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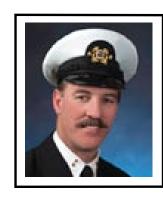


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### From the Bridge

**by Vice Commodore Matt Niemic** 



mate goal is to see how much fun we can be found here. Even if just for a little while get out of life. While being immersed in before going "up the hill" and back to that our careers, parenthood, and just trying to harder task of living. A few fellas' that just keep up with the ever-increasing pace of wanted to have fun founded our Club 117 life, let us not forget why we joined the Erie years ago and the current membership Yacht Club. Whether it was for the plea- and staff are dedicated to continuing that sure of boating with family and friends, well into the future. One only needs to sharing a delicious meal and drinks, or read the History section on our web page participating in the plethora of social to get a sampling of the parties and tradifunctions available. We joined this Club tions that made our Club fun! to have fun! So as another summer draws to an end, I hope that everyone takes time

No matter what form it takes, our ulti- to reflect on the pure enjoyment that can



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#### On the Cover...

A Mark Bower Photo of some o the 300 swimmers braving the bay in the 5th Annual Bay swim. The mile long swim is an athletic celebration of clean swimmable Presque Isle Bay.



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**Dedicated to the memory of Carli Cummings** by Michelee A. Curtze / Input from Pat Davis & Fritz Curtze **Contributing Photos by Mark Bowen** 

ow lucky are we to have such a beautiful bay? How lucky were we to have such a beautiful day? How wonderful it is to organize an inter-generational family/ friend event! The fifth annual Bay Swim was held on June 30th, 2012 at 9 a.m. 300 swimmers began their one mile journey from Vista 3 to the EYC Lighthouse. It was a sea of bright pink caps spreading across the bay with some completing the one mile course in 18 minutes and others a little over an hour. But wait, this is NOT a race. It was never intended to be a race. It is a celebration of the fact we have a swimmable bay. It is a personal challenge for some and, yes, it IS a race. As Pat Davis (and many competitive athletes say) "Any time you put two people in an athletic event, it's a race".

The Bay Swim looks like a rather simple endeavor. 300 people swimming from one side of the bay to the other. Not so simple. There are almost as many people behind the scenes making this happen as there are swimmers. Pat Davis from the Presque Isle Partnership and Michelee Curtze, representing the EYC Committee, are Co-Directors for the event. It all began almost twenty years ago when Pat Davis and Ned Smith talked about swimming across the bay. Coupled with years

of awareness and environmental efforts of many, including importantly DEP (Department of Environmental Protection). Presque Isle Bay water was declared to be of "swimmable" quality. Many people working together helped make a dream come true. Pat talked with Michelee (literally minutes just before the 2008 Ouad Ski Race!), a partnership was formed and the rest that extended from Vista 3 to the EYC Lighthouse became history. The first Bay Swim was intended to be a "one time" event to celebrate a swimmable bay but it was so well-received that people wanted us to do it again. .and again. The past two years, we have dedicated the swim to Carli Cummings, who passed away June 24, 2010 and was originally one of our youngest swimmers to participate. Michele and Jim Cummings were present at the beginning of the swim with a safety prayer for the swimmers and then at the end to put a wrist band on each participant's wrist.

Plans for each swim are ongoing throughout the year with Michelee and Pat communicating on a weekly basis. The committee meets bi-monthly beginning in January and monthly during April, May and June. We have a small, but very committed entourage that has been with the Bay Swim since the beginning in 2008. They are to be commended. Along with Pat, Michelee and Fritz, members are Jim Martin, who is also responsible for the Predominant sponsorship from Highmark Blue Cross / Blue Shield, Kathy and David Wagner, Sue and Bob Kline, Kathy and Gary Smith, Bonnie Tansey, Jimmy and Michele Cummings, Doug Boldt, Matt Kramer, Sherry Brown and Joe Lang from Bob FM. John Murosky has helped every year with the platform at the lighthouse along with Billy Vogel making sure the grounds and transportation are in order. Mickey McMahon also contributed his time and sponsorship for many years. This year, Patty Farrell, Tracy and Shanen Lazenby and Marielle Trucilla joined us the last few months of planning. We also had Bridget Niemic aboard to communicate about the Bay Swim Breakfast that is held afterward by the Auxiliary. Special thanks goes to Ned Smith, Mai Lien, Francesca and Brian Sicari, Aimee Baumann, Lynette Detzel, Vicki Dunbar, Kathy Gallo, Jeff Crays, Peter and Rob Wagner, who have been helping swimmers up the ladders, checking them in, and wrapping towels around them for the past five years. Mike Lynch, our General Manager, is also in the background making sure EYC is

well represented and always has a place for us to meet. On the Partnership side, Pat has just as many volunteers who help register, give out bags and tags, line the swimmers up and send them off. Presque Isle Partnership handles the financial accounting and all event information is generated from www.discoverpi.com. For all of that, special thanks goes to Steve Mc-Dermott, Julie Darden, Joe Maloney, Sean Plunkett, Melanie Scott, Bob Bach, Mike Sullivan, Paul Burroughs, Dave Brennan, Tom Brennan, Alexandra Duskas, Karen Dunn, Denise Rewers, Sue Parry, Libby Lechner, Dave Jassak and PIP summer interns, Bethany, Danielle and Alex.

There are many pieces to put in place but our most prevalent concern is the area of safety. Fritz Curtze helps line up the boats each year (literally, lines them up) and makes sure communication is strong throughout the event. We have about 20 boats a year from EYC that contribute their time and vessels to this event and it is greatly appreciated. Fritz also makes sure the Marine Event Application is filed with the Buffalo Sector Coast Guard and are in place. It takes time to get all the necessary papers filled out and accounted for. Fritz and Pat conduct two safety meetings that take place yearly a safe. They also encouraged the swim-

few weeks before the swim at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. Safety is our number one concern. If 300 swimmers go in the water, we need those same 300 swimmers to come out of the water safely. We have a triple check system in place that checks each swimmer in and out. They have numbers on their wrists and their caps (which are provided by Dr. Bill Morosky) and they must wear both throughout the swim. The numbers are called out and checked, the wristbands are cut off and checked and the numbers are also checked to the names.

There are so many people we have to thank for the safety of this event. Pat Smith is in charge of the kayakers. This year, we had 20 wonderful volunteer kayakers who gave up their Saturday morning to make sure the swimmers arrived to EYC safely. We can't say enough about their efforts. There was a south wind and a strong current this year. The boats created a visual line for the swimmers but the kayakers herded them down the pathway. We also need to applaud the Presque Isle Lifeguards under the direction of Bob North and John Dahlstrand. Twenty seven lifeguards (27!) followed the swimmers making sure they were

mers and cheered them on. Two of our highly dedicated committee members and fellow EYC boaters, Kathy and Gary Smith had this to say about the lifeguards "The lifeguards were very supportive with the swimmers. They gave one on one attention to those who needed it. They did a tremendous job and encouraged the swimmers the entire way across the bay."

We also have the Erie County Sheriff's Dept. Dive Team as well as an essential part of the emergency crew. Our jet ski champs are Mitch Wells and Richard Vicary. They bring our swimmers who have "had enough" safely to the deck to be accounted for. Saint Vincents, one of our major sponsors, provides a medical tent and emergency staff headed by Dr. Laura McIntorsh, MD, in case any of the swimmers need assistance. John as well as Sam Leo and his group have provided assistance throughout the years.

