



# THE RUNABOUTER

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



May 2009

Vol. 52 No. 05

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

With warmer weather here, many of us are progressing very well with our spring boat projects and are preparing to launch soon. (And some are already in the water like Denis Molloy). With gas prices a bit lower this year, I am hoping the MBC membership can do more cruising this season.

The "White Elephant Auction" was a tremendous success with many laughs and some outrageous articles. The 28 attending members had a blast. Sam and George Graubner and Connie and Jim Heyden were great auctioneers. Thanks to the four of them. We raised \$198 for the treasury, much more money than the cost of the pizza dinner.

Our "Shove-Off-Spree" is coming up soon, Friday May 15th at the "Seven Seas" Restaurant. This is a great event because we can enjoy each other's company, welcome MBC snow-birds home from Florida, and have a great view of Nagawicka Lake, all the while enjoying a terrific dinner. Please make reservations with Daryl Grubbs.

Our joint MBC/ Waukesha Cruise Fleet "Dinghy Cruise" on the Chippewa River is May 29-31. This should be a fun event! Please call Captain Dan Danowski (262) 786-2995, if you are interested.

**Grey Halstead**

## LAKE MICHIGAN YACHTING ASSOCIATION 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WISCONSIN RENDEZVOUS JUNE 19, 20, 21, 2009

Those MBC members who are interested in attending this year's "LMYA's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Wisconsin Rendezvous" in Sheboygan during the weekend of June 19, 20, and 21st should contact Jim Mergener, Rear Commodore, as soon as possible if they have not received the registration packet from Jim. The Rendezvous Reservation Form must be completed and returned by June 10th with your check made payable to LMYA.

Jim may be reached at:  
(Home) 262-255-1934  
(Cell) 262-370-6388.  
(E-mail) [jsmergener@wi.rr.com](mailto:jsmergener@wi.rr.com)

If you haven't attended in the past, this is always a fun event for boaters from all around Lake Michigan. All the details with regard to slip reservations, dinner choices, and weekend events are in the LMYA packet available from Jim.

We will be giving more details with regard to groups leaving from SSYC and McKinley Marina as we get closer to the date.

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

**OFFICERS**

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

**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 ..... Bonnie Merryfield  
 Keeper of the Log..... Sue Ring-Wagner  
 Photographer..... Bonnie Merryfield

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

May 15 "Shove-Off Spree"  
 Seven Seas Restaurant  
 Captain Daryl Grubbs

May 30-31 Joint MBC/WCF "Dinghy Cruise"  
 On the Chippewa River  
 Captains Dan Danowski and Keith Ponath (WCF)

June 9 Captains' (First Mates') Breakfast

June 13 "Champagne/Cold Duck" Get-together  
 McKinley Pavilion  
 (A-E bring desserts; F-Z bring hearty appetizers/salads)  
 Captains Jim Eastberg and Dick Harvey

June 19, 20, 21 LMYA Anniversary Cruise to  
 LMYA Rendezvous in Sheboygan  
 Captain Pete Merryfield & Greg Gegner

June 25 Big Bang Fireworks for  
 opening of Summerfest  
 Captain Wanted

June 25, 26 Queen's Cup Race at SSYC



**BIRTHDAYS**

Wish the following members a happy birthday!

**MAY**

3 Shirley Wier  
 6 Gene Schnagl  
 13 Kim Hesel  
 13 Bob Kowalski  
 13 Gloria Larsen  
 14 Tom Czaplicki  
 20 Joe Boppre  
 22 Andy Baugher  
 26 Christine Grubbs

**JUNE**

3 Lynne Happel  
 8 Ted Tiemann, Jr.  
 10 Bob Knollenberg  
 15 Angie Ollmann  
 21 Doug Gallus  
 21 Donna Scott  
 22 Tom McElwee  
 22 Sue Ring-Wagner  
 25 John Goetzman  
 26 Jim Palmieri  
 27 Russ Berg  
 27 Greg Gegner

## INTRODUCING...GEORGE AND DONNA FINCH



Good sports George & Donna Finch model the wigs they "won" in last year's "White Elephant Auction"

Well-known to many Milwaukee Boat Club members, George and Donna Finch were formally initiated as associate members during the "White Elephant" auction. Donna was out of town, so George (who has attended many of our meetings) did the honors for the two of them.

George was born in Palisades Park, New Jersey and grew up in New Haven, Connecticut. He graduated from Middlebury College in Vermont where he majored in sociology. Donna grew up in Algoma, Wisconsin, and attended college in the UW system majoring in English. She and George met while both were serving on the Board of Directors of the West Allis Chamber of Commerce. The couple has been married almost 16 years. George has lived in Delafield since 1986.

George was in the ROTC program in college and upon graduation entered the Army. He served as battalion adjutant of the 1st. Ordinance Battalion and later a company commander at Ft. Mead, Maryland. He attended Airborne School at Ft. Benning Ga., and Ordinance Schooling at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland. After completing his service in the Army, George worked for General Electric for 17 years in various management and manufacturing positions. In 1983 he moved to Wisconsin in the position of president of Pressed Steel Tank Company. George is now working as a home inspector for his own company Inter-Vest II Inspections.

