



THE COMPANIONWAY

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SUMMER CRUISE TO CHICAGO

September 12-15, 2010

The “Summer Cruise” of the Ocean Reef Yacht Club was invented by Commodore Steven Techet for New York City and then further developed and polished by Commodore Bob Falk in Newport, Commodore Bob Sauer in San Francisco and Commodore Blair MacAulay in his hometown, Toronto. The “Summer Cruise”, now a “No Holds Barred” cruise to cities and major yacht clubs, is truly one of the great new Ocean Reef Yacht Club events. We’ve danced and partied at both locations of the New York Yacht Club, the Saint Francis Yacht Club and the Royal Canadian Yacht Club. Each is vividly remembered as a joyful mixture of culture, novelty and companionship.

Each time we return from a “Summer Cruise”, we wonder why our club shouldn’t be ranked even higher on COMPANIONWAY’S impartial, “National List of Important and Influential Yacht Clubs.” We have had great, superb fun capitalizing on a spirit that a majority of recent Commodores; Owen Coon, John Brooke, Warren Peterson, Clifford Nelsen, Robert Stocker, John Noble, Robert Falk and now, Commodore Marshall Wishnack, all Chicagoans at one time or another, have instilled in our club. Now, it’s Chicago’s turn to instill its magic in the rest of us.

This year, our new Commodore and Commadorable have enlisted event chairs Mike and Angie Berman, along with help from the Witzs’, Schmidts’, Snyders’, Harris’, and other Chicago members, to take us to an ideal cruise destination in a great yachting city. This three-day event that will start at the famous Chicago Yacht Club and then advance to include modern, urban waterway architecture, world class museums, the best jazz in the U.S., personally selected, excellent dining, Michigan Avenue shopping and a final gala event, while residing comfortably at the “Four Seasons Hotel” - which, if it were a yacht club, would be at the top of our list.

In this mode of aggrandizement of both club, city and person, only one thing piques our curiosity - in view of our lofty importance and generally less than penurious behavior, how can Commodore Wishnack justify his successful, 2010 campaign theme, “Cheap Thrills” on this, his first trip out of the box.

This is a good question that you will settle for yourself on your return trip

home as you reflect on this city by the immense, inland fresh water sea and what Mike and Angie have provided. Perhaps it's because Chicago is a highly successful, mid-western city that has yet to take any pride in fleecing tourists. Perhaps it's because the Chicagoans are skilled hosts who love their city. Anyway, "Thrills" there will be aplenty - so if you remember your algebra, - if the quantity of thrills per monetary unit expended is a large number, the "Thrills" must be cheap.

Now COMPANIONWAY editors and staff have always prided themselves in providing ORYC members with the latest news as soon as it breaks. COMPANIONWAY regularly scoops the New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, CNN and even Fox News regarding our events to the point where even these great media giants have completely given up covering our activities. However, in this case, members already know about the basics of the Cruise to Chicago by letter from the Commodore himself. Therefore COMPANIONWAY will take some time to provide some "color" to the canvas of Commodore Wishnack's excellent epistle highlighting the planned events schedule.

FIRST, AND FOREMOST - COME TO CHICAGO !!!

SECOND, THE CHICAGO YACHT CLUB is right smack dab (a Mid-Western expression) in downtown Chicago. The two--storey clubhouse is towered over by the breathtaking Chicago evening skyline just behind the clubhouse that faces onto Lake Michigan. The Club is celebrating their 150th historic year in operation and, by it's own members' survey, is by far and away the world's greatest fresh water yacht club. The club is noted for its sailing program and the world famous annual Chicago to Mackinac Island sailboat race.

Our opening event, with the hundreds of yachts moored in front, as yacht clubs are prone to do, and with Chicago looming behind, we will enjoy an inspirational landing from vessel to shore to initiate our Summer Cruise to Chicago.

