

Singapore Yacht Club, Inc.

Newsletter



Issue 8, Volume 2
Mel Ott, Editor

Commodore's Corner by Ken LaGrand



A warm greeting to the entire "SYC Family". As of today's date, we are now a little over one-third of the way through the 2009 SYC boating season. The good news is that we still have almost two-thirds of the current season to enjoy.

Speaking of enjoyment, we really enjoyed having our four grandsons visit us at the boat this past Saturday. They (as well as Joni and I) had a great time attending and participating in the annual "Family Picnic" event. Thanks to Jim and Cathy Gorman, Bob and Jeanie Martin, Steve and Elizabeth Boerema, and all of the various individuals who helped them in numerous ways to stage a fantastic event (some even say the best ever). The weather cooperated to give us a perfect day, after a major thunderstorm passed through on Friday evening, dumping record rainfall and causing major flooding in the Holland area. Thanks also to all of the members and their guests who attended the picnic (over 180 adults and children in all). Your being there helped make this a truly outstanding day.

As of this writing, we have now enjoyed three straight days of perfect summer weather with temperatures in the eighties. (Editor's note: It didn't last!) This is welcomed, after a rather cool start to our season. In fact, some of the local natives were questioning whether this was one of those years where the Michigan summer was going to be both short (non-existent) and cool. Thankfully, the intermediate term forecast (next two to three weeks) calls for temperatures that will be above average. Let's all enjoy the heat without complaining that it's now "too" hot.

Thanks, also, to Dick Christian, our Club Manager and his crew for the extra work involved with the Family Picnic as well as the Saugatuck Waterfront Film Festival using our parking lot and picnic tables for their opening event on June 11th. The club facilities and grounds look great and we appreciate all the hard work that goes into maintaining them in this condition.

A special welcome to the new members who have joined our ranks in 2009. We hope you have already felt you are important additions to this club. We are assured that soon you will find that the thing that makes SYC truly great is the people who are part of this club. Sure, we have a beautiful location in the heart of Saugatuck to enjoy, but the people, both members and employees, are what has made this club outstanding over the past fifty summers, and what we hope will make it even more successful in the future.

In closing, we would like to extend condolences to Past Commodore and Honorary Member, Lynn Everse and his wife Jan, on the passing of Jan's father; and to past long time member, Frank Verderese on the passing of his wife, Mary.

Best wishes to you and yours for a good physical and financial health, and for a truly enjoyable time for the remaining days of this 2009 summer. Let's all celebrate together the fifty summers that SYC has been in existence, and do everything possible to make this summer the best one yet.

Club Manager's Report by Dick Christian



The "Art in the Park" and the 4th of July celebrations are all over now, so the crew and I can start working on bringing the grounds back into shape for the rest of the season – or at least until the Venetian Night Festival and then we'll start all over again. We appreciate the cooperation of all the members in not moving the picnic tables around too much after we had them set for the two events. And the parking went pretty well, too, with only a few glitches of people parking in the wrong parking spaces.

We have been successful in filling all the asphalt cracks in the parking lot which will help extend the life. We will soon be replacing the leaking roof on the pool shed.

We also appreciate your cooperation in watching the children in the bathrooms. We're not trying to single out any particular kids or families, we just ask that you be alert to what may be happening. Kids will be kids, and, as you probably well know, little hands can make big messes. If you happen to be someone who has to use the facilities after little unsupervised hands have been using them, you may be the one who has to "enjoy" the mess that sometimes occurs. Yes, we know it our job to clean up the messes and make the restrooms pleasant to use, but if we're off doing some other job, helping someone dock or leave, or one of the other things that keep us hopping most days, we may not be able to get to it right away – and our member or a transient will get a bad impression of our club. Your help with the kids is greatly appreciated.

I'm asking again for your cooperation in letting us know when you'll be leaving your slip and for how long so we can know if it can be used to make money for the club. Just hail us on channel 9 to let us know when you leave and when you're coming back so we can plan accordingly. We'd hate to have you come back to find your slip filled with a transient because you didn't communicate with us.

I've often said that 95% of the time we get excellent cooperation from the members in everything we do. It's just that 5% that can make things unpleasant for us and for the rest of the members.

Vice Commodore's Report by Gary Battaglia



Wireless Internet service is now available from slip #17 to 49 at the club. We have completed the installation of a new line to handle the north end and should have the glitches all resolved in the very near future.

A crew consisting of Bob Lamar, Ken LaGrand, Jim Curtis, John Whalen, and others have installed a new permanent ramp from the parking lot to the boardwalk and from the Cook Park sidewalk to the boardwalk. They also repaired the steps by the Butler. The ramps have been painted bright yellow and non-slip strips of tape have been added for safety.

