

# HARBOR LIGHT

Volume 39, Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2014



**Club Commodore,  
Mike Powers**



**Vice Commodore,  
Dave Ryan**



**Rear Commodore,  
Bill Amatucci**

Greetings from your Commodore! Wow, it's already February! So far winter has proven "interesting," even leading to us closing the club on two evenings in early January. But the extent of this year's ice cover on Lake Erie improves our chances of good water this coming summer.

I want to thank Vice Commodore Dave Ryan for an outstanding New Year's Eve Party at the club and P/C Wendy Campbell for heading yet another outstanding Muskrat Dinner! Both were great events thanks to the many club members who helped by working and bringing items to the events – thank you one and all.

I regret to inform you that P/C Richard Schneeman passed away on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. He joined MBC in 1999, served as Rear Commodore in 2002, Vice Commodore in 2003, Commodore in 2004, and Director for 2005-2008. Rich was the President of the MBC Chapter of the International Order of the Blue Gavel in 2006 and District President of the International Order of the Blue Gavel for District 9. His many contributions to the club include originating the Thursday night Burger Nights that is such a fixture now at the club. We will miss his smile and steady influence at the club very much. Our heartfelt condolences go to Carol Smith, and Rich's family.

Tickets are still available for the AYC Commodores Ball (aka The AYC Party) but are going fast! It will be held on February 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn, Livonia. For tickets, please contact P/C Brian Moyer as soon as possible. This is always a great party, especially since the attendees have been limited to only AYC club members one guest.

I encourage all members to come out for the Board Meeting on the second Wednesday of the month and *especially* for the General Membership Meetings on the fourth Wednesday on each month. We have a number of things going on and need your input and help to help make them a success.

MBC's 2014 Commodore's Ball will be held on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn, Southgate. As has been done in the past, we will be holding a raffle for a free hotel room for those who wish to spend the night there. The drawing date will be Thursday evening, March 13<sup>th</sup> – allowing winner time to get their tickets to the Ball. Kathy and I hope to see all of you there!

I'll see you around the club!

Your Commodore

The weather outside was frightful, but those muskrats were soooooo delightful! Wendy Campbell, Dave Rafko and their crew braved the January Freeze that caused a week's closing of roads and schools to serve this classic dinner to a virtual full house on Jan 6. Mother Nature will have to throw more than an arctic vortex at us to dampen this annual tradition!

After enduring record sub-zero temperatures, we are all relieved to turn the calendar to February and see that Spring is only 50 days away! The snowbirds will return, and thoughts will turn to boat prep and even launch schedules. Yet, MBC does not hibernate during the winter. Many ice fishermen and their shanties can be seen from the warmth of the club's comfortable lounge chairs. One recent weekend saw Bob Rosenberger repairing 4 banquet tables, and the Sotos took advantage of a sunny afternoon to pack up the outdoor decorations. In the kitchen, Dave Collino and Carl Vogt (much to the delight of the ladies playing Euchre) fixed the main sink and disposal by installing new plumbing, back-flow preventer, solenoid and waterproofed the electrical service, while Brian Moyer came up with a new faucet fixture.

In this edition of the Harbor Light, and also posted on Club bulletin boards, is a listing of un-identified trailers and other items bordering Lake and Center Streets. We would like to continue storing these trailers in the MBC Storage Yard, but need help determining if they are owned or abandoned. If you own one of those units you must contact me ASAP. MBC has begun the process to legally acquire each of the trailers and will soon begin disposing of them.

The real-time calendar on our club website [www.MonroeBoatClub.org](http://www.MonroeBoatClub.org) is also used for the events listed on the last page of this Harbor Light. It includes activities scheduled all the way through next winter! While much effort is put into the accuracy of the calendar, I must rely on each event chairman/principal to provide the particulars of their events for posting. Please check the calendar and let me know if any revisions are needed. It's much easier to check dates and times in advance than find out the calendar is wrong (or the party isn't on the schedule) when the event is about to start!

Whenever you need to schedule a group, event or meeting at MBC, just check the available times, give me a call and your event reservation will appear on the calendar almost immediately.

Please feel free to reach me 7 days a week at your convenience by email at [DRyan@bex.net](mailto:DRyan@bex.net) or phone at 419-260-9578.

Things have been great around the club! We have beer a variety of specials on tap, so keep an eye on the board for that draft beer special.

