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A JACKSON PARK YACHT CLUB PUBLICATION

# FOGHORN

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Foghorn Editor Jane Leuthold

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## From the Bridge

By Commodore Mary Avellone (*Hot Flash*)

This is my last “From the Bridge” article as Commodore of Jackson Park Yacht Club, where *if you are a member you are a volunteer*. And there are many volunteers to thank. On many occasions, I sought perspective and wisdom from our Past Commodores Wanda Robertson, Stan Hill, David Dobbs, Harlan Dellsy, Frank Garner, and Stan Gratt. I appointed Nadja Aquino to fill Igor Pismensky's term. She brings attention to important detail and a rich depth of past board experience.



Commodore Mary Avellone

Each board member worked creatively as a team member accomplishing their designated functions and more. Brenda Murzyn provided the information we needed to make prudent fiscal decisions. Paul Thompson III made numerous thoughtful contributions with a look forward. Deb Farino successfully made the scary transition to out-sourcing our galley service to Terrace Grill. Jim Webb provided historical context as he got his hands truly dirty as House Chair. Lisa Jewell decoded and brought our entry card system up to date and installed a new computer system. Cherie Parker had applied a great combination of organizational skills and friendliness needed to attract new members. Ken Harris brought exciting talent to our entertainment events. Vice Commodore Dennis Hansen augmented the Race Committee (RC) and made our Popcorn Party beverages possible. Rear Commodore Steve Pittman has been the Foghorn photographer, proofreader, and fact checker of most of my writings. Vonnie Nelson diligently took minutes, and compiled the recent record.

I am grateful to many other volunteers—more than I can name in the space available: Jane Leuthold for her Foghorn editing, contributing, recruiting writers, and creating a Foghorn archive online; Pam Rice for her new JPYC ad design for *Yachting in Chicago*, and new logo design for clothing; Ted Graves for providing movies on Fridays; Jan Hansen for putting our RC on the map (chart?) as a reliable, competent RC; Art Smith for his thoughtful notes to those who are ill; Tess and Frank Garner for their generous gift of a popcorn popper; Leslie Travis for reconceptualizing the Ship's Store; Johann Hudson,

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## Dee Alexander Headlines at Jazz Fest 2010

By Foghorn Editor Jane Leuthold (*Optimality*)



Al Thompson



Dee Alexander



Lisa Jewell

The sultry voice of Dee Alexander captivated JPYC Members and their guests on August 7<sup>th</sup> at the Annual JPYC Jazz Fest. Even the sun painted a special backdrop for the performance of the multi-talented Ms. Alexander. According to *Chicago Magazine*, which selected her as best singer, "Dee Alexander could earn a place in the best-singer argument on sheer versatility alone. Jazz, Blues ... she's tops." Thanks to David Dobbs for hosting the pre-dinner social, to Mario and Lila for the excellent roasted chicken and blackened catfish dinner they served, and to Social Director Ken Harris who arranged and organized the event.



Philip Castleberry and Curtis Robinson



Dee Alexander



Ken Harris with Dee Alexander

# KIDS' DAY

By Becca Valek

Friends and family gathered at 9 A. M. August 28<sup>th</sup> to design and make cardboard boats. The racing was even more fun! We had a brother and sister, Ruth and Noah, in the race. Many people tipped over, but a few boats, such as Big Mike and Mr. J, made it through the journey.

The next activity was zip lining, swinging into the water from a line attached to the gin pole. Running right into the water is always great fun, especially when it's led by Mr. Bill Diana. From little to big, almost everyone got tired. You're having so much fun you don't even notice the seaweed sticking to you. I never wanted to stop!



Enjoying a root beer float together

boats were ready, everyone hopped in with their guns for a bigger water gun fight on the lake. Shortly after we got on board, my dad crashed our boat! Mr. Baumann came to the rescue, but then another boat came to the same place. We got out that time, but a few crashes later we gave up. We still had fun and everyone else looked like they were having a blast!