The "E" (EMTA) provides transportation to Presque Isle from EYC once the swimmers have completed their trek across the bay. Special thanks to Mike Tann for coordinating this great service. Their bags are tagged, brought over and stored

(continued on page 18)

## **Get Ready for Another EYC** by Dan Dundon

Back in 1993, your Erie Yacht Club Entertainment Committee began designing one of the most ambitious occasions for the 1995 Centennial commemoration. Eighteen months of planning, countless visits to other events and authentic menu research contributed to the huge success of the Centennial Oktoberfest celebration. Since it was an immediate sell-out, and was the talk of the club for months, it made good sense to celebrate Oktoberfest again in '96 and actually, every year after that!

During those first few years, some veterans of others' Oktoberfest celebrations warned us most such events die-off after a few successful years. Maybe so for some other folks, but not for the Erie Yacht Club! On 20 October happy with what you've got! I sure would 2012, we will host our 18th Annual Oktoberbe.' fest party! In attendance will be many veterans of all previous EYC Oktoberfests. Additionally, we are sure to see a continual stream of new faces, many of whom will become repeat Oktoberfestors.

Every year, folks tell me "This was the best Oktoberfest yet!" Honestly, I often think the same thing myself! Some time ago, an out-of-town attender of EYC Oktoberfest staff. dropped me a note. This is a gentleman who attended and entertained at tons of Oktoberfest parties. "Dan, I think this year's Oktoberfest was the best yet. (See? He thinks like a lot of us!) You've got something special here, a real, established Oktoberfest, successful because you serve German beer and lots of it, offer real German food (your chef has est cake in even years and apple strudel in

that dialed in for sure!) and present quality German entertainment with minimum downtime between acts. Congratulations! You've done it. You have done better than 90% of the clubs and organizations that think they can host an Oktoberfest. People love Oktoberfest and they will come out if it's the real thing. Run-of-the-mill beer, hot dogs and Slovenian bands don't do it. We suspect you're pretty

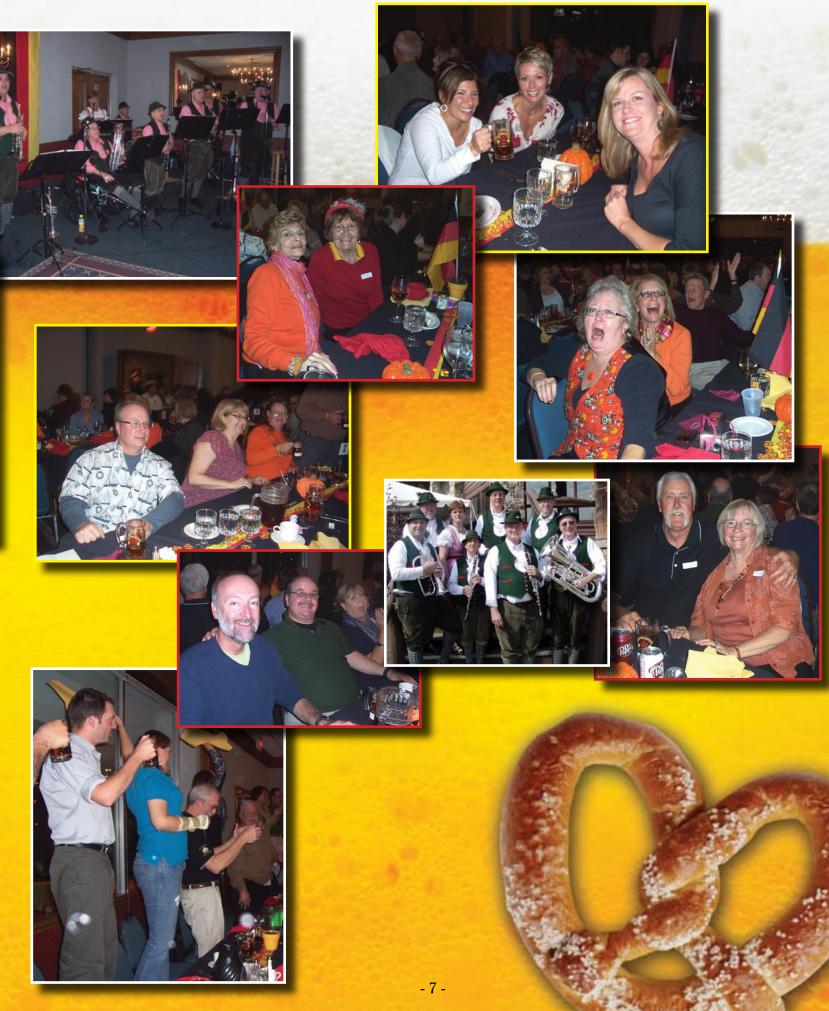
The three most prominent features of our Oktoberfest, directly enjoyed by the crowd, are the terrific German buffet, the wild, nonstop entertainment, and of course, the beer. Additionally, this annual celebration is successful because of the behind-the-scenes efforts of our dedicated entertainment committee and the wonderful support of the EYC

In case you missed it, the German buffet includes Wiener schnitzel, Sauerbraten, Roasted chicken, Bratwurst, Knockwurst, pretzels, pumpernickel bread, potato pancakes, German potato salad, sauerkraut, red cabbage, and dessert. At one time, to "keep things interesting" Oktoberfest dessert was black forodd years, so no one could complain the buffet is the same every year! For some time, the buffet has included black forest cake AND apple strudel. And... guess what? No com-

The non-stop entertainment starts with ballads and seasoned German folklore tunes by Erie's own Siebenbuerger Singers as we enjoy that lush dinner. As diners finish, the Augsburg German Band takes over with traditional German oom-pah music and a variety of German beer-hall favorites. Alternating hourly with the Augsburg German Band is The Mad Bavarian, a... well... 'Mad' oneman show of German music and mirth.

The Oktoberfest crowd seems wilder and wilder every year, as well! We anticipate still another sell-out, so begin planning now to attend one of the greatest parties of the year. See you all there on 20 October 2012!





### My Last Hurrah by Brian Lasher

The author as part of a community relations project (COMREL) at the "Arrow of God" Orphanage outside Lagos – The Navy delivered books and related school supplies to benefit over 200 children at this orphanage and a middle school on Tomaro Island.



Fishermen from a village outside Lagos.



The author at a wedding along side Commodore Kenneth Ati-John. If you can't tell which one is the author, you are color-blind.

his year I retire after 28 years of commissioned service in the Navy, including nine years active and 19 reserve, with over 5,700 days on duty. I served on both the East and West Coast and in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa. In February and March, I made time for my last hurrah - a trip to Nigeria. It was my second visit to the country in less than a year, and both trips will provide a lasting memory.

What is the Navy doing in Nigeria? Basically, it is to improve our relationship and help the Nigerians help themselves and their neighbors. As Vice Admiral Gortney, former Commander, Fifth Fleet was fond of saying, "You can surge capacity, but you cannot surge trust. .a. crisis is not the time to exchange business cards." In short, the purpose of the trip was to strengthen our relationship with the Nigerian Navy.

