



# Anchorline

Newsletter of the Grosse Pointe Sail Club

VOLUME 2011

MAY  
OUR SIXTY THIRD YEAR 1948-2011

NUMBER 5

## COMMODORE....

### CHRIS BEHLER



I am feeling a bit 'gob smacked' by events of the last few months. Commodore Cormac O'Byrne's funeral was yesterday. Stunned and grieving would be an apt description of those in attendance. The sail club and its members extend their deepest condolences to the family. I (we) am

going to miss Cormac. It is still hard to believe.

In talking to Edie O'Byrne and family, as one would expect, they now have to come to terms with a new normal and that will be painful. As they come to grips with the pain and emotion of their loss I hope they call on us to help in any way. It is easy for the family to be overwhelmed by all of the people who want to help and express their support. We are with them now in spirit and to help when they need us.

So now, as we work on our boats or otherwise enjoy the new spring, we talk in subdued tones about losses of the last couple of years even while we see new life blooming all around us. I suspect the intensity of life and our relationships may be a bit stronger than before. It is easier to share our joys than our fears but I have noticed a lot of 'sharing' going on lately and that serves to bond us as fellow humans... on the same voyage as everyone else. We are all in this together and if you have something you want to say or do... don't put it off too long.

Summer is coming up. I for one will be glad to get out on the water again. We have a busy month coming up with club events and 'outdoor things'. In this issue of the Anchorline we have information on our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sundown Racing, the Rendezvous, Fleet Blessing/Pancake Breakfast, and Shirts to commemorate the Sundown Series. I look forward to seeing you all outside in the fresh air.

Last note: In talking to Commodore Al Grankin from Thames River Yacht Club, he said that we have a VERY (VERY) close knit club. I hope that doesn't stop new members from 'breaking in' to club culture and involvement... but it is great to know we are there for each other. I appreciate all of you (please stay healthy) and I am honored to be your Commodore.

Chris Behler

## Com. Cormac O'Byrne

*Our beloved Commodore from 1986*

Cormac will be dearly missed by the members of the Grosse Pointe Sail Club.

*June 1, 1944 - May 1, 2011*

Age 66. Beloved husband of Edie, brother of Brian (Peggy) O'Byrne, Fergus (Irene) O'Byrne, Mairin O'Byrne, Patricia (Sam) Pulis and Geraldine (Gary) Spezia, father of Rachel (Brian) Rabain and Dara (Charles) Nordstrom. Grandfather of Graham, Corrina and Ciara.



Photo courtesy of Pat Clark

*"Tis evening on the moorland free,  
The starlit wave is still:  
Home is the sailor from the sea,  
The hunter from the hill"*

*A.E. Housman*

## VIEW FROM THE VICE



### .... Vice Commodore E. DAVID MACDONALD

It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of **Past Commodore Cormac O'Byrne**. His contributions to the Club extended far beyond his time as Commodore. His contributions in life extended far beyond the confines of this Club. Although we will miss him dearly, what a blessing it was for many of us to have had the opportunity to know him. Our thoughts and prayers are with the O'Byrne family.

By the time you read this, the GPSC racing season will be just around the corner. **Jenny Stacey** has been working on getting volunteers for the Tuesday night race. The Notice of Race has been mailed to past registrants and many have registered again for this year's Sundown Series. The Sl's are on the GPSC web site. The dock worker anniversary shirts have been ordered and should be ready by mid-May. The halyards were given to the park to raise. Only a few more items to complete and we will be racing again, beginning with the Detroit River Challenge on May 22. Heads up - the Ladies Race has moved to September this year.

**Com. Behler** and I made a trip to Marge's Bar to set up my netbook PC to print from their wireless printer the other day. It only took one beer to get the job done. We have to do the Club's PC next. That will probably take another beer. But once we are done, we will be able to deliver printed results after the Tuesday night races this year. Outstanding!

Let's not forget about our windsurfing brethren in the GPSC. I met some of them at the Commodores Steak Roast; wonderful folks. They have their annual Regatta coming up June 18 at Patterson Park. See the flyer in this month's Anchorline. And look for them in the GPP Communicator (Regatta announcement, page 5; Windsurfing lessons, page 7). **Frank Murray**, our Protest Chair and active windsurfer, informed me that there will be a professional free styler performing at this year's windsurfing regatta. It sounds like it will be a great time. Did I tell you I was down at Wayne State the other day and ran into **Ursula Donaldson** at the Dean's Office of the WSU Business School? I love meeting GPSC members I don't know. We had a very nice chat and I learned that she speaks German. How cool is that? Me studying. Her speaking. Das ist sehr toll! I am looking forward to her and her husband **Larry** attending more GPSC activities. How about at the Memorial Day pancake breakfast?