Your patience will be appreciated with a little mess in the beginning of February. We are trying to extend the back bar 3 feet to utilize what we have for larger party nights. I have received numerous complaints about hosting entertainment in the bar area, and at times it's just too crowded. So we will try and open the backroom bar up and attempt to make it more user friendly with a little better atmosphere. Thanks for your patience.

On another note it seems like we have been spending hundreds the last couple of months for bar glasses, \$387 to be exact. I know some of the glasses do break, but we also find them in the other parts of the club. If you see or use them, please return to the Bar. Drink costs are at bare bones prices, and I would hate to keep raising prices to cover the cost of replacing glasses.

On February 15<sup>th</sup>, we will have Soul Kitchen in house...possibly in our new bar. I will keep you posted.

"Name That Tune" will be back February 8<sup>th</sup>. Don't miss out on the fun!

I want to thank our Club artist Nicole on one fantastic job after another in the bar area...a true Picasso!

Please stay tuned and let's get through this mess called winter!

**SOUL KITCHEN**

**Sat, Feb 15th**

**NAME THAT TUNE**

**Sat, Feb 22nd**

**New at MBC!**

**BUNCO MONDAYS**

**Third Mondays**

**6:30pm**



## Club/Community Events Committee, Charlotte Neuhauser

### CCEC Activities

- **MBC Book Club...No meeting in February**
- **MBC Cookbook for sale at the Club Bar**
- **Feb 9 - Toledo Lighthouse History**
- **Mar 9 - Women in the Military, Kathy Powers**
- **Apr 6 - US Customs Regulations for Canada**
- **Apr 12 - Dealing with Disaster Day/Steak Roast**
- **May 1 - End of Life Issues**



**Toledo Lighthouse 1904** The lighthouse marks the Toledo shipping channel where the waters of Lake Erie meet the shallow waters of Maumee Bay. The Romanesque design lighthouse was completed May 23, 1904 and is architecturally unique with buff brick and a rolled edge steel roof. The lighthouse is 4000 sq. ft. and stands 64' high. There are 76 steps to the top of the lighthouse. On Sunday, Feb 9 at 3:30, Sandy Bihn, President of the Toledo Lighthouse Society and Executive Director of Lake Erie Waterkeeper, Inc., will speak on the challenges of restoring the historical Toledo Lighthouse and the changes to reducing algae in Lake Erie.

Sandy has been President of the Toledo Lighthouse Society since its establishment in 2004 with membership growing from less than a dozen to over 500. The organization has restoration plans and specifications that will cost \$1.5 million. They have improved access to the lighthouse and will be hosting the 11th annual festival at Maumee Bay State Park, July 12-13. Sandy also works for Lake Erie Waterkeeper which has developed a relationship with fishermen, boaters, waterfront property owners and businesses to advocate for improving Lake Erie water quality. Key programs include nutrients/algae, invasive species, water levels, climate change and education and outreach.



**Dealing with Disaster...** On August 8, 1987, MBC offered a program called "Dealing with Disaster," for which we have an agenda in the MBC archives. Some of you probably planned or attended the day...we

need your consultation if you're available for a planning session on Sunday, Feb 9 at 2:45. Please come with your ideas and suggestions. Other clubs and the community will be invited so volunteers will also be needed on that day. A great way to earn work hours!

If you have outdated flares, don't throw them away. Hold on to them until April 12 when we'll set them off. Some of the topics to be covered are: day and night distress signals, emergency radio techniques, MOB drill, flotation equipment and recovery techniques, firefighting techniques, warnings, and alarms on water, and getting the boat back to shore if you're not the skipper. A steak roast will be held that evening so watch for sign-up sheets.

Don't forget to buy your **MBC Cookbook** at the Bar!

It's not too early to plan for **Regatta**...Save your used books for the book sale. We will be selling used CDs, DVDs, and Wii and computer games this year as well.



## Sail Fleet Captain, John Kauffman

We have had some crazy weather lately, but in less than 4 months, we will start seeing boats docked in the harbor!

