



GRAYHAVEN SAIL CLUB OF DETROIT

TELLTALES

November, 2011

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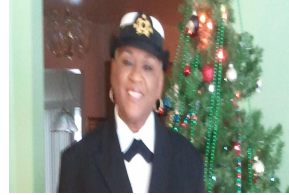
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FROM THE COMMODORE Virginia Papin

Welcome to the Grayhaven Sail Club of Detroit Quarterly Newsletter.

Hello and Greetings to “The Best Lil Old Sail Club” on the Great Lakes. After 54 days in the hospital, it was great to get out of the house to be a part of and have a good time at our Halloween party. The Entertainment committee did a supper job. When I was in the hospital, I was told not to worry because their team would take care of everything. Those words allowed me to recover in peace. They did an excellent job.

The decorations and entertainment were excellent. The DJ was great. The food was good and the costumes were awesome. The winner played his role and took home a bottle of wine. Good job. The dancing was off the hook. Even though I could not take part, I truly enjoyed watching those crazy moves. One day I will learn them.

The 50/50 drawing went well and a check will be given to our CT W Youth group as promised.

As my year of Commodore comes to an end I wanted to say that it has been my pleasure to serve you. Also to thank my Flag Officers, Membership Person, Secretary, Treasurer, the Committee Leaders and all the support from the GSCD Members, for all their efforts.

Upcoming Events:



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The GSCD Annual Meeting and Election of Officers, November 19, 2011 at Logan's Roadhouse at 14 Mile and John R in Troy.

Grayhaven Sail Club of Detroit Board Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of each month. Location notices will be emailed to all members. All members are welcome to attend a Board meeting.



Did you know that GSCD holds a Boat U.S. Cooperating Groups Agreement? This means half-price boat U.S. Memberships for everyone in the club!

Boat US – Boat Owners Association of the United States – is the oldest and largest association of boaters, for boaters. For over four decades Boat US has focused exclusively on providing the highest quality boating services , significant savings and a strong voice fighting to protect boaters from unfair taxes and burdensome regulations that take the fun out of boating.

Boat U.S. represents over half a million Members. Their staff of boating experts has created the largest towing fleet from coasts to coast, an extensive network of on the road towers for trailer boats, and insurance policy with coverage designed specifically for recreational boaters, a network of marinas providing substantial discounts to Members

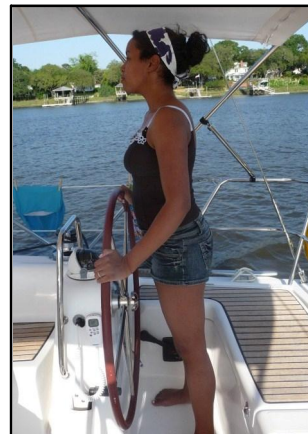
across the country, and much more. Boat U.S. has people standing by 24/7 to help you when the unexpected happens.



FROM THE SECRETARY Harry Jones

Remember, you can contact any officers or Board members through our club e-mail address: grayhavensailclubdetroit@gmail.com . Visit the Grayhaven Sail Club of Detroit Face book page and/or website.

I'd like to sail by Harry Jones



I'd like to learn to sail. How do I go about it? I get this question from adults as I go around promoting our Challenge the Wind Youth Sailing Program.

Learning to sail is easy. Although it has been said more accurately, its easy but can take a lifetime to learn to do it well. If you are comfortable around water, you can get a how-to book or go out with an experienced sailor and learn the basics after a couple of hours. I grew up on boats so



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being comfortable on the water was not an issue. Many years ago a friend and I bought a small catamaran sailboat. The seller took us out for 2 hours. He showed us how to rig and sail the boat. Between reading a few books and those brief instructions we were off sailing. I knew I was not a competent sailor but it was a start. After all these years I'm still learning and enjoying it.

In watching others become sailors and from my own experience I've noticed learning to sail a boat happens in about three distinct steps. Starting with the first and as you get more serious, or passionate, progresses to step 2 and maybe even step 3. So here are the three easy steps.

