

# MAST BREEZE

Jul-Oct 2005

Volume 10 Issue 4

## COMMODORE'S MESSAGE

by: Richard Watson

With football season started and cooler weather just around the corner it reminds us that the 2005 sailing season is coming to a quick close. It seems like yesterday that we were all at the North Pavilion for the spring race meeting reviewing the new starting sequence and now our members are making arrangements for their boat haul out. I would like to congratulate ALL members for making this sailing season one of the most successful and eventful in the history of MAST. The MAST Friday night race series has become one of the bigger fleets in the Milwaukee bay area, which makes our fleet thirty boats strong. In reviewing this past year, we accomplished getting the MAST membership cards and directory out in a timely manner, an incredible spring brunch, an educational spring race meeting, the "first" MAST invitational race, two pizza parties, two weekend cruises, the Almost Fall Regatta, an "unofficial" potluck night, and finally a unprecedented seventeen race season. This season is going to be hard to repeat.

I would like to congratulate Ron Marish and his crew on Dreamweaver for winning the Boat of the Year award. Also, congratulations to all the other divisional trophy winners on a great season. I would like to commend all committee boat volunteers and crew for their flawless race administration this season. In addition, I would like to give a special thanks to Glyn Livermore (our race chair) and race committee for a professional run race program. Great sailing instructions, an informative laminated start sequence card, and timely distribution of race results. Great Job!

There is more exciting events on the horizon! Please mark your calendars because our next event is a Chili Dump Social on November 11<sup>th</sup> hosted by Pat and Fergie Locke. Followed by our Christmas Party at SSYC on December 10<sup>th</sup> hosted Kathy Reading and Bob Harley. I encourage all members to attend and hope to see you soon.

Once again, thanks to all MAST members for making this an unforgettable sailing season.



## CRUISING A DIFFERENT WORLD

By Lee & Marie Konrath

Boats have been our world since 1960 – a 30 HP wooden motorboat, later we towed a fiberglass runabout on a trailer, then top-carried a wooden sailboat, and camped, water-skied and sailed, eventually ending up with the "Wisdom" some 20 years ago. Needless to say, our children have nautical genes, and married accordingly. So, when our daughter-in-law suggested a weeklong Canal Cruise in France, we told her "go ahead and arrange it, we're game."

And so, on Friday, June 30, 2005 friends we visited in Germany drove us to Hesse, France, where our son Paul, daughter-in-law Michele, and grandson Ryan, age 12, met us at the canal marina where we were introduced to the "Jamaica 13", a 40ft. diesel-powered fiberglass canal cruiser. "Sleeps 6 or more in 3 staterooms, 2 heads w/showers: full galley w/4 burner gas stove w/oven; refrigerator w/ice maker; lots of cabinet storage and a main salon w/upholstered booth seating around a large table in the main cabin." Very

Friday, November 11, 2005

Chili Dump

Pat & Fergie Locke's house

comfortable! In addition, the main cabin roof, sans windshield, could be rolled back above the aft section of the boat, thereby exposing the dining, lounging and helm to the open sky (or sun or rain as the day progressed). Very acceptable! Just run the diesel engine 3 hours per day to keep the water hot, the batteries charged and the ice cubes frozen.

There are no waves or currents on a canal, which, in fact, is a very level body of water established in France somewhere in the early 1800's. There is no current, otherwise all the water would drain into one end or the other. Instead, a canal may run along a causeway with towns and farmlands way down below on either side; rivers and highways may run underneath it; or at other times we go under bridges, thru tunnels (the longest was 2400 meters – over a mile) under or over railroads as the case may be.

Since our boat was a single screw and flat-bottomed w/cruising speed of about 8 MPH it does tend to wallow a little, but is quite manageable. Plus, the hull is equipped with heavy rubber bumpers along the sides, over which are strung lines with heavy rubber fenders which give one the sensation of operating a blimp when the canal walls get close.

We spent the first night in Hesse at the mooring. On Saturday AM we established our cruising routine – son Paul at the helm, Michele and I as deck hands – Michele at the bow with me at the stern. The locks, all 47 of them, were simple to operate: wait for a green light, (upstream and downstream boats use the same locks) pull into the lock, lift the switch, and the gates close behind you. As soon as the gates close, the water drains out, the lower gates and the gates open and out you go; about 8 ft lower than when you entered. However, once we entered a lock rather high on a mountainside, which was something like a long tub. The gates behind us closed, and the entire section of canal, with us floating on it, went some 400ft sideways down the mountainside to join up with the canal below. The gates opened up, and off we went in much less time than the 7 locks which it replaced.

We tied up at Lutzelbourg, France; had a beer in a pub; strolled the shops; watched a Jeweler cut crystal glassware; checked out the church which had gravestones from the 1700's; bought groceries (plus wine, gin and vermouth); and nearly cleaned out the bakery pastries.

In Saverne the next afternoon, we explored more shops and had a wonderful dinner at an outdoor café. The next morning we walked up to the Chateau de Haut-Barr, a castle at the crest of a 400M (1300ft) hill. The castle is known as the “eye of Alsace.” – The view for miles across the plains that Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker had in WWI which he referred to “the linoleum”. Absolutely beautiful and worth the (whew!!) climb.

Wednesday PM we continued on to Strasbourg, and the next morning strolled into a city that dates its ancestry to Roman times. Many old buildings and some newer date back to the 1700's. Highlight of the day was a visit to Notre Dame Cathedral, started in 1270 and completed in the 1400's. Inside we watched the glockenspiel, a 4 story tall clock with many moving figures, and viewed the elegant stained glass windows, statues and other artifacts – very elaborate carvings throughout. Then we climbed the 328 steps to a viewing platform to catch an overview of the old city. Had lunch at a restaurant named “Paul's” to make our son Paul feel at home. It had “Paul's” napkins, “Paul's” umbrella and “Paul's” place mats. Strasbourg is a city dating back to medieval times; buildings of old heavy timbers w/plastered panels in a very quaint old town.

