

Commodore's Corner

John Coultrap



During our club's annual Land Cruise at Sawmill Creek Lodge, I gave a report to the membership relative to the Board of Directors activities since the change of watch that occurred September 1st. For those of you that were unable to attend, I'd like report to you as well.

Following the annual meeting and elections of officers for the 2003-2004 term of office, I, as your new commodore, was approached by treasurer, Harry Andrist with the customary congratulatory remarks and a comment relative to club operations.

Harry's comment surrounded the need to take our total financial management system to a "higher level" of accountability. We discussed this need relative to our own operations and our new partnership/relationship with the State of Ohio.

As a result and in mid November, a quorum of flag officers and directors met to discuss and approve a

long-range plan to develop a modernized financial accounting and management system. Also discussed and voted on, were new operational policies and guidelines the club's management will follow in the coming years.

"Our successes will result in greater accountability to you..."

Our goal was to streamline the way we fiscally do business, securing our capital assets in such a way that will ensure liquidity of funds invested at the highest interest earning potential. These actions, will subsequently serve to guarantee our growth potential within the state park marina project on Middle Bass, cooperating fully with all ODNR requirements and guidelines under the terms of our tenant lease.

With a membership of nearly six hundred, this newly adopted method in which we conduct business in the future, is paramount

for the success of our organization. Our successes will result in greater accountability to you, the membership and our relationship with the State.

During my presentation, I recognized all members that have volunteered their time and talents to reach the goal of greater accountability. They are: Mike and Bobbie Stewart, Scott and Chris Forward, Joe and Sandy Orahoske, John and Cindy Wierzchowski, James Franchello, Harry Andrist and my very own, Mary Ann.

These unselfish members/officers have spent an enormous amount of their personal time working to reach a common goal in bringing our financial operation, to a "higher level" of accountability. I can't thank them all enough for their dedication during this entire project effort.

I further recognized the efforts of Scott and Chris, our entertainment co-chairs,

(Continued on page 5)

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
MIDDLE BASS ISLAND YACHT CLUB

The Grapevine



Inside this issue:

I-LYA Report	2
Entertainment Report	3
Secretary's Report	4
Fishing Anyone?	4
Membership Matters	5
Dock Sharing	5
Opening Invitation	5
LandCruise 2003 Pictures	6
Vice Commodore Comments	6
George Weisenbach Recognized	7
Treasurer's Report—February	7





I-LYA Winter Meeting

MBIYC hosted a hospitality room, Friday evening at the I-LYA winter meeting at the Holidome, in Sandusky, OH. We had a Key West theme with palm trees, seashells and parrots, for decorations. It was great seeing the MBIYC friends and special thanks to those who brought an appetizer to share and supplement the smoked salmon and party trays. Barb Shaffer and Marty Johnson served really smooooth "painkillers" for a tropical taste. We saw many friends from other clubs as they socialized prior to starting their business meetings Saturday.

The business meeting covered reports from the various I-LYA committees as they reviewed the past years activities and plans for 2003. The following were elected to office for 2003:

Commodore, Dan van Heeckeren, Mentor Harbor Y.C.; Vice Commodore, Rich McKee, South Shore Cruising Club; Rear Commodore, Heidi Riddle, Vermilion Boat Club; Directors, 3 year term, John Bureau, Perrysburg Boat Club; Jack Attkisson, Put-in-Bay Y.C.; John Greiner, North Cape Y.C.

I-LYA Spring Meeting

The I-LYA Spring Meeting will be held in the Cleveland, Ohio area April 4th and 5th, 2003. There will be working meetings for I-LYA officers and

committee people Saturday morning. A general meeting is scheduled 3:00 P.M. for delegates and I-LYA people. A dinner will follow in the evening. Further details will be put on the MBIYC website when they are received.

Reciprocity between I-LYA Clubs

Reciprocity becomes an issue from time to time for cruising boaters visiting I-LYA Clubs. The I-LYA has no written or unwritten rules on reciprocity between member Clubs. The I-LYA conducts a power and sailboat regatta at Put-In-Bay each summer and promotes boating activities during the year. The I-LYA does provide a summary list of services, facilities, charges and individual Club information in the back of it's yearbook. This yearbook is available by early summer at MBIYC for the current year.

