



July, 2018

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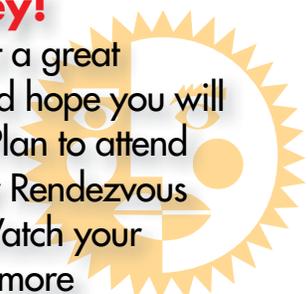
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See you in Killarney!

We expect a great turnout and hope you will be there. Plan to attend the Winter Rendezvous this fall. Watch your e-mail for more information.



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

GLGBA President's Message



Barb & Rick Scime

This is the last Newsletter before the North Channel Rendezvous set for Killarney, Ontario, July 19th to 22nd at the newly renovated Killarney Mountain Lodge. We expect a great attendance with 56 people and 26 boats registered to attend at this time. Details appear elsewhere in this Newsletter. The General Membership Meeting on the 21st will include the election of a new slate of Officers and Directors. They are an excellent group of nominees who have generously offered up their services to keep the association going strong. We will also be asking for your input to help us select a time and place for the Winter Rendezvous that will result in a big turn-out. We are thinking about a location in Eastern Wisconsin or Western Michigan in late October or early November.

This is My 9th and Final President's Letter before You Kick Me Out of Office.

Good thing too because I'm running out of trivial babble to fill the lines. In search of something witty or wise to include here, I went back and looked through the previous eight letters. Sure enough, most of what I found was landfill. I found commentary about the weather being either too cold or too hot; about the spiders invading boats in the fall; about the snow interfering with spring preparations to launch; blah, blah, blah. I nagged in almost every letter about paying dues on time or signing up for coming events. On that one I must say "thank you" to Jerry Cilibrise for implementing a modern and user friendly on-line payment system and "thank you" to the members for using it to get annual dues and rendezvous fees paid on time. We experienced comparatively few late

payments to chase in this cycle. Problem solved.

I did find a few truly significant items on which to reminisce, and they are all about the people who are the backbone of our Association. The most poignant concerned the passing or resignation of long time members.

We will miss Bob Smith. Our collective memories of "Engine" Bob make for a true legend. Bob had been a mainstay at our Summer Rendezvous meetings for many years. Every time he attended, he was on the agenda to happily share with us his invaluable knowledge about his engines-- the indestructible marine adapted Lehman-Ford Diesels. He was THE EXPERT many of us consulted regardless of what engine we owned. He loved to climb down into the engine room of our boats to inspect mechanical conditions. This he did even when his failing health made it a painful process to get down into the bilges to crawl around the engines and then climb back out. He was never shy to tell the unvarnished truth about what he saw down below. If you asked him a question, you had better have the courage to accept his answers without a hint of political correctness. Bob was always on the agenda to accept questions from the floor on all manner of mechanical topics related to boats and diesel engines in particular. I cannot resist to repeat here the response I once heard him give to the anxious captain who asked Bob about the sea-worthiness of the boat soon to be taken on a long cruise. It went something like this: "Well, how are you hoping to get back home? Under power with this engine or under tow?" Sadly, Bob Smith passed away in January 2017.

Longtime member Don Van Pelt also passed away in early 2017. His wife Alicia holds honorary membership in the Association, keeps in touch with her friends in the club and still enjoys summertime on her 42 Grand Banks Classic.

Some long-time members made the tough decisions we will all be faced with eventually: Julie-Sara and Gary Martin sold their boat and resigned from the club. Patty and John Gadow, Phyllis and Jim Delugach sold their boats but remain members. There have been several others who have left the Association; we miss each and every one. The good news is that we have had many new members come aboard and we continue to grow the Association

This brings me back to the upcoming Rendezvous as it reminds me of the wonderful opportunity we will have to renew our relationships with the friends we have made over the years and make new, lasting friendships.

See you there.

Rick Scime ▶