That pretty much sums up Kids' Day at Jackson Park Yacht Club. I still can't believe it's over, but since it gets more fun every year, I have something to look forward to next year!



Jim and Jimmy Valek with their interesting boat



Mr Diana leading the zip lining  
Author Becca second in line

After zip lining, it was time for lunch. Mr. Jim Lett made wonderful hotdogs. Mrs. Eunice Jackson-Lyle was busy with the root beer floats. There were also ice cream, cupcakes, and bees! Everyone enjoyed their food anyway and we were ready to get back out and sail.

After lunch, everyone grabbed a water gun and joined the crowd for a water fight. Kids ran around and soaked each other while the adults rigged the boats. When the



Even Kane is looking forward to next year

## Commodore's Cup Dinner

By Foghorn Editor Jane Leuthold (*Optimality*)

Club members gathered on Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup> to wish Mary Avelone well as she finishes her service as Commodore. The event began with delicious snacks hosted by Jonathan and Kathleen Dopkeen and Harlan and Janie Dellsy. White table cloths and red roses added to the festive occasion, which featured a special dinner prepared by Mario and Lila of steak, shrimp cocktail, roasted vegetables, sautéed potatoes, and strawberry cheese cake. Thanks to Entertainment Committee Chair Ken Harris for organizing the event and to Commodore Mary Avellone for leading us over the past two years.



Commodore Mary Avellone



Galley Chair Deb Farino and  
Saturday Socials Organizer Tess Garner

## Ahoy!

By Tess Garner (*Angelitos Dos*)

On Saturdays, after a great day of sailing, we return to the Club and share tales and experiences with our comrades as we enjoy an evening of libations and snacks. These Saturday Socials (once fondly referred to as "Popcorn Parties") are tastefully hosted by volunteers, including Wendy and Paul, Michelle and B.J., Lisa and Greg, Marilyn and Bart, Cherie and John, Jan and Dennis, Wendy and Ted, Steve, David D., Tess, Frank and Edmond, Smitty, Eva and Robell, Brenda M. and Sandra, Kathy and Jon, Janie and Harlan, Linda and Bill, Vonnie and James H., and Pam and Brenda H. And we are all looking forward to the piece de resistance fare, succulent gumbo, which will be hosted by Gwen and Johann. To all of you great gourmets, an appreciative thank you!

## New Popcorn Popper

By Foghorn Editor Jane Leuthold (*Optimality*)

Thanks to Past Commodore Frank Garner and Popcorn Party Organizer Tess Garner for contributing a new popcorn popper to the club. Since our old popper broke a year ago, we have been without popcorn for our Saturday night Popcorn Parties. We even went so far as to rename the parties "Saturday Socials," a name evoking the parties of our grandparents' day. Now, thanks to Frank and Tess, we can once again call our Saturday night gatherings by their rightful name and enjoy munching on fresh, hot, fragrant popcorn. Thank you Frank and Tess.



New Popcorn Popper

## Bi-State with a Twist

By Leslie Travis (*Mischief*)

The Tri-State Regatta is every racer's favorite way to end the summer ... a beautiful moonlit cruise crossing Friday night, leaving Chicago and ending in St. Joe just as the sun is coming up; Saturday on the beaches of Michigan, followed by a great steak dinner sponsored by the St. Joe River Yacht Club; a short Sunday race from St. Joe to Michigan City; and on Labor Day Monday, a glorious race back to Chicago. Since the 1940's, the Regatta has been the combined work of Columbia Yacht Club, the St. Joseph River Yacht Club, Michigan City Yacht Club, and our own JPYC.

