

**It's Official:
Omena IS the Pot of Gold.**

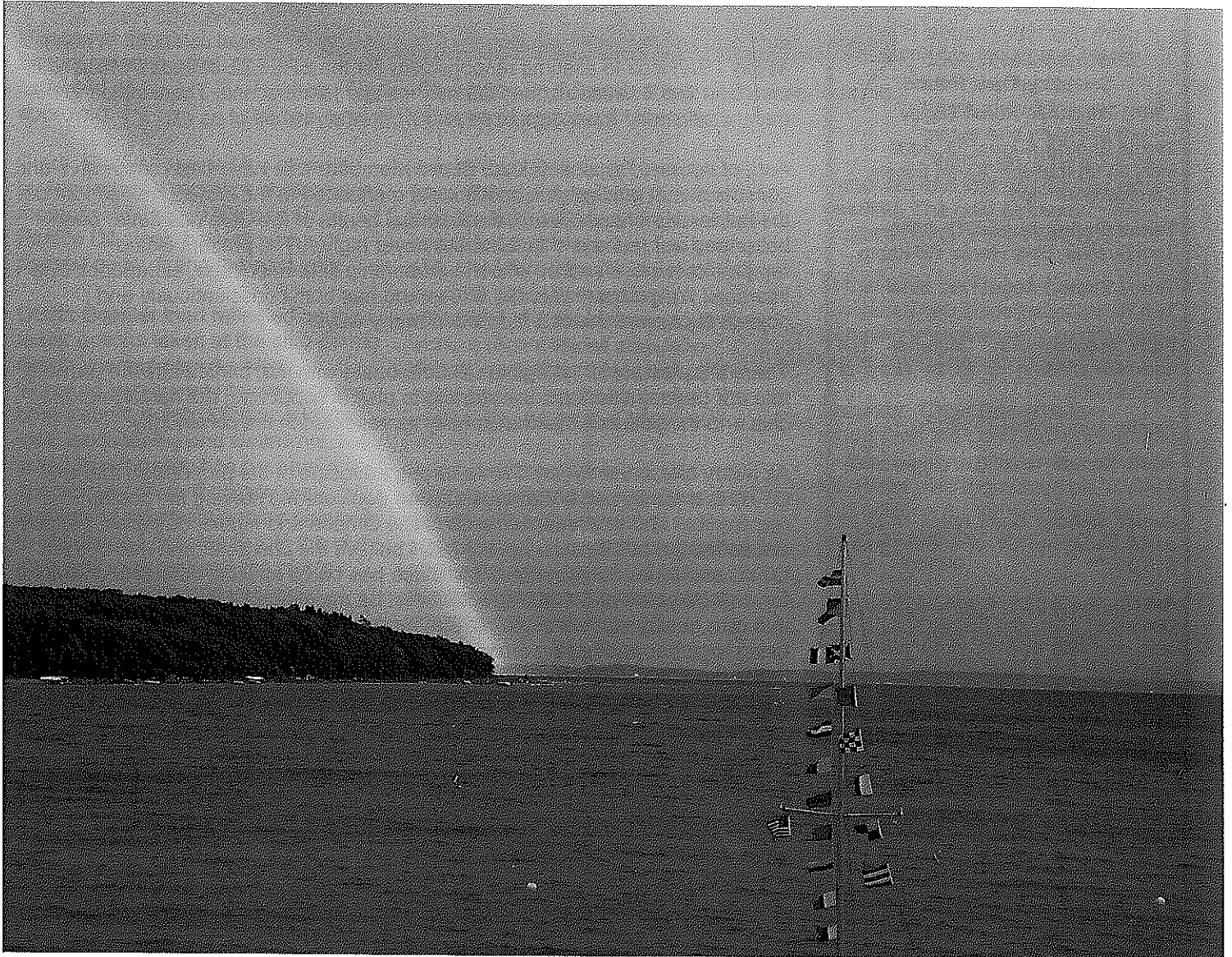


Photo by Andrea Gelakoski Compton

**The Omena-Traverse
Yacht Club Breeze**

Official organ of the Omena-Traverse Yacht Club, authorized by its Board of Directors in 1948, published twice yearly.

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Debby Disch, reporter

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Terms Ending August 15, 2009

Mary Jo Brumbaugh, Karen Edgely, Caroline Oberndorf

Terms Ending August 15, 2010

Tom Buehler, Barb Harris, Bill Knorp

Terms Ending August 15, 2011

Tish Renz, Dave Pohlod, Jeff Bosco

Full Membership: initiation fee (includes children up to 24 years of age): \$1,000

Family Annual Dues \$280.00. *

Adult Annual Dues (per single adult): \$140.00*

Junior Annual Dues (ages 14 to 23 as of December 31 of current year): \$15.00. **

Associate - a person age 24-30 as of December 31st, and his/her spouse, if any, who has been a junior member each year since eligible 50% of Adult Dues. **

Guest Membership... same categories and costs as above.

* In addition \$15.00 Breeze subscription

** \$15.00 Breeze subscription optional

Web Site: www.otyc.net

The Breeze.....

All the news that fits, we print.

COMMODORE'S CORNER

The year end allows me to reflect on our season just past, and the condition of your club going into 2009. In doing so, I have come to appreciate the achievement of the club's social, recreational, financial and educational objectives. On balance, the summer of '08 was a year of innovation, growth and renewed energy. We tried a number of new things, and, with your encouragement, we'll try more. I will give you a full STATE OF THE CLUB report in the May Breeze. In the interim, let me share some personal observations.

It's been particularly rewarding when I recall the energy and oversight Tami Bosco, Karen Edgley and Rich Connell provided to the growth and the success of the Youth Program, or the record number of people attending this year's potluck program, or the inventiveness and enthusiasm that Jeanne Grabowski put into coordinating this year's catered dinner program showcasing the talents of a variety of local chefs.