Donna worked in the psychology department of UWM and then entered the insurance business where she has worked for the past 35 years. She is currently employed at Diversified Insurance Services as coordinator of new business development and is in charge of event planning, seminars, and business-to-business marketing for the property-casualty and employee benefits division.

Donna has three grown daughters, and George has a grown son and daughter. Between them they have eight grandchildren ranging in age from 16 months to 15 years old.

George became interested in boating in 1945 when his parents bought a cottage on an island off the coast of New Haven, Connecticut. At 12 years old, George passed his Power Squadron Boating course but couldn't join the Power Squadron until he was 16. He has since taken many boating courses. During high school, he crewed on a 42' sailboat helping the elderly owner and his wife sail the boat along the Eastern seacoast and up to Maine. He has raced in many regattas including the well-known Edgartown Regatta. When George lived in Schenectady, New York, he bought his first powerboat, an 18' Sea Ray and boated on Lake George. George resumed boating when he moved to Milwaukee in 1987 and bought a 27' Sea Ray. Donna was introduced to boating upon meeting George, and the last powerboat George and Donna owned was "Serenity," a 42' Sea Ray, which they slipped at South Shore Yacht Club.

Donna loves spending time with her children and grandchildren, but that doesn't prevent her from volunteering at the VA Center and at the Village at Manor Park in West Allis. Through her church, she is involved with "Care Ministry," caring for people in need, such as shut-ins and those facing difficult times in their lives. Donna also serves as treasurer for the Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO), which provides scholarships, grants, and support for women to further their education. She enjoys reading and traveling and has traveled to Europe but would like to see more of the U.S. and Canada.

George "will always have a love of boating." His hobbies now include gardening and woodworking, including tables he has crafted, as well as rocking horses for his grandchildren. This hobby is the reason George and Donna "needed a condo with a full basement" when they moved from their home. George belongs to the Rotary Club of West Allis, was president of the West Allis Chamber of Commerce, and was active in the Boy Scouts. He is an Eagle Scout. For five years George taught the "Project Business" course in the West Allis middle schools. He has volunteered for Habitat for Humanity and is currently active in "Rebuilding Together", a national organization, which, through sponsors such as Froedtert Hospital, assists elderly and low income people in making home repairs. George and Donna were both members of Milwaukee Harbor Yacht Club, and George served as its commodore. He was also purser/yeoman for Lake Michigan Yachting Association (LMYA) and for six years served on South Shore Yacht Club's Board of Directors as Chairman of the Powerboat Committee. Both Donna and George are very active in their church where George was president of the Church Council.

George and Donna are a great addition to MBC, and it is with extreme pleasure that we, of the Milwaukee Boat Club, extend to this friendly couple a most heartfelt... "Welcome Aboard!"

**Bonnie Merryfield**  
**Director of Membership**

### **MILWAUKEE BOAT CLUB MINUTES FOR APRIL 23, 2009**

The Milwaukee Boat Club meeting for Thursday, April 23, 2009 was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Commodore Grey Halstead. The minutes of the March 18, 2009 meeting were read and approved with no additions or corrections.

Grey commented that a boat brokerage company that wanted to give MBC a percentage commission on boat sales of MBC members' boats has approached our club. The board discussed and decided we are not accepting any

for-profit monies that may conflict with our not-for-profit status. The board also decided there would be no other boat club links on our website. LMYA is linked because it is an association, rather than a club.

**Purser's report:** March 14, 2009 starting balance of \$3,161.95. Total income for the period of 3/14/2009 through 4/22/2009 was \$466.00, and total expenses were \$764.60. Final balance as of April 22, 2009 was \$2,863.35.

**Senior Pilot Daryl Grubbs** reported 30 people so far were paid up for the May 15th "Shove-Off-Spree" at Seven Seas. Invites also went out to Waukesha Cruise Fleet and will be going out to McBoat.

**Director of Membership**, Bonnie Merryfield announced we have two new members, Scott and Barbara Burke, sailors from McKinley. This brings our membership to 105 paid members, 8 honorary, giving us a total of 113 members. George and Donna Finch were initiated during the meeting. Our 2009 MBC Directory will be available at the June 13th "Champagne/Cold Duck" get-together.

**Director of Programs**, Jim Heyden asked for any educational program suggestions for future meetings. Pete Merryfield suggested a presentation by the Schnagls and Grubbs on their recent trip to China.

Christine Grubbs reminded members we have a few insulated tumblers with the MBC logo available for \$7.00 each. Let her know if you are interested.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 P.M. followed by our always-enjoyable "White Elephant" auction. Thanks to event captains, Jim and Connie Heyden, and George and Sam Graubner, for making this event so fun and entertaining.

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
**Cindy Halstead**  
**Yeoman**

## "MBC'S WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION & PIZZA PARTY" APRIL 23, 2009



Our auctioneers for the evening.  
Left to right: Jim & Connie Heyden and Sam & George Graubner



Greg & Carol Gegner with one of their treasures



George Finch is formally welcomed into MBC following his initiation by Director of Membership Bonnie Merryfield



Lynda Nelson & Cindy Halstead enjoy the festivities



Charlene Zierden and her lovely vase  
(Joe Miotke appears overwhelmed!)

