

September General Membership Meeting

This is not the minutes, the minutes were not received again this month. This is a synopsis of the meeting in order to get the necessary information to the membership in a timely fashion. Some information has changed since the meeting so refer to other articles in the Starboard Tack for more current information.

For future meetings for the duration of my term I will be taking minutes personally to assure that they are recorded in the Starboard Tack for the record as has been the tradition for West Shore Sail Club. Tom Priest, Commodore

Secretary's Report

There were no minutes for the Secretary's Report available

Commodore's Report

No mail of significance except bank statement

Vice Commodore's Report

Awards night has changed to Saturday, October 21, 7:30 p.m. at the Grosse Ile V.F.W. due to a scheduling problem at the V.F.W. BYOB and a dish to pass.

A Race Committee meeting will be held next Thursday at Doug Howe's.

Rear Commodore's Report

Sept. 16 - 17 will be a cruise to Pelee Island
The Harvest Moon Cruise will be to Put-In-Bay October 7

Treasurers Report

The club has money and is financially sound. Expenses upcoming include Awards Night and Commodore's Ball

Membership Report

No Guests or new members\
No ILYA, PHRF or MORC reports

Old Business

None

New Business

John Perry announced that he would like to pull the racing buoys either Sept. 28, 29 or 30

Currents

GM Meeting, Mr. Nicks, Thursday, October 5	
October 7-8	Harvest Moon Cruise
October 13	Board Meeting
October 21	Awards Night
October 28	Halloween Party
November 18-19	Frankenmuth Trip
December 9	Christmas Party

Pelee Island Cruise

The Pelee Island Cruise hosted by port captains John and Roxanne Schumante was a great success.

It was a nice sail to the island. The sailors arrived at all times of day and night and were greeted by the WSSC sailors and the friendly staff of Scudder Marina. A couple of other friendly groups were there and we all intermingled. Upon arrival we did our usual boat hopping with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

Saturday included a variety of activities. Some went bicycling to the Pelee Island Light House while others casually lounged. John Samuelson introduced some of us to geocaching. (Finding valuable or not so valuable treasure via the GPS). After much

searching by the group, Terry Trush found the cache a few yards from the light house.

Lary Smith and Barb Howard the found a nest of Lake Erie water snakes. (Harmless, but big)

Later Saturday some of the group cycled and some took a bus ride to the Pelee Island Winery. All enjoyed sampling of the various varieties of Pelee Island wines. A few bottles of wine were purchased to drink with cheese and crackers and some to take back.

John and Roxanne planned a dinner at the pavilion. We enjoyed



From left to right: Joanne Trush, Terry Trush, Judy Conely, Tom Priest, Joanne Trush, Roxanne Schumante, John Schumante, John Samuelson, Joan Samuelson, Peggy Hillen, Dan Williamson, Barb Howard and Lary (with one r) Smith

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Speak up to save the Great Lakes

A recent column that advocated banning saltwater ships and plugging the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to stop more exotic species from reaching the Great Lakes drew a lot of agreement from people who mostly asked what they could do to help implement those actions.

Step one is simple and surprisingly effective -- let your congressional representative and both senators know that you want something done. Even in this day of e-mails and inexpensive telephone service, relatively few people go beyond complaining about such things and take the next step of contacting someone who could do something about it.

What the issue of exotics in the lakes needs is one or two champions in Congress who recognize that not only would closing the lakes be good public policy, it wouldn't hurt their re-election chances, either.

A big problem is that the vested interests that want to see saltwater ships continue to ply the lakes are well-organized and have deep pockets. The people who are harmed the most by exotics are unorganized and have almost no money for publicity campaigns.

Jennifer Nalbene of Great Lakes United, an organization dedicated to improving the ecological health of the biggest freshwater system in the world, said, "Right now, we don't have a political champion who will say, 'Let's investigate this.' The National Academy of Sciences is looking at the question of how we handle the problem of exotics while maintaining and enhancing trade. But we won't see even a draft of that study until the fall of 2007."

The shipping industry and some businesses that benefit from it

argue that closing the lakes to saltwater vessels would wreak economic havoc, even though a study by a professor at Grand Valley State found that it would cost the economy \$55 million a year, a paltry sum in light of the annual cleanup costs from zebra mussels alone.

Another study being done at the University of Notre Dame will put a dollar value on the costs from many exotic species that have invaded the Great Lakes via the ballast water of oceangoing ships, and I expect that the supporters of shipping will like the results of that study even less.

In addition to an angel in Congress, the concept of closing the lakes would benefit enormously if an organization such as the Sierra Club or the National Wildlife Federation were to make it one of its priority projects.

These organizations have the political clout, scientific contacts and fund-raising ability needed to offset the efforts of those who don't care if more exotic species reach the Great Lakes as long as they benefit economically.

Recently, I fished in the Great Lakes for salmon, an exotic, Pacific Ocean species introduced 40 years ago because another exotic species, the sea lamprey, had nearly exterminated the lake trout that had been the top predator in the system for thousands of years.

How much longer do we let the shipping industry line its pockets while we stand around with our fingers crossed, hoping that they don't bring in another exotic animal or disease that wipes out the salmon, and maybe the walleyes, bass, perch and other native species along with them?

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or email sabresailor50@yahoo.com

Note: Articles and minutes are not edited for correct grammar and spelling.

Cruising Meeting

Donna and Leonard Garbacz's house for the 29 October Cruising Committee meeting. There will be a pot-luck lunch at 1:00 followed by the meeting.



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Cruise continued,

Roxanne's great hamburgers and everyone brought very good appetizers, salad and desserts as well as some the recently purchased Pelee Island wines.

Later we all retired to our boats for tall tales and few more drinks.

Sunday morning was a very good sail back for a great finale to an excellent weekend cruise.



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WSSC Officers

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Vice Commodore: Susan Ashley

Rear Commodore: Jody Larrow

Recording Secretary: Andrea Duane

Treasurer: Jim Sameck

Membership Chairperson: Tina Askins

Hunter Sailboat 34 foot - 1986 with Yanmar 27 hp Engine. Owned by elderly couple, mechanically inclined Ford Trade School tool & die maker. Has been sailed to the North Channel and all the Great Lakes many ports. Equipped with Autohelm, Loran and Harkin Jib Reefing & Furling System, and Lazy Mate Main sail system. Has two dinghies, with outboard 3 Evinrude hp Engine. Sleeps 6, enclosed head and shower. Teak interior. Please share this information with your associates, or an interested party. Located on Lake St. Clair/Clinton River. Asking price \$38,500 & negotiable.

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See the West Shore Sail Club website for up to date information.

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**To submit articles or send to Tom Priest, editor
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