Well, that's it for now. I won't see everyone at the First Race Party this year. I will be visiting Russia for a couple of weeks. But I will be back in time for the Memorial Day pancake breakfast. I hope it will be a wonderful a day as it was last year. So, until then, to paraphrase Rick Steves, "Keep on sailing!"

Dave MacDonald

## RACE COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES

Spring is here and our first race will take place soon! 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.

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



## 2011 GPSC Regatta Party Saturday, July 9, 2011 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 food will be available for purchase.  
Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, 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 JOHN RAGUSE

It is impossible to begin this article without giving praise one of the best men I have ever known **P/C Cormac O'Byrne**. I cannot think of too many men that I looked up to and respected more than Cormac. How privileged we were to know such a genuine person and his family. When the May Board Meeting ended **Com Behler, Vice Com MacDonald** and **P/C Kuester** thought it was appropriate to salute him with his favorite beverage – Irish Mist, and prayed that he and his best friend **P/C Mike Comerford** are looking down on us wishing us the best, as we continue our journey through difficult waters without these two great men. Lord, you are a lucky man to have these two leaders with you. We thank you for sharing them with us.

On a brighter note the Regatta is going to be quite an event this year. All the key positions are filled with the very experienced members. They can all use some extra help once the big weekend kicks off Friday night so please give them a call to let them know that you would like to help in some small way. There will be a meeting in mid May and a final one in mid to late June so please stop by if you'd like to contribute. **Andrea Solak** will head up the party Friday night. Please remember to bring a heavy dish to pass around. **Mary Fraser** will organize the breakfast Saturday morning and **Fred and Deb Chapman** will host the picnic party Saturday afternoon with chef **P/C Tom Fraser** grilling up the burgers and dogs. Please remember the Friday night formal party at **John and Megan Hughes** home is by private invitation which includes all Regatta volunteers. Now is the time to give any of these chair persons a call if you'd like to help out.

For the upcoming Tuesday night race season **P/C Bill Kuester** has graciously offered to take any interested members out for a boat ride on Misscellaneous before the race starts to enjoy the view from his boat. What a wonderful opportunity to view the race and enjoy some time on the water with great company. If you are interested in joining Bill and Elaine for a Tuesday night race please contact him at [BKUESTER1@AOL.COM](mailto:BKUESTER1@AOL.COM) or at 313 – 824 – 2167. Misscellaneous leaves the dock between 6:30 – 6:45 so please plan accordingly.

Everyone please take note that the Spring Rendezvous will be on Harsens Island at the Idle Hour Yacht Club. The event is scheduled for Saturday June 4 with boats arriving by 13:00. Volunteers are needed to bring their dinghy's to take a tour of the island (never seen it, sounds like FUN though!), to be followed by games, a cocktail hour dinner at the Idle Hour

Y.C. and a night cap. Breakfast is scheduled for Sunday at 8:00 and then enjoy a leisurely cruise back home. Stop by and check it out, should be a lot of fun!!!

Members and guest should also take note that P/C Kuester and his good lady Elaine are planning a cruise on July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend to the Put-in-Bay/Cedar Point area and are inviting all members to come along. They are scheduled to leave Thursday, June 30 and travel to Grosse Isle or Ford Y.C. to stay the evening. The next day they will travel to Put-in-Bay or Cedar Point area and stay a bit to enjoy the festivities. The plan is to return to Windmill Pointe by Thursday, July 7 to enjoy the Regatta festivities that commence on Friday July 8<sup>th</sup>. What a great way to spend a one week vacation. Several boats have already signed up. Give Bill a call if you'd like to join him.

John Raguse



### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual MGM Grand Detroit Parade of Lights

- **Start Time is 10:00 PM, Saturday, June 25, 2011**
- **Parade Route is from Cobo Arena upstream to Milliken State Park**
- **Prizes awarded in three categories:**
  - **Sail Boats 25 feet and over**
  - **Power Boats from 25-40 feet**
  - **Power Boats over 40 feet**
- **Entry criteria: participation is open to all licensed and insured power and sail boats that are at least 25 feet in length**
- **To register boats (no entry fee) go to [www.detroitriverdays.com](http://www.detroitriverdays.com) for an application**
- **Informational meeting to be held Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM**
- **Mandatory Skippers Meeting to be held 7:30 PM Wednesday, June 22, 2011**
- **Kean's Marina gift certificates for goods or gas will be given to each registered vessel**
- **Overnight Dockage available at the NYC, EBC and Kean's Marina**
- **Judges will score each boat on:**
  - **Originality**
  - **Overall Appearance**
  - **Use of Lighting**
- **Awards Presentation will take place for participants and guests Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00 PM at the Detroit Yacht Club**

