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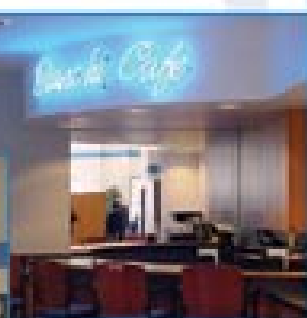
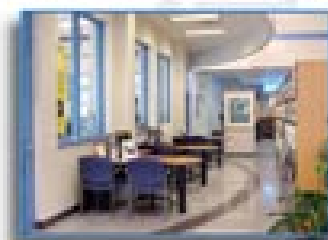
**WOW...
What A
TREC!**



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From the Bridge

Vice Commodore John Murosky



“Greetings Fellow Members and Friends,”
I have been working closely with the dock committee getting ready for the 2006 boating season. This will no doubt be a challenging year to coordinate our basin project and keep the inconvenience of construction to a minimum.
I am happy to report that very few members have chosen not to keep their boat in our basin, some due to circumstances beyond their control and others just wanted a change. At this time we still have a waiting list of approximately 34 boats, the keg field is nearly full and

several people are in need of a jet-ski dock. We have also brought in fifteen new members this fiscal year in all categories with several more prospects on the horizon.
All in all, your support of maintaining our infrastructure by the majority of members at the special basin meeting will no doubt secure the future of the Erie Yacht Club for many years to come. The entire Bridge and Board extends their gratitude for the support you have given.
May we all enjoy the upcoming boating season and remember that the only kind of ship that does not sink is a friendship!

Directory

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On the Cover...

The new Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC) is a truly magnificent addition to our community and to the future ecology of Lake Erie and our entire region.

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WOW... What A TREC!

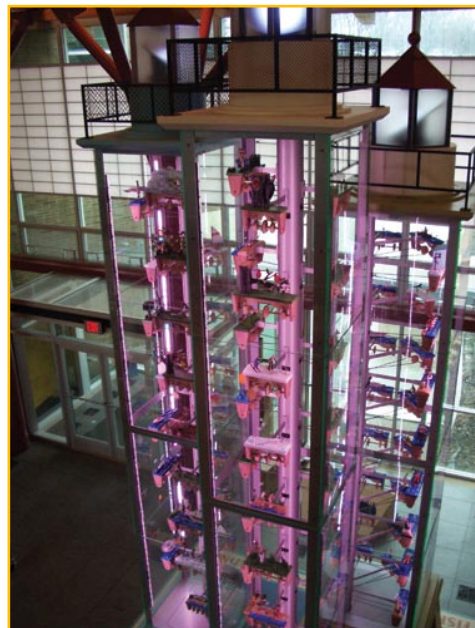
by Anne DeTuillo



The newest trees on Presque Isle are in a grove made of steel, and there is now a sun that sets there at least 10 more times a day inside the park's recently finished newest wonder, the 65,000 square foot Tom Ridge Environmental Center or TREC. Built to symbolize the Peninsula itself in its architectural design, this environmentally friendly education, research, administrative and visitors' service center is the Gateway to Presque Isle. Doors will open to the public for the first time this year at the Grand Opening May 26th.

This is the first green building in the Pennsylvania State Park system and the green experience begins as visitors drive through the brand new entrance way - solar panel lights light the parking lot and specially designed asphalt allows storm water to seep into the ground, the "v" shape of the center's roof catches rain water that is then treated and used inside the building, the landscaping mimics the natural plant growth of the Peninsula. Inside visitors discover more green features throughout the exhibit hall, at the top of the 75-foot tower or in the research wing.

As impressive as the environmental features are, the most important thing about the TREC is its functions. Some facilities along the Great Lakes offer environmental education, some do research, but none offer administrative, research, education and visitors' services in one place, making the TREC unique among



Located inside the main entranceway are three floor to ceiling towers featuring whimsical carved wooden scenes of Presque Isle.

its peers and creating an imaginative world of learning, wonder and fun.

As a visitor enters the lobby of the main entrance, you find yourself immersed in a forest of steel holding up a beautiful wooden canopy that covers the ceiling. Three huge floor to

ceiling towers, stuffed full of whimsical carved wooden scenes about Presque Isle, loom before you. Stepping further into the entrance way, a plasma screen, worthy of Disney World or the Smithsonian, announces the features of the day - it could be the "Big Green Screen" movie, the changeable exhibit on display, the education programs, or perhaps the featured artist in residence.

A microcosm of Presque Isle - its plants, animals, wave action, lagoons, beach scenes, history, and recreation lure you into the exhibit hall where the first stop is to experience a beautiful sunrise and sunset in the orientation theater where a film "Presque Isle Overture" is



The largest of two theaters is "The Big Green Screen" which is a high tech four story large format theater shown here just prior to the installation of the screen.



Architecturally, the steel tree design that supports the beautiful wooden canopy that covers the ceiling is truly magnificent.

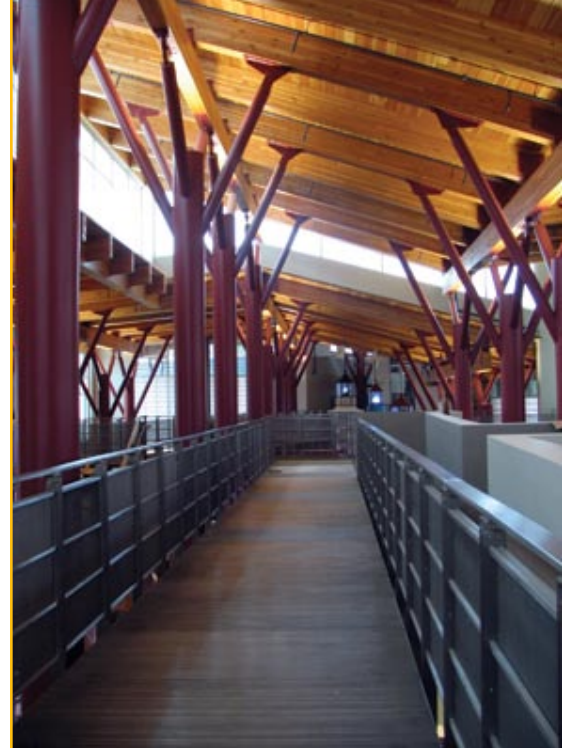
about to begin. The sun rises and before your eyes, the formation of Presque Isle begins to take shape. Where it took 14,000 years of geological history to form Presque Isle, the film shows us in a few short minutes how Presque Isle was born. The next scenes show the ever-changing geological succession that is continually occurring - Gull Point grows, new ponds are formed and new plant life attaches itself to the fragile beaches. The scene then shifts to the four seasons and all there is to see and do on the park throughout the year. Just as you would on a beautiful evening after a day of swimming and picnicking on the beach, you settle down on Sunset Beach to watch the sun set with all its luscious hues of red, purple, orange and yellow, that same peaceful and contented feeling comes over you as you watch another glorious sunset at Presque Isle.

Remember several years ago, the newspaper headlines proclaiming that a flying saucer was sighted on the beach at Presque Isle and that an ape like creature emerged from this mysterious craft. An exhibit called "Memories and

Monsters" will take you back in time to some of those fun filled days in the 40's, 50's and 60's when things were very different on the Peninsula and you can "remember when." Origami birds fly overhead as their real counterparts do over the Peninsula - earning Presque Isle the designation from the National Audubon as an Important Bird Area and ranked as a major flyway for migratory birds in the United States. Learning about the power of the waves, ecological succession, about the plants and animals on the park are all interestingly and creatively depicted in the other exhibits in the hall. There is even a special place for pre-school age children with lots of hands on things for them to do and discover in the very appropriately named Discovery Classroom that is part of the exhibit hall.

Take a peek into one of the state of the art classrooms that ring the exhibit hall and you might see an environmental education specialists teaching a lesson on the "Wonders of Weather" or hear a lesson about living creatures on the park called "Who Lives at Presque Isle" or take part in a beach glass jewelry making class. In the large classroom, there might be a lecture on "Endangered Plant Species," a film on "Coyotes," or an artist in residence carving beautiful wooden bowls. Of course, the park itself is our largest classroom where the teaching and instruction at the TREC is reinforced.

Climb to the second level on a uniquely designed steel catwalk where you can get a birds' eye view of many of the exhibits and visitors' service areas on the first floor. This stairway also takes you to two other exhibit areas. Since Presque Isle is known worldwide for its extraordinary migratory bird population, a whole section is devoted to birds and bird watching. It is appropriately called the Birds'



Take the stairs to the second floor for an elevated view of the displays from our uniquely designed steel catwalks.

