



THE MASTHEAD

SAGINAW BAY YACHT CLUB

From the Helm

~ John Kustuch, Commodore

Each year thousands of people gather at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, PA, to watch Phil deliver his forecast. He emerged this past February 2nd and did not see his shadow, predicting an early spring for us all. I write this paragraph as we in Michigan are in the midst of a "Bomb Cyclone!" Winter for our region has certainly been an ebb and flow from brown grass and a foot of snow. The ice fisherman and snowmobilers have had their time, we yachtsmen yearn for our sunshine and a warm water playground!



As we continue to talk about and celebrate our club's 125th year, we've done some digging and dusted off photographs from the bottom of drawers, some hanging in the shed and others tucked away in long not thought of boxes. We have some impressive photos of wooden motor and sailing yachts at the club, as well as some pictures of the shag carpet in the bar and Commodore lounge during the 70's. We'll be

sharing these photos in the Masthead, in the club and on our Facebook page. We do ask, if anyone has pictures from around the club, please share them with us, the collections are always nice during these times of reflection and accomplishment.

A time in our club when many of us are reminiscing, talking with members about the "old days," we've needed to bid farewell to a few long term members, leaders and contributors who have passed away this past month. Margot Fletcher whom along with her husband Fred (PC 1991, d. 2016) became members in 1978. They enjoyed the club, participated in many events and provided leadership. Margot and Fred introduced their children to our club; Ric, Barb and Bill (PC 2015) carry on their parents' appreciation of the Yacht Club as members and leaders today.

PC Paul Dryzga, a member since 1977 and Commodore in 1985. Paul was certainly a presence around the club. I particularly enjoyed our conversations as he would be tending to the "Miz Driz" in the early mornings and I enjoyed coffee. Paul always shared good stories and good times in conversation and often there'd be a bit of advice for the future in his stories of the past. We'll miss Paul's smile and the youthful way he went about here at the club.

A change is taking place on the Board of Directors this month. David Stokes, board member since 2016 and re-elected to a second term has resigned his

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MARCH 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Skeg Night
Thursday, March 14

SBYC Annual Meeting
Friday, April 5

**Easter Brunch &
Children's
Easter Egg Hunt**
Sunday, April 21

Spring Work Party
Saturday, April 27

Kentucky Derby Party
Saturday, May 4

Mother's Day Brunch
Sunday, May 12

Flower Planting
Saturday, May 18

Action Auction
Friday, May 24

Potluck Breakfast
Saturday, May 25

Memorial Day Cookout
Sat.-Sun., May 26-27

March Hours:

Fridays & Saturdays
Bar: 1700 - 2200
Dinner: 1800 - 2100

Sundays:
Bar: 1500 - 2000
Tailgate: 1600 - 1930

From the Commodore

~ Continued from Page 1 ~

position. We recognized Dave's contribution to the club through his membership, participation in events, his experience in the USCG Auxiliary and as a member on the BOD. Dave has expressed he and Leslie enjoy the club, intend to remain members of the club and we will be seeing them in the future.

Sunday tailgate at the club has been a great success again this season! If you haven't made out for one, I definitely encourage it. There are usually 40 to 60 people in the lounge enjoying good food, great friends and a variety of sports on TV, as well as the great view of ice fisherman and snowmobilers on the river.

Stay warm, see you at the club!

Spring is Coming!

~ Tom Barbier, Director

Happy Winter everyone! We were able to enjoy another beautiful season, and the wrap up is ahead of us. With that, comes the time where the club gets a good spring overhaul on the grounds to be



blossoming for another glorious year to come.

All this doesn't come automatically, it requires some wonderful volunteering to make sure that our grounds are as beautiful as they are. We welcome anyone willing to come out and lend a

hand, there are a lot of tasks that don't require a lot of intense labor and a task that can fit anyone's willingness to contribute. It is always amazing when a decent sized group comes together and contributes. The man/women hours really add up and the impact can be seen in short time! Things that we will be doing will be removing ladders, flower bed spring prepping, and a few more heavy lifting items that have always been contributed by Jerry Somalski of Bay Landscaping.

Dates to remember are April 27th for the spring work party and May 18th for the planting party. Come help SBYC become beautified!

From the Manager's Desk

~ Mark Piganelli, General Manager

"In Like A Lion...." So far, March has proven to be just that. It's good to know that (at least according to the calendar) winter is winding down and we can all look forward to the warm days of spring!