STEP 1 - Get On a Boat - Go out sailing for a couple hours and see if it appeals to you. Keep in mind that you can go out 25 times and each experience will be different depending on conditions such as, weather, wind and waves. If you are completely new to sailing it is probable best to get out several times before forming an opinion. If you are not already, it's important to first get comfortable around water. If you are not a strong swimmer don't be bashful about asking for and wearing a safety jacket while on the docks. The safety jacket, also called a PFD, keeps your head above water in the unlikely event that you fall in. However just wearing it will help to reduce the initial anxiety. I've seen sweaty palms turn into real water enthusiasts after getting over the initial uncertainty. If it makes sense, visit a marina several times before going out on your host's boat. Take your time, walk on the dock, and enjoy the scenery. Sit in your host's boat cockpit and enjoy some

refreshments. Make sure you get comfortable with the surroundings before heading out on your first sail.

STEP 2 - Crew - This is probably the best and least expensive way to experience sailing if you decide to get more involved. Captains, including GSCD captains are always looking for crew members to help them handle the boat and enjoy the experience. Beyond GSCD there are a number of online resources to connect interested crew members with captains. You can also do it the old fashion way of walking the docks of a local club on a sunny weekend day. Most clubs don't mind this once you explain your intentions. Some clubs have sign-up sheets. I'd strongly encourage anyone that gets to this step should, at a minimum, take the basic Coast Guard Safety Course. If you want to start sailing the right way there are numerous local courses in various formats. Most of the larger local yacht clubs offer training courses. Several organizations, such as American Sailing Institute or Detroit Boat Club offer affordable alternatives. They will teach you to sail as well as provide you with access to boats for you to practice. You can also find instructional resources at the US Sailing website.

STEP 3 - Buy and or Enroll – At some point you may find yourself getting serious about learning to sail a boat and you want more training and experience to handle all of the aspects of sailing. This step is where I see a divergence normally occurs. Some people experience step 1 and get bitten by the "I got to have a boat" bug. Others get bit but ownership is not practice. If you are



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fortunate enough to be able to buy a boat you can learn more from books, courses or other captains. If boat ownership is not practical, the American Sailing Institute offers advanced keel boat sailing classes as an option that includes access to their many keel boats around the state. You don't have to stop there. Once you get to a certain level of proficiency you can charter a boat either in the local area or some place exotic like the Caribbean or Key West Florida. You can, with more training and certifications, even earn a living sailing boats. I have friends that do this and I'm envious.

Feel free to get with me if you have questions or suggestions on how to help others get out on the water. **Remember, it starts with the first step.**



FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

This was a great year for membership. And many new members have stepped into prominent positions chairing events like the Sip 'n Sea and planning and executing the Halloween Party.

Membership rates are as follows:

Full	\$75 (\$125 per couple)
Associate	\$50 (special qualifiers)
General	\$25
Youth	\$15

Tanagra Weaver

FROM THE CHANDLERY LOGO CLOTHING ITEMS

There is a link on our website to order embroidered GSCD logo clothing. You order on-line and pay by credit card; the items are shipped directly to you. To order, click on the link for "Logo" items; click on the "t-shirt", then **enter our user name and our password.** (If you don't remember our user name and password, contact me at (313) 802-6002 or tweaver@cskdetroit.org and I will call or email it to you.) There are numerous items shown under each clothing category. **It makes a great statement about our club when we show up someplace together all wearing our logo.**

Categories include: Adult t-shirts, casual button down shirts, men's & women's **polo-type shirts**, men's & women's **jackets & windbreakers**, blankets & throws, men's & women's long and short sleeve shirts, **sweatshirts, hats**, bags, **fleece pullovers**, youth wear, Nike clothing, **and more.**

ON-HAND ITEMS, available for purchase at all GSCD events

Burgees	\$25 each.
Cuzzies	\$2 each
Lanyards	\$1 each (limited supply available)
Travel Mugs	\$15 each