



Prospective members



Dave Sorg is from Ft. Wayne Indiana. Dave has 2 adult kids both attending Indiana University. He has a Cal '21. He liked the look of the lake and decided to give the boat club a try as well.



Matt Niekamp is from St. Henry. He enjoys boating and fishing and hopes to do a lot of both here on Grand Lake. Matt has a Catalina '25.



Golden Anniversary!!

50 years of Membership at the St. Mary's Boat Club. Bob and Joann Wilkins have been members of the boat club, for 50 years this year, so let's congratulate them when you seen them around the club.

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NEXT MEETING

BOG mtg. 2:45 pm
 Membership Mtg. 4:00 pm
 Dinner after Meeting

Commodore's Corner by John Myers

October is the month where sailors are torn between hope and fear. They hope that they can get one last great sail in and they fear that they will be pulling the boat and disassembling it in a cold drizzling rain. Pulling the boat early means that the task may be pleasant if a little sad but each nice day afterwards, one may have regrets that they had not done so.

In my humble opinion, fall is the best time to sail. Winds are usually better than in the summer and the still warm water temperatures helps mitigate to cooling air temperature so that it is still pleasant on the water. September-October 2013 had several memorable sails for me: The Labor Day, Monday sail to lunch with the group was awesome. The next weekend after the club meeting Cindi and I took Steve and Cindy Badders out on our boat for a great sail. A week later, a sail to Behm's for supper with several members on new members Phil and Sue Furst's Bayfield 23. It took 3 people on the rail and everyone on the high side to keep the boat upright as we sailed at hull speed. Friday October 4th, Cindi and I sailed down to Dock Side restaurant, ate supper and walked the full length of the dam. Then we sailed home, watching the sunset along the way and

arriving back just after dusk. The boat ran at hull speed or better the whole way and back. It just does not get much better.

I keep a directory called "Best of Photos" on my computer and now on my smart phone also. In that directory are two photos of sailing in the fall on Grand Lake.

The first was taken on Jim Hepp's Pace-ship 23 back 10 years ago in 2003 on the October meeting Sunday Afternoon. I know the date because Al played hooky from the BOG meeting to go sailing. Al Clark and Jay Schafer are on the rail. Note Jim's Greek fisherman's hat.

The second photo was taken of my wife Cindi on October 20th, 2003, this time on our boat. Note the reef in the main, the degree of heel of the boat and her hair standing out straight sideways! These are truly memories that will last a life.

Coincidentally, I am writing this on October 20th, my boat is still in the water, and yes I am both hopeful and fearful.



Meeting Highlights from SMBC Oct. 2013 General Membership Meeting

- The lake level is 8 1/2" below the spillway.
- So far there has been \$1,030 donated towards the new furniture. If you would like to donate please feel free to do so.
- At our November meeting nominations and elections will take place for BOG members, Treasurer and Vice Commodore.
- Two new prospective members were introduced, Dave Sorg and Matt Niekamp both will be voted on in the November meeting.
- It was agreed by the BOG members that the Committee boat will be named Miss Elsie and a plaque will be mounted on the boat in honor of Elsie.
- Bob & Joann Wilkins celebrated their 50 year anniversary as St. Mary's Boat Club members.
- Christmas Party will be at Romers. Updates will be forthcoming as more plans are secured.
- The Annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be November 3rd after the general membership meeting.
- A vote was taken on Steven and Cindy Badders and Bill and Ty Baumann as new members. They were unanimously elected.
- Bryan Miller was there and gave an update on the lake.
 - 2014 dock fees have not been determined as of yet.
 - Stump removal may happen over the winter. If you know where there are stumps please let someone know.
 - There was a question if we could put a sign up for boater/boat crossing on the main road. Bryan will check into this.
- State of the Boat Club by Jim Hepp

The Shed is clean and Jim appreciates everyone keeping it that way.
There is a need for a new phone to replace one that has failed on our land line.
After dinner there will be a knot tying clinic for anyone wishing to participate.

Perspective on Spring Boat Prep from an Aging Sailor

By Jay Schafer

From the log book of Jersey Girl

On Monday, April 22nd, I spend a full 9 hour day getting the boat preparations started. It took me a full hour just to uncover and untie the boat covers. Jim Hepp met me after that and we worked non-stop until about 6:30 that evening fixing the rudder and replacing the lines that lift and lower it as well as replacing the locking mechanism on the tiller. We rubbed out and re-waxed the hull, repainted the water line bottom paint and spent a ridiculous amount of time trying to repair the porta-pottie bellows assembly to no avail. The replacement parts were not quite the exact match, of course, and it never really worked. A major effort was in attaching backing plates to all of the stanchions and the halyard clutch. I found myself working from the inside and pretzeling into some pretty uncomfortable positions my back especially enjoyed.

The following Monday, 29th, I met Jim at his house and put the registration and license plate stickers on. Jim towed the boat to the boat club marina and we spent the day with John Myers, Don Davis, Irv and Doc Wilkins painting all the docks in the marina. My back was really sore from being on my knees for hours at a time and everything hurt. I re-attached the solar panel, the Windex and then headed home where I found myself barely able to get out of the car. I never actually was able to stand completely erect until the next day.