Nest. Here is an opportunity to explore the world of birds in a park like setting or just relax in one of the Adirondack chairs, read a book and enjoy the surroundings. The changeable exhibit area is close by. In the first months after opening, it will feature a traveling exhibit that was designed for the TREC featuring local artists' and photographers' interpretations of Presque Isle scenes and wildlife. Along with the exhibit, their original works will be on display. We are very proud and fortunate to have so many local artists of such great talent that use Presque Isle as their inspiration and continue to interpret and create incredible paintings and photographs of its many wonders.

What would the Tom Ridge Environmental Center be without its own "lighthouse" or a structure similar to one - a 75-foot tower! If you feel energetic, you can climb the 131 steps to the top or a tour guide can whisk you to the



The main exhibit hall's displays are a representative portrait of the plants, birds, animals and the general ecology of our Presque Isle State Park which boasts the largest number of visitors within the entire state park system.



A ground floor view of the TREC's 75 foot observation tower from inside the botanical research laboratory greenhouse.

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Remembering The Canoe House

by P/C John Fishby



The Canoe House looks just about exactly the same as in the early 1950's and when it was originally built here in 1917 with the wood from our first Club House.

The Erie Yacht Club has one structure on its property that is not only filled with historical significance within the annals of the club but it also holds one heck of a lot of very fond memories for me personally. The Canoe House.

The Canoe House, mysteriously referred to by our longtime Dock Master Bill Vogel as the "Boat House", was built from the exact same wood as our original clubhouse way back in 1895. Upon moving to our current location



The Canoe House was built as the Clubs' temporary Club House and then the old "stiff-legged" crane was installed.

in 1917, the original EYC Club House was dismantled with the wood being placed aboard a barge and thereby transported to our current location. The present day Canoe House was then designed and constructed from that exact same wood. The Canoe House was for a time actually used as a temporary clubhouse before a new three story structure was built and officially dedicated on August 22, 1919.

My first real involvement with the Canoe House did not occur until my family moved from Vermont Avenue to South Shore Drive. It was then that I developed, what has turned out to be, a lifelong friendship with the kid across the street, Roger Zurn. Roger's house overlooked the Club so this entire area also became my playground as well as Rogers. Most of the time, yet maybe only in our minds, we had the entire EYC and the Canoe House as our own private playground and we took full advantage of all they had to offer.

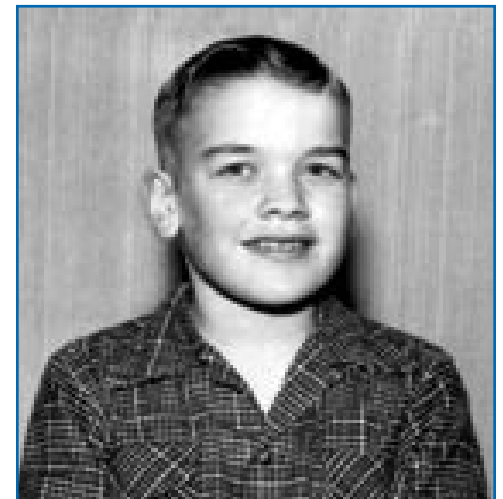
The expanse of wooded banks from their brinks to the bay's shoreline, from Ferncliff to Devil's Backbone, were an adventurous enticement just begging to be invaded by we kids. There were trails to explore, new trails to be cut and of course forts to be built as

we bravely fought off wild Indians, the Nazis menace and even North Korean invaders in our playful bid to cleanse the world of all her tyranny.

Remember, this was the early 1950's and we had to create our own adventures since there were no Game Boys, Nintendos or X Boxes or as many highly structured and organized activities that there are today during the summer months although Roger and I were both students in the Reyburn Sailing School a couple days per week. Nope, we had to entertain ourselves and like most kids in those days we were not allowed to play "inside". "Go on outside and play" was always what we were told unless it was storming to beat the band outside. This was the rule back then and was pretty much the norm regardless of the season.

So we had to create our own stuff to do and the Canoe House was something to do and we did it often throughout the summer months as well as occasionally during the spring and the fall and sometimes even in the winter along with ice skating on both the bay and EYC basin ice.

Here is one antic that was always a blast for two guys to do on ice skates. We would get a spinnaker from a small boat like a Thistle.



This is the kid who became a life long friend when I moved across the street from him in the early 1950's ... Roger Zurn.



This is the way the Canoe House looked from across the slip back in the 1930's.

Then one guy would grab the sails head fitting while the other guy would grab the other two fittings on the sail's foot and away we would go tearing down wind down the bay almost always totally out of control until one of the two would either crash or chicken out. The guy left with the sail had the responsibility to gather in that spinnaker for the next run. You know that sounds like kind of a dumb thing to do when you think about it at my age today.

Okay, so go ahead and ask "what was there to do for all you kids in connection with the Canoe House?" Well there was "lots 'a stuff" like sittin' around and waitin' for somethin' to happen. We did that a lot, that sittin' around waitin' for somethin' to happen. Sometimes we'd do that, sittin' around waitin' for somethin' to happen and shootin' da bull and havin' another 6 oz. bottle of Coke and shootin' da bull some more.

You know again I have to admit, that to me today, this also doesn't really sound like much was actually being accomplished or even going on for that matter. But then I guess you had to be there, I mean you know right there "smack dab in the middle" of all that stuff to really be able to grasp the whole picture. You know what I mean. You were a kid once too!

Later, after Roger and I rid the world of all that injustice and tyranny, by that I mean, "we got too old to play 'guns' anymore", there was this older guy who quite willingly helped all of us find something constructive to do during the summers. His name was I. Martin Pomorski. We all just called him "Marty" and he made our previous routine of sittin' around and lookin' for somethin' ta do and drinkin' all those 6 oz. bottles of Coke seem like maybe we were wasting our time at least a little bit. But good old Marty sure took care of that situation in a hurry and I have to admit, we had a



ball in our new considerably more structured environment.

Marty was the Club's lone outside, or yard, employee. That meant he was the electrician, the welder, the carpenter, the chief tender driver, the boat launcher and puller, the club's first shift guard, all that in addition to his full time job as the dock master. And that Marty was truly an amazing guy, for he could conjure up some of the most confounded contraptions you ever laid your eyes on for whatever task there was at hand. And Marty's "Rube Goldbergs" designs always got the jobs done and done well.

Just like today, the club needed a lot of things built, fixed and refurbished around the property which meant that Marty needed help. Not surprisingly, Marty found the help that he and the Club both needed in a bunch of shiftless young louts who were always and forever just hanging around the Canoe House, day-in and day-out, engaged in what Marty figured was "just plain old wasting time."

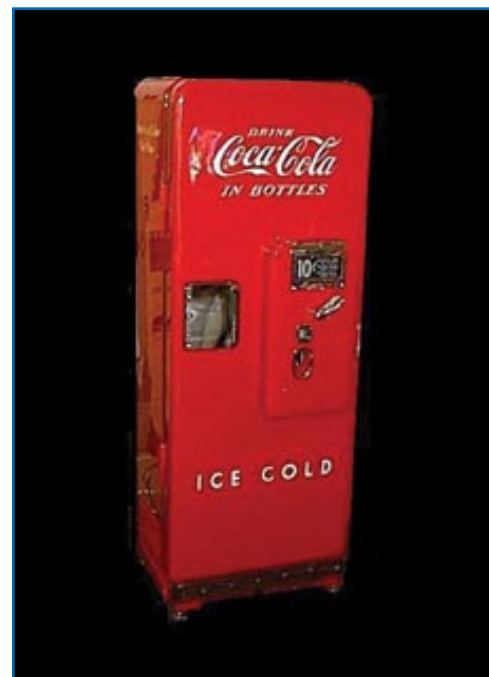
So Marty, as it came to pass, literally "impressed" the bunch of us into the service of the club. We built docks, worked on re-anchoring the keg field, cleaning up, painting up and generally helped Marty fix up whatever was broken down. And we loved it. We loved every minute of it, "working with



This is our friend and mentor, our pal and leader, this is Marty Pomorski better known to some simply as "Turn-a-Round".

Marty." And all of this labor was preformed without any form of monetary remuneration, or any other financial considerations whatsoever from either Marty or the Club, not even one penny nor one red cent. What is a "red cent" anyway?

