

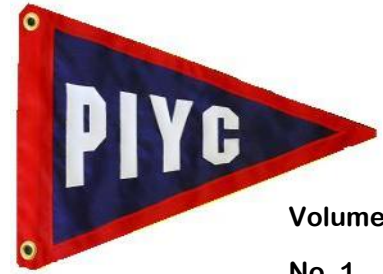
# A Seasonal Bulletin of The Presque Isle Yacht Club



## The Masthead

Winter 2013

PIYC Website  
[www.presqueisleyc.org](http://www.presqueisleyc.org)



Volume 3

No. 1

**Our Mission Statement-** *To promote activities, tourism, and a spirit of comradeship among boaters interested in the welfare & development of Lake Huron's beautiful Presque Isle Harbor.*



## Merry Christmas

### Words from Commodore Bob Young



DTM Photo

**1870 Presque Isle Light**

#### A Christmas Story

See page 5

#### Membership Information:

Please see Page 10

As 2012 comes to a close, we salute the members who have added value to our beloved Presque Isle area. Our boaters, tourists, and neighbors who have traveled to our area, "Thank You!" We gave them a friendlier harbor, a nicer fireworks, bikes to visit our lighthouses, gift packages when they arrived and stayed in the harbor. They had the opportunity to train their kids and grandkids in the rudiments of sailing, or enjoyed a nicer Christmas here, with our support of the local "old fashioned Christmas" program. For those of us who dined with the PIYC group, we enjoyed the offerings of the Portage Restaurant, and a wonderful dinner at Robin Spencer's Presque Isle Lodge. We met some nice new members, and found new things about our friends over cocktails during our monthly summer dinners.

We lost some members this year, and others have experienced their own personal losses. Chuck Mosier and Mickey May passed on this year, and they will be sorely missed for their personalities and contributions to the community.

Let's look forward to 2013 and what we can do to continue our mission- which is to support usage of the Presque Isle Harbor, and generally support the area. I know we'll do our part to make Grand Lake and Presque Isle better in terms of our family vacations and support of tourism and boating.

Merry Christmas and warm wishes to your and your families.

Bob Young, and the PIYC board of directors and our families.

**Officers**

**Commodore**

**Bob Young**

18966 Evergreen Rd  
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**Vice Commodore**

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**Curtis Eagle**

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NOTE:- Officers are Directors

**Treasurer**

**Robin Spencer**

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Presque Isle MI 49777  
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**Chuck Mosier**

PO Box 27  
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989 595 6726

Email  
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17251 Highland Pines Rd  
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**George (Gus) Hoster**

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386 397 1191

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614 367 1318

19534 Warwick  
Beverly Hills, MI 48025  
  
248 647 1628

**Thanks to Contributors**

The Club and the Editor appreciate any material from members for The Masthead. For this issue, the following people have provided articles and/or images:

Bob Mitchell and Gary Hagen

If you have anything that is pertinent or of general interest, please get it to the Editor on a floppy disc or via Email. Please submit text in either "text," "rtf," or MSWord format. Images in 'jpg' or 'bmp' format are preferred, although others can be handled.

**PI Yacht Club Clothing Sale!!  
25% Off All Stock Items**

It is time to update our clothing line so everything except our new style hats are on sale. We are also looking for new styles and new items for our next meeting, so please help us to reduce our inventory. Great items for the rest of your family too! Contact Paul Hawkins

**Apparel, Etc**

|                   |              |              |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| ID Tags & Apparel | Paul Hawkins | 989 734 5663 |
| Burgees           | Gus Hoster   | 989 595 2132 |



Summer Sunset on Grand Lake

## Editorial Comment

A more serious effort has been made to include members' input. An Email was sent out in mid November asking for contributions. The response was encouraging; and we look forward to increasing participation from all members.

It is worth reminding everyone that dues are due and after the turn of the year, they will be overdue. See Page 4.

Take heart! Summer is on the way—the days are getting longer after December 21st!

### The Masthead

This publication of the Presque Isle Yacht Club is issued 4 times per year; in the winter, spring, and 2 times during the summer of each year. Depending on the amount of input from members, the frequency and/or size may vary as needed.

