



CATSCAN

Newsletter of the Clinton River Catalina Association

Founded 1988

March, 2008

Calendar

Social Schedule

- Twentieth Annual Commodore's BallApr 12
Sterling Inn, Van Dyke and 15 mile
- Fun Race and Picnic - Markley Marine May 31

Cruising Schedule

- Jefferson Beach Marina Rendezvous..... Jun 14
- Snibora Channel Raft-off, &
St. Clair Municipal Marina Jun 21, 22
- Thames River – Smugglers Marina Jul 4, 5
- Metro Beach Jul 19
- IC30A Regatta - Port Huron Aug 1, 2, 3
- Belle River- Belle River Marina Aug 16
- Windsor – Lakeview Marina.....Aug 31, Sep 1
- Pumpkin Cruise - Metro Beach Sep 27

Race Schedule

- Fun Race and PicnicMay 31
- IC30A Regatta - Port Huron Aug 1, 2, 3
- Full schedule in May 2008 Issue and at CRCASail.org

2008 CRCA Officers

- Steve SmithCommodore 248 553-3162
- Doug PostVice Commodore 586 412-7864
- Roy SchoenherrSecretary 810 794-3007
- Linda ReedTreasurer 248 652-3325
- Larry CaricchioMember-at-Large 248 852-3078

2008 Committee Chairs

- Paul KurkowskiConstitution 586 675-8211
- Judi Schoenherr and 810 794-3007
- Becky SmithCruising 248 553-3162
- Paul KruttyRacing 248 649-0597
- John PechaMembership 586 469-1634
- Ted WingNewsletter 248 373-5463
- Becky and Glen Ellison ... Social..... 586 463-7876
- Gae WingPhotographer 248 373-5463
- Erv Zimmerman..... Web Master..... 586 949-3527

CRCA Web Site, www.crcasail.org

Remember, you can check our web site for cruise schedules and race results. The site also provides the opportunity to set up your own e-mail account or use ahoythere@crca.org to send a message to the whole club. Check it out!

Commodores Corner

Steve Smith

Well, I just got in from clearing the snow for hopefully one of the last times this winter. I hope all of this white stuff helps the water levels in our little Great Lake.

This is going to be a great sailing year. I can't wait to get to work on our little hobby and go out and catch some wind, or just sit at the dock and catch some rays, drink some beer, and eat some cheese.

We have a lot going on this summer. Between racing, cruising, or just the fun, you have no excuse not to enjoy this club.

Plus, I expect to see you all at the commodore's ball this year. I am sure it is going to be a great time.

Now for a tech tip. If you need to replace your cutlass bearing, contact me as I have a tool that will let you remove and replace it in about 20-30 minutes, without removing the prop shaft or the rudder .

See you soon.

Steve Smith "*Twice Blessed*"

Social Scene

Barb Kurkowski - 2007 Social Chair

Invitations to the Commodore's Ball have been sent out. Hopefully everyone has received one. The Ball will be held at The Best Western Sterling Inn, 34911 Van Dyke, Sterling Heights 586/979-1400. (Room reservations are available for anyone interested.) It will be on Saturday, April 12, 2008 starting with cocktails at 6:00 PM, followed by awards, dinner and music.

The cost is \$60 each / \$120 per couple. Please make your check payable to CRCA and mail it to Barbara Kurkowski, 17958 Briarwood Dr. Macomb, MI 48044 by March 22, 2008.

The next event will be the annual picnic following the fun race. See Becky and Glen's article on page 3.

Barb Kurkowski "*Space Hunter*"

Catscan is published 5 times yearly in March, May, July, September and December.

Race Report

Paul Krutty, Race Chair

Calling all racers to the Commodores Ball on April 12th. The awards for Spring, Summer, Cruising Class Racers at the Invitational and Boat of the Year JAM & PHRF will be presented. Invite your crews to join you at this fun party.

It is time to think about getting our boats ready for the spring racing season. I know that we will see some new sails and improved equipment on the course this year.

Invite all of your Catalina owning friends to join us for Thursday Racing. Put together 5 boats and we will have Class Starts as well as JAM & PHRF.

Race Applications will be on the CRCA Web Site in early April. Prompt sign up will greatly assist in planning class structures, committee boat assignments and general organization.

I have been in Florida since the middle of January and will return the day before the Ball. It has been tough spending the winter down here in this balmy weather but if some one has to suffer, I'm happy to make the sacrifice.