At the ages of 9 to 12 or even 13 or 15 years old it did not take much of an incentive to entice young men to get down and dirty in the service of their beloved club. In our case it was letting us kids "drive the club's tractor and Marty's 1951 Ford sedan which had a standard three speed manual column shift transmission. Yup, we'd drive these vehicles all around the property in the service for our pal Mr. I. Martin "Marty" Pomorski and our beloved Erie Yacht Club. Under age driving was all the enticement that was needed for a bunch of kids to work their butts off all around the club's property. We not



The Canoe House's "big red" Coke machine that we had to deal with back in the 50's was pretty much as shown above but bigger.

only had the time of our lives doing it but at the same time we were helping to build and rebuild our club at no cost to the members. That Marty Pomorski was some kind of a genius in knowing just exactly what it would take to make it all happen.

There were a number of other fringe benefits bestowed upon us too, like having the opportunity to pilot the club's "tender." Again, Marty knew the answer on how to motivate a bunch of young men because to him it was simple. He knew that kids would do anything if you gave them the responsibility normally reserved for an adult along with the proper training and guidance to insure their proficiency at the task and the ability to preform those tasks safely. Marty realized that we would jump at the chance to prove ourselves capable everytime. Yep, and we were all very happy doing it all for free. "Man O' man" was it great ... drivin' those

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Pontoon Boating the Lagoons

"A Volunteer's Perspective"
by Paul Wiser

The pontoon boat program has been a very successful, highly popular program on Presque Isle State Park and is run by professional staff and volunteers alike. The three key aspects for ensuring the success for this program with respect to the pontoon driver, listed in importance, are:

- Leadership / facilitator with good social skills in handling a captive audience/crew for one hour.
- Competent boat handling and nautical judgement.
- A good knowledge of the biology and history of the lagoon and Misery Bay area and how to present it in an informative as well as entertaining manner.

This is an appeal, for those who have "gone down to sea in ships", to your beloved yachts, with anticipation to showing your guests how fine our waterways really are, and then to wow them with a front row seat to nature's moving art form ... our world class sunsets. You waited, and waited, and then waited some more for your crew to arrive, but it was not to be. How many no-shows have dashed your anticipated outings? Erie after all, is a town of competing clubs and conflicting time schedules. However, there is a place just north of the city, a special waterway where there is a boat and waiting line of enthusiastic crew ready to board. There are still times when there are not enough qualified volunteer skippers to meet the demand.

Hospitality, isn't that what yachting is all about? Hospitality is the reason as to why one would be a volunteer in charge of a public boat filled with tourists and visitors at a state park. In regards to public relations, volunteers at state parks emphasize the personalization of an otherwise professionally run state park. Just like running your own boat, the crew knows that your knowledge and services will not earn you any money, and they are there to share your motivation and enthusiasm. Whether it is your own yacht or the Presque Isle Pontoon boat, your crew had volunteered to be held captive on your craft, and they are sharing their valuable free time with you.

Over the years, my boating at EYC involved sailing Fireballs, Stars, Thistles, Lazars and my present Kirby 25. All beautiful boats. But then, does a boat's beauty and grace make the true yachtsperson? Do you have it within you, to be able to find affection in perhaps, an ugly boat? Indeed, have you ever encountered a boat that you did not eventually bond to? If you simply love boats, read on.

Consider mastering the Presque Isle pontoon boat. It does not even have a proper, sentimental or pet name, it is all utilitarian, it does not draw attention to itself, and it probably reminds you of an overstuffed container ship, and steers like one too. And yet, over the years I have bonded with it. It does have this one wow factor. Keep in mind, most small boat and yacht outings have well under the 18 people that you will have as a norm. That translates to well over a ton of precious cargo.

In this land of lawsuits and legality, there are not many opportunities where you can consistently haul this many trusting people under the blessing of state park officials, on a public owned boat as a volunteer. Further more, this program is one of the most popular programs at Presque Isle. The fish and boat commission safety course is required, and of course some basic knowledge of the park. Your lecture topics can be of your personal nautical experiences as well.

The boat is more stable than motorboats and sailboats in general. On departing, be sure to unplug the charging chord, this is an electric boat. Underway it is commonly understood that the helm must be attended to and that the boat is under control at all times while you lecture. With you in charge you can stop the

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Picnic Time



by Norm Wilson

Imagine! A petting zoo, alpine ascent challenge, pony riding, free sundaes, and live music... all on the front lawn of the EYC.

Families re-acquaint while the kids enjoy the fun. Parents can share the relaxing, friendly and family designed venue on Sunday, July 16th.

The best reference for anything is from friends. You'll see - the fact is that the Annual EYC FAMILY PICNIC is a special occasion.





Construction Has Begun!

by R/C John Murosky



Construction has begun on the north wall with the installation of the deadman retainer anchors.

The trenching for the bulkhead and electrical improvements has been started. Tom Tushak Inc. will be performing the excavation and flowable fill portion of the project. Penelec will be installing the new high voltage line that will feed L, M, N and O docks. Members will see a trench being dug from the east side of the clubhouse near the galley out to L dock and going north towards the lighthouse and then turning west towards the basin channel entrance. Once this is done a six foot wide concrete walkway will be installed along the bulkhead of M, N and O docks. New pavement will be done by McCormick Construction and landscaping will follow during the summer. The new fixed and floating docks will be installed starting on or around mid-september.

The Bridge and Board appreciates your co-operation during this much needed renovation. This project needs to be done sooner rather than later and will take about five years to complete, leaving us all with a basin to be proud of and it will benefit our Club for years to come.



Pontoon Boating the Lagoons (continued from page 8)

boat, beach the boat, anchor the boat, paddle or pole the boat or call maintenance on the radio, should that occasion happen. This is really not a glamorous sport boat, it says "do not pay any attention to me, pay attention to your beautiful surroundings". The electric motor under full charge will give you all the power you need for making way. However, to you experienced experts of both sail and motor craft, take heed, maneuvering the pontoon boat, is a challenge, but it can be done, to some degree. In the lagoon area, anticipate fishing boats and lines, floating "weed" patches, narrow channels, shallow water, stray logs, the occasional overturned canoe, and the clueless skippers in rentals. This is to be expected and is a good way to show your patience. It comes with the territory. Pay attention to the weather. The Cleveland weather channel will not always announce local storms, and they can come up fast. The trees at the dock obscure the horizon and you cannot see what is coming until it is right on you. A light rain will usually not

deter the crew from an outing, but the driver should make the final decision. An electrical storm in an aluminum boat in open water is not good. Docking the boat is a challenge, it can be a source of pride or embarrassment. Pontoon boats are rudderless and have shallow drafts, which make them very sensitive to wind. When slowing up, remember you have no rudder and the slower you go, the less steerage and maneuvering you have. If you make a perfect landing in adverse wind with this craft ... consider joining the US Coast Guard. But for the rest of us, consider a safe dockage with no banged fingers, successful.

It all boils down to your experience with your crew. You will get to know a more diverse group of people. You may also schedule special groups that you may know of. They will remember your curiosity and enthusiasm on lecture subjects, and they will want to know more about your experiences. There is a vast amount of topics, trivia, visual aids, and equipment (net, dredge, underwater video camera) at your disposal. This is one job that will make you want to learn more about the park.



SUNSET ON THE DECK MORPHED INSURING THAT THE GOOD TIMES WILL ROLL

BY ALEX WEBSTER

For all of us who have been anxiously awaiting the first signs of spring, I have one more for you! The Club has planned Thursday happy hours that will knock your socks OFF. Live entertainment, snacks, Elvis, Corvettes.

Happy hour on the deck begins on June 1st. Toby will kick off our 2006 season with tunes, beer and drink specials. There will also be complimentary hot snacks served as well.

But wait, I'm just getting started! In June there will be also be a "Brat and Brew" night, Live entertainment will be on the deck with Uncharted Course, The Ridge Runners on the 22nd and on the 29th, Elvis will swing his hips on the deck (or an Elvis impersonator anyway).

In July, look forward to LIVE entertainment on many Thursdays with "The Dick and Jane Show", "Abbey Road"; one of the regions most acclaimed tribute bands. They play Beatles tunes, usually to a packed house anywhere I have seen them play. "Sunny Jim White" is in Erie for a special event and will play at a member's request at EYC. He plays tunes in the Jimmy Buffett style of music. "Easy Street", in the vein of The "Ridge Runners" round out the month of July. There will also be a meeting of the Corvette Club on the 6th of July. This will mean many classic and modern corvettes on display at the Club.

August will boast "The Ridge Runners" for another performance on a "Brat and Brew" night at the beginning of the month, followed by the "Acoustic Gypsies", "The Dick and Jane Show", with "Shrimp on the Barbie". On the 31st there will also be another meeting of the Corvette Club at EYC.

As summer winds down in September, two last happy hours to hold us over until next year, "The Dick and Jane Show" will make one more appearance and "Uncharted Course" will send us off on "Halfway to St. Patty's Day".