The trip had four components: ship support, training support, exercise support, and community relations. It also required reporting on these elements to higher headquarters in terms of daily situation reports (SITREPs), and providing recommendations on the efficacy of the training and lessons learned in terms of a final trip assess-

The trip was part of my role as the training officer for a Naval Forces Africa Maritime Partnership Program reserve detachment located north of

Detroit. We help support the United States Africa Command, or AFRICOM, which has an annual budget of slightly more than \$300 million. It sounds like a lot of money, until you consider this is for all of Africa. Africa is the second largest continent with 54 countries, and it has the largest coastline of any continent. Relatively speaking, the budget is equivalent to what we will spend in one day in Afghanistan this vear.

Supporting a ship visit is an exercise in logistics. The consulate and embassies in most countries are not staffed adequately to respond to the requirements for high-profile ship visits, so our unit provides the manpower needed to make things happen. We

The author helped arrange customs clearance of bio-water filters to a charity in Nigeria.



NCIS conducting law enforcement training with Nigerians.

perform for the students of Kemson School in Lagos.

Members of the Special Boat Service (SBS) receive port security and boarding training in Lagos, Nigeria.

providing pier and ship protection; we decade. work with the husbanding agent to communicate requirements for fuel, water, food, and waste management to vendors; we arrange VIP visits and the transportation to and from a varifacilitate other meetings and events.

In addition to showing the flag, ship visits are planned to coincide with training. Nigeria is the most important country in Central Africa and it needs to take the lead in providing possessing a large coast and signifi-stability in the region. cant oil production capabilities, it is Africa's most populous country and it the 3rd Annual Exercise Obangame, a

coordinate with security specialists the continent's largest economy this

To be sure, the Gulf of Guinea has significant security challenges, and the coastal borders with Benin and Cameroon, the so-called "seems," are areas where piracy and trafficking ety of locations; and we schedule and are particularly acute. In response, U.S. trainers provide medical, law enforcement, port security, and command and control training. In-turn, Nigeria will then be able to work with its neighbors to extend maritime domain awareness, improve law ensecurity for the region. In addition to forcement, and enhance security and

Part of this trip was also to support is expected to surpass South Africa as multi-national event to improve maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea. As the number suggests, coordination with other countries is in its infancy and it is the first time that Central African navies worked together to practice boardings at sea.

Members of the U.S. Naval Forces Europe Band

Hosted by the Nigerians, Obangame included participants from Benin, Cameroon, Gabon, Ghana, the Republic of Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, and Togo. In addition, Spain and the U.S. provided ship platforms and trainers, and Belgium and Brazil sent observers. The event linked regional maritime centers from five countries to monitor coastal areas between Nigeria and Cameroon, and to provide command and control coordination

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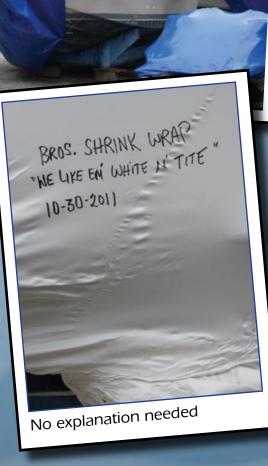
# Shrink Wrap 101 by Pete Gorny



The "Nicolia", the gold standard for do-it-yourself shrink wrap







e have all seen the standards set There are a few rules: by our boat neighbors. There is perfectly oiled teak that looks like it just came out of the furniture store, chrome without even one water spot, cushions and canvas that looks newer each year. My neighbors don't see these on my boat, but it's out there up and down the dock. Our 30' Sea Ray sports a combination of gray the crushed Cheetos.

Now there are standards for appearance during the off season: do-it-vourself shrink-wrap. Not only does the boat need to look good in summer, but also in the dead of winter it needs to look sharp.

• You must shrink wrap yourself, no professionals.

grade"

• You cannot re-use your shrink-wrap. If you do that, you will likely make your daughter re-wear the same prom dress

In the Fall of 2006 I wanted to learn the secret of the perfect shrink-wrap job, so teak and dried minnows mashed in with I asked Ray Nicolia for help. Ray and Ailike it has had plastic surgery.

> Who better to learn from? Ray kindly offered to help, but insisted I bring him gifts and refer to him as "Sensei" during all phases of instruction. I obliged and in a few hours the "Island Time" was neatly 2. What can possibly go wrong?

wrapped in blue plastic and ready for

Fast forward to Fall 2007 and I felt it was time to share my new knowledge mixed with a little experience with friend and relative Andy Kalivoda. After watching a few videos on shrink-wrapping I was pretty sure we were ready. For most of my life, there have been three axioms that have continually led me to disaster. mee's Carver is so wrinkle free, it looks If you find yourself saying one, you might succeed. Two, success is not likely, and three, keep the kids clear. I'll share them with you so you can protect yourself.

1. How hard can this be? We're not building a space shuttle.

That year instead of blue shrink-wrap, I opted for white. A little Internet research which advised white for less condensation and moisture in the boat. My own experience taught me that working on boat wiring under blue shrink-wrap is not a good idea. The light filtering through the all wiring. That is why now when I turn on comfortably into the pass/fail camp. the bilge pump, the port engine starts.

wrap two boats in one day, there is the ceremonial coin toss to decide whose boat is first. If you win the toss you need to think carefully whether to start on yours

boat once you are warmed up. You also need to consider the weather. It may be 60 degrees with a 5 knot wind at 10:00am. then by 1pm it may be 5 degrees with a 60

Here the group gets spilt into differing opinions. There is the "It has to be perfect" group, and the "If the cover is still blue cover changes the color you see on on in the spring, we passed" group. I fit of winter appearance as well. If you have

One member of our workgroup can ac-When two boat owners are planning to tually shrink wrap a boat with no shrink wrap. Brian Miller can totally cover his boat without using shrink wrap film; he just needs 35 rolls of tape.

At about a third of the cost of profession-

3. This is going much better than I antici- or practice on your buddy's and wrap your all shrink wrapping, it is worth a try. You can get the \$500 professional shrink wrap heat gun, or opt for the \$35 Harbor Freight flame thrower gun with the Lowe's hose extension spliced in the middle. One look at our group's boats and I am sure you can see which way we went.

> So not only does the boat need to look good in the summer, but there is a code not tried shrink wrap yourself, give it a try. It is almost always a great fall day down at the waterfront. If you would like a lesson, don't hesitate to call... Rav Nicolia 455-0833. And don't forget the gifts.



- 10 -- 11 -

## If These Docks Could Talk

by P/C Gib Loesel

The Canoe House is an intriguing place, originally built in 1917 as a temporary club house on our new property, the building has seen some interesting "things" and has survived many of our "wild" ideas... I remember it as a beautiful white building with a wonderful red roof, the locker house and old club house also had red roof's, they were a wonderful land mark for the Club... it is too bad that they were changed ... Oh well life goes on...

