



On the Wind

Burnham Park Yacht Club Monthly Newsletter • April 2014

Commodore's Log

We are planning on having an **Easter Brunch** at the club which may be the first time this has ever been done, or done for a long time. There will be boats in the harbor by then assuming the ice has melted. In case you didn't know, we are in the dining business so any chance we can do some business helps our bottom line. A typical event at the club generally only draws a small percentage of members. For those of you who go out on Easter, would you please consider patronizing the club? We love your money more than anybody else. Even though we are a non-profit, we have to make a profit to stay in business. Would you please make a reservation as soon as possible so we know how much staff we need to have. Just like if you were having a party at your house, it's always nice to have an idea on who is coming.

The St. Patrick's Day party was a huge success. We had a great band and the food was fantastic. Chef Tony's bread pudding was the best pudding I ever had in my life. We had 60 people turnout on a night where two to four inches of snow was forecasted. I was glad the weatherman was wrong. Scott Broderick brought six guests who all said they had a great time and judging by the Denmark's group of ten, it looked like they had a great time as well. The event was profitable. It would have been more profitable if we can get more people to turn out for these events. Danielle Detten and Janet McCarthy did a great job putting this together. One of our board members, Donna Stevenson says "we need to bring back fun to the club". A lot of people share Donna's passion for the club. However, to pay for the entertainment we need a good turnout. Remember, it's our club! Danielle, our program director, is very open to ideas and volunteers. The Final Four party is April 5th for all you college basketball fans.

Dick Strassburger who has put a great deal of time and thought into the club for the past few years is leaving because he is moving to Wisconsin. Everybody on the board has a great deal of respect for Dick for all his innovative ideas and hard work over the years on the marketing and membership committee trying to recruit new members. Every time I see our 75 year anniversary flags I think that was another one of Dick's great ideas. He came up with our 75th anniversary logo, dock box signs and a number of other things. The Strictly Sail show was something he always worked on. He will really be missed. The board voted Hank Fiene to replace Dick on the board until an election is held. Hank has been very generous with his time and money to the club helping sponsor the dingy party, Pirates Ball,

and recently the new floor in the chart room. Hank is at every event and is a great supporter of the club.

Speaking of membership, our first open house is coming up Saturday and Sunday April 5th and 6th. I am asking every member for help with membership. The more members we have, the more our costs get spread out and more income we receive. If we have more dollar volume in the dining room it will help us lower our prices which helps make the club more affordable. We need to somehow, some way get back the members who left the club in the past few years. We will have a plan to do this very soon. I think it is safe to say a lot of positive improvements have been made and more will be made to make the quality of the food better and improve the service. As Dick Strassburger says, the best salesperson is the word of mouth so please do what you can to recruit some former members to the club and some of the people on your dock. There should be about 40 new boaters in Burnham this year.

If a member quit because of the bar and galley please let them know we have a great new chef and things are improving. If anyone is not happy or has some suggestions please let the Bar and Galley committee know. We can't improve or correct things if we don't hear from you.

A new alarm system is being installed which will actually end up saving us more money than it will cost because we can get rid of the telephone lines we needed to make the old one work. At some point it would make sense to have security cameras installed. This was one advantage of the alarm company we went with because they can do both. The actual cost of these is pretty reasonable.

We have a bill coming up to repair our heating and air conditioning and the electrical system for around \$2,500. This is one of those things that has to be done. Dick OConnell would do it if he could because he fixes so many other things around the club; for example the new wall heaters in the chart room Dick just replaced.

The new software has successfully been installed and Andrew and Michelle are learning all the cool new features of it. Hopefully this will correct billing errors and make us more efficient.

Remember this is our club so if you can help out on one of the committees we could use your help. Thank you to all the volunteers for your generosity.

Charlie Martin—Commodore

Rear Commodore

A lot of activity is evident at the Club with Directors on Board and members really offering their time and getting involved. Danielle Detten, along with other Members on the Planning Committee, have put together a tentative full year schedule of events, parties and seminars for 2014. Now that is organized! The most recent event was the St. Patrick's Day Party. Over sixty people attended and enjoyed the traditional corn beef, cabbage, Sheppard's pie and bread pudding with whiskey cream. "It was like ye olde Country." Great job, Chef Tony and General Manager Andrew.