We welcome any comments, concerns, congratulations or complaints, but especially appreciated are pertinent articles or images that will be of interest to our members. Please submit such communications to the Editor.:

Ted MacKinnon                      Email: [nw8w@att.net](mailto:nw8w@att.net)

19534 Warwick  
Beverly Hills, MI 48025              248 647 1628 (Winter)

Or  
17537 Grand Lake Blvd  
Presque Isle MI 49777              989 595 2309 (June, July, &  
Aug)

PIYC Mailing Address:      Website: [presqueisleyc.org](http://presqueisleyc.org)  
18966 Evergreen Rd.      989 595 5239 (Bob Young)  
Presque Isle, MI 49777

## Meeting Dates

Nominally we meet on the 3rd Thursday of April through October, inclusive. There may be variations on the meeting locations; members will be advised of any changes in a timely manner.

## Rope Coiling—And you know if you need this!

Please look at the URL below for a good way to coil and store a line for easy use.

<http://boatsafe.com/marlinespike/handling.htm>

## Sailing Class Status

### From Gary Hagen

The youth sailing camp on Grand Lake is expanding and offering more sailing opportunities for Sailing on Grand Lake.

The program is very fortunate to have the following people join the program: Lucian Leonne, Mark Kinny, Richard Lappin, Dennis Norton, and Peter Wilson's Alpena Youth Sailing Club instructors. These people have the experience and passion to make the program a success and to have safe sailing fun. The 2013 Summer camp will be July 29-August 2, 2012, We can add a week if demand indicates an additional week. The location will be the same as previous years, Presque Ilse Harbor Association Beach Club.

The camp will consist of beginners in the morning and intermediates in the afternoon. Adults are welcome.

The intermediate camp will be using J 15 boats. These are double sail boats (main and Jib) that are fun to sail. Lucian has so far acquired 4 boats for the intermediate camp. We will attempt to obtain two more boats. The program has acquired the use of a barn for storage and working on the boats.

Our goal is to educate the beginners and intermediate sailors. The program will ultimately lead to some racing involving Ynglings, and maybe U of M J15s. In addition, we are hoping we can get families interested in sailing. Adults are welcome. The program would love to start a club and have races on some night of the week.

Ted Kinny is currently working on a web site to link the Grand Lake and Alpena program. The registration will be done by me in 2013. My address is 21635 US Hwy 23 South, Presque Isle, Mi. 47777. My -mail address is [sailingyouth@hotmail.com](mailto:sailingyouth@hotmail.com) and telephone number is 989-884-2919.

We need participation, so spread the word, plan your vacation, and enjoy Grand Lake. I will provide more information as it becomes available.

Thank you for your support.



## Presque Isle Yacht Club Membership and Dues / 2013

The Presque Isle Yacht Club is a civic organization dedicated to the establishment and growth of a yachting community in Presque Isle Harbor Michigan.

Annual dues are \$100 with a one time burgee fee of \$25. There is no initiation fee for membership. From time to time various clothing and nautical accessory items may be available at market prices. See page 6 for a membership application

The club membership year is January 1st through December 31st. Applicants filing after September 1st are considered as having filed as of the following January 1st. The months between are free.

Members will please send your 2013 dues of \$100 to Treasurer Robin Spencer at the address shown on page 2.

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## Interesting Web Sites & Miscellany

This space is set aside for those items that do not fall into any particular category. If you have an interesting Web Site that has anything to do with boating and/or the Great Lakes this is the place for that information. Just forward whatever you have to your editor.

<http://www.wunderground.com> A great weather site, with astronomical data.

<Http://www.intellicast.com> Also a useful Wx site, esp on an Ipad

<http://www.firstgov.com> Info on Gov't and misc. data

<http://gethuman.com/us/> Contact a real person, not a machine

[http://www.maglite.com/knowledge.asp?gclid=COa\\_4rPT8YgCFQGPWAodq32nsA](http://www.maglite.com/knowledge.asp?gclid=COa_4rPT8YgCFQGPWAodq32nsA) MagLite Info

<http://www.cgaux.org/> US Coast Guard Auxiliary

<http://thunderbay.noaa.gov/> NOAA Shipwreck Museum

<http://www.boatnerd.com> Great Lakes shipping and gen'l info.

Tune your All Band receive radio to 10.000 Mhz for a super accurate time signal from WWV in Ft. Collins CO. Also try CHU Canada on 7.850 Mhz. Both of these services are heard on regular AM, as well as on USB.