The Sail Fleet has met twice since the last Harbor Light was published and we have already made some plans for next summer. On the racing side, our racing dates were finalized. Tuesday night racing will begin with a shakedown on May 13, with official racing starting on May 20th. Our major races are scheduled for:

- July 19th - Race for the Sisters, Rich Potcova, Chair
- August 10th - Ladies Race, Dan Sadoski, Race Chair
- August 16th - Solo Challenge, Walt Norris, Race Chair

On the cruising front, Dan Williamson will again be coordinating Sail Fleet cruising activities. If you have ideas for destinations, please contact Dan or me. Based on the participation levels last year, we will again offer a cruising class flag. A change in the qualifying guidelines was made to track cruising distance from September 1 to August 31 to calculate a full cruising year and still allow time to order flags in time for the Sail Fleet Banquet. Last year, several folks traveled additional miles after the deadline so now we will be able to count that travel. More details will follow in the next month or so.

At the club, our Rear Commodore continues to offer great specials at the club. There is good food at lunch, and special events planned for several of the upcoming weekends. So take advantage of the good food and company, and spend some time at your club.

I can't wait until it warms up enough to start working on the boat, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the club!



## Dock Master, David Collino

Greetings from the docks!

Dock holders, you should have received your bills for the 2014 season. Remember payment is due by Monday February 10th. If you have not received a bill and think you should have, or if you believe there is an error with what you did receive, please contact me immediately to get this resolved.

I will be posting the list of open docks and sign-up sheets on the Dock Master Bulletin Board on Monday February 17th. If you do not currently hold a dock and would like the opportunity to bid on one, or if you are a current dock holder and would like to bid on a different dock, please sign up by Thursday February 27th.

Lastly, the dock assignment meeting will be held on Sunday March 2nd. If you are bidding on a dock, you MUST provide proof of ownership, proof of insurance, and payment for your dock should you win one.



## Auxiliary, Kim Fuller

*This month's article was written by Past President Kathy Powers.*

The Auxiliary hopes that all members and their families had a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. The club New Year's Eve Party was a great success and all who attended had a wonderful time.

The AYC Commodore's Ball will be held on February 14-15. The club's Hospitality Room theme is "The Decades," and we have the year 1940. Power Fleet Captain Rob Schneider is working on making the room look like a USO show. The Auxiliary donated \$300.00 to the Power Fleet Captain to help defray the cost of appetizers and finger desserts. An email will be sent to all club members at the beginning of February requesting additional donations for appetizers and finger desserts. Remember that for every appetizer you donate, you earn two work hours. It would be neat if everyone could gear their appetizers to the year of 1940...just a thought... Additional volunteers are needed during the event to help support the MBC Hospitality Suite. Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway between the children's play room and the banquet room. If you are attending the event, please consider volunteering for set-up, bar tending, restocking appetizers, cleanup. You will receive work hours for your volunteer support.

Did everyone see the sign-up sheet for Relay for Life Committee on the bulletin board in the bar? Jody Thatcher will be holding the first meeting sometime in February to talk strategy. Keep an eye out for the date on the calendar board behind the bar. Remember we are still selling KOOZIES for RELAY FOR LIFE, cans (\$2) and bottles (\$3) at the bar. Proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society.

Auxiliary members Nickole Kachar and Jodi Thatcher are starting a new event – BUNCO NIGHT. It will be held monthly on every third Monday, beginning, Monday Jan. 20th. Registration starts at 6pm and play begins at 6:30pm. Please bring a dish to share. If you stop in the Club before then, you will find a sign-up sheet on the cork board. Proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society.

Reminder that the MBC Book Club will not be meeting in February, but resume March 5 at noon. The next book we will be reading is DARK WITCH by Nora Roberts, and is the first book of her new trilogy. Everyone is welcome to join us! We have lunch and discuss the book and much more....we have a good time!

That is it for now...I hope everyone has a Happy and Safe New Year!

### AYC Poker Run Schedule

**Cooley Canal Yacht Club - June 13-15**

**Wyandotte Yacht Club - June 27-29**

**Ottawa River Yacht Club - July 11-13**

**River View Yacht Club - July 18-20**

*and opening of the cards:*

**Ford Yacht Club - August 15-17**



# **EUCHRE** **Every Sunday**



**Registration - 12pm**  
**Games begin - 1pm**  
**Coast \$5/per player**  
**\*bring a dish to share**



**Power Fleet Capt.**  
**Rob Schneider**

One month down, this year eleven to go!  
Hello friends! AYC has published it's 2014 Poker Run schedule and it looks like a great one: we start the year out at Cooley Canal Yacht Club – June 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, Wyandotte Yacht Club – June 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, Ottawa River Yacht Club – July 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, River View Yacht Club – July – 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, and opening of the cards at Ford Yacht Club – August – 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>. Mark these dates down and plan to attend the runs with us this season.

