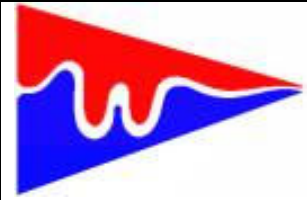


Newsletter

FEBRUARY

2007

Westlake Yachting Club of Lorain, Ohio



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETING REMINDER *Valentine's Day Party*

TRUSTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14TH
7:30 P.M.
HARBORWALK CLUBHOUSE
(By the Wheelhouse)

Please stay after the meeting and join us for our *Valentine's Day Party*. All members are welcome. Come and enjoy the fun and visit with your fellow members.

Bring your own bottle and a snack to share.

The Trustees meetings are open to every member of Westlake Yachting Club. All members are encouraged to attend.

2007 Officers & Trustee's

Commodore: Beverly Sams
V/Commodore: Dave Swagger
R/Commodore: Bob Sefcovic
Treasurer: Bobby Rhodes
Secretary: Joyce Rhodes
Trustee's:

Bert Buehler
Ken Klein
John Lively
Mike Pollock
Richard Potash
A.C. VanDenBossche

Commodore – Beverly Sams

Congratulations to our newly elected Trustee, Mike Pollock and our 2007 Bridge and Officers. Our next Executive meeting, will be on February 14th at the Harborwalk Clubhouse. With it being Valentines Day, we will have a small get together, for everyone after the meeting. (See Meeting Notice.)

On behalf of Westlake Yachting Club and myself, I would like to express our appreciation to Joey Gary, our 2006 Commodore & Lady Kathy for their dedication and leadership to Westlake Yachting Club.

Our **65th Commodores Ball** weekend, on February 16th and 17th, 2007, will be at the Holiday Inn - Elyria. Invitations have been mailed, if you did not receive one, please contact Joyce Rhodes or myself. You may also invite prospective new members to this weekend.

All members are invited to enjoy our Hospitality Room on Friday night, February 16th. We couldn't go to the Bahamas, so we're bringing the Bahamas to you. Optional dress for the evening is tropical attire. More information inside newsletter or call Nan Kubera at 440-835-1225 or Beth Lusk at 440-734-5456.

Past Commodore, Roger Kubera will be our MC for the evening. And back by popular demand is "Key Motions" for your dancing pleasure.

Remember: Our discounted room cost per night is \$54.00, plus taxes. A mix of room types will be available to our group. Hotel check-in time is after 3:00pm on the day of arrival. Check-out time is before noon on the day of departure. **You will be making your own room reservations for Friday and Saturday.** When calling Holiday Inn – Elyria (440-324-5411 or 800-321-7333), ask for reservations and state you are with Westlake Yachting Club and your arrival date, to get the discounted rate. **Reservation cut-off date of February 1, 2007 has been assigned.** All reservations are to be guaranteed with an advance deposit of the first night's stay or by major credit card. Guaranteed reservation must be canceled prior to 6:00pm on the date of arrival, to avoid an assessment charge.

If you have any questions please call me at 440-324-6288 or email at bsams@eshores.com.

Looking forward to seeing you there...

Yours in Boating Safely,
Commodore Beverly Sams



**COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FOR 2007**

Finance Committee

V/C Dave Swagger
R/C Bob Sefcovic
Bobby Rhodes, Treas.
Wayne Ross
Keith Chafer
Virgil Radar
Joyce Rhodes, Sec.

Management Committee

V/C Dave Swagger
Bobby Rhodes
Joyce Rhodes, Sec.

House & Grounds

Hospitality

Sue Taylor

By-Laws

A.C. VanDenBossche

Membership Committee

R/C Bob Sefcovic

Ways and Means

Nan Kubera
Barb Sefcovic

Entertainment

R/C Bob Sefcovic

Grievance

Mike Pollock, Trustee

Insurance

R/C Bob Sefcovic

Fleet Captains

Roger Kubera – Power
Open – Sail

Newsletter

Beverly Sams

GCBA/ILYA

Rich McKee

Vice Commodore – Dave Swagger

As your new Vice Commodore, I would like to thank P/C Joey Gary for his leadership and dedication during his term as our 2006 Commodore and Congratulate Beverly Sams, our 2007 Commodore.