## A Trailering Adventure to Maine & Tragedy at Sea

### From Bob & Gwen Mitchell

In Early October, a Presque Isle day sailer headed South then East on an adventurous trip to China Lake, Maine. The 19' foot/on trailer (Figure 1) headed toward Detroit with gear snugly stowed beneath a new shrink wrap. The trailer was a late 50's model which had been retrofitted with new wheel

### PIYC CLOTHING SALE

## 25% OFF

**NOW THROUGH OUR  
JUNE MEETING ON ALL  
THESE ITEMS EXCEPT  
OUR NEW HAT DESIGN!**

*SOME NEW ITEMS TO BE INTRODUCED AT  
OUR JULY MEETING.*

*SORRY....NO SPECIAL ORDERS OR OTHER  
SIZES AVAILABLE. ALL SALES  
FINAL...EXCHANGES ONLY - NEED TO  
REDUCE OUR INVENTORY.*

**NEW HAT SPECIAL \$13.00 EACH**

Contact Paul Hawkins for these apparel items.

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bearings and tires and some hull supports provided by The Boat House in Alpena for Susan Crelly Nash on Grand Lake Blvd.

We had meetings scheduled in Burlington Vt. and Maine was only a few hundred miles of two lane highways and mountains further East (piece of cake) so why not? The boat trailer followed the SUV judiciously and aptly on the road and then rode across Lake Champlain on a small ferry after it was called by ringing a mechanical sounding bell on the opposite shore. Meetings in Burlington lead to the next segment of tree covered two lane highways/little towns (Figure 2), mountain vistas and the eventual view of China Lake where the sail boat was to find its new home. Tucked away in a 1810 barn, the boat waits for the first break of weather in the Spring of 2013.

On to the Atlantic and Crab sandwiches, Lobster and clam chowder. We reached Camden, Maine (Figure 3), boats were only beginning to come out of the water, many of the lobster boats were still active. We had heard that in Booth Bay Harbor Maine, just 100 miles to the South one might visit the HMS Bounty being retrofitted for a tour of the Caribbean and experience some of the best bed and breakfast vistas of the near islands and Atlantic. We found Booth Bay Boat Works and the Bounty in spectacular condition. (Figures 4, 5, 6 & 7). We departed the East Coast with Sandy only stuck near Cuba and learned of the tragedy at sea when we returned to Presque Isle (Figure 8).

## Winter Driving Tip

Four Wheel or All Wheel Drive? Ultimately either one will get you stuck in the snow or mud further from where your 2WD finds trouble. To get stuck even further into the boonies, put a winch on the front end. Be careful !

## **Events Mark 100-year Anniversary of Sinking of Christmas Tree Ship**

Editor's Note: This article is from the website boatnerd.com "News Channel" for 11/25/2012. Originally, the article appeared in the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel.

11/25 - One hundred years later, the Christmas trees destined to brighten thousands of homes are still in the ship's hold, and some still have their needles. When the schooner Rouse Simmons arrived in Chicago's harbor laden with Christmas trees, it was the unofficial start to the holiday. Like clockwork Herman Schuenemann, who was known as Captain Santa, sailed into the port in late November, hung out his sign and quickly sold out his fragrant cargo.

But in November 1912, just seven months after the Titanic struck an iceberg, the Rouse Simmons didn't arrive at its destination. Captain Santa's customers wondered when he would arrive with his load of Christmas trees. The Algoma native had cheated death on Lake Michigan before as he braved the Great Lakes' turbulent November weather for the lucrative Christmas tree trade. But on Nov. 23, 1912, Schuenemann's last trip ended in 170 feet of water when the Rouse Simmons sank near Two Rivers with the loss of all hands.

Today the Rouse Simmons is the most popular shipwreck in Wisconsin waters, and its story of tragedy and hope continues to resonate. It inspired poets, painters, authors, playwrights and song writers, and this weekend, in honor of the centennial of the sinking of the Christmas tree ship, several observances are planned in Wisconsin. "The story encompasses so many different themes," said Rochelle Pennington, a Kewaunee author who has written books on the Christmas tree ship. "You find courage, generosity, kindness, devotion and faith set against the backdrop of Christmas."