AYC is a great organization and serves as a consistent financial support and profit for those host clubs. These Poker Runs offer a wide variety of food, drinks and entertainment. Live bands both Friday and Saturday night headline the parties.

The AYC Ball Hospitality Room is coming along well and sign-up sheets are posted in the back hallway. I am building small partitions to protect the walls of the existing hotel room that will serve as a skeletal support for our finish decorations. There is still more to do and I thank you all for your help so far. I plan to work at the club from February 1-10 until finished and ready to ship.

February has been called the month of the Wolf; historically the weather was so cold that it would drive the animals from the forests and into the towns to prey on people as they left the safety their homes. The fear of those attacks kept people inside waiting for the weather to change, commonly known as

"Cabin Fever". Fortunately, we are not left to our own means and do not have wolves in our woods.

Announcing, "The cure for Cabin Fever" in Monroe, or as we call it "Poker Run/ Bus Trip" why wait? On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, a 56-seat bus will be arriving at our Club at 10am. BYOB, departing at 10:30 am.

Each leg of our ride will net you a card. Our first destination along the way is the Detroit Boat Show at Cobo Hall. The remaining stops are secret (hint 2 club crawls). We will return about 6:30 – 7pm to MBC for a steak/chicken cookout. There will be music and dancing from 8-10:30/11 (?) Cabin clean-up after, to leave it like we found it!

Dinner and dancing is open to all members, bus trip or not. I have a separate sign-up sheet. Plan to be there!

Cost as follows (per person):

- Bus trip to Cobo Hall, including admission to the show and poker cards \$25
- Steak or chicken options:
- K-cut Rib-eye \$12, Q-cut Rib eye, Chicken breast \$9
- Fleet Captain will supply: salad, baked beans and cheesy potatoes
- Fleet: please bring a dish to share



## **FLAG OFFICERS for 2014**

**Commodore**.....MIKE POWERS

(734) 546-2382 [mnpowers@radideo.net](mailto:mnpowers@radideo.net)

**Vice Commodore**.....DAVE RYAN

(419) 260-9578 [dryan@bex.net](mailto:dryan@bex.net)

**Rear Commodore**.....BILL AMATUCCI

(734)335-6118, (734) 837-6095 [wamatucci@comcast.net](mailto:wamatucci@comcast.net)

**Power Fleet Captain**.....ROB SCHNEIDER

(910) 487-2020 [robertschneider@comcast.net](mailto:robertschneider@comcast.net)

**Sail Fleet Captain**.....JOHN KAUFFMAN

(734) 279-0232 [johnrkauffmanjr@gmail.com](mailto:johnrkauffmanjr@gmail.com)

**Financial Secretary** .....Larry Inguagiato

**Treasurer**.....Lance Peidmonte

**Secretary**.....Fred Hoitash

**Dock Master**.....David Collino

**Historian**.....William Huntley/Charlotte Neuhauser

**Membership Chair**.....Jim Alban

**Obituaries**.....(MI) - P/C Paul Braunlich; (OH) - Jim Brzuchalski

**ILYA Delegate**.....Mike Powers

**Parliamentarian** .....P/C David Powell

**Chaplain**.....Fr. Darin Robert

**Fleet Surgeon** .....Dr. Vicki Collins

## **BOARD of DIRECTORS**

P/C Brian Moyer - P/C Rodger Dutton -

P/C Wendy Campbell - P/C Rick Campbell

## **BLUE GAVEL OFFICERS**

**President**.....P/C Ron Soto

**Vice President**.....P/C Rodger Dutton

**Secretary**.....P/C William AmatuCCI

**Treasurer**.....P/C Paul Braunlich

**Chaplin**.....P/C Ric Murray

**Delegates**.....P/C Ric Murray

P/C Jim Kozlowski

## **AUXILIARY OFFICERS**

**President**.....Kim Fuller

**Vice Pres**.....Kathy Powers

**Secretary**.....Diane Costello

**Treasurer**.....Sue Van Thomme

## **SATIN GAVEL OFFICERS**

**President**.....Carol Smith

**Vice-President**.....Sheri AmatuCCI

**Secretary**.....Celeste Hoitash

**Treasurer**.....Sue Van Thomme

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Cmdr. Mike Powers - P/C Brian Moyer - P/C Rodger Dutton -  
Tom Snarey - P/C Paul Braunlich -  
Fred Lemerand - Bill Huntley