The Tri-State of 2010 did not turn out as just described. It was one of the years when Lake Michigan threw a "Perfect Storm" at the race committees, but the leadership, ingenuity, and tenacity of Janet Hansen and the rest of the JPYC race committee salvaged the weekend for 80 crews who sailed in what could be called the Bi State with a Twist. Weather forecasts were so intimidating for Friday night's crossing that the Coast Guard offered to send out helicopters to follow the boats if they raced. Columbia and St. Joe Yacht Clubs decided to cancel the first leg of the Tri State, *not* because the sailors couldn't sail, but because there was no safe place to raft up the boats on the St. Joe side of the lake.



JPYC Race Committee at the Bi State with a Twist

Janet Hansen, in rapid consultation with the Michigan City Yacht Club, decided to sponsor a race over to Michigan City that would leave Chicago on Sunday so that racers could return on the scheduled Monday leg of the Regatta. For the JPYC race committee, that decision meant an unprecedented amount of work: skippers in three states had to receive notification of the new races in time to get crew assembled, race committee boats with full crews had to be on site to start and finish Sunday's extra race, and Monday's race committees had to be available and on site in two different states.

Amazingly, Janet got it all done. Eighteen boats sailed the St. Joe to Michigan City leg, 35 boats raced from Chicago to Michigan City on Sunday, and 41 sailed euphorically back to Chicago on Labor Day. The JPYC boats that sailed the first Bi State with a Twist were: *Mise en Place*, *Providence*, *Witch-Craft* (skipped by Nathan and Alex Webb and Jon Hansen), *Unknown Lady*, *Mr JJ*, and *De Da's Toy*.

**A reminder from Membership Chair Cherie Parker: put your door key cards in a safe place! We will use the same door system again next year.**

## Sea Scout Bay Jammer

By Sea Scout Akila Davis (*Sea Scout Ship 5212*)

This summer, *Sea Scout Ship 5212* participated in one of the oldest scouting events, Bay Jammer. It was held in Menominee, Michigan, on July 16-18. Scouts and troops from all over the Midwest came together to compete in different activities, such as volleyball, ring buoy toss, and marlinspike.



Author Akila Davis

One fun event was the lip singing contest. Troops got together to lip sing a song of their choice onstage with their homemade costumes and props. Afterwards, we danced the night away in the park until it was close to curfew time. We also participated in all the water and relay activities from bucket brigade, swimming, rowing, log rolling, compass relay, and obstacle course relay. This was followed by a parade of all the scouting troops through downtown Menominee.



Sea Scouts parading through downtown Menominee

Let me not forget to tell you about Captain Johann's delicious buffalo chili cornbread pie and pineapple upside down cake prepared at camp. Although our ship didn't win anything at the Award presentation, we gave it our all and put effort into working as a team. Most importantly, it's all about scouts having fun!



Special thanks to Mario and Lila Gandarilla and the Galley Team

## Thanks from the Galley

By Galley Committee Chair Deb Farino-Stranc (*Two Acres*)

Whew!!!! From weekend brunches to Saturday night socials to holiday pot luck dinners, something was always happening in the galley! The theme menus for "Grill Nights" were a great success. We have some ideas for next season to keep things interesting. Thank you all for supporting the weekend activities and sharing our club with your friends and families. Your help and support to keep things running smoothly is greatly

appreciated. "More hands on deck" (get it?) are always needed. Consider joining the Galley committee for the 2011 boating season.

## Out of the Fog

By Foghorn Editor Jane Leuthold (*Optimality*)

Foghorn Editor J has noticed that every time she walks by a table or group of club members, conversation stops until she passes. She suspects that this gossip column is the cause, although there could be other causes as well. She promises that in the future she will be more discrete in covering up the identities of the subjects of this column.



Replica of the *Nina* in a Fog



*Robert Smalls* Afloat

First, a retraction is in order. In the last gossip column it was reported that Sea Scout Leader J planned an October launching of his boat, the *Robert Smalls*. In fact, the *Robert Smalls* was observed and photographed by Foghorn Editor J floating in the harbor with mast stepped, though without sails, on August 28<sup>th</sup>. She offers her apologies for starting a false rumor.