Paul Krutty *"Sea Quell"*

Strictly Sail Chicago

Well here we are, four couples all trudging through the snow to make it to Chicago on Friday. The temperature is a great 32 degrees. This is the warmest weather I can remember in a long time since coming to this show for the last 12 years.

On Saturday evening at the Catalina display, we enjoyed drinks and appetizers provided by Catalina while we all watched the christening of the new C-375 by Frank and Jean Butler, Sharon and Dave Day, and Gerry and Tina Douglas, the owners of Catalina.

As we made our way back to the Hampton Inn hotel to enjoy the company of Chicago Fleet 21 and LMCA, I was thinking about John & Laura Pecha who just happened to be returning from Puerto Vallarta, Mexico this same evening. If you remember, they won that trip at this same party last year.

Well CRCA did it again this year. Of the four couples attending, Dave and Julie Otey won a Catalina beach towel while Jack and Nancy Gray won a sweatshirt. I wonder if CRCA will be invited back next year? CRCA members keep winning the prizes raffled off by Frank Butler and Sharon Day! Fleet 21 and LMCA may get a little upset with us new comers. (smile)

The four couples attending were Jack and Nancy Gray, Paul and Barb Kurkowski, Dave and Julie Otey, and Chuck and Linda Reed. A past member was going to attend, but never contacted us so I could hand them an application to join CRCA again. The party at the Hampton Inn is for members only of the different Catalina fleets.

Continued in next column

From the Poop Deck **Seaworthy Ideas and Stuff**

Paul Kurkowski

Ahoy mates and, a happy month of March to you all. You all know the saying, "careful what you wish for, because you just might get it." Well, after years of wishing I finally did get it, "a long cold and snowy winter in northern Michigan with the snow developing from the moisture all the way from the Gulf of Mexico.

This just in, the U S Army Corps of Engineers has just released their data regarding the water levels for the Great Lakes. Given the near record water level lows of last fall, all I have to say is, "whew!" I had a genuine fear of not getting into my dock this spring. I am feeling much better now. The preliminary data is projecting lakes Superior, Michigan and Huron to have levels six to twelve inches higher than August 2007. I know, I know, one foot (max) does not sound like much but, giving the entire surface area of the lakes that is huge! After all, what happens on the big lakes has a profound affect on our little great Lake Saint Clair. The end result, however, is not that exciting. It, in my opinion, only helps. It helps by giving our lake a projected August 2008 level of being equal the lake level of August 2007. Actually, thinking about it, in the great scheme of things, that is pretty darn good. Now I am hoping (again/still) for a very wet Spring.

Hey, remember Smelt? No, not the guy who use to work in accounting, the fish. They are making a slow comeback and it is due in part to those darn Zebra mussels, yeah, it's true. Too bad the Zebras are also blamed for reducing the numbers of game fish (like salmon) that feed on them. It's a food chain thing.

Yep, it won't be long now until the smells of cleaning products, solvents, waxes and bottom paints fill the marina atmosphere. Giving way to wearing T-shirts, shorts and flip-flops, and barbeques, ice-cold beer with family and friends.

I can't wait to say, "Let's go Sailing!"

That's it for now.

Casting off all lines. Color me gone.

Paul Kurkowski *"Space Hunter"*

Strictly Sail Continued

For those of you who weren't able to attend this year, put this event on your calendar now for next year. Not only do we win prizes at parties, but the seminars are informative and free, the vendors have many goodies for us to buy, the boat tours are free, there is live music by Eric Stone, they have great shopping and dining in Chicago, and best of all we get to know each other just a little bit better.

Chuck & Linda Reed *"Silent Dream"*

Cruising Column

Becky Smith and Judi Schoenherr 2008 Cruise Committee

Hello Fellow Sailors:

Our sailing year of 2008 will soon be upon us. As I write the article, I am in sunny Florida enjoying 80 degrees and Becky is in "cool" Michigan enjoying snow and 18 degrees. I'll let you decide who is enjoying the best climate.

Some changes have been made to our 2008 sailing season. They are as follows:

1. We will not return to Cove Marina this year.
2. We will cruise to Windsor only once.
3. We will not raft-off in the Black Lagoon – Metro.

