



The Waves



this issue

Commodore's Thoughts

Committee News

January & February Calendars

Sailor's Page

Officers

Commodore: Steve McMahon
Vice Commodore: Dick Kornely
Rear Commodore: Tracy Virnoche
Treasurer: Tim Hecker
Secretary: Heidi Koch

Auxiliary President: Sandra Murray

Board of Directors

Jude Gosz 920.684.0728
Tim Hecker 920.684.8294
Don Cisler 920.652.0468
Jim Kocian 920.905.1650
Don Brisch 920.682.2481
Tracy Virnoche 920.686.1576
Keith Shebesta 920.684.8148
Steve McMahon 920.684.5277
Keith Laurent 920.901.8096
Dick Kornely 920.682.9258
Ron Stokes 920.682.3055
Bill Marshburn 920.682.0003

Committee Chairs

House: Jim Kocian
Building: Keith Laurent
Grounds & Outside: Don Cisler
Fleet Captain: Tracy Virnoche
Sailing: Chad Radtke
Social: Kris Klein
Finance: Steve Pfeffer & Dick Kornely
Membership: Brian Muench
Technology: Heidi Koch
Lease: Karl Birkenstock
Donations: Don Brisch
Waves: Ron Stokes, Nan Hallock & Heidi Koch
Sgt. at Arms: Steve McMahon
Club Historian: Ron Stokes
Bar Manager: Maureen Shebesta



Letter from Commodore Steve McMahon



AHOY - Permission to come aboard ?

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL !

As I start my year as Commodore, I want to express my sincere thanks to the Board of Directors for voting me into this position. They, and I, will do everything we can to keep the Club moving forward on an even keel.

Thank you Jude for an outstanding year. You accomplished a lot and made it fun. Thank you also for your help preparing me to follow you.

The Christmas lights, decorations, and tree have definitely added a festive and inviting holiday look to the Club. Many thanks to the Ladies Auxilliary for their work.

MYC is a vibrant and true "do-it-yourself" yacht club, so jump in - sign up for events and to help - and have fun!

I would also like to acknowledge and thank all those who helped decorate and set up for the change of watch dinner and dance! Karl and his staff for a terrific meal, which was followed by an energetic and entertaining band.

We had 31 apprentices at the start of the year, and I am pleased to announce that all of them fulfilled their requirements to be (upon payment of dues) active members in 2012.

Contrary to the rumor going around the bar, I have not asked Maureen to put Absolut Vodka "on tap". But is it doable????

I am anticipating that all committee heads will stay on unless they ask to be replaced. I'm excited about the New Year at MYC. The club exists because you make it work!

Lets have a great year. I look forward to your support and input.

Steve

Popular New Year's Resolutions

- Drink Less Alcohol
- Get a Better Education
- Get a Better Job
- Get Fit
- Lose Weight
- Manage Debt
- Manage Stress
- Quit Smoking Now
- Save Money
- Take a Trip
- Volunteer to Help Others

Committee News

House Committee

Jim Kocian, Chairman

Friendly Reminders –

- Please remember to clean your table and/or party bar when you leave.
- No hats in the dining room.
- Go to your table in a timely manner when called.
- Leave your table at a reasonable time so others can dine.

Mark your calendars the Swedish Pancake Breakfast is Sunday, February 12, 2012.

Bring your family and friends to this popular event. It includes all you can eat Swedish pancakes, sausages, fruit and many desserts. Sign-up sheet will be posted soon.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at 920.905.1650.



Sandie Murray, President of the Auxiliary and Carol Chermak, Chairman of the Auxiliary's 2011 Coats for Kids Project, hold a few of the more than 30 winter coats that were donated by members of the Auxiliary to provide coats for needy children in the area.

Ladies Auxiliary

Sandie Murray, President

I sincerely hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas & a great New Year's Eve.

