

VOLUME XVII / ISSUE IV

July / August 2019

SPECIAL CLUB SAFETY ISSUE

# The ELG



**35 Years  
of Giving  
Back!**





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## From the Bridge

by Rear Commodore Vince Cifelli



The 2019 summer season is upon us, with that brings the Thursday Happy Hours for our members & guests to enjoy. Also the Wednesday night race season is in full swing with 7:00 starts at our Lighthouse. If you have the chance I recommend a before or after dinner walk to the Lighthouse so see the fleet skillfully maneuvering their Yachts for the best starting position, It is a beautiful and exciting sight to see.

Now that our boats have been in for awhile, with the high water and winds all slip holders should take the time to inspect their dock lines for adjustment and wear, and get a look and sniff in the bilge before getting underway.

I would also urge all members to review our safety rules posted on our website under the members area. It only takes a couple minutes and could be the difference between the best day and the worst day of your life.

There are so many things going on at our Club and summer goes by so fast, remember to check your email for the newsletter so as not to miss out on anything. Have a safe summer and enjoy our beautiful Club that we all work so hard to make the best place to be year around.

## Directory

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## On the Cover...

This is a year of many milestones at the EYC. One of the longest ongoing Club traditions is the EYC charity regatta this year once again benefiting the American Red Cross of Northwest Pennsylvania. Photo by Cindy Madura



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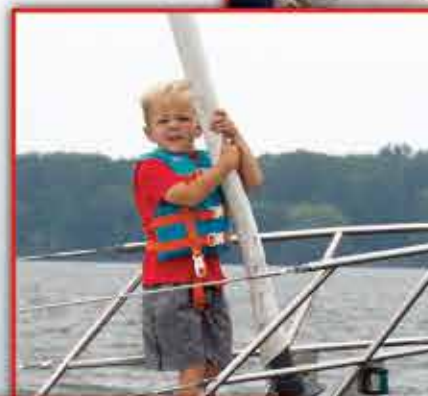
Scan to learn about the Erie Yacht Club



**P**lease join us for an afternoon of relaxing boating, friendship, food and fun as we celebrate the 35th Erie Yacht Club Charity Regatta, which benefits the American Red Cross of Northwestern PA. This year's event will feature a new Spectator Boat Trifecta, where spectator boats can compete for great prizes by betting on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishes of boats from within each sailboat racing class. Also new for 2019 will be craft spirits tasting and bottle sales featuring Kingfly Spirits and their award-winning Bliss 1895 Spiced Rum! The Regatta will also feature a five-mile sailboat race, live music by the Salmon Frank Band, great food and drink, ducky races and the friendly competition this end of summer bash has been known to deliver!

The 2019 event will continue the flat rate, all-inclusive pricing structure. Individual boats may enter the event for a lower, fixed price of \$325, which includes 5 wristbands. The wristbands provide admission to the event, beverages and the buffet lunch. Additional wristbands may be purchased for \$25 each.

(continued on next page)



## About the American Red Cross

A great time for a great cause - all of your support, hard work and financial contributions will benefit the American Red Cross of Northwestern PA - local disaster relief. The premise of the Regatta is, and always has been, to raise funds that would remain local; funds that will support our community and neighbors right here in Erie County.

The American Red Cross has served the Erie community for over 102 years and is solely funded by the generosity of our local donors. The Red Cross is also one of the top-rated charities in spending, with ninety-one cents of every dollar raised going to programs and services.

Locally the Red Cross responds to disasters and emergencies 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Immediate help is provided to bring victims back to self-sufficiency by aiding with temporary housing, food and clothing, emotional well-being, medical necessities and other immediate needs. Fires and flooding are the most prevalent here in Erie but other emergency services include: weather-related shelters, response to gas leaks and long-term power outages, emergency communications and services to our deployed military personnel and response to many other unexpected events.

The Home Fire Campaign provides fire prevention education along with free smoke alarms installed in homes where they are needed. Working smoke alarms help to save lives and reduce loss & injury by giving families that warning to get out of their homes immediately. The NW PA chapter has installed over 5,000 smoke alarms for families in need.



# 35 Years of Giving Back

## The EYC Charity Regatta

### With Sailboats, Spectator & Kayak Festivities

• Sunday, August 25th 2019 •

by Michael Bova

Photography Courtesy of Cindy Madura



(continued from previous page)

Log on to the Erie Yacht Club's web site and click on the EYC Charity Regatta link to enter your sailboat, power boat or kayak, or call the American Red Cross 814-240-7576 to register. You may also drop off the registration in the Red Cross Regatta box in the EYC office or mail it to the American Red Cross. Sponsor a boat, donate prizes and supplies, make a financial contribution, or volunteer for the event by calling the American Red Cross at (814) 240-7576. You may also learn more about the Red Cross at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).







**American  
Red Cross**

Erie Yacht Club  
Charity Regatta



## Join us for the Premier boating event of the season!

The 35th Erie Yacht Club Charity Regatta will be held on Sunday, August 25, 2019. Sailboats and Cruising Fleet - Power or Sail, live music by the Salmon Frank Band, a BBQ lunch, duck races, and an auction will make for a great day.

The American Red Cross has served the Erie community for over 100 years and is funded by the generosity of our donors. The premise of the Regatta is to raise funds that will support disaster relief to our neighbors in our community.