With the warmer weather, preparations are being made to start dock repairs. This winter has caused

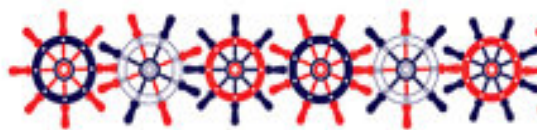


extensive damage and a great deal of work will be needed to get our slips ready for the boating season. While we will contract most of the major work out, our Maintenance personnel will be focused on the repairs capable of being done in-house.

Clubhouse operations will continue throughout March, with the exception of our Thursday Night Bar Bites. Thursday nights will resume in April with full dinner service available. Our Sunday Tail Gate will continue throughout the Winter and Spring until we kick off our Sunday Cook-Out on Memorial Day Weekend.

Remember that the Club stands ready to host any events you might have in mind. Weddings, dinners, luncheons, receptions or any other gathering you might be planning. Please give me a call and I would be more than happy to discuss details. Weekend dates through the summer are going fast so please call as soon as possible!

Have a great March – see you at The Club!



SAVE THE DATE
SBYC Action
Auction

Friday, May 24



The Club: "The Early Years"

~ PC Craig Hurchison

It wasn't long before the Club Board of Directors (BOD) authorized the purchase of boats for members use (not many people had their own boats in those days). BOD minutes 6/3/1895: "Moved and seconded that the use of the club house and pleasure boats be accorded the families of members between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm of any week day, providing that all children under the age of 15 years be accompanied by an older person." Four boats were purchased for \$109. Interesting at the next board meeting the following directive was passed: "Moved and seconded that the sale of intoxicating liquors be strictly prohibited in the club house or on the club property." Maybe this was a forerunner of our modern drinking and driving laws.

In September 1896, the Club's first manager was hired. "The secretary was instructed to make a contract (written) with W.A. Garber as Steward of the Club House and that he be employed by the Club only as long as his services were satisfactory." Bill Garber and his wife were certainly satisfactory as they served the Club until 1940! Like our current manager Mark, Bill Garber was a hands-on guy,

which in those days meant he was outfitter to the fleet, master of the anchorage, advisor to neophytes



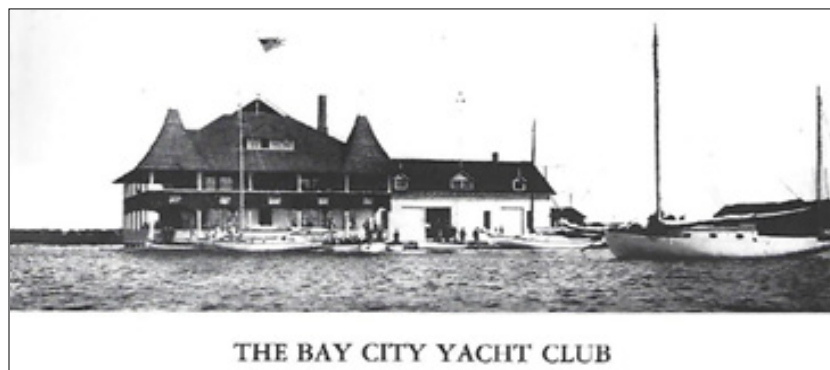
Bill Garber

and rescuer of the distressed. Like Harry, Mrs. Garber's cuisine was famed the county over for its unchanging excellence. It was said she serve a hundred serving as skillfully as a single guest.

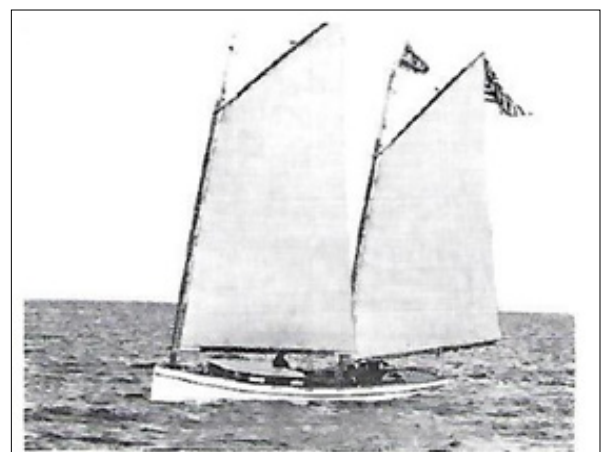
The Club thrived in the initial years and in February 1901, a special meeting was called to approved purchasing land, building a new Club house (complete with horse barn and bicycle shed) with appropriate site development and also moving the old Club house to the new location.



