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DOCK Lines

www.harbourtowneyachtclub.com

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Vice Commodore's Log

Joe Baranoski

A Sense of Family

Have you ever sat back and worried about the things that stress us in our lives? With the pressures of daily life, what is really important to all of us? It could not be any more apparent then what I experienced tonight. In driving out to Muskegon, on this beautiful, sunny, March afternoon, I was full of anxiety. Business has been stressful lately. Although today's meeting went well, we still had to meet with the customer the next day.

As I drove into Muskegon, down Seaway, and made my left on to Peck Street, the thought of the meeting the next day had consumed me. I turned into the Clock Funeral Home, shut off my car, and sat there for a few minutes. How have I let this consume so much of my thoughts? Not to mention, how much of my free time to spend with family and friends has the negative thoughts of business effected? Inside of the funeral home, stands the recently widowed friend of mine. Where am I? Sitting in the car worrying about a meeting the next day! How shallow is that?

This is my own self-actualization. So, please bare with me. How hard have we all worked? Have you ever known anyone, who in their last days, wished they had worked more? That is an old cliché, but is very pertinent at this moment. We all work or have worked hard in our lives. But, the most important question we need to ask ourselves is, "What are the most important things in our lives?"

How fortunate are we to have our HTYC family. After a stressful week, I get to come to Muskegon and spend time with my family in one of the most beautiful places in the world. How many people never get the chance to see the views from Beech St. that we do? Let's all count our blessings.

I invite you all to enjoy these exciting times at HTYC. The construction project of the long awaited kitchen is on the way. I want to thank the general membership for their support. Please watch your Dock Lines and future e-mails on the progress. Soon, the ice will be off the lake and the snowbirds will be migrating back. I can't wait to see the marina full! Even if they have a mast on them.

Please keep the Iverson Family in your prayers.

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Fleet Captain of Sail

John Rollins

Spring has officially arrived, the ice has melted and before long another sailing season will be in full swing. It looks like we will have an exciting sailing season this year and by the middle of April, schedules will be out officially. However, at this time here are a few events we know about:

- The doublehanded one way from Muskegon to Port Washington will be June 19. The singlehanded, from Muskegon to Buoy #14 outside of Waukegan, will be August 15. Additional information is available on the Lake Michigan Singlehanded Society Website: www.lmssonline.com

- The Clipper Cup, scheduled for August 8, is all set and the information is available on the HTYC Website: www.harbourtowneyachtclub.com

- The Commodores' Cup from Grand Haven to Muskegon is on for August 23, with a dinner and dance at Muskegon that Saturday night.

- And finally, just a reminder that the Chicago-Mac is coming up this year in July, for the 100th year running. Applications are already in, with a cutoff at 465 participants. More information on this next month.

Looking out on the lake, we are reminded that this is definitely not the season for sailing, and looking around the club it is apparent that a number of our sailors have headed to Florida to find warmer weather. But that didn't stop 60-70 ice boaters on Lake Muskegon March 1, 2008, from having a regatta. The ice was the best on the lake in many years.

How many of us who enjoy sailing here in the Great Lakes area have dreamed what it would be like to sail around the world?

A story in the New York Times recently told of the experience of Francis Joyon of France who sailed his 95-foot trimaran around the world in the record time of 57 days and 13 hours. His boat was built with parts gathered from other boats and lacked many of the high tech features that many of us have on our boats that sail across Lake Michigan.

If that wasn't enough, get this - he shattered the previous world record by two weeks all by himself, sailing without a crew. According to the report he slept in short spells, dodged icebergs and mounted his swaying mast in stormy seas to repair a damaged girder.

His boat had no standard generator, which meant that he had no heat, but also meant that the boat was lighter than usual. He used wind turbines and solar panels to allow for automatic piloting and communications equipment.

With weather working to his favor, he broke several intermediary records along the way. He crossed the Indian Ocean in just over 9 days and crossed the Pacific in 10 days. His Equator-to-Equator journey took only 41 days.

"The speed part, the sailing passion part, that was extraordinary," Joyon said. "But what was strongest of all was having precious moments when you can be in harmony with the planet, with the elements. That's what will stay with me the rest of my life."

