

# North Channel Yacht Club Beacon



January  
2015



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# From the Editor...



As we head away from the holiday season, I would like to wish all the Members of NCYC a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Your newly elected Flag and Board of Director's are getting hard at work preparing the Club for it's reopening and summer activities. Please remember to sign up for your weekend work hours, if you have not already. As we steady the Club for opening, it reminds me of what our Island stands for.

To quote the Club's 'purpose':

*"The purpose for which the Club is formed is to operate exclusively for pleasure and recreation in fostering and stimulating interest in all forms of boating activity, to preserve the Club's historical site including the building and grounds, to aid the members of the Club to improve their knowledge of boat handling and navigation, to provide the club's members an opportunity for social relaxation and fellowship with others as a basis for maintaining a common interest in boating and to expand that interest to other yachting organizations, no part of the net earnings of which shall inure to the benefit of any private member" (NCYC, by-laws).*

I look forward to raising a toast to our new Commodore Brian McEvoy and wife Renée at the 2015 Commodore's Ball. Come out and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of North Channel Yacht Club, it's history in the making!

Please look inside for the up and coming events, Commodore's Ball, and NCYC Ski/Snowmobile Weekend.

Brent Malik  
Director, Publications

*"a ship in port is safe, but that is not what ships are built for..."*





## *Commodores Comments...*



Happy New Year and welcome to 2015! I am looking forward to getting started on what I anticipate will be a very productive year. Many of you have mentioned we need to continue to move the club forward and we need to have more projects to accomplish this. We have several approved projects scheduled for this year. Please make time this spring and come out and lend a hand. We need all of your help to succeed.

I would like to welcome our new board members Darryl Campbell, Ian Blackburn, Kim Miedema and Rear Commodore Pat Carroll. With our first meeting completed, I'm very optimistic and feel we have a very experienced group working for you this year.

We hope you are able to come out and celebrate with us at the Commodore's Ball on January 24<sup>th</sup>. I would like to thank all of the people who are helping to put this even together. A special thanks goes out to my wife, Renee for all of her work. I couldn't do this without her.

If you have family members or friends that have the work ethic and level of commitment to be good members, then contact them and have them put in a membership application. We had great growth last year, but we have room for more and a full membership makes for a healthy club.

Please consider volunteering for an event, Week Manager, or Weekend O.D. this season. Your club is a working club and everyone's involvement is crucial to our fun and success.

As always, thank you for all of your support. I am honored to serve as your 50<sup>th</sup> Commodore and I look forward to an excellent year working with an outstanding incoming Flag and Board of Directors.

Commodore Brian McEvoy



## *Vice Commodores Comments...*



# *Happy New Year!*

I hope that each of you had as much fun as Sandi and I did over the holidays with our family, and friends who made us feel so loved!

Let's not forget the 2015 Commodore's Ball on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January. Please show our support for our club's rich traditions and our Commodore by our attendance.

The New Board and Flag meet tonight, the 8<sup>th</sup> of January, our first meeting of the year. There is a lot of business to attend to, much planning for the opening of the club, and organizing to be done for the projects slated for 2015. I can assure you that your Board and Flag will be ready. I hope that you are as anxious to start the elite brigade activities as we are.

I survive winter by knowing that the winter solstice has passed, that each and every day is now getting longer than the last, a day closer to spring, and the club opening.

As the count down continues for launch, a milestone has been reached. We have moved from a three-digit number to a two-digit number in the count down. Only 83 days till launch, it's getting closer every day!

V/C Chuck Stroh

## Rear Commodores Comments...



January already? As the days are getting longer we can look back at a cold and snowy November that gave way to a rather mild December. With the start of January the temps are plunging, reminding us that winter is finally here like it or not. The water levels are still up and forecasts call for higher levels this coming spring, promising great conditions for this year's boating season.

The Commodores Ball, where we welcome our new Commodore Brian McEvoy and his wife Renee to the helm of our fine club, is around the corner and is the first of many great events scheduled this year. All of us should consider attending the Ball this year as member participation and involvement are the main ingredients for making our club flourish and keeping it the very special place that it is.

Nancy and I hope that your Holiday Season was joyous & healthy and would like to thank outgoing Commodore John Anderson and his wife Beverly for a job well done! Many thanks to Bob Carnaghi and Rich Goodman for their many years of serving the club as Directors and good luck to new board members Ian Blackburn, Darryl Campbell and Kim Miedema.