Each individual Club sets their own rules, just as MBIYC does. Most Clubs welcome visitors. Some Clubs do have rules that are restrictive to visitors because they do not want to be overwhelmed with company and not be able to provide services to their own members. Look up the Clubs you plan to visit and contact them to see if they can provide docking or what you need ahead of time. Many times you will be able to be accommodated. By checking ahead of time you can avoid a hassle when arriving at a Club that cannot accommodate you. Additionally, you will have information on the Clubs that will welcome you, making a good experience for all.

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We had a great time at the Sawmill Creek LandCruise and have some special thanks to go out!

First we want to thank Don & Carol Stouder who did an excellent job of decorating for this event. The Mardi Gras theme was a great idea on their part and they were a big help.

We also wish to thank Sawmill Creek Lodge and Resort for donating two raffle gifts and for providing a free meeting room for our officers.

In addition, we want to thank West Marine in Sandusky for donating a large basket of cleaning supplies to the raffle.

The summer schedule is now set!

Club Events:

- Memorial Day Picnic—Saturday, May 24, 2003



2003 Cruise Schedule

This year's fun cruises are as follows:

- Pelee Island—June 14 weekend - Tentative, we are still working on positive space dockage at Pelee.
- Ford Yacht Club—July 25—26 - Near the mouth of the Detroit River.
- Leamington—August 22—24 - Black Beard's Weekend.

If interested complete this form and return:

Please send a separate form per cruise with a \$25/deposit per cruise. We will have to take members first come/first served, and put the rest on the waiting list. We cannot add you to the list without your deposit. When you arrive at the cruise, your check will be refunded to you. If you are signed up for the cruise and do not show up, you will forfeit your deposit. The reason for this policy is the Club has had to put a deposit down and guarantee a certain number of boats. Last year we had several cruises where people had signed up, said they were coming, and then did not show up. If you do not get in because the cruise is full we will refund your \$25.

Please make all checks payable to: MBIYC

Name: _____

Boat Name: _____ Boat Size: _____

E-mail address: _____

Phone #: _____

Cruise: _____



Mail your completed forms with \$25/per cruise (made out to MBIYC) to: **Scott & Chris Forward, 1206 Chatham Ridge Road, Westerville, OH 43081**. We will contact you prior to the cruise to let you know that we have room for you. Again, it is first come/first served on the cruises.



We had a wonderful time at the Land Cruise at Sawmill Creek on Feb. 8th. We really appreciate all the work that Chris & Scott Forward put into making this event a success and all the hard work of the people who spent their time decorating for the party. Those of you who could not attend missed a great time. We enjoyed meeting and talking with everyone and we relaxed in the pool and whirlpool after the dinner and dance. We hope to see everyone soon when we all head for Middle Bass Island this spring.

Board of Directors Meeting

A meeting of the Board of Directors and Flag Officers was held on 2/08/03 at 1:15 P. M. at Sawmill Creek prior to the Land Cruise. Present were John Coultrap, Mike Stewart, George Weisenbach, John & Cindy Wierzchowski, Scott Forward, James Franchello and Joe Orahoske.

Joe made a motion to waive the reading of the previous minutes. Seconded by Mike Stewart, motion passed.

John Coultrap introduced Butch Houdeshell, representative of Walters & Peck Insurance Agency. Butch went over the proposed Directors & Officers Liability Coverage Policy. A question and answer session. Discussion followed on methods of payments including electronic funds transfer.

Harry Andrist, Treasurer, could not make the meeting due to a previous commitment, so John Coultrap took his place as treasurer for the duration of the meeting and read the

Treasurer's report.

Cindy Wierzchowski, Accounts Manager, gave an update on the new accounting system. We now have a computerized bookkeeping system using QuickBooks Pro software. Discussion followed on fiscal year changes to coincide with the Bridge change.

