



Great Lakes Steel Boat Club Channel Marker

September 2009

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2009 GLSBC Committee Chair and Delegates

GROUNDS----Ralph Pennybacker P/C
 GROUNDS ASSISTANT ----Rich Fater
 DOCKS----Rick Kasza
 QUARTER MASTER----Robert Ponder
 ENTERTAINMENT----Tom Kovach
 EDUCATION & SAFETY----John Armatís P/C
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 AYC DELEGATE----Jack Berry P/C
 BY-LAWS----Jack Berry P/C
 BY-LAWS---Mike Garf



COMMODORE'S CORNER

BY: MARY ALDERMAN

HELLO BOAT CLUB MEMBERS, **WELL MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO I TOOK A WALK AROUND THE CLUB AND I WAS NOT HAPPY WITH WHAT I SAW. THE DOCK MAINTENANCE AT A LARGE NUMBER OF DOCKS WAS WELL BELOW OUR CLUB STANDARDS. WEEDS IN AND AROUND DOCK AREAS ARE THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WELL HOLDER. FOR NORTH SIDERS THIS MEANS THE WEEDS THAT GROW FROM THE FRONT OF YOUR BOAT ALL THE WAY TO THE ASPHALT. FOR THE SOUTH SIDERS THIS MEANS THE WEEDS FROM THE FRONT OF YOUR BOAT TO THE END OF YOUR PARKING AREA. THIS PART OF DOCK MAINTENANCE HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN EVERY NEW MEMBER MEETING FOR THE LAST 6 YEARS. I PERSONALLY HAVE MADE PHONE CALLS AND SENT LETTERS TO THOSE THAT WERE NEVER INTERVIEWED FOR DOCKAGE AND ALSO TO SOME THAT HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED, YET WE STILL HAVE ISSUES WITH WEED CONTROL. THIS YEAR INSTEAD OF CALLING EACH AND EVERY WELL HOLDER TO ASK THEM TO PULL THEIR WEEDS AND CLEAN UP THEIR AREA I TOOK A LOOK AT OUR WAITING LIST FOR DOCKAGE. THE LIST IS FAIRLY LONG AND I THINK THAT ANYONE ON THE WAITING LIST WOULD BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO PULL THEIR WEEDS AND KEEP THEIR AREAS UP TO THE BOAT CLUB'S STANDARDS. WHAT DO YOU THINK? PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ENTERTAINMENT CHAIR, TOM KOVACH FOR PUTTING ON

2009 Upcoming Events

Sept. 19th Southside Party
 Sept. 26th/27th Jet Express to Put-In-Bay
 Oct. 3rd & 4th Haul-out
 Dec. 12th Annual Meeting

AN AWESOME STEAK DINNER LAST MONTH. AS USUAL EVERYTHING WAS FABULOUS AND THE BAND WAS GREAT. ALSO, I'D LIKE TO THANK ASSOCIATE MEMBER, KEN HURLEY FOR VOLUNTEERING TO MOP THE CLUBHOUSE FLOOR BEFORE HE WENT HOME THAT NIGHT...

SOUTHSIDE PARTY IS TOMORROW, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH AT AROUND 4PM AT THE TENNIS COURTS. IT'S AN AWESOME END OF YEAR PARTY THAT IS GRACIOUSLY PUT ON FOR US BY RALPH PENNYBACKER AND RICK MARTIN AND A CREW OF THEIR FRIENDS. IT'S A WONDERFUL PARTY THAT SEEMS TO GROW A LITTLE EACH YEAR. I HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE. I HEARD A RUMOR THAT WE'RE HAVING A BAND THIS YEAR.

NOW FOR THE SAD NEWS, HAUL OUT IS 2 WEEKS AWAY. IT'S A WORKING WEEKEND AND ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY. PLEASE MAKE SURE TO CHECK IN WITH YOUR CREW LEADER WHEN YOU ARRIVE AND CHECK OUT WITH HIM BEFORE YOU LEAVE. AS ALWAYS, WORKING ON YOUR PERSONAL VESSEL IS NOT PERMITTED UNTIL ALL CLUB WORK IS COMPLETED. REMEMBER, SAFETY FIRST.