### 2019 Sponsorship Levels

#### Fleet Sponsor - \$2,500

- Complimentary entry into the 2019 Commodore's Challenge
- Complimentary table top exhibition space at Erie Yacht Club during event
- Recognition logo on advertising and promotional materials, including television
- Recognition on event sponsor sign
- Entry of 4 boats (power or sail), plus wristbands for captain and 4 crew per boat
- 10 additional wristbands

#### Gold Sponsor - \$2,000

- Complimentary table top exhibition space at Erie Yacht Club during event
- Recognition name on event advertising and promotional materials, including television
- Recognition on event sponsor sign
- Entry of 4 boats (power or sail), plus wristbands for captain and 4 crew per boat
- 8 additional wristbands

#### Silver Sponsor - \$1,000

- Recognition on event sponsor sign
- Entry of 2 boats (power or sail), plus wristbands for captain and 4 crew per boat
- 8 additional wristbands

#### Bronze Sponsor - \$500

- Recognition on event sponsor sign
- Entry of 1 boat (power or sail), plus wristbands for captain and 4 crew
- 4 additional wristbands

#### Boat Sponsor - \$325

- Entry of 1 boat (power or sail), plus wristbands for a captain and 4 crew

#### Kayak, Jet Ski or Other PWC - \$50

- Entry of 1 PWC, and 2 wristbands



Wristband includes admission to event, beverages and buffet. Additional wristbands are available for \$25 each.



**American  
Red Cross**

### 2019 Sponsorship Form

**Sponsorship Information:** Please print company name as you would like it to appear on printed material:

Company Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Boat Name \_\_\_\_\_ Skipper Name \_\_\_\_\_

Racing Class (select one) ☐ Jib & Main (JAM) JAM PHRF\* \_\_\_\_\_ Sail # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Spinnaker Spinnaker PHRF\* \_\_\_\_\_ Sail # \_\_\_\_\_

\* If no PHRF, then Boat Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ Length (ft) \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsorship Level:** Please check desired sponsorship level

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fleet Sponsor - \$2,500  | <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze Sponsor - \$500             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Sponsor - \$2,000   | <input type="checkbox"/> Boat Sponsor - \$325               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Sponsor - \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Kayak, Jet Ski or other PWC - \$50 |

**Payment Information:**

☐ Pay by credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx ☐ Check Enclosed ☐ EYC Charge

Name (as it appears on card) \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Give an additional gift: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ ExpirationDate \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return sponsorship and payment information to:**

**Mail:**

American Red Cross  
Attn. Charity Regatta  
4961 Pittsburgh Avenue  
Erie, PA 16509

**Questions? Contact:**

Michael Bova  
michael.bova@erieinsurance.com | 814-881-4276

Pam Masi

pamela.masi@redcross.org | 814-450-3982

**Schedule of Events**

9:30 a.m.	Captain/Skipper's Meeting
11:00 a.m.	Presque Isle Bay Sailboat Race
1:00 p.m.	Live Music by Salmon Frank Band, Ducky Sales, Auction Opens
2:30 p.m.	BBQ Buffet
3:30 p.m.	Ducky Races
4:00 p.m.	Awards Presentation & Prizes

In consideration of my entry, I, my executors and assigns, hereby waive all claims as may arise against the Erie Yacht Club Charity Regatta, the Erie Yacht Club, the American Red Cross of Northwestern PA, their officers, directors, members, employees, and agents arising out of the participation of my yacht and crew in the Erie Yacht Club Charity Regatta or arising from any related activities.

**Thank you for your support.**

Please make checks, if applicable, out to American Red Cross.



# Home Again

## The Home of Early EYC Commodore William L. Morrison Restored

By Caleb Pifer

The Erie Yacht Club has been blessed with many illustrious members dating back to EYC's founding in 1895. One such founding member (plankowner) served as our second commodore (1904-05), Captain William L. Morrison (1869-1956). In addition to serving as Commodore, Morrison was active in the Pennsylvania Naval Militia and was the last commanding officer of the USS Wolverine.



William and Katherine Morrison standing on the dock in front of Miriam II, circa 1935.

He is credited with raising the U.S. Brig Niagara from Misery Bay in 1913 to mark the centennial of the Battle of Lake Erie, and then commanded the Wolverine to tow the restored Niagara around the Great Lakes for educational purposes. During World War I, Lt. Commander Morrison served on active duty in the U.S. Navy aboard the battleship USS Utah (BB-31) in European waters.

After that war, he was the first superintendent of Presque Isle State Park, served for a term in the Pennsylvania General Assembly and ran unsuccessfully for Mayor of Erie.



Comdr. Morrison aboard the USS Wolverine.

Morrison lived in a stately Italianate style brick home on West 6th Street, also known as Erie's Millionaire Row which since 1984 has been designated a National Register Historic District. Morrison's parents, Leverett and Missouri "Sue" Bliss Morrison both from Chautauqua County, NY, purchased the house from Dr. William Maxwell Wood who built it in 1858 while serving as the Surgeon on board the USS Michigan (later Wolverine). Wood, who had played an important role in the Mexican War, would go on to become the first Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy.



Wood-Morrison home circa 1934.

In 2015, the Erie County Historical Society completed a \$4 million renovation and expansion of the museum at the Watson-Curtze Mansion campus at W. 6th and Chestnut Streets that was designated the Thomas. B. Hagen History Center. It became apparent to the Historical Society that Captain Morrison's former home, located immediately to the east of the museum would make an important strategic addition to the History Center campus. Not only would the home add considerable space, but the stories of both Wood and Morrison are important to Erie County's heritage.