James Franchello, Membership Chairperson, updated us on new members dues and cards. James said that in the future, only the address of the Secretary should be on the dues statements because of the confusion of where to send dues. Discussion followed on potential members having access to an application on the web site and members who have not paid correct yearly dues.

Discussion of a by-laws change on certified letters to be sent to members in arrears. George Weisenbach made a motion to change the wording of Section C, Paragraph 1 that the language be changed. Scott Forward seconded, motion passed. Section C will be rewritten and the final wording will be published in a future newsletter. The matter will then be presented to the membership for vote at a subsequent meeting.

Brief discussion of Sandusky Sailing Club followed. No change in regard to our reciprocal policy with them.

Discussion of Greater Cleveland Boating Association. Pros & cons were given on membership in this group. We will continue to remain a member. Discussion of Associated Yacht Clubs. We will check into membership with this group.

Joe Orahoske made a motion to adjourn, seconded by John Wierzchowski. Meeting adjourned at 3:35 P.M.

Tentative plans have been made to hold the *1st Annual MBIYC Fishing Tournament*. However, we need your help! Before we complete the plans and preparations, we need to know if there is enough interest to hold the event.

The tournament would be held on a weekend in late May or early June. Teams would be limited to a certain number of fisherman with at least one person, per team, being a member of MBIYC. The tournament would start in the morning with boats leaving from MBIYC. It would end in the early afternoon with all boats returning with their catch to MBIYC for weigh-in and measurement. Prizes will be awarded for typical categories.

If you are interested in participating, please let us know by **April 1st** by sending an email to MysticFlight98@aol.com, calling 330-995-6088, or dropping a note to John Wierzchowski, 375 Bent Tree Dr., Aurora OH 44202.

If enough people express the desire to participate, we will finalize plans and publish details and a signup form in the May newsletter.



J.F. Walleyes continues the rebuilding process and hopes to be open by the start of the season.

Membership Matters James Franchello

As of 2/17/03 we have a total of 560 members. 30 members have notified us that they do not intend to continue their membership in 2003. There are still 95 members who have not paid 2003 dues nor indicated their intentions for the coming year.

We have four new members to welcome aboard!

Christopher & Sherri Frederick of Ottawa Lake, Michigan
Floyd McCullough of Port Clinton, Ohio
John & Andrea Calfee, Jr. of Murfreesboro, Tennessee
John & Marguerite Abbott of Norton, Ohio

About the membership cards... I must apologize to the entire membership for not getting the cards out sooner. To say the least, there are still a few nuances of this position I haven't come to grips with! I have a **much** better appreciation for the fabulous, time-consuming job Barb Shaffer (and her predecessors!) did in the past.

I am working with several other club members to streamline the invoicing, collecting, mailing, and all the other tasks required to keep the club together and the membership informed. I plan to have a much better handle on things next year and to have a system in place that will make it easier for me to respond to the duties required in a timely manner.

With any luck, your membership cards may actually arrive before you read this!

Commodore (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

Don and Carol Stouder and all others that helped, for their contribution in making, not only the land cruise, but all events they have been involved with, a complete success.

Last but certainly not least, our own Judy Hill. Her contributions as dock master and manager is without question, an asset to our total efforts.

Finally, to all those members who volunteer their time, past and present, through work parties, serving on committees and in leadership roles, I can't thank you enough for your contributions in making the Middle Bass Island Yacht Club, one of the best on the Great Lakes. My hat's off to all of you.

I look forward to seeing you all this next boating season on the "Isle de Fleur".



Dock Sharing

Scott Forward



With Spring just around the corner, we are all making plans for LAUNCH DAY!

The dock committee has been hard at work sending out season dock agreements, updating the waiting list, and preparing to assign sharing members.. If you are a primary dock renter and you wish to share a dock, please contact me. The sharing members will be taken from the top of the dock waiting list, subject to boat type and size being suitable to the dock. A maximum of two sharing members can be assigned to the dock. It is the primary dock renters responsibility to pay for the season rental to the club, and to work out agreeable sharing terms with their sharing partners. Since the sharing members will come from the top of the waiting list, they can share multiple seasons with their primary renter, and retain their seniority on the waiting list should a primary dock become available. For more details, please review the Dock policy that was published in last year's Yearbook and is also available on the website.