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS



Hello everyone! I'd like to start this month's article with a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who pitched in to help Patty and I with the steak roast. It was a lot of work and I saw quite a few newer members pitch in and help out! Of course I noticed all of my usual helpers too and for all of you we are truly grateful. We fed over 300 people and that is no small task in a little over 3 hours! We had so much help I am not going to name any names for fear of missing someone, but please know that we truly appreciated everything you did to make this event the success it was. We topped off the evening with a great performance from

Brian Bosman! He just keeps getting better and better, doesn't he?

Well...I hate to say those two dreaded words, but yes folks, it's that time again, Haul Out! As usual, it's coming faster than we want, but the good news is, I have a great lunch planned for all the workers. Please remember to come in to the clubhouse and sign the sign-in sheet on both day.

Not much more to report this month, I hope everyone had a great boating season, despite the whacky weather we had this summer! If you have any questions or comments feel free to give me call.

Tom Kovach
313-670-1582

Docks



As much as I hate to say it, another boating season is wrapping up and it is time to get ready for winter storage. All active members are required to be present for both days of Haul-Out weekend and are asked to stay until their crew chief dismisses the entire team each day. Start time is 8 am on both Saturday and Sunday. Job assignments will be posted at the clubhouse and in front of the restrooms. Take a minute to check in advance and to make sure that you are on a list, if not, notify a board member. Please be prepared and bring any protective clothing that you may need throughout the day like rain gear, gloves, a hat, over-alls or possibly something to change into if necessary.

If anyone has some time to help with the weekend preparation on Thursday, October 1st, or on Friday, October 2nd, contact myself or Ralph Pennybacker.

For the blocking crew, a short safety meeting will be held at 8am Saturday morning at the crane.

- Remember to inspect your jack stands and grease the threads; also make sure that you have good plywood to place under them.
- The crane operator as requested that all powered carts be kept out of the general vicinity of the crane at all times.
- ***Do not perform any work on any boat until all of the work for the day is complete. No cleaning. No winterizing, no covering, no nothing!!!!***
NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!

Remember – Safety First!

Everyone is **required** to use environmentally safe antifreeze. Remember to make sure that gas vents are covered prior to doing any shrink wrapping and make sure that a fire extinguisher is readily available. Do not tie winter covers to your jack stands! As always, and especially for the newer club member; if you are not absolutely clear on what is expected of you or if you have a general question, please ask.

One last, yet very important point (this will tell who reads the Channel Marker or not) GLSBC is planning on having a new card reader installed at the main entrance gate later this year. The new access cards are anticipated to be in by Haul-Out. If they do arrive, Ray Stewart will be handing them out

in a designated area. Once the new system is installed, everyone will be notified in advance of the conversion and the old cards will be collected.

Rick Kasza
VC & Dock's



FLEET REPORT

Our final rendezvous of the 2009 season was once again at Holiday Harbour but this time we joined up with Seaway Boat Club. Another fantastic weekend for weather and we all had a great time. Gary Convery's "Cheeseburgers in Paradise" were a huge success!

I am looking into planning some fall and winter events so I will post those in the newsletter as soon as the details are finalized. Until next month,
Your Fleet Capt., Vinnie



VALUABLE INFORMATION REGARDING FUEL CONTAINING ETHANOL

I am writing this memo to alert everyone at GLSBC of the potential dangers involved with using fuels containing ethanol. As you know, all fuels supplied in Michigan now contain 10% ethanol. Recently I experienced something that I hope can be avoided by all of you through awareness of potential failure of rubber components in your boat fuel system. I am not an expert on this and can only convey my experience in hope that you may spot problems before it causes severe damage, loss of your vessel, or death.

