: \$25.00 per person

Catch the Early Bird special of \$20 per person before March 9th

R.S.V.P. by March 14th

We will not be able to accommodate reservations made after March 14th

Send your reservation to:

Andrea Solak

1020 Somerset

Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230

Name: _____

Adults @ \$25.00 _____

checks payable to GPSC

(Continued from page one)

In the past, we have trialed a 'Crew' membership and have a similar type of membership this year. A question that comes up is why anyone would opt for the full membership if a cheaper alternative exists. The words participation and stewardship come to mind. GPSC has an honored and exceptional past. Ask any area club and the DRYA... Grosse Pointe Sail Club fights above its weight. We are a 'paper' club and yet we host events that serve the public good (Blood drive, pancake breakfast for the marina etc.), DRYA functions and seminars, we are solidly represented in area racing, we have the largest race season on Lake St. Clair... we are a serious sailing and social club. This is because our active members have made it so. The future is driven by the members who provide the talent for the bridge, board of directors, and flag officers. Active members vote on the club issues, provide their input at the meetings and largely fill the committee positions. The future of the club will be strong and there is good reason to be a full voting and participating member. For the new members who join us under the alternate membership plans, we hope you come to realize the value of GPSC, its activities and the camaraderie of the members. Moving up to a full participating membership, as you bond with the club, has its advantages.

Racing... we have a meeting tomorrow (after I write this) and we are going over class splits, courses and getting the documentation ready for posting on the web site and alternate distribution. We hope to improve the class splits to make for better racing and adopt some of the course changes we trialed in the 2010 fall series for the main Sundown series. GPSC treats the racers as customers and we strive to keep the racing fair, safe and interesting. If you have ideas that may serve to improve GPSC racing, let us know your ideas.

The committees and chairs have been making their plans, organizing and implementing. The hum of activity is increasing. The social season with Dan Wilk at the helm of the Entertainment Committee is warmed up and in gear...its SHOWTIME! What a winter this has been! Thanks to all of you for your effort and participation so far and to come. Let's put all our stored up energy into having a wonderful sailing and social season and let the Joy shine in!

Com. Chris Behler

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THE GPSC COMMODORE CHEFS ARE AT IT AGAIN!

And they cordially invite you to attend the Annual Commodores' Steak Roast

**SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2011
1830 (6:30 PM)
TOMPKINS CENTER**

Dinner is a choice of grilled-to-perfection steak or chicken breast, accompanied by salad, vegetables, potatoes, dessert, beer, wine and setups.

Remember to bring your own table service!

Catch the Early Bird Special of \$5 off your meal choice before March 30th

RSVP by April 5th

No reservations will be accepted after April 5th

For fun, we will have a Raingutter Regatta! Boat kits and racing rules will be available for \$5 each at the Spring Party and March Board meeting. Kits are also available at the Kurta House. Boats should be built and ready to race prior to the Steak Roast.



Make check payable to: Grosse Pointe Sail Club.

Mail form to Com. Beth Kurta, 701 Berkshire, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230

Name _____

Chicken Breasts _____ @ \$26.00 _____ (\$21 before March 30th)

Steaks _____ @ \$28.00 _____ (\$23 before March 30th)

Total Amount Enclosed _____



Grosse Pointe Sail Club

Look inside for more information

March 19th Spring Party

April 9th Commodores' Steak Roast

2011 Race Committee Opportunities