Built in 1868 in Milwaukee, the three-masted schooner was carrying a cargo of freshly cut Christmas trees from Michigan's Upper Peninsula to Chicago, where Schuenemann strung electric lights from the rigging to draw customers willing to spend 50 cents to \$1 for a beautiful evergreen. He also donated trees to needy families and charities. Schuenemann had done this for years, joining his older brother August, who began ferrying trees to Chicago in the 1870s. In 1898, Schuenemann decided to stay home with his wife to help care for their newborn twins, leaving his brother to make an ill-fated Christmas tree voyage. August Schuenemann went down with his ship near Glencoe, Ill. "Herman was the first one who had to make that decision whether to carry on or not. He knew Lake Michigan had been his family's enemy but it was also his friend because it was how he made his living," said Pennington.

Despite the loss of his brother, Schuenemann continued the tradition, spending several weeks cutting trees in the Upper Peninsula each fall, loading them onto his ship and sailing to Chicago, where he docked near the Clark St. bridge. The year after he died, his widow, Barbara, and three daughters arranged for Christmas trees to come from the U.P. via rail and sold them from a schooner docked in the Chicago harbor. They did that until Barbara died in 1933.

William Ehling was only 3 when his grandmother died, but he vividly remembers the stories told by his mother, one of the twins his grandfather stayed behind to look after in 1898, and his two aunts. As a boy he played hide and seek among the Christmas trees his family sold from a docked ship. "At Christmas time we would bring out all the things about grandpa and talk about him. It was not a sad time," said Ehling, 82, a retired physician who lives in Streator, Ill., and who, like his grandfather, had three daughters.

At the time of the Rouse Simmons sinking, schooners still plied the Great Lakes but by then they had become a novelty as steam took over, said Bob Desh, Door County Maritime Museum executive director/curator. Still, they were considered the eighteen-wheelers of the day, hauling cargo and passengers before roads and highways began to crisscross the country like Silly String.

No one knows how many people died when the Rouse Simmons foundered about six miles off Point Beach near Two Rivers, but it's estimated at between 15 and 19. The log book went down with the ship. The weather was beginning to worsen when Schuenemann set sail from Thompson, Mich., on Nov. 22. The science of weather forecasting was in its infancy and mariners relied on guts and intuition when deciding whether to sail or stay in port. Rats were reportedly seen fleeing the Rouse Simmons before it left, a bad omen, and at least one sailor refused to go. At the last moment some lumberjacks eager to travel to Chicago boarded, said Pennington.

On the afternoon of Nov. 23 a Kewaunee Lifesaving Station watchman saw a three-masted schooner laboring in stiff north-west winds and heavy seas, its distress flags hoisted. Kewaunee didn't have a motorboat so the station in Two Rivers was noti-

fied. A lifesaving crew from Two Rivers launched its gas-powered lifeboat but couldn't find the ship even though it was a clear day.

The Rouse Simmons had vanished.

A dozen years later fishermen from a ship called Reindeer made an astonishing discovery. Pulling in their nets they found a waterproof oilskin pack. Inside was Herman Schuenemann's red Moroccan leather wallet. His business card and newspaper clippings heralding his Christmas tree ship were still dry and tucked inside. Then in 1971 a scuba diver found the ship, resting upright in 170 feet of 34-degree water. Captain Santa's family was elated to hear the wreck had been found.

"There was tremendous emotions, especially when we heard the trees were still lashed to the deck and some of them were in excellent condition because of the cold water," said Ehling, whose mother died in 1990. The wreck is considered a grave site and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Several years ago the Wisconsin Historical Society sent a team to document the wreck and found a ship with most of the deck planking gone but many of the 5,500 trees stacked neatly in the hold. The ship had likely hit bow first, throwing the rigging in front of the boat; the port side anchor landed about 150 feet from the wreck still attached by its chain, said Tamara Thomsen, a maritime archaeologist for the historical society. The starboard side anchor was raised in the 1970s, before state law barred taking artifacts from Wisconsin shipwrecks, and is now displayed at the Milwaukee Yacht Club. The ship's wheel was retrieved from fishing nets in 1999 and is on display at Roger's Street Fishing Village Museum in Two Rivers.