Somehow I managed to muster up the energy to drive up to the club again on Tuesday, the 30th, and spend another entire day cleaning out the boat and vacuuming. I rubbed down all of the hard surfaces with white vinegar (such a delightful aroma) and stained any wood on deck that needed touchup. I removed the extra caulking around the stanchions and attached fenders to the starboard toe rail in anticipation of docking during the mast raising. As often happens to me when working on a project, I forget to drink water and I managed to get myself very dehydrated. I developed a great headache and left for home where, once again, getting out of the car was a chore. I think the combination of dehydration and wearing my weight belt for back support all day messed up my entire intestinal system and I didn't feel right for several days.

Thursday, May 2nd, was the big launch day. I wasn't sure I even wanted to look at the boat by this time but pushed myself to meet Jim around noon where he had a slightly different agenda and coerced me into helping him attach the new electric motor to the gin pole. While he was working on some other related projects, I moved the two huge aerators tied to the sea wall apart enough that I could get my boat in between to raise the mast. They had been there for quite some time and were pretty scummy with dead fish and drift wood congregating around them. I asked myself why I worked so hard to beautify my hull, only to dip in this mess. I made sure I washed my hands after that maneuver.

Finally the big moment had arrived and I climbed up into the cockpit and Jim towed us around to the ramp where we made the usual nervous decent into the watery murk. The engine turned on beautifully and I motored slowly to the gin pole where we tied up without much fanfare. The new motorized unit worked great and the mast went up without a hitch. Naturally, there was one little glitch while attaching the front shrouds. The starboard shroud has been loose for several years and I asked Jim to drill a second hole in the connector so as to shorten

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(cont)

it. Of course, the new hole ended up being in a place that made it not fit and Jim had to find a new part but I'd have to wait until later to finish the project - always something. After several long painful days of serious boat prep I finally got my boat in the water and the mast up.

I motored to my dock where I had pre-attached all of the lines and tied up, spending the rest of the afternoon rigging the boat and experiencing my encroaching dementia in a special way. This would be funny if it wasn't so alarming. For the first time in the 11 years that I've owned Jersey Girl, I couldn't remember or figure out which direction to face the support system for the dodger! I put it on backwards and was puzzled as to why the canvas wouldn't fit right. Once I said a few choice expletives to myself, I reversed it and then proceeded to attempt putting the canvas on upside-down. It was a comedy of errors that I wasn't finding funny. I then proceeded to attempt putting the mainsail on backwards and was confounded by which halyard line attached to which sail. I was seriously frustrated and questioning the worth of putting myself through this ordeal every year. By the time I finally got done, the boat looked really nice with its gleaming hull and newly sewn deck covers. Again, I found myself in a lot of pain and getting out of the car an hour later was traumatic. I never realized, while younger, that reaching advanced age had so much discomfort and stiffness associated with it. The human body definitely goes through some major biological changes that one has little control over. I naively thought I was immune to all of that because I had always exercised and taken care of myself. How foolish, now it dawns on me why my older friends and relatives, who had been avid sailors, all transitioned to motor boats in their later years. Sailing is a very physical activity that becomes challenging as we age. The lack of balance and flexibility associated with aging makes sailing difficult if not impossible at a certain point. Wisdom comes in knowing when that point is and making the appropriate choices – I am there and I am resisting. However, the law of diminishing returns is at play and if my pain and discouragement this spring is any indication of how things will go next year, maybe I'll have to rethink my position on this sailing thing and start looking at other options.

As I was walking by one of my boat club friends in his mid-seventies, I couldn't help but notice the tired glaze in his eyes as he sat bewildered in his cockpit, surveying all of the needed work required to get his boat cleaned up and ready for the coming season. The boat had developed a leak in the deck somewhere (as it always does) and he could only focus on the dark stained fiberglass in his cabin along with the tangle of lines and rigging. I felt his overwhelming discouragement and fatigue, knowing that he was probably thinking about whether he had reached that certain point. Sailing is a special experience shared by a relatively smaller group of the population who develop a passion for being on the water and harnessing the wind. It's about enjoying nature and feeling at one with the elements. For many, it's a spiritual event that brings a sense of peace and contentment. Those of us that gather together to share this sport build strong bonds with one another and making the decision to stop sailing is emotionally difficult. At least, I've gotten through the tough part and my boat is in the water, it looks clean and everything works. I guess I'll put off dealing with my shaky confidence and sore muscles until next spring when I will have to ponder "the choice".

Knot Tying Clinic



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Classifieds

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For Sale

19.2 O'day 1986 sailboat

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@ 419-305-9029

I would like to take an opportunity to
thank Jay Schaffer for his contribution
to this months newsletter. If you have
anything you would like to post in an
addition on the Wind and Waves
Newsletter please let me know .

Winners of the Soup & Dessert contest:

Soups:

Cathy Retterbush

Donna Brenneman

Etta Weintraub

Desserts:

Barbara Orebaugh

Fran Schumacher

Cindy Bergdall