Bar and Galley has finalized all menus (dinner, bar, take out and catering) and are focusing on interviewing, hiring and training new staff. (Servers, bussers and bartender.) Pricing is being examined closely as well.

Sail Fleet, headed by Bill Van Emburg, is getting set for the Wednesday beer can races and scheduling numerous seminars for all members, as well as the public. More to come as they get solidified.

As an aside to the Sail Fleet, the Board has authorized the purchase of two Sailcube Sailboats for our younger students who participate in the Junior Sailing Program. This program has the potential for income to the Club and great exposure to kids and families to become future BPYC Members. A special thanks to Past Commodore, Dick O'Connell, who has decided to donate the purchase of a new deck and assemble it to accommodate the new boats. Special thanks, Dick, for all you do. He is the Member de jour!

Membership and Marketing is well on track for the open houses this Spring. Commodore Charlie Martin is always on top of this and has been for the last six years, at least. The Commodore's goal is to get one hundred new members! A high goal and a good one. If anyone at the Club can do it, it will be Charlie. The focus is not only the approximate forty new boaters coming in to Burnham Harbor this year, but also to get members who have left the Club to rejoin. We are in the process of looking at the list of past members and finding as many as we can to focus on. Please, if anyone knows a past member who you can reconnect with and invite back to the "new and improved" BPYC. Please do so. Plus, any member who brings in new members gets a \$200.00 Club credit!

The open house dates are April 5th & 6th, May 17th & 18th and June 7th & 8th. On the Saturdays, it is from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Sundays 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Unfortunately for the Club, our Chairman for the last two years of

Membership and Marketing, Dick Strassburger has had to resign. Not because he wanted to but because he has purchased a business in Milwaukee. It is a dream Dick has had for a long time, and I am sure he will be extremely successful. Another special thanks for such professional and selfless time you gave the Club, Dick. We all wish you and Deb the very best!

To not lose a step with such an important Committee and with the rapidly approaching open houses, the Board has temporarily appointed Member Hank Fiene to fill those large shoes of Dick's. Hank, as many of you may know, has done many things for the Club, (new Chartroom floor, created and provided banners for the Club, the Tender, the sign for Casino Night and created the dinghy rendezvous.) Welcome aboard, Captain Hank. He has contributed to the marketing of the Club in the past and is a natural to keep us on track. There will be a special election for the vacancy as per bylaws for the membership to vote. Notification will be forthcoming.

House Committee has a list of projects that are in the works. The kitchen equipment has all been upgraded and properly maintained. After numerous bids, the board has selected a new alarm company for the building which is wireless and a great upgrade for the Club.

The new Member cards should be issued soon. With the new software installation, the process was delayed.

The Club now has a new and upgraded software system for billing, accounting, membership, for the office and servers and bartenders, as well as the kitchen. Training is happening as you read this article.

You may have noticed some new artwork on the walls in the Dining Room. Jan and I have loaned the Club some fun art. Anyone who wishes to participate as such, please do. It can be an ever changing art gallery...I mean galley.

Also we have a small bookshelf in the Chartroom with a lot of random novels and books. I would like to expand that. I will be getting a larger bookcase brought in and ask that if you can bring in any books, novels, etc., we can create a fun book exchange. All you'll have to do is sign out the book name, your name and the date.

Always something!

Chris Edmonds

Rear Commodore

Vice Commodore

On Saturday, March 15th the Club had its St. Patrick's Day Party. The event was enjoyed by all 60 members including some friends and family. "Another Pint", the name of the Irish band of 4, was excellent!! Our Commodore, Charlie Martin and his wife, Patty, were dancing and singing along with others including our Past Commodore Dick O'Connell and his wife Jan.

During the event 2 beautiful gift baskets were raffled off and a prize to the first and second best dressed Irish looking costumes. First place went to Lynne Denmark, \$50.00 club credit and second place went to Mary Niles, \$25.00 club credit.

