



# THE RUNABOUTER

Publication of the MILWAUKEE BOAT CLUB, Inc. Founded June 1957



March 2011

Vol. 54 No. 03

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

One of my objectives as Commodore is for the Board of Directors to become more proactive in the business of the club. To that end, I will ask occasionally that the Board have a face-to-face meeting with me. Our first meeting in February was very productive.

Once again Jim and Connie have done a great job planning and managing the SnoFun Cruise. Nearly 30 members attended various segments of the events.

Our February meeting included an excellent presentation by Captain Luann Barndt of the Coast Guard. She gave a description of the various sectors of Lake Michigan, including management and safety of the electric carp barriers on the Illinois River.

I would like to make a point that *The Runabout* can only be as interesting as we, the members, make it. This requires your input on Scuttlebutt and perhaps articles of interest to the club. I ask captains of events and cruises to contribute a short article afterward.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Corned Beef Dinner on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Note this date is a week later than usual.

**Wayne Happel**



## BIRTHDAYS

Wish the following members a happy birthday!

### MARCH

- 2 Greg Canak
- 4 Tom Hickinbotham
- 5 Connie Heyden
- 7 Karleen Wilde
- 8 Dave Risch
- 9 Jim Mergener
- 10 George Graubner
- 12 Dave Schneckenberg
- 14 Lynda Nelson
- 16 Wayne Happel
- 16 Barry Goodstein
- 23 Dick McCormick
- 25 Donna Danowski
- 28 Scott Burke
- 30 Monica Tillmann

### APRIL

- 4 Bill Erby
- 6 Dick Grabowski
- 7 Leo Wagner
- 10 John Grasse
- 15 Dave Dorner
- 24 Carolyn Nason

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 14 Captains' (First Mates') Breakfast
- March 24 St. Pat's Corned Beef Dinner  
6:30 P.M. Harborside Yacht Center  
Captains Russ Berg, Dan Danowski & Tom McElwee,  
George Graubner, & Wayne Happel
- April 6 Dinner at Fox & Hounds Restaurant  
Captain Dave Schneckenberg
- April 11 Captains' (First Mates') Lunch
- April 21 MBC Membership Meeting  
at Pete Zierdens Factory & Needy Family Donations  
Captains George Graubner & Jim Heyden

**Milwaukee Boat Club, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 1463**  
**Milwaukee, WI 53201-1463**  
**<http://www.milwaukeeboatclub.com>**

**OFFICERS**

Commodore .....Wayne Happel  
 Vice-Commodore & Cruise Director ..... Daryl Grubbs  
 Senior Pilot..... Jim Heyden  
 Purser ..... Dave Dorner  
 Yeoman..... Lynne Happel  
 Director of Membership ..... Bonnie Merryfield  
 Director of Programs ..... Dave Schneckenberg  
 Director of House & Equipment ..... Tom McElwee  
 Director of Refreshments.....Leo Wagner  
 Past-Commodore ..... Grey Halstead

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

LMYA Representative .....Wayne Happel  
 Boat US Agent .....Mary Berg  
*The Runabout* Editor ..... Liz Beaudoin  
 Advertising ..... Pete Merryfield  
 Scuttlebutt .....Mary Berg, Gloria Larsen, and  
 ..... Bonnie Merryfield  
 Webmaster..... Daryl Grubbs  
 Dry Dock & Welfare.....Charlene Zierden  
 Club Sales..... Nancy Grabowski  
 Audit and Bylaws..... Nancy Grabowski  
 Cruise Directory Advertising ..... Pete Merryfield  
 Historian.....Cindy Halstead, Kim Hesper,  
 .....Patty Heibel, and Connie Heyden  
 Keeper of the Log.....Sue Ring-Wagner  
 Photographer .....Cindy Halstead, Kim Hesper,  
 .....Patty Heibel, and Connie Heyden

**MBC BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 17, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by Commodore Wayne Happel after the General Membership Meeting.

