

March 15, 2008

TO: Members of Detroit Lodge No. 7

Enclosed is the lodge schedule for the balance of the winter meeting schedule. Please note the following **changes in the schedule**. The joint evening meeting originally scheduled for Tuesday, March 25 has been moved up a day to Monday, March 24 to accommodate the schedule of our speaker. Also, an additional lodge meeting has been added on Saturday, March 29 at the J.W. Westcott Co. The final winter lodge meeting will still be at Mariners' Church on Tuesday, April 8. Please note the changes on your personal calendars and I will send out reminder e-mails just prior to each meeting so that there will be no confusion over meeting dates and locations.

Dinner Dance Chairman Ted Cogswell wishes to thank his dance committee of Sam Buchanan, Paul Jagenow and John Sarns for making the arrangements for the **lodge's annual dinner dance** held at the Bayview Yacht Club this past February 23. Although attendance was down from previous years, everyone who attended had a great time. Special thanks to those who made donations for the dance raffle table: calendars from Steve and Patricia Carruthers of Gaelic Tugboat, marine artwork from artist Paul LaMarre, artist matts from John Polacsek of Captain of the Fleet, plus books and hats from the J.W. Westcott Co. Additionally, Jim Hogan of the J.W. Westcott Co. very generously made an additional financial contribution to the dance committee, allowing the lodge to provide drink tickets for the social hour and wine during dinner. The committee also appreciated the efforts of Frank McBride, who sponsored the lodge at the yacht club. Thank you to everyone who attended.

The annual **Blessing of the Fleet** took place on Sunday, March 9 at Mariners' Church. This year's recipients of the **Lewis Ludington Award** were Mel Riecher of Detroit Lodge No. 7 and Past Grand President George Haynes of Port Huron Lodge No. 2. Members of the lodge participating in the honor guard included Ron Ingram, Mel Riecher, Kathy McGraw, Bob Waller, Paul Gallas and Rev. Ingalls Jr., plus John Lanz of Toledo Lodge No. 9 and Bill Barnhardt of Port Huron Lodge No. 2. John Sarns rang the Octarora memorial bell. Several additional lodge members were in the congregation, including Tom Ochs, Jason Elliott, Dan Watchmaker, Don Endres, Oscar Rosso, Dick and Arlene Earl, plus Dean Hobbs of Grand Traverse Lodge No. 23. My apologies if I missed anyone in the listing of members attending the service.

Those at the Blessing of the Fleet probably noticed that **Rev. Ingalls was wearing an eye patch**. Several weeks earlier he suffered a very serious detached retina, and quick medical care was required to repair the damage. He is on the mend, and he was very glad that he was sufficiently recovered to officiate at the Blessing of the Fleet. I suggested he find a tricorne hat and intone a couple of "arrrrgs" but with good judgment he demurred. In any case, the lodge wishes him a full recovery.

Congratulations to member Terry Upton who was the **winner of the Toledo Lodge No. 9 freighter trip raffle**, a trip for 4 aboard the S/S Edward L. Ryerson. His winning ticket was drawn at the recent ISMA Convention in Toledo.

We have received word of the **death of former member Rudi Rabe**. Rudi, a member of the lodge for 10 years (1983 to 1993), passed away suddenly on January 20 in Canton, MI at the age of 52. After working several years at Gaelic Tugboat, he left the marine business to enter the medical field. At the time of his death he was working at the University of Michigan as an Operating Room Manager for the East Ann Arbor Surgery Center. His interest in the marine field continued after he left Gaelic and he frequently contributed ship photos to the Boatnerd website. Condolences are extended to his daughters Erich and Alexandra.

Just this afternoon I received news from Wade Streeter of Port Huron Lodge No. 2 of the **death of Charles (Chick) Ferriss**, age 55, who passed away unexpectedly in his Detroit home on Friday, March 14. Chick was a longtime member of Detroit Lodge No. 7 (1982-2001). He transferred to Bay City Lodge No. 5 in 2001 and then to Port Huron Lodge No. 2 where he was a member at the time of his death. His pennant number was 10339. Chick was a lifelong tugboat owner/operator, as were his father and uncles before him. He worked in his early years for the Gaelic Tugboat Co., as well as part time for other companies around the Great Lakes. In 1974 he founded Ferriss Marine Contracting. He had business ties to various tugs throughout his career including the famous Detroit fireboat John Kendall, the Protector (Nicole S.), the former Saginaw River harbor tug Frederick T. Kellers and the well-known Detroit harbor tug Magnetic. He is survived by his mother Nancy and two children Mitchell and Melissa. Chick will be cremated and per his request there will be no funeral arrangements.

Our longtime **lodge marshal Ron Nelson**, who has been in assisted care due to Parkinson's disease, **has been hospitalized** suffering from MRSA (methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus). His wife Dolores advised that this is a particularly dangerous and drug resistant form of a staph infection. Please keep Ron in your thoughts and prayers.

Again, **remember to mark your calendars** for the remainder of the lodge's winter meeting schedule, taking special notice of the various meeting sites and dates:

Monday, March 24 – Island Cove Marina: 6:00 PM social hour,
7:00 PM potluck dinner,
8:00 PM program/speaker

Saturday, March 29 – J.W. Westcott Co.: Noon luncheon followed by 1:00 PM meeting

Tuesday, April 8 – Mariners' Church: Noon luncheon followed by 1:00 PM meeting)

If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Fraternally yours,

Paul M.Jagenow
Secretary-Treasurer