So there is a little bit for everyone this summer at happy hour, and of course, there will be fantastic sunsets and lots of FUN! So stop by on any Thursday evening, it is bound to be a blast.



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49th Lake Erie Interclub Cruise June 24th to June 28th Be There.



A race multiplied by five...Grrrrreat!

The Lake Erie Interclub Cruise is celebrating its 49th Annual International event since its founding in 1957. If you have never experienced the Interclub Cruise before you have got to get your life going and get involved "cause it's a blast."

Here's a little history on the Interclub. The Lake Erie Interclub Cruise was created in 1957 to provide a challenging series of Lake Erie port-to-port races for cruising and racing auxiliary sailboats, and to allow sufficient opportunity for the membership of participating clubs to have fellowship while enjoying the best tradition of competitive yacht racing. Suitable trophies and keeper awards are presented to winners in every race and in all divisions.

If you want to learn more about the when, where and how to sign up for this year's event simply go to www.erieinterclub.com because it is all there. You will learn about the schedule, all the various divisions, dockage requirements, customs and immigration, historical facts, registration information and more.

So don't procrastinate, debate, delay, dither, dillydally or pussyfoot around. Get up, get going and get er' done. Get involved with the 49th Annual Lake Erie Interclub Cruise and you'll find out how great habits are created.



A party multiplied by six...Beeeeautifull

Does Hydrophobia Compromise Your Boating Pleasure?

by Doris Veihdeffer



Yes and OK! ... I'm afraid of the water and I hate swimming off the boat in a big, sightless, abysmal body of water.

This scenario was true for me when our family enjoyed recreational sailing. Boating on a summer day always ended with a barbecue on the boat and a swim. I loathed it – not realizing that a morbid fear of the water was taunting me and robbing me of a sea of delight.

There are obstacles to swimming that can be misconstrued as fear if a person refuses to enter the water because of them, such as getting water up your nose and choking, loss of breath, fear of opening one's eyes in the water, being cold, etc. These are stumbling blocks that can result in a reluctance to swim.

Hydrophobia is not simple timidity or anxiety. Folks experiencing this kind of dread are in a class by themselves. I knew that if I entered that cold, uninviting, wet world I would probably never be seen again.

Studies have shown that the fearful non-swimmer is not a timid person by nature. They are socially well-adjusted and have more than the average will to achieve.

Fear of water is intensified if it isn't handled when first recognized. The longer it persists the more it grows. Loss of control in the water is inevitable.

Supporting devices promote dependency and give a false sense of security. Life jackets are in a different category, being mandatory equipment on board and a safe option when swimming off the boat. Anyone who is not an expert swimmer should wear a life jacket even at the cost of "being cool".

In time, I became mortified to be a lonely spectator on the boat. It was time to act. I did not feel the need for professional psychological help. I had not been exposed to previous traumatic experiences.

I decided to search for a swimming instructor. I knew competitive swimmers and life guards, but their forte did not include teaching challenged students.

In time, I located an aquatics instructor who was experienced in water-related phobias and who was perceptive to the needs of each student. She made our return to the water slow and easy. At first, some people were so petrified that wading in a very shallow pool was all they could do.

During the adjustment period, we stood in the water at increasingly deeper depths, holding hands for support if necessary. Deep knee bends came next, submerging only up to the chin. Loving it or not, we were in the water making strides.

Moving on meant the ultimate surrender: getting our faces in the water. (Yikes!) All we did was blow bubbles. Little did we know this was our initiation into proper breathing technique. There was more to come.

Above and beyond the call of duty came the "Bobs" – total submersion using deep knee bends. At first we held our breath. Then we progressed to holding our breath on the way down and exhaling on the way up, clearing the surface of the water.

Practicing bobs seemed an eternity and it was here the cut was made within the class – some made it and some elected to "bail out". Those remaining were determined to tough it out. Learning to breathe in the water was a break-through.

When floating was introduced, we really tightened up. Getting one's face in the water was crucial, but hey, we could do it because of those everlasting "bobs". Floating led to gliding, and on we went. Deep water was becoming a comfortable environment.

By the close of the course, we had learned to jump fearlessly into the deep end of the pool fully dressed – removed our shirt, shorts, and shoes – and swam to safety, swimming suit intact.

I credit the success we achieved to the insight of a caring and talented instructor. She led us through the critical phase of water adjustment to reach a goal we all thought impossible. We reached a sense of control about ourselves so that control in the water came to us unconsciously.

This article is a take-off on a personal experience and is not meant to be a treatise on how to swim or how to deal with phobias. Hopefully, others with the same problem will become positive about their fears and seek assistance. Phobias can be conquered. Fulfillment is attainable.



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Serious Sailing Serious Fun.®

by Holly O'Hare

Photos by Fried Elliott



The Snipe USA National Championship is coming to the Erie Yacht Club July 8-14. 2006 marks 75 years of the class and the Erie Yacht Club is very excited to host this prestigious event. The Snipe Class is one of the largest one-design classes with over 30,000 boats worldwide! You can find the Snipe Class active in more than 26 countries including Russia, Japan, Brazil, Spain, and the United States. Although the Snipe Class has some of the best competition in the world, the class has not lost sight of the importance of social events and, in fact, many regattas are as well known for their parties as they are for their racing. The essence of the class is summed up by its motto: Serious Sailing, Serious Fun. ®

The Snipe USA Junior Nationals are held the weekend prior to the start of the Open Nationals July 9-10. The top two finishers in the Jr. Nationals will qualify for the 2007 Junior Worlds. The Open Nationals runs Monday thru Friday with two races scheduled per day. All races will be sailed in Presque Isle Bay making for some great spectating. Organizers expect 60-75 boats with some 150 snipe sailors and friends invading the Erie Yacht Club for a week. Please welcome our guests and extend that great EYC hospitality.

How can I help?

No event of this size can happen without help. We need local volunteers and sponsors to help support this event. Volunteers are needed for measurement, race committee, and registration. Both weekend and weekday shifts are available. Whatever you can do to help is greatly appreciated.

As you can imagine there are a lot of costs associated with running a week-long event of this size. Without our sponsors, none of this would be possible. To date we have Erie Beer, Harken, Ronstan, Team Foxy, APS, West Marine/Boat US, Luna Wines, North Sails, Quantum Sail, and Ocean Potion signed up. We would love to see some more local sponsors help with the event. Please let us know if you can help.

If you would like to be part of this fun event as a volunteer or sponsor, please contact Holly O'Hare at holliso@obyc.com or Julie Arthurs at jularthurs@aol.com. For event details, visit the EYC website at <http://www.erieyachtclub.org/2006snipe.htm>. If you would like to know more about the class visit <http://www.snipeus.org/> or <http://www.snipe.org/>.

See you on the water!





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First Annual Wilfred Redfish Tournament

by Captain Fritz Curtze

This peaceful scene of the tranquil waters of the Gulf of Mexico at sunset was not so tranquil three days after this photo was taken as Wilma, not to be confused with Fred Flintstone's wife, the hurricane slammed into the west coast, "right here", then caused havoc across the state.

Okay.

So what do eight (normally) level-headed fishing competitors do in the face of a threatening October hurricane? They head DIRECTLY into its predicted path to catch the 'hot bite' just before the storm, of course. How can anybody resist that?



These 22' high powered backwater platforms were a real thrill as we shot across the Pine Island Sound at 50 to 70 mph.

This wasn't the intended scenario when Itchy Penman planned the tourney, but it's precisely what happened. Dubbed the First Annual 2005 Wilfred Redfish Catch & Eat Tournament, it was supposed to be a few days of fishin' and funnin' in the beautiful Pine Island Sound area

of southwest Florida. The "Islamorada Five" gang – Al Church, Fritz Curtze, Mickey McMahon, Itch Penman and Glenn Thompson – added some new blood for this competition: Chris "Wilfred" Wolford, John Ashby and Itch's brother-in-law TJ Emblidge.

October 21st and 22nd were the scheduled fishing days – weather permitting. Four teams, four boats, four guides and eight big egos were on the line. Sound good? Almost.

One small catch: Hurricane Wilma was bearing down on the exact area of Florida that we intended to fish ... the very same area that was in evacuation-mode as we boarded from Tom Ridge Field. I must admit, I was seriously wondering if we were doing the smart thing. But go we did.

The original plan was to fish the Pine Island Sound from Punta Rassa for Redfish, Sea-trout and Snook. Because of calm seas and favorable tides, we would also be able to go offshore of North Captiva via Redfish Pass if we wanted.