The Club's Committee Boat, the Whaler, has had some tough times this summer. After the Lutz regatta, the Whaler left the harbor to rescue Au Wanna, which had broken down while assisting in the regatta. When he went to restart the Whaler, Past Commodore D reports that the engine was mysteriously out of fuel. Not to be outdone, while landing the Whaler at the dock, Vice Commodore D tossed the line to Fleet Captain J without first securing the line to the Whaler. These things do happen.

Past Commodore F retooled in the hospital recently. He recovered despite the intrusive visits and concerned communication from all his JPYC family. He even wants to thank everyone for all the attention. Welcome back Commodore F!

Speaking of Commodores, Commodore M was reported seen on her back in Club Member K's lazarette -- with a beer, no less. M claims she was in there helping to fasten some bolts, but she is always coming up with these stories. Who is to believe her anymore? Her latest story is that Past Commodore D helped her add the sixth coat of Interprotect 2000e to the bottom of *Hot Flash*. Now we should hear no more excuses about why *Hot Flash* is not in the water, right? Maybe a seventh coat?

Foghorn Editor J reports being Fogged out and planning to retire as Foghorn Editor. She promises to continue this column so long as there is popular demand for it and her gossip sources don't completely dry up.



Happy 90th Birthday on November 8<sup>th</sup> to Captain J (Our Hero)

**The Foghorn would like to thank all those who contributed so generously to the writing, editing, and photography this year. We especially thank our youngest writers for this issue, Becca Valek and Akila Davis. If you missed a past issue, an archive of the Foghorn is available at <http://sites.google.com/site/foghornarchive/>.**

## I am a Past Commodore

By John Duncan, JPYC Commodore 1974-75

This poem was submitted by Past Commodore Bob Fouts (1981-82), who was a member when John Duncan was Commodore. According to Bob, "John and his wife Molly were two of the sweetest people I have ever met. In addition John was good at composing lyrics and had a great singing voice. He wrote these lyrics down on the back of a napkin some 30 years ago; they may still be appropriate to today's scene at the Club." Let's dedicate this poem to soon-to-be Past Commodore Mary Avellone.



JPYC Past Commodores at Opening Day

I am a past Commodore  
No cares have I any more  
My life is serene  
And my language is clean  
For I am a past Commodore

The Ladies head is flooded again  
The ladies are all raising Cain  
For the tenth time this summer  
We'll call in the plumber  
But it no longer causes me pain  
For I am a past Commodore

No cares have I any more  
So a dinghy float's sinking  
You know what I'm thinking  
For I am a past Commodore

It's raining on opening day  
Our cannon's been taken away  
And the flag halyard's broken  
But here I stand joking  
For I am a past Commodore

I heard the steward just quit  
And I heard the club has been hit  
So the hi fi is gone  
I'll relax on the lawn  
For it doesn't bother me a bit  
For I am a past Commodore

No cares have I any more  
When there's work to be done  
I'll just sit in the sun  
For I am a past Commodore

I am a past Commodore  
I've sent my old girlfriends ashore  
My wife saw some pictures  
She gave me some strictures  
And I'm no longer an old Commodore



Past Commodore Frank Garner with  
Commodore Mary Avellone  
enjoying popcorn from the  
new popcorn popper

## Community Sailing at JPYC

By Paul Thompson III (*Mise en Place*)

It was a simple concept inspired by Nick Hayes's *Saving Sailing*. The idea was to hold races on Wednesday evenings and just take people sailing on Thursday evenings. This was a way to engage people in the sport of sailing and have a good time in the process. At Nick's club in Milwaukee, this is done every week, which seemed a bit ambitious for Jackson Park. So, we thought, we would just test the waters with a single event. On Thursday August 26<sup>th</sup> Jackson Park Yacht Club hosted a community sailing day when we invited friends, family, and co-workers to come sail with us. The response was overwhelming. With 8 boats and over 30 participants, it was quite a task just matching up the guests with the skippers. After a brief reception with the culinary styles of Mario and Lila, we were casting off and a parade of well populated sailing vessels slowly made their way past flamingo beach and out into the expanse of Lake Michigan.