# Happy Birthday To the following members

## May

Com. Larry Cotter

Mark Craig

Brian Ebner

James Gillis

Darius Hummel

Dale Johnson

David Klaasen

Com. Bob Lenhard

Steve Liroff

Brian O'Byrne

Ginger Morketter

Com. Glory Schappe

Wendy Slaymaker

Stephen Walker

Charles Weiss

## June

Joseph Butala

Vicky Colwell

Larry Donaldson

Pat Gerrish

Com. Ken Jamieson

Sheila Loveley-D'Angelo

Barb Olsen

Com. Howard Riley

Paul Schaap

Com. Jim Soltesz

Jennifer Stacey

Peter Warner



## 2011 SAIL FOR LIFE BLOOD DRIVE



***On Monday, June 20, 2011 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.***

In 2005, the GPSC partnered with the Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross to sponsor its first Annual SAIL FOR LIFE blood drive. The drive was commenced in the name of Wally Solak, a member who succumbed to multiple myeloma, blood cancer. He would have shied away from the attention to him; but, he would have applauded the work of other club members, loved ones and friends who have fought their own battles with life shattering illnesses. THIS DRIVE CELEBRATES THE COURAGE OF THOSE STRICKEN WITH SERIOUS DISEASE OR ILLNESS AND THE LOVING ATTENTION GIVEN TO THEM.

The sailors, power boaters and their crews who thrive on the competition of racing have joined with the community in a vital effort to maintain the blood supplies for the Red Cross, an organization which races to the front lines of disasters and personal tragedies daily. Past drives have coincided with critical summer shortages; thus, the impact is significant. The participation by the community at large has been very heartening. It was great to see so many young people step forward last year.

The donation numbers have varied from year to year. In 2009, the drive registered 55 people who extended their arm and donated the "gift of life". Four people were first time donors and pledged to return. 44 people successfully donated one pint. Each pint of blood can be used to save the life of three people. We helped 132 people! We have worked with the Red Cross to encourage pre-registration and appointment times to keep the delays manageable. There are restrictions on the ability to donate but the Red Cross urges people not to self defer. Instead you can call 1-800-GIVELIFE or the website [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org) to determine if you are eligible. Members who have travel to exotic places or have suffered their own medical reasons for deferral are urged to step up to the plate and make a monetary donation to the Red Cross. You can earmark the donation to Blood Services of the Red Cross or Disaster Relief.

This is a "dry" regatta; we do not go to sea. In the fine tradition of sailboat racing, we do award flags to the boat or person who musters the most people to donate in their name. We will award the flags at our annual award event in the fall.

In looking back at the award winners of past drive, I noted that Avatar, the Morlans, have won several flags. They too lost a loved one to blood cancer. We all know of club members and their families who have endured the pain and grief of serious illness and death. We have also given thanks for the recovery of our friends. The Red Cross calls all donors and those who attempt to donate "heroes" for their self-less, heartfelt gestures. There are many heroes in our midst. Thank you for all your efforts.

Andrea Solak

**All Grosse Pointe Park Residents Welcome**

*Please join us for the  
Grosse Pointe Sail Club Annual Memorial Day*

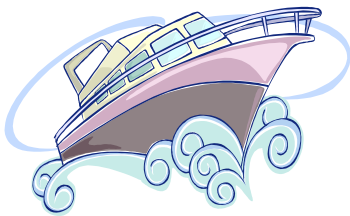
## **Pancake Breakfast!**

Monday, May 30, 2011 from 9:00 to 11:00 am  
Tompkins Center, Windmill Pointe Park



*Hosted by GPSC Directors*

## **Fleet Blessing!**



*The Annual Blessing of the Fleet will follow at 12:30 pm.*

*All boaters (members and non-members) are invited to participate.*

*You are encouraged to fly your GPSC burgee and dress ship.*

*Our Fleet Chaplain and Honor Guard will be stationed on the seawall near the marina entrance. Boaters should gather downriver and travel single file upstream to receive a blessing.*

**All Grosse Pointe Park Residents Are Welcome**



## **Grosse Pointe Sail Club**

### **Look inside for more information**

#### **Upcoming Events:**

May 22	River Challenge
May 24	Start of Spring Series and Patio Party
May 30	Pancake Breakfast/Fleet Blessing
June 4-5	Spring Rendezvous
June 20	Sail For Life Blood Drive
June 25	River Days Parade of Lights
June 25	Rum Challenge
June 27	Target Fireworks
July 5	Start of Summer Series
July 9	Regatta and Awards Party
August 30	Last Summer Race and Party
Sept 3-5	Fall Rendezvous
Sept 6	Start of Fall Series
Sept 11	Ladies' Race and Party

**This is the last Anchorline until September. Look for further updates and details via electronic communication. Have a great summer!!**