



On the Wind

Burnham Park Yacht Club Monthly Newsletter • November 2006

Planning for next year is an excellent way to temper the sadness of the season's end and create some excitement for the year to come.

Commodore's Log

The leaves have changed from summer green to the colors of autumn. Mixed feelings match the variety of colors, which the fall season brings to the Midwest. Boats are migrating to their winter homes, some tucked away in a local boatyard, and some lucky enough to enjoy warm breezes after a journey to Southern berths. It is difficult to accept that summer is gone and winter is rapidly approaching.

As our on the water activities in Burnham Harbor end, it is a time to reflect on the past year and to look forward to next year. We must evaluate and learn from the past year's experiences, build on the successes, and create new opportunities in the year to come. It has been a very successful year with the installation of new windows and a new tender. Planning for next year is an excellent way to temper the sadness of the season's end and create some excitement for the year to come. A new board of directors will begin to design and to execute a plan for the new year and establish the direction of the club for years to come.

Looking ahead to the New Year, I have asked myself a few questions to begin my duties as Commodore.

What is a yacht club???

I have visited and enjoyed the hospitality of many clubs in the US and around the world. Recently, I walked into the yacht club known as the Société Nautique de Genève in Geneva, Switzerland. For racing sailors, it is the current home of the Holy Grail for sailboat racing, the America's Cup. The club is not very large, was easily accessed with no locked doors and the CUP was in the entrance hall in a rather modest display cabinet. Several high tech racing catamarans were outside on the dock. The port captain was very cordial as he escorted us to the CUP and offered to announce us with the bartender so we could have a midday aperitif. He then returned to the launch crane to assist in the launching of a small boat. A wheel chair was next to the boat, and it was easy to see that the boat was providing an experience to someone less fortunate than most. The bar had a few patrons and the dining area was not yet open. A mix of powerboats and sail

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boats were lined up along the docks. The program on the bulletin board was a mix of events and activities for all the club members both power and sail. I felt very much at home.

Other clubs visited in the past have large swimming pools, overnight rooms for visitors and many other club facilities, while some clubs are nothing more than small shacks along a lake or river's edge. Those who have visited the New York Yacht Club or one of the large west coast yacht clubs can only marvel at the facilities available to members, but have probably also experienced the exclusive nature of some of these clubs. In every case, discussions with club members and the staff were the highlight of my visits as we were brought together in discussions of boats, weather and local marine issues.

One thing I learned from these visits is that a yacht club is not about the facilities; it is about the members and their common bond of boating. It is essential that a yacht club provide activities in many forms for all of its members. A yacht club is not just a restaurant for those quiet lunches or dinners while looking at a great view; it is primarily a place where all club members are brought together in a variety of activities related to their common interest, boating.

What makes a Yacht Club Successful?

Yacht clubs depend upon the volunteer efforts of its members to succeed. Everyone in the club should identify some manner in which they can participate, either by attending, organizing or providing some activity both in and out of season. Burnham Park Yacht Club members participate in the boating community of Chicago in many ways: Venetian night, CYA Flag Officers and the management of several sailing regattas are just a few. The new Board of Directors will be challenged to provide activities for all types of club members throughout the year and to increase the participation of club members in on the water boating activities as well as off season events, which will bring together all members of the club to enjoy the many facets of the challenge of boating.

What are the Primary Challenges for the Club in the next year?

The past several years have challenged the club officers and membership in many ways. The club has transitioned from having fuel docks as a major revenue source and docks for boats to raft up after on the water club activities, to a minimal space negotiated with harbor management. The rebuild of the roads around the Museum Campus, the rebuild of the harbor into a modern marina with many additional slips, the increased usage of the island for various lake front activities have all directly impacted the club. The recent development of a park on Northerly Island (cannot say Meigs Field), as well as a concert venue at our back door, have each created new unique problems. We are still in transition. Access to the club and parking by both members and

Commodore's Log

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guests will continue to be a major problem when major events occur on the Northerly Island.

Maintaining membership is always a challenge. We must find ways to encourage and enroll new members as well as retain current members.

Although members are the heart of a yacht club, the club facilities must also be attractive, pleasant and enjoyable. We must strive to provide quality facilities to serve our membership.

Great improvements have occurred in the dining room and bar facilities. The Bar and Galley committee and its chair, working with the Club Manager, Mike Gallagher and Chef Pablo Palacio have tried new menu items, created special evening menus such as ethnic nights and barbecues, and worked with staff to improve service and identify any shortcomings. The Club Manager is faced with a difficult, if not impossible task to plan food items and staffing each week in an environment, which is primarily driven by unstable weather conditions and numerous harbor activities. Weather predictions are of course available, but we all know how accurate they are in the Chicago area. Large groups that descend upon the club late in the evening can present special challenges and patience must be exercised by members to allow the club management to deal with such circumstances. It will be important for both the staff and membership to work together to provide the best service. I look forward to working with the new board to continue the improvements in the service and facilities of the dining room and bar.