Fleet Power News

Rich Reynolds

The Annual HTYC Shakedown Cruise to Grand Haven scheduled for the weekend of May 17 and 18 has a new twist this year. The City of Grand Haven has graciously consented to put on a two day jazz festival just for us at Waterfront Stadium. Well, maybe not just for us but it sure sounds like fun. They are calling it the **Grand Haven Jazz Festival**.

Here is the lineup. First Night: The **Western Jazz Quartet** -- a faculty-based jazz quartet from Western Michigan University; Second Night: **Adam Nitti** -- a bassist, who is currently touring with Christian artist Steven Curtis Chapman, will be performing with saxophonist **Jeff Coffin** -- a composer and member of the Grammy-award winning group Bela Fleck and the Flecktones.

Now don't forget, we will still be critiquing local area dining establishments for good food and service. We have been offering this rather loosely constructed free service to local restaurants for years and they just can't wait for our HTYC reviews this year.

Of course our primary goal on this trip is to make sure our boats are ship shape and properly stocked with essential provisions and supplies for the season. Getting the bugs out on a short trip can mean a much more trouble free longer flotilla trip later in the season.

By the way, this is a combined HTYC Fleet Power and Sail trip. So get those reservations in early at Grand Haven Municipal Marina www.midnrreservations.com to make sure you have a slip. I will be getting information out later for larger boats that are not able to reserve because of dock construction. The work there will be done in time for our trip but they do not have it set up on the reservation system yet.

Landlubbers.....Watch for the trip posting at the club if you want to land cruise with us. I will post restaurant locations and times on the board so you can sign up and join us for the weekend of May fun in river city.



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FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER FEATURES

April 4

Grilled Salmon with Tropical Salsa
\$13.95



April 11


Baby-Back Ribs
\$12.95 Half Rack
\$16.95 Full Rack

April 18

Top Sirloin with Whisky Peppercorn Sauce
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April 25

Prime Rib
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Free Friday Night Dinner

Last months winner of a free Friday Night
Dinner was

Alicia Reinecke

Hope you found your name in the newsletter
Alicia and claimed your dinner. Watch for
your name in this and future
issues!



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Activities Committee

Dave Kurtz & Marie Chabotte

A special thank you to **Deb & Kip Arnold** and **Denny & Kathi Wasserman** for hosting our Euchre Tournament! We had twelve players and yummy hors d'oeuvres and everyone had fun. Well the calendar is now filling up quite nicely, read on for more details.....

Post-Full Moon Party, Saturday, April 26th

Our first Perch Dinner of the season will also feature some new entertainment by The Daddy-O's. Dinner will be 6 to 8pm for all-you-can-eat delicious perch at \$11.95 per person. The band will entertain us from 7 to 11pm. You can check out the band at www.myspace.com/thedaddyos1 - they have quite a repertoire of music to offer and were highly recommended by a few of our members. A band donation of \$3.00 is requested.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We still are looking for a chair for the Activities Committee. Maybe you and a few of your friends have an idea for a party you would like to host? Please give Marie a call or email at the club - 231-755-4892 or htyclub@verizon.net. Our next meeting is Thursday, April 3 at 6:30pm.

Well, May promises to be a busy month..... see our upcoming dates of activities and look for more details later:

- Sat, May 10 Semi-Annual Membership Meeting 4pm
Dinner to follow
- Sat, May 24 Blessing of the Fleet 4pm
Dinner to follow
- Sat, May 31 BIG Birthday Bash - more details later

Win a Free Friday Night Dinner

We are giving away a free Friday Night Dinner to one lucky member or co-member each month. The free dinner must be used in the month that it was won.

How do you win?

Each month a name will be drawn together by a club member and the club manager. That name will appear in Dock Lines that month somewhere in the Newsletter, in a place that it just doesn't belong! So, Read your Newsletter and watch for your name to show up!

Membership

Rich Reynolds

Back! By popular demand! The Harbour Towne Yacht Club Provisional Membership program is ready to go for the 2008 season. This very successful program, now in its fourth year, is a wonderful way to introduce friends and family to the "Club" on a trial basis for the entire year. The cost this year is only \$129!

