

**SPRING
'24**

**CHRIS-CRAFT
COMMANDER CLUB**

**STYLED IN
FIBERGLASS**



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

SPRING 2024

STYLED IN FIBERGLASS



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On The Cover: An artistic rendering of a Commander bow created by Membership Chairperson & "Styled in Fiberglass" Editor Whitney Pillsbury

Meet Your Executive Committee



Sterling (Scott) Shriber,
Chief Commander
Residence: Akron, OH
Commander model: 1970 42'

Scott and Suzanne acquired their 1970 42' Commander MY OTHER HONEY in 2012, became Commander Club members and attended many club events over the years with their three grown children. This is their second Chris-Craft and they also enjoy a mahogany Century Resorter on Lake Erie. They often travel with their poodle, Sissy. Scott is a retiree of Ford Motor Company and for the past 15 years has been a publisher of Automotive Magazines. Scott has been our Treasurer for the past 4 years. Scott enjoys Chris-Craft projects and often contributes to our forum. Elected Chief Commander January 2024

A message from Scott:
Hello Fellow Commander Members, Well, it's here, our favorite time of year! All those long winter months of dreaming about floating our prized Commander are behind us and now it is time to go to work and enjoy them. I especially enjoy spending time at the yard and seeing boating friends who have been hiding out during the winter months. Don't get me wrong, I love our commander but it is the relationships and

experiences shared upon her that we truly value above all. That is why I joined the Commander Club many years ago. Like minded folks who enjoy each other and their crafts. There is no other place for a Commander owner to get information, advice, history and friendship like our club provides. As I write this I think of that small group of people who 25 years ago had the vision and foresight to put this club together. It is all their hard work that allows us to enjoy the benefits of being together today.

Suzanne and I wish you a happy, safe and FUN time this season on your vessels. Who knows, we may run into you someday soon on MY OTHER HONEY. Enjoy!

COMMANDER CLUB MISSION STATEMENT

The Commander Club is a "virtual club," existing on the Internet. The club is a non-stock corporation dedicated to the preservation, study, and appreciation of the classic fiberglass Commander boats built by the Chris-Craft Corporation. Our goal is to inform and enlighten owners or enthusiasts about these classic fiberglass boats. Members shall be Commander owners, enthusiasts or other persons who support the mission of the club.



Charlene Pike, Archivist
Residence: Royal Oak, MI
Commander model: 1964 38'
"CHARLENE II" until 2012

Char has been a member of the club since 1999 taking on the role as Club Archivist in 2006 and is also busy with rendezvous planning, burgees and providing other services. However, the large chunk of work for Char is being editor of the Superdisc & Resource Collection known as the CCCC Archives which enlighten members on all Commander related topics. Char was awarded the club's prestigious Hall of Fame Award.

A message from Char:
Because of club members we have an incredible database of information in our club archives, all specific to the fiberglass Chris-Craft Commander. We're able to share information and advice on almost any mechanical or cosmetic issue one might encounter. Information that cannot be found in a brochure or manual. It makes it easier to own and maintain a vintage piece of machinery like a Commander. It's the most extensive and accurate collection of materials preserved over several decades. The original and premier source for anything Commander, all because of YOU, the members.

ARCHIVIST REPORT

MEMBERS WHO MADE THE TOP POSTERS LIST MULTIPLE TIMES:

Dick Morland 17 years
(3 time top poster)

Lee Dahlen 13 years
(5 time top poster)

Tim Miller 12 years
(1 time top poster)

Jim Wick 11 years
(2 time top poster)

Clyde Caron 7 Years

Mike Hagler 6 years
(4 time top poster)

Ron Zick 6 years

Jeremy Goldstein 6 years
(4 time top poster)

Matt Cowles 5 years

Todd Heinrich 5 years
(3 time top poster)

Rick Traskos 5 years

Paul Pletcher 4 years
(1 time top poster)

Quentin 4 years
(1 time top poster and
2nd highest posts ever 2013)