THIRD, Chicago is the USA Jazz town. Believe it or not, there are 23 clubs or locations that have a jazz venue. Some 13 clubs are just full-time jazz. The selection of live jazz music is so fantastic that a quick internet trip with GOOGLE on "Chicago Jazz Clubs" will get you the top clubs and their schedule for the month. Even the breadth of schedules will amaze you. Of course, pick the night you wish to go as the artists change almost daily. Pick what you want - smooth, vocal, by instrument, by decade.

Don't be dismayed if you have not heard of many of the artists, most are great and many are local. Some even play with the Chicago Symphony and sit-in later after their classical coda echoes have faded away. Most of the clubs featured will also have an internet link to the artist and his or her music. From this, you can do what our COMPANIONWAY music editor does; go to the iTunes Store and find the artist's albums which allow you to then play free snippets of his or her music.

Consult the Four Seasons concierge for jazz magazines and a list of the

was subsequently disappointed that, after his first announcement, only a few slips could be secured because Fantasy Fest is such an extremely popular event. Some members lost interest.

COMPANIONWAY, however, is well acquainted with the problems associated with stirring up a bunch of hormones and then being left up in the air, so to speak. Therefore, while it is indeed unusual and cruel to continue to offer encouragement without some promise of success, it now seems that there are hotel rooms available and the possibility of additional slips. So, if you wish to cruise to the Fabulous Fantasy Fest, you should now act.

Through the offices of Past Commodore Clifford Nelsen and many others, various Key West businesses and marinas now understand that the Ocean Reef Yacht Club does represent a long-term, valued source of income for Key West and to the locals personally - certainly an asset for us. As a result, we have jointly arrived at a reasonably high priority level only exceeded by, understandably, dedicated previous attendees and condominium slip owners who tip appropriately. We understand that these priorities will be sorted out over the next few weeks and that some slips held in reservation will become available.

Our suggestion, if you feel you can still support your elevated libido sufficiently or that your health professional prescribes taking the remarkably successful Fantasy Fest Libido Treatment (in which case you can write the cost off) is to contact our secretary, Phyllis Elden (305 367-3321), immediately to indicate your interest. We expect to be asked within the next few weeks if we want to secure additional slips at this event that is up coming.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Tom & Susan Duderewicz, Strafford, NH - Running Star 68'

William & Linda Haugland, East Islip, NY - Fish Net 65'

John & Pat Imbesi, Ocean City, NJ - Huntress 61'

Steve & Kathryn Smith, Bourbonnais, IL - Raptor 56'

John & Kathy Weiland, Brick, NJ - Chesapeake 44'

Kirk & Debra Wycoff, Ft. Washington, PA - Stamas 27'

Marshall and Stevie are members of the Racquet Club and the Card Sound Golf Club. In addition to golf and tennis, your Commodore enjoys sailing with the Card Sound Sailing Club and the Card Sound Model Yacht Club. Marshall is a recent addition to the Ocean Reef Cultural Center Board, serving on the Entertainment Committee.

The couple has two children, Suzanne and Josh, both now married with three children each and, remarkably, all living in Richmond.

Stevie and Marshall initiated their boating life by sailing in the beautiful, cruiser-friendly Chesapeake Bay. They switched to powerboats in 1997 to give themselves more flexibility in cruising as much of the Eastern US Coast as they could while allowing themselves the ability to balance careers, maturing children and boats.

They visited Ocean Reef the year after retirement and quickly joined the club and the Ocean Reef Yacht Club. The couple lived at the Ocean Reef Marina for the first seven years first on their Ocean Alexander, and then on their absolutely beautiful Marlow Explorer, MOTHER OCEAN.

In 2007, Marshall and Stevie moved from their Marlow to a home on Cannon Point - between John and Linda Noble and Alan and Vicki Goldstein, Past Commodores and Commadorables all. They have recently sold MOTHER OCEAN and replaced her with an equally beautiful 54' Vicem, FLYING COLORS. She's got a flag blue hull and is loaded with teak. According to our Commodore, he just can't resist a good-looking, high maintenance woman!

We are especially thankful, also, for this last bit of good news that avoids the real, but awful, unthinkable possibility that the pride-swelling, traditional cover-page photograph of the Commodore's yacht, the Club's Flagship, was going to be an EC-12 - a 60" LOA, 41" LWL, radio controlled, model sailboat with a draft of 6 inches.

