



by Tyson Connolly
Photo by: Martin Chumiecki

PORT HURON YACHT CLUB WHERE MEMBERS MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Beautifully placed on the edge of the Black River this member constructed facility is one of the most complete Yacht Clubs in the United States. Known by many Great Lakes sailors as one of the friendliest yacht clubs it keeps a members make it happen mentality that allows the Club to be completely run by its members (volunteers).

One must go back over a century to find the first written reference to the Port Huron Yacht Club. In 1906 the city directory listed Thomas Major as Commodore, Dr. Frank Sharp as secretary/treasurer and John V. Sullivan as the corresponding secretary.

Official status began in 1924 with membership in the Detroit River Yachting Association and the Interlake Yachting Association. Membership in these two organizations has been continuous since that time.

The Club moved to its present day location in 1954. The most legendary and interesting story regarding the moving of Clubhouses is the travel of the piano down the St. Clair River on the bow of the 6 metre Irene. The property at 212 Quay St. has gone through quite a transformation over the last fifty-four years. From having a dockage facility once known as the "Snake Pit" to the facilities that were completed in 2003 is amazing. Almost all the physical labor that went into the Clubhouse (completed in 1996) and the Marina (completed in 2003) was done by members of the Club. Sweat equity is a term that is used religiously within the Clubhouses walls.

Competitive sailboat racing is the fundamental purpose of the Yacht Club and the 2008 sailing season presents plenty of challenging racing for its members. The Port Huron and Sarnia Yacht Clubs International sailing program begins on Lake Huron Sunday, May 25th with the start of the Spring Series. Racing continues throughout the summer concluding with the King of the Castle / Cock of the Walk Race on Saturday, September 28th.

A number of premier events will be hosted by the Port Huron Yacht Club this summer beginning with the Lake Huron International Regatta set to sail on the evening of July 4th. This 100 mile course through lower Lake Huron serves a challenging navigational race. All proceeds from this race are to benefit the United Way of St. Clair County for the third year in a row.

Two National Championship events will also be hosted this



summer. The Catalina 30 Nationals are set to sail August 2nd and 3rd while the Cal 25 Nationals return to PHYC and will be sailed August 15th - 17th.

Labor Day weekend is the marquee event of the summer for the Port Huron Yacht Club. Three different races make up a great weekend of sailing, entertainment and fun. The Lake Huron Offshore One-Design (LHOOD) Regatta, the Friendship Race and the Memorial / Leukemia Cup make up an excellent three day weekend of racing. Sunday evening marks the conclusion of the fundraising effort for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Michigan. This is the 15th year that this event has been held at Port Huron Yacht Club with over \$600,000 being raised in that time.

Port Huron Yacht Club is proud to be a key sponsor for the 84th Sailing of the Chrysler Jeep Superstores Bayview to Mackinac Sailboat Race. In cooperation with host Bayview Yacht Club, the Port Huron Yacht Club is the location for four days and nights of entertainment and fun along the shores of the Black River leading up to the largest event of the year in the Blue Water Area. Parade Night, Family Night, Boat Night and Race Day are all lively events, with sailors from all over the globe gathering to celebrate the inexpensive beverages that have remained a staple behind Fiddlers Green (PHYC Bar) for decades.

Commodore Matt Sealy, the Board of Director's and the entire membership of Port Huron Yacht Club welcome you to Port Huron and hope we see you enjoying our Clubhouse and grounds during Boat Week. Good Luck Racers and Go Fast! ☪