Board members present: D. Schneckenberg, G. Halstead, D. Dorner, L. Wagner, J. Heyden, W. Happel  
 Non- Board members present: R. Berg

**Item 1**

The purser asked that we change the maximum amount he is authorized to spend without board approval.

Section 6, p. 32 of the bylaws states: "All bills in excess of \$50 shall be approved by the Board of Directors."

The Board felt this may have been appropriate 20 or 30 years ago but was no longer practical today. Accordingly, the Board approved a change for member consideration. See this issue of *The Runabout* for details.

**Item 2**

Christine Grubbs asked the Board to consider eliminating the reading and the approval of the past month's minutes. Instead she suggested the minutes be approved as printed in *The Runabout*. The Board unanimously approved this suggestion. The bylaws do not specify the minutes be read. Therefore, beginning with the next meeting of March 24<sup>th</sup>, the minutes will be approved as printed in the *Runabout*.

**Item 3**

The Commodore suggested that members be allowed to post a non-commercial ad in the *Runabout* for the sale of a boat or boat related equipment. The Board asked him to get together with the editor and determine the page size of an ad and report back.

**Item 4**

The Commodore told the Board that the club does not carry liability insurance and that similar clubs and organizations such as Waukesha Cruise Fleet and LMYA do. His concern is that if property damage or injury would occur during a club event, the club and officers could be sued. Also, we could be sued for slander if something is printed or said that someone would find offensive. Most of the Board felt we should have insurance. Dave Scheckenberg said he thought that because we were a non-profit corporation, we couldn't be sued. Dave said he would study the issue. The Commodore also mentioned that Dick Grabowski said the club got an opinion from a lawyer about 10 years ago that said we don't need the insurance. The Board asked the Commodore to obtain a quote.

**Item 5**

A member asked if a Past Commodore's battered burgee could be replaced at no cost. The Board ruled that the burgee would have to be paid for at cost.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 p.m.

**Wayne Happel**  
**Commodore**

## MBC MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 11, 2011

Commodore Wayne Happel called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m.

Wayne thanked Daryl for conducting the business portion of the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting in his absence. He recognized this was in addition to Daryl chairing the planning portion of the meeting. He also thanked Christine for substituting as yeoperson.

The minutes of the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting were read and approved.

### Officer's / Director's reports:

Senior Pilot Jim Heyden reported that 30 people had signed up for the SnoFun Cruise on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

Jim also said we needed to make a decision on the entertainment for the Commodore's Ball. He asked the members if they were interested in inviting The Moonlighter's who entertained us last year, to return for another engagement. The members were unanimous in their support of inviting them back.

Purser Dave Dorner reported a 1/20/11 starting balance of \$2,930.56, income \$151, expenses \$195.19 for an ending balance 2/16/11 of \$2,886.37.

Membership Chair, Bonnie, reported 97 paid plus 6 honorary for total of 103 members.

Program Chair, Dave Schneckenberg, reminded members of the dinner scheduled at the Fox and Hounds April 6<sup>th</sup>. Details to follow.

### Committee Reports:

LMYA Commodore Jim Mergener said the Rendezvous would be the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of June this year in Port Washington. He also reminded LMYA members to send their dues in by March 15<sup>th</sup> to be listed in The Blue Book.

### The Runabouter:

Wayne asked for members to send Scuttlebutt to Mary or Bonnie. He also asked that those who captain an event write an article and should send it to the editor, Liz, who will include it in *The Runabouter*.

### Old Business:

In continuation of the January 20<sup>th</sup> Planning Meeting, Donna Danowski reported a decision has made that she will captain a cruise July 29, 30 and 31 to Prairie Harbor on the Wisconsin/Illinois border. North Port is a dinghy cruise away and has an excellent restaurant. SSSYC has a Power Boater's event on July 28<sup>th</sup>, so cruisers could stay on their boats Thursday night and leave for Prairie Harbor the next morning.

Russ Berg has changed his July 29<sup>th</sup> Saugatuck, Michigan Cruise to a date he will announce later.