1894—THE GUENN—This little ship was the first of record in the line owned by Mr. Jennison and was sailed by him from 1894 to 1896. It might be said to have been the Club's flag ship during that period.



THE BAY CITY YACHT CLUB

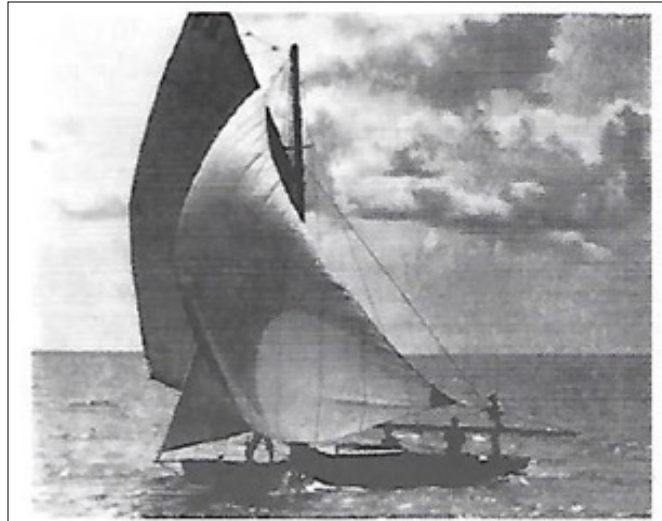


1896—THE LORELIE—Second in the Jennison fleet was the schooner Lorelie. The Club record teems with reports of her cruises to North Island, Pointe Lookout, the Charity Islands and Tawas Bay. During that period she crossed Lake Huron on a cruise to Goderich, Ont.

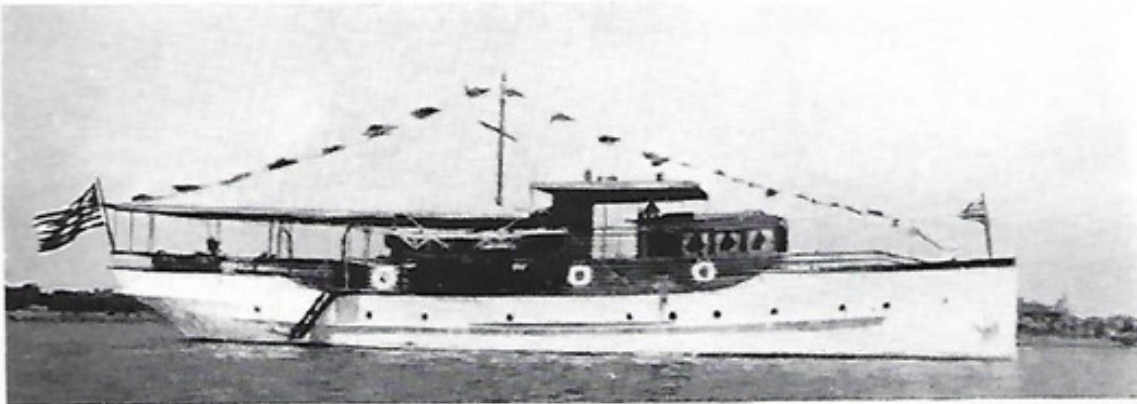
The Early Fleet



1900—**THE AURORA**—The Aurora led a new type of sailing craft when Commodore Jennison launched her on the Saginaw in 1900. She was a handsome sloop with a day cabin and sported a magnificent spread of canvas.



1905—**THE BOREALIS**—Designed and built from the specifications of one of the greatest marine architects of all time—the Borealis was brought to our club from the Atlantic coast by a syndicate of Bay City, men, headed by Mr. Jennison. She was planked, decked and finished in African mahogany stepped a hallow spar and cost over four thousand dollars. Her ownership changed a dozen times in her nearly forty years of activity—all on the Saginaw.



THE HYAC—75 x 14 x 5. An especial favorite of Commodore Coryell's and retained longer by him than any of his many craft. Sold in the early 1920's to a Detroit yachtsman.

THE OLD TIMER

Owned by Commodore
Otto Sovereign