Volunteers needed for the following committee's: House & Grounds & Wheelhouse Management. If interested email at davestheman@centurytel.net.

See you at the February meeting and Commodore's Ball weekend.

V/C Dave Swagger

Rear Commodore – Bob Sefcovic

Let me start by thanking the membership for providing me with the opportunity to serve as a flag officer. I would personally like to thank Joey for his unselfish devotion and dedication to the well being of this organization. It was a pleasure to serve during your watch.

Our calendar of events is nearly complete, and we have a busy season ahead of us. We are trying to eliminate any conflicting dates. We hope every one can find the time to participate in as many events as possible.

As of this writing, we are still in need of volunteers for Sail Fleet Captain and Membership Committee. Email me at MRSEF@aol.com.

Congratulations to Mike Pollock, our new Trustee, and thank you for taking charge of the Grievance Committee.

Best wishes to Bev in her upcoming year as Commodore. Look forward to seeing you all at the Commodores Ball.

Smooth sailing
R/C Bob Sefcovic

MID-WINTER TROPICAL EVENING

February 16th is the mid point of a long winter. Do blender drinks, bright tropical colors and partying with your boat friends sound like a good way to break up the winter slump?

This year's Commodore's Ball is Saturday, February 17th. That means the party starts on Friday, February 16th in the hospitality suite (Continental Room) at the Elyria Holiday Inn. Join us for a tropical theme night starting at 6:30pm. Bring a dish to share and join in the fun and games! We will celebrate our new Commodore, Beverly Sams and the fact that we are even closer to the start of another great boating season!

If anyone has any questions about the Friday hospitality festivities call Nan Kubera or Beth Lusk.

We hope to see you there!

Nan Kubera & Beth Lusk

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Interested in helping out on any of these committees? Then contact the appropriate V/C or R/C.

House & Grounds, Finance,
Wheelhouse Management,
Hospitality (coffee & drinks for
cruises), Dinghy Poker Run

Contact: V/C R/C Dave Swagger
davestheman@centurytel.net
440-245-3016

Membership, Entertainment, Sail
Cruises, Power Cruises, Blessing
of the Fleet, Parade of Lights,
Waterway Cleanup, Steak Fry,
Clam Bake

Contact: R/C Bob Sefcovic
MRSEF@aol.com
330-656-3272

GCBA/ILYA DELEGATE

P/C Richard McKee
Please contact Rich McKee for
any GCBA/ILYA related issues at
captmac2@verizon.net
or 419-797-0019.

2007 FLEET CAPTAINS

Power F/C – Roger Kubera at
440-835-1225

Sail F/C – Position Open

WYC DIRECTORY

Mail changes to WYC, P.O. Box
3003, Lorain, OH 44052 or email
Joyce Rhodes, Secretary at
jaye@kellnet.com.

BOAT CRUISES! BOAT CRUISES!!

POWER FLEET CAPTAIN – Roger Kubera

June 15-17 WYC Cruise to Huron with Point Yacht Club – waiting on confirmation

SAIL FLEET CAPTAIN – Position Open

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

If you or your family are interested in taking the **United States Power Squadron Boating Course** in the Spring, please contact me by phone at 440-324-6288, email: bsams@eshores.com or sign up at the February or March meetings. A few members at the January meeting signed up and are interested in furthering their boating education and skills. The class will be open to all ages...we need at least 5 to teach the class.

Lorain Lighthouse Story

Off the shore of Lorain, Ohio is the lighthouse that has become the symbol of the city. It served for years as a beacon of light for ships on Lake Erie. What tales it could tell of storms and shipwrecks, of dutiful serving and patient waiting. It was the steady beam on which captains depended as they sailed the lake.

The first permanent settlement at the mouth of Black River was made in 1807. The post office was established a few years later and since the settlement had no name, the post office was called the Mouth of Black River. This was later shortened to Black River.