Recently, my fuel line failed and resulted in 130 gallons of fuel being siphoned into the bilge of my boat. No real damages were incurred as a fire or explosion did not occur. Fuel/water was removed from the bilge by an EPA approved pumper and the bilge area was degreased and washed eliminating all evidence of the spill and fumes. This was all done for a cost of about \$3,200.00. This cost would have been much higher if the bilge pump would have activated and pumped fuel overboard. Amazingly, this did not happen as a bumper was laying in the bilge and did not allow the pump float to activate. This was not a problem as my boat is actually in a hoist and out of the water while at the dock. How Lucky Can You Get!

Now let's get to how this happened and what to look for in your boat. Once the fuel was removed I examined fuel lines and tanks to determine where the fuel came from. The front tank and Starboard lines were suspect as that tank was emptied (over 3/4 full the day before). Facts that were gleaned from my inspection were as follows:

- Gaskets in water separator filter canisters were badly decomposed and ready to fail. Note these filters and gaskets were replaced at the end of last season.
- Fuel tanks are heavy gauge aluminum and appeared to be free of any damage or corrosion (Ethanol is not expected to damage aluminum tanks but will destroy fiberglass tanks).
- A fuel line was found to have failed. I used compressed air to fill the line and listened for hissing (air escaping the line).

I had new fuel lines fabricated which was a difficult task as nobody wishes to take on the liability for fuel lines. To save you some steps if you need new lines, the only local company that would do it was a company called Traction Heavy Duty Parts on Van Born Rd. in Romulus. Their phone number is 734-722-6500. They made up four lines for me in about 15 minutes. The price was not bad either as it was approximately \$150.00.

I had the boat inspected after repair and the following comments were made by the surveyor:

- The failure had occurred in the Starboard engine fuel line.
- Failure was the result of aged fuel lines attacked by ethanol.
- Failure of fiberglass fuel tanks, rubber fuel lines, fuel filter gaskets, fuel pumps, fuel tank floats... can and are expected to fail as a result of ethanol in the fuels for boats.
- Although all fuel lines were replaced it was recommended that anti-siphon valves be added to the tanks to prevent the siphoning that occurred on my boat. Apparently newer boats have this valve and older boats do not.
- Signs of this ethanol attack may or may not be visible from the outer surface of the fuel line. Look for brittleness and any signs of decomposition of the outer layers. Outer layers of fuel lines are not resistant to ethanol and will actually dissolve if exposed to fuel.
- "The government is aware of these damaging effects and simply does not care about boaters".

As a result of these comments, I think it is safe to say, you better look out for yourself as the government is bound and determined to add additional ethanol to fuels as we speak. The surveyor did not say that older boats were more susceptible to this type failure than newer boats; however, I think common sense would state that.

Safe Boating,
Mike Garf





October Birthdays:

- 6 Loretta Owens
- 8 Perry Mahaney
- 10 Karen Shafer
- 12 Linda Murphy
- 14 Bernadette Miller
- 18 Tony Spath
- 19 Danny Murphy
- 20 John Homenick
- 22 Sandy Miller
- 23 Rich Fater
- 23 Ray Stewart
- 26 Sue Schafran
- 27 Donna Fickeisen



SICK BAY

Sandy Miller is home recuperating from her recent surgery. Wishing you a speedy recovery!



October Anniversaries:

- 2 Dale & Cynthia Neff
- 6 Charles & Gert Green
- 9 Perry & Kathy Mahaney
- 10 John & Jean Homenick
- 15 Scott & Leona Bell
- 17 Dave & Geri Gutowski
- 24 Rich & Lacreata Curylo
- 26 John & Virginia Exner
- 30 Brian & Una Bonner



Holiday Harbour may not have a swim-up bar but the guys demonstrate the real purpose of a raft in the pool!

*Congratulations are
in order.....*



Kathy and Perry Mahaney welcomed their first grandchild, Avery, on August 7th. He weighed in at 7 lbs. 8 oz. Congratulations to the new grandparents!!



Fleet Captain Vinnie Sutherland recently completed his truck driving course and was immediately offered a job. Mike Brown from Seaway was kind enough to provide Vinnie with his first "truck driving" paraphernalia. Way to go, Vinnie!!