This unique opportunity allows the provisional member full use of the club for 2008. Here are just a few benefits of membership:

- A full calendar of exciting year-round activities for the whole family
- Reciprocal privileges to hundreds of Yacht Clubs across the nation
- Marina-side pool, hot tub and upgraded restroom facilities that include showers
- Food and beverage services from our brand new galley
- A \$30 credit to your house account to use for food and beverages
- Camaraderie with like-minded water sports and boat loving members

But wait! There is more good news. After a wonderful year of experiencing club life is over and it is time to renew as a full member for 2009, the new member initiation fee is waived. That's another \$100 savings! So, after the food and beverage credit, the cost turns out to be free for the first year for the renewing provisional member. What a deal!

OK, here is how to make this happen. Simply stop by the club and pick up a Provisional Membership application form or e-mail the club at htyclub@verizon.net and request the form and it will be sent to you. Fill out the form, send it in with a check for \$129 and, pending approval by the board of directors, it's all done.

Last year I sponsored a sailor from Indiana sight unseen. He leased a slip next to us at Harbour Towne, heard about the club, and needed a sponsor. The opportunity to enjoy meeting and knowing such a wonderful member and his wife was priceless. They renewed for 2008 and I can't wait for them to get back here for the boating season.

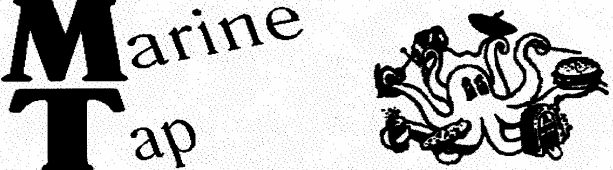
So, don't delay. This offer is limited to the first fifty applicants on a first come first serve basis. Invite someone you know to experience Harbour Towne Yacht Club, the premier yacht club in West Michigan. And if you know someone who needs a sponsor just call me. I will sponsor them.



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



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Buildings and Grounds

Jerry Siminski & Pete Bialik

Winter finally released its icy grip on the Muskegon shoreline! The tug boat Andrea and Peterson's fishing boat have made their annual pilgrimages across the frozen lake and carved three channels through the frozen lake to the open mouth of Muskegon Channel. Mother Nature's rising temperatures, winds and rain will soon finish the job and another boating season will commence.

The Harbour View Room painting project is finally complete and looks great!

Our Club's rear storage room and tool room has been cleared and will soon be removed to make room for our full service kitchen. Due to space limitations and temporary storage needs, we have closed the "children's playroom" and are utilizing this area for much needed temporary storage.


We have purchased an 8-foot square shed for the storage of cooking supplies and to shelter our Cooks when grilling outside.

Please except our apology for any disruption this construction may cause.... especially to our cooking staff! Our new full service kitchen will be worth the wait and inconvenience.

Effective April 1, 2008, the Club's (lower level) will also become a "smoke free environment". We respectfully request Club members to refrain from smoking directly in front of entrance doorways to eliminate smoke from entering the building. Thank you for your cooperation.

April and May are extremely busy months for the Tuesday morning group. If you can give us an hour or so we sure could use the help. We meet at the Cherokee Restaurant on Tuesday at 7am for breakfast and start work at the Club around 8am and work till 11:30am.





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Ralley 'round the Galley Update

Thank You to Lee and Shirley Woodruff for joining the Commodore's Club with their \$5000 donation to the Rally project. The project is under way, crews have already been busy moving the outdoor kitchen, refrigerators, store rooms, tool rooms, and anything not nailed down to get ready for the ground breaking and construction of the new Galley. We still need donors to the project. Our goal is \$150,000 and we are approaching \$30,000. Please consider a donation to this worthwhile project. For pictures on the progress of the construction, go the HTYC website, click on the Rally 'round the Galley link and then to the Gallery.

*Kids Room temporarily closed
during construction*



**April 1st, 2008
Harbour Towne Yacht Club
Becomes
a
Smoke-Free Building**



POST-FULL MOON PARTY!
Saturday, April 26th
Perch Dinner 6-8 pm
Music by Daddy-O's 7-11 pm