Who can forget how Stu and Suzie Mulligan took the T & T program to a new level this year as the front porch of the Club overflowed with revelers celebrating Thursdays and the summer. Then there was Charlotte Read who ably coordinated the many facets of the year's varied social calendar. When I asked Tish Renz to assume responsibility for the BREEZE or Judy Pohlod to take over the Scuttlebutt, they did not hesitate for a second. Thanks also to the many others who have organized and worked on behalf of us all.

And, of course, I must thank the Board Members who have been supportive and constructive in guiding club policies. As mentioned at the annual meeting, under the leadership of your Board, the financial health of the Club has never been better and our membership numbers never higher. The present Board represents a cross section of our membership in terms of age, experience and interests. It vigorously debates issues and has both conscientiously and objectively moved the club forward in many ways.

There are also some intangibles that resonate with me, particularly the growing role our Legacy members are starting to play in supporting the heritage of the club and the values it has traditionally represented in the community.

As many of you are aware, I am a strong advocate of the proposition that the OTYC is a family and social organization dedicated to serving the social, recreational and educational needs of the Omena and Ingalls Bay area, as they are defined in our Bylaws. Simply put, I believe the character and use of the OTYC should be safeguarded. The place has had a special, definable character for over 60 years and that character must be maintained if our club is to retain that rare quality that we treasure. Seeing three and four generations enjoying being together and having cross-generational friendships lifts the heart. To me, this is the essence of the OTYC. The continuity of family friendships connected by a beloved summer place is rare indeed, and I feel fortunate to be part of it.

Before closing, I ask that you give particular attention to a local pest, Phragmites Australis. In this Breeze issue, we are foregoing our regular FAQ section to tell you a little about this very aggressive invasive species. Each of us should consider eradication of this problem in order to fully protect the environment of our beachfronts.

Marsha and I send to all of you our very best wishes for the new year,

Tom Buehler, Commodore

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Members of the Omena Traverse Yacht Club, July 19, 2008.

The annual meeting of the OTYC was held on July 19 and attended by 41 members.

Commodore Buehler chaired the meeting and Dave Pohlod acted as secretary. Present Board members included Cmdr. Buehler, and board members Knorp (Rear Cmdr.), Harris, Oberndorf, Pohlod, Renz. Absent Brumbaugh and Edgley.

Minutes of the 2007 annual meeting were accepted and approved.



Nathan, Nora, Charlotte and Sarah Read at the dedication of the new OTYC boat christened "Alan Read."

Cmdr. Buehler opened his remarks by requesting a moment of silence in memory of Glenn White and Dr. Panfilo DiLoreto, both of whom passed away during the past year.

Cmdr. Buehler then reflected on the major actions taken at the club during his 20 years of membership, including improvements made to the tennis court, porch, kitchen addition, roof, landscaping and waterfront. He noted that the club has become a special way of life for many generations of members and he planned to challenge Legacies to join the club as a way to perpetuate the club's long-range vision and values.

The following committee reports were presented to the membership:

Membership: Mrs. Harris representing Chair Kanda McKee reported that the number of regular and guest memberships reached a historic high of 281 in 2008, including 8 new full memberships. Cmdr. Buehler stated that the board determined that no new memberships would be made available for 2009, except for Legacies.

Youth: Tami Bosco represented Chair Karen Edgley and reported that, to date, weekly attendance has exceeded that of the last five years, with attendance for the week of July 14 at 29 (30 is the maximum allowable). Tami acknowledged the work of Rich Connell and John Varley, as well as the contributions made by Rich's wife Hannah to the overall success of the program.

It was mentioned that the sailboats are being abused by members and guests to the disadvantage of the participants in the youth program. A sixth week may be added to this year's youth program because of demand (week of Aug. 11).

Social: Chair Charlotte Read recognized the efforts of members putting on the opening dinner, opening cocktail party, potlucks, catered dinners and special picnics and expressed appreciation for the new tables, chairs and tablecloths provided by the club this year.

Breeze: Chair Tish Renz acknowledged the help provided by the many *Breeze* contributors, and

particularly the support provided by the Turners. Mrs. Renz indicated that the *Breeze* was published twice during the past twelve months, with income exceeding expenses during this period.

House: Chair Marsha Buehler indicated the Board had authorized a number of improvements including front porch seats, roof repairs, repairs to the concrete launch ramp, pressure washing the launch ramp and main dock, a second coat of front porch stain; flagstone walkways, new tables and chairs in the clubhouse, a new kitchen

faucet set and filter for the bar were installed. The cost of these improvements totaled \$12,356.

At this time, the Board does not envision any further projects including improvements or changes to the capital assets of the club.

Grounds: Chair Bruce Balas recognized the good work being done by S&J Landscaping on the grounds. Mr. Balas also expressed his appreciation for the contributions made by member volunteers at the annual cleanup.

Waterfront: Chair John Mitchell reported on the repairs made to the launch ramp and to the metal chain at the ramp. He also indicated that the former club boat was replaced by a newer boat for a cost of \$1,400. The new boat named the "Alan Read" was christened at the opening dinner.

Treasurer: Commodore Buehler (acting for former treasurer Judy Balas) indicated that the present

Continued on Page 4

(Continued) Minutes of the Annual Meeting, OTYC, July 19, 2008.

checking balance was \$42,000, plus incrementally maturing current CDs of \$16,000, within which are retained earnings of \$5000; funds set aside for the Preservation Fund represented \$33,000.

Commodore Buehler indicated that based on the good overall financial health of the club, the board determined it would not be necessary to raise dues in 2009. The news was well-received by the membership.