Rear Commodore,

Pat Carroll

# A Message From Chaplain Art Brooks...



It is always difficult to handle the loss of a loved one. It is especially hard during the holiday season. Member, Lori Carnaghi, lost her father shortly before Christmas. Please remember their family in your thoughts and prayers at this time.

Longtime member and husband of Marie, Bill Yowan, was hospitalized on December 15<sup>th</sup> for tests. We are hoping that he will be out of the hospital soon.

Longtime member of NCYC, Sharon Wood, spouse of John Prochaska, passed away peacefully in her sleep the morning of January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Sharon had been going through extensive rehab since her recent surgeries, progressing as expected with a very optimistic attitude. Cremation will take place at this time. Arrangements for a memorial service at a later date will be conveyed in a future fan out. Please remember Sharon, John and their families in your prayers.

## "A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER"

At this time of new discoveries,  
Dear Lord, we pray for the sight  
to see new paths opening to us,  
So that we may take our first  
steps toward the future with our  
hearts full of joy.

At this time of the year turning,  
Dear Lord, we pray for the  
wisdom of all that  
has gone before,  
So that we may carry the gift  
of memory with light and  
grateful hands.

At this time of fresh beginnings,  
Dear Lord, we pray for the  
light that is Your love,  
So that we may carry the  
blessings of Your grace  
to all we meet.



# *2015 Commodore's Ball*

*Saturday, January 24, 2015*

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*Entertainment by Soul Provider*



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*invite you to Celebrate 50 Years*

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## **NCYC 2015 Schedule of Events (Tentative)**

<b>January 24</b>	<b>Commodore's Ball - ConCorde Inn</b>
<b>February 13-15</b>	<b>5th Annual Ski/Snowmobile Weekend</b>
<b>March 8</b>	<b>Blessing of the Fleet - Mariner's Church</b>
<b>March 20-22</b>	<b>ABYA Midland Spring Rendezvous</b>
<b>April 11</b>	<b>Elite Brigade</b>
<b>April 18</b>	<b>Elite Brigade</b>
<b>April 25</b>	<b>Elite Brigade</b>
<b>May 2</b>	<b>Elite Brigade</b>
<b>May 9</b>	<b>First Mates Fashion Show</b>
<b>May 9</b>	<b>1st NCYC Work Party</b>
<b>May 16</b>	<b>2nd NCYC Work Party</b>
<b>May 22-25</b>	<b>Opening Weekend</b>
<b>May 23</b>	<b>First Mates Patio Party</b>
	<b>General Membership Meeting - 1:00 p.m.</b>
	<b>Fitting Out Party - Flats Gang</b>
<b>May 24</b>	<b>Pride of Michigan</b>
	<b>Flag Raising Ceremony - 1:00 p.m.</b>
	<b>Complimentary Luncheon following ceremony</b>
	<b>Blessing of the NCYC Fleet - 3:00 p.m.</b>
<b>May 25</b>	<b>Memorial Day</b>
<b>May 29-31</b>	<b>ABYA Spring Dinner Dance@NCYC (Saturday)</b>
<b>June 5-7</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>June 12-14</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>June 14-19</b>	<b>Ladie's Week</b>
<b>June 19-21</b>	<b>Kid's Day (Saturday) Shelby Romatz/Lauren Malik</b>
<b>June 26-28</b>	<b>Rendezvous - Port Huron</b>
<b>July 3-5</b>	<b>4th of July Weekend</b>
<b>July 4</b>	<b>50th Anniversary Picnic</b>
<b>July 5</b>	<b>Captain's Breakfast - Romatz/Kemp</b>
<b>July 10-12</b>	<b>Ancient Mariner's Fundraiser (Saturday)</b>
<b>July 17-19</b>	<b>Raft Off (Saturday) - Campbell</b>
<b>July 24-26</b>	<b>Beatles Concert (Saturday) - PC Romatz</b>
<b>July 31-August 2</b>	<b>Rendezvous - Kean's</b>
<b>August 2-8</b>	<b>Commodore's Cruise - Lake Erie</b>