### New Business:

Russ Berg introduced Paul Rogers, President of the Milwaukee Air and Water Show. Paul spoke about the problem the Thunderbirds had during the show with engines ingesting seagulls. He said if we do not get rid of the birds, it is questionable if the show will continue. Accordingly, there is a plan that 7 to 10 days before the show, a contingent of volunteers will cruise in the harbor and fire pyro guns and air cannons in order to scare off the birds. He asked for volunteers from our club. Talk to Russ if you're interested, as he will chair this program for our club.

Sam Graubner asked members to bring food for needy families to the March and April meetings.

Wayne introduced on behalf of Christine Grubbs, her suggestion that we omit the reading of the minutes and approve them as written in *The Runabouter*. A discussion was held and a few members were against eliminating the reading. Wayne said he would discuss this at a Board Meeting.

Wayne mentioned that the bylaws state in Sec. 5, p. 34, "The Commodore shall call meetings of the Board as he or a majority of the Board deem proper." He said he planned to continue with the practice of doing Board business by email and telephone but wanted on occasion to have a face to face meeting. Accordingly, he called for a meeting at the end of the evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Lynne Happel  
Yeoperson**

### OFFICAL NOTICE OF BYLAW AMENDMENT

Notice is given that the following amendment to the bylaws will be voted on for approval at a General Membership meeting 60 days from this publication.

Amendment to Article 3, Section 6, Page 32 of the Directory Change from:

He (Purser) shall audit and pay all bills of the Club not exceeding fifty dollars (\$50.00) when found correct and approved by the Commodore. All bills in excess of fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall be approved by the Board of Directors, etc.-----.

Change to:

He shall audit and pay all bills of the Club not exceeding five hundred (\$500.00) when found correct and approved by the Commodore. All bills in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) shall be approved by the Board of Directors, etc.-----.

### IN SYMPATHY

The members of Milwaukee Boat Club extend their sincere condolences to Leo Wagner and Sue Ring-Wagner on the passing of Leo's mother. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

### SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT



The cause of the catastrophic marina fire above was a loose power cord connection that overheated and, as the connection deteriorated and the resistance increased, caught fire.

Sound familiar to any of you?

I am aware of two cases at SSSYC where the connector actually melted and had to be replaced. In both cases the dock pedestal was 50 amps, and the line to the boat, 1 or 2, 30-amp connections. The 30-amp overheats and is only protected by the 50-amp breaker in the dock pedestal. In this set up, it is even more important that the connections be tight and secure.

My son-in-law had this happen on his boat in North Carolina. Fortunately the connector on the boat only melted.

Just a suggestion at South Shore: Have someone periodically check all connections to boat and be sure that connectors are not damaged and that connection rings are in place. I think there will be a number of power cords/boat connectors that will have to be replaced. Also, I noted that some boats use a regular extension cord plugged into an adapter on a 30-amp pedestal receptacle. Overload on the extension cord (15- or 20-amp wire) can cause a fire. Thirty-amp receptacles should have #10 wire for safety.

These are my thoughts and observations, and I would not feel remiss in keeping them from my boating friends. We take a lot for granted when we pull into a dock and "plug in."

**George Finch**

**PRESENTATION - EDUCATIONAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 17, 2011**

We were privileged to have a great speaker, Captain Luann Barndt, USCG at our February meeting. Several questions were raised and Capt. Barndt responded as follows:

**Question:** Why do various enforcement agencies make anchored boats relocate during special events after another agent informed them they were in a designated safety zone?

**Answer:** In order to publicize fireworks events requiring a safety zone, we will distribute flyers to the Milwaukee Boat Club as well as through our local Coast Guard Auxiliary. This flyer will contain specific coordinates and times for enforcement so the public will know where they can and cannot be, and when. I also encourage all mariners to monitor Coast Guard broadcasts.

