



WRYCC

PILOT'S LOG

Your Monthly Newsletter

APRIL 2026 ISSUE

FROM THE HELM



Greetings WRYCC Mates & Members,

So much to do and so little time. The windy month of March is winding down as we prepare for April and the joys of Spring. April 9th begins our annual 4 month series of recruiting you to volunteer and support our Texas Hold-em fundraising efforts. We cannot do it without your continued participation.

The 17th of April 2026 is my one and only Commodore's Ball. The Ball Committee is doing an amazing job of making this a night to remember for both me, but for our club members to shine WRYCC Strong in numbers when asked to stand. I'm looking forward to your continued support for all our Commodore Balls and future events. It's my continued 75th birth anniversary this year and our Commodore's Ball. Celebrate with me. Please get your tickets and join me on the dance floor.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me or our Member At Large, Dawn Shoemaker know.

Commodore Sharon

FROM THE MID-SHIP



Ahoy Members and Friends!

Hopefully Spring has sprung and this beautiful weather is here to stay! Our boat club has plenty of fun activities planned and I hope to see you at some of them soon. Please check the website and calendar for the upcoming events.

WRYCC is off to a great start this year. This March, Lady Terri and I have attended several Commodore's Balls. It's a great time and we meet new people from other boat clubs as well as see old and new friends.

WRYCC was well represented at the I-LYA Spring Meeting. This is where all the planning for the three Regattas in July gets done – What a large undertaking for this annual event!

It's an honor to represent WRYCC at these administrative meetings, social gatherings, and formal events.

We are especially excited for our upcoming 2026 Commodore's Ball celebrating Sharon and WRYCC! This ball is April 17th – if you haven't gotten your tickets yet, please do so quickly! Hope to see you all there!

Lady Terri and I have been busy fundraising for the 2027 Commodore's Ball. Thank you all for helping with and supporting these events. And thank you to the volunteers to help with our club's success!

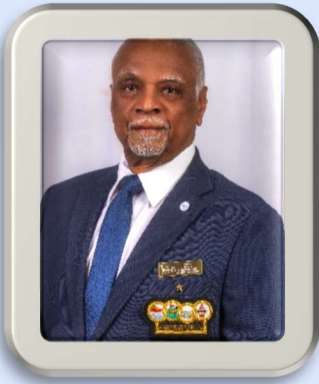
The first fundraising event was at a local shopping event at Freckles and Grit in Trenton. This event was after the shop's regular business hours and made it a great event where we knew most of the people that came through the doors. What a great sight to see all the people helping me get to my goal. This not only supported me, but it also supported a local small business!! We are planning another fundraiser here in November for people to do some of their Christmas shopping!

On May 9th, we will be hosting another fundraiser. This will be a concert featuring fellow club member Tobi Lee along with dinner. We hope to see you there for great entertainment, great food, 50/50, basket raffles, and camaraderie.

I look forward to seeing you all soon at our upcoming events, membership meetings, and social gatherings. Your input and participation are important to keeping our boat club active and fun for everyone!!

V/C Don Ledbetter

FROM THE REAR



Greetings Mates,

Wonder of wonders the time is here, Spring is springing with fun and cheer.

Yes, its that time to get out and DO IT! First up is TEXAS HOLDEM, April 9-12. A great money maker for WRYCC, I would like to encourage all who are able to participate, The March meeting of I-LYA at the Sheraton

Detroit was a great event with lots of fun and comradery, also had the opportunity to attend my first I-LYA general membership meeting and was amazed at the fantastic programs the I-LYA sponsors in the boating community especially in training and boating education for the youth. GREAT JOB I-LYA. And let us all be mindful of the event of the year, THE BALL for Commodore Sharon McWhorter. Friday April 17, 2026. Looking forward to seeing all of you there. Also, Congratulations to Vice Commodore Don Ledbetter on his raising of close to \$1,000.00 for his Commodores Ball. You go Donny.

DID YOU KNOW....

Arctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton (1874–1922)

Shackleton's Launch of the James Caird — April 24, 1916

One of the most heroic small-boat voyages ever recorded. After his ship Endurance was crushed by Antarctic ice, on April 24, 1916, the James Caird — a small 22.5-foot wooden boat — pushed out from the shores of Elephant Island, waved off by the party of 22 men who consigned themselves to further waiting, huddled around a stove burning penguin and seal fat.

Many historians regard the voyage of the crew in a 22.5-foot ship's boat through the world's worst seas as one of the greatest small-boat journeys ever completed. Shackleton and five men crossed 800 miles of the Southern Ocean's most violent waters to reach South Georgia — and eventually, every single one of his men survived. HATS OFF TO GREAT SEAMANSHIP

PEACE, OUT

Rear Commodore JD

I-LYA Delegate



Ahoy Crew!

The Inter-Lake Yachting Association (I-LYA) meeting was a success and WRYCC was well represented, as usual.

The origination is over 140 years running and is dedicated to supporting many functions at state and federal levels to advocate for Boater's interests on sea and on land. The I-LYA has delegates in the United States Sailing Association, the National Boating Federation and the Ohio Marine Trades Association.

The meetings were educational and informative on history and especially current issues. There was a lot of planning for the future and coordination of support for affiliated organizations that include AYC, GCBA, IOBG Districts 7, 9, and 25. Also the Yacht Racing Union of the Great Lakes has been revived!

A lot of planning and organizing volunteers goes into getting prepared for the 3 Regattas and all the fun events in Put-in-Bay. The MANY volunteers are what makes this all happen! Please reach out to me if you would like to participate or volunteer for these wonderful organizations many events.

More information will be coming for those that want to take their boat to the regattas and for those who opt to attend without making the voyage. I hope to see you in attendance by whether by land or sea!!

I-LYA Delegate – V/C Donny Ledbetter

Entertainment & Member at Large



Spring Greetings,

Spring is in the air and everyone is getting antsy for the weather to start warming up. I am so glad March is behind us as it took a toll on us. But moving forward and looking forward to longer days and warmer weather!

Invites were emailed out for the Commodore's Ball – \$40 for members and, any guests of members is \$75. We hope you will be able to attend this fabulous evening celebrating our club, members & our Commodore! RSVP deadline is quickly approaching so please reach out ASAP to secure your spot at this very lovely event.

Vice Commodore Donny has had a couple **fundraisers** this past month and he and lady Terri on well on their way with their fundraising efforts for the 2027 commodore's ball. We all appreciate all your support. Next fundraiser will be May 9th – Tobi Lee will be performing; tickets are \$50 per person – dinner included and mixers – this is a BYOB event. We will be looking for donations for baskets to raffle off. If you are able to donate, please contact myself, V/C Donny or lady Terri.

Our Texas Hold 'Em Fundraising Event is just around the corner, and we still have a few time slots to fill! If you're able to lend a hand, we'd love your help. Please use the links below to sign up for a shift. As a bonus, volunteers earn **\$2 per hour worked**, which will be applied toward your **2027 membership renewal**—a win-win! Thank you for supporting the club and helping make this event a success. We couldn't do it without you!

April sign up - <https://volunteersignup.org/RJJQW>

May sign up - <https://volunteersignup.org/P9X9K>

Blessing of the Fleet – May 17th @ Water's Edge Marina – more details coming soon!

Islandfest Parade – May 30th – This is honestly so much fun, come on out and show your club pride, toss candy, have some good old fashion fun! Looking for candy donations!

Tiki Boat Adventure coming June 28th, **tickets are now on sale** for this super fun outing. Spend a few hours on the water, with great people, music, laughter and tons of memories! Limited space is available so get your spot reserved now! Please prepay for this event, cost is \$45 per person.

Entertainment & Member at Large – P/C Dawn Shoemaker

Happy
Birthday

April 5th – Melissa Percy
April 12th – F/C Jon Allen
April 19th – Jim Karnopp
April 27th – Scott Selle

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**

Scott & Karen Selle
April 26th


DISCOUNT CODE
GA80969Y
SAVE ON YOUR MEMBERSHIP!