In 1834 the village was incorporated as Charleston. forty years later, in 1874, Charleston was re-incorporated as Lorain. The town developed shipbuilding as its first major industry.

The first navigation light was a lantern hanging from a pole near the mouth of Black River. However small, it was a help to vessels on the lake. Still, there was a need for something better in the early years of the 1800s.

The first lighthouse on the Black River was built in 1836-37. It was a brick structure built close to the shore. The light used lard oil fuel, which was later changed to kerosene.

A year later on November 26, 1838 Lieutenant C. T. Platt, U. S. N. wrote in a report that the Black River Beacon was lit with 8 fixed lamps, each with a reflector in need re-silvering. The Beacon it leaked badly, its frame needed soldering and the windows needed puttying, all of which could be done for \$25.

By 1875 the lake had deposited sand near the location of the lighthouse. Thus, it was said to be on the shoreline. Over the years many changes and improvements were made. This first light was replaced in 1875 when a new light was placed at the end of a newly constructed 600-foot pier that led from the west side of the mouth of Black River. Every day the keeper had to take the oil to the lighthouse. Storms often blew from the west and on two different occasions lighthouse keepers were washed from the pier and drowned. It was decided to build a 3-4 foot high metal walkway on top of the pier so that

WAYS & MEANS

We have Tee shirts, golf shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, polo shirts, tank tops, hats, visors, tote bags, mugs, koozies and youth apparel. There are several "NEW" items in stock. If you want something in a different size or color or with something special on it - like your name or boat name, it can be ordered - just contact Nan Kubera 440- 823-3364 or Barb Sefcovic at 330-656-3272. All special orders need 50% down. Items in stock can be purchased from Terry at the Wheelhouse, Nan Kubera, Barb Sefcovic or see any board member.

Barb Sefcovic at 330-656-3272 or Nan Kubera at 440-835-1225 or nkubera@verafast.com

FOR SALE

If you have items for sale, let the newsletter editor know before the 20th of the month.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you know of a member that needs our thoughts and prayers please notify a flag officer or the Newsletter Editor.

GET WELL WISHES

Rich McKee
Bob Sefcovic

MEMBERS ONLY ADVERTISING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members are invited to advertise items or place announcements in the "For the Good of the Order" section of this newsletter at any time, free of charge. Please submit advertisement or announcement to the editor. See below for contact information.

the keepers would be above the "green" water of the waves.

In 1880, the 180-foot walkway had to be rebuilt. Four years later, in 1884, the walkway was in such bad condition, it was rebuilt again rebuilt and extended to 780 feet.

Two ships ran into the pier during 1890. The schooner B. F. Bruce damaged the elevated walkway on July 1, 1890. Slight damage was done by Iron Boat No. 102 on July 24, 1890. Both owners paid for the repair.

In 1891, Congress approved \$400 to establish a range light for Lorain. The 65-foot Star iron tower was built near the shore. This allowed vessels to line up the beam from the lighthouse with the range light, so then they could sail right into the harbor.

Because of the threat of fire, an iron oil tank was built on the old lighthouse foundation between the shore and the end of the pier. The oil was used for the lighthouse lamps. The tank had a brick lining on the outside and that first elevated walkway was built from the tank house to the lighthouse.

The steamer C. B. Lockwood struck the west pier on the night of April 21, 1893 and did damage to the pier and one leg of the beacon. The steamer owner repaired the damage. In 1893 the rear beacon of the range light was fitted with a hoist and a light. The next season the schooner Alta hit it when it was being towed.

On August 25, 1894 a new tower for the rear beacon was built in a less exposed position. Even so, the steamer Caledonia ran into crossies under the tower on the outer end of the pier on November 2, 1894.

On the night of June 24, 1895 the schooner Mabel Wilson, while going out of the harbor, had lines tied to the legs of the elevated walkway. The legs broke and damaged parts of the walk. The owner paid for the repairs.