The boats we chartered were classic high-power shallow-draft backwater fishing rigs. These extra-cool 22' platforms sported 250-horsepower, 4-stroke outboards and were capable of speeds from 50 to 70 miles per hour.

Equipped with Power-Poles and hydraulic transom jack-plates, these boats were able to FLY over the "skinniest water" you can imagine. (That's guide-talk for "shallow".)

As usual, Itch had done his homework and had four excellent Captains hired for our competition. Local Captains Terry Davis and son Eric, nephew Sean Davis and Danny Fabian



P/C Chris Wolford, for whom the "Wilfred" Redfish Tournament was named, caught the biggest Snook of the event but it was too big via Florida regulations and it was released.

made up the list. Glenn and TJ teamed with Eric, Mick and Al with Terry, Itch and John with Dan (and why not, John was married to a Fabian for twenty years, so that's the logic?), and Sean guided Chris and me.



Years of extensive fishing experience helped our host, Itchy Penman, land this trophy bait fish. "How long is she and how much she weigh?"

After launching the rigs at Punta Rassa, we all roared off to catch the day's live baitfish. Here's where I first saw the fore-mentioned Power Poles in action. Mounted on the transom next to the outboard, it was a composite fiberglass pole – approximately 1-1/2" diameter – that was hydraulically 'shoved' into the sea bottom at the flick of a switch. Being in 2 to 3 feet of water, it basically pinned the boat in place for baitfishing ease. No anchor, no line, no hassle. NO PROBLEM! I only wish I could use something like that on Lake Erie.

Utilizing menhaden-oil-soaked breadcrumbs for attraction, large 8-to-10 foot diameter "throw-nets" are hurled over the feeding pinfish schools and retrieved into live bait wells. We also nabbed minnows they called "white baits" – CANDY for big snook (I feel the key to being a good Florida fisherman is to be a great BAIT fisherman. The better the bait, the better the target fish).

When Captain Sean felt we had enough live bait, we headed out to the redfish grounds near Captiva. Damage from hurricane Charlie was visibly evident by the ravaged trees and

resorts/residences there ... roofs torn off, windows smashed, trees twisted and downed, and access roads to luxury ocean-front homes completely destroyed. Surveying the damage first hand made me truly second-guess our sanity for "EVEN BEING THERE". (I don't care for 40-mph winds, let alone 120 to 150-mph!) But "Stats" McMahon kept a close eye on the weather channel, and assured us that Wilma had stalled a bit and wouldn't be a problem (for us, anyway) during our brief stay.

As Sean's boat *FISH WARRIOR* approached a destination just south of Charlie Pass (a pass created just one year ago by Hurricane Charlie), we observed Al and Mick both battling good reds at the same time, with Glenn and TJ close by casting pinfish toward the shoreline. The pinfish used for bait reminded me of a small bluegill, which was hooked through the top of the mouth with a #2/0 OWNER live bait circle-hook. This allowed the bait to swim freely after being propelled into the danger zone. Top-end spinning rods loaded with STREN 20-lb. super-braid comprised the rest of our captain's fish-busting arsenal. We fished hard until the noon deadline: now on to LUNCH!

Designed to break the rigors of tournament fishing, Itch planned for us all to head for the Cabbage Key Restaurant & Bar – a place made famous by Jimmy Buffet's song "Cheeseburger in Paradise". Idyllic in a palm tree setting, the old establishment is literally plastered inside with dollar bills on every inch of the bar, ceiling and seating area bearing the owner's name in Sharpie fashion. Tasty clam chowder and THE best cheeseburgers were washed down with a few favorite adult beverages before we headed backwater again.

[continued on page 34](#)



Captain Danny Fabian, as all our Captains, were experts at presenting the bait fish nets and they made it look easy. It's not.

These magnificent ocean view homes tangled with Hurricane Charlie the year before and no one can predict when they will once again be liveable.



"Pretty Good For an Old Goat"

by Jan Stachelek



The "old goat" referred to is none other than long time EYC member David Preston, and while I would never presume to address him as such, it is his standard response to anyone who asks how he is doing. At 87 years young, he seemed spry enough to me when I sat down to chat with him over lunch a few weeks ago. Dave has been a member of the EYC for forty years and I was eager to get his impression of how the Club has evolved over the years, as well as learn a bit more of his personal history.

Dave has had a life-long love of boating. While living along the Bronx River, his first boat was a paddle boat that he designed and built himself. During WWII, Dave served as a Navy skipper aboard an LCT 725 in the South Pacific where he honed his boating skills on the

high seas. Following the war, Dave became a professional engineer, both structural and mechanical. He and his wife, Marnie, settled in Ohio and began family life with the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth. But Dave never lost his love of boating, and when he became part owner of Erie Industrial Supply in 1966, he immediately applied for membership to the EYC. He has been active in and around the Club ever since.

The first boat Dave owned as an EYC member was a 35ft. custom built diesel he named "Marnie." It was an exciting time for the Club. The building plans for the new clubhouse had just been voted in and talk of expansion and dock renovation abounded. Dave's input as a structural engineer was critical when it came to dock renovation and the quality of his de-

sign and construction of "I" dock is still evident today. Dave was also responsible for the expansion of the D, and E docks. Inside the Club, Dave acted as the secretary/treasurer for 12 years! He also began what has come to be known as the "Captain's Table." As Dave explained it to me, the new clubhouse's grill room was rather small and tended to get very crowded at lunchtime. Dave suggested that one large table for twelve should be set up in the center of the dining room. "That way, he said, "anyone who came in for lunch and



Dave's pride and joy, his beautiful 41' Hatteras *Marnie* he skippered for over thirty years was entrusted to PDYC member Gary White in 2004.



The fun loving, hell raising other side of the "Old Goat" celebrating New Years in the 1970's.

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could not find seating would be asked to join whoever was at the large table.” Over time, it became known as the “Captain’s Table,” and eventually, Dave and 11 of his cohorts began the ritual of meeting there every Wednesday for lunch. The table is long gone, and many of the cohorts have either passed on or moved on, but the tradition continues. Every Wednesday, barring extremely bad weather, David Preston and his friend, EYC member John Rall, still meet for lunch, and that is where I knew I would find them for this interview.

Dave’s wife, Marnie, was never an avid boater. In fact, he said, “she pretty much hated it.” But Dave believed that she might enjoy it more if she had a bit more space and more of the comforts of home. In the 1970s, he purchased a beautiful 41ft. Hatteras from resigning EYC member Al Lucas. I have personally been on this boat and I know that it is a classic beauty, but when asked if it did the trick for Marnie, Dave replied, “Nope, she just didn’t like boats.” Marnie passed away in 1991, and while Dave still very much enjoyed the Hatteras, it eventually became too much of a chore. He sold the boat to P/C Gary White from the Port Dover Yacht Club two years ago. Since then, Gary has been lovingly restoring it to its original beauty. Last summer, Gary brought the boat back to Erie so that Dave could see how the work was progressing. I spoke to Gary recently and he told me that he considered it high praise when Mr. Preston succinctly said, “Good job.”

These days, Dave Preston is far from idle. He stills works as a consultant for various engineering projects in the region. He also enjoys spending time with his daughter Elizabeth, and granddaughter, Wendy, who gave birth to triplets Antonia, Brian, and Celeste last May, making Dave a very proud great-grandfather. He has definite opinions about the changes around the Club and its direction for the future, some good and some bad. A consummate professional, he only hopes that whatever projects are undertaken, they be done by the highest quality professionals money can buy or not be done at all. He believes in building things that are meant to last and that stand the test of time. If “I” dock is any example, he has a valid point.



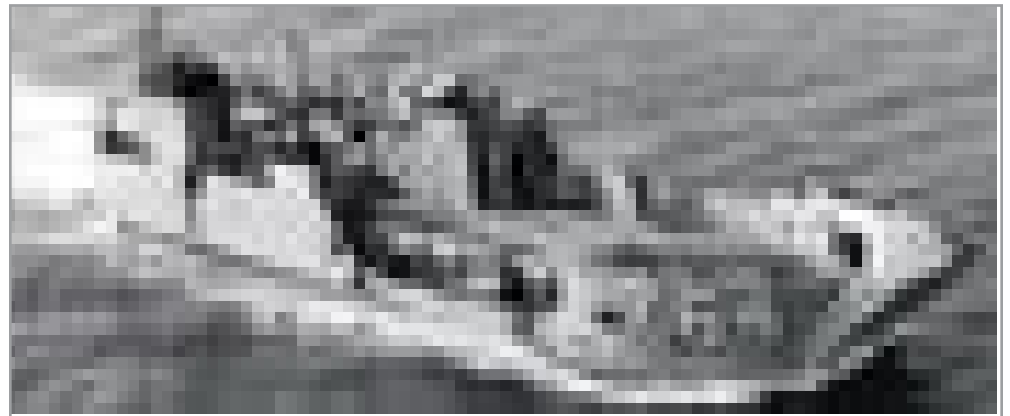
A much more subdued “Mr. Secretary/Treasurer” Dave on New Years Eve with the early 90’s officers (l to r) R/C Bill Lasher, F/C John Ashby, V/C Fritz Busse, the “Old Goat” himself and Commodore Bob Allshouse.