New furniture in the bar provided by the Women's Auxiliary greatly improved the presentation in the bar area. All members should thank the Women's Auxiliary for their efforts.

However, the area of the club most in need of complete renovation is the bathrooms and showers. Several ideas have been presented to the board over the past years. It is now time to decide upon a plan and implement significant improvements. This will be a costly venture, but necessary if the club is to improve its appeal and services to all the members and attract new ones as well. The new board will be challenged to address this issue as the highest priority.

The new tender was a great asset to the club and minimized interruptions of service due to mechanical breakdowns. However, the docks have been a challenge due to the minimal open dock space and the several activities, which they serve. It will not be a simple task to make the dock space more member friendly, but there must be some effort to improve the situation.

I look forward to working with the new Board of Directors and the membership in the next year.

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Some important and fun events will take place in the coming months. You should plan to attend the Chicago Yachting Association Ball on Nov 11 at the Navy Pier Ballroom and already received an invitation in the mail. Also, don't forget to plan on attending the New Year's Eve party at the club, a great evening with fireworks at our doorstep and easy parking.

Past Commodore Murphy thanked the board of directors and her flag in the October On the Wind. It is now time for everyone in the club to thank her for the dedication, hard work and leadership she provided to the club during the past year when you see her in the club. It has been a pleasure to work with Joanne and I look forward to her counsel and sage advice as the next year unfolds with new challenges and excitement.

We must all work together to identify opportunities, institute change and move forward. Full steam ahead. Have a great Thanksgiving Holiday.

Your Commodore, **Don Waller**

Post Miami International Boat Show and Strictly Sail-Miami Cruise

The Commodore asked if I would organize a cruise for February 2007 in conjunction with the Boat Show in Miami. Several members attend the Boat Show and the last time we cruised after the show, we had a great time!

So here it is! The show starts on Thursday, February 15th, Red Carpet Day. Spend the weekend at the show and cruise from Fort Lauderdale on Sunday evening. I will donate \$100.00 per person to the tender fund for each person that books with me. Call me on my cell phone anytime-630-267-2968.

The six night cruise departs Fort Lauderdale on Sunday, February 18, calling to Key West, Cozumel, Costa Maya and George Town, Grand Cayman and returns on Saturday, February 24. Cruise only price per person for a balcony cabin on Royal Caribbean's Jewel of the Seas is only \$899 plus \$191.84 taxes and fees.

It's a great price!! Can you beat it??!! Probably!, but not by much. Remember that you will be traveling with Past Commodores and your friends from the club and also be helping to reduce costs for the new tender.

Tony Cimino, Past Commodore



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Sailing the Greek Islands

Four couples from Burnham Harbor returned home on Oct. 1 from our two-week sailing adventure in the Greek Islands. This was a wonderful way to see the most picturesque part of Greece.

We started from Athens and stopped at nine different islands over 13 days and 360 miles. Our weather was excellent, in the 70 and 80's for the whole trip. The wind gods were okay, but could have cooperated to allow more sailing. Much of the trip was done motoring, because of light winds or winds from the wrong directions.

The islands are very rugged and brown because there is no rain from May to September. They look a little like the Caribbean except for all the cute little Greek towns. We explored a lot of temples and archaeological sites that dated back to 400 to 3000 BC. Each night we had a great cocktail hour on the boat followed by good Greek food at the many wonderful tavernas. Best of all was the good company of the fun group on our boat.

If anyone is interested to do this trip next year I would be happy to hold an informational meeting at the club on Sunday–December 10th, 2006.

Hank Kalmus, Director

2006 Employees Holiday Fund

It has been a Club tradition to thank the staff and employees for their dedication and service to the club with a holiday season bonus. This is provided through generous contributions from the club members. There will be a card and an envelope provided in your November and December billing statement for the 2006 Holiday Bonus Fund.

There is no obligation to contribute to this fund. However, we should think about the hard work and dedication of the staff throughout the year. Several employees have served the club for many years. This is an opportunity to let them know their work for the club is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for supporting this tradition of the Burnham Park Yacht Club.

Don Waller, BPYC Commodore



Aboard our 65-foot sloop were Tom & Judi McInerney, Hank & Mary Lou Kalmus, Dick & Shirley Newman, Mike & Tammi Abbey and our Captain Steven Parry from Poseidon Charters.

This was the crew and captain of the boat Margarita. We were having Pirate night in competition with the other three boats in our flotilla.