The Ladies' Auxiliary had their annual Christmas party on Monday, December 5. The main focus of the evening was to raise enough money to purchase Christmas gifts for three local families who were referred to us by the Salvation Army. There were 35 ladies in attendance. Everyone brought a dish to share for a potluck dinner, and donated \$10 toward the families' gifts. We also had a silent auction of items donated by the ladies that raised more cash for our worthy cause. Once again, it was a very successful event, in that the cash donations along with the auction proceeds and the gift card tree fundraiser allowed us to raise almost \$1,200 to give our "less fortunate" families a little nicer Christmas.

I would also like to thank the following people for helping to decorate the Club for Christmas: Colleen and Jude Gosz, Mary Jo and Collin Rayford, Maureen and Keith Shebesta, Jim and Judy Kocian, Barb Sitkowitz, Janet Emmert, Lisa Schmidt, Debbie Mrozinski, Steve McMahon, Don Cisler, Dean Duescher and anyone else who helped that I may have missed.

The Auxiliary will not meet in January, but meetings will resume again on Monday, February 6 when a presentation on hairstyles is planned.

Calendar

Event Details



Party Planners

Time to start planning parties for 2012!

Do you have a GREAT idea for a club party? Stop down Sunday January 8 and reserve your date! The club calendar will be available for anyone to secure a day for 2012 MYC parties

Swedish Pancake Breakfast

Sunday February 12

10am-1pm

Bring your family and friends to this popular event. It includes all you can eat Swedish pancakes, sausages, fruit and many desserts. Sign-up sheet will be posted soon.



Check out the club bulletin board for:

- Meeting Minutes
- Proposals
- New Member Applicants
- Event Sign-ups
- Snap Shots
- Stag/Steak Night Info
- Club Waiting List
- Plus much more!

Note from the Waves: *If you notice an incorrect date or time listed on the "Printed Calendar" please compare against the "Website Calendar" which is always up-to-date with any changes in the schedule. www.manitowoc yachtclub.com/calendar.html*

JANUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6 Peel & Eat Shrimp	7
8 Party Planners	9	10 Steak Night 530pm	11	12	13 Fresh Walleye	14
15	16 Board Meeting 6pm	17 Private Party	18	19	20 Catfish	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Sauteed Shrimp	28
29	30	31 Membership Meeting 7pm				

Online Newsletters

There is an archive of past newsletters on our website.

There is wi-fi access at the club. Just hit connect on your device; it will not prompt you for a password.

Events (continued)

Date Change: Interclub Party - Volunteers Needed

Join us on **Thursday, January 16 at 6pm** for Interclub Party planning.

We have selected Saturday August 11, 2012 for next year's interclub party. There are several reasons why we chose August. With having the party in August, it allows for you to see our lakeshore at it's finest. With the warmer weather, it will also allow us to utilize our outside grounds, which in turn, will allow us to host more members due to the limited space we would experience if we would have it indoors.

There are many subcommittees that will be needed to make this a successful event, this includes:

FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Hawaiian Tilapia	4
5 Super Bowl	6 Ladies Auxiliary 7pm	7	8	9	10 Fresh Walleye	11
12 Swedish Pancake Breakfast	13	14 Steak Night 530pm	15	16	17 Peel & Eat Shrimp	18
19	20 Board Meeting 6pm	21	22	23	24 Pork Chops	25
26	27	28 Membership Meeting 7pm	29 Leap Year!			

News (continued)

Reminder - Winter Parking

As a courtesy to our members with 'Disabled' tags, visible on their vehicles, the Board of Directors is asking able-bodied members to refrain from using the front row parking during the winter months – especially on Friday evenings. Although the club is code compliant with the number of 'Disabled Parking' spaces available to members (three) there are a few occasions when more spaces would be nice. The problem is we only have so much space. We do not want to make this a permanent change in that striping and signage would need to be involved and then these spaces would not be fully utilized. Thank you for your cooperation and thank you for helping to keep the club safe for everyone.