We enjoyed spending time there before our final cruise to Boffenheim, some 15 locks and 20 miles to the south in what became essentially an upstream trip. Here we enter the empty locks, and when the gates close, the waters rise; the reverse of the earlier part of the cruise. All in all, a very different and enjoyable experience.



# Informal Race Committee Meeting

by: Glyn Livermore

Attendees: Fergie, Pat, Tony, Rip, Marybeth, Rich, Laura, Mike, Cheryl, Jim, John N., Paul  
Contributions included feedback from Pete Engel and Mike Dziubek (thanks Guys)

Rich announced that Jim Reinardi has accepted the nomination for Commodore for 2006. Thanks Jim. The meeting was set up as a review of what we did well and bad and to discuss ideas for 2006

## Notes on upcoming events

**November** - Fergie and Pat volunteered to host a party at their house on Friday 11th November 6.20pm (race start time). It will be a chili dump and drinks.

**December** - The Christmas party is Dec. 10th

**January** - West Marine. – Annual membership. Including a talk by yacht clubs. To be arranged.

**February** - Awards Ceremony . Location TBD (SSYC may be closed)

**March** - March 4th MCSC Sailors Ball. Suggest we set up a Mast table.

## Web Site

We looked at the website that Normand design has created for us and that is hosted by Net-Directions. The site can be seen at [www.net-directions.com/customers/mast](http://www.net-directions.com/customers/mast). We are looking for feedback on the site. There is a movie that is designed to run on the home page. Some of the features are under construction. One of the interesting features is a real time message board that we are hoping we can use as an active crew search site for last minute crew and boats. Our goal is to make MAST the homepage for the Milwaukee bay. One question this leaves open is the Mast logo. Should we change it or continue as we are. A consideration is that at present we still have a stock of MAST burgees for sale. Our present address [www.mastracing.org](http://www.mastracing.org) will continue to point to the existing site for the rest of this year.

## Things that worked

The Potluck that was run by Rich and his crew was very popular. Pizza's events were also popular. In general the events were well attended and there was more mixing of the crews that previously. Spring brunch was very popular. Thanks to Laura and Micki for running it. The Invitational was a success. Discussed that we should make it "an everyone wins" type race. With burgees and stuff. Variation of Race type is liked. Primarily Jib/main.. Occasional spinnakers. Primarily windward leeward with some longer distance races. Laminated start sequence was much appreciated. 5 minute starts went well led by Lee and Chuck in the first race. 3 Divisions worked well. This is a function of numbers of boats. 16 race + makeup seemed a good number of races.

## Things we could improve on

The SI's need some improvement and clarification. We do not define how we deal with Ties. Concern on how we keep it social and stop it from becoming like a Wednesday night SSYC. How we handle race changes... Guide lines for communication for committee boats.

## Things we should consider for 2006

We would like to retire Boat of the year or return it under another name. Should we move the fall regatta to try and get larger participation? Pizza party at SSYC to share the traveling.

## Things we should do

Award for Jack for running the fall regatta under difficult conditions. We should we send out a survey to get feedback from the members on changes they want to see. Do more with MCSC. Offer to let the J24 class race with us at the end of their course. Get more volunteers from the group to help organize - Maybe a signup sheet. If we could get everyone to call 8 people for the events we could be more inclusive and it would share the load. Strictly Sail trip as an event. Look at the financial statement once or twice per year. Ensure we balance our spending. Get more people involved. Make it more inclusive. Open boats for social sail (including the retired members who no longer race). Follow it with an Ice cream social. Suggested mid-July. Maybe a Saturday.

Rip is looking for inputs to the Mast Breeze.

He is also looking for topics for a survey that we can send out.

We also had a request that the race committee organize the weather. This may be a difficult to do :-)

**WANT ADS: FREE TO MEMBERS**

**For Sale:** Islander 28, "JERLU" Built in 1979. Boat is very good shape; Has Real Teak Floor ( Ask Lee Konrath ) Harkin Roller Furling, New Main in 2003, very little used, 168 / 150/ 140 Dacron Head sails, 155 Mylar used Head sails, Microwave Oven, VC-TAR bottom, VC-17M bottom paint, Atomic 4, Rebuilt Transmission 2004, Mooring at SSYC off #A Dock, Owned by Jerry Crowley.  
Contact: Chuck Cerny for particulars, 414-258-2217 Make Offer:

**For Sale:** MAST Burgees for sale for \$20. Fly with PRIDE. Call Fergie Locke, at ☎ (414) 961-7195.

**COMING MAST EVENTS**

**Friday, November 11th 6.20pm (race start time)- Fergie and Pat Locke host a chili dump at their house at 1908 E. Cumberland Blvd. Come for food, drinks & social get-together.**

**December 10th - The Christmas party is at South Shore Yacht Club**

**January - .. West Marine. – Annual membership. Including a talk about yacht clubs. To be arranged.**

**February - Awards Ceremony . Location TBD (SSYC may be closed)**

**March - March 4th MCSC Sailors Ball. Suggest we set up a Mast table.**

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**Our current web site:**

**[www.geocities.com/mast\\_yc/](http://www.geocities.com/mast_yc/)**

Or

**[www.geocities.com/yosemite/rapids/5793/](http://www.geocities.com/yosemite/rapids/5793/)**

**EXPERIMENTAL WEB SITE:**

at

**[net-directions.com/customers/mast](http://net-directions.com/customers/mast)**

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**FIRST CLASS**

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Pat & Fergie Locke's house