Interior of the restored Wood-Morrison house.

After nearly a three year process of acquisition and restoration, the Wood-Morrison House has been returned to its former glory. Soon new exhibits in the 5,200 sq ft home will pay homage to Captain Morrison and Surgeon Wood on its first floor. Of particular interest is the restored alcove where Morrison would sit and smoke his pipe as he gazed out onto West 6th Street. Captain Morrison's two grandchildren have been very helpful in these efforts.

The home's second floor bedrooms now include state of the art education and classroom space for lectures, and the basement, with its exposed bluestone foundation, which once served as Dr. Wood's medical office, will now provide additional space.



Westside view of the restored Wood-Morrison house.

In addition to restoring the main house, the Wood-Morrison's 900 sq ft. "Barn" that predates the house by 20 years, was also restored. It originally housed mules that towed the barges on the Erie Extension Canal that until 1871 ran northward just east of the Morrison property. The Barn will be utilized as a maintenance facility for the Historical Society. Captain Morrison used the Barn to build and conduct maintenance and repair on his yachts, the sloop Miriam I. and the sail rigged motor vessel Miriam II. The Miriam II would become an iconic yacht at EYC for a half century, and today, the anchor from Miriam I graces the entrance to the EYC grounds.

Visitors can tour the Wood-Morrison House during the Historical Society's business hours which can be found at [www.eriehistory.org](http://www.eriehistory.org)



*The author previously served as executive director of the Historical Society. He is currently Vice President for External Relations at Mercyhurst University, and is a member of the Erie Yacht Club.*



Elizabeth McElroy Geer, aged 99 pictured with EYC member, Captain Tom Hagen at the Wood-Morrison House. Geer's father, Donald McElroy, was a longtime Erie Yacht Club member and close friend of Captain Morrison. Geer recalls the many hours that her father would spend with Morrison in the Barn helping to build and maintain both Miriam I and Miriam II. Geer and Hagen each have memories of Captain Morrison from their respective childhoods.



# Time to Frolic

The EYC's Frolic on the Bay

08 • July • 2019



This summer the EYC Frolic on the Bay is on Monday, July 08, 2019. This is a one-day event that we provide special-needs children and their families with boat rides, lunch, and a special EYC Frolic on the Bay hat.

Last year's Frolic on the Bay would not have been possible without the support of our membership, volunteers, and sponsors. Please say "thank you" when you see these folks: Ron Santos at Creative Imprint Systems, P.C. Pat Geary at Erie Beer Company, Cindy Madura at Erie Insurance Group, Sue Oldakowski at the Erie Water Department, Ray Kreger at H&K Do Nut Shop, Sharon Sisco at Mercyhurst University, Dean Schoenfield at Parkhurst Food Services, Mike Seager at STERIS Good Neighbor Fund, and P. C. Gerry Urbaniak at Urbaniak Brothers Quality Meats.

There are so many great people that work every day to allow days like this to happen. I would like to thank the Erie Yacht Club Bridge Officers, as well as General Manager Mike Lynch, Dockmaster Michael Argeny and all the EYC staff who work so hard for our EYC!

A big thank you to the Erie Clowns for participating and entertaining the kids with face painting and balloon animals.

It is the many volunteers from the EYC membership and organizations like Erie Insurance Erie Service Corp and students from Mercyhurst University that help the EYC Frolic on the Bay be so successful year after year.

Please consider spending the day with us for the 2019 EYC Frolic on the Bay, Monday, July 08, 2018 and the volunteer picnic after. I know you will enjoy the event and it is a great way to spend a Monday.

Thomas Schuyler IV  
Frolic Chairman  
(814) 323-4157  
tltd@roadrunner.com





# JUST IN CASE...

BY MICHAEL ARGENY

It's Sunday evening at the Club, things are winding down for the night when suddenly everything goes dark... Not to worry, within moments you see a few lights come on along with every exit sign. What just happened? The Club experienced a complete loss of power which triggered both the natural gas emergency generators to start along with the battery backup emergency lighting system so you can safely exit the building to your vehicles. What about the gates? The gates can be manually released internally to open in the event of a power outage. As you journey up the hill, you pass an EYC truck with brightly flashing amber lights on the side of the road as they are placing road cones around the fallen tree limb that knocked the power out.

This is just one of countless real-world scenarios that the Erie Yacht Club has been busy preparing for, just in case. As Alex Schuler stated in the November 2007 edition of "The Log", everyone should "know your Club!" I'm going to take you on a tour around the Yacht Club property and show you the safety devices that have been in place for many years, as well as introducing you to some relatively new features. Furthermore, we will explore some of the behind the scenes functions that keep day to day operations at the Club safe and seamless.

Let's start our tour in the clubhouse. As you're walking the halls or relaxing in the grill room, I encourage you to just take a closer look around. You'll start to notice that the fire extinguisher locations are all labeled with signs and decals, you'll see numerous brightly lit exit signs along the way with strategically placed emergency lighting, and we even have an automated external defibrillator (AED) located in the hallway above the water fountain.



AED in the Clubhouse hallway.

The AED is an excellent first response tool to use while waiting for emergency responders in the event of an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. From the moment that the device is opened, it will verbally explain step by step how to use it. It also has very easy to follow instructions and diagrams displayed on its accessories.