Without any planning or forethought, we all took the proverbial beam-reach-out beam-reach-back route which headed us north for some enchanting city views. Of course, we sailors see this perspective all the time. But when the cameras came out I knew we had delivered the goods. As the boats headed out and then passed each other on the way back, we enjoyed a stellar sunset followed by an absolutely amazing blood red orange moon rising on the eastern horizon. The rich contrast of the orange and blues was breathtaking and quickly took us to a remote part of the world, where one could only see such magical beauty in nature. Ok, I may be embellishing a bit, but the silent jaw dropping stares meant only one thing... we were all in a transformative place sharing these rare sights and simultaneously harnessing the forces of nature to propel us on this journey. Again, we had delivered the goods.



Sunset over Lake Michigan

Once we returned I was delighted to see how many people decided to stay and enjoy friendly conversation and light refreshments. Clearly, there was high demand for such an outing, and the gods rewarded us with ideal conditions. In the end, there were several folks who requested applications, which was another indicator that we hit the mark with our pilot Community Sailing Day. Many thanks are in order for all of the JPYC yachtsmen and yachtswomen who shared their time, their boats, and their secret playground with friends both known and unknown, all in fine Corinthian spirit. Participants included *Quinn Mary Too!* (Kurt Olsson), *St Rita* (Ken Harris), *Two Acres* (Deb and Al Stranc), *Amore del Mar* (Karen Harris), *Mise en Place* (Paul Thompson), *De Da's Toy* (Ted Graves), *Andale* (Dick Baumann), and *Mischief* (Dave and Leslie Travis).

## New Members

By Membership Chair Cherie Parker (*Dippy K II*)

We have new members to welcome. First is Alex Jackiw, a new student member. After "working" with us this summer as an intern, Alex decided to make it official and join the Club. So did his parents, John and Jean Jackiw, who joined as associate members. Welcome to the Jackiw family.



New Member Alex Jackiw

## From the Bridge *continued from Page 1*

Betty Holcomb, Dick Snow, and Edmond Gueringer as Sea Scout mentors; Stan Gratt and Dick Bauman for their thorough gin pole examination, along with the reminder that the current was a gift of senior member Lael Mathis years ago, after the *Santa Maria* mast rotted. I thank you all.

At an August meeting, Scott Stevenson informed the Bridge that the dock extensions plan is delayed to beyond 2011. For 2011 "A" Dock will be rebuilt. There will be a more complete dredge than in the past, but not all of Flamingo Beach. After the meeting, Scott checked out and deemed workable a proposal from the Bridge to locate the planned floating head between "C" and "D" just north of the dingy dock, rather than at the east end of B obscuring our view. But, he ended the meeting with an informal proposal, suggesting using our club heads, rebuilt on the Westrec dime with a security door into the club house only for members' entry. Though the bridge and board were generally not in favor of this, we were curious, seeing it as a possible opportunity. To respond in good faith, the board sent the idea to Committee (Dennis Hansen, Stan Gratt, Steve Pittman, Paul Thompson III, & Jim Webb) to brain storm, to consider the possibility, and to compose a letter in an initial response. Absolutely no agreement will be made without membership approval.

It has been my aspiration to respectfully lead with an eye to our future while remaining rooted in our traditions, and to welcome all potential members who wish to partake of the JPYC brand of Corinthian conviviality. I thank you for your confidence in me and for the opportunity to serve as Commodore.

### Winter Happenings

Friday Nights	Pot luck and movies
Oct 23	Fall Work Party
Oct 30	Halloween Party
Dec 4	Awards Dinner
Dec 14	Members' Meeting



Thank you to Steward Daryl Jones for his service this year.