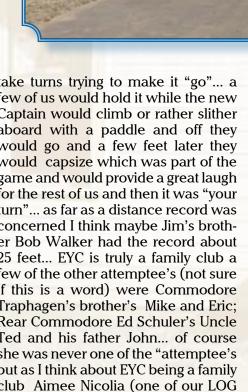
When I was a kid hanging around the club (almost) every summer day of my life the Canoe House was the spot where the young and old would as they say today "just hang out"; very interesting characters to say the least... there were old timers, a couple of those that I remember were Captain William Morrison (also Commodore in 1904) commonly known to the us as Cap... Cap always wore his white Yachting hat and always seemed to be lighting his ever present pipe, his companion was Rip Sawdey, don't ask me why but I remember Rip

always wore a black Yachting cap and carried a cane that he used to hook little kids with - he would drag you close just to give you a little scare... he even made a buddy of mine "pee" his pants once... and then there was "us" the kids who ranged in age from about 10 to 12 (with no jobs) to the big guys 16 to 20 (who maybe had a job) but it was like a second home for all of us... more on these guys at a later time...

changed over the years, on the second floor where the sailing school now occupies space there were lockers, bunks and storage... way in the back where the ice boats were stored for summer there was a Rowing Shell which belonged to Jim Walker. It was said that you could not row it because it had a twist in the hull and in fact I never saw anyone actually rowing it... of course I don't remember summer this little craft provided our day's entertainment, we would get "her" down, dust it off (maybe) and

take turns trying to make it "go"... a few of us would hold it while the new Captain would climb or rather slither aboard with a paddle and off they The use of the Canoe House has would go and a few feet later they would capsize which was part of the game and would provide a great laugh for the rest of us and then it was "your turn"... as far as a distance record was concerned I think maybe Jim's brother Bob Walker had the record about 25 feet... EYC is truly a family club a few of the other attemptee's (not sure if this is a word) were Commodore Traphagen's brother's Mike and Eric; Rear Commodore Ed Schuler's Uncle any oars either... about two times a Ted and his father John... of course she was never one of the "attemptee's but as I think about EYC being a family club Aimee Nicolia (one of our LOG editors and reporters is Bob Walker's daughter)

Until the next time... let the "docks talk".



HIMI



# Know Your Boating Etiquette... Refresher Course - #4 in Series

have included the importance of being "wake" considerate, "noise" considerate and marina/dock manners. In this 4th Etiquette Refresher course we will be talking about Captain/Guest Etiquette.

Captain: When inviting guests aboard your boat, it's important that you explain in advance what is expected of them, especially if they are not experienced boaters. If you have rules on your boat regarding smoking, drinking, etc., be sure to let guests know *before* they arrive.

Guest: First rule of thumb when you are a guest on a boat is that the captain is the boss. His boat. His rules. For example, many boats have a non-smoking policy, others have an outside the cabin and downwind policy. Ask what the policy is before lighting up. If you can't go a few hours without a smoke it's better to know his policy *before* the trip or it could be a very long day.

Also know that the Coast Guard has a Zero Tolerance policy on drugs and can seize boats for very small amounts. Your captain can go to jail and lose his boat even if they didn't know about the drugs.

A boat represents a significant commitment of time, money and effort, please respect the boat as if they were your home.

Captain: Instruct your guests to bring a minimum of clothing. Make sure each guest has a good pair of non-skid shoes. If or weightlifting gloves.

Our etiquette refresher articles to date your plans are to go ashore for activities, make sure guests know so they can bring something appropriate. Explain that space is limited and ask them to pack their gear in a duffel bag or other soft-sided, collapsible luggage.

If you are planning to visit foreign ports, be sure to let your guests know in advance what documents and ID they need and make them aware of any local laws they should know.

Guest: Pack light, but smart. Bring minimal clothing but be prepared for changing weather. Your list should include a waterproof jacket, a hat that has a strap or ties so it won't blow off, sunglasses with some kind of strap to keep them from going overboard, sun block and motion sickness medicine, if you are susceptible to sea sickness. Wear non-marking, non-skid shoes. It's not necessary to have expensive boat shoes, many white soled sports shoes

Put your name on all personal items brought on board. It's easy to get gear mixed up at the end of the trip. This makes it easier for the captain to tell who belongs to any gear that's left behind so it can be returned.

If you're sailing and plan on helping out with the lines, you may want to bring a pair of gloves. A line sliding through your hands can be very painful. Sailing gloves are available at boating stores or you can use biking

Be sure to remember your ID and any documentation needed if visiting foreign

Captain: Make sure your guests know the importance of your time of departure. You should explain that they should be onboard with gear stowed ready to leave before the departure time you have set.

Guest: Don't be late! Make sure you know if the time given is "show up" or "leave the dock" time and adjust accordingly. Remember you need time to learn your way around the boat.

It's understood that stuff happens, but if you need to cancel call early. It's rude to make everyone wait wondering if you're going to show up. Calling the captain's home number at departure time and leaving a message does no good. Be sure to get the captain's cell phone number.

When you do arrive, ask permission before boarding. "Permission to come aboard" is a standard, and appreciated, boater's courtesy.

Captain: When guests board, assign an area to stow their gear and ask that everything be kept in its place. It could be dangerous or hinder the operation of the boat to have gear floating around loose.

**Guest:** Don't show up empty-handed. You can bet your captain was at the dock hours earlier readying the boat for the journey. Offer to bring lunch for everyone. Your captain will appreciate having one less thing to prepare.



Before leaving the vessel, offer to help with the end-of-trip chores.



If small children are included in your outing, make sure they have properly fitted lifejackets.



Offer to bring lunch for everyone. Your captain will appreciate the help.

Captain: If you expect guests to perform duties onboard make sure you instruct them on how to do it and make sure they are capable of doing it before you give the order.

Guest: Helm duties tend to vary because of weather, traffic and other conditions. If you are at the helm and conditions change and you become uncomfortable, speak up. If you do not understand something ask.

Every captain does things his own way. Pay attention and do things the way the captain prefers. Help the captain only if given specific instructions. This is not the time to improvise.

The captain is responsible for the safety of the vessel and crew/guests. Sometimes things happen suddenly requiring action, and the captain can quickly become very firm, if this happens, pay attention and stop talking. Your safety and the safety of the vessel may be at risk. Understand what you need to do and do it in a timely manner.

One very helpful duty that anyone can do while underway is to keep watch for other vessels and junk in the water. Sails can hide a vessel for a long time. Hitting a log or another vessel can really put a damper on an otherwise great outing.

Sometimes it is best to just stay out of the way. The captain has a lot to think about - traffic, weather, waves. A boat is a small space, so stay out of the way when you need to.

Captain: At the end of your voyage having everyone leave at the same time, moving their gear off the boat makes it easier for you to do a once-through to see if anything was left behind.

ina, non-skid shoes,

For your safety and the

preservation of your captain's boat deck, wear non-mark-

Guest: When your outing is over, wait until the boat has docked to gather your personal items. Running around gathering your gear can distract the captain as he is trying to dock.

Before leaving the vessel, ask if there's anything else that needs tending? Don't grab your stuff and leave as soon as the boat hits the dock. Offer to help with the end-of-trip chores. If you don't know what they are ask.

Captain: Be up front, honest and direct with your guests and everyone onboard will have a safer, more pleasurable trip.

Guest: You are required to say "Thank You". You're *not* required to say "I had a really great time I would really like to do it again" unless you really mean it. If you found that sailing or boating isn't for you don't ask to be asked back. It's a waste of everyone's time.

