



# ~Bow Line~

## Special Edition

January 2014 SPECIAL EDITION

January 24, 2014

### Events Summary and Action Report

The January Meeting is behind us and we are deep into planning for February. I felt the meeting went well. We officially had 35 present, which filled the beautiful room to capacity, we had a lot of membership input, and we had a lively Round-Table discussion on meetings and events!

First, thank you all for taking the time to come, and second, I wanted to take a minute to summarize what I took away from it:

**Frequency of the Membership Meetings** – Unanimous for Monthly ((9) of the (9) groups

**Time of the Meetings** – Not quite so clear cut - (5) For Breakfast

(3) For Lunch

(1) For Breakfast Summer and Lunch for Winter.

I sensed that the farther travelers were leaning to lunch, which makes good sense. When a Brunch arrangement came-up I felt there was a more 50/50 outcome. I overheard several discussions about going boating after the meeting, thus the desire for a morning session.

**One Primary Site or Multiple Sites** – This was close – (5) Groups for (2) Sites

(4) Groups for (1) Site

This tally involved some conversation about locations and the possibility of flooding, something we have all learned we have no control over!

**Location of the Meetings** – I was pleased to see some suggestions come from this question –

The Boathouse at North Shore Marina

The Boat House Annex at Forest Park (Also a possible winter spot)

Kinder's Restaurant ("On and Sometimes In the Mississippi River")

The Duck Club

A Non-Meal Location Such as a Public Library

The most mentioned venue was the Boathouse at North Shore, but also the most susceptible to flooding. **My recommendation on this one is to schedule the summer meetings, May thru October, at the Boathouse and have an alternate location for the winter/flood meetings.**

**We are still looking for this alternate location so please let us know if you have one.**

**Events/Activities** – From the tally it was clear that the membership wanted to retain the multiple show/social event agenda, ((9) of the (9) groups). I received a few suggestions about more social, on-water events namely some sandbar time as well as a trip to Lake Kinkaid, ILL. I also received a suggestion that perhaps the Festival of the Little Hills should be changed to every (2) years, due to the large number of resources and being in the prime of the boating season.

**All good suggestions but in the end we need club support and Captains for each of these events. Please let Forrest or Lou know if you would be willing to work with Forrest on one or more of the events. I am willing to keep the lead on the Festival if the membership decides to keep it on the schedule.**

**I recommend that we approach the final events calendar as follows:**

1. We proceed with the **St. Louis Dome Show**, February 26<sup>th</sup> to March 2<sup>nd</sup>, as planned. **Please respond to Forrest's requests for help as soon as possible.**
2. We approach the **Lake St. Louis** Board with May 03rd as the show date with May 10<sup>th</sup> as the back-up. This show is important to give us all a chance to get that first run of the season in as close to home and with as much help as possible. The Antique Outboard Club has also expressed interest in this show which greatly enhances our technical support. **Please give us your thoughts here.**
3. Mid May to Mid June is generally a busy time with graduation parties, making it difficult to schedule any sizable event. This would be a prime time to schedule an in-water social event such as a trip to Kinkaid or a sandbar party. An event like this would be a members only, "Come if you want" event with no special advertising or commitments. **We would appreciate your thoughts here.**
4. July 19<sup>th</sup> is the current posted **Blessing of the Fleet**. I would like to keep it on the schedule, if for no more than a cruiser ride. **If the Blessing Board requests us to lead the parade thru again this year, would you attend and bring your boat?**
5. The first or second weekend in August has always been the **Club Picnic**. We have talked about piggy-backing it to the Blessing of the Fleet, and holding it at Sioux Harbor. Last year we paired it with the rescheduled Lake St. Louis Show, which I felt worked well. Two years ago, we had it at the Boathouse at North Shore, and the Marina reserved us some slips for our boats to be displayed during the meal time. **We would greatly appreciate some input from membership on this.**
6. The **Festival of the Little Hills** is confirmed for August 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>. We have been invited back but have not formally accepted as yet. I have mixed emotions about this one. It is generally hotter than blazes, it takes (3) hard days from our short summer, and we get very few real membership leads; but on the other hand, we will never get in front of more people that we do here. I have received a suggestion that we make this an every-other-year event. **This is another one that we would greatly appreciate some input from membership on.**

7. September is the **Quincy Boat Show**; I am working to confirm the dates. This is a special event for the cruisers because it gives us an excuse to take a week to attend a 2-1/2 day show! Following the numerous failures trying to have a sizable show on Pool 26, the last few years we have poured our efforts into making Quincy our flagship. Unfortunately, it is a long way from St. Louis thus expensive for the smaller boats, (hotels, meals, etc.). I would like to keep this one on the list if for no other reason than the local people and their effort to make us welcome. **Please give us your thoughts.**
8. The first weekend in October was the **End of the Season Evening at Aggie's** - Unfortunately, this one is beyond our control. Aggie's is closing in March as her building has been sold. This was a great time to have a drink and dinner with friends around the fire pit and tell tales about our boating season. **Should we try to replace it? If so, give us some suggestions.**

#### **TANK A DEEP BREATH, ONLY (2) TO GO!!**

9. The Fall Classic Cruise, we have tentatively scheduled this for October 18<sup>th</sup>. This has always been a well attended, member's only event and I would like to see it remain on the calendar. While it is always weather dependant for small boaters, we consistently have 35 to 45 people come, thanks to the cruisers and drive-ins. We will be looking for a destination through the summer. I am still hoping for a commitment from Pierre Marquette.
10. And last but certainly not the least – **The Club Christmas Party** – This event has seen some changes in the last 4 to 5 years. In the early days it was a gift exchange at the monthly meeting. More recently they have been very nice dinner venues with video of the recent activities, and presentation of much deserved member awards. I would like to see this one remain on the calendar as well. **As to the form it takes, we would appreciate your thoughts.**

So there you have it, 2014 in just under (3) pages, (pretty short for me)!

**PLEASE RESPOND BACK TO LOU AND FORREST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT THE FINAL EVENTS CALENDAR AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING. AS I MENTIONED ABOVE, WE DESPERATLY NEED CLUB SUPPORT AND CAPTAINS FOR THESE EVENTS, YOUR HELP WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED!!**

**THANKS AGAIN**