2012 Officers & Outgoing Commodore



Outgoing Commodore – Jude Gosz, Commodore – Steve McMahon,
Vice Commodore – Dick Kornely, Secretary – Heidi Koch,
Ladies Auxiliary President – Sandie Murray, Treasurer – Tim Hecker,
Rear Commodore – Tracy Virnoche

2011 Board Members



Jude Gosz, Steve McMahon, Tracy Virnoche, Don Cisler, Don Brisch,
Keith Shebesta, Keith Laurent, Jim Kocian, Jim Neuser, Tim Hecker

New Member Applications

Sponsor – Colin Rayford
Applicant – Richard Swetlik

Sponsor – Lynn Vandevort
Applicant – Rick Wrobel

Sponsor – Leroy Beilke
Applicant – Lori Beilke

Please Submit
Digital Photos

manitowocyachtclub@
gmail.com



Picture Page



Ghost Ship

By Paul Collins via msn.com

In 1872, the crew of the *Mary Celeste* disappeared without a trace. Her story only got weirder from there. It's the stuff of maritime legend: a ship sighted in the distance, hailed without response, and boarded to reveal a vessel under full sail, its wheel creaking aimlessly, cabin doors slamming open and shut in the wind, and ... not a soul onboard.

On Dec. 4, 1872, it actually happened. The *Mary Celeste* was discovered between the Azores and Portugal—her crew vanished without a trace of a struggle, the ship still fully provisioned. What calamity befell the ship remains a mystery. A final log entry, on Nov. 24, showed no hint of distress. The cabin of Capt. Benjamin Briggs was untouched, right down to the sewing machine and parlor melodeon belonging to his wife and infant daughter; the child's ghostly indentation remained visible on a bed. The crew must have "left in a great hurry," reported the boarding party, for their pipes and tobacco were still there—and no sailor, they noted, willingly abandons ship without his pipe.

Theories on the cause of the disappearance have ranged from cargo fumes to mutiny to (inevitably) alien abduction. The *Mary Celeste*'s fate inspired fictional solutions in an Arthur Conan Doyle story (which blamed a race war), a 1935 Hammer horror film (a hook-armed Bela Lugosi), and a Dr. Who episode (Daleks, of course.)

What's not as well-known is that the *Mary Celeste* was also at the center of a second mystery. The disconcerting disappearance of its crew notwithstanding, the *Mary Celeste* still had plenty of life left in her, and soon went back into service. Thirteen years and 17 hapless owners later, *Mary* was mostly infamous for being in poor shape and for losing money on runs from Boston to Africa and the West Indies. It was merely one final indignity when she wrecked off Haiti in January 1885, slamming squarely into Rochelois Reef, a known hazard. The ship didn't sink, but its hopelessly splintered remains would never leave the reef. Capt. Gilman Parker declared the cursed ship a loss, and then went ashore to sell the salvage rights to a load of ale, cutlery, and shoes for \$500. That's where the story might have ended—except that police showed up at the captain's door in Boston three months later. The *Mary Celeste*, they charged, was a 282-ton, fully-rigged insurance scam.

The July 1885 trial of Capt. Parker and the ship's co-owners, now buried in the Boston Globe archives, offers a fascinating glimpse into a Gilded Age flimflam. Laying out charts and totting up blackboard figures in a broiling Boston courtroom, prosecutors revealed a chain of scams that reached from Haiti back to the alleyways of their own city.

Capt. Parker might have pulled it off, too, except that he'd gotten greedy: Not content to rip off just his insurers, he also tried to con the local salvager in Haiti. The salvager hadn't found anything near the 125 casks of Bass ale promised on the ship's manifest, and the few he did locate weren't exactly good drinking. Called to the stand, a Boston bottler revealed they were moldy blanks with Bass labels pasted to them, and filled with "ullage"—bottom-of-barrel runoff from smashed and leaking bottles. The bottler hadn't even bothered filling many of them; some were "half full, some a third full, and some just enough to wet the bottle."