The same work crew installed our new fireboxes, attaching them to our light posts on the boardwalk. Thanks, again, to member Rick Schuler for the construction of these custom-made boxes and his donation of them to the club.

Dick Christian and his crew have been busy putting safety paint where it is needed around the club and on the finger piers. New signs have also been installed at the entrances to the boardwalk issuing safety warnings.

The rust stains in the pool have been successfully removed by Dick and his crew. And you've probably noticed the staining of the pool fence and repair of the pool decking has been completed.

A fan has been installed in the pool shed to help dissipate the heat generated by the pool heater. This has enabled us to close the pool shed door, making it more attractive and eliminating a possible danger to children playing in the area.

As a reminder, all Building and Grounds concerns should be directed to the Vice Commodore. My Building and Grounds committee consists of myself, Steve Andree, Steve Boerema, and John Larsen.

Treasurer's Report by Joe Clark



As of June 1st, our expenses are tracking pretty much as budgeted for the year. Our Revenue is \$12,000 higher primarily because of the slip rental rate increase but this is offset by our Operating Expenses that are approximately \$17,000 higher than at this time last year. This increase is due to some pool expenses that were not anticipated and the handling of several long term expenses. Consequently, our Net Income year-to-date is approximately \$6,000 lower than at this time last year. We have budgeted for a slightly lower net income due to the economy and its potential affect on our transient income. Overall, the club remains in sound fiscal condition.

Secretary's Report by Bob Martin



As we settle into summer and its warmer weather, the days seem to be flying off the calendar. It's great to be active at SYC. The Family Picnic was a great time for all the kids, young and old, however it was a challenge keeping up with the kids' excitement during the games. It was a lot of fun to host the games and I look forward to the rest of the SYC Social Calendar.

At this time our membership is growing as we welcome new members, a total of 9 so far this year. Many thanks to Jim Curtis and his Membership Committee for their fine work. We now have 120 regular members, 16 honorary and surviving spouse members, and 3 life members, for a total of 139. We need new members so talk to your boating friends, neighbors, and family. SYC is the greatest yacht club on the Great Lakes and offers a wonderful retreat from the real world.

Since all of our slips are filled for 2009, so please go cruising so we can host other boaters at SYC and help our transient income. Contact Dick Christian with your travel dates.

Slipholders, our Butler lease requires that we have a copy of your insurance policy declaration page for our records and their examination. If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to fax it or drop it off at the Dock Master's office. There are currently 10 policies that have expired and need to be renewed or updated.

Bridge and Board Candidates

In the near future, we will be sending out ballots for candidates for the Board of Directors and Bridge. The candidate for the open position on the Bridge is retiring Board of Directors member, Jim Gorman, who is presently serving his second year as Social Chairman as well as serving on the Board. Candidates for the two open positions on the Board of Directors are Mike Applegate, John Larsen, Karl Thoma, and John L. Whalen. To aid you when it is time to vote, the Board has asked each candidate to provide a picture and a resume for your examination. They follow:

R. L. "Mike" Applegate



Personal

59 YOA, Married to "Bobbie", 2 daughters, 1 son; 2 grandsons

Born in Flint, MI Current residence: Orland Park, IL

Professional Background:

1997 – Present President, Bominx Transport, Inc. (Transportation & Logistics, an Independent Agency for Landstar Systems, Inc.)

Prior Highlights:

Director of Business Development – Landstar
Vice President – Harold Ives Trucking

Superintendent – Grand Trunk Western RR / Canadian National Railway

Education:

Attended:

Northwestern University

University of Michigan

Military:

United States Marine Corps / United States Marine Corps Reserve

1970-1977

1981-1984

Boating for entire life

Former member of the Hammond Yacht Club (Rear Commodore)

John Larsen



Hi. I'm John Larsen. I'm Co-Captain with Margaret Larsen of the "Pictoretaker", a 40' Mainship that is slipped at Sergeants Marina #45. We are near the top of the list for a slip at SYC. We have been boating for 15 years and have been in Saugatuck all those years. We started boating at Deep Harbor before moving to Saugatuck Marine Yacht Service for a number of years and were active in the Yacht Club there (SMYC). I was fortunate to be Commodore for the year 2004. We have been members of SYC since 2005, enjoying friendships and meeting new members each year. We served as Historians with our good friends, the Hollidays, who actually had encouraged us to join since they became members late in the 1990's. This year I'm serving on the House and Grounds Committee. I was given the chance to be a member of the Board last year but was not selected. Well, here I am again, willing to serve because the Board asked me to run. I believe, if you are a member of an organization that you enjoy, when asked, you should step up to the plate. If selected, I will do my best to carry on the proud tradition of Singapore Yacht Club as a leader within the harbor and community.