Chef Tony out did himself with the Buffet consisting of potato soup, Sheppard's pie, corned beef/cabbage, bread pudding, etc. |

would also like to say thank you to the wait staff for all their hard work in making this event run smoothly.

My biggest "Thanks" goes to Danielle and Bob Detten for putting forth so much of their time for this event. The decorations were fantastic and made this event even more colorful.

Hoping to see a lot more of our members at the next upcoming event please check the newsletter "On The Wind" or "The Breeze" for these future events.

Janet McCarthy
Vice Commodore

Treasurer

Why are our expenses so much higher this year than last year for the same time frame? There are a few reasons. First, the club opened two weeks earlier this year. Second, our sales are up, with increased sales come more expenses. But, third and most important, we have paid up our accounts payable to a current level. How? Well as you have seen in my past monthly articles we have placed a huge focus on collections. We have lowered our accounts receivable (what members owe) in over half from 16 months ago. Collecting the monies that have been owed to the club and you, our membership, has allowed this to happen. We will continue to focus on the monies owed the club. Those that owe money and have avoided our calls and emails will unfortunately have their privileges suspended and collection action taken per the bylaws.

February, normally a slow month at the club, proved to be a good month; the Football party for the Super Bowl was a huge success. We increased our income by \$11,274 over last year. Our expenses were up \$21,576, but as explained earlier, this is also a func-

tion of staying up on accounts payable (what we owe) and getting current with our vendors.

March has also been busy. **We did it!** We made the switch to the new ClubSystems software. With that comes an easier user interface for Michelle in the office and easier point of sale (POS) system for the staff. It was installed on the new server. Of course the week before the install we had a POS computer go down which had to be replaced. A week of training was completed last week and we are excited about the new features the system has.

Thanks to Michelle for all the hard work and time put in on this project and the rest of the staff.

Keith Moore
Treasurer

Women's Auxiliary

We are excited to announce our diverse group of vendors for the "SHOP AND SAIL" event. Come join us to find your one of a kind treasure created by our artists specializing in original Glass Enamel, Flower Pins, Vintage Bouquets, Silver Jewelry, Art Prints, Hand-painted notes, cards, glassware and wood. We also have some of the staple sellers like Stella & Dot, Angie's Basement, Mary Kay, Tastefully Simple and Tupperware. If you need help wind proofing your cap, we have a vendor for that too! The vendors will be available from 4p-6p. At 6:30 we will open the dining room to enjoy Chef Tony's tasty Italian dinner buffet while we listen to our guest speaker, Elizabeth, "Sail Away Girl". Elizabeth will give a presentation pursuing her lifelong dream to sail around the world and write a cookbook from the recipes retrieved at the ports of call. The preparation for this endeavor is quite extensive. Check out her website at www.sailawaygirl.com for a preview. The seating is limited. Please make your reservation today for the dinner / presen-

tation by calling (312)427-4664.

Do you want to help your favorite business get their word out? Advertising in the directory will help the business you enjoy become a business we can all enjoy. Please email bpyc.wax@gmail.com or give Bonnie / Charlie a call to receive the advertising packets.

We are all getting excited about the boating season as it is just around the corner. Come and join the auxiliary at our next meeting on April 4th. All are welcome. The auxiliary is only as strong as its members. Why not join today and be part of developing the fun for your Club!

Lets Spring into the best season of all -- Boating Season!

Bonnie Riordan
President

Docks and Grounds

All we need is a day or two of Spring like weather and hopefully everyone will soon forget about the long, cold, snowy Winter. I would like to thank EVERYONE who has volunteered this year to work on the Docks & Grounds committee but the work is not over.

Please mark your calendar for April 26th 10:00 am for the annual outside clean up day. If you don't mind getting your hands dirty, trimming bushes, pulling a weed or two or just cleaning up the grounds please come to the club. We need the help of volunteers to assist in getting our yacht club ready for the season. Also, if

anyone has perennials that they are disposing of please bring them to the club. If you cannot make it April 26th and would still like to donate, Andrew will have a donation flower pot you can put plants/ flowers in and they will be planted accordingly. There will be a planting day in May, date is to be decided. The donation pot will be available throughout the season, bring in your favorites to share and I look forward to seeing you at the club. If you have any questions you can email me at winenotwheat@gmail.com or contact me at 708)212-3500.