**Please turn over for remainder of year**

<b>August 7-9</b>	<b>Karaoke (Saturday)</b>
<b>August 14-16</b>	<b>Float Down (Saturday) - Carnaghi/PC Dickson</b>
<b>August 21-23</b>	<b>Rendezvous - Mac Ray's</b>
<b>August 28-30</b>	<b>OPEN (Snethkamp Weekend)</b>
<b>September 4-7</b>	<b>Labor Day Weekend</b>
<b>September 5</b>	<b>General Membership Meeting - 1:00 p.m. - Meet the Candidates</b>
	<b>PC Beer Bust</b>
<b>September 6</b>	<b>First Mates Dinner</b>
<b>September 11-13</b>	<b>Smoke on the Water (Saturday) - Latowski/Hart/Glick</b>
<b>September 18-20</b>	<b>Golf Outing (Saturday) - Criner</b>
<b>September 25-27</b>	<b>Pot Luck (Saturday) - Pagel/Swan</b>
<b>October 2-4</b>	<b>Haul Out Weekend</b>
<b>October 3</b>	<b>General Membership Meeting - 1:00 p.m. - Election Results</b>
	<b>Haunted Haul Out Dinner - Leitch</b>
<b>October 4</b>	<b>First Mates Haul Out Breakfast</b>
<b>October 10</b>	<b>1st Fall Work Party</b>
<b>October 17</b>	<b>2nd Fall Work Party</b>
<b>November 14</b>	<b>General Membership Meeting</b>

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There were 11 people at the December Business Meeting.

There were 23 people at the December luncheon at Terry's Terrace Restaurant.

Next Business Meeting is January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Moose Lodge at 1:00 PM.

The January 15<sup>th</sup> luncheon will be at Jimmy Dee's, 43820 N. Groesbeck, Clinton Twp., MI at 1:00 PM.

The February 19<sup>th</sup> luncheon will be at Double D's Bar & Grill, 240 N. River Rd., Mt. Clemens, MI, formerly Paul's River House at 1:00 PM.

Archie Archibald  
Ancient Mariners President  
Fair Winds, Calm Seas.



# *First Mates Mention*



## **Happy New Year!!**

Hope everyone had a great holiday! Now we need to start thinking SPRING!!

We want to thank our outgoing board members – Dianne Marten, and Barb Vanover and a big thank you to Sandi Stroh, our Past President. Thank you for all your time, treasures and talents in making 2014 another successful year.

A big welcome to our 2015 President Mary Marini and the 2015 First Mates board, we are looking forward to another busy, fun filled year. Please make sure you give them your support.

Save the date, 2015 First Mates Annual Fashion Show is May 9<sup>th</sup>. This year's show will be held at Bay View Yacht Club. Watch the Beacon for more information.

Ladies week is planned for June 14<sup>th</sup>, Renee is planning a fun filled week. Mark your calendars; it is a week you will not want to miss.

Thanks to everyone who shopped at the Boatique this past year. First Mates are successful because of all of you!! Jill is busy shopping to restock for 2015, if there is something you would like to see, let her know.

Our next membership meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, in the clubhouse. All are welcome.

Looking forward to 2015.

Respectfully,

Cathy Criner



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5<sup>th</sup> Annual NCYC Ski/Snowmobile Weekend  
February 13 – 16, 2015  
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Please contact Brian Malik and/or Lori Abry if you have any questions. Also, please let them know if you will be attending this fun weekend!

Brian: [586-552-0007](tel:586-552-0007) - [bri.malik@gmail.com](mailto:bri.malik@gmail.com)

Lori: [331-222-6684](tel:331-222-6684) - [lori.abry@gmail.com](mailto:lori.abry@gmail.com)

The Snowmobile Poker Run will be Saturday February 14.

Please contact Jeff Edgerly for information.

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## 2015 • ISLAND WEEK MANAGERS

Please Sign Up!