Nominating: Chair Judy Pohlod read a resolution nominating Jeff Bosco to a new term on the board. Directors Tish Renz and Dave Pohlod were nominated to second three-year terms. A motion was made and seconded, and the members unanimously approved the recommendation of the Nominating Committee.



Summer friends enjoying a day at the yacht club

BOARD ACTIONS - FALL '08 by Tom Buehler

By email meeting earlier this fall, your Board adopted several actions. The Legacy recruitment effort will be continued for the summer of '09. (Recall, Legacies are automatically admitted and may elect to join at the present initiation fee of \$600, which may be paid in 6 annual \$100 installments along with dues).

The initiation fee for new applicants has been increased from \$850 to \$1,000 in recognition of the monies and efforts that have been invested in the club.

Our historic membership has been at 254. Present membership is 290. The Board determined that a target goal for future memberships should be 285, this being based on the capacity of the building and the number of guests we can accommodate.

Finally, your board voted to replace the existing flagpole. The new flagpole will be of the gaff rig type, suitable to the nautical character of the club.

Other Business: It was recommended that a no-smoking policy be adopted by the OTYC, covering the grounds, as well as the building (already a no-smoking area). Cmdr. Buehler indicated that the issue would be discussed at the next Board meeting.

At the conclusion of the meeting, several members initiated a discussion regarding the need to assist the GTYC in some manner given the fire that destroyed their clubhouse earlier in the year. While it was pointed out that the GTYC was well-insured, some members felt that an "outreach" to GTYC was required.

A discussion ensued regarding the need to support an event with the GTYC. It was pointed out that some members felt a public relations effort involving the GTYC was needed. It was noted that the board elected not to pursue a date for an event with the GTYC during the season. Concerns were expressed regarding the need to avoid commercial connections that were associated with the postponed event.

Comments were made regarding security concerns and the reservations about GTYC members getting benefits related to rental costs, in season use, etc., not available to OTYC members.

Several resolutions were put on the table. Ultimately, it was moved to form a committee made up of OTYC members to discuss ways to support the GTYC and to bring a proposal to the OTYC board for consideration. The motion was seconded and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30.

Secretary Dave Pohlod, 7/19/08

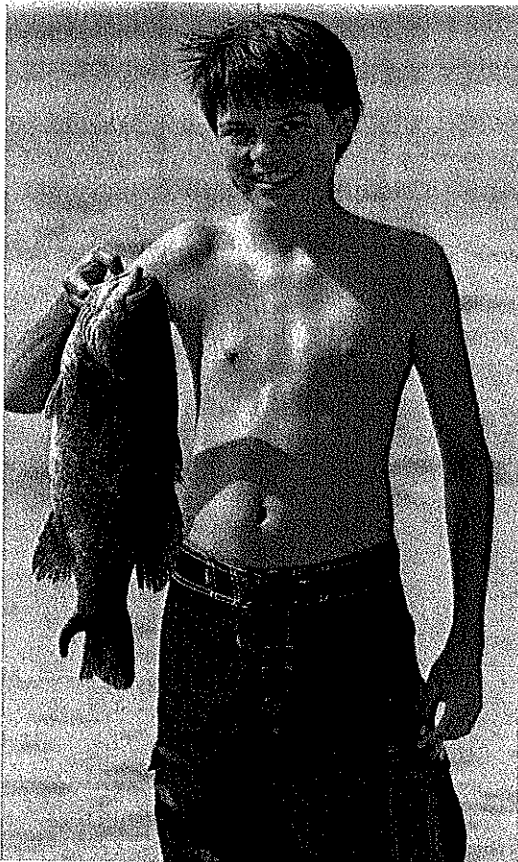
Commodore's Note

All members have a right to voice opinions, and not all will agree. However, the concern presents itself that we may be at a philosophical crossroads as to what the OTYC is and what it is to become.

Do we work toward continuing preservation of the culture of the club as it is? Some members argue that our membership is elitist, and the club should be open to everyone, including use by outside organizations.

It is also argued that standards for membership, which were thoroughly debated and unanimously adopted by a vote of the members a couple years back, be made less stringent.

I do not concur with any of this, but will be attentive to your comments. They are important. Please let me hear from you, and I will share your thoughts with the Board. tombuehler@earthlink.net



Taylor White caught this large mouth bass with his bare hands in Ingalls Bay.

Socially We Were Happy and Active

by Charlotte Read

Thanks to a great group of volunteers, OTYC had a successful social season beginning with the Memorial Day Cocktail Party and ending with the Labor Day Picnic. In between there was the Opening Dinner, July 4 picnic, Ladies Luncheon and many potlucks and catered dinners.

Although many more volunteers helped with the success of all of these fun times, special thanks go to coordinators:
Judy and John Smart, Laura Deibel, Melissa Chenault, Drew Ehrhardt, Cathy Stephenson, Tami and Trish Bosco,

Jim and Kathy Miller, Annette and George Husted, Marsha Buehler, Judy Knorp, and Mary Helen Ray.

Of course there is a special thank you to **Brenda White**, our Bingo Queen!

Stu Mulligan and Bill Emmert added to the fun with the sailboat races.

I am Social Chairman again so watch for my calls for help. And we're always ready for suggestions to make 2009 even better!

Watch for the notice of a Cross Country Ski Day on February 22! Cheers to all.