The Club is also fortunate to have a small natural gas-powered emergency generator that powers the exit signs, security system, and its own dedicated emergency lights that are separate from the battery powered lighting. These devices are all inspected annually, monthly, or in some cases weekly to keep them in proper working order.

Walk out of the double doors from the lower grill room and head down the steps toward the flagpole, and look to the right. Hanging on the edge of the wall you'll see a bright yellow emergency ladder extended into the water. Did you know that there are 52 of these located around the EYC basin? Now look up at the black piling posts at the end of each slip on J-Dock; the posts that have a reflective red and silver tape ring around them are the ones that have emergency ladders at that dock. These reflective rings are on each piling post that have a ladder on them around the entire basin. Just in case someone falls into the water at night, these rings will help guide them to the nearest ladder location. If you walk along the sidewalk around the basin, at various locations you will come across yellow fiberglass cases containing life rings. If your walking during the winter months, these locations will also be holding our ice rescue crosses.

Over the course of the dock renovation project, the Yacht Club took the opportunity to update the emergency pull box system. There are now five pull box locations and at each one they now contain a life ring and fire extinguisher. Each pull box pedestal can be quickly identified by its signature blue dome light on top of the housing followed by a red light directly beneath the lid. These are truly an amazing safety tool to have here at the Club.

In the event that the pull box is activated, a local alarm will sound along with a strobe light at the pedestal, a call to the EYC security company will occur with box specific coordinates, and it will automatically open the gates for emergency responders to quickly access the property. The five boxes are located at A-13, B-02, H-12, L-25, and at the start of N-Dock. Learning the dock layout of the basin is a great way to get to know your Club a little better and a simple guide for directing people to specific locations.



Emergency Ladder & reflective piling tape.



One of ten fire extinguishers in the Clubhouse.

New and improved signage has also been implemented around the Club property. Areas such as the "recyclable area" across from the Locker House, and around the Club's natural gas well, the fuel dock, and down in the basement of the clubhouse. These signs are informative, easy to see, and make people aware of their surroundings.

Along our tour, let's pop in to the Rickloff Community Boathouse. Opened in 2014, the building shares some of the same great safety devices as the clubhouse. These include recessed fire extinguisher boxes, combination exit/emergency lights, alarm system, and their very own AED located in the bathroom hallway above the water fountains. The building also offers LED walkway lighting and motion activated lighting in the restroom hallway for safe round the clock access to the facilities during the summer season.

New technology, brightly flashing lights, and a fresh coat of safety yellow paint sometimes aren't enough to maintain a safe Club. It takes safe work practices and trained employees to prevent a small issue from snowballing into a crisis, and to respond correctly during an emergency.

Just recently, the Club provided CPR training for a number of employees. Now, at any given time, there could be up to eleven staff members present on the EYC property that are trained in CPR. Every winter, our grounds crew is trained by the Erie Skin Divers at Dobbins Landing in ice rescue procedures. At the start of the boating season each year, the fuel dock staff and grounds crew hold their annual water and fire safety meeting in which proper water rescue and fire extinguishing techniques are reviewed.

The Club maintains an employee safety committee that meets monthly to detect and correct workplace hazards. The Club also operates a member safety committee to provide guidance for the implementation of a club-wide safety program as well as encourage employees, members, and guests to participate in the safety process for the betterment of all.

A recent major achievement for the member safety committee was a shore power cord audit. This entailed a basin wide inspection of ship to shore power cords being used on the docks; confirming that the correct cords and receptacles were being used.



Fire Pedestal pull box at H-12.

(continued on next page)



## JUST IN CASE

(continued from previous page)

2019 will be another progressive year for safety at the Erie Yacht Club. We have all been hard at work on developing and implementing a club-wide safety program, as stated previously. Also, with the help of the crew at Gene Davis Sales and Service, a completely updated CAD drawing of the Club and basin has been developed. This digital map of the property not only includes to-scale depictions of the docks and grounds, it also includes the locations of all safety devices, conveniences, and other landmarks around the property. This map can be easily removed from this magazine by a simple bend of the staples and made into signs or posters. It is also accessible on personal electronic devices through the Erie Yacht Club website under the visiting yachtsmen section.

The member safety committee is additionally working on renovating the Club's "Panic Manual", a type of emergency response handbook geared on instructing employees through almost every foreseeable event. Initially aimed at only grounds related issues, the committee is constructing it to include both the grounds and the house.



Keeping the EYC a safe place to be is everybody's responsibility. Take an extra minute to look around and observe safety devices in the area. Walk around the property and explore areas you've never gone to before. Know your Club and spread your knowledge about safety... just in case!



# ERIE YACHT CLUB 2019



# EYC Cruising Fleet Update:

## Come Hell or High Water... We'll be Cruising!

by Dianne Cunningham

It goes without saying that the 2019 boating season has started off extremely... well, soggy to say the least. Cruising Fleet members like the rest of the EYC boaters are disappointed in the spring/summer weather thus far, but it certainly has not detained us from enjoying the camaraderie.

An "inside" picnic kicked off the season in late May. Thanks to the Club staff for accommodating the last-minute decision to get off the Club deck and out of the wind and into the Ballroom for the evening's event. More than forty Cruisers attended and really enjoyed sharing their excitement about the upcoming season. Summer events were discussed, including the dinner cruise to Noosa in June, a possible trip to Dover in July, a "mystery trip" in August and a Labor Day run to Cleveland to watch the Air Show.