**Question:** Last summer a potentially dangerous situation developed at the start of the SSSYC Queen's Cup race. Nearly 200 boats were in the starting area when a tugboat pushed through. These sailboats are properly registered with the Coast Guard and the race was noted on the Notice to Mariners. The tugboat captain was hailed on the radio and his replay was "my turning mark is the green buoy and that's where I'm turning." What can the Coast Guard do to minimize such conduct?

**Answer:** With respect to tow traffic encroaching on boating events, there are typically no Captain of the Port safety zones established, meaning that the normal Rules of the Road apply. Maintaining proper lookout and bridge-to-bridge communication is critical for all parties. If you or your members see a violation of the Rules or vessels otherwise operated in an apparently negligent fashion, please make a report to the Coast Guard and we will investigate. Thanks for bringing this up. Your eyes on the water are many but ours are few, so we recognize the need to reaffirm partnerships to keep people safe out there.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Captain Barndt at 414-747-7163. You can also contact Chief Warrant Officer Jon Grob, Chief of the Waterways Management Division, at 414-747-7188. You can report any unsafe conditions or illegal operations to the Sector Lake Michigan Command Center 24/7/365 at 414-747-7182 or VHF-16.

**THANK YOU**

After a tumble off the riding snow blower in December, John Grasse fractured his collarbone, left arm, and three ribs. Marian fell a few days later and broke her kneecap. After a hospital stay, both ended up in rehab at Newcastle Place in Mequon. As of February 7<sup>th</sup>, John is back home while Marian continues at Newcastle. Thank you to everyone for their prayers, good wishes, cards, and flowers, which have helped speed our recovery. (P.S. The snowblower is ok and running well!)

**John and Marian Grasse**

**SNOFUN CRUISE**

We had a great time on the February 19<sup>th</sup> SnoFun cruise. It was a fun and informative event!

Thirty-two members first cruised over to the Great Lakes Distillery in Downtown Milwaukee. Everyone learned about the Great Lake's Distillery's award winning products, and why and how they make these products. For a small fee of \$3, members had fun sampling their products.

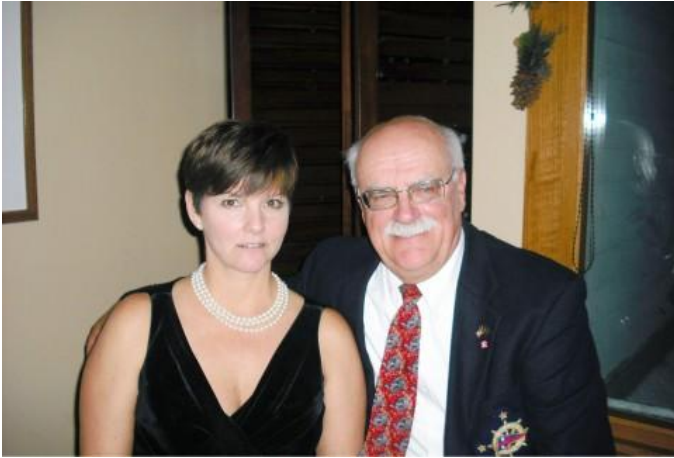
We then cruised over to the Milwaukee Art Museum where we toured the Frank Lloyd Wright Exhibit. The show featured more than 150 objects that have never been publicly on view: home movies, photographs, furniture, and architectural models.

At 5:00, 31 members met at Saz's on State Street for cocktails followed by dinner. Everyone seemed to have a great time!

**Connie Heyden**



## INTRODUCING... BRUCE AND CAROLYN NASON



Milwaukee Boat Club held its annual "Commodore's Ball" at South Shore Yacht Club, which seemed a most fitting place to initiate South Shore's Commodore Bruce Nason and his lovely wife Carolyn into MBC. Their initiation only added to the festive atmosphere and fun experienced by the many club members in attendance.