**AYC DELEGATES:** Larry Inguagiato - Brian Moyer -

Rob Schneider - **AT LARGE:** P/C Ron Stokes

**AYC ALTERNATES:** P/C Rick Campbell - P/C Ron Soto -

John Kauffman

**Roster & E-mail address changes** .....Tony Martin

[iamamartin@yahoo.com](mailto:iamamartin@yahoo.com)

## **NEWSLETTER "HARBOR LIGHT"**

**Editor**.....John Glanville, Jr.

(734) 241-2824 [paragon25556@juno.com](mailto:paragon25556@juno.com)

## **DEADLINE FOR CONTENT SUBMISSION**

**20th of each month**

**Monroe Boat Club Web Site:** [www.monroeboatclub.org](http://www.monroeboatclub.org)

**Webmaster**.....Tony Martin

[iamamartin@yahoo.com](mailto:iamamartin@yahoo.com)

***FIND MBC ON FACEBOOK!***

***View the Harbor Light and other club events online!***

# WELCOME



**Gary Longmuir** resides in Monroe with his wife Laura and he is with a greenhouse supplier.

They enjoy **golfing** and involvement with the Special Olympics program.

**Debra Page** resides with her husband Ralph in Monroe and works in the Airline Transportation Industry.

They enjoy boating on their 23 ft. Sunbird as well as traveling and camping.



**Mr. John Giarmo** of Monroe owns and operates *Giarmo's Carpet Cleaning*.

He and his wife, Janet, enjoy biking & spending time together and with friends.

In addition John is a football coach, does woodworking and enjoys fishing.





# NEW MEMBERS



**Mr. Phil Fry** is an attorney and resides in Findlay, OH.

He and his wife, Mary, enjoy sailing, (22 ft. Catalina Sailboat-“Catch 22”) history and games.

**Mr. Tom Henry** lives in Trenton with his wife, Christine, and is in the Steel industry.

Hobby interests are fishing, from their 33 ft. Chris Craft - “Empty Pockets” and they also enjoy motorcycles.



**Dr. William (Bill) Parks** lives in LaSalle, MI with his wife, Julie.

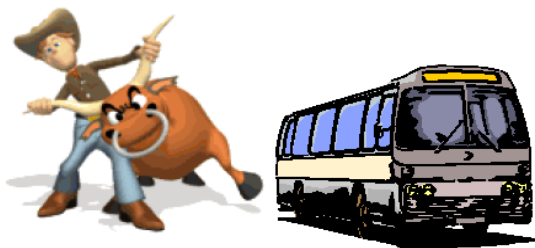
He owns, and practices as a Chiropractic Physician, Parks Chiropractic Health Center in Monroe, MI.

He and his wife enjoy Photography, Bicycling, Golfing and Family Activities.



# Testicle Festival Bus Trip

Saturday March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014



Sign-Up Sheet & Tickets Available At Bar

**Starting Thursday Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>**

\$15 per person (BYOB)

Must Pay When You Sign-Up & Get Ticket

MBC Bar will Open at 9am

Bus will Leave at 10am

And Return Around 6pm

**MBC PRESENTS > A NIGHT OF FUN & MUSIC WITH**

**SOUL KITCHEN**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> 8-MIDNIGHT**



**GUESTS ARE INVITED**

NON MEMBERS > PLEASE SIGN IN

UPON ENTERING ..

DRINK TOKENS CAN BE PURCHASED FOR YOU

BY A MBC MEMBER

BOOKING INFO: CALL AL @ 419-367-6594

## Notice Per MBC Winter/Summer Storage and Parking Lot Fee Rule # 6:

The trailers with license plates listed below are unidentifiable. These license plate numbers have been forwarded to the Monroe County Sheriff's office. If you own one of the trailers listed below, you must contact MBC Vice Commodore ASAP. This notice, plus a posting on the Dock Master's Bulletin Board, and one public publication, satisfies the club requirement to "commence action to seek title so that the item(s) may be sold or destroyed" (page 87, MBC 2013 Roster).