The Memorial Day weekend raft off had to be postponed due to high winds, but we made the most of it with a dockside party which was well attended. Everyone brought their goodies, and we set up in front of Barbara and Michael Wathan's "Our Quarters" on I-Dock. The afternoon was warm enough, but we had to hold the table umbrellas down so everyone agreed that it was not a boating day, but hope continued for better weather ahead!

Bill Motsch was optimistic, saying, "We'll get our good weather soon enough!" All agreed, and it did turn out to be a very enjoyable afternoon on land.

The Noosa restaurant cruise was planned for the monthly "Cruise-day Tuesday" event on June 18. At the time of this writing we had four captains hosting a total of 23 members on their boats for the cruise to Northeast for dinner and the sunset run back home.

"Cruise-Day Tuesday" events, which the Cruising Fleet initiated earlier this year, happen on the THIRD Tuesday evening of every month. Cruise-Day Tuesday events include happy hours in the Grill Room during the winter months and in inclement weather; dock and individual boat parties; and evening cruises or raft ups. The members of the Fleet embrace this monthly time together and we encourage any Club member (boater or not) to join us. The Tuesday events are promoted on the Club website as well as through Club emails and the Fleet Facebook page. Please "Like" our page (EYC Cruising Fleet) to stay abreast of upcoming Fleet activities.

The upcoming July 23rd and August 20th Cruise-day Tuesday events will be dock parties, hosted by fleet members.

### Important Cruising Fleet Notes:

#### TALL SHIPS PARADE

Power Boat Escorts: August 22  
Niagara League is looking for escort vessels for the upcoming Tall Ships Parade. Seven of the EYC Cruising Fleet Captains stepped up to the plate, or should we say helm, to participate.

Please contact Bob Cunningham (bcunningham@homeinstead.com) if you would be interested in helping with the parade. The "Richie Sea" (Captain Bob Cunningham) and "No Excuses" (Captain Don Russell) will be the Lead Escort Vessels for the event.

### Labor Day Weekend Cruise

#### CLEVELAND AIR SHOW:

Dave Davis and Mike Wathan are on this and would like to reserve slips, so they are looking for a count. E-mail or call them for further details. Michael Watha; Mwathan@aol.com or 716-462-3915 or Dave Davis; dld2@velocity.net or 814-459-8106.

### Other Notables:

- Frolic on the Bay... A charity event sponsored by the Erie Yacht Club where our skippers volunteer their boats and their time to take kids with various challenges for out for a day on the water. A picnic lunch and kid's entertainment with clowns and face painting round out the fun. Volunteers are needed both on land and on the water and a thank-you picnic follows the event. This event always needs boats and volunteers... Monday, July 8. The Contact is Tom Schuyler; tldt@roadrunner.com.

- EYC Charity Regatta... for a great cause! The Red Cross throws great party with a band on the Club lawn with ducky races and raffles... new this year for "spectator boats"...\$350 entry with a chance to bet on the race winners - Win, Place or Show- for prizes. Sales for the ducky races will begin soon at Thursday night Happy Hours.

More info to come on other summer trips... A mystery trip is being planned by Kathy and Dave Wagner and a possible Dover trip coordinated by Brad and Karen Carns.

Finally, Cruisers are looking forward to impromptu raft-offs in July and a Sailor/Powerboat picnic with boat rides later this summer.

Join the EYC Cruisers for a summer full of fun, no matter what the weather! Contact Brad and Karen Carns at jackcarns@gmail.com or karenlynnecarns@gmail.com or Bob and Dianne Cunningham at richie-sea@aol.com or dcunningham@homeinstead.com for more info on being a part of the Fleet.





# Erie Yacht Club Road Memories

by Joan Erzer Behrens

Reading P/C Gib Loesel's interesting article about the Yacht Club Road and the bridge in the May/June 2019 issue of The Log brought back wonderful memories of my childhood on Kahkwa Blvd. The "ravine," as we called it, and the Yacht Club Road in the ravine were integral to both our summertime and also our winter adventures!

"Let's go fishing!" my brother would announce, on a wide-open summer morning. We immediately dug juicy night crawlers out of our compost pile beside the garage and plopped them in a tin can. We grabbed our poles and reels that we had proudly purchased at the Erie Sports Store, took a stringer and my brother's woven straw kreel, and headed down the Yacht Club Road, looking like Huck Finn and his sister. One bend in the road, then under the bridge, then another bend and another -soon we would be there! No need to worry about a gate or gatehouse guard at the bottom of the road - they were nonexistent then. The perfectly appropriate three-story white clubhouse sat proudly overlooking the docks and slips as we chose a prime location for our day's adventure.

Bravely threading a plump worm onto my fishhook, I sat on the dock with my legs dangling over the side, holding my rod and waiting for the first bite. Fishing required long periods of perfect quiet and concentration and was actually a rather bi-polar experience. We would sit patiently in the sun for hours, waiting and enjoying the solitude. Suddenly a tug on the line snapped us into action, and we hopped to our feet. A quick and authoritative yank back with the pole set the hook in the fish's mouth, and immediately we decided to either give the fish some play or begin reeling it in.

