

Commodore's Corner John Coultrap, Commodore



The Jimmy Buffet "Parrott Head" theme of this year's annual land cruise, helped alleviate the doldrums of winter, at least for one weekend. The festive atmosphere Chris, Scott and their decorating committee provided, certainly added to the anticipation of summer and the upcoming boating season.

During the short program that followed dinner, I took the opportunity to introduce new members and spouses, welcoming them to our club. Also, I introduced our club's officers, directors and committee chairs that unselfishly serve your club through countless hours of dedication and management.

It was a night to be remembered and I can't thank the Forwards enough for their three-year service as entertainment co-chairman in the planning and execution of all events they have been involved.

Unfortunately, Chris and

members to enjoy. Welcome...Don and Carol...we will enjoy working with you.

In past newsletters, I have appropriately informed you of the team effort that goes into running our organization. As a result and in this issue, I feel it appropriate to comment relative to this year's membership dues campaign.

I realize the general membership might find it difficult to understand just what is involved in performing this very important aspect of our club's operation. As you undoubtedly are aware, the "lions' share" of club income is derived from the receipt of membership dues. Dues collected defray the cost of

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CLUB OPENING

Saturday, May 1, 2004

Wx Day—Saturday, May 8, 2004

Scott are stepping down; the land cruise was their final event chairing the entertainment committee.

Our newest addition to our club's leadership team is Don and Carol Stouder. They join the team as our new entertainment co-chairs and already have plans for fun filled events for all

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
MIDDLE BASS ISLAND YACHT CLUB

The Grapevine



Tell Us What to Do Ron Oser, Nominating Chair

Our club has faced numerous changes and challenges since our original landlord sold to the State of Ohio. The leadership we've had since this change has worked diligently and carefully to place our club in a position with some stability. Our

future leadership needs to continue to do so.

As you are probably aware, at this upcoming Labor Day Membership meeting, we will be electing new "Bridge" leadership as well as a director's position.

We all want our club to ex-

ist in future years and continue moving forward. Although each of us may have our own ideas as to how this should be done.

DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO !!!

In most cases, we hate to be told what to do or how we should proceed when doing something. The nominating committee has decided that is EXACTLY what we need! We are asking for your input to help us make good choices for our club, which will continue to move this club forward.

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Tell Us What to Do (cont.)

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In previous years, the basic practice has been for the current officers to move up to the next higher position, leaving the nominating committee to "fill in any empty holes" with someone they have solicited for the job.

Having someone, who has worked on the "Bridge" for two or more years, working his/her way up, has definite value and given us good leadership over the years. It gives the person moving up knowledge of how the business of running the club is done and it also has made the job easy for the Nominating Committee.

However, this practice is not "set in stone" and it may not produce the best "picks" for a specific office at the particular time. The Constitution & By-Laws of our Club allows for change of the practice or recommendations made by the Nominating Committee. Nominations at the time of the election can be done for this reason. This procedure is known as Floor Nominations.

In the last few elections, there have been Floor Nominations. This has "broken" the basic procedure of "just moving up in line" and accepting the recommendations presented to you by the committee for a particular office. The Nominating committee has tried to do what you want, but obviously, we have not done enough.

You, as members, have shown great insight as to who should hold some of these offices (which have been different than what the committee has recommended) by making Floor Nominations and voting those nominees into office. Our club has definitely "weathered the storm" up to now. You did a good job by stepping in and having a voice.

We, the nominating committee, have decided to try something different. Our job is really working for you. We hope to recommend what we think is best for the club and what we feel you would want. It is a difficult task when we are limited in having the opportunity to talk to members before the recommendations are made!

So, please **Tell Us What To Do!!!**

Attached is a form we are asking you to take the time to fill it out, if you have any thoughts on who would BEST serve our club during the next several years for these offices.

Keep in mind however, these open positions will require dedication of personal time, knowledge of how the club works, being somewhat familiar with business and accounting skills and working with the other elected club officers and State personnel. The person will have to have a true desire to serve. These are not "jobs" for just anyone. (Example: To elect an accountant, who has no accounting skills, won't work).

