



The YARDARM

Wolf Lake Yacht Club newsletter from which all pertinent signals shall be displayed

2014 Rings in our 75th Year as the WLYC

January 2014
Volume 1, Issue 1

Throughout our 75th year I will be submitting excerpts from the written history I found in the file cabinet at the club. As I go through the hand written notes, there is a common purpose every year..... to enjoy the lake and to have fun, The original clubhouse was built in 1948 because the founding members needed a place to enjoy activities year round. They originally met in an outdoor pavillion. The original charter members of the WLYC were Gale Hyde, Dave Marvin, Ben Main, Jr, George Potter, Elois Potter, Reg Crane ,Ed

Hamel, Wally Nichols, Mel Nichols, John Main and Gart Hamel.

This is an excerpt from a cassette tape made by Wally Nichols in 1983:”In the beginning was Gale Hyde. Now there might be some who argue this point, because the first sailor that I can recall on the lake was George Potter with his Cape Cod. Then there was Mel and myself, with a canoe with side boards and an old piece of material made into a sail and a paddle, and we managed to get around on the lake on the wind pretty good. Then came the perfectionist Ben Main, who built a

snipe. That was a marvel and a beauty to behold.. Then on the east side of the lake, some people from Toledo moved in, one of which was the family of Gale Hyde. Now in those days we on the north side of the lake didn't bother the people on the east or south side and they didn't bother us, so we never got acquainted. However, Gale had a passion for three things: he loved his family, he loved sailing and he loved beer, with equal dedication and fidelity. (continued on next page)

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NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

Ring in the new year at the club and enjoy a relaxing evening playing euchre, left right center (bring your quarters) and who knows..... twister?? If the weather permits maybe a bonfire (bring

your Christmas tree) and sledding !!! Bring a dish or snack to share. Family and friends are always welcome. The festivities start around 6:30pm on Tuesday December 31st. See you there©



Wally Nichols WLYC history continued

And when the pavilion opened and sold beer, Gale was a frequent visitor. Gale had a comet and used to be seen sailing up and down the lake at all hours of the 24. That's right, sometimes at 3-4 in the morning. But he was a sailor and a very gregarious young man, never a harsh word for anybody, and having friends in the Toledo Yacht Club, and knowing that there were boats on the lake, he thought it might be a good idea to form a yacht club, a sailing club, and in many respects, we all agreed. So committees were formed and it fell

to me to work on a Constitution and by-laws. This I did, and at one of our meetings they were accepted. I have nothing but admiration for the club and I hope the you (the club) can continue to proper and promote boating and sailing the best you can on rough waters". Wally Nichols passed away in 1982, His brother Mel is still alive and well and living on the north shore of Big Wolf Lake. Mel and his wife Jean are life members.



CLUB MEMBER SPOTLIGHT COLUMN

A new feature this year in the Yardarm will feature club members. 5-7 short bio's of every family in the club will be highlighted each month so that our club members know who's who and can support our self employed club members and children in the service. Information on yourself, spouse and family can be emailed to the secretary at chrismarycovill@hotmail.com. Pictures are welcome too!

Mel and Jean Nichols sailing on the lake. "Mel could read the wind...he was the fastest sailor I have ever known. There is a folk story that he had two pet blue gills that propelled him in the water." Charlie Butchart



CLUB MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

Mel Nichols is our charter member since 1939. He and his brother Wally started the club because they loved sailing. Mel his wife Jean have been married for over 70 years and still enjoy the lake life They have 3 children, Mel was an avid sailor and raced sunfish and snipes and ice boats . Mel was a jack of all trades according to Bob Lyke, whom Mel taught to sail and build boats. Mel and Jean are also

our oldest life members. Mel, over 90 years old, was overheard at one of the last work bees" What can I do to help?" His dedication to the club has made our club what it is today. Thank you Mel and the Nichols family!



CLUB MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

Our 2014 commodore Brent Williams has been an active member of the club since 2008. Brent is an electrician and is married to Amanda, who is an account executive at Dawn Food. They enjoy the lake on their speedboat with their two teenage children. Brent and Amanda host the pig

roast every year and have donated numerous hours to the club. They have held board positions as building and grounds coordinator, social committee and member at large.



CLUB MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

Vice Commodore Don Crabtree has been an active member since 2005. He works for Lester Brothers as a truck driver and is married to Kim, a dental hygienist. They enjoy the lake on their pontoon with their two grown children and their teenage son Keegan (a junior member). Don and Kim have volunteered numerous hours to the club and were instrumental in the club renovations from the flood in

2008. They have held various board positions including Commodore (Don: 2008-09), social committee and member at large.

"The Crabtree's have given so much of themselves to keep the club alive and vibrant."



CLUB MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

Current treasurer Kendra Lyke and husband Bob are life members of the club for over 40 years. Kendra is retired from Michigan Center schools as a secretary and Bob is a plumber and still works fixing leaky pipes. They both have held all the positions on the board including commodore (Bob: 1979-80). Bob and Kendra have given generously to the club including our

new freezer after the flood of 2008. They have 2 grown children and one granddaughter. Bob was an avid sailor at the club along with his son Kyle. Bob and Kendra recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. *"They are the heart and soul of the WLYC".*



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We're on the Web!
wolflakeyachtclub.org

Wolf Lake Yacht Club is located on the north shore of Big Wolf Lake. The club was founded in 1939 by lake enthusiasts to enjoy and promote water activities including sailing, boating and social events.

Come out to the club this year and celebrate our 75th anniversary on the lake!

2014 Board members:

Commodore: Brent Williams 795-8625

Vice Commodore: Don Crabtree 937-5839

Treasurer: Kendra Lyke 764-1019

Secretary: Mary Covill 936-6079

Member at large: Angie Cochran 522-3200

Member at large: Lynn Weage-Harshbarger 522-5322

Social committee chairman: Christy Epperly 748-9154

Building and grounds/docks: Bob Stoker 522-3200 and Keegan Birchfield 536-8509

Fleet Captain: Jin Towler 796-4900

Past Commodore: Charlie Butchart 787-5189

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Not much is happening yet at the club. All club members can host a party, information night pancake breakfast, etc. This is our 75th year so put your thinking caps on and make this year the BEST ever! Our social committee chairwoman is Christy Epperly, **748-9154**. She is open to suggestions and ideas. The next board meeting is THURSDAY JANUARY 16th at 6:30pm. All club members are invited to attend.

Pancakes Breakfasts:

Sunday May 25th

Friday July 4th

Sunday August 31st

Dates to be announced:

Regattas

Pig Roast

Prime rib dinner

75th anniversary party

Commodore's dinner

Garage sale

Chili cookoff

Dock day

General membership meetings:

February 2 time TBA

September 28th time TBA

Private party July 5th

If you want happiness for an hour -- take a nap. If you want happiness for a day -- go fishing. If you want happiness for a month -- get married. If you want happiness for a year - - inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime -- help someone else.
--Chinese proverb