On August 16, 1895 the upper part of the rear beacon was completely wrecked and 3 lens lanterns were shattered by the collision of a ship being towed out of the harbor. The owners of the 2 vessels paid for the repairs. In 1897 the west pier was extended and the beacon was moved to the end of the pier.

On August 7, 1897 the schooner Young America hit the rear range beacon. The owner paid for repairs. Also that year, much of the elevated walkway was again rebuilt and extended.

In 1900, the rear range beacon was put on a new foundation some 990 feet from the front beacon. A balcony and handrail were built around the base of the beacon lantern. In 1906 about 350 feet of iron railing was built and 100 feet of wooden elevated walk was built on the west pier.

There was much talk about the need to build a house for the Lorain light keeper who was taking care of the beacon and range light. By 1913 there were plans to build a new lighthouse that would include a place for the light keeper to live. The actual construction did not start until 1916 and the lighthouse was not finished until 1917.

The new 1917 lighthouse was built on a wooden crib foundation. The crib was filled with sandstone and sunk into 30 feet of water. On the top a concrete base was built, and above that was the construction of the three-storied building. Included on the first floor was the engine room, and storage. The second floor included the living quarters. Electricity was installed in 1932. The rotating beam projected 15 miles out. The bulb in the center was

BUSINESS CARD ADVERTISEMENTS

Members with businesses can advertise in the WYC Newsletter for 11 months at \$25.00 a year. If your business would be interested in submitting a business card advertisement please submit in jpeg format and email to Beverly Sams at bsams@eshores.com. Send check payable to Westlake Yachting Club, P.O. Box 3003, Lorain, OH 4403. Card will not be put in newsletter until payment received.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Articles are **due by 20th** of the month. Please email to Commodore Beverly Sams at bsams@eshore.com

Questions or Comments about this newsletter should be directed to R/C Bob Sefcovic at MRSEF@aol.com

VISIT YOUR WYC WEBSITE

www.westlakeyachtingclub.com

For updates on the WYC Calendar, upcoming events, pictures, urgent updates, membership application, newsletter, bridge and trustee contact information, helpful links and much, much more!

Happy Valentines Day!

surrounded by "fresnel" lens, which is a series of glass prisms, each of which magnifies the light into a final brightness of 50,000-candle power (924 Watts).

In 1939, the U. S. Coast Guard took over operation of the lighthouse. During one month in the late 1950s they received over 60 distress calls. The Coast Guard maintained the facility until 1965, when it was decommissioned. A new automatic light had been installed on the pier and only was checked occasionally. Upon decommissioning the lighthouse was scheduled to be torn down.

The first Lorain Lighthouse Celebration was held on August 5, 1989 to secure the lighthouse's place in the history of Lorain. Many people worked to save the Lighthouse. Ownership went through many hands until in 1990, when the Port of Lorain Foundation, Inc. bought it for \$1.00. Since that time much money and effort has gone into restoration. New steel piling was driven around the outside of the wooden crib, and concrete was poured into the entire base. The building itself was restored and painted.

The pier leading to the lighthouse has a water separation so that the current will help to keep sand from building-up at the mouth of Black River. While this is very necessary for navigation, it also causes problems of accessibility for people who want to visit the lighthouse. There are plans for boat tours to the Lorain lighthouse in the near future.



PHOTO BY PAT O'CONNELL

(C) 2000 BY PAT O'CONNELL

DUE'S REMINDER:

Per our By-laws: Dues are payable by two (2) options: 1. Full amount on or before January 1st. 2. If total dues are not paid by March 1st a \$25.00 late fee will be assessed in addition to annual dues. If not paid by April 1st the Board of Trustee's may act to suspend the member. To be reinstated, member must pay dues, late fee and re-instatement fee of \$25.00.

Don't forget your Membership Benefits:

BoatUS Membership Discount
5% Discount off dockage at Spitzer's
WYC Events
WYC Members Directory

GCBA/ILYA Privileges
Wheelhouse Privileges
Members Room Privileges
WYC By-Laws

Voting Rights
WYC Cruises
WYC Newsletter
Lots of FUN!!!