Chris Orphal 4 years

Steve Fernandes 3 years

Jim Frens 3 years

Brian Barton 2 years

Mark Hunter 2 years

John Mario 2 years

Jim Rivas 2 years

Steve Valvasori 2 years

Tim Toth 2 years

OTHER TOP CONTRIBUTORS
OVER THE LAST 24 YEARS:

Curt Radford, Matt Gurnsey, Scott
Anderson, Grant Eriksen, Tim Gressett,
Bruce Harkness, Dwayne Jones, Bill
Smith, Greg Gajcak, Dave Marzullo,
Jack Bonczyk, Byron Smith, Charlene
Pike, Kevin McKinnon, Jim Kenyon,
Scott Miller, Warren Whitmore

ARCHIVIST REPORT

CHRIS CRAFT COMMANDER
CLUB BY THE NUMBERS

January 16, 2024

10,031 Photos
165 Videos
5,818 members
6,052 Forum topics
Classifieds 483 boat ads,
409 accessory ads.
5 boats sold,
4 accessory items sold in 2023

248 entries in the
Library Links Section
154 entries in the
Library Files Section

CCCC Archives –
Resource Collection
2,339 files,
Superdisc
19,176 entries

2068 posts for 2023,
Of these there were
134 different topics archived
232 archived posts
77 unique contributors

201 new members in 2023,
17 left or were deleted for spam,
1093 visited at least once since
January 1, 2023

Website: 2023 Visits 50,451,
Unique Devices 22,802,
Page Views 734,183

Cap Modification Kit Sales for
2023: December 31, 2023 YTD
Sold 5 kits to 3 members
14 kits in stock

Archives Sales:
Total paid subscribers March
2022 thru Feb 2023: 42
(3 international)
17 Complimentary.
Discontinued sales March 2023.
Subscribers converted to
complimentary.

January 2024 – One time
subscriber fee of \$30 begins.

Burgee Sales for 2023:
December 31, 2023 YTD
sold 14 raked
6 straight
Total 20

Calendar Sales 2023:
85 units of 2024 calendars

2023 Archive Fun Facts:

Total Posts 2068
Archived Posts 232
Unique Posters 77

Top Archived Posters 2023

- Jeremy Goldstein
- Chris Orphal
- Lee Dahlen
- Tim Toth
- Warren Whitmore

Top Archived Poster 2023

- Jeremy Goldstein.

*This is the sixth time Jeremy has
made top posters list and the fourth
time he has been number one poster.*

More fun facts:

- YahooGroups was used from
Feb. 14, 2000 to Feb. 4, 2013
- In our first year we had 74
members on YahooGroups
- Our first website had 1,256
members
- From Feb. 4, 2013 to Jan. 15,
2024 5818 members were
registered
- New website started Jan. 15,
2024



Jim and Sue Bell,
Membership Committee
Residence: Pittsburgh, PA
Commander: 1984 333

Jim and Sue have been members since 2017. Their boating is mostly on the Three Rivers which are of the Monongahela, Ohio and Allegheny Rivers. The famous sports venue of Three Rivers Stadium is a highlight during the summer and fall sports/boating season. Jim and Sue own property on the Ohio River at mile marker 8.6 and constructed their own small private marina in 1988. Jim maintains the marina and conducts the process of placement of floating docks in and out for the season. Jim ordered and bought his boat brand new at the Ft. Lauderdale International Boat show in the fall of 1983. Jim is a licensed captain (17 years) and is also self employed as a Master Plumber in Pittsburgh serving his area for over 50 years. Sue has her Masters Degree in Nursing and has been a nurse for the last 25 years. She is a Director of Nursing in a Long Term Care Community. The Bells have participated in national rendezvous in 2018 Mentor OH, 2021 Algonac, MI and 2023 Cedar Point Sandusky, OH. Elected to third term January 2024

A message from Jim & Sue: Ahoy! I hope everyone is enjoying the revised Commander Club website. Sue and I think it's a great improvement and we hope its helping reach our long-time members and some new members.

Sue and I would like to continue sending out "Welcome Letters" with window decals. We feel this is a personal touch that provides members a small token from the club. But the response with members addresses has been slow. I know in these times, information wants to be kept private, and I'm a strong advocate of not giving out information online. Rest assured that your information will be kept confidential and not used by anyone other than Sue and me.