OTYC Membership Committee Report for 2008

Full Members:

Family:

of memberships: 105
of people: 209

Single:

of memberships: 37
of people: 37

Guest Members:

of memberships 9
of people: 18
Barber, Kip and Christine '07
Cunningham, Bruce and Carla '07
Devries, Bob and Caryn '07
Lutz, Brad and Linda '07
Reynolds, Larry &
Alice Littlefield '07
Fisher, John and Peggy '08
Goldman, Philip and Susie '08
Goldman, Todd and Sara '08
Lystra, Don and Doni '08

Honorary Memberships

of people: 2
Mary Louise Root
Mary Woolford

Lifetime Memberships:

of people: 5
Ping Abbot
Dr. and Mrs. William Graf
Vincent Moore
Mary•Smith

Associate Members -

of memberships: 8
of people: 10

Junior Members

of people 64

Resignations:

Richard and Patricia Wilson

Deaths:

Glenn White

Joined as Full Time Members in 2008

Bullinger, Bob and Sylvia
Dailey, Cynthia Ann
Elscott, Jon and Peggy
Karchon, James and Barb
List, Tom and Amy
Mark, Florine
Mustaine, Michael and Libby
Wilkes, Matt and Meg

New Applications:

of memberships 0

Total Regular and Guest Members (excluding Juniors) = 281

Junior Members eligible for Associate Membership - 5 (None chose to join)

Total Memberships:

of memberships: 165
of people: 281

Golden Memories: Remembering Our

We are all privileged to share a richness in our lives that comes from our Omena experiences. Some of us have been in Omena right from the start as a very little one, and others have joined in at different stages in our lives. Some have even enjoyed having a lifelong partner to share the experiences for as many or more than 50 years.

I would like to lead off the golden anniversary celebrations with a memory showing how things can start off so small and become so grand. The first memory is from David and Andrea (Gelakoski) Compton, followed by about half of our members who have celebrated their golden anniversaries.

Enjoy. *Tish Renz*

David and Andrea Compton

write, "This summer was so very special to us. It is the first summer that our son, **Noah**, visited Omena. He was just 3 months old! I (Andrea) visited Omena for the first time when I was 6 months old. Noah enjoyed the fresh air of Omena so much. He spent his days strolling around the point, visiting Omena friends, and dangling his toes in the lake. We look forward to the days when he will be able to join us for a game of tennis. But, for now, we are loving every minute of his 1st year, time is flying by..."

***Bill and Nancy Sandt** celebrated their 55th anniversary this year in somewhat quiet fashion by enjoying a fancy dinner and an expensive bottle of wine. They appreciated the fact that they were still able to both enjoy the meal and the wine. Quiet ended when they stopped at an animal shelter and couldn't help but adopt a whippet/lab mix, all black and named "Annie". She reminds them daily of their anniversary and on some days they wonder what they were thinking. You probably saw Annie walking Bill this summer.



Bob & Trudy Lewis in control of their 1950 Ann Arbor wedding.

The Sandts were married on April 18, 1953 and were treated, by their children and grandchildren, to a long weekend at Stratford in Canada, with two shows and everything else included. They have found that fifty years is not a long time and their secret for a lasting marriage is simply "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you".

***Bob and Trudy Lewis** were married on June 17, 1950, the day of graduation from University of Michigan. Bob recounts that his pragmatic bride realized that both families would be assembled in Ann Arbor for the graduation and could be reconvened later the same day for their wedding in the Women's League building on campus, which had a small chapel on the ground floor, banquet rooms on the second floor for the reception and a walled garden for photos.

The whole affair was low budget: everyone had already paid their own

travel expenses and cookies and punch would suffice for the reception. Bob liked the plan because they were in complete control of the wedding.

As for their 50th anniversary, they celebrated it on another Saturday back in the League. It was no longer called "Women's" and the chapel had been remodeled into offices for handling social affairs like banquets, which they needed. Their wedding party, as well as many of their family and friends, were invited back for the reunion. This time they had a real meal, from champagne to nuts instead of cookies and punch.

Trudy played a key role after dinner by going to each table and introducing each and every participant, a feat enabled by her robust memory. This celebration was a high point which they don't expect to repeat nor surpass. They appreciated how lucky they were to have discovered each other at this huge University.

***Mike and Kathy Bosco**, on June 14th, celebrated their 50th anniversary with a lovely, intimate dinner in Leelanau County. Kathy had brought their wedding album to Omena from Arizona and they reminisced about all of the happenings in their 50 years together and their time in Omena.

***Gil and Annette Deibel** arrived at the Holts in Omena 10 years ago in April to a surprise celebration gathering for their 50th anniversary with their winter Omena friends. Gil and Annette will have 60 years together this coming April 30th.

***Bill and Be Fuertges** have been married 60 years. They took their family on a cruise for the 50th. They did another family cruise for the 59th, thinking they may not make it to the 60th! They have made it to the 60th and are continuing on. Bill and Be are

OTYC 50th Anniversaries & Beyond

also celebrating being in Omena year-round for 20 years now and still loving it.

***John and Barb Harris** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 6th, 2008. A reception was held at the Horizons Center in Saginaw Michigan. 84 guests were present-including Barb's 92 year old mother, all of their children and grandchildren (**Dr. Paul and Terri Harris, Tyler, Ryan and Sara** of Ada MI, **Cindy and Jeff Dailey, Jackson and Hayden** of Suttons Bay MI and Tim and Aimee Harris, Colin and Tess of San Diego CA) and many friends (a few of whom have been friends for more than 50 years and included one friend who was with John when he met Barb-55 years ago). Also attending were members of the wedding party.

It was a wonderful party and everyone enjoyed the evening immensely! Especially the "slide show" presentation with pictures from their 50 years of marriage, and also including music from the '50's. As part of the "celebration," John and Barb went on a 3-week trip to Albania, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey — just arriving back home on November 4th. All in all, a wonderful way to celebrate 50 years together!!

***Ed and Caroline Oberndorf** celebrated their 50th anniversary on October 25th with 50 family and friends attending the event with the Denver Obies (Michael and family), Cleveland Obies (Charlie and family), and Bangkok Obie (Rob) hosting the evening. **Meg and Matt Wilkes** drove in from Interlochen to attend the affair and we were delighted to have them join us. Ed surprised Caroline with a combined picture-movie presentation titled "Our 50 Year Journey" starting with the wedding thru to the present. And of course, the background music started off with "Sweet Caroline". A sweet time was had by all.