## "MBC'S WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION & PIZZA PARTY" APRIL 23, 2009



Polly & Jim Eastberg



Chuck & Sharon Lustig



George Finch and his new "Chia Elmer Fudd"



Charlene Zierden & Peggy Miotke



Pete Merryfield & Leo Wagner arrive with the pizzas!

## "MBC'S WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION & PIZZA PARTY" APRIL 23, 2009



Left to right: Dave & Carolyn Schneckenberg and Bonnie Merryfield



Cindy Halstead helps Jim Eastberg display his "unique" burgee!



Bonnie Merryfield and her nifty "Roadside Emergency Kit"



Christine Grubbs is "overcome" with her newly acquired hairpiece



Pete Zierden - speechless!

**Quack**



**Quack**

**Quack**

***What's all the Quack about?***

***It's our Annual Cold Duck/Champagne Party!***

***When do we head for the water?***

***Saturday, June 13, 2009***

***Where do we duck in?***

***The McKinley Marina Pavilion***

***What time should we waddle on over?***

***4:00 P.M.***

***Bring your own bubbly drink, bottled water and soda.***

***(beer and ice will be provided)***

***Bring a chair and sit awhile.***

***Bring a good appetite.***

***Ducks A – E bring desert***

***Ducks F – Z bring appetizers / salads***

***Look forward to a ducky good time with old and new friends. Contact Jim and Polly Eastberg or Dick and Shirley Harvey for more information.***

***The Milwaukee Boat Club***



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**  
**THE RUNABOUTER Editor**  
**Milwaukee Boat Club, Inc.**  
**4050 South Barland Avenue**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53235**



**PBR-Enterprise, LLC**  
 5231A So. Pennsylvania Ave  
 Cudahy, WI 53110  
 414-489-0390



MasterCard and Visa Accepted  
 Sales and Services      Props Balanced and Repaired

**Complete Repair of Marine Propellers**  
 Aluminum, Stainless Steel, Bronze  
 Balancing and Hub Replacement  
**Sales of New and Recondition Propellers**  
 Turning Point, Michigan Wheel, OMC  
 Don't wait until Spring to get that prop  
 repaired, Winter is a great Time.




PBR Enterprise LLC  
 5231A S. Pennsylvania Ave  
 Cudahy, WI 53110  
 414-489-0390  
 www.pbr-enterprise.com



**HARBORSIDE**  
**YACHT CENTER**

*"Where Experience & Expertise are combined with Great Prices"*

**STORAGE**  
 Inside Heated, Inside Cold or Outside, Power & Sail, 80 Ton  
 Crane, Clean & Secure, No Bridges, Free Cradle Pickup

**FACTORY TRAINED SERVICE**  
 Volvo Diesel, Volvo Penta Stern Drive, Mercruiser Stern Drive &  
 Inboards, Crusader Inboards, Evinrude & Johnson Outboards,  
 Westerbeke & Kohler Generators, Air Conditioning, Plumbing &  
 Water Systems, Bow Thrusters & Stabilizers, Major Fiberglass  
 & Gelcoat, Hull & Deck Painting, Britework & Bottom Painting,  
 Raymarine Electronics, Sailboat Rigging & Repair.

**SHIP'S STORE**  
 Expert Advice Combined with Discount Pricing on a Vast Array  
 of Parts, Paint, Electronics, Accessories & Supplies

**YACHT SALES**  
 CARVER \* SILVERTON \* OCEAN YACHTS \* LARSON plus a  
 Huge Selection of Brokerage Boats on Site

**DRY RACK/SLIPS**  
 Unlimited Launches, Customer Lounge & Showers, Immediate  
 Access to Lake Michigan

**CONVENIENCE**  
 By Land: Minutes from Downtown or I-94 exit at National Ave.  
 By Water: Thru Main Gap - Milwaukee Harbor, NO Bridges

**700 South Water Street Milwaukee, WI 53204**  
**(414) 273-0711 FAX (414) 273-5446**



**CLARION HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER**

For the BUSINESS MINDED, the Hotel  
 houses complete meeting and banquet facilities  
 for up to 2000 guests.

**OTHER QUALITY FEATURES**

Complimentary Continental Breakfast  
 Complimentary USA Today  
 Indoor Pool  
 Fitness Center  
 Laundromat  
 Voice Mail  
 Pay-Per-View Movies/Nintendo  
 Free Airport Limo Service  
 Long-Term Parking  
 Computer Modem Hook Up, In Most Rooms  
 24 Hour Wake Up Service  
 Room Service and Valet Service  
 Non-Smoking Rooms



Located in the lower level of the Clarion Hotel  
**Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

**Daily Specials**  
**Friday Fish Fry**  
**Saturday Prime Rib Specials**  
**Sunday Brunch**

**5311 S. Howell Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53207**  
**(Across from the Mitchell International Airport)**  
**414-481-2400**