The Ocean Reef Yacht Club is remarkably lucky to have people of Marshall and Stevie Wishnack's talent and energy guiding the club in 2010 and 2011.

FANTASY FEST CRUISE TO KEY WEST

October 26 to October 31

If you are asking yourself, "What's so good about Fantasy Fest?" forget wasting your time reading the reminder of this article. What you need to do is check-in now with your health professional to improve your libido quickly enough to enjoy acting upon what is described in the remainder of this article - five days with a ring-side seat at the now, world famous Key West Fantasy Fest of parades, great dining, shopping, music, art on unique canvases and a large variety of statuesque and inspirational subjects on display.

The initial response to Commodore Wishnack's earlier announcement of a Cruise to Fantasy Fest in Key West was excellent. However, the Commodore

more famous jazz and pop artists that perform at the hotels and bigger clubs. Things start swinging in September.

Chicago "Blues" is both the regional jazz favorite and color of the Cubs uniforms. The jazz form may not be your cup of tea but it was developed on the streets of Chicago. It is heavy on bass and harmonica - locals love it but they love the Cubs more. Sorry, the Cubs will be losing in Miami while we are in Chicago but the other blues will going strong. (Trivia Question: which is older - the last Chicago Cub championship or Jazz?)

FOURTH, THE CHICAGO ARCHITECTURAL BOAT TOUR cannot be missed. Let's put it simply - this is world-class stuff.

FIFTH, CHICAGO'S MAGNIFICENT MILE is the location of our Four Seasons Hotel home for three days. It couldn't be better. Just wait until your mind is numbed by the magnificent floral arrangements in the huge lobby area. But the most magnificent arrangement is our hotel location, which allows us to easily enjoy the best of Chicago.

The street where we will live, the "Mag Mile", is really the north half of Michigan Avenue. This grand American Street must be walked from the Four Seasons hotel to the bridge over the Chicago River and back on the other side. On beautiful Mag Mile you will find many shops that our fashion conscious will adore as well as the techies (the Apple, Garmin and Nike Stores come to mind). Our travel editor's favorite store is Rand McNally's Map Store at 444 N. Michigan Avenue.

Chicago's famous Water Tower landmark is south of the Four Seasons on Mag Mile toward the river. Water Tower Park is the home of Chicago's famous Water Tower with its historic clock, as well as the awesome eight-level Water Tower Place shopping center, which grew up next door and overshadows the comparatively diminutive landmark where the Great Chicago Fire was finally stopped. The shopping center is anchored by Macy's store (formerly the Chicago landmark department store, Marshall Fields.) Within a two-block radius of Macy's, there also are Saks Fifth Avenue, Barneys New York, Neiman Marcus, and Bloomingdale's locations. North of the shopping center can be found the famous John Hancock Center and the art deco Palmolive Building (also known as the Playboy Building).

SIXTH, CULTURE. Four museums are of particular note - the first two below are within easy walking distance.

The City Gallery in the Water Tower on Michigan Avenue specializes in photograph exhibitions and has much of the history of the Great Chicago Fire.

The Museum Of Contemporary Art on Chicago Avenue, just three blocks away is holding an exhibition of Alexander Calder - The Art of Balance. It's fantastic!

The Museum of Science and Industry. Perhaps the finest museum dedicated to these fields in the world. Yes, that's absolutely right. This is the tops. If you have any doubts that our future will continue to be driven

by technology advances in medicine, energy, engineering, chemistry, environment, agriculture, transportation and electronic sciences, this museum will obliterate those doubts. It gives this humble editor great comfort to bask in the sunshine of this museum's dedication to and promise of the future triumph of science and industry. Chicago, reasonably, is the center of the foremost, large, diversified American industrial and scientific area.

The museum is also noted for the popular exhibit of a captured German Submarine that one can enter and later watch a film of its capture in WW II. Take a taxi, but it's not far.