***On August 28, 1994, Jack and Bercie Frohman** celebrated their 50th anniversary with 200 family members and friends on a BB Riverboat in Cincinnati. In keeping with family tradition, their son Tom wrote a skit performed by their grandchildren for the entertainment of all. As a present for their 50th anniversary, their children sent Jack and Bercie to St. Paul, Minnesota, to attend "The Prairie Home Companion" radio broadcast. In honor of the occasion, Garrison Keillor sang "Love's Old Sweet Song" to them. They had another family and friends party on their 60th anniversary in the National Exemplar party room in Mariemont, Ohio, near Cincinnati. Ted DePlante of the Classic Jazz Stompers provided the musical entertainment.

For their 62nd anniversary, they had dinner at Tapawingo in Ellsworth, Michigan. Some friends who live in Petoskey met up with Jack and Bercie. It is a 2 to 3 hour drive each way to the restaurant, but they recommend it at least once in your lifetime.

On their 64th anniversary, they went to the Phoenix Restaurant in Cincinnati with another couple. Much to their delight, their daughter, Jan, and her husband had driven from their home in Alabama to surprise Jack and Bercie when they arrived at the restaurant.

This past year, their granddaughter, Claire Frohman, told Bercie that if she would get married the next day, a week before her 19th birthday, she would get married at the same age as Bercie did. They feel very blessed and fortunate to have been able to celebrate 64 wedding anniversaries. They are wondering

if they will be able to extend their good fortune. Stay tuned.

***Ron and Mary Tonneberger**, along with their Grand Rapids friends, Marg and Will Ballew, completed a 1700 mile, two-week trip to Scotland and the English Lake District in mid-September. It was to celebrate their mutual 50th wedding anniversaries. The trip can be summed up in three words — golf, castles and roundabouts!



Ron & Mary Tonneberger celebrate 50 years together

***Nana and Dick Kennedy** celebrated their 50th anniversary a year ago in October, with a trip to Ireland with their children, grandchildren and assorted family members numbering 31. It was a gala occasion — a beautiful Manor House, delightful catered dinner, traditional Irish music for singing and dancing. During the week of festivities, there was a fair amount of sightseeing, lots of Guinness and generous doses of Irish Blarney-and, always, majestic mountains, sheer cliffs, pounding surf and the eternal 40 shades of green. An event of a lifetime!

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50th Anniversary Celebrations, Continued from Page 7

***Bill and Rat Renz** were married in the Omena church on October 13, 1956. They celebrated their 50th anniversary two years ago. Having taken a wonderful trip for their 40th anniversary, they decided to have a party to celebrate the big 50. They had a casual party, held in a big lodge in Sharon Woods, one of the county parks.

A Dixieland band provided the entertainment, and they had a catered cookout. About 100 guests in all, ranging from their Best Man, to their newest friends, including neighbors from their first home where they raised their kids, through their current neighbors, friends from church and various groups they belong to, Omena friends, and — most important — family, including long distance travelers, **Debby Disch, Craig Smith and Manie Powell.**

Their children and spouses were there, along with three of the grandchildren. The band gave them a chance to sing along after supper, and even dance about a bit. A fun evening for all.

Rat is pretty surprised that they even got to the 50th. They are the first in her family, at least as far as her grandparents, parents, and brothers go. Her brother, Tom, had the distinction of having two 25th anniversaries.

***Larry and Joey Bensley** were married Aug. 9, 1958. They had a terrific celebration planned for their 50th anniversary by their 4 children and 11 grandchildren. It was held at their cottage and included a reenactment of their married life.

The children and grandchildren dressed in the period costume of each decade and acted out things that were happening with their family. In between, drinks and snacks were passed around. Following the performance, they were served a delicious meal. It was a beautiful evening with a deep red sunset over Lake Michigan. A very memorable occasion.

***Dan and Liz Schleef** were married on April 14, 1956. They celebrated number 50 in Reno, Nevada with daughters Katy and Joan, their significant others and Reno friends. A highlight of the celebration was a presentation of a collection of mementos of significant events in 1956, such as Don Larsen's perfect game for the Yankees in the World Series, marriage of princess Grace, and the introduction of Jif peanut butter.

Congratulations to All!



Jeff and Zach Bosco, winners of the small boat race

Youth Program Review

By Karen Edgely

All four of my children again had a great summer, thanks to Rich and Hannah Connell and the OTYC Youth Program.

Although we missed the beginning weeks of the program, because we had to pick our daughter, Claire, up in England at the end of her year in boarding school, Tess jumped right into the program upon our return and enjoyed every minute.

Katherine joined the following week, and loved the sailing and the group camaraderie. Claire assisted as a junior counselor for a week and Alexander for a couple of days before they had to return home to Salt Lake City for high school cross-country running practice.

All in all, the Youth Program is what makes the summer special, learning to sail and feeling attached to the other Omena kids. I hope that every summer will be just as wonderful.

Miscellaneous tidbits:

Sunny Colling celebrated 30 years at the Omena Country Store on November 13.

A new fitness center has opened in the old North Country Garden location in Northport and it is even handicapped accessible.

Cross Country Ski Day-February 22

Skiers and snow-shoers meet at Omena Woods trail for an hour of skiing at 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome for a chili get-together at the Bensleys at 5 p.m. Confirmations to come through the Scuttlebutt. For more information, contact Charlotte Read.