Remember, on land or at sea, common sense and courtesy will carry you most of



Captain: Before leaving the dock go over safety and emergency procedures. Explain fueling procedures, docking and undocking plans, etc. Make sure someone onboard is able to take over for you and operate the radio to call for help should you become incapacitated. If small children are on board they should wear a properly fitted lifejacket while on the water.

Guest: Pay attention to your captain. You should know the location of the safety gear, lifejackets, radio, flares, flashlights, first aid kits etc. But don't mess with anything that even resembles an electronic instrument unless you absolutely have to.

If you have a medical condition that may be an issue tell the captain before leaving the dock. If you have a bad back for instance some jobs won't be suited for you, this will help the captain assign tasks safely. Make sure someone on the boat is aware of anything that could be an issue.

Captain: Make guests aware of the boat's limited washing and toilet facilities and instruct them to be considerate to others. Also instruct them thoroughly on the use of the marine head and the importance of water conservation.

Guest: Before using the "head," get proper operating instructions. No two marine toilets operate alike and a clog can be expensive, messy and ruin the entire trip. For the most part, "if it didn't go in your mouth it doesn't go in the head," is often the rule.

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### Shine On Harvest Moon



We've all heard the term Harvest narrow angle with the evening hori- ger, brighter or more pumpkin-colnox. This year, the autumn equinox between successive moonrises. comes on September 22nd. The full Harvest Moon.

But when a full moon happens close Harvest moon. This occurs because Harvest Moon. the moon's orbital path makes a

Moon, but do you really know what it zon around the time of the autumn is? Well, simply put a Harvest Moon is equinox. This narrow angle results the full moon closest to the fall equi- in a shorter-than-usual rising time around any full moon, the moon will

moon for us will come on the night are what make every Harvest Moon moon near the horizon that causes of September 29th. That makes the special. Every full moon rises around September 29th-30th full moon the sunset. After the full Harvest Moon, - to look big and orange in color. you'll see the moon ascending in the Normally the moon rises about 50 east relatively soon after sunset for minutes later each day on average. several days in a row at northerly latitudes. Because the lag time beto the autumnal equinox, the moon tween successive moonrises shrinks (at mid-temperate latitudes) rises to a yearly minimum, it seems as only about 30 minutes later daily for if there are full moons for several

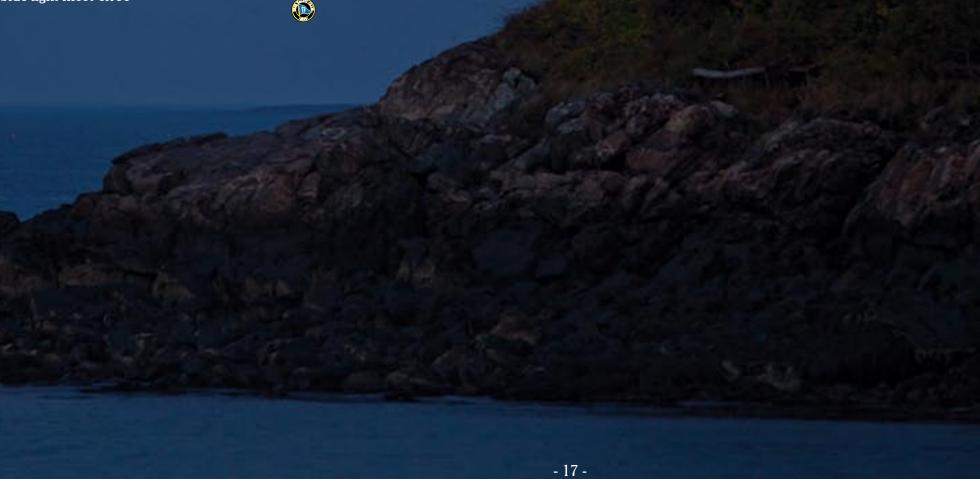
The Harvest Moon is not really big-horizon scatters blue light most effec-

- 16 -

ored than other full moons, but you might think otherwise. After sunset always be near the horizon. It'll just These early evening moonrises have risen. It's the location of the the Harvest Moon – or any full moon

The orange color of a moon near the horizon is a true physical effect. When you look toward the horizon you are looking through a greater thickness of Earth's atmosphere than when you gaze up and overhead. The atmosphere scatters blue light – that's several days before and after the full nights in a row around the time of the why the sky looks blue. The thickness of atmosphere in the direction of a tively, but it lets red light pass through to your eyes. So a moon near the horizon takes on a yellow or orange or reddish hue.

The shorter-than-usual time between moonrises around the Harvest Moon means no long period of darkness between sunset and moonrise for days in succession. In the early days, the light of the Harvest Moon helped farmers gather their crops, despite the diminishing daylight hours. As the sun faded in the west, the moon would soon rise in the east to illuminate the fields throughout the night. It was essential that they work by the light of the moon to bring in the harvest thus its name "Harvest Moon".





in a trailer provided by Bob and Sue Kline. Volunteers make sure they receive their bags afterwards and the swimmers can change and head back to their vehicles (hopefully after a delicious and nutritious breakfast at the Club). Mark Bowen and Tom Madura take pictures throughout the event and have given permission to use them for this article. Tom volunteers a lot of his time and energy for EYC photos and Mark has photographed many sporting events in our area. Visit www.markbowenstudio.com for literally hundreds of photos of all aspects of the Bay Swim.

Now, time to talk about the swimmers! There is a LOT to talk about! This year, we had ages ranging from 14 to 84. Kelsey Herbst, age 21, was the fastest swimmer for the second year in a row and the first to emerge from the water with many male swimmers close behind her. (Remember, this is not a race). We had several 14 year old swimmers and Jerry Arnold, almost 84, was the "most mature" swimmer. Bob Stanger, age 81,

was the Patriarch of the men's division. Sally Martin, age 82, made it across and is an inspiration to all of us. She has this to say about the event "I haven't done an open lake swim in about 15 years and my feet were so tender, they practically carried me to the start. I did the breast stroke for most of the swim and I enjoyed it. I hope to be back again next year."

After the event, I caught up with a first time swimmer, Janet Ott, age 70, who came up from Gibsonia, PA. She said "This is one of the most well run, fun and safest swims I've ever done. The kayakers and lifeguards were very friendly and helpful. We also enjoyed the breakfast afterwards and I'll do this again." We had another first time swimmer, Kathy McMaster, age 61, from Edinboro, PA, who had the following comment, "It was fabulous! It was organized in an excellent manner by all. Every volunteer, in all aspects, were so helpful and it made me feel at ease in the water for my first open water swim. I had a blast and will do it every year from now on!" Kristen Curtze, age 24, from Webster, NY has completed the swim all 5 years. She had this to say about the event "After many years of competitive swimming, I've learned to enjoy any opportunity to swim for fun instead of a winning time and the Bay Swim provides that exact chance. The past five years of the event have proven that people of all ages and athletic ability want to take part in a unique, community-based experience that celebrates our local area. Whether you are a seasoned swimmer or just learned to swim a mile, you'll find yourself smiling at the other side of the

Amber Kralj, age 33, is actually planning her 2013 summer wedding around Bay Swim VI since she has completed the previous 5 years. Amber said, "I enjoy the Bay Swim because it is a fun, relaxing swim that celebrates a clean, swimmable bay and also benefits Presque Isle State Park and other local charities. Since it's not a "race" the only competition is to top

your personal best. This year I beat mine by about 20 sec (this year's time: 28:13). The morning is made enjoyable by all the wonderful volunteers who consistently smile and give all swimmers praise for their efforts not to mention they offer their time to allow the swim to go on. Thank you for another great year and hope it continues to be a wonderful annual event." Many young participants this year did the swim with their moms, dads, friends or grandparents. There truly was a sense of "family" throughout the event.