November Birthdays

November 1	Patti Gherardini
November 3	Roberino Presta
November 4	Pam Grist Donna Ulatowski
November 5	Tony Cimino
November 6	Marcy Crawford
November 8	Barbara Baran
November 9	Todd DiBenedetto Tom Gallagher
November 10	Connie Kingman
November 14	Linda Ellis
November 15	Chris Johnson Nancy Keane
November 16	Chris DeJong
November 17	Raoul Allesee
November 19	Joan Moore Tom Schoenfeld Al Thomas
November 23	Sally Morris Carl Stineman
November 26	Mike Leyden
November 27	Duane Grist
November 29	Carol Miller
November 30	Cindy Rynning

From the Women's Auxiliary

As we begin the new Burnham Park Yacht Club year, I would like to announce that the slate of officers for the Women's Auxiliary put forth in September was voted on and accepted at our October meeting. The new 2007 officers will be as follows:

President Judi McInerney *Treasurer* Lynne Denmark
Vice President Michele Karas *Secretary* Lisa Coffey

Congratulations ladies and best of luck for the coming year.

On a personal note, this is my last article as your Women's Auxiliary President. In the last two years, we succeeded in improving the club in a number of ways. Our Jimmy Buffett and Luau parties have been very successful and have helped us to increase our treasury. With these funds we have purchased the new bar stools and bar tables and chairs, and have improved the patio with three heaters, a swing and new cushions for the patio chairs. Every year the Women's Auxiliary beautifies the club in some fashion and these were our projects this year. I would like to thank all of you who have supported us in the past. We hope you will continue to support our endeavors in the future.

I would also like to extend a tremendous thank you to all the Women's Auxiliary officers and members, the Board of Directors and the club staff for their support in the past two years. Being Women's Auxiliary President has been both an honor and a privilege. I have had the opportunity to work with many quality people who were always there for me, such as Linda Ellis, Michele Karas, Crystal Davis, Bonnie Hetzel, Kathy Stevens, Kathy Puffer, Dorothy Dobes, Lynne Denmark, Mary Alice Zoller, Judi McInerney as well as all the members, old and new. I have also deeply appreciated the incredible guidance and support that I have received from Past Presidents Dawn Graziano, Geri Lauric, Elaine Kurland, Kathy Harris and Joann Murphy. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for ALL of your hard work and support. As a TEAM, we have done an awesome job and I applaud all of you.

We have come a long way as an Auxiliary and I am confident that under the direction of the 2007 officers, we will continue to make a difference for the club. Please join us and make plans to attend the auxiliary and club functions. The club is a great place to make and meet friends. Remember that what we do is for the club and about the club and not about individuals or groups of members. Let's work together for the good of the club.

As I leave my role as President of the Women's Auxiliary to my new role as Secretary of the Burnham Park Yacht Club, I look forward to working with the 2007 flag and Board of Directors to continue to make the club prosper and to make a difference. Thanks for all the memories

See you at the auxiliary meeting on Friday, November 3rd at 7 P.M.



november

T W O T H O U S A N D S I X

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Club Closed	2 Club Closed	3 Women's Auxiliary 7:00 P.M.	4 Club Closed Private Party
5 <i>Bears vs. Miami</i> 1:00 P.M. Home Game	6 Club Closed	7 Club Closed	8 Club Closed	9 Club Closed	10	11 CYA Ball Navy Pier Ballroom
12	13 Club Closed	14 Club Closed Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 P.M.	15 Club Closed	16 Club Closed	17	18 Club Closed Private Party
19	20 Club Closed	21 Club Closed	22 Club Closed	23 Club Closed	24	25
26	27 Club Closed	28 Club Closed	29 Club Closed	30 Club Closed		

plan ahead

December 31 Sunday **New Year's Eve Party**

Winter Hours of Operation

Burnham Park Yacht Club Bar & Galley

Friday: Galley 5-9 P.M., bar open until 10 P.M.

Saturday: Galley 5-9 P.M., bar open until 10 P.M.

Sunday: Galley 4-8 P.M., bar open until 9 P.M.

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2007 Flag Officers

Commodore **Donald Waller**
Vice Commodore **Mike Turner**
Rear Commodore **Mark Ellis**
Secretary **Marcella Cimino**
Treasurer **David DeAre**

2007 Board of Directors

Two Year Directors **Larry Dalsin**
Bernie Kucharski
One Year Directors **Phil Denemark**
Jude Fogarty
Ray Kalinski
Elaine Kurland
Richard O'Connell
Breck Grigas
Lawrence Smolenski
Women's Auxiliary
President **Judi McInerney**
Past Commodores **Joann Murphy**
Thomas McInerney

From The Manager's Desk

We are offering an abridged menu during the off-season. This was very well received by our members last season. It includes most of the old favorites as well as a changing assortment of specials. The entrees include soup, salad, and dessert. Please let us know if there are items you would like to see on the menu. Members who make a reservation 24 hours in advance will be served a complimentary glass of wine.

The club will be closed for private parties on November 4 and November 18. There is a demand for use of the club for large parties. The attractions are first-class food and fabulous views of the city and museum campus. Please consider the club for any of your events.

I want to thank Elaine Kurland and The Bar and Galley Committee for all of their great ideas and assistance during the past season.

Mike Gallagher, Club Manager



Burnham Park Yacht Club
1500 South Linn White Drive
Chicago, IL 60605