We are reaching out to our new members via email but would love to send you a decal and "You've been spotted cards" via the USPS. If you haven't provided your address, please send it to: bellplum@verizon.net so we can send you these items. Well, enough about business!

Welcome to '24 Chris-Craft boating Season. Our Spring has started on a very wet note. The first and second weeks of April brought our local waterways out of its banks. We reside on the Ohio River in Pttsburgh and we are downstream from the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers which in turn forms the Ohio River. This brings huge amounts of water our way at 8.6-mile marker on the right descending bank of the Ohio River. We are approximately one-half mile from the Emsworth Lock and Dam and the first lock on the Ohio River which is a controlling lock and dam.

The first week in April brought heavy rains and flash flooding to the area creeks, this over ran their banks and we had all the streams sending trees, limbs and you name it, past our piling which secure our docks.

We are lucky enough to have a

crane company come in the fall and remove the docks and crane them back in the spring. We have 4 piling that stretch from the shore towards the channel approximately 90' as permitted by the Army Corp of Engineer. As soon as one log gets wedged in the piling, an island of debris collects and it keeps collecting.

And it gets worse. Friday evening, April 12th, a second storm dumped more rain on our saturated banks. At approximately 1AM, Saturday morning 26 barges broke loose from a siding in Pgh., near the point, and stadium. Two marinas in Pgh were severely damaged, and one may not be able to reopen this season (they keep their docks in the water all year). 4 barges were lodged at the lock and dam, and one sunk in front of the dam. Another 4-5 barges made it through the dam and luckily missed us. But, a marina not more than 100 yards away, lost 5 pilings as a result of the barges - some heavily loaded with coal - mowing the piling down like toothpicks.

This is our story and I know there are more stories downstream. The barges that continued struck two bridges within a mile of our dock which had to close until they were inspected. No damage occurred, thankfully! They are still searching for two missing barges and the marina owners are searching for new piling and someone to drive it. This will undoubtedly be a very busy Spring.

We didn't plan this to be our story for this article, but this is our beginning of the '24 boating season. I hope everyone reading this has a better start to theirs!

Remember, keep the shiny side up and HAVE FUN!!



Pam Sorensen
Webmaster
Residence: Colona, IL
Commander model: 410

Pam has been a member of the club since 2005, served as PR Chair from 2012 - 2017 and elected Webmaster in 2018. She does her boating on the Mississippi River in Moline, IL. Pam is involved in IT business financial systems during the week when not at the boat. She has attended many national rendezvous, hosted the 2016 national rendezvous in Dubuque, IA and provided us with great photos of the events. She has experience with our website as well as our other online platforms. Dock Shop, Photo Contest, and Club Calendar fundraiser are some of the projects Pam manages. Our online presence and service to the Commander community will continue to grow with Pam's guidance.

A message from Pam:

Hello Fellow enthusiast, In Jan., the club migrated to a new website and it's been a smashing success. If you were a member of the club before January, you know that everyone had to re-sign up on the new site. We've had almost 700 pre-existing members and new members sign up since the re-launch and it's growing every day.

Being primarily an online club, our website is the way our members communicate and exchange ideas.

The Forum and **Classifieds** continue to be top resources for our members. Our website is also the most comprehensive repository for the Chris-Craft Commander models, documenting the specifications of each model with original brochures, all of which can be found in the **Models** section. With the launch of the new site, one of our goals was to better organize information. Under **Resources**, there is a comprehensive list of the various **Manuals** and **Vendors** needed to service our beloved Commanders. Also under Resources, you will find various **Files**, containing valuable information, and along with past issues of **Styled In Fiberglass**, the club's newsletter, from the last 23 years. New content is being added under the Resource section, often.

Another valuable resource is the **CCCC Archive**, The Archive contains 25 years of archived forum discussions, member Projects and other valuable content. This is an online subscription service and can be accessed from any device.