Pam Grist

2014 Beer Can Series

Burnham Park Yacht Club Wednesday Night Beer Can Racing

Burnham Park Yacht Club will again sponsor our Wednesday Night Beer Can Regatta. The Beer Can Regatta is an informal racing series for sailors to have a good time with their boat, family and crew. Any BPYC member with a sailboat is invited to participate. The racing is casual, and it's designed to make racing accessible to those new to the sport.

If you are new to the program and would like to discuss the details, I would be pleased to get together with you and answer your questions. Just give me a call. I can also help arrange for you to go out on other racers' boats, if you want to get a feel for it before getting started.

The 2014 Beer Can racing season will begin on Wednesday, May 28. The 14 race series runs May 28 through September 10. There will be no tune-up race this year, and no racing on July 2 or July 16.

Members from Burnham Park Yacht Club, Chicago Yacht Club and Columbia Yacht Club all participate in the series. There are two "jib and main" sections, a T-10 section, and three spinnaker sections. We anticipate around 10-15 boats in each section's start, so it should be exciting.

Starts are designed to be as easy as possible. Radio check-in will not be required and the committee boat will make periodic courtesy radio announcements, including course, start times and any course changes.

The races start between 6:40pm and 7:10pm (depending on your section) and are over by 9:00pm. Most skippers and crew come to the Club after the race for special pricing on drinks and a simple buffet meal. Cash is accepted. We announce the night's results and present the awards as soon as possible after the race. The food, drinks, awards and enthusiastic sailors result in lots of great conversation and fun.

2014 Beer Can applications are included with the May "On the Wind". Applications will also be available at the Club and on our web site, bpyc.com.

Due to increasing costs and in particular, higher fees from Columbia Yacht Club for administering the program, the registration fee has increased to \$80.

Contact Bill Van Emburg, Sail Fleet Director, at 312-602-9641 or e-mail "bill@quadrix.com" with any questions or to discuss how to participate in BPYC's 2014 Wednesday Night Beer Can Racing.

I look forward to seeing you at the starting line!

Bill Van Emburg

General Boating Safety

Free Seminar

Burnham Park Yacht Club

April 27, 2014

9:00 am—12:00 pm

Topics include general boating safety with special training on:

- Life jackets
- Knots
- Fueling
- Federal regulations with respect to the vessel safety sticker

The boating Safety seminar will be conducted by the US Coast Guard Auxiliary.

All boaters and sailors are invited to attend.

Please call 312-427-4664 or email info@bpyc.com to reserve your place.

Free parking

Advanced Boating Safety and All About Flares

Free Seminar

Burnham Park Yacht Club

May 3, 2014

9:00 am—3:30 pm

Lunch will be served from noon—1pm (nominal fee)

The seminar will be conducted by the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. The hands on lighting of the flares will be conducted by Captain L Thompson.

Topics include Advanced Boating Safety and All About Flares:

- DVD on cold survival-30 minutes
- Composition and use of fire extinguishers
- Radio communications
- Composition and use of flares
- After lunch-someone from BPYC to actually shoot flares

All boaters and sailors are invited to attend.

Please call 312-427-4664 or email info@bpyc.com to reserve your place.