- MBC Outside Storage Items along Lake and Center Streets
- Trailer Storage: Lake and Center Street Perimeter (60 Units)
  - Lake St. (35 on 11/30)

Four W/O LICENSE  
PLATES

-white shore lander

-black trailer

B807437

C057139

42380P (Blue)

B159191

Z84088 (Blue)

B710688

?=galvanized Load Rite

P29302 (Blue)

B755671

B701032

B721549

?

B366988

?, ?

B58961 (Blue)

P29302

35298G (Nevada)

X= white

A305119

B781251

B58961 (blue)

?, ?

A308119

V83061 (Blue)

A743629

B707885

Three W/O LICENSE  
PLATES

Center St.(25 on 11/30)

B359177

A685271

?

A682837

B052117

13663X (Blue)

V18871 (Blue)

?

B053622

? (TIRES FALLING OFF  
RIMS)

?, ?= galvanized

Z51352 (Blue)

?, ? + CRAP WOOD CRA-  
DLE

SIX STEEL CRADLES

?, ? =white with ducks on  
fenders

Galvanized trailer



# Adventures of the "Erie Spirit"

## ***Panama City Panama from a cruisers perspective with MBC member Mark Weihs and Susan Howard aboard the S/V Erie Spirit***

Ahhhh Yes, the cruising lifestyle, anchored off a white sand beach in Gin clear waters, sipping on a rum and Coke.....well sometimes. At the end of September 2012, after transiting the Panama Canal to the Pacific, we found ourselves anchored off Panama City Panama, which bears no resemblance to the aforementioned anchorages. Panama City is a necessary evil for cruisers, being a crossroads of those moving from the Atlantic to the Pacific, or vice versa.

Unlike its sister city Colon on the Atlantic side of the canal, Panama City has prospered with the canal generated revenue. It is truly a big metropolis, with a skyline that rivals most US cities, has good public transportation, two decent airports, and excellent stores for provisioning and obtaining needed boat parts. Other than the above positives, it is not a cruiser-friendly place to hang out, although we did from October 2012 through April 2013.

The 20-foot tidal range there limits the areas where one can anchor or dock to places along the canal exit, called the Amador Causeway, about 10 miles from downtown. Any other areas go dry at low tide. In this area there are two marinas with floating docks, which are always filled up with sport fishing boats, not to mention prohibitively expensive. That leaves Balboa Yacht club, where one can rent a mooring for about \$1000 per month (which we have utilized when we have left the boat to go back to the US), and two anchorage areas, one on each side of the causeway.

The Panama area has two seasons -dry and rainy - and each has its own prevailing wind direction. So in the summer and fall, most cruisers anchor on the east side of the causeway in an area called Los Brisas, and in the opposite season on the west side (the canal side) called La Playita. Neither of these anchorages are particularly good, suffering from poor holding ground, wake from the canal traffic and exposure to the frequent thunder storms during the rainy season. The anchoring rule at these spots is to let out all of the anchor chain that you have, and then let out some more! It is very common for boats to drag during thunderstorms at these anchorages.

Shore access via dinghy is treacherous on the Los Brisas side. There are some abandoned floating dingy docks about 20' from shore, and the old ramp to shore has collapsed. One of the creative cruisers made a ferry out of an old 8' plastic dingy, with a rope to pull yourself between the floating dock, and some slime covered steps that take you up to shore. The ferry dingy became known as the "tippy" dingy because often one would capsize it trying to make the shore run...I personally lost two cell phones this way!

Access to town is via taxi, metro bus or privately run busses known as the Diablos Rojos (Red Devils). These are old US school busses tricked out with neat paint jobs and chrome, and only cost 25 cents to go anywhere. Unfortunately they are always filled with



locals, and with the language barrier it is difficult to know which one to get on. The Metro busses are 75 cents per ride using a prepaid plastic card to board, however from the area we were, one had to transfer busses at a stop in the El Chorrillo neighborhood, which is a crime infested ghetto area (this area was partially destroyed during the US invasion in 1989). So generally we used taxis, but as "gringos" we had to learn how to negotiate in Spanish to get the best price for a ride, which could range from \$1 to \$5 to the same destination. Sometimes we would go through 4 or more taxis before we could negotiate a non-Gringo rate.

The town has several US class malls, big box stores, and marine parts stores. Plus there was a business near the anchorage called Marine Warehouse, that would get any parts you needed shipped in from Miami, but one had to be patient as they would send one cargo container every two weeks via ship, so it may take a month to receive your delivery.