Each swimmer received a packet of goodies, a cap, a beach towel and a wristband as well as refreshments at the end of the swim. Most of all, they have great memories and a sense of accomplish-

There are many people who benefit from the event besides the swimmers. The committee works diligently for sponsorship and that is never an easy task. We are very grateful for the support of High-

our predominant sponsor and have been since the beginning. We are very appreciative Jim Martin and the Highmark team is behind us. Saint Vincent, Carli Cummings Scholarship Fund and Great Lakes Cabinets all contribute a high level of sponsorship and are represented on the corners of the beach towel that each swimmer receives for participation. All other sponsors are listed on the volunteer t-shirts.

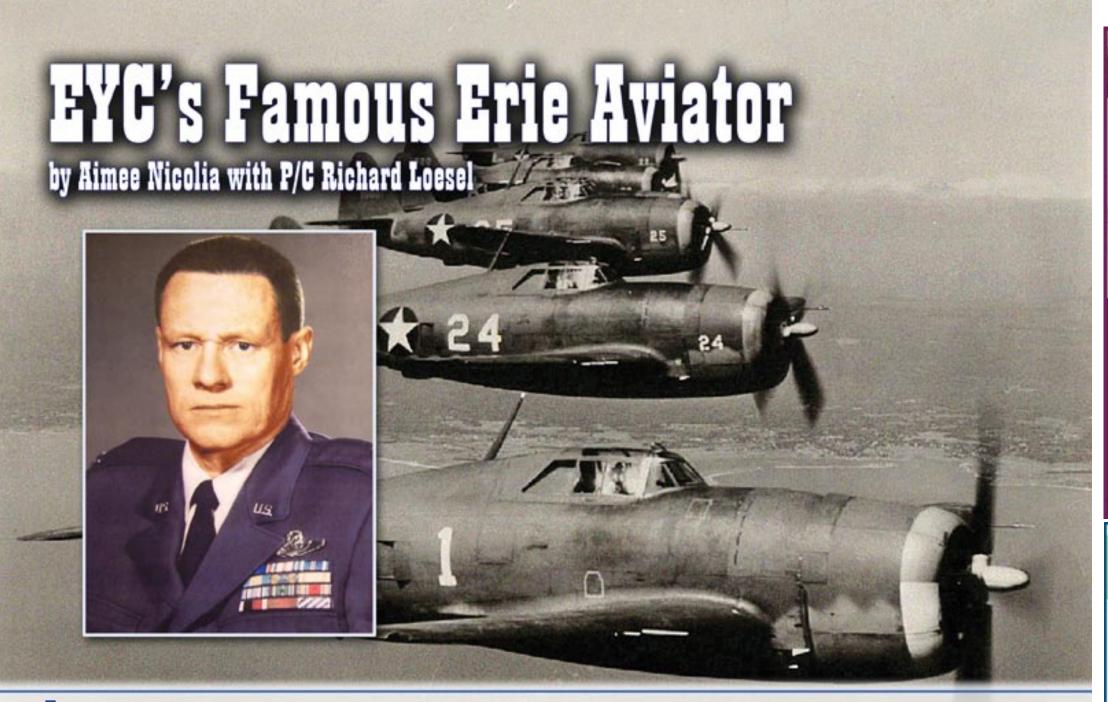
There are many levels of sponsorship so if this appeals to you, please contact a committee member. I just want to mention that every penny we receive stays in Erie County and we, as a committee, feel strongly about that. We make donations to Presque Isle State Park projects (via Presque Isle Partnership), Erie County Diabetes Association, Reyburn Sailing Fund, Presque Isle Lifeguards as well as the Carli Cummings Scholarship Fund. There are other small donations made to some of the safety groups and we try to make sure everyone who contributes time and mark Blue Cross/Blue Shield. They are energy has some type of tangible memory

from each Bay Swim. The EYC Auxiliary offers a breakfast for the public after the swim and provides a wonderful meal at a nominal fee. If you didn't stop in this year, be sure to do so on June 22nd next year.

This past year, in partnership with the Glenwood Y, "Open Water Swimming 101", a series of classes to help swimmers prepare for the Bay Swim, was held at the Glenwood Y in April and May and will be offered again next spring. Also, for 2013, we will provide a presentation with knowledgeable guest speakers who outline the history and condition of the bay

We are so fortunate to have our natural resource of the peninsula and bay for our recreation and enjoyment. How about those sunsets? The date for Bay Swim VI is June 22, 2013. Be sure to mark your calendar now. Join us and support the event as a spectator, volunteer or better yet, get out there, start training, and SWIM the Bay!

- 18 -



his past July, a former long time member of the Erie Yacht Club, Air Force Col. Robert Fry was honored along with Lt. Col. Kenneth Gardner at the Tom Ridge International Airport in a small but prestigious presentation. Portraits of the two local pilots were hung in the airport on the "Wall of Fame", a permanent exhibit that honors distinguished Erie aviators.

Fry was mentioned frequently in the 2008 book "Hell Hawks: The Untold Story of the American Flyers Who Savaged Hitler's Wehrmacht" by Robert Dorr and Thomas Jones. The book is a historical ac-

count of the young American pilots who served as part of the 365th Fighter Group and flew P 47 Thunderbolts in World War II. As part of this group, Fry commanded the US Army Air Corps' 388th Squadron.

Neal Sullivan of Erie was reading "Hell Hawks" and was impressed by the fact that Fry was several times mentioned in the book for his heroic actions and also the fact that Fry was described as a sailor from Erie, Pennsylvania. So Sullivan contacted EYC members David Strong and P/C Richard Loesel.

friend of Fry and remembers his sailing days at the Erie Yacht Club. "He grew up as a boy sailing at the EYC," says Loesel. "And he was one of the best sailors ever to have sailed here."

Together, Sullivan, Strong and Loesel, formed a committee and appealed to the airport to honor Col. Fry on the wall of famous Erie pilots. Their committee was also responsible for obtaining a portrait of Fry to meet the approval of the airport.

The dedication for Col. Fry and Lt. Col. Gardner (a Viet Nam pilot) took place on As it turns out, Loesel was a very close July 3, 2012, led by airport Executive Di-

rector Chris Rodgers. The Gardner family and close friends were in attendance. A few other guests were at the ceremony in addition to Rich Loesel, Neal Sullivan and David Strong, including Bill Walker, another boyhood friend of Fry's from the EYC. The Fry family was not able to attend, as his only living son a retired Marine officer was on a special assignment out of the country. Fry also has three grandsons who are currently serving our country.





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#### My Last Hurrah

continued from page 9)



The Tactical Combat Casualty Care graduation class - Army and Navy students received a "train-the-trainer" course on medical response. The author is seated third from left in the front row.

with coastal patrol vessels at sea.