Bruce spent his early years in Milwaukee and moved to Grafton when he was a teenager. Upon graduating from Port Washington High School, Bruce enlisted in the Navy. After completing his military service, Bruce joined Channel 6 as a news photographer. In 2001 he retired after 38 years at the news station. (Sometime you'll have to ask Bruce to tell you the story of when he took photographs of Paul McCartney sailing along the shoreline of South Shore Park. Paul's bodyguards came to confiscate the film – they didn't get it – and ended up having drinks at South Shore's bar. Quite the story!) Since retiring, Bruce has been strongly involved in South Shore Yacht Club, serving on committees, holding various offices, acting as dockmaster and club photographer, and currently fulfilling his duties in his second year as its Commodore.

Carolyn grew up in Fox Point and moved to Green Bay during her teens. She graduated from Treble High School and earned her BA in tourism and recreation from UW-LaCrosse. Carolyn first worked for an attorney and then accepted a job in the sales department of Channel 6. That's where Bruce and Carolyn met, and they were married in 2005 at sunset on a sailboat in Key West. How romantic is that! Carolyn eventually left Channel 6 and returned to school at UW-Milwaukee where she earned her masters' degree in English. She now teaches ESL (English as a Second Language) to adults at both UW-M and MATC. Carolyn is also active at SSYC and is an integral part of its entertainment committee.

The couple lives on Milwaukee's northwest side with their grey tabby cat "Feets" who is between ten and eleven years old. "Feets" was a rescue cat who had been abused and ended up at the Wisconsin Humane Society. Bruce did a news story on the rescue, and "Feets'" sad journey to the shelter had a happy ending when Bruce adopted him and gave him a forever home.

Bruce has three children and eight grandchildren. Son Brian and his family live in Freedom, son David and his family live in Oconomowoc, and daughter Julie and her family live in Fredonia.

Bruce became interested in boating at SSYC when he first crewed on a 30' racing sailboat. From there, he graduated to cruising and racing sailboats and introduced Carolyn to boating when they began dating. Now, Carolyn is every bit as enthusiastic a sailor as Bruce. Their current boat is "Slowdance," a 36' Catalina, slipped at SSYC in A-29. When not boating, Bruce and Carolyn enjoy traveling and, so far, have made three trips to Europe. Key West remains their favorite U.S. travel destination.

Bruce and Carolyn learned of MBC from its many members who also are members of SSYC. To this sociable and fun-loving couple, we, of the Milwaukee Boat Club, are extremely happy to extend a hearty...Welcome Aboard!

**Bonnie Merryfield**

### MBC MEETING AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FEBRUARY 17, 2011



Guest speaker Captain Luann Barndt, U.S. Coast Guard



Carolyn Schneckenberg, Lynn Happel, Donna Danowski, George Finch, Jim Palmieri and Patty Heibel



Wayne Happel, Bruce Nason, Sue Ring-Wagner, Dave Schneckenberg, Dave Dorner, Mary Berg, and Connie Heyden



Slide from presentation



## SNOFUN CRUISE FEBRUARY 19, 2011



MBC members enjoying the Great Lakes Distillery tour



Our guide educating Russ Berg and others on the art of making gin



This is educational...really



This is how it's all made



Taste testing!



More taste testing



### SNOFUN CRUISE FEBRUARY 19, 2011



Milwaukee Art Museum Sculpture



Milwaukee Art Museum



Enjoying some libation before dinner at Saz's –  
Donna & Dan Danowski, Sam & George Graubner



Connie Heyden, Cindy Halstead, Kim  
Heser, Grey Halstead and Jim Heyden

### SNOFUN CRUISE FEBRUARY 19, 2011



Dan Danowski, Tricia & Dale Peck,  
Peggy and Joe Miotke, Donna Danowski



Steve & JoAnn Shaw, Lynda Nelson,  
Kathy & Gene Schnagl



Dave Schneckenberg, George & Sam Graubner,  
Lynn Happel, Carolynn Schneckenberg, Wayne Happel

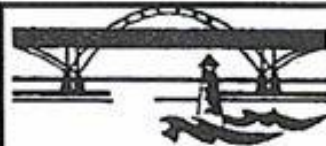


Jan Weiler, Jim Heyden, Russ & Mary Berg,  
Connie Heyden Todd Weiler



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