The cruising community in Panama City is somewhat loose from a social interaction standpoint. Although there are some cruisers that stay there, generally it is just a stop over point before transiting the Pacific, or going through the canal to the Atlantic and points east. That made it somewhat difficult to make cruising friends during our stay, although we do have several that we stay in contact with, and a couple of them are now moored with us in Ecuador.

Haul-out facilities for working on your bottom consist of a marine railroad where you drive your boat into a cradle submerged at high tide, and a cable pulls the cradle (and hopefully boat) up railroad tracks on a slope, where you can perform bottom work, and wait for the next high tide to re-launch.

Panama City does however have some sights to see. There is a great fish market with the daily catches on display, the Mira Flores locks visitor center, located at the 2<sup>nd</sup> lock from the Pacific, has a great viewing platform, museum and restaurant - it is quite fun to have a drink and watch the ships and boats pass through the locks. In addition, the old town section of Panama City (Casco Viejo) is a wonderful place to spend an afternoon or evening. It was the original city, and after being sacked, and burnt down by the pirate Captain Morgan, it was re-built as a fort on a peninsula. While its construction dates to the 1600's, the government is currently working on a major refurbishment of the area. There are many beautiful churches and cathedrals, in addition to a large number of restaurants, some with café style seating on the sidewalk.

While we can't say this was our favorite place to visit, it was very interesting, and short of the one time we were mugged (Mark ended up at the clinic getting his hand stitched up) we found it fairly safe.

More of our travels next month..... see you on the water.

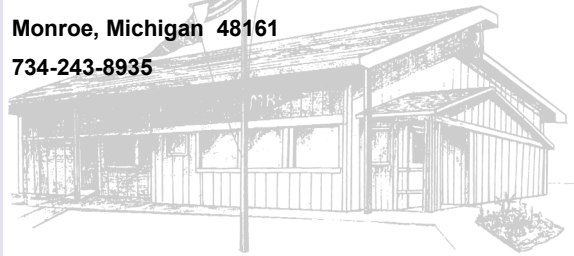
Mark & Susan

## MONROE BOAT CLUB

7932 Bolles Harbor Drive

Monroe, Michigan 48161

734-243-8935



# February 2014

Member AYC, ILYA, YCA

and US Sailing Assn.



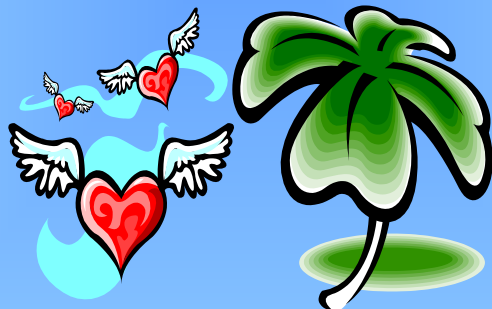
# The Harbor Light



## MONROE BOAT CLUB CALENDAR-AT-A-GLANCE

### February

- 2 - Euchre 1pm
- 8 - Name That Tune
- 9 - Euchre 1pm
- 9 - CCEC Presentation
- 10 - Dock Payment Deadline
- 12 - Board Meeting 7pm
- 13 - Dock Cmte. Mtg.
- 14 - HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
- 14-15 AYC Commodore's Ball
- 15 - Soul Kitchen Band 6pm
- 16 - Euchre 1pm
- 22 - MBC Bus Trip
- 23 - Euchre 1pm
- 26 - Auxiliary Meeting 7pm
- 26 - Gen. Membership Mtg. 7pm
- 27 - Deadline -dock applications



**HAPPY HOUR DAILY 12-6pm**

### BURGER NIGHT

**Thursdays 530-8pm**

Offering Delicious  
Homemade  
Soup!



### March

- 2 - Dock Assignment Mtg.
- 9 - Euchre 1pm
- 9 - CCEC Presentation
- 12 - Board Meeting 7pm
- 15 - House Cmte. Mtg. 7pm
- 16 - Euchre 1pm
- 17 - HAPPY ST. PATTY'S DAY!
- 22 - Testicle Festival Bus Trip
- 23 - Euchre 1pm
- 26 - Auxiliary Meeting 7pm
- 26 - Gen. Membership Mtg. 7pm
- 30 - Euchre 1pm

Stay up to date with all of the club's events on the web site: [www.monroeboatclub.org](http://www.monroeboatclub.org)