Have a great season. Hope to see you all at the club.

Opening Invitation

The weekend of **April 26, 2003** has been selected as the day for the opening of the club. The weekend of May 3rd has been set as our weather date. We know that after a long and cold winter, everyone will be dying to go to work, so come out and pitch-in!

Co-Chairman Grounds Committee

Bob and Jim Osenbaugh

LandCruise 2003



Vice Commodore Comments

Mike Stewart



Hello All! I hope everyone had a great and memorable holiday. Believe it or not, spring is just around the corner, which means that it is almost boating season!

The 2003 boat dock agreements have been sent out, so if you have not received yours, please give me a call. I can be reached at 937.836.1304. If you are looking for a sharing member (taken from the dock waiting list), please call Scott Forward at 614.882.0393, so that arrangements can be made.

We will be looking for volunteers at the club opening and during the first part of the season the main focus will be getting the docks in shape for the coming year. As always, everyone's help is greatly appreciated.

2/15/03

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George Weisenbach Recognized at LandCruise 2003

Over the years we have recognized many of our members for their valuable contributions to MBIYC.

This year, during the LandCruise, Commodore John Coultrap, followed this tradition in recognizing George Weisenbach.

George Weisenbach has made countless contributions to our club since the very beginning in 1990. After many meetings and proposals with the chairman of Paramount Distillers and owner of Lonz Winery, Mr. Bob Gottesman. George, with friends and fellow supporters, Bob Bowles, Anthony Caruso and Forest Whitehead, held their first official meeting of the Middle Bass Island Yacht Club. On May 1, 1990 they laid plans for the clubs grounds and dockage.

A lease was subsequently signed on August 16, 1991 with Paramount for five years and the beginning of George's dream became a reality. He and many others brought MBIYC to where it is today. This was done through countless hours of planning, dedication, financial support and just plain hard work.



In recognizing the special contribution George has made as the club's founder and twice commodore, I'd like to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude in saying:

"As our founder and tireless contributor, that had an inspiration for a vision, the officers, directors and membership of the Middle Bass Island Yacht Club would like to honor you, George, for your service to this unique organization."

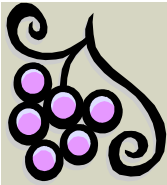
The presentation followed with giving George and Sharon a beautiful stained glass window of the club's Gazebo. The beautiful artwork was made by two of our very talented members, Sandy and Joe Orahoske.

Treasurer's Report—February

Harry Andrist

All accounts FNB, Chardon (formerly First County Bank) as of 1-15-03	\$ 0.00
Savings account FNB, Bellevue as of 11-29-02	\$ 0.00
Checking account FNB, Bellevue as of 1-31-03	\$ 8,232.85
Savings account NCB, Cleveland as of 2-14-03	\$ 58,954.55
CD—Huntington National Bank, Columbus	\$ 90,000.00
CD—National City Bank, Columbus	\$ 60,000.00
Total funds in accounts	\$ 217,187.40
Unreported checks	-\$ 6,818.37
Unreported deposits	+\$ 3,418.50
Current position	\$ 213,787.53





The Grapevine

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
MIDDLE BASS ISLAND YACHT CLUB

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Advertising is available to club members at a rate of \$10.00 per business card (3.5"x2") space.

Contacts and Club Calendar

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MBIYC Calendar of Events

April 26-27, 2003	Club Opening MBIYC
May 24, 2003	Memorial Day Picnic MBIYC
June 13-15, 2003	Pelee Island Cruise Scudder's Marina, Pelee Island, ON
July 4, 2003	Independence Day Picnic MBIYC
July 25-27, 2003	Ford Yacht Club Cruise Ford Yacht Club, Detroit, MI
August 22-24, 2003	Leamington Cruise Leamington Marina, Leamington, ON
August 30, 2003	Annual Meeting & Labor Day Picnic MBIYC
February 2004	LandCruise 2004 Sawmill Creek Resort, Huron, OH