MAY 17 – 27	P/C Bob & Patti Watson		
MAY 25 – 29	R/C Chuck & Sandi Stron		
MAY 31 – June 5	P/C Don & Barb Vanover	Randy & Linda Pagel	
JUNE 7 – 12	P/C Harley & Linda Burris		
JUNE 14 – 19	Ladies Week		
JUNE 21 – 26	Glen & Pat Wagner		
JUNE 28 – JULY 3	Bob & Brian Fringer		
JULY 5 – 10	P/C Scott & Kathy Bell	Bill & Terri Calihan	
JULY 12 – 17	Ian Blackburn & Marie Pepin		
JULY 19 – 24	Dave & Cindy McKnight		
JULY 26 – 31	Glenn & Sheila Nixon	Dale & Coleen Hall	Tim & Lori Idzikowski
AUGUST 2 – 7	P/C Ken & Kay Smith	P/C John & Beverly Anderson	
AUGUST 9 – 14	P/C Ken & Kay Smith	P/C John & Beverly Anderson	
<b>AUGUST 16 – 21</b>	<b>OPEN</b>		
AUGUST 23 – 28	P/C Ardo & Charlene Apigian		
<b>AUGUST 30 – SEP 4</b>	<b>OPEN</b>		
SEPTEMBER 6 – 11	P/C Harley & Linda Burris	Chris & Julie Stryzewski	
SEPTEMBER 13 – 18	Darryl & Josette Campbell	Russ & Pat Adams	
SEPTEMBER 20 – 25	Ed & Diane Romatz	Ron & Jeanine Kemp	
<b>SEPTEMBER 27 – OCT 2</b>	<b>OPEN</b>		



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## O.D. Weekend & Member Work Schedule

Week	1	2	3	4	5
	<b>FITTING OUT</b>	<b>ABYA</b>			<b>KID'S DAY</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>5/22</b>	<b>5/29</b>	<b>6/5</b>	<b>6/12</b>	<b>6/19</b>
<b>O.D.</b>	<b>Reiss</b>	<b>P/C Anderson</b>	<b>P/C Atnip</b>	<b>R/C Carroll</b>	<b>Corcoran</b>
<b>1</b>	P/C Angers	R. Fringer	P/C Dickson	B. Carroll	P/C Jarvis
<b>2</b>	W. Angers (jr)	B. Fringer	P/C Watson	K. Verkest	P. Frame
<b>3</b>	P/C Beecherl	A. Brooks	M. Riehl	J. DeQuick	R. Goodman
<b>4</b>	D. Biel	G. Nixon	M. Rathbone	S. Scarpaci	A. Durand
<b>5</b>	D. LeVeque	K. Lipowski	B. Szkodzinski	G. Freese	P. Rener
<b>6</b>	B. Rose	K. Hay	G. Kohout	G. Wojtalik	D. Coburn
<b>7</b>	D. Shepperson	K. McKeown	N. Watson (jr)	D. Ruma	J. Sweier
<b>8</b>	D. DuVernay	T. O'Brian	C. Watson (jr)	S. Richardson	B. Carnaghi
<b>9</b>	T. Ellul		T. Ldzikowski	M. Schefke	D. Lockhart
<b>10</b>	C. Herr		L. Garofalo		R. Currie
<b>11</b>	S. Greenfelder		A. Garofalo (jr)		D. Carnaghi
<b>12</b>	M. Linden		J. Garofalo		A. Herzig
<b>13</b>	Pd. Bartender				
<b>14</b>	Pd. Bartender				
<b>15</b>	Pd. Bartender				

## O.D. Weekend & Member Work Schedule

Week	6	7	8	9	10
	<b>NCYC RENDEZVOUS</b>	<b>JULY 4TH</b>	<b>ANCIENT MARINERS</b>	<b>RAFT OFF</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>6/26</b>	<b>7/3</b>	<b>7/10</b>	<b>7/17</b>	<b>7/24</b>
<b>O.D.</b>	<b>P/C McHugh</b>	<b>Blackburn</b>	<b>Penzien</b>	<b>Brent Malik</b>	<b>T. Martin</b>
<b>1</b>	A. McHugh	B. Edens		L. Leitch	J. Krist
<b>2</b>	Alli McHugh	P. Forhan		S. Criner	
<b>3</b>	V. Verkest (jr)	D. French			
<b>4</b>	D. Glick	J. Greening			
<b>5</b>	T. Hart	P/C Vanover			
<b>6</b>	P. Poirier	Z. Blackburn (jr)			
<b>7</b>	P. Kelton	L. Leitch			
<b>8</b>	R. Rzeszut	G. Murry			
<b>9</b>	A. Pelletier (jr)	J. Parent			
<b>10</b>	D. Pelletier				
<b>11</b>	D. Clevinger				
<b>12</b>	T. Ford				
<b>13</b>	R. Oliver				
<b>14</b>	M. Oliver				
<b>15</b>					