The most rewarding part of this trip, however, was the community relations events or COMRELs. One COM-REL was to deliver on behalf of Proiect Navy Handclasp, which provides opportunities of lift to U.S. charities wishing to send donations to Africa. One of my jobs was to clear these donations through Nigerian Customs. This was perhaps my most challenging endeavor. Nothing is easy in Africa, and working with Nigerian Customs is harder than navigating the channel with an east wind during the Interclub. During these visits, I helped deliver over 35 pallets of goods to Nigerians in need, including a 3-1/2 ton generator, hospital beds and medical supplies, and several pallets of biowater filters to support communities

In addition, our unit commanding officer arranged to ship over 30 cartons of books and other school supplies from a Pensacola. Florida middle school that we delivered to children





The author speaking before a graduating class at the Joint Maritime Security Training Center.

at an orphanage and a school in the vicinity of Lagos. We also helped coordinate a consulate medical clinic visit to Tomaro Island off the coast, as well as a trip by the Navy band to perform for elementary students. One cannot quantify such events in terms of a cost-benefit analysis, but the need was apparent and they were the highlight of my experience.

I have had a number of memorable experiences in my tenure, some better than others. But I feel my last two trips to Africa rank near the top in terms of satisfaction with what was accomplished. Nigeria is an important country with many opportunities and challenges at a pivotal juncture, and I do not know what its future holds. However, one thing I can say with certainty is that the Nigerian people are arguably the most friendly and appreciative of any nation I have visited in my 28 years as a Naval officer, and my last hurrah is an experience I will always cherish.





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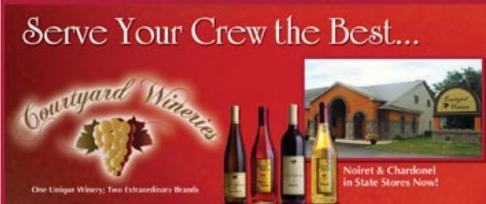
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#### All Gifts Are Greatly Appreciated!

Please mail donations to: Erie Yacht Club Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 648 Erie PA, 16512 or visit: www.erieycfoundation.org



# FALLINTO FUN

Well the summer boating season it coming to a close and it will be some time before sledding, skiing and ice boating begin (if we have snow and ice this winter!). But that doesn't mean there's nothing to do. Fall is a great time to enjoy other activities with family and friends.

First of all, check out the Club's calendar and make sure you enjoy all the EYC's September & October events. Plus the Erie Zoo has numerous events for kids and families. Check their website for a listing of educational programs for different ages. Asbury Woods also has live animal programs on Saturday mornings beginning at 11am. Or you can take in a interesting, and often educational, movie at the Tom Ridge Center on the Big Green Screen. Plus there's art exhibits at the Erie Art Museum, Erie Playhouse presentations, Seawolves games in September, Erie Otters hockey in October, and the list goes on and on and on. Here are just some of the other local and nearby events to enjoy this fall.

#### SEPTEMBER

• 16th ANNUAL ERIE GERMAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL - Sat. Sept. 1st, 11am to 8pm, & Sun. Sept. 2nd, 11am to 6:30pm, at St, Nicks Grove, 5131 Old French Rd., Erie. Features the Mad Bavarian, German cuisine, Music, Dancing, petting zoo, historical info and more. Rain or shine - all activities under tents. Admission is \$5 per person, under 12 are free. Receive \$1 off ticket price by bringing a canned food donation for the Second Harvest Food Bank



- ERIE LAND LIGHTHOUSE TOURS Sat. Sept. 1st thru Mon. Sept. 3rd, 12pm to 4pm, at the Erie Land Lighthouse, foot of Lighthouse St. off East 6th, Erie. Tours to the top of the lighthouse are led by period-costumed guides. Open to anyone 44 inches or taller. Admission is \$5 per person. Benefits Erie Playhouse Youtheatre.
- WATERFORD COMMUNITY FAIR Mon. Sept. 3rd thru Sat. Sept. 8th, 8am to 8pm, at the Waterford Fairgrounds, Rt. 19 in Waterford. Admission is just \$3 per person, kids 12 and under are free. Free parking.



- ARTS & DRAFTS FEST Thur. Sept. 6th thru Sat. Sept. 8th, 11:30 am to 1am, at the Brewerie at Union Station, 123 West 14th St, Erie. A celebration of local art, local beer and local music with over 25 seasonla brews available. Free admission.
- 18th ANNUAL EDINBORO HIGHLAND GAMES & SCOTTISH FESTIVAL, Fri. Sept. 7th thru Sat. Sept. 8th, on the campus of Edinboro University. Features a wide variety of music including marching bag pipers, authentic food, traditional Scottish Highland athletic competition, kids activities and more. Free admission.



- CRUISE THE BAY Every Monday thru Sept. 26th (excluding Labor Day), 6pm to 9pm at the Erie Bayfront Park & Ride on the Bayfront Highway. Features classic, custom and specialty vehicles, DJ or live band, tasty food and ice cream, contests give-aways, and more. Free.
- ALBION FAIR Tues. Sept. 11th thru 15th at the Albion Fairgrounds, 9430 Akerley Road, Albion. Dubbed "The biggest little fair around". Admission is \$5 per person, kids 12 and under are free.
- GARDEN TOURS AT TREC Sat. Sept 8th at the Tome Ridge Environmental Center. Tours meet in front of the building at 10:30 am and last just over one hour. Hosted by TREC Garden Coordinator and Penn State Master Gardner Jen Salem you will lean about the Natives growing at TREC and how to incorporate native plants into your own gardens. Free, no registration required.
- ERIE IRISH FESTIVAL Fri. Sept. 14th 5pm to 10:30pm, Sat. Sept. 15th, 11:30 am to 10:30pm and Sun. Sept. 16th, 11:30am to 6pm, at Rainbow Gardens (Waldameer Park), Erie. A celebration of Celtic culture featuring Irish food, Rince Na Tierna dancers, Irish themed art show and more. Admission \$5 per person with donation of canned or dry good. Kids under 16 free.

(continued on page 32)

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## Heard Any Good Words Lately?

Have you ever come across a quotation from a famous or celebrated person which "fits exactly" your thoughts or circumstances?

This is a favorite quote of mine from Teddy Roosevelt:

It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds should have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error & shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasm, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows high achievement, and who at the worse, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who

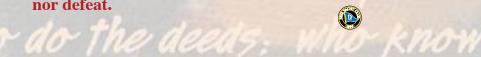
know neither victory

nor defeat.

by Dan Dundon



So, do you have any favorite quotes or such words-of-wisdom? Have you been inspired, amused or changed by wise (or otherwise) people's words? If so, why not send them to me (dandundon@gmail.com) for us to maybe include in future EYC Log articles? If we see enough interest, maybe we can make "good words" an ongoing EYC Log feature?





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#### FALL INTO FUN

(continued from page 24)

• 9th ANNUAL SLAVIC FESTIVAL - Sun. Sept. 16th, 12pm to 7pm at SS Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, 3415 Wallace Street, Erie. Celebrate your Slavic roots with ethnic foods, polka music, traditional dance and more. Free admission and free parking.