Member Tidbits

Tom and Helen Maher have just completed a major renovation of the "Pioneer" to replace weathered siding and other cosmetic improvements to the cottage. Since Tom had an aortic valve replacement last spring, they only spent 2 months in Omena during the summer. Helen just improved her vision with cataract surgery. They are looking forward to spending a longer time next summer in Omena.

Drew and Betsy Ehrhardt completed a wonderful, but physically demanding, 2 week trip to Turkey and Greece in early October. They traveled with **John and Mary Helen Ray**, which made it more enjoyable. The itinerary started in Istanbul for 2 days, where they visited the Blue Mosque and the Hagia Sophia, the Grand and Spice Markets, the Topkapi Palace and the underground cistern. They also took a short boat tour of the Bosphorus and visited many restaurants. With 15 million people, taxi rides were scary. Then they boarded the Le Diamant cruise ship, which took them to Troy and Ephesus and the Greek Islands of Patmos, Rhodes, Santorini, Delos and Mykonos.

Every day was beautiful blue water and fine breezes. They finished up with 5 days in Athens and the surrounding area, visiting the Corinth Canal, and the classical ruins at Mycenae, Epidaurus, Delphi, the Acropolis and the Roman Agora. The couples spent many enjoyable hours in the old town. The ruins were the highlights — what great architects and builders the Greeks were. Pictures don't capture their impressive achievements.

Cindy Standley writes that much of their news revolves around their high school senior, **Anne**. They are hearing from many colleges interested in applications from Anne since she snagged a National Merit Commended status and an Honorable Mention in the National Hispanic Recognition Program. She currently has narrowed the field down to eight colleges, with Scripps and the American University being

favorites. The Standleys' son, **Andrew**, is playing hockey on the JV team at the Indian Hill Winter Club, working on his trumpet skills, and tackling the Eagle Scout merit badge work. **Jeff** is busy working, playing the mandolin with a group of blue-grass/country players, and duck hunting.

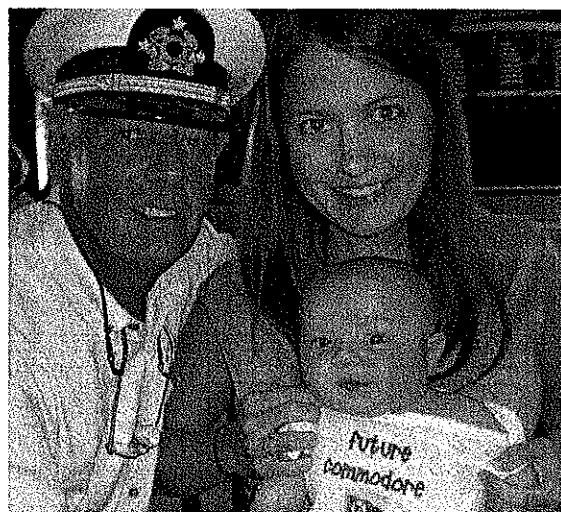
Rat Renz relays that she and **Bill** enjoyed a really fun three-day adventure in late August, when the two of them drove to Hocking Hills, in mid-Ohio. They stayed in a log cabin, complete with a big fireplace, hot tub on the back porch, and deer in the yard. There's a state park there, lots of caves, hills, trails and some lovely wooded areas. The morning they left, they visited and toured the Columbus Washboard factory — the last washboard factory in the U.S.! They even make a special one for wash-board players. In October, they got to keep **Crystal** and the two big cats for a few days while **Bill and Tish Renz** went out to visit **Cynnie and Ron Dotzauer**.

As soon as they gave **Crystal** back to **Bill and Tish**, they headed out on the road again, driving to Williamsburg, Virginia, one of their favorite places to visit. This trip was extra special because they connected with a cousin of **Rat's** whom she had not seen in over 50 years. They came back thru North Carolina where they had dinner with **Joan and Ole Kiersey**, then brunch the next day with one of **Bill's** cousins in Winston Salem.

Cathy Stephenson spent a lovely evening in November with **Jane Saxton** during a visit she made to Chicago. They enjoyed dinner and the opera. Jane was visiting Chicago for a week with a group from Waco — they painted the town red and saw a lot of historic and fun spots. Cathy just got back from a wonderful and relaxing week in northern San Diego where she has a time-share. The weather was warm and wonderful, the air soft and the sunsets over the

Pacific big. Now it's back to reality as winter sets in in the Windy City. She will be heading to Vermont for Thanksgiving with her mom, **Ellie**, and sister, Janet, and cousins following a week in Boston for business, during which she will see her niece, Sydney. Cathy has recently begun seeing Mawby (local to Leelanau) sparkling wine in small wine shops in Chicago area.

Suzy Saxton Wheeler writes that her daughter, **Betty Smith**, will graduate from Tulane University in December (a semester early!) from the A. B. Freeman School of Business with a BSM in marketing and legal studies. Future plans are to attend law school



Noah & Andrea Compton tell Commodore Buehler he has some future competition

either at Tulane or in Texas, starting either this fall or next fall. In the meantime, she will continue to live and work in New Orleans. **Crawford Smith**, Suzy's son, is starting the college application process. His senior year football season ended three games early due to a concussion, but he's doing well and will be able to start his basketball season after Christmas. **Otto**, Suzy, Betty and Crawford are all looking forward to spending some time in Omena next summer.

Charlotte Read had a good fall in Virginia playing with granddaughter, Nora. She returned to Omena for 10

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Member Tidbits Continued

days in October to see the colors, visit with friends, take a kayak ride and enjoy Omena's gorgeous fall. Soon after returning to Virginia, her Omena experience continued with a two-day visit from **George and Annette Husted** enroute to Florida. Charlotte is heading to California with her son, Nate, and his wife, Sara, and granddaughter, Nora, for Thanksgiving.