To be clear, this was not deep-sea game fishing off the Florida coast! Our catch were sunfish, blue gills, and perch, rarely longer than seven inches. Once we landed the fish and removed the hook, my school-girl heart often felt sorry for the little aquatic craniate as it flopped about on the wooden dock, scales glistening in the sunlight. My brother would pull up the metal stringer that he'd attached to a nail on the dock, slide it through the gills of this latest catch, and then carefully lower the fish-laden stringer back into the water.

Never once did a Club member ask us to leave the docks or even engage us in conversation. It was just a silent symbiotic relationship: a few adults were working on or enjoying their boats, and we children were quietly fishing - all of us enjoying a beautiful summer weekday.

By late afternoon, we would pull up the stringer, place our day's catch of about six or seven fish in the kreel, and happily head up the Yacht Club Road. Once back home on Kahkwa Blvd., my brother thankfully took over, cutting off the heads and tails of the fish, and scaling them under the running water from the outdoor spigot on the back of the house. Mother would filet them, dip the fish in beaten egg, then breadcrumbs, and place them in a sizzling Griswold cast iron frying pan, turning them to a perfect brown. How proud we were, for the youngest two in the family had provided the freshly caught entree for that evening's meal!

Six months later and another severe Erie winter brought the Yacht Club Road back to prominence in our childhood world. Word would go out that the Bay was solidly frozen. Hurrying home from Harding School, and rapidly shoveling our sidewalk and driveway (our dad required "clean pavement" for the duration of the winter), we grabbed our ice skates and headed down the Yacht Club Road. The winterized clubhouse stood silently, surrounded only by canvas-covered dry-stored boats, with portions of loose fabric snapping crisply in the wind. We headed to the ice east of the docks toward Merle's where the wind had usually blown a large area clear of snow. Lacing on our skates we headed out to begin re-teaching ourselves the skills of ice skating, which had laid dormant since the prior year.

Our black leather hockey skates with no ankle support required significant practice until we could experience the joy of rapidly gliding across the ice. Often the skating surface was ridged - it appeared as if the ice had frozen precisely while the wind rippled the water - and this required further practice to achieve success. Our skating time flew by; soon it was getting dark and my Mickey Mouse watch indicated 5:20 pm. Time to unlace our skates, put on our boots, and head back up the Yacht Club Road in time to get ready for dinner at 5:45 pm.

One wintry Saturday with gray clouds hanging low overhead, my dad and I achieved a feat that I still look back on with some surprise. We were ice skating at the Yacht Club, and as I looked across the frozen Bay I asked, "Do you think we can skate over to the Peninsula and back?" "Sure," my dad replied, and off we went. It seemed like it took about an hour to skate over to the Bay side of Water Works. After a brief rest, we headed back into an icy wind, and about midway I asked to stop because my hands were freezing. "Here," dad said. I took off my gloves as he did his, and he placed his surprisingly warm hands on either side of first my right hand and then my left. "Wow," I thought, "when I grow up my hands will remain warm like his, even in the coldest weather." That has not been true, but the feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction we experienced as we arrived back at the Yacht Club that afternoon still remains with me.

Thanks to the vision and continued generosity of Yacht Club members, we neighborhood children could enjoy wonderful adventures and build many happy memories!





# If These Docks Could Talk

## Where Are They Now?

by P/C Gib Loesel



One time I heard one of our members say, "Commodores come and Commodores go, but the Club goes on and on!" I remembered this statement a few weeks ago while visiting the Erie Cemetery and noticed the gravestone of Guy C. Boughton. I have walked past this grave hundreds of times and all of sudden it flashed in my mind, I wonder if this is the EYC's Commodore Boughton? Sure enough when I checked, I found that he served the Club in 1931. And of course this got me to thinking (again) about other P/C's and where they were laid to rest along with a few other interesting stories about our P/C's and other members various burial's at sea.

Here is one I always thought would make a good "Punk Poem"... I would call it; "The Burial of Bill Behr". The story goes, that when P/C Bill Behr slipped his anchor in March of 2004 his wife Marge wanted his ashes scattered in the lake. In as much as it was still a little chilly John Ashby concocted a plan for "us" to do the deed in warmer weather, like June!! Bill would be launched from Pete Traphagen's Sojourner. "Us" would be comprised of Pete, John, Doc Bressler, Dee Bressler, Bill's widow Marge and myself.

The deal was I would play my bagpipes, Dee would read "Crossing the Bar" while John would spread the ashes. Sounds simple right... wrong! About the third time through "Amazing Grace" I figured something was not going according to plan, and I was right. Bill's ashes were stored in a wooden box that they could not open, so "us" decided to give it a little "rap" with a wench handle, with that it flipped over the side still unopened with Bill still inside, "Oops". John's next plan was for "us" to hold me by my ankles while I reached for the box, from the deck of Sojourner to the water below which is about four feet. Not so fast John, how about if I hold you by the ankles? Of course this was no longer such a good idea.

Pete didn't have dip net onboard so we tried plan "B", a paper shopping bag attached to his boat pole. Another bad plan! At this point the box was floating right alongside so I lay down with the boat pole and started beating on Bill's watery tomb and it nicely came apart. I was the only one who could see what I had done and announced "there he goes", Dee started reading and everyone was happy. HOWEVER... What I didn't tell them was the ashes were in a sealed plastic bag and P/C Behr was now on his way to Beach 11. WAIT... that's not the end of the story. Marge also had a coffee can with their dog "Fluff's" ashes to send with Bill, which didn't go to well either. Before we could stop her she threw them "into the wind" and we all ended up with a mouthful of "Fluffy".