Now, for those of you who might be wondering why my byline always appears above articles written for the Log involving the history of many of the EYC’s old-timers, it is because our editor-in-chief, John Ashby, has, in what I consider questionable judgment, designated me the “roving old-timer reporter at-large.” And although originally, I vehemently resisted this designation, I must admit that I

have come to really enjoy my chats with some of the Club’s oldest members. So, if there are any other “old goats” out there who would like their history with the Club recorded in the Log for all time, just give me a call. I will be happy to sit down and reminisce with you.



Dave skippered a Navy LCT Landing Craft in the Pacific during World War II just like the one pictured here.



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Join The Kentucky Derby Tradition

by Jill Robertson



For 132 years Louisville, KY, has hosted the "Run for the Roses". Tickets for this year's event at Churchill Downs are almost SOLD OUT. Don't worry about transportation, directions, hotel reservations and tickets to race, the Erie Yacht Club will again be bringing the excitement here with it's Annual Kentucky Derby Day Party.

This year's Annual Kentucky Derby Day Party is an afternoon and evening event for you and the entire family to enjoy at the Club and just look at your choices of food and seating options.

The Kentucky Derby Party begins at 4:30 with your choice of either Veggie Platters at \$9.95 or Cheese and Meat platter at \$11.95. Their is reserved seating in the Ballroom with a 12 Foot Big Screen or general seating in the rest of the Club with your choice of four other TV's to view the "Run for The Roses".

Dinner service begins at 5:30 with our regular menu entries with the race taking place at 6 pm.

Cap off another great day at the Club with a D.J. and dancing from 8 pm to 11 pm. This is another Churchill Downs fun packed tradition of food, friends, fun and the thrill of the thoroughbred opener of the famed Triple Crown of racing ... Kentucky Derby Day at your Erie Yacht Club.

Members and their guests should arrive early to get a good parking space, 'front row' seat and to enjoy the Mint Juleps, food and spirited speculation on the ability of this year's field.

So get on your pony and mark your calendar, call your friends and be here on Saturday, May 6th for the 132nd running of the Kentucky Derby.



Remembering The Canoe House (continued from page 7)

vehicles and runnin' that tender and bein' a kid with the Erie Yacht Club and the Canoe House as your own private playground."

Now, I do not want to leave you with the impression that our friend and mentor, Mr. I. Martin "Marty" Pomorski, was not a caring and appreciative man who simply knew the secret of how to get a bunch of scruffy kids to work their tails off for no apparent reason or compensation. Please remember, we were compensated handsomely by the opportunities afforded us to drive underage to say nothing of Captaining the club's tender, but there was an even greater reward Marty had planned for us as compensation for all our work, sweat and toil.

Every year, near the end of the boating season and before we went back to school, Marty did something special, something that only Marty could make really special. Marty started, as his personal thank you to the eight or ten of us who worked with him throughout the summer months, an event that we dubbed "Marty's Hash House". Marty's Hash House was essentially a cook out or a picnic that Marty would throw at the Canoe House just for us, his kids work crew. He would not only supply all the food and drink but also Marty did all the cooking. There was something else that Marty was very proud of that he shared with us, he would prepare his own secret recipe, or concoction, of his Special Polish Meat Sauce to treat our young taste buds to an old Polish tradition. And Marty's Special Polish Meat



The Canoe House has served the EYC in so many of temporary clubhouse to maintenance building to

Sauce was absolutely "scrumpdillyicious" as we would adorn our hamburgs and hot dogs with it in big heaps. Marty's wife would also supply the Hash House crew with her fantastic potato salad and loads of other items that made it all a truly special event that none of us will ever forget.

This "little" once a year Hash House event that Marty did just for just us guys as his thank you for all our help was an event that did not stay "little" for long.



Wrong color but same 1951 vintage Ford Sedan that was owned by the EYC's legendary figure Marty Pomorski and the car that the Canoe House kids learned how to drive in.



different venues since its construction in 1917 from the new home of the Reyburn Sailing School.

The reputation that Marty's Hash House created spread far and wide for all its great food, fun and frivolity, that was of course topped off with Marty's Special Polish Meat Sauce. It got so popular, with scores of other members wanting to attend, that it nearly became a regular club function just barely escaping the club's official event calendar.

If you were a part of this era at the Erie Yacht Club you understand why I am reminiscing. If you were not part of that era, I hope you have enjoyed our little journey back in time ... back to a time when we kids thought the Erie Yacht Club and especially the Canoe House were just all part of our own private playground. It was sure a great place to grow up the Erie Yacht Club.



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Celebra

111th Opening Day Ceremonies on May 29th

by P/C John Ashby

Mark your calendar. Put a note on your refrigerator door. Tie a string around your finger. Do whatever it takes, but be here at your beautiful Erie Yacht Club for our 111th Opening Day Ceremonies on Memorial Day, Monday, May 29th.

The traditional "Call To Colors" will be trumpeted across the waters of Presque Isle Bay and our EYC basin at 1150 hours as one and all gather to remember those lost to us and to celebrate a new beginning this Memorial Day. Friends, family, food and fun are the fare of the day.

Free sailboat rides for children in the Yacht Club main basin immediately after the opening ceremonies, weather permitting. Any member's child or grandchild is welcome to participate. Reyburn Sailing School instructors will be on hand to give rides for a couple of hours while interest lasts. Children should know how to swim and a properly fitting life jacket is required.

So please join Commodore Jim Means, his Officers and other Dignitaries as we celebrate together the official beginning of another boating season in the long annals of your Erie Yacht Club.



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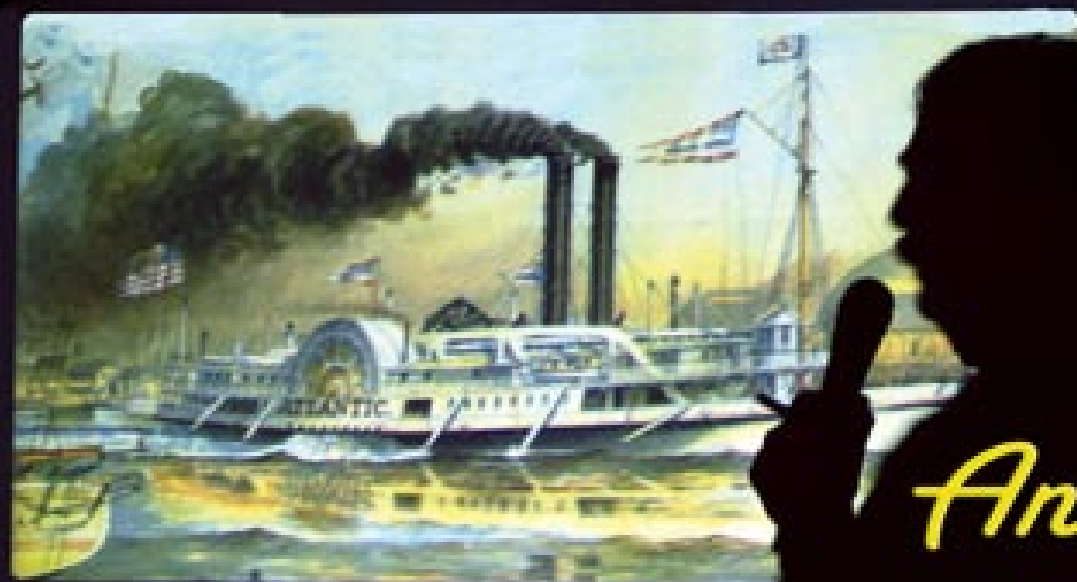
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An Evening with Dr. David R. Frew

by David Heintzenrader

The Steamer Atlantic

On March 12th the Erie Yacht Club Racing Fleet in conjunction with RCR Yachts presented an evening with Dr. David Frew in the EYC banquet room. Dr. Frew spoke to an attentive audience of sailors interested in three separate topics of local interest including; The sinking of the Atlantic, points of interest of Long Point, Ontario and the Prohibition Rum Runners.