With around 500 members, we realize we could receive lots of opinions. However, we want your views to consider "up front". Five hundred (more or less) views are

better than three in getting a "feel" for the direction this club should go regarding the leadership. Even though not everyone's choice or opinions can be our recommendation, we feel it will give us a jump in the right direction, to know where a majority of our members want go.

We will compile the information. If there are numerous indications of a certain person being acceptable for a certain position, we will contact the person, interview them as to whether they have a true interest and desire to serve and what qualifications they have at this particular period of time. If you like the "idea" of the chain of command just moving up, let us know that as well.

Considering the input you provide, we will work diligently to have a list of recommendations for you to look over by the next publication of the Grapevine (which comes out in June/July).

Please, **Tell Us What to Do!** If you have an opinion as to who should serve, we want to hear it!

Thank you in advance, from "your" Nominating Committee.

Ron Oser, Nominating Committee Chairman
Dennis Marquart
Ed Kammerer

“...we want your views to consider 'up front'. Five hundred (more or less) views are better than three in getting a “feel” for the direction this club should go regarding leadership.”

Welcome Aboard New Members! We look forward to meeting all of you soon on the island.

DARYL & SHERI CLAYTON of WAUSEON, OH
LARRY NEIL & SANDI CLEVELAND of VERMILION, OH
RICHARD & KATHERINE CLIFT of ELYRIA, OH
DAVID & SHARON EHRBAR of COLUMBUS, OH
RICHARD & CAROL FREDERICK of MILAN, OH
JAMES J. HOWELLS & CHERRI GEORGE of COLUMBUS, OH
JOHN & LEANNE LEHNHART of NEVADA, OH
KRAIG & CINDY MCCONNELL of GRAFTON, OH



Vice Commodore Comments

Mike Stewart

Hello to Everyone,

Bobbie and I want to thank Chris and Scott Forward along with their staff for all the effort they put into the 2004 Land Cruise. We believe everyone had a great time.

Our thoughts are now on returning to the club and enjoying another summer of boating. The club opening has been set for May 1, 2004, weather permitting. The dock committee has met and planned some changes

that hopefully will make the docking situation better.

Dock Work Projects: We intend to put water on A Dock; assess any winter damage to the docks, deal with the repairs; and finish N-Dock. Anyone wishing to help with these tasks will be appreciated. The activities, so those of you who want to pitch in can, will be posted. There will be more on this later.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you and enjoying a great boating season.

The following section of the Dock Policy was revised by the Dock Committee and passed by the Bridge on 2/8/04. Changes are shown in *italics*.

K. Usage of Docks by Non-Seasonal Dock Renting Members

1. All *non-seasonal dock* renting members shall pay a fee of \$15.00 for each time they use a dock with electricity when visiting the club. The fee paid allows the member use of that dock through 10:00 AM the following morning. An additional \$15.00 fee is to be paid for each additional day or portion thereof.

2. The Dock Master will try to provide the maximum docking opportunities for *non-seasonal dock* renters on a first come, first served basis. Docking opportunities could be restricted due to size of boat. On Fridays, Saturdays and days preceding holidays, docks will be made available to non-dock renting members after the 2:00 PM call-in time for renting members.

3. *A non-seasonal dock-renting member shall be restricted to a maximum stay of 7 consecutive*

nights. Once per season a stay may be longer but shall not exceed 14 consecutive nights. The length of absence required between stays shall be determined by the Dock Master.

4. *A member may stay longer than the maximum stay specified in Paragraph 3 with the Dock Master's prior approval and provided no other member or I-LYA affiliate is denied dockage for that day or night. This may require the member to stay at the Club until it is determined that docks are available for others. The requirement to remain at the Club is determined by the Dock Master and any member refusing to stay shall be required to vacate the dock immediately.*

5. *A non-seasonal dock renting member's vessel shall not be left unattended overnight at any Club dock, except with the Dock Master's prior approval. Violation of this rule may result in the member being prohibited from dock usage.*



Greetings to all our members:

I would like to thank all of our mem-

bers that paid their dues on time this year & sent their checks to my address as stated on the invoice. Last year, one half of our members were late with approximately 100 members not responding to their dues invoices.

