

New Buffalo Yacht Club

The BEST Yacht Club on Lake Michigan....yours!

Newsletter – May 2012

Commodore's Corner



Hello fellow Members. We've all been anxiously awaiting a re-opening date and I'm proud to announce that we've set it for Friday, May 18, unless we run into any other major problems over the next couple of weeks. Keep your fingers crossed. Because of timing and the unforeseen, we will not be hosting an immediate grand re-opening event. There will be entertainment Saturday May 19. If you plan to come for dinner that weekend, you may want to make a reservation just to be sure you have a seat. There will be several new employees this season, so please bear with them as they adapt to our club.

I've been to several functions the past couple of months and I have to say that I've never heard so many people talking about our club in all my life. It was the Board's goal to make our club spectacular and that's what we're accomplishing. The fact that we've signed on many new members while closed and during the winter reflects this. I'm very excited and believe that summer 2012 will be the best summer our club has seen in a long time.

I'd like to thank everyone on our current Board for all the support they've provided me. I truly have to say that without a Board that stands together with the same goals, we would never have come this far.

We have a few other projects in the works also. They include the following: 1) We're redeveloping our web site. 2) We're looking for floating wood docks and/or PWC docks. If you'd like to donate one or know of any for sale at a great price, please contact me. The plan is

to utilize half of our dock for smaller crafts and leave the rest of the wall for larger boats to tie off of. 3) Our parking lot will be sealed and lines repainted. 4) Landscaping around the entrance to the parking lot.

Well, it's back to the club to check on the contractors. I can't wait to see all of you in a few weeks.

Lou O'Donnell IV
Commodore

NBYC Finance Report



As most know, our entire board's attention has been focused on completing the club renovations in a cost effective and timely manner. The work is getting done within the projected budget and we are following the financial aspect of the capital improvements in detail.

All work that is being done is essential. All work done is required to meet code requirements, needed to ensure our safety, meet conditions of the insurer or mortgagee, or required to be done now to avoid larger expenses in the near future.

Although the work is taking longer than planned, we cannot cut corners. We are making a significant investment with this renovation and that work will bring much value to all members. We need your continued support and need all members 100% behind this effort.

As I stated before, once our club renovations are complete, we need to focus on two items:

Need to get all of our members out to enjoy the new club. There will be new venues and you will be very impressed with the new environment.

Grow the club via new members, new programs, and more member participation.

Our Goal continues to be: Significantly improve member value resulting in more participation and revenue.

We normally would have received a modest income amount for March & April, but we didn't get that income due to the renovation work. We plan to make up for that lost income with increased participation in May & June. In the mean time, with the exception of the actual renovation expenses, our club operating expenses have been minimal during this period.

Please do your part:

- Send us your ideas/suggestions on member value/cost reduction/revenue
- Come in more often and enjoy the club
- Enlist new members
- Pay your dues if you haven't already!

If you would like to discuss any aspect of our club's finances, please call me at 630-561-3629 (c) or email me ronandritawatson@sbcglobal.net

Ron Watson
Treasurer

Vice Commodore of Sail



I can't explain what attracted me to his photo. Was it coincidence or had I seen that face before? Was it a case of *de ja vu* that drew me to the obituary? Normally I avoid reading obituaries.

Halfway through Robert J. Russell's obituary it said—in fine print—"He was also Commodore of NBYC." I decided to honor Russell's contribution to the club by attending his wake. Condolences were extended on behalf of the club.

"We were one of the first—if not the first—to purchase the club's lifetime membership," explained his widow Carol. Displayed at the funeral chapel were photos of the Russells' New Buffalo experiences. Some I recognized.

I also found an Oct. 17, 1985, clipping from the *Harbor Country News*. It showed a photo of the installation of Commodore William Deputy. Past Commodore Russell emceed the event.

It was a surprising realization to discover that the Russell's and my family lived within a couple of blocks of each other in Berwyn, IL, probably mutually unaware of our memberships in NBYC. I became a member about 1990, sponsored incidentally by Bill Deputy.