Karl Thoma



Karl Thoma has been an employee of Libbey Glass, Inc. (Toledo, OH) for 28 years in various positions. He serves as the company's liaison on the Arts and Industry Council, is a member of the company's Stearing Teams and Lean Manufacturing Development Teams. Karl is also active civically. He currently serves on several Metroparks committees in leadership positions. He has served on many Toledo area boards including Neighborhood Housing Services, Housing East Redevelopment Corp. and Starboardside Development Partnership. Karl enjoys spending time at SYC, appreciates the hard work that goes into keeping it running, and looks forward to the opportunity to serve. He and his wife, Jane, are currently serving as Historians.

John L. Whalen



This is to notify you of my availability and willingness to serve in any open Board position for the upcoming term of office. I am submitting the following highlights of my organizational experience in order to suggest my ability to reasonably evaluate matters that may come before the Board.

SYC club member since 1996

SYC current slip holder

Recent contributions and offers of assistance to SYC House and Ground Committee

Current member Chicago Yacht Club (CYC)

Former sole organizer for two (2) CYC Power Fleet party/cruise events

Merchant Marine License: Master 100 ton Great Lakes/Inland Waters (GLIN) Power/Sail

Chapman Marine Survey School attendee

Former Vice President International Shipmasters, Chicago Chapter

President, Grey Eagle Marine (charter and yacht delivery service)

Master of Science degree-Engineering Management

Retired American Airlines International Captain – 30 years accident free service

Retired USAF (reserve) Colonel – 28 years accident free service, Middle East

South/Central American combat support, 5 years US Navy, combat veteran Vietnam

Recommended for promotion to General officer 1996, 1997

Auxiliary Report by Joyce Andree



The Singapore Yacht Club Auxiliary held its 2nd meeting of the year on June 6th in the clubroom.

Later that day, we had the Auxiliary cocktail party in the pool area. The party was a success with a good time being had by all in spite of the threat of rain. Thanks to all who helped with the set up and also to John Larsen and Steve Andree for their bartending skill, and to Steve Boerema for his help as a relief bartender. Bob Martin and Rick Lange deserve a big “Thank You” for selling raffle tickets for us. They worked hard and did a great job.

Our clothing committee displayed some of the wonderful new “Member Clothing” at the cocktail party that can be ordered with your boat name and SYC logo on it. Please see Jeanie Martin, Cathy Gorman, or Mary Battaglia to place your orders for a variety of things.

The next Auxiliary event will be a “Christmas in July” cocktail party in the pool area on July 18th. Please bring a Christmas wrapped “white elephant” gift for a gift exchange/auction. We will also have our July meeting that morning at 10:00 AM in the clubroom. We look forward to seeing everyone at both the meeting and the cocktail party. Please bring an appetizer to share, along with your “white elephant” gift, and be dressed in something related to Christmas (Editor’s note: a Santa costume would be nice – or maybe Santa’s elf – or a child in her nightgown waiting for Santa to arrive!)

And finally, we’re happy to report we currently have 51 members and are looking to have many more join including a “few good men”. If you would like to join us, please see Nancy Hall or

me, Joyce Andree, to sign up. Our membership is open to both **men** and **women** of SYC with dues that are still only \$20.00 a year. These help support the Auxiliary with projects for everyone to enjoy.

We look forward to seeing you on July 18th wearing your Christmas finest.

New Members

We are happy to introduce two new members to the club, Chris Dibble and his wife Shelley from Holland, MI; and Tim Pearl (Tami), from Haslett, MI. And, as promised, Marc Weiser and his wife Mary who joined in June, are also included. Please introduce yourself to them and welcome them to the club if you should meet them on the boardwalk, at a party, or anywhere around the club.



Chris & Shelley Dibble



Tim Pearl



Marc & Mary Weiser

Looking for a Picture?