Congratulations to **Jim and Kathy Miller** on the birth of their first grandchild, Sarah Elizabeth Hoffman, on November 20 in Charlotte, North Carolina. The proud parents are Jim's daughter Heidi and her husband Henry. Jim and Kathy are driving down this week to see her. They are stopping on the way and spending the night with **Harold and Kanda McKee** in Fort Wright, Kentucky. Sarah Elizabeth's paternal grandmother was Elizabeth Hoffman, who was the mayor of Tonawanda, New York, for 12 years and its first woman mayor. Sarah was born on her grandmother's birthday, which is also Elizabeth Hoffman Day in Tonawanda, in honor of her grandmother who died several years ago. Jim, by the way, is not to be called 'Grandpa', but Kingfish.

According to **Ed Oberndorf**, they should have stayed in Michigan a few days longer this fall. They returned to Ohio on the 15th of September to a power outage from the remnants of Hurricane Ike that vented its way northward thru Ohio. They went to the drugstore to get ice (the fridge was out), and **Caroline**, upon getting out of the car, tripped on the cement block that is between the curb and the car, breaking her knee cap. So there was a period when he was wheelchairing and driving Miss Caroline. She is now in therapy and making good progress.

Helen Bradley's grandson, **Madison Duff**, recently broke his leg playing football for his school, St. Johns Country Day in Orange Park, FL. He is recovering very well and into his

second cast (early Nov.) and still on crutches. Madison is the great-great grandson of early Omena resident, Dan Freeman Bradley.

This September, **Joan and Dale Blount** were fortunate enough to find themselves traveling in France for the first time. Their first week was spent cruising on the Seine from Paris to Normandy and back, visiting wonderful historic sights (Rouen, Versailles, Honfleur, the D-Day Beaches) as well as the homes and gardens of the great Impressionists (Monet's Giverny, Van Gogh's Auvers). For their second week, they stayed in a hotel in the Latin Quarter near the Sorbonne exploring Paris by foot, by bus and by metro.

As they strolled through the Tuileries Gardens, the magnificent Louvre Museum, artsy, bohemian Montmartre, breathtaking St. Chapelle, listened to the magnificent organ in Notre Dame Cathedral, watched the Eiffel Tower dazzling with lights at night, or passed an hour or two just sitting outside a sidewalk cafe sipping wine or cafe au lait and munching on a buttery croissantthey just had to keep pinching themselves. This was a dream come true! They loved France, they loved Paris and especially the French people. They were generous, kind and so helpful!

Tish and Bill Renz have had a busy fall. In September, they also got to



From left: Elizabeth Ettinger, Cleve Jones, Austin Jones, Marion Jones and Emile Hirsch.

Elizabeth Ettinger said that she had a nice visit in California with her parents, **Austin and Marion Jones**, and Austin's sister, Sylvia Hatton. They went to the premiere of the movie "Milk", the story of Harvey Milk. They were met there by her brother, Cleve Jones, who is portrayed in the film by actor Emile Hirsch. Cleve also worked as a consultant on the film because of his connection to Harvey Milk. The premiere was held at the Castro Theater in San Francisco and afterward, they attended a party at City Hall. They had lots of fun and were all very proud of Cleve.

experience the remnants of Hurricane Ike's 60-70 mile an hour winds, the effects of which were viewed from the protection of the house. Many trees were down, which then means power lines down. Luckily their property did not sustain any damage. They didn't have power for 3 days and **Crystal** has already used 2 out of her 5 calamity days for school.

In October, they took off for Seattle to visit **Cynn timer and Ron Dotzauer** for a long weekend. Lots of good food, a couple of stops at the casino, down time to hang out, fishing, a couple of games of hearts and football to watch all lent to time flying by. Crystal got to spend some quality time with **Rat and Bill Renz** when she wasn't in school.

In November, Crystal came bounding off the bus one day to announce that a drawing she had done at school was chosen by her classmates to be the back cover for the school's yearbook this year. Bill and Tish are very proud. All three of them went to Michigan in the middle of November so Bill could attend some dental seminars and visit

Greetings from AWOL Members

by Debby Disch

Kay Harris, Jonnie Hodgson and Mary Woolford all send their greetings and want to share how much they missed not being in Omena this past summer. Their absence this summer was noted by many. It was common to hear people ask who had the latest news from them and how they were doing. Kay said that she missed seeing everyone and hopes to be here next summer. This is the first summer she has missed in over 50 years.

Jonnie said she thought of everyone on Wednesdays when she would have been at potluck and Sunday mornings when she would have been at church – and many times in between. She would look at her watch and think, oh, people are at the post office now. Jonnie was in the midst of downsizing and moving into a different part of her home. While it was a difficult decision, she felt that she needed to stay at home and finish the task. She had recovered well from her knee surgery in the spring. Unfortunately, just before Thanksgiving, she fell and broke her femur. She is also recovering well from that and is a 'model' therapy patient.

Mary also said that the things she missed were the potlucks and the Omena church. She was especially sorry to miss the church's 150th anniversary. Most of all, she missed seeing everyone. Mary had some unexpected problems with the hip replacement that had been done earlier. She is doing much better now and hopes to see everyone next year. Mary said that you just can't imagine how much you miss it until you're not here.

PHRAGMITES AUSTRALIS

by Tom Buehler

Many of you are aware of the phragmites infestation problem confronting waterfront owners. This non-native invasive reed is very damaging, both ecologically and to waterfront property use and values. Left untreated, phragmites forms dense stands 10-15 feet tall, and will within a few years time obscure beach access and views. In addition, it completely crowds out all other plant species.

Since it is non-native, it hosts no insects that native birds, frogs, and fish can eat. Its dense waterline growth destroys shore habitat and fish spawning grounds. This plant cannot be controlled by chopping it down — it grows back even more thickly, and spreads by seed, rhizome, and 60' runners. Its roots are very deep, and will send up new growth even if cut or burned. It can be controlled by a combination application of two herbicides, one of which is restricted and must be applied by a licensed applicator.