The New Buffalo Sail Fleet is looking for assistance in setting its racing marks. Last year 4 of 9 were set, thanks to the efforts of Donkersloot & Sons. Once set I'll post their location in the club's front window. Hey, Power boaters; consider volunteering to be a committee boat this season.

Ladies, here's a second reminder of the 2012 Women's Sailing Conference. It's scheduled for Saturday, May 19, at the Milwaukee, WI, Community Sailing Center. Visit www.info@womensailing.org.

Oh, you'll find Robert Russell's photo in the middle of those displayed in the club. They're not identified. He's the past commodore wearing the white cap and Navy jacket. He's unmistakable. I promised Carol she'd receive an invitation to the club's grand reopening.

Vice Commodore of Power



New Buffalo Harbor Dredging (2012)

Our interview with Arie Donkersloot on April 20, 2012 revealed that there are four areas of dredging taking place in our harbor, two at the mouth of the harbor and two inside the harbor entrance back to the bridge. According to Arie, the dredging at the mouth of the harbor and beyond was completed on April 18, 2012. The two areas inside the harbor are scheduled to be completed by week ending April 27, 2012, prior to the salmon spawning season.

According to Donkersloot, the water depth at the harbor entrance was 12 feet throughout, subsequent to the dredging. However, we were reminded that the lake was up one foot at the time the soundings were taken. Arie further explained that the dredging issue may be ongoing, seasonally, due to a large sand bar located just south and outside of the harbor entrance. The silting-in is reportedly exasperated by strong westerly winds. Thanks to Donkersloot & Sons, together with financial donations by others, you will have safe ingress and egress to the harbor entrance for the 2012 boating season.

The United States Power Squadron (USPS) is sponsoring an on-the-water training event and an inland navigation skills demonstration at the Hammond, Indiana Marina on May 13 and 14, 2012. Times are 0800 to 1600 for each event. The cost varies depending on whether or not you are a USPA member. These programs are worthwhile and worth the money. To enroll contact Commodore Pat Antoni, SN at pantone@aol.com

Hope to see you all very soon.

Captain Will Stump
Vice Commodore of Power
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Rear Commodore



As I see people around town the question I seem to get every day is when the club is going to open. My answer is May 18th.“ The good news is that things really look like they are coming together, from what I can see the club is going to look great.

The earliest event that I think we can count on having at this point will be the Preakness on May 19th. We will have our own NBYC horse races, drink specials and buffet items to fit the day. Of course there might also be investment opportunities for those who have an interest in the “Sport of Kings”.

Memorial Day weekend will also be a big weekend at the club. We will have entertainment on Saturday May 26th, then the INDY 500 on our new big screens on the afternoon of the 27th and finish up with the Rain Gutter Regatta starting at 5:30.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the “NEW” New Buffalo Yacht Club soon.

Don Morris
Rear Commodore
269-469-2463 or donmorris123@yahoo.com

Membership Committee

I’m happy to announce that we have many new members join our club the past few months. The buzz is out that our club has been remodeled and people are excited to join. We plan to host a membership drive sometime soon after the club opens.

Any member who hasn’t paid their dues is subject to a \$25 late fee per month beginning April 1. Invoices were sent to all members that were not current with their membership dues. If you didn’t receive an invoice from the club and

have not paid your 2012 dues, please contact me. The board has also re-stated the \$250 initiation fee for new members beginning June 15, 2012. So encourage anyone you know that wants to join to apply prior to this date. Membership applications can be found on our web site or you can simply contact me and I'll forward the information to your prospective member.

Tom Bowmar
Membership Chairman

Monday Night Fellowship

Monday Night Fellowship is still on vacation. We are planning on having a couple of Monday Night Events when the club re-opens again. We will send out a notice, along with details as soon as we can firm up the dates.

Don Morris
MNF Chair

Website: www.newbuffaloyc.com