The rest of the cargo was similarly suspect. The 975 barrels of "New Fortune Herring"? That was actually 780 barrels of rotten fish that stank so badly that one fish merchant said it was good only "for fertilizers." Wooden barrels of "Fine" butter proved to be rank "slush." The Haiti-bound food cargo was so foul that one conspirator was overheard musing, "If these n— eat that fish and drink that beer, they will all be dead."

A crate supposed to contain \$1,000 in cutlery, when pried open, revealed \$50 worth of dog collars. Boxes of "women's high-button boots" were old galoshes. The ship and its cargo, covered by five insurers for a whopping \$34,000, were hardly worth the kerosene necessary to burn the wreck. Capt. Parker, in short, was in deep trouble.

"The defense lawyers were wild," one investigator later marveled of Parker's shambolic team. Parker's attorney cited famed Massachusetts eccentric "Lord" Timothy Dexter—a late-18th-century merchant who supposedly shipped mittens and warming pans to the West Indies—to assert that the *Mary Celeste*'s cargo belonged to a splendid tradition of crazy-like-a-fox speculations. If the vulpine side of the simile was left unexplained, the crazy part was easy to spot. Haitians didn't typically buy new Bass ale or salted herring, let alone rotten beer and fish. "They say the goods were overinsured. Suppose they were. It is common thing to overinsure," sputtered Parker's attorney. And if the crew said the goods were worthless, well, everyone knew they liked to tell stories. "Spinning a yarn is a sailor's phrase," he insisted.

Perhaps yarn-spinning could also explain the crew members who saw Capt. Parker toss the ship's papers overboard, proclaiming "They're gone. No one will know what's in them." And maybe it accounted for the first mate's claim that he'd dissuaded Parker from a plan to wreck by the more dangerous Turks Islands, pleading, "For God's sake don't pile her up there; we shall all be drowned."

But it wasn't so easy for the defense to explain a letter in the captain's hand, dated two months after the wreck, which the first mate also produced:

E. Boston, March 5, '85

I wood advise you not to know to much a bout cargo fer the shippers have put in their bill of Invoice to the adgestors and the protest and Log Book as that stand is all that I want. You will be cald over to the Insurance look out you do not get in the Roung track by knoing to much.

G.C. Parker

After days of testimony, now it was the jury who knew too much. They had to decide whether Parker's plot deserved a conviction on the maritime charge of barratry—deliberate destruction of a vessel—a crime then punishable by death.

After counts and recounts, the jury returned with a shocker: They'd deadlocked, 7-5, with the majority in favor of conviction. The five holdouts, it seemed, just couldn't bring themselves to send a man to the gallows over rotten fish and bad butter. Three years later, and perhaps with the abandoned prosecution of Capt. Parker in mind, a Massachusetts congressman worked to amend the barratry law so that it would no longer be a capital offense. "The penalty of death would be simply shocking," he admitted to a House committee. "In many cases juries refused to convict, even when guilt was proved, as the only way to prevent a greater evil."

But the doomed ship seemed to carry its own sentence: Nearly everyone else indicted in the conspiracy went bust, and Capt. Parker died under obscure circumstances just three months after his trial. They might have taken heed of the fate of David Cartwright, a previous owner who had already lost a small fortune on the *Mary Celeste*. "Of all the unlucky vessels I ever heard of," he would recall, "she was the most unlucky."

Note from The Waves

The Waves needs your help with contributions in the form of letters to the editor, photos – old and new, articles on water activities, suggestions, etc. ANY input is valuable! Drop them off at the club, mail to The Waves' attention or email manitowocyachtclub@gmail.com. We hope to make the waves more informative and interesting!

January Events

January 8 Party Planners

January 10 Steak Night 530pm (Officers)

January 12 Interclub Meeting 6pm

January 16 Board Meeting 6pm

January 31 Membership Meeting 7pm