## O.D. Weekend & Member Work Schedule

Week	11	12	13	14	15
	<b>RENDEZVOUS</b>	<b>KAROAKE</b>		<b>RENDEZVOUS</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>7/31</b>	<b>8/7</b>	<b>8/14</b>	<b>8/21</b>	<b>8/28</b>
<b>O.D.</b>	<b>P/C Vestal</b>	<b>V/C Stroh</b>	<b>Campbell</b>	<b>Michel</b>	<b>Snethkamp</b>
<b>1</b>	D. Siwek	B. Breuhan	R. Richards	P/C Hendricks	E. Lancaster
<b>2</b>	B. Marin	M. Schoen	T. Mazurek		H. Trerice
<b>3</b>	C. Strzyewski	T. Altobelli	T. Steinmacher		J. Gierlach
<b>4</b>	P/C Barnard	M. Busch	T. Schimke		A. Whitman
<b>5</b>	P/C Whyard	M. Schodowski	T. Martin		V. Day
<b>6</b>	F. Zrepskey	G. Wagner			D. Hines
<b>7</b>	D. Petrosky	B. Swatosh			T. Szott
<b>8</b>	P/C Sevald	G. Murray			J. Schebil
<b>9</b>	M. Pusateri	R. Oliver			
<b>10</b>	D. Vosler				
<b>11</b>	G. Smyth				
<b>12</b>					
<b>13</b>					
<b>14</b>					
<b>15</b>					

## O.D. Weekend & Member Work Schedule

Week	16	17	18	19	20
	<b>LABOR DAY</b>	<b>SMOKE OUT</b>	<b>GOLF OUTING</b>	<b>POT-LUCK</b>	<b>HAUL OUT</b>
Date	9/4	9/11	9/18	9/25	10/2
O.D.	Miedema	Latowski	P/C Romatz	Pagel	Brian Malik
1	D. McKnight	R. Raymond	A. Archibald	R. Kemp	L. Malik
2	L. Leitch	J. Sweier	P/C Bell	P/C Huntley	J. Mile
3	G. Murray	J. Butler	R. Brown	D. Gronbach	R. Adams
4	J. Parent	D. Wills	B. Calihan	J. Wyss	D. Bruce
5		H. Taylor	D. Hagendorff	S. Marten	B. Kenzie
6		T. Serra	E. Hagendorff	P/C Bauer	K. McGregor
7		D. Klicki	R. Mann	E. Romatz	J. Edgerly
8		M. Wonderly	T. Powers	M. Winkler	G. Smith
9		T. Martin	J. Parent	B. Swan	L. Malik (jr)
10		D. Hall	E. Romatz	P/C Bell	A. McEvoy (jr)
11		D. Coburn	B. Swan	P/C Burris	G. Criner
12		R. Laria	J. Wunderlich	J. DeQuick	C. McEvoy (jr)
13	Pd. Bartender				Pd. Bartender
14	Pd. Bartender				Pd. Bartender
15	Pd. Bartender				Pd. Bartender

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## It's never too soon to start planning.

Many of us have a clear vision of our retirement years. Yet, a surprising number of people have no idea how they'll turn those dreams into reality. The fact is today's retirement takes more than savings and Social Security. It requires a financial plan that addresses your needs, wants and how you'll pay for them. That's where I can help. Together, we'll create a plan to help your money work long enough and hard enough to fund the retirement you envision. **LIFE WELL PLANNED.**

## Contact me to get started.



**PHILIP J. MANIACI**  
*Vice President, Investments*

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# NCYC MAINLAND WELL WAITING LIST - 2014

Position	Member Name
1	MIKE RIEHL (WELLS 1-6)
2	BRENT MALIK
3	KEITH MCGREGOR
4	JIM BUTLER
5	GREG CRINER
6	JOE COX
7	JIM ANGERS
8	JERRY SIMPSON
9	TONY SERRA
10	DAVE GRONBACH
11	DONNA GLICK
12	CHUCK STROH
13	DEBBIE SIWEK
14	RUSS ADAMS
15	TOM ALTOBELLI
16	TOM FORD
17	TOM MCHUGH
18	DENNIS BEIL