Following will be information and pictures on our recent parties and events at the club. We've tried to include a lot of pictures for your enjoyment, but can't possibly put all of them in the newsletter. So – due to the efforts of our Historians, Karl and Jane Thoma, we now have ALL of the pictures we've taken at our events on-line available for your viewing, and if you wish, downloading on to your computer so you enjoy them and/or print them. Go to the website, www.photobucket.com and, after logging in to our exclusive section, you'll be able to see a lot more of the pictures from every event. You'll need our user name and password in order to log in – you'll remember I e-mailed this information to you some time ago. However, if you have lost the information, just e-mail me and I'll be happy to send the information to you. Once you've identified a picture(s) that you may want to download to your computer, right click on the picture and select "Save picture as". It will bring up a spot on your computer where you may want to save it, probably the "Pictures" folder in the "My Documents" file. If you don't like the spot the computer selected, click on the down arrow at the end of the folder heading and browse for the spot you want it to go.

Auxiliary Cocktail Party

Even though the weather was threatening and overcast, the first Auxiliary cocktail party of the year was a great success enjoyed by many members. In addition to the wonderful food brought by the participants including the wonderful cake baked by one of Barb Paul's associates, the drinks served by John Larsen and Steve Andree with the assistance of Steve Boerema were delightful. And Bob Martin and Rick Lange did a great job selling tickets for the money raffle. The auxiliary also had a display of clothing available for ordering, too.



Family Picnic by Jim and Cathy Gorman

June 20th, by all accounts, is a day that will not be forgotten for a long time. After a particularly bad storm on Friday night, the day dawned and by noon was bright and warm. The grounds that could have been wet and muddy were actually dry and in good condition for the fun and games that followed – a testament to the work of our dock crew. The only casualty of the day due to the storm was the Fishing Tournament. Although we had plenty of participants, no one was lucky enough to land a fish because the water was so muddy the fish couldn't see the bait, so the prize fishing poles and tackle boxes were put away to be awarded (hopefully) next year to a lucky angler.

Bob and Jeanie Martin had our traditional Family Picnic games, plus a few new ones for the toddler crowd, all lined up with adult helpers, and kept the games interesting and moving. Every child was a winner – several times over! But some of the specific winners in different games were; James Keizer, Ken & Joni LaGrand's grandson, winner of the "Hot Potato" game; the "soda toss" winners were Alex, Andrew, James, and Jonathan Kiszler and Ella Lane. The "sack race" was won by George Supp & granddaughter Kati, and Joe and John Zeipen; Aaron and Kati, grandchildren of George Supp won the "water balloon toss". Joy was on the faces of all the participants when they took their tokens to the prize table and picked what they wanted from the huge selection shopped for by prize table volunteers, Mary Lou Ott and Shirley Young.

Under the guidance of Steve and Elizabeth Boerema who planned the meal of chicken, brats, hot dogs and hamburgers plus all the trimmings, almost 180 adults and children were fed in approximately 35 minutes. His grilling helpers, Steve Andree, Bob Deacon, Dick Camarota, Dick Van Scheltema, and Bob Williamson had the hot dogs, brats, chicken, and hamburgers all ready for serving, hot and on time. A special thanks to Dick Van Scheltema for cooking all the chicken, starting about 1 ½ hours before serving time and keeping it hot in Styrofoam coolers. Steve had four serving lines set up to make sure everyone got served *fast!*

As always, the “build your own sundae” ice cream line was a favorite of everyone – children and adults! The same method was used to move the line quickly, four ice cream “dippers” with all the goodies you could want to decorate it with.

Cathy and I would like to thank everyone who helped us make the day a huge success but especially to Bob and Jeanie Martin who organized and ran all the games, and Steve and Elizabeth Boerema who arranged all the food. Some of the others who deserve recognition were Jim, Bess, Karl, and Jane who kept the adult games interesting, Mary Lou and Shirley at their prize tables, the entire grill crew, and of course, the clean-up crew. You all made our job easier and helped us get many compliments from the members and guests.



Fourth of July Parade

Under the leadership of Dave and Cindy Holliday, SYC had another good representation of our community spirit by our participation in the Saugatuck July 4th parade on Saturday afternoon. And, later on that evening when the biggest crowd in years showed up on the grounds to view the fireworks display.



Upcoming Events

Please mark your calendars – we have some important events coming up in the very near future.

July 17th – Auxiliary Christmas in July Cocktail party – Christmas gift, dish to pass, dress for Christmas

July 25th – Venetian Festival – We need your participation in Boat Parade – Dinghy Poker Run – Antique Boat Show. Don't forget to fill in "Singapore Yacht Club" when you register for any of these activities, not just SYC!!! We also need volunteer members to help with the children's activities to take place in Cook Park. Don't forget to decorate your boat in your slip!

July 30-August 2 – Cruise and Rendezvous in South Haven. Join your fellow club members for all the fun Doug and Robin Peet have planned for you. Information will be out to you soon.