I know that between P/C Doug Nagle and myself, we have "piped" for several other P/C's and well known members' ashes en-route to the Fiddlers Green. Each one has a story. They include, P/C's Durk Braggins, Bob Way, Dave Schuler, Bob Way's brother Gordy, Jim Stolley and Chester "Chet" Curriden.

Allegedly Honorary Commodore Rip Sawdey's ashes were spread off of Long Point, Ontario. For years after, aboard the Enigma when the point was abeam we would toss a shot, glass and all, for Rip. As years passed by, the names of all our passed shipmates are now remembered in kind (with just the booze, hold the glass) Oh yes, later I discovered Rip is actually buried in the Lowville Cemetery, but it is the thought that counts!!

So far I have discovered four P/C's (George T. Bliss, Captain Wm. T. Morrison, Guy C. Boughton and Richard O. Loesel) are in the Erie Cemetery and this past Memorial Day I honored them each with a P/C flag of their own.

"If These Docks Could Talk", they would say "That's a little crazy... but it's OK"



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# WHAT'S THE GOOD WORD

BY DAN DUNDON

Here we are again in the middle of another great season of sailing on Presque Isle Bay and Lake Erie. What better way to appreciate such beautiful times than to offer another bunch of miscellaneous quotations from an eclectic group of people? Enjoy!

Live each day as if it were your last, and, God, please don't let me die at work!

- Randy Cox

Associate yourself with people of quality if you esteem your reputation. 'Tis better to be alone than in bad company.

- George Washington

Indecision may or may not be my problem.

- Mark Twain

In times like these, it helps to recall that there have always been times like these.

- Paul Harvey

The only people you should ever want to "get even with" are those who have helped you.

- John Honeyfeld

It is my rule never to lose my temper 'til it would be detrimental to keep it.

- Sean O'Casey

There are two types of people – those who come into a room and say "Here I am!" and those who say "Ah, there you are!"

- Fred Collins

You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest.

- Mark Twain

Going to church does not make you a Christian, any more than going to McDonalds makes you a hamburger.

- Roderick West

Life is short. Live it up.

- Nikita Khrushchev

Fast is fine, but accuracy is everything.

- Wyatt Earp

They couldn't hit an elephant at this dist\_\_.

- Last words of John Sedgwick, highly respected Union commander at the Battle of Spotsylvania, 1864.

You know "that look" women get when they want sex? Me neither.

- Steve Martin

My mom always said if I had been born first, I would have been an only child.

- Larry Deland

I hope among these quotations you heard a few new ones? I am sure you have some favorite quotes or such words-of-wisdom? Why not send them to me (dandundon@gmail.com) for us to maybe include in future EYC log articles?

Generally, I try to find quotations which are not too long-winded. Another exception is this one:

I would rather be ashes than dust. I would rather my spark should burn out in a brilliant blaze than it should be stifled by dry rot. I would rather be a superb meteor... than a sleepy and permanent plant... I shall not waste my days trying to prolong them.

- Jack London

Having made one exception, let me make still another. I hope you can tolerate another quotation by me inspired by co-workers (knuckleheads) from during my working life. Anyways, here goes:

Some folks are charming because they are good. Some other folks are charming because they are good at it.



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**ATTENTION CRUISERS & SAILORS!**

It's the  
**2nd Annual Venetian Night**  
**AUGUST 3RD • 2019**



by Dianne Cunningham

The long-anticipated "Venetian Night", sponsored by the EYC Cruising Fleet in conjunction with the EYC, will be here before you know it. Start planning now to be ready to enter your boat in this event of the year at the Erie Yacht Club! Last year's resurrection of Venetian night, a very popular, sold-out party with a decorated and lighted boat parade, was such a huge success! Just ask anyone who was there! Last year's themes ranged from "Happy Days" to "Under the Sea", to "A Day at the Beach" to "Candyland"...

And this year's themes? The sky's the limit! We encourage power boaters AND sailing vessels to join the fun! All Club members are invited to attend this fun event!

So decorate your boat and participate in the lighted boat parade (optional) plus a great party and band... Don't miss it! Last year's winners, Happy Days on the Richie Sea by Bob and Dianne Cunningham and Under the Sea by Jason and Vickie Grinarm will be hard to beat... but come on... TRY! You still have plenty of time to start planning your entry but mark your calendar for Saturday, August 3rd for the next rendition of the EYC's Venetian Night.

- Decorate your boat with the theme of your choice. (Optional)
- Participate in the sunset boat parade from the EYC to Perry's Landing. (Optional)
- Enjoy the hors d'oeuvres, cash bar & great music by the Breeze Band at the EYC Lighthouse from 7pm-11pm.
- Tour other decorated boats around the Club docks.
- Decorated boats can win Prizes in various categories.
- More details on Venetian Night can be found on the EYC website.
- The party is a 21 years of age and over event.
- Cost to attend the party is \$25.00. Cash Bar

There is no fee to participate in the Venetian Night boat parade. All EYC members and Guests are welcome.

Reservations required for the party & boat parade; Call 453-4931 Ext. 202.

For more parade info contact Bob Cunningham:  
richiesea@aol.com

Decorating your boat is optional but you could win a prize if you do!

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# The Drive-In is Back!

The EYC wants to take you back to the Good Ol' Days. When you would pack up the Country Squire station wagon with the family and head out to the Drive-In on a Saturday night.