The Art Institute of Chicago. This is the granddaddy of art museums in the mid-west, holding a phenomenal collection of worldwide art and exhibitions. It's on Michigan Avenue, which allows you to walk to it from the hotel by crossing the river on Mag Mile. As a big plus, even the extraordinary Museum Store alone is well worth the walk.

Millennium Park. Practically across the street from the Art Institute is Millennium Park on Michigan Avenue. What a magical place to have lunch to really enjoy what a city can do with public parks! Frank Gehry designed it so you know it's spectacular and had, at 500 million dollars, a hideous cost over-run. Just wait until you stand under "The Bean". It is the park epicenter with noontime free entertainment surrounding it - jazz and so forth. Food is available in many areas but you should check out the Park Café (Tell them that COMPANIONWAY sent you for a discount). They will make you a marvelous lunch basket. Chicago September weather is usually just right for "Lunch in the Park"

Navy Pier. If you enjoyed Millennium Park, you may also enjoy Navy Pier. The pier is something of a "Sore Thumb" oddity along the Lake Michigan shoreline that has served over many years as sort of a city dock for large vessels. Tour boats still use it. The Chicago Boat Show is held here. Nevertheless it is now a city park and a major family tourist attraction of shops, food, exhibitions, sculpture, music, theater and entertainment. Your COMPANIONWAY travel editor has never been there (sob). Maybe this time.

SEVENTH - A NEW IDEA!!

You have to hand it to either the Wishnacks or the Bermans, or both, for this NEW IDEA initiated for this cruise and possibly many future ones - The Dine Around. The novel idea is to join a Chicago couple "hosting" dinner at their favorite restaurant - possibly and probably one of hundreds of great ones that fall out the "Tour Book" lists for lack of space. This idea has great appeal and we hope it will be half the success we expect it to be. If so, don't be surprised to see it pop up again possibly on our mini-cruises. Nice work, Commodore.

COMPANIONWAY has given you two weeks, at least, of activities to enjoy in Chicago. To do it in two days, remember to tuck this COMPANIONWAY issue in your luggage. Remember also that probably 20% of the cruise

attendees will be "Chicago" residents. Many more exhibitions and events to capture your imagination are there and many will occur before we arrive. Lean on our Chicagoans for advice and don't miss the BIG GALA.

MEET THE COMMODORE AND THE COMMADORABLE

Once again, the members of the Ocean Reef Yacht Club election machinery have made it easy for COMPANIONWAY to distinguish between the Commodore and the Commadorable - however, just what will we ever call the spouse if the Commodore turns out to be a woman? Anyway, we are hardly gender confused and are extraordinarily impressed with Stevie as our Commadorable. She has already been a very active, positive force in our yacht club for five years and her involvement will increase this coming year - a fact that is very well known to every Past Commodore who fully appreciates that there are really two Commodores - and that isn't Phyllis Elden who is the third part of the club management triangle.



Stevie, a nickname for Stephanie, was born in Richmond, Virginia and attended Beaver College - a liberal arts college outside Philadelphia. Eventually the college gained university status and switched its uninspiring name to Arcadia University. Stevie returned to Virginia's capital city to obtain a Masters in Social Work followed by a law degree from the University of Richmond. In her professional career, Stevie served as a juvenile probation officer, practiced law and served as an Assistant Attorney General of Virginia.

At Ocean Reef, Stevie has been an active member of the Ocean Reef Membership Committee and has recently become a member of the Ocean Reef Foundation Board. She also served as a mentor in the Take Stock in Children program, and assisted in recruiting your editor, who also serves as a mentor.

Commodore Marshall, on the other hand, moved south from Chicago to Richmond to marry Stevie immediately after graduating from Princeton. They later spent a few years in New York, where Marshall got his MBA from Columbia University.

As a model of staying with one company, Marshall started with Wheat First Butcher Singer, at that time a regional brokerage firm, rising to Chairman and CEO while seeing his firm blossom to over 100 locations and 2500 employees. Marshall retired in 1999 after the firm was sold to First Union. Through other transformations, it is now known as Wells Fargo Advisors.