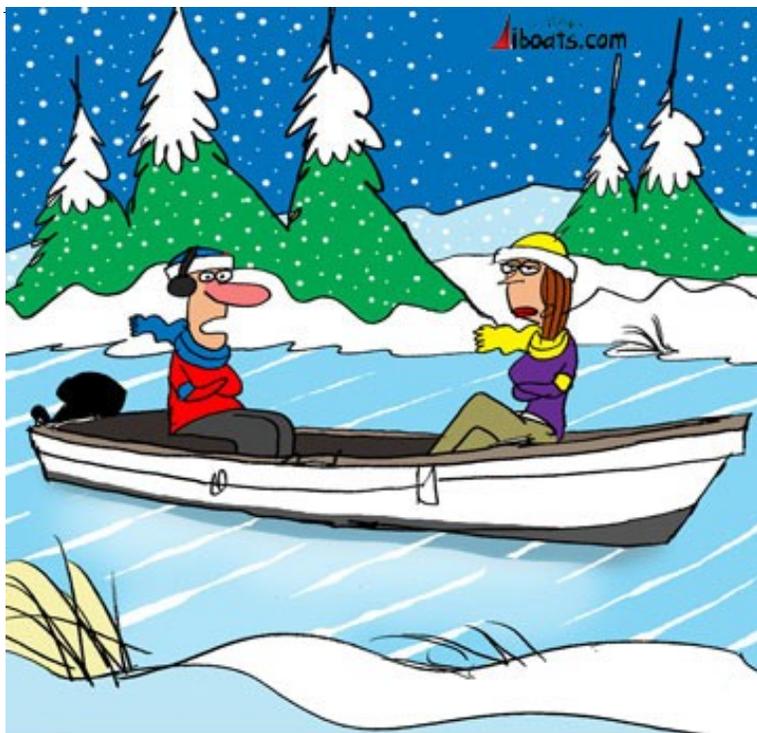
Free parking and remember to bring your expired flares for the hands on demonstration.

Special Note: *The seminar will start at 9 am and USCGAUX participation will finish at noon.*

USCGAUX will have no part in shooting of flares.

April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Schedule of Events
		1	2	3	4 Business Mtg—6:30pm	5 March Madness Party OPEN HOUSE	April 4 - Business Meeting-6:30pm April 5 - OPEN HOUSE March Madness Party April 6 - OPEN HOUSE
6 OPEN HOUSE	7	8 Board Mtg-6:30pm	9	10	11	12 Shop & Sail-4pm	April 8 - Board Meeting-6:30 pm April 12 - Shop & Sail-4pm April 20 - Easter Brunch April 27 - Knots & Boating Safety
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20 Easter Brunch	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27 Knots & Boating Safety	28	29	30				



“Maybe you were right, we should wait until Spring before we take the boat out.”

Club Winter Hours
Now in Effect Through
May 15, 2014

Monday—Thursday - CLOSED

Friday - Dinner 5:00pm-9:00pm

Saturday - Dinner 5:00pm-9:00pm

Sunday - Dinner 5:00pm-8:00pm
RESERVATIONS ARE REQUESTED

All BPYC members are invited to attend
The Center for Law and Social Work’s
“All Hands On Deck” Fundraiser
Thursday, May 1, 2014
5:30 pm
BPYC Member - \$50 per person
Use the link below to view the invitation:
<http://www.punchbowl.com/partypage/623fbb230112d984>
Posted by BPYC member: Ginni McGathey

May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Social Meeting	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day Brunch	12	13 Board Meeting-7pm	14	15	16 CLUB OPEN FULL TIME	17 OPEN HOUSE
18 OPEN HOUSE	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Women's Aux Party	26	27	28	29	30	31

Schedule of Events	
May 2	Social Meeting
May 11	Mother's Day Brunch
May 13	Board Meeting-7:00 pm
May 16	Club Opens Full Time
May 17	OPEN HOUSE
May 18	OPEN HOUSE
May 25	Women's Aux Party

- COMING EVENTS*
- March Madness Party**
April 5
 - Open House Weekend**
April 5 & 6
 - Shop and Sail**
April 12
 - Easter Brunch**
April 20
 - Mother's Day Brunch**
May 11
 - Open House Weekend**
May 17 & 18
 - Women's Aux Party**
May 25
 - Open House Weekend**
June 7 & 8
 - Fleet Review**
June 14



St. Patrick's Day Party



Hyatt Regency McCormick Place
 BPYC has been extended a discounted rate of **\$119** per night for our upcoming events. To take advantage of this great rate follow the link or contact:
Julia Edwards - Sales Manager
312-528-4145 - Julia.edwards@hyatt.com