Kick back and enjoy a family movie in your own space. Whether it was in the car or in some patio chairs with a blanket you had to share with your obnoxious brother who always seemed to wrestle just a little more blanket away from you a little at a time over the course of the movie...

Excuse me for getting sidetracked.

Well the EYC has brought back this quality family time with their own "Drive-In Movie Night". One Saturday a month during the summer the Club converts the west lawn into a drive-in movie theatre.

Showing a classic family friendly movie at dusk if the weather cooperates. (Hopefully it does as there are no rain dates.)

Best part is it is absolutely free. Now if you really want to re-live the past there are classic concessions available but they can only be purchased through a member charge.

The upcoming movie schedule includes:

**"Jumanji"**  
Saturday July 6th

**"Master & Commander"**  
Saturday August 17th

Both movies are worthy of a re-watch even if you've seen them before.

So load up the family and head down to the Club for a classic movie, but don't tell them that its free, or you won't be able to trick your obnoxious brother into riding in the trunk to save a few-bucks. Maybe, just maybe you will remember he is in there when the movie starts.



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For more information, visit [erieycfoundation.org](http://erieycfoundation.org).



## July Calendar of Club Events

- 3rd Firecracker Happy Hour  
Vodka/Cranberry Drink Special  
Complimentary Spinach and  
Artichoke Dip  
Entertainment by American Pie  
(No Sunset Happy Hour on 4th of July)
- 6th Drive-In Movie Night at the EYC  
Come to the West Lawn for  
a feature film under the stars!  
Movie starts at approximately 9:45  
This Months feature: "Jumanji"  
Free & weather permitting
- 7th A la carte Breakfast • 10am - 2pm  
EYC's Family Fun Day!  
Boat & Train Rides • Wall Climbing  
Petting Zoo • Bounce House & More  
All Activities are Free  
Family Picnic Buffet: BBQ Chicken  
Pulled Pork, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs  
Side Dishes & Ice Cream Bar  
Adults \$15.25 • Kids 6-12 \$8.50  
Kids 5 and under - Free
- 8th 2019 Frolic on the Bay  
Skippers & Volunteers at Noon  
Children & Families at 12:30  
for Boat Rides, Clowns & Lunch
- 11th Thursday Sunset Happy Hour  
"EYC Relaxer" Drink Special  
Complimentary Pretzels  
Music by Encore
- 12th EYC Foundation's Boathouse Party  
6-30 - 10pm • Open Bar • Auction  
and Gourmet Hors d'oeuvres  
visit [eriefoundation.org](http://eriefoundation.org) for info
- 14th A la carte Breakfast • 10am - 2pm
- 18th Thursday Sunset Happy Hour  
"Moscow Mules" Drink Special  
Complimentary French Fry Bar  
Live Music by Sam Hyman
- 21st A la carte Breakfast • 10am - 2pm
- 25th Thursday Sunset Happy Hour  
"Cuba Libre" Drink Special  
Complimentary Quesadillas  
Live Music by Mambo
- 28th A la carte Breakfast • 10am - 2pm

## FAMILY FUN DAY! SUNDAY JULY 7TH

**All Activities are Free  
& Begin at 3PM**

- Boat & Train Rides
- Petting Zoo
- Bounce House
- Face Painting
- Caricatures
- Popcorn
- Snow Cones
- Rock Wall

### Family Picnic Buffet

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**Adults - \$15.25**

**Kids (6-12) \$8.50**

**5 & Under Eat Free!**



## August Calendar of Club Events

- 1st Thursday Sunset Happy Hour  
"Sangria Nite"  
Complimentary Pizza Logs  
Music by Gypsy Heart
- 3rd Venetian Night at the Lighthouse  
Decorative Boat Festival!  
7pm - 11pm • Boat Parade 8:30  
Music By The Breeze Band
- 4th A la carte Breakfast • 10am - 2pm
- 6th Junior Sailing Banquet • 6pm - 9pm
- 8th Thursday Sunset Happy Hour  
"Blissful Storm" Drink Specials  
Complimentary Pigs in a Blanket  
Live Music by American Pie
- 11th A la carte Breakfast • 10am - 2pm
- 15th Thursday Sunset Happy Hour  
Gin & Tonic Specials  
Complimentary Fried Ravioli  
Live Music by Boyd & Friends
- 17th Drive-In Movie Night at the EYC  
Come to the West Lawn for  
a feature film under the stars!  
Movie starts at approximately 9:45  
This Months feature:  
"Master and Commander"  
Free & weather permitting
- 18th A la carte Breakfast • 10am - 2pm
- 22nd Thursday Sunset Happy Hour  
"Rum Punch Night"  
Complimentary Nacho Bar  
Music by "Vegas"
- 25th A la carte Breakfast • 10am - 2pm  
EYC Charity Regatta  
Benefiting the Red Cross  
11am Skippers Meeting  
Race Starts at 1pm  
BBQ Buffet from 4:40pm - 6:30pm
- 29th Thursday Sunset Happy Hour  
"Bay Breeze Night"  
Complimentary Jalapeno Poppers  
Music by the Sam Hyman Band





The first morning I helped Stanley down the stairs, the third step creaked. That's when I found out his wife, Martha always told him to fix it. And now he's just glad he never did, because that's home. I love hearing Stanley's stories about home. And now I get to be a part of them.

*Maddie G.*

— Maddie G.  
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