For a change we are offering the following new adventures:

1. Jefferson Beach Marina Rendezvous– one night only. There you may want to party and have cocktails along The Nautical Mile, enjoy dinner at a nearby restaurant or shop. You may need your bikes for this one or call Tish. He may offer to drive you wherever you want to go. (Just kidding Tish!) Cost of slips are:

- Boats under 25 ft. - \$25.00 per night
- Boats between 26-35 ft. - \$45.00 per night
- Boats between 36-45 ft. - \$50.00 per night

2. Travel to Port Huron for the I-30A International Regatta. Whether you drive your car, cruise and or race, the trip will be credited towards receiving a cruising flag.

3. Our raft-off will take place in the Snibora Channel, know as the "Sni" located off The North Channel of the St. Claire River near the North Channel Yacht Club. An over night anchorage will be enjoyed with great food, boat drinks and evening conversations under the stars (we hope). The next morning we will cruise up the North Channel to the St. Clair Municipal Marina for an over night stay including dinner, shopping, biking etc.

As in the past, look for detailed information of each cruise in upcoming CATSCAN Publications.

You will notice as you read the cruise schedule below that we are in need of cruise leaders. If you are interested, we could sure use your help. Please let Becky or me know by May 1st. We would hate to have to cancel a cruise. Any Questions !?!? Call us

Happy Cruising,

Judi Schoenherr *"Morning Star"*

Becky Smith *"Twice Blessed"*

2008 Cruise Schedule

Jefferson Beach Marina Rendezvous Saturday, June 14th.

Cruise Leaders -

Steve & Becky Smith(248) 553-3162

Snibora Channel Raft-off and St. Clair Municipal Marina,

Friday and Saturday, June 21st, 22nd

Cruise Leaders –

Roy and Judi Schoenherr(810) 794-3007

Thames River – Smugglers Marina Friday, July 4, 5 Weekend

Cruise Leaders Needed

Metro Beach

Saturday, July 19th

Cruise Leaders Needed

International C30 Association Regatta

Port Huron

Friday - Sunday, August 1,2,3.

Cruise Leaders –

Steve Smith(248) 553-3162

Roy Schoenherr(810) 794-3007.

Belle River- Belle River Marina

Saturday August 16th.

Cruise Leaders –

Chuck and Linda Reed(248) 652-3325

Roy and Judi Schoenherr(810) 794-3007

Windsor – Lakeview Marina

Saturday and Sunday, August 30th & 31st.

Cruise Leaders –

Jack and Janet Creed(248) 623-0628

Bill and Deanna Lundy(586) 228-5864

Ted and GaeWing(248) 373-5463.

Pumpkin Cruise – Metro Beach

Saturday, September, 27th.

Cruise Leaders –

Glen & Becky Ellison (586) 463-7876

Social Scene

Becky & Glen Ellison, 2008 Social Committee

Commodore's Ball - This is a mile stone year our 20th. If you have any contact with past for former members please encourage them to attend. All who attend will surely have a great evening. Seeing many of the past member faces will be a memorable event.

See Barb's invitation on page 1.

Fun Race - This year the fun race will be held Saturday, May 31. The key word of the Fun Race is "FUN". For the last couple of years members used their imagination. Let us do it again this year. A picnic will be held afterwards with presentation of awards. The location for the picnic is the gazebo at Markley Marine. Please enter your boat. If not, I am sure some one would love to have you as crew. Remember it is fun so see you out on the lake and at the picnic. Picnic time will be around 2:30 pm or shortly after the race.

Becky & Glen Ellison *"Adventure"*

Membership Report

John Pecha - Membership Chairman

The Tigers are in Lakeland playing ball which means spring isn't far behind. Thoughts of spring repairs before launch occur more often and ideas of planning how to accomplish these tasks begin to formulate in our minds.

As membership chairman I have the additional task of planning how to encourage the more than 50% of the membership who have yet to submit their annual dues, to do so. There have been suggestions from some of the officers, which though novel were a little over the top. Being a somewhat laid back individual I believe you can attract more bees with honey than vinegar or with communication rather than silence.

I won't bore you with the speech of how our association needs the money, what with the 20th annual

Commodore's Ball, the Cruising and Racing events currently in planning. But, I will be contacting those members who have yet to submit their dues. And though I may be laid back, those of you who have seen me work on WINDependence know I am persistent.

So, if you have simply forgotten or are a practicing procrastinator, spring is quickly approaching and its time to write that check. Feel free to call or e-mail me and let me know what's happening with you this winter. As I said earlier, I believe in communication and if I don't hear from you, you will hear from me. ? Have a great rest of the late winter and I will see you at the Commodore's Ball on April 12th.

John Pecha "*WINDependence*"