Last year as well as this year, our volunteers stuffed, stamped & mailed over 600 invoices, kept records of who paid & who owed for past workdays. They made weekly bank deposits, reconciled bank statements, filed financial reports to the State of Ohio & Income Tax returns, composed reports to the auditor & treasurer & all the hundreds of miscellaneous things that need to be done in order to make our club a responsible entity.

My personal job as secretary was

made more difficult because many members did not return the entire invoice as requested, which included information that was essential to record their payments & workdays.

Many returned only the top or bottom portions of the invoices, of which, only partial information was printed or nothing but their checks. Phone calls, e-mails or letters were necessary to get the required information to record the payments. **S o m e c h e c k s**



lacked information that was traceable because the person paying was not on the membership roles & the name of the member for whom they were paying was not included on the check they sent. Some checks were generated by a bank & only included the membership number without a name. Again, more time

was spent trying to determine what year some members were paying for if they owed for last year as well. Some of our members were very inventive & creative in testing our patience.

I must say, it was a monumental task because it stretched over a five-month period. This year however, things went a lot smoother – 200% better. Instead of five months, it took two.

This year, our officers & directors put into effect rules that made our volunteers' jobs much easier & our membership more responsible. All the members who decided to renew, with the exception of a few, paid their dues correctly and on time.

Again, I personally thank everyone for your cooperation. I now feel that we can all turn our attention to other things like getting our boats ready for the upcoming boating season. See you all at Middle Bass Island this summer.

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During the membership meeting conducted at the LandCruise February 7th, 2004, a revision to the Club By-Laws was adopted by the membership. The section revised is published below with the change noted in *italics*.

SEC. C (1) In the event that such members shall fail to pay his obligation, the Recording Secretary shall, at least thirty (30) days after the first notice, send him notice in writing by Certified Mail, return receipt requested, that said obligation must be paid within thirty (30) days from date of mailing and second notice or his membership shall expire, citing Section C of these By-Laws.

(2) *The notices required by this section shall not apply to annual membership dues. Non-payment of annual dues by the due date shall be accepted as resignation from club membership, with no further correspondence required.*

(3) Expulsion is subject to confirmation of the Board and upon action confirming the expulsion, the member's name shall be removed from the posted roster.

(4) Provided that said delinquent member may, within the period above stated, present to the Board of Directors in writing his reasons for such delinquency, the Board shall, after considering the member's statement, make a decision to accept or reject the reasons given. Such decision shall be noted and filed with the member's written request in the member's file.

Commodore's Corner (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

operation and most importantly, help build our "Capital Projects Fund" through investments, to one day, build a facility that we all can be proud of.

Your board is cognizant of their fiduciary responsibility to manage income entrusted to them. They further realize, those who volunteer their time, managing this activity, is as precious as anyone else's. As a result, the board subsequently established guidelines for the collection of dues so as not to inappropriately place an undo burden on any one volunteer's time.

These guidelines were relatively simple. A letter was sent with the invoice to encourage prompt payment by the club's historical due date, remitting the proper amount owed. If for some reason the due date could not be met, a fifteen-day grace period was established.

I am pleased to report; this year's dues campaign was completed at a ninety-nine % success rate over last year's. The vast majority of our members cooperated

making this years campaign the most successful ever.

It is most rewarding as your commodore, to have had the opportunity to work with all dedicated members that share the same goal as I, to continue to operate our yacht club in a most accountable and professional manner.

I hope your spring commissioning goes according to plan and I look forward to meeting and greeting you on the "Isle de Fleur", this next boating season.