- FLAGSHIP TROLLEY WINE TOUR Sun. Sept. 16th 12pm to 6pm. The trolley leaves the Millcreek Mall food court entrance at noon and heads out to visit 5 of our local wineries then returns to the Mall at approximately 6pm. Cost is \$30 and you must call ahead for tickets (814-453-4666).
- WINE COUNTRY HARVEST FESTIVAL Fri. Sept. 28th 3pm to 10pm, Sat. Sept. 29th 10am to 10pm and Sun. Sept. 30th, noon to 6pm at 3 locations: Gibson Park, Rt 20 & 89 downtown North East, Heard Park, Rt 89 between Rt 5 & Rt 20, and Gravel Pit Park, 10300 West Main Rd. North East PA. Wine tasting, arts & crafts, entertainment, car show, children's crafts, winery tours and more.

#### OCTOBER

- VALLEY OF THE GHOULS HAUNTED HOUSE Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday in October from 7:30pm to 11:30pm at the Belle Valley Fire Department, 1514 Norcross Rd. Erie. This frightening haunted house boasts inside waiting area with seating, snack bar and restrooms. Admission is \$4 per person.
- FRANKLIN APPLE FEST Fri. Oct. 5th thru Sun. Oct. 7th. Over 300 arts and crafts vendors, antique and classic cars, Kids Korner, farmers' market, entertainment, food and more. Downtown Franklin PA.
- NIGHTMARE HAYRIDES ON SUMMER-VILLE ST. - Every Friday, Saturday & Sun-



day 7:30 pm to 9:30pm in October at 6319 Sommerville Valley Rd., Ellicottville NY. Twenty-five minute tractor drawn hayride down a creepy haunted path with live scary creatures. Following the ride you will exit into a haunted fright-filled maze that will twist and turn over one acre of land. Then you will enter the equally frightening haunted barn. Total time approx. 40 minutes. Known to be one of the scariest attractions around! \$15 per person, 5 and under free.

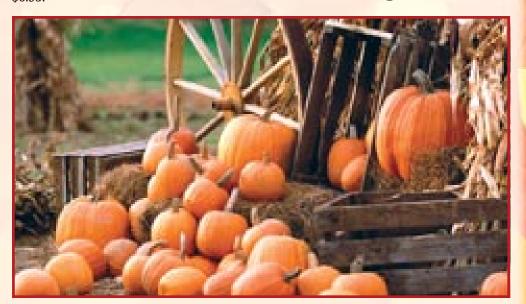
- GARDEN TOURS AT TREC Sat. Oct. 6th at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. (see information for listing in September)
- FALL FEST AT THE PEAK Sat. & Sun. October 6th & 7th and 13th & 14th at the Peak N Peak Ski Resort, 1405 Olde Rd., Clymer NY. Event features giant ski swap, golf swap, craft show, ski lift rides, petting zoo, farmers market, horse drawn wagon rides, wine tasting and much more. Admission if free.
- HAUNTED HAYRIDE AND THE WALK OF DARKNESS Fridays and Saturdays, Oct. 7-29, 7-10 p.m.; Sparrow Pond Family Campground, 11103 Route 19 North, Waterford. Cost: Adults, \$8.95; children 3-11, \$6.95.

- CONNEAUT LAKE PUMPKIN FEST Fri. Oct. 14th thru Sun. Oct 16th at Conneaut Lake Park, Conneaut Lake. Features arts and crafts, food, entertainment, a parade in downtown Conneaut Lake on Saturday, pony rides, amusement park rides, bike cruise-in/show on Sunday afternoon. Free admission; \$5 per vehicle parking fee.
- 2nd ANNUAL APPLE FESTIVAL AT CAMP SHERWIN Sat. Oct. 20th, 8am to 7pm at the YMCA Camp Sherwin, 8600 West Lake Road, Lake City. Includes pancake breakfast with Santa, Santa's workshop, carnival games, bounce house, kids crafts, music, food, dance demonstrations, K9 Police dog demonstration, petting zoo and more.



• FLAGSHIP TROLLEY WINE TOUR - Sat. Oct. 27th, noon to 6pm. (see information for listing in September)

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#### **Legacy Memberships**

The Club's Junior Family Membership program is available to the children of Regular members between the ages of 16 and 34. Our Universal Initiation Fee and Dues Schedule make it more affordable for our children when that day comes when mom and dad are no longer paying.

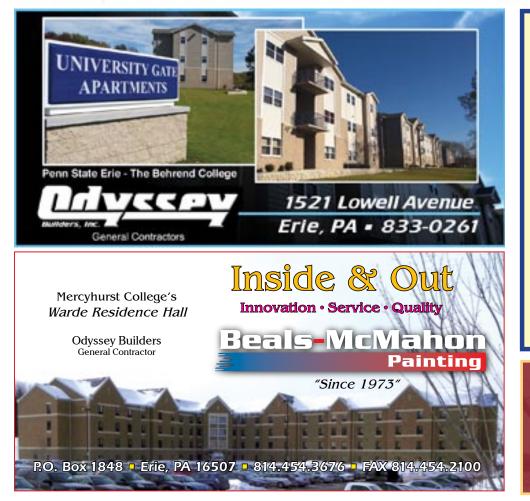
The Erie Yacht Club is a family club and it is our hope that the next generation of our families will come to enjoy the Club and the wonderful yachting heritage we have. To that end, we want you to be aware of the tremendous benefits available for a child of a member who joins the club.

- Initiation fees are discounted (see schedule online)
- \* 1/2 point toward acquiring a slip is earned each year
- \* Dues are also discounted based on age (see schedule online)
- \* Dues are payable in two annual installments

- \* Junior Members receive their own member number and membership card
- Automatic transfer to Regular membership in the year of their 35th birthday

You can see what a great opportunity this plan offers our young people and lets them start their own sense of history within the Erie Yacht Club. If your son or daughter is 21 years of age or older they no longer qualify to use the Club under your membership, and should have their own.

We are proud of our Club. With our diverse membership, our beautiful facilities and the excellent food and beverage service, it's considered to be among the finest on the Great Lakes. We hope your child will join us and continue the tradition! Application for membership is available at the Club web site at: www.erievachtclub.org.











#### **October Calendar of Club Events**

- 1st Monday Night Football at the Club 7pm • Beer Specials
- 6th Commodores Ball 7:30pm **Entertainment by Manhatten**
- Champagne Sunday Brunch 11am - 2pm • \$12.95 NFL Sunday Ticket • Football All Day!
- Monday Night Football at the Club 7pm • Beer Specials
- 14th Champagne Sunday Brunch 11am - 2pm • \$12.95
  - NFL Sunday Ticket Football All Day!
- 15th Monday Night Football at the Club 7pm • Beer Specials
- 17th Haul Out Blues 5pm 9pm Entertainment by Shally & the Riffriders
- 20th Octoberfest 6pm Entertainment by the Mad Bavarian The Augsburg German Band German Dinner & Beer Special Reservations 453-4931
- 21st Kids Halloween Party 11am Jungle Terry Show • Arts & Crafts Treasure Hay Pile

Champagne Sunday Brunch 11am - 2pm • \$12.95

NFL Sunday Ticket • Football All Day!

- 22nd Monday Night Football at the Club 7pm • Beer Specials
- 27th Adult Halloween Party 8pm Mid. "The Monster Bash"
- 28th Champagne Sunday Brunch 11am - 2pm • \$12.95
- 29th Monday Night Football at the Club 7pm • Beer Specials

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