The application must occur between August and September to be effective. Because phragmites grow mostly below the ordinary high water mark, an MDEQ permit is required for treatment. A number of local groups

will be joining together to apply for combined permits in the spring. If you google phragmites you will find information about the Beaver Island program. Also, see the columns by Kay Charter, Traverse City Record Eagle Sunday, November 2 page 7E. Excerpt below:

"This very tall, grassy-looking plant is reported to change both the structure and function of wetland ecosystems by altering nutrient cycles and hydrological processes. ... Now this awful vegetative menace has come to our special corner of the world. It has shown up along the big lakes, the bays, and even in inland areas. ... But here in the Grand Traverse area, the threat is not taken lightly.

"A broad coalition of governmental and nonprofit organizations is working on a plan of attack. A recent planning session was hosted by Michigan DNR. Participants included the Nature Conservancy, MDEQ, MUCC, local conservancies, and my own organization, Saving Birds Thru Habitat. The focus was to put together a spring event to educate the public about this plant and the threat it brings to our native flora and fauna."

MARY LOUISE ROOT

1908 - 2008

Mary Louise Root, beloved wife of the late Harold Root, died on Tuesday, October 7, 2008. She was 100 years old. Mary Lou and Harold came to Omena in the 1960's and built their cottage on Ingalls Bay next to the Mack cottage. They enjoyed many summers there with their daughter, Phyllis Root Schneebeck, and grandchildren Julie and Tod. They were active members of the Yacht Club and took part in many OTYC events. She was Potluck Chairman several times. She was especially busy when Harold was Commodore in the 1970's.

Mary Lou was a primary teacher with the Cincinnati Public Schools for many years. She was also an accomplished pianist and, in addition, was a member of the College Club of Cincinnati and The Cincinnati Woman's Club. She loved Cocker Spaniel dogs and had many during her lifetime. In her later years she had an elevator built in her house so she could get downstairs to take her dog for a walk. She will be missed by all those who knew her.

Ads

The Woolford cottage is available for rent from July thru the 1st week of August for the rate of \$3500/week. It is located on Omena Point and sleeps 11 in 6 bedrooms. Contact Meg at 231-342-2975 or by email at yotatc72@charter.net.

The Barth cottage on M-22 across from the church near Omena village is available June, July and August for \$850/week. The location is 1/2 a block from the beach. The cottage has 3 bedrooms and washer and dryer. Contact Kathy at 602-956-4322.

Youth Program Attendance Soared in 2008

by Rich Connell

The OTYC 2008 Summer Program was very successful again this year with attendance increasing significantly from the 2006 and 2007 Summer Programs. The camper roster totaled 73 children, up from 58 children last year. There were no accidents or injuries other than minor first aids, band-aids, bee stings, etc. The staff was essentially the same with Rich Connell as Director, with John Varley as the head instructor, Amanda and Taylor White, Sheldie Lingaur, Nina Lingaur, Carolyn Gulsby, Madison Duff, Clare Edgley, and Alex Edgley as Instructors. The last three volunteered their time, which was both beneficial and timely as the last week was the highest in attendance.

Activities were tracked on a daily basis and included: Sailing, Tennis, Swimming, Kayaking, Volleyball, Arts and Crafts, and learning knots related to boating. The daily activities recorded were tabulated, and the campers with the highest scores were selected as "Camper of the Week" on Friday. Campers were divided by age group nine years and under and ten years and up for activities such as Tennis and Sailing. Campers were encouraged to develop their sailing skills to the extent they were able to "Solo" on a Sunfish without help from the instructors. Several campers were able to accomplish this by the end of the summer. Additional instruction was provided through the Sailing Activity Books from U.S. Sailing as well as Boating Basics.



Many happy faces from the last week of the 2008 youth program.

There were a few rainy mornings and these cleared up by noon, allowing the children to use the waterfront. A new boat, of the Boston Whaler style, was acquired by the club and made it much easier to be on the water to work with the children learning to sail. On one occasion it was necessary to rescue some campers from a capsized boat. The outboard engine started every time without fail.

A kayak was also purchased and it is recommended more be purchased. The children enjoyed kayaking a great deal and used the new kayak daily. The Bosco family brought their kayaks to camp on several days, sharing them with the other children, as did some of the other families.

There were no field trips this summer. With the increased attendance, the higher cost of gasoline, etc., it was decided it would be best to make Fridays "Fun Fridays" and pizza and other snacks were served to the children. Parents such as Tom Newland, Karen Edgley, and Tim White volunteered to come with various boats and take the children sailing and tubing on Fun

Fridays. We are grateful for their generosity in providing these additional activities for the children on Fridays. There are six Sunfish currently in sailing-ready shape with the newer rudder configuration.

There are two additional sunfish with the older style rudder configuration that is almost useless to use them. It is recommended these older hulls be converted to the newer rudder configuration as the

hulls and sails are in good condition and will serve the club for several more summers. Rich Connell is capable of doing this refit in addition to any hull repairs required next spring.

Fundraising projects included collecting cans and bottles for their deposit value, which offset expenditures for supplies. Tami Bosco organized a hot dog lunch on behalf of the Youth Program at the small boat race, which also resulted in a substantial contribution. Richard and Hannah Connell provided each camper a group photo taken on the front porch steps each week.

In conclusion, the past three summers have been a great success as the OTYC Summer Youth Program has grown and developed. I wish to thank the OTYC membership, especially the families involved in the Summer Youth Program for their support, encouragement, trust, and generosity, along with Commodore, Tom Buehler, the Board, and to Karen Edgley, Trish and Tami Bosco, for their commitment to the Youth Program.