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Secretary's Report (cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

LAND CRUISE VOTE BY MEMBERSHIP 2/7/2004

At the Land Cruise, John Wierzchowski, Director, requested a vote of the membership on the following By-law change to clarify the By-laws so that the club is not required to send follow-up dues notices and certified letters to members choosing not to renew as published in the December 2003 newsletter. "Section C (2) The notices required by this section shall not apply to annual membership dues. Non-payment of annual dues by the due date shall be accepted as resignation from the club membership, with no further correspondence required."

After discussion for and against the By-law change by the membership, the members voted and the proposed By-law change was accepted.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & FLAG OFFICERS MEETING 2/8/2004

Commodore John Coultrap called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M. Present were: John Coultrap, Mike Stewart, Scott Forward, George Weisenbach, John Wierzchowski, Rocky Gross, Gil Root & Joe Orahoske.

Reading of the previous minutes was waved. Our Commodore updated the Board on various topics. The Board of Directors agreed to keep the rules & changes that were implemented this year for membership dues collections without any changes.

The Board of Directors agreed to establish the club opening date to be May 1, 2004 with a rain date of May 8, 2004.

Dock Committee Report: They will be moving some of the boats around so that we will be able to safely accommodate some of the larger boats. We confirmed the new call-in time on Fridays for dock holders as 2:00 p.m.. Also mentioned were improvements to A & N docks. John Wierzchowski reported on three paragraphs the committee recommends be added to the dock policy involving length of stay for non-dock renting members.

A motion was made by Scott Forward to accept the dock policy changes, seconded by Mike Stewart, motion approved.

A motion to adjourn was made by John Wierzchowski, seconded by Joe Orahoske. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 A. M.



2004 Land Cruise

A warm Caribbean atmosphere with a Jimmy Buffet theme was enjoyed by all attending the recent LandCruise at Sawmill Creek February

7th. Thanks to those who helped with decorations, assisted with the raffle and Gil Root for selecting the prizes.

This was Scott and Chris Forward's last event as leaders of the Entertainment Committee. We want to thank them for all their hard work in organizing the club events over the past years. We have big shoes to fill and a tough act to follow.

Carol and I are new to the Entertainment committee and plan to follow a similar format for the club events. We encourage members to help us by offering ideas and assistance with upcoming parties. We'd like to hear from you if you could help.

The summer schedule is complete and here are the dates. Check the club's website for updates. (www.mbiyc.com)



2004 Events:

Memorial Day Picnic: Saturday May 29th. Weather is sometimes questionable. Bring a dish to share and the club will provide the brats, beer and pop. We will not have a raffle for this event.

Independence Day Picnic: Saturday Jul. 3rd. Bring a dish to share for the picnic. We plan to have music, games, raffles, and several new surprises.

Annual Meeting and Picnic: Saturday Sep. 4th. The club's annual meeting with a picnic, music, raffles, and games. More information to follow.

Cruises:

June 25-27, Cedar Point: Larry and Ginny Ohler have reserved spots for 15 boats at Cedar Point for Friday and Saturday night.

Reservations must be made directly with Cedar Point on a first come first serve bases by calling them at 888-273-6257.

Make sure you mention affiliation with MBIYC so they keep everyone together. Please contact Ginny or email entertainment@mbiyc.com to advise if you are attending.

More information to follow.

July 23-25, Ford Yacht Club: We will once again visit our friends on the Detroit river and enjoy the hospitality of their members and club. More information to follow.

We still are not sure on dock fees and will keep you posted on developments.

August 20-23, Leamington Marina: This will be Tomato Feast Weekend so it guarantees a great time. More details to follow.

To keep updated on the Club's events and Cruises, check the website for latest information.

THANK YOU!! - Scott & Chris Forward

Scott & I just want to thank everyone who helped with the LandCruise. The decorating crew was great. A special thanks to Charlotte Oser for the beautiful banner she made which hung behind the Entertainer, and Denny Marquart for helping to unload the car and decorate. Our thanks go out also to Sharon & Ed Kammerer, John & MaryAnn Coultrap and Gil & Pat Root who handled buying the raffle gifts.