The attendees were presented the details of the 1852 sinking of the 267' state of the art passenger steamship 'Atlantic' off the tip of Long Point, a location that many of us have passed

over on our voyages to Port Dover. The audience also listened to the adventuresome stories of Long Point including the lawlessness and pirates, who as Dr. Frew explained were the underlying cause of many of the numerous groundings that occurred during vessels unsuccessful attempts to pass Long Point en route to Western Lake Erie destinations. He spoke on the geography of the area including the channels or cuts as they were known plus the many light houses and tragic shipwrecks at the point. The program also included an overview of the points of interest in the area

from the Port Dover Maritime Museum and infamous pub legitimately tagged "The Brig" to the 600' stacks and power plant at Nanticoke that on a clear day, you can spy from I-90.

The program included some very interesting stories of how geography plus the dovetailing of Canadian and US law contributed to the development of local Rum Runners, some of whom had an Erie Yacht Club connection. If you somehow missed the program, you are very fortunate and may still acquire the details of these interesting tales of fast boats, booze and gangsters in Frew's newest work, "Mid-

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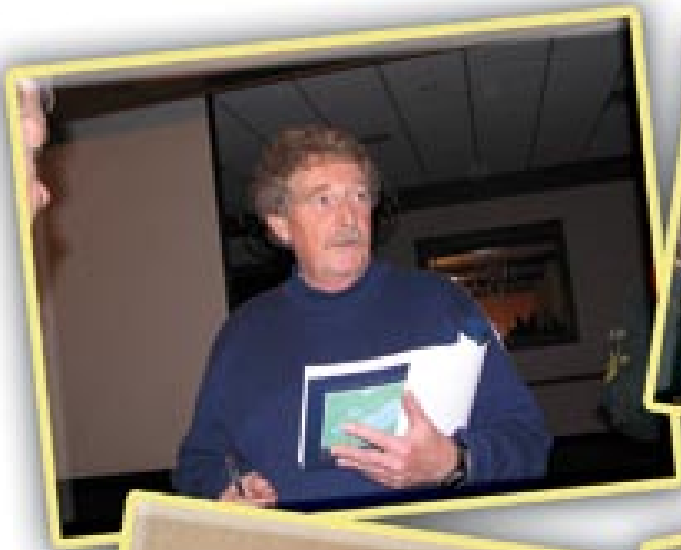


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night Herring" available from the Erie County Historical Society.

A nominal admission fee was collected for the evening program that was forwarded to the Erie County Historical Society for its use, as are all of the sale proceeds of Dr. Frew's books and publications.

Dr. Frew is the current Executive Director of the Erie County Historical Society, a retired professor of management at Gannon University and former chair of the Erie Yacht Club's Historical Committee. He has penned over 20 books and more than 100 articles and pa-

pers. Among others we are all familiar with is "The Lake Erie Quadrangle: Waters of Repose". He captains his Nonesuch 30 Ashram moored at the Erie Yacht Club sailing his with his wife Mary Ann and family. He managed a 1991 Canadian Studies Grant that help launch his interest in the study of regional and Great Lakes history that is ultimately responsible for his current status and expertise.



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May Calendar of Club Events

- 2nd Italian Night Menu in the Grill Room
- 3rd EYC Auxiliary Spring Luncheon & Fashion Show
Mid-Week Buffet 5:30 - 9pm
- 6th Kentucky Derby Day
(See article on page 22)
- 7th Champagne Sunday Brunch
11am - 2pm \$11.95
- 9th Italian Night Menu in the Grill Room
- 10th Mid-Week Buffet 5:30 - 9pm
- 14th Mothers Day Dinner Buffet
Two Options to pick from. . .
Special Brunch Buffet 10:30 - 3pm
entertainment by Carla McKrell or
Special Dinner Prime Rib Buffet
from 5:30 to 7:30pm with
entertainment by Jim Madden
Reservations Required 453-4931
- 16th Italian Night Menu in the Grill Room
- 17th Mid-Week Buffet 5:30 - 9:00pm
- 21st Champagne Sunday Brunch
11am - 2pm \$11.95
- 23rd Italian Night Menu in the Grill Room
- 24th Mid-Week Buffet 5:30 - 9pm
- 26th Lobsterfest-1 1/2 lb. Lobster per
person & all you can eat Snow Crab,
Peel & Eat Shrimp, Steamed Mussels,
Steamed Clams, Garlic New Potatoes,
Corn on the Cob, Boston Creme Pie
\$48.95 plus tax & gratuity with
entertainment from the dance band
"Intent"
- 28th Champagne Sunday Brunch
11am - 2pm \$11.95

NEW FOR 2006

"Erie Dinghy Sailing"

by David McBrier

In 2006 and Beyond the Erie Dinghy Fleet Goal is to Start, Grow and Maintain a Dinghy Sailing Fleet in Erie, PA.

The New Erie Dinghy Fleet is all about having fun and getting out on the water. It's about enjoying the company of other sailors and the exceptional sailing venue Erie, Pennsylvania has to offer. The Erie Dinghy Fleet does not discriminate. The Erie Dinghy Fleet is open to all ages and abilities as well as all types of Centerboard and Daggerboard Boats. We encourage you to find a boat and join us. If you have a dinghy, get it cleaned up and rigged for the

2006 season. For your convenience we have posted the 2006 schedule on the Erie Yacht Club website.

Please do not confuse the Erie Dinghy Fleet with the Erie Yacht Club Junior Sailing Program. The Erie Dinghy Fleet is for dinghy owners and crew who have their own boats or someone else's boat to sail and participate with. Learn More about our fleet on the Erie Yacht Club Website under Sailing Fleet - Erie Dinghy Sailing. We need more dinghies... Join Us!



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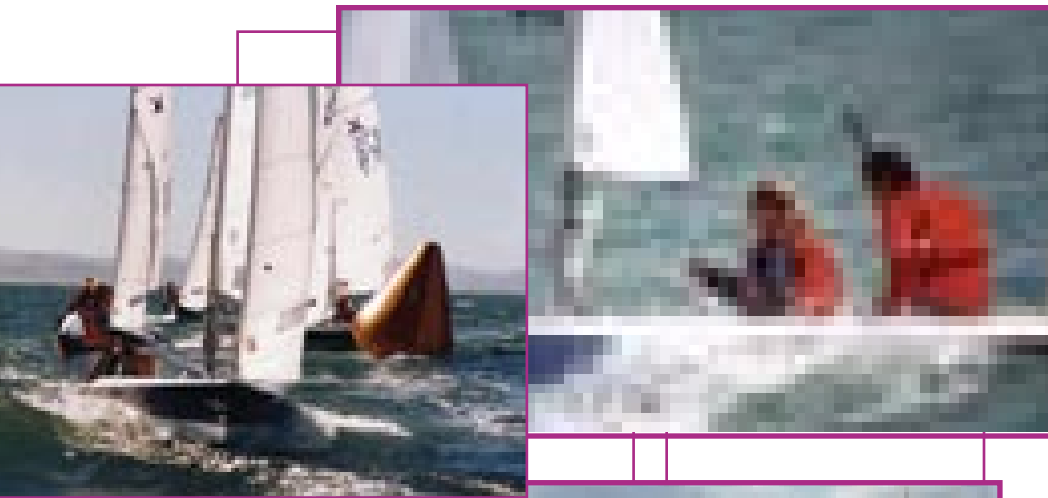


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June Calendar of Club Events

- 1st Sunset Happy Hour 6pm - 9pm DJ Toby
- 3rd Steak & Potato Bar Night in the Grill Room
- 4th Champagne Sunday Brunch
11am - 2pm \$11.95
- 6th Italian Night Menu in the Grill Room
- 7th Mid-Week Buffet 5:30 - 9pm
- 8th Brat & Brew Night featuring Urbaniak
Bros. Brats Sunset Happy Hour 6-9pm
Live Band "Uncharted Course"
- 10th Steak & Potato Bar Night in Grill Room
- 11th Champagne Sunday Brunch
11am - 2pm \$11.95
- 13th Italian Night Menu in the Grill Room
- 14th Mid-Week Buffet 5:30 - 9pm
- 15th Sunset Happy Hour 6 - 9pm DJ Toby
- 17th Steak & Potato Bar Night in Grill Room
- 18th Fathers Day Champagne Sunday Brunch
11am - 2pm \$11.95
- 20th Italian Night Menu in the Grill Room
- 21st Mid-Week Buffet 5:30 - 9:00pm
- 22nd "Crazy Hat Night" Sunset Happy Hour
6 - 9 pm Live Band "The Ridge Runners"
- 23rd Inter-Club Regatta Night Great Dance
Band "Pittsburgh Legacy" 8pm
- 24th Steak & Potato Bar Night in Grill Room
- 25th Champagne Sunday Brunch
11am - 2pm \$11.95
Lazy Lighthouse Sunday 5 - 8pm
Live Band "Uncharted Course"
- 27th Italian Night Menu in the Grill Room
- 28th Mid-Week Buffet 5:30 - 9:00pm
- 29th "Elvis Lives" Sunset Happy Hour w/
Shrimp on the Barbie \$2.00 Live
Music by Elvis Impersonator
- 30th Dock Party A, B, C, D, E, F
Lighthouse Deck 7:00pm

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Wow...What a TREC

(continued from page 5)



High tech gardening is one of the fascinating endeavors taking place within the new TREC complex.

top in the elevator. As you step out of the elevator, a spectacular panorama of Lake Erie emerges before you. It is this view that gives the visitor a greater understanding about the vastness of Lake Erie, its power and beauty and gives you a sense of place as you watch the waves crashing into the shore. Step outside and walk around the top of the tower and get a 360-degree view of all the surrounding vistas.