## 2014 SEASON – WELLS RENTED

Well #	Name	Boat Size	MC #	Paid	Well Price	E-mail
1	Shepperson, Don	19.6' x 8'	7666 LB	\$400	\$400	shepperson@comcast.net
2	Reiss, Don	22' x 8'	2134 SN	\$450	\$450	reiss2003@wowwat.com
3	Berger, Larry	24' x 7'	9137 LB	\$450	\$450	larryberger@yahoo.com
4	Herr, Charles	18' x 6'	0702 HW	\$450	\$450	cmherr@sbcglobal.net
5	Dickson, John	16.6' x 6'	3533 RP	\$450	\$450	taxproa1@aol.com
6	Hart, Terry	17' x 5'	6209 RZ	\$450	\$450	sdsterry@aol.com
7	McEvoy, Brian	18' x 7'	3401 NZ	\$400	\$400	tarshockey@yahoo.com
8	Marin, Bob	17' x 7'	1759 NV	\$400	\$400	marin@oakland.edu
9	Edgerly, Jeff			\$400	\$400	wolfpac65@hotmail.com
10	Garofalo, Lou	13" x 5'		\$400	\$400	lgarofalo01@gmail.com
11	Hendricks, Bill	13' x 6'	2851 ST	\$400	\$400	bill@autocom.org
12	Malik, Larry	19' x 7'	0848 PL	\$400	\$400	lgmalik1@gmail.com
13	Kemp, Ron	18' x 8'	0651 SJ	\$400	\$400	jandr7@wowway.com
14	Blackburn, Ian	16' x 5'	ON3138131	\$400	\$400	iblackburn@liquiforce.com
15	Bush, Mark	20' x 8'	3229 TZ	\$400	\$400	m297@sbcglobal.net
16	Romantz, Ed	18' x 8'	6962 LH	\$400	\$400	edromatz@yahoo.com
17	Marten, Steve	16' x 7'	4559 TB	\$400	\$400	samarten@aol.com
18	Vanover, Don	16' x 7'	2700 RD	\$400	\$400	donavanconstruc@sbcglobal.net
19	Bob Carnaghi	13' x 4'	5356 LX	\$400	\$400	rcarnaghi@wowway.com
20	Brian Malik	18' x 6'	4018 TG	\$400	\$400	bri.malik@gmail.com

transportation@ncyconline.com





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## Boblo boat Columbia

Dan Austin: Saying farewell to the Boblo boat Columbia

Dan Austin, Detroit Free Press staff writer 11:16 a.m. EDT September 17, 2014

There was no pomp, no circumstance, no bon voyage toot. The SS Columbia left quietly, slowly backing out into the Detroit River like it had a million times before, but likely never again.

The beloved-but-battered Boblo boat has left Detroit, and there's little chance it will be back. And a little piece of my childhood — of so many metro Detroiters' childhoods — left with it.



Shortly after 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, a pair of tugs yanked the boat away from its longtime home in Ecorse and started pushing it to Toledo. It is there that the nonprofit Columbia Project will lift the ship out of water, move it into dry dock and get it shipshape again. Or at least shipshape enough to make the trek to New York state by next August. The Columbia Project has spent years working on a plan to return the boat to service in the Hudson River Valley — and will spend some \$10 million to \$20 million to do it.



Though the steamship spent much of its first 112 years ferrying metro Detroiters up and down the Detroit River, its future years will be spent elsewhere. There's little doubt that the desire to get it back into service right here in Detroit was there, but the money and will simply were not.

## Shipwrecked

The Columbia was launched in 1902, and for nearly 90 years, it ferried metro Detroiters to Boblo Island, an amusement park smack dab in the middle of the Detroit River. In 1910, the Columbia got a little sister, the SS Ste. Claire. The rest is Motor City lore. Generations of metro Detroiters caught a ride to the amusement park on one of the steamers, and the Boblo boats became as Detroit as Faygo, Coney dogs and the Big Three.

The 112-year-old SS Columbia, one of the beloved but battered Boblo boats, leaves Detroit for what is likely the last time Sept. 16, 2014. The vessel was towed down the Detroit River to Toledo for repairs and maintenance in anticipation of being returned to service in the Hudson River Valley in New York.  
Dan Austin/HistoricDetroit.org (Photo: Dan Austin/HistoricDetroit.org)



But by the late '80s, the park was on its last legs. The dwindling attendance led to both Boblo boats being taken out of service. The pair made their final trip Sept. 2, 1991. It was the last in a long line of bad decisions. I mean, without the Boblo boats, why would you even bother to go?

Boblo Island would close two years later.