TELL US WHAT TO DO! Please send your suggestions as to who might work well in any of the leadership positions. List their name, with a short description of why you would suggest them, and what you think their qualifications are for the particular position. **Mail the information to us by April 30, 2004.** Again, thank you for your help.....

Term	Elected Office	Current Leadership	Expires	My Suggestions
2 yr.	Commodore	John Coultrap	9/2004	_____
2 yr.	Vice Commodore	Mike Stewart	9/2004	_____
2 yr.	Rear Commodore	Scott Forward	9/2004	_____
2 yr.	Treasurer	Harry Andrist	9/2004	_____
2 yr.	Recording Secretary	Joe Orahoske	9/2004	_____
3 yr.	Director	Rocky Gross	9/2004	_____
3 yr.	Director	John Wierzchowski	9/2005	Not up for election.
3 yr.	Director	Gil Root	9/2006	Not up for election.

Comment & Qualifications of my Candidates : _____

SEND BY APRIL 30 TO:

MBIYC - Nomination Committee, c/o Ron Oser, 340 Timberlane, Avon Lake, OH 44012



Summer's Coming Soon!

Reserve Your Slot for great fun with MBIYC Cruises Now

Although charges for the summer cruises have not been finalized yet, we need to know if you plan to participate. Please complete and send this card to us with your cruise choice indicated. We will then be in contact as the cruise planning progresses. Come on along—Have some fun!

? Cedar Point Cruise 6/25-27 Ford Yacht Club Cruise 7/23-25 ? Leamington Cruise 8/21-23

Name _____ MBIYC Member No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

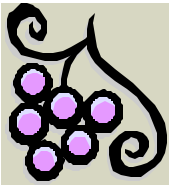
Home Phone _____ Other Phone _____

Email Address _____

Boat Type: Power Sail

Boat Name _____ Boat Length _____ Beam _____ Draft _____

Mail To: Don Stouder, 7622 Wilton Lane, North Royalton, OH 44133 (440) 582-2318



The Grapevine

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
MIDDLE BASS ISLAND YACHT CLUB

PO Box 81
Middle Bass Island, OH 43446
419.285.9971

John & Cindy Wierzchowski, Editors
375 Bent Tree Drive
Aurora OH 44202
330.995.6088
newsletter@mbiyc.com

To:

www.mbiyc.com

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Articles and advertising deadlines are due the 15th of the month preceding publication.

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

Contacts and Club Calendar

MBIYC Contacts

John Coultrap
Commodore
330.836.2581
commodore@mbiyc.com

Mike Stewart
Vice Commodore
937.836.1304
vice_commodore@mbiyc.com

Scott Forward
Rear Commodore
614.882.0393
rear_commodore@mbiyc.com

Harry Andrist
Treasurer
614.767.0438
treasurer@mbiyc.com

Joe Orahoske
Recording Secretary
330.650.4465
secretary@mbiyc.com

James Franchello
Membership
740.587.3919
membership@mbiyc.com

Don & Carol Stouder
Entertainment
440.582.2318
entertainment@mbiyc.com

Paula Gross
Ship's Store
614.476.6306
ships_store@mbiyc.com

Kurt Katterhenry
Groundskeepers
419.657.2233
groundskeeper@mbiyc.com

John & Cindy Wierzchowski
Newsletter & Website
330.995.6088
newsletter@mbiyc.com
webmaster@mbiyc.com

Judy Hill
Dockmaster
Channel 69
419.285.9971 MBIYC

MBIYC Calendar of Events

May 1, 2004	MBIYC Club Opening
May 29, 2004	Memorial Day Picnic MBIYC
June 25-27, 2004	Cedar Point Cruise Cedar Point Marina, Sandusky OH
July 3, 2004	Independence Day Picnic MBIYC
July 23-25, 2004	FYC Cruise Ford Yacht Club, Detroit MI
August 21-23, 2004	Leamington Cruise Leamington Marina, Leamington ON
September 4, 2004	Annual Meeting & Labor Day Picnic MBIYC
TBA	MBIYC Club Closing