West River Yacht & Cruising Club

Cordially invites you to attend the

2026 Commodore's Ball

Honoring

Commodore Sharon McWhorter

Friday the Seventeenth of April

Two Thousand Twenty Six

six o'clock in the evening

Arnaldo's Banquet Center

18275 Quarry Rd.

Riverview, MI 48193

Black Tie Optional

RSVP





W R Y C C

West River Yacht & Cruising Club

MAY 9TH

Award-winning
Nashville artist Tobi Lee

Limited seats available

All proceeds go towards
**2027 Commodore
Ball Fundraiser**

Vice Commodore Donny Ledbetter

\$50 per person •
dinner served at 7:00

Doors open @6:30 •

Tobi Lee to perform 7:30 - 10:30

Buffet, BYOB. Ice, water, soft
drinks and mixers provided

50/50 & Basket Raffles

GI VFW post 7310 •
8840 Macomb St,
Grosse Ile, 48138

Contact V/C Donny Ledbetter
for tickets: 734-231-4859





Blessing of the Fleet

— May 17 ⚓ Water's Edge Marina —

Join us for one of our most meaningful traditions as we raise our burgee, bless our vessels for a safe and successful boating season, and honor those who are no longer with us.

Following the ceremony, stay and enjoy a classic cook-out with fellow members—great food, great company, and the perfect start to summer.

CEREMONY BEGINS AT 11:30 AM





Islandfest

PARADE

MAY 30

SHOW OUR CLUB PRIDE

&

Let's Make
WAVES

MEET AT

GROSSE ILE
HIGH SCHOOL

9:00 am



Think Summer!

Raft Off Dates for 2026
(Weather Permitting)

June 19th - 21st

July 17th - 19th

August 14th - 16th

September 4th - 7th

Let's make this a summer of fun and great memories!



"No Boat, No Problem!"

We are making arrangements with our captains to shuttle our members out for the day, and some have offered accommodations for those wishing to stay the weekend.

More information to come!



Please contact V/C Donny at
734-231-4859

if you are planning to attend or need transportation.

Tiki BOAT PARTY

JUNE 28

12:25 PM

\$45 PER PERSON

MUST PRE-PAY

Cash - Check - Venmo or Zelle

- 2 hours of fun on the water.
- Bring a snack to share.
- Bring your own drinks & cocktails. Small coolers are welcomed.
- Bathroom onboard.
- No Smoking onboard.
- Must Sign Detroit Cycle Boat Waiver
- Non Refundable
- Have Fun!

PARKING INFORMATION

150 Old St Jean St, Detroit, MI 48214

Parking in City lot \$15 per car.

Arrive 15 minutes early.

Questions Contact Dawn Shoemaker 734-347-2085

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
				Texas Hold-Em Fundraiser	Texas Hold-Em Fundraiser	Texas Hold-Em Fundraiser
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Texas Hold-Em Fundraiser					WRYCC Commodore's Ball Arnaldo's	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	WRYCC Membership Meeting 6:30 PM					
26	27	28	29			
	AYC Meeting					

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					AYC Bowling	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
				Texas Hold-Em Fundraiser	Texas Hold-Em Fundraiser	Texas Hold-Em Fundraiser
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Blessing of the Fleet 11:30am Texas Hold-Em Fundraiser	WRYCC Membership Meeting 6:30 PM AYC Meeting					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						Islandfest Parade 9:00am

June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
					Opening of the Island Fish Fry Sun Seekers Boat Club	Opening of the Island Breakfast & Ceremony Ford Yacht Club Steak Roast Elba-Mar Boat Club
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Opening of the Island Survivor Party Seaway Boat Club						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Membership Meeting and Cook-Out?				Anchor Out Weekend	Anchor Out Weekend
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Anchor Out Weekend						
28	29	30				
Tiki Boat Party						