The exact cause of the sinking is unknown, but research showed the Rouse Simmons - named after a Kenosha merchant whose family started the Simmons Mattress Factory - was in poor condition and overloaded when it sank, said Thomsen. "We plotted out where the (Two Rivers Lifesaving Station's) lifeboat went with the wind. It actually encircled where the Christmas tree ship is today. If she was still floating at 4:20 p.m. they would have been able to save the people on the vessel but by then they were on the bottom," said Thomsen, who has logged 50 dives on the Rouse Simmons. "We imagine when it started sinking it went pretty fast. They probably didn't have a lot of time to decide who would get into the small lifeboat."

Over the years artifacts were retrieved by scuba divers from the ship including a spittoon, ax, shoe sole and electric light bulb, one of the many Schuenemann strung across his ship to beckon Christmas tree purchasers. Shortly after it was discovered in the 1970s the bulb that had been submerged for more than five decades was plugged in. It still lit up.

Numerous events are 9 (WERE) scheduled to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Rouse Simmons:

- At 9 a.m. Friday at the Milwaukee Yacht Club, 1700 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive, Wisconsin Marine Historical Society members will conduct a ceremony near the Rouse Simmons' one-ton anchor, including a wreath-laying, moment of silence and singing of "Oh Tannenbaum."
- In Two Rivers, two days of events are planned for the centennial on Friday and Saturday, starting with performances at 2 and 7 p.m. Friday of a musical about the Christmas tree ship. Events on Saturday include a public reception at the Rogers Street Fishing Village with a visit by Capt. Herman Schuenemann's grandson; a visit from the U.S. Coast Guard's Christmas tree ship, which re-enacts the Rouse Simmons at Christmastime in Chicago; and a parade and lighting of the Rouse Simmons Christmas tree. For more information, go to [RogersStreet.com](http://RogersStreet.com).
- The Central Library in Milwaukee has a Rouse Simmons poster exhibit featuring designs from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee students on display through Jan. 30.
- Rochelle Pennington, author of books on the Christmas tree ship, is telling the story of the Rouse Simmons and displaying ship artifacts at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 29 at Clement Manor, 3939 S. 92nd St., Greenfield, (tickets are \$5); at 2 p.m. Dec. 15 at the Greendale Visitor Center, 5602 Broad St., (tickets are \$10); and at 7 p.m. Dec. 20 at the Sheboygan Yacht Club, 214 Pennsylvania Ave., free. All of the events are open to the public.
- An exhibit of 15 original schooner paintings by maritime artist Eric Nils Forsberg, including four of the Rouse Simmons, is on display at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, 75 Maritime Drive, Manitowoc, through Dec. 31.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Note:-A search for other information on the Rouse Simmons on the Bowling Green State University vessel database did not show anything for a ship with that name. I guess that not ALL vessels are 'there.'

The entry on 11/30 in the previously mentioned boatnerd.com "News Channel" shows the following:(Next page, please)



## **Crew of Mackinaw Visits Site of Original Christmas Ship Wreck During Anniversary Transit to Chicago**

11/30 - Cheboygan, Mich. The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw visited the final resting site of the Rouse Simmons, the original Christmas Ship, during a brief break from their Aids to Navigation mission in western Lake Michigan, Tuesday.

Crewmembers gathered on the buoy deck of the Mackinaw, which is serving as this year's Christmas Ship, for a special ceremony honoring the fallen crew of the schooner Rouse Simmons for starting a tradition of delivering Christmas trees to deserving families in Chicago. During this 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Rouse Simmons, two wreaths were tossed overboard into Lake Michigan to commemorate those lives which were lost just north of Two Rivers, Wis., during a November gale in 1912. The ship was on its way to Chicago to deliver 5,500 Christmas trees.

Each year, Chicago's Christmas Ship Committee donates a wreath which is tossed overboard at the closest point of approach to the wreckage by a Coast Guard cutter. This year, a special wreath was also donated by the Thompson Historical Society that was tossed overboard, and 100 hand-cut trees, from the same area where the crew of the Rouse Simmons obtained their trees, which will be among the 1,300 trees offloaded in Chicago.

Cmdr. Michael Davanzo, Mackinaw's commanding officer, addressed the crew on the buoy deck amid howling winds and freezing temperatures, drawing comparisons to the weather the crew of the Rouse Simmons must have experienced. He talked with the crew of 60 about the importance of continuing and honoring traditions established by vessels on the Great Lakes.