For the next two decades, the Columbia and Ste. Claire sat wasting away behind U.S. Steel, and the years of neglect have taken their toll. Walking the creaky decks on Tuesday was like playing hopscotch with all the holes. "Any board where you see that green spray-paint, you don't want to walk on," I was told. "You might fall through." Funny, as a kid I had my run of the place.

And that's what the Boblo boats are all about for us, isn't it? Those memories on that 80-minute ride to the park?

Everywhere you look aboard the Columbia, you still see them. You might have to look hard, but they're there. The wooden floorboards of its ballroom lie buckled. They say it was the first steamship in the country to have one of those, you know. You can almost imagine couples swinging away to a big band while the boat moseyed on down the river.

That well-remembered "Boblo blue" paint is now well-worn, curling everywhere and clinging for dear life in places. Rust dots its hull. Strings that once held life preservers in place dangle from the ceiling. I always tried to stand within arm's length of one; the Detroit River might as well have been the Atlantic for an 8-year-old who never learned to swim.

Most families raced up the stairs to squeeze into a spot along the rail, but my boat-loving grandfather Gordon Luther would have nothing of it. For me, most of the ride was spent peering over a ledge into the belly of the Boblo beast, watching the Columbia's 1,217-horsepower, triple expansion steam engine, go to work. I will never forget the sound of those massive shafts propelling us along our way. That repetitious ka-thunk-ka-thunk-ka-thunk, never missing a beat. The way the entire floor vibrated around you. And that smell of oil and grease. There are still traces of it lingering in the air down there — and it's just as I remember it.

### **The metro Detroit way**

It is hard to believe that something so treasured, so important to the memories of so many, could be left to rot. Then again, when you drive around the city abandoned by so many over the past 50 years, perhaps it is no surprise. This is not to say that there haven't been people who tried to save the Columbia. Indeed, historian and boat lover Bill Worden fought hard to save the boat for future generations — but you can't always win a battle without reinforcements and cooperation. At the end of the day, people in New York are doing what we, as a region, could not.

On Tuesday morning, the Columbia was a hive of activity. Workers scurried about its decks, loosening the ropes chaining the boat to the dock, shoring up flimsy boards and readying the steamer for its first voyage in years. But there was no grand send-off.

Organizers said they didn't want much fanfare about the move until the boat arrived safely in Toledo shortly before 4 p.m. Perhaps they wanted to avoid the farewell frenzy it no doubt would have created.

A pair of tugs gave it a few nudges, and the vessel tottered back and forth a bit, regaining its sea legs. Columbia was alive again, back on the move after all these years, albeit slowly. After 104 years together, it bid farewell to its sister. Then did the same to those Detroiters lucky enough to see this piece of their past sneak away.

Columbia will no longer be ours, but at least it might be saved. It's just a shame we couldn't have been the ones to do it.

But let us not forget, that we still have the Ste. Claire. Maybe we should find a way to make that happen before the Columbia's little sis skips town, too.

*Dan Austin, assistant editor for opinion digital/interactive, also runs the Detroit architectural resource HistoricDetroit.org. He has written two books, "Forgotten Landmarks of Detroit" and "Lost Detroit." Contact him at [daustin99@freepress.com](mailto:daustin99@freepress.com).*

What about the Ste. Claire?

The other Boblo boat, the SS Ste. Claire, is still tied up in Ecorse. Ron Kattoo, a Henry Ford Hospital doctor, bought it in 2006 and set out to renovate the vessel, though it has been a slow process. The plan is to dock the boat in Wyandotte, where it will be used as an attraction and for fund-raisers until money can be raised to restore its engines. Go to [www.bobloboat.com](http://www.bobloboat.com) for more info on that renovation.

**North Channel Yacht Club  
Board of Directors - Regular Meeting**



**Call to Order**

*Commodore, John Anderson*

Commodore John Anderson called the meeting to order on December 16, 2014 at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held at the Crew's Inn.