It is down to the first floor again to get a refreshing cold drink or a sandwich from the café and then it's across the lobby to visit the spacious Nature Center filled with gifts for all ages, books, nature souvenirs and items made by local artists and craftsmen.

One of the most important activities that takes place on Presque Isle is the research being done related to Presque Isle Bay, the Peninsula, Lake Erie, the Lake Erie Watershed and the French Creek Watershed. For years, scientists would come to Presque Isle to study the plants, animals, fish and water quality, only to have to do their analysis some place else. With the establishment of the Regional Science Consortium, made up of 27 colleges and universities and this brand new research wing with eight state of the art labs, there is now a place to do the research right here at the TREC.

Take a guided tour of this facility to see students and scientists at work and watch the fish in the three 150-gallon aquariums set in the windows of the Aquatics Lab. The aquariums will feature Lake Erie Sport Fish, other fish found in Lake Erie and exotics or invasive species. The east wing of the TREC, with the very best scientific minds and talented students this area has to offer, brings huge potential to begin to solve some of our most important and vexing environmental problems. This research is important if for this reason alone, one in seven people in the United States get their water from the Great Lakes. It is the largest fresh water system in the world and we all need to do our part in maintaining this life sustaining water source for all those that live along its shores now and in the future.

You can't leave the TREC without seeing the Big Green Screen movie. Even the lobby of the



Ichthyology research is taking place in this laboratory with regards to native Lake Erie Perch ... a local anglers prize catch.

theater is a work of art with an unusual floor of Swallow Tail Butterflies and plants found on Presque Isle designed by local artist Susan Kemenyffy. The smell of popcorn is in the air and the movie is about to begin. Munch on some popcorn and relax and enjoy a giant screen movie that will educate and thrill visitors of all ages.

It is time to leave the newest forest of steel and the beautiful sunsets in the orientation



One of the TREC complexes modern environmentally friendly classrooms.



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Botanical research of plant species of Presque Isle State Park is taking place at the TREC.

theater and visit the real thing. This time when you visit the park you may look at that old growth forest, the beautiful sunset, a rare plant or a newly formed lagoon with new understanding and appreciation. If that happens, then the Tom Ridge Environmental Center has realized its mission. We believe that no matter how many times you visit the TREC, you will continue to discover new and exciting things about this very special and fragile place called Presque Isle. How lucky we are to have this great National Natural Wonder in our very own backyard.



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Erie Yacht Club Racing Fleet's

FAMILY JAM RACING DIVISION

'specifically intended as a port of entry for new racers'

by Dave Heltzenrater

Have you noticed the large group of sailboats cruising around the bay on a summer evening? Chances are that you observed the Erie Yacht Club Racing Fleet's Family Jib and Main Division in racing action. This successful group had sixty-six boats enter the racing scene last season and is now seeking additional competitors to enter and challenge themselves in the anticipated fun, exciting upcoming season.

The purpose of the sailing fleet's Family JAM Division is to promote easy, low cost, enjoyable racing that offers the thrills of the start, tactical challenges of the race yet minimize the heavy crew work and super competitiveness that spinnaker racing can sometimes require. The emphasis is on pure fun. It is specifically intended to be a port of entry for new racers. No worries mate, the Family JAM

Division offers you the ability to race with your entire family including young children, fellow workers, friends and even your spouse.

The Family JAM Division is inexpensive, easy to enter and a gentle group to ease into racing. The boats are handicapped using ratings that are assigned locally using the standard P.H.R.F. handicap without requiring an official measurement certificate. The Performance Handicap Rating Fleet (P.H.R.F.) system allows boats of different size and speed to compete together in the same race in an equitable manner. Each boat is given an appropriate time allowance or credit that is reduced from the elapsed time to determine the winners.



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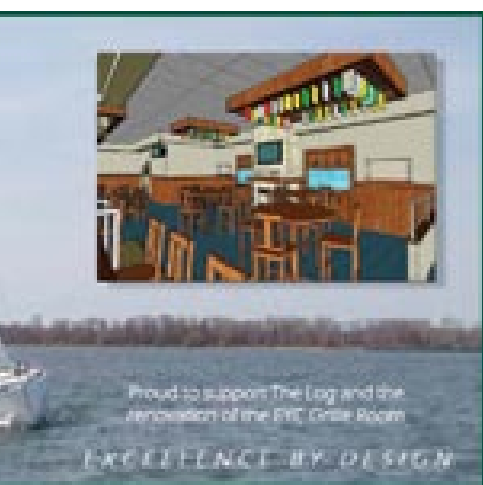
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The Captains and Wilfred Red Fish Competitors strike a historic pose for this monumental photograph after having had a memorable lunch at the renowned Cabbage Key Restaurant & Bar while being surrounded by sixty grand in one dollar bills plastered on both walls and ceiling.

Wilfred Redfish Tournament

(continued from page 19)

We all had a freakin' blast casting and catching fish, with Al and Mickey taking day one's prize with a red and a snook totaling 53-3/4" in combination. (Now remember: oversize fish do not count in this tourney ... something that the Wolford/Curtze team had a problem with. We only managed to catch the BIGGER fish). Glenn and TJ were stellar (as always) and landed 52"s of reds. Itch and John were saving their best for day two.....



Captains Terry Davis and Danny Fabian order lunch at the Cabbage Key ... just look at all that money ... it's everywhere.

Day two dawned cloudy and eerily still. Calm is the word ... as in: calm before the storm. Excellent conditions for fast-moving backwater boats traveling at speeds above the norm. We headed out as before, captured our bait, and hit destinations anew. Captain Sean had an oyster bar in mind, but we had to pay close attention to the tide conditions. I couldn't help



The winning team of the First Annual Wilfred competition, Glenn Thompson and TJ Emblidge, with their trophy Snook.

but notice the work barges, with dredges and hoists, anchored fore and aft inshore in 'hurricane fashion' as we flew past. Hmmmm ... Wilma's coming. Our second day was as great as the first, with the fish feeding voraciously. TJ and Glenn kept up their lead with



Our amiable host, Itchy Penman, provided these stunning personalized trophies to all eight of the competitive anglers.

2 reds and 2 great snook totaling 117". Al and Mickey landed 53" of reds, with John and Itch pulling out a great 24" red. Chrisso and Fritz had the big zero. (Again, all our fish were too big for this tournament, due to the size slots). Not!

Lunch break took us to The Waterfront in St. James City – a friendly place right on the water that had "oyster subs". I'd never even HEARD of an oyster sub, and wasn't sure if I wanted one. GREAT move ... not to mention the mind-blowing clam chowder. They even had crayons for Chris to draw with. Happy, happy boy!



At the end of the frenzied competition the competitors took a moment to relax for this historic and celebratory photograph.

We headed back to Punta Rassa, took pictures, swapped lies and cleaned fish. The Captains loaded their fishing platforms on trailers, and we headed to Itchy's fabulous adobe in Bonita Springs. After a fine dinner, Itch presented custom trophies to the four teams, with Glenn and TJ first, Al and Mickey second, Chris and Fritz third and I can't remember who took DFL. The following morning, before heading to the airport to escape Wilma's brunt, we all helped TJ and Itch's sister, Lee, board up their home. TJ had window boards that bore the names of at least 2 previous hurricanes, and they were lettered and numbered in order of placement on his home. Interesting work, and rewarding at that. His home (and Itch's) stood strong and had minimal damage with the force that Wilma bore.



While boarding up TJ and Peggy's (Itch's sister) home for Hurricane Wilma, I made sure that Al knew "who was in charge".

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