"Although the Coast Guard and the committee conduct a wreath toss each year near the wreckage site, this year was significant because of the historic anniversary," said George Lisner of the Chicago's Christmas Ship Committee. "The ceremony was a solemn, respectful moment taken in by the entire crew." Lisner has been aboard with the Coast Guard each of the 13 years during the transit to Chicago.

Leading the ceremony was Petty Officer 2nd Class Nichol Billow, a food service specialist. In an effort to teach the crew of the Mackinaw the history of the Rouse Simmons, she developed a history lesson and taught her fellow shipmates about the schooner and its mission. During the ceremony, she read the names of those lost, and rang the ship's bell for each name. The ceremony concluded with a final bell for good luck after a moment of silence from the crew.



USCG Cutter Mackinaw

"The New Mackinaw"

## Travel & Bounty Photos from Bob & Gwen Mitchell



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

Refer to Page 4 for photo captions.





Figure 7



Figure 8

Death of HMS Bounty

Refer to Page 4 for photo captions.

**Presque Isle Yacht Club**  
Presque Isle MI 49777

Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Membership In The  
Presque Isle Yacht Club**

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PIYC meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month April through October. Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m., dinner / meeting follows.

The current clubhouse of PIYC is the Portage Restaurant at Presque Isle Harbor. State liquor laws must be observed during all club functions at this establishment. No drinks will be served after 2:00 a.m. and all parties must vacate the premises by 2:30 a.m. or upon the earlier closing of the Portage. All liquor consumed on the premises must be purchased from the Portage Restaurant. Open liquor or beer may not leave the establishment.

Visiting members and guests are welcome at all club functions provided they are accompanied by a member in good standing.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Boat Name \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_ Power / Sail \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Member \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

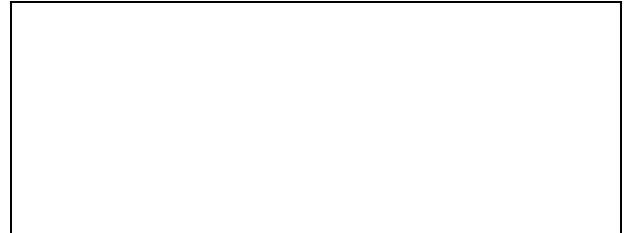
Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**THE MASTHEAD  
A SEASONAL BULLETIN OF THE PRESQUE ISLE  
YACHT CLUB**

**THE PRESQUE ISLE YACHT CLUB  
18966 EVERGREEN RD,  
PRESQUE ISLE, MI 49777**

1st Class  
Postage



## For Information

**Email: [eastgrandlaker@gmail.com](mailto:eastgrandlaker@gmail.com)**

**Commodore Bob Young**

**989 595 5239**

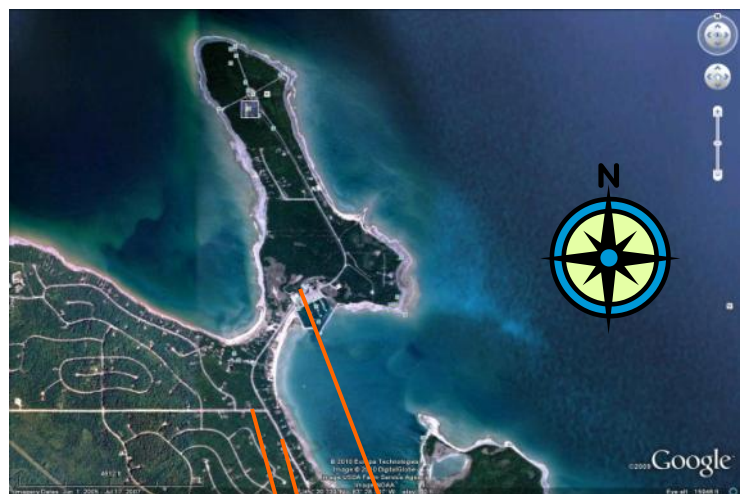
**Website: [presqueisleyc.org](http://presqueisleyc.org)**

## MEETING LOCATION

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Visiting mariners and guests are welcome at all club functions provided they are accompanied by a member in good standing



PI County Rd 638

Grand Lake Rd

Portage Restau-  
rant