**Roll Call**

*Secretary, Randy Pagel*

		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
<b>FLAG OFFICERS</b>			
Commodore	John Anderson	X	
Vice Commodore	Brain McEvoy	X	
Rear Commodore	Chuck Stroh	X	
<b>DIRECTORS</b>			
Transportation	Pat Carroll	X	
Harbor & Grounds	Don Reiss	X	
Activities	Bob Carnaghi		<b>Excused</b>
Treasurer	Frank Corcoran	X	
Publications	Brent Malik		<b>Excused</b>
Secretary	Randy Pagel	X	
Membership	Brian Malik		<b>Excused</b>
Supplies	P/C Hugh Vestal	X	
Club House	Rich Goodman	X	
<b>IMMEDIATE PAST COMMODORE</b>	P/C Don Vanover	X	
<b>APPOINTED POSITIONS</b>			
Fleet Captain	Ian Blackburn	X	
Board Recorder	Sue Reiss		<b>Excused</b>

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Approval of Agenda:**

**MOTION:** Moved by RC Chuck Stroh to approve the agenda. Seconded by Rich Goodman.

**Motion Carried.**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

There was one correction to the minutes of the last Board Meeting. It was noted that the date on those minutes stated November 22, 2014. When actually it was November 11, 2014.

**MOTION:** Moved by Pat Carroll to approve the minutes with the correction. Seconded by Frank Corcoran.



**Motion Carried.**

**Commodore's Comments:**

*Commodore, John Anderson*

Thank you for your attendance this evening and welcome to your spouse's joining us tonight. They will get to see us in action... Eating dinner and drinking beer. Not too much unlike our April meeting where we decided what wine or beer products to stock for the year.

On a serious note, this evening is in acknowledgement of your efforts and time spent taking care of the business of our Club. As I've said many times in the past, we can't offer compensation for our member's hard work but a handshake, pat on the back and an honest 'Thank You' goes a long way in recognizing their efforts in helping out. Please keep that in mind while in your positions of leadership at NCYC and let our members know that they aren't taken for granted in what they do.

Most specially during this time of the year, keep in mind those of us who have lost someone or are enduring illness. Just in this Beacon alone, I've read of four of our members suffering a loss or injury.

And so in closing, thank you again for all that you have done. I hope that you and your families have a wonderful Christmas. Beverly and I wish all of you a Happy New Year.

**Vice-Commodore's Comments:**

*Vice Commodore, Brian McEvoy*

I just wanted to wish everyone safe travels during this holiday season. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

**Rear-Commodore's Comments:**

*Rear Commodore, Chuck Stroh*

Thanks to John and Bev for a great year. I appreciate all of the work that the Board has done this year. Take some time to relax and enjoy your families, and recharge your batteries. Happy Holidays.

**Financial Report**

*Treasurer, Frank Corcoran*

A brief financial report was given by Frank Corcoran. Commodore John expressed his thanks to Frank for a great job done this year as Treasurer.

**Motion:** Moved by PC Hugh Vestal to approve the Financial Report. Seconded by VC Brian McEvoy,

**Motion Carried**



**ABYA Report:**

*P/C Don Vanover*

PC Don Vanover stated that the ABYA Christmas Ball was a huge success. There were 160 people in attendance. A good time was had by all.

**CURRENT BUSINESS**

Activities - Bob Carnaghi

Absent, No report

Clubhouse - Rich Goodman

Thanks to all who helped this year. Merry Christmas to all.

Harbor & Grounds – Don Reiss

No Report

Membership- Brian Malik

Brian was absent, however, Randy asked that the Board approve a new Junior Member for next year. The Junior Members name is Rebekah Pawelczyk.

**Motion:** Moved by Randy Pagel to approve Rebekah Pawelczyk as a new Junior Member. Seconded by PC Don Vanover.

**Motion Carried.**

Publications- Brent Malik

Absent, No Report.

Commodore John stated that both Brian and Brent Malik did a fine job this year with Publications and Membership. He also wished them luck in the coming year.

Secretary – Randy Pagel

No Report

Supplies – Hugh Vestal

No Report.





Transportation – Pat Carroll

Pat stated that a bill was paid to Bill Balfour for the gas for the fins. The cost of this year's gas was in line with the previous years.

Fleet Captain - Ian Blackburn

No Report

**Good of the Order:**

Kim Miedema presented Commodore John with pictures from the 2014 boating season.

**Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Moved by Pat Carroll to adjourn meeting. Seconded by VC Brian McEvoy.  
**Motion Carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

**Next Meeting**

Date and Time: January 8, 2015 at 7:00. Location: Rosie O'Grady's

Respectively Submitted,

Don Reiss  
Harbor & Grounds  
Temporary Board Recorder

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Happy New Year!

