

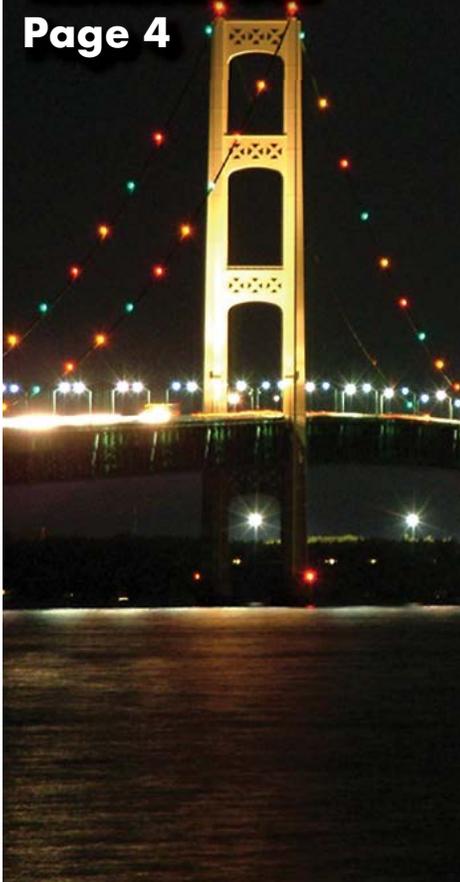


April, 2017

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Don't Miss the 2017 Mackinaw City Summer Rendezvous

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Members Captain Jim & Admiral Lisa Smith

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Sunscreen - The Right Product for You

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**Sign Up Today
for the Mackinaw
City Rendezvous!**

August 3-5, 2017.

Registration Deadline
May 14.

To All Great Lakes Grand Banks
Association Members & Friends...

GLGBA President's Message



Rick & Barb Scime

Hello Again Fellow GLGBA Members.

Looking back at some of the past GLGBA Presidents' late-winter messages, they often started out with a comment on how spring was upon us and how it was time to start thinking about the re-commissioning process. This year it feels like winter never happened. The boats should already be afloat and we should be laying in provisions. Global warming is a reality and we don't need to see images of the disappearing ice caps to be impressed.

Barbara's backyard gardens here in north-west Indiana have shoots of regenerating perennials popping where there would often be four or more inches of snow.

A few days back, Chicago temperatures reached 70° for the second time in three days. The NORMAL high in Chicago does not reach 70 degrees until May 15th. The ice in Sturgeon Bay is about all gone, so the ice-fishermen there have set up their beer and schnapps tents on the shorelines, while Donald Trump is declaring more "fake news".

The climate is not the only thing changing for us, our membership is changing as well.

While we say "farewell" to some recently non-renewing members:

Giles and Lise Gendreau

Bob Hart

Gary and Julie-Sara Martin

Jim and Susan Shaw

We are delighted to "welcome" to our recent newest

members. We know that you will be embraced by the entire Association:

Brian Adams and Dorothy Mietz

Joseph and Sheila Drda

Mike and Deb Hervey

Dave and Jamie Hoots

Robert and Susan Kay

Thomas Moss and Donna Newton

William and Kelli Schult

Rob and Luci Vaandering

Russel and Kerry Jo Wende

I urge all of you, but especially our new members, to join us at the 2107 Summer Rendezvous in Mackinaw City. There is no better way for you to get to know your fellow members and to feel like you are truly a part of the GLGBA.

Very-Long-Time boaters, the Gadow's and the Delugach's sold their boats last fall but thankfully have retained their memberships. To them I say that if there is any way possible, you must gas up the land yachts and drive over to the Straits next summer. We need you at the party!

The saddest loss for all who knew him was the recent passing of "Engine" Bob Smith. Bob had been a mainstay at our Summer Rendezvous meetings. Every time he attended he was on the agenda to happily share with us his invaluable knowledge about his engines and his advice to owners about care and repair. He was THE EXPERT many of us consulted regardless of what engine we owned. He was never shy to tell the unvarnished, or should I say the un-oiled truth. We came to realize that if you asked him a question you had better have the courage to accept his clever, bluntly phrased answers. One of his favorite responses to the anxious captain who asked Bob to opine on the sea-worthiness of the boat soon to be taken on a long cruise went something like this: "Well, how are you hoping to get back home? Under power with this engine or under tow?" One of Bob's legacies is the virtually indestructible marine adapted Lehman-Ford Diesel engine. But he was far more than an engine guy, which sadly I never knew until I read his obituary. You will find it on Page 3 in this Newsletter.

Now, shifting gears, or rather changing course a bit, I need to revisit the history of the Grand Banks Wheel, as I presented it in the January issue of this publication. I called the story "AS THE WHEEL TURNS" recounting the genesis of the GB helm wheel which is passed on to each incoming President of the GLGBA. I got the wheel at the last Winter Rendezvous. After consulting and crosschecking with some of the "old-timers" in the GLGBA I thought I