If you're in the market for club merchandise, visit the **Shop** section, Under this section, you can buy a **CCCC Archive subscription**, **Burgees**, and visit the **Dock Shop** (ie: Shirts, hats, etc).

For those of you new to the club, the Executive Committee meets every month to talk through how the various parts of the club are running, throwing out new ideas for club activities, etc. Under **Club**, you will

find meeting minutes, club financials, **Awards** that have been presented over the years, etc.

Looking for Commander-related activities? Check out the **Events** section. We are adding new events often, so keep checking back. Also, if you have an event you'd like added, email the details to Char at archivist.commanderclub@gmail.com

Another significant milestone for the club is this year's 25th anniversary. The club was established back in 1999 by a group of guys with a common interest in Commanders. The founding members are: Todd Heinrich, Dick Morland, Curt Radford, Rob Cutchins, Paul Pletcher and their expertise led to a common desire to share their vast knowledge and the Chris-Craft Commander Cub was born. Much information has been amassed over the last 25 years. Our website is the repository for all that information. Under **Vault**, you will find lots of great, historical information.

A great deal of work went into building the new site, so we hope it fits your needs. We are always open to ideas on how to make the site better, whether it be Ease of Use or new content.

Please email me any ideas or thoughts to:
Webmaster.commanderclub@gmail.com.



Lee Dahlen, Treasurer
Residence: Mooresville, NC
Commander models:
23' Commander
27' Commander
31' Commander
38' Commander

Lee Dahlen has been a member of the Chris-Craft Commander Club since 2000. He, along with wife Ruth, as well as their dog Charlie do their boating on Lake Norman near Charlotte North Carolina. They currently own a 1973 Lancer 23' that is in restoration process. Lee is the owner of Glassic Boatworks, Inc., a service company with 3 employees that provides marine repair services to sail, powerboats and motor-yachts throughout the United States in customers' home ports. He is in charge of ownership duties including; diagnosis and repair, accounts receivable/payable, taxes, and payroll.

Lee's service to the club includes Archivist (2004 – 2005), Chief Commander (2016-2019), Award of Distinction 2012, 2019, 2021, the top SuperDisc/Archives poster for five years, a SuperDisc/Archives top 10 poster for twelve years, and a guest speaker at numerous rendezvous. Elected Treasurer January 2024.

A message from Lee:

For my first article as the club's Treasurer, firstly, I thank you for the vote of confidence, and the opportunity to once again serve

the club. It is truly an honor and a passion of mine to see this club succeed. Secondly, I thank Scott Shriber for his detailed summary and timeline from his tenure as our previous treasurer to make this transition easy and smooth. Without it, I would have been lost! Also Thanks to Char Pike for helping me through the bank process. It's always great to have a second set of eyes and hands!

The club is currently in great financial health and stability. During a period of flux, we had website transitions, where we had to overlap services to reduce membership loss and transfer archives. During this period, we experienced significant - but necessary - spending to achieve our goals. That has subsided and we are once again in a stable position.

During my first month, my goals were:

- Streamline payment sources to make record keeping easier
- Make payment by members easier
- Keep process fees at a minimum.

Now we offer the two ways to pay:

- Any Credit/Debit card on the club's website via WIX Payments.
- PAYPAL

Our assets as of End of February 2024: \$14,657.88. Our financial records are always available for review by the membership within the Monthly meeting minutes posted in the General Discussion Forum.

Our income sources are:

- Archive subscriptions
- Burgee Sales
- Dock Shop products

- Donations from members.

For 25 years, we have always been a dues free club, and have no plans to change that. But we rely on these sources to remain healthy and continue to strive to offer a quality product for your dollar. Thank you for that support.

If you ever have any questions, feel free to ask. As always, have a great upcoming boating season!



Whitney Pillsbury
Public Relations
Residence: South Orange, NJ
Commander models:
19' Commander
38' Commander
55' Commander
36' Tournament Fisherman


Whitney has been a member since 2000 and served as Membership Chair 2007-2011 and Public Relations Chair 2011-2012. Honored with a Leadership Award in 2012 and a recent Award of Distinction. Whitney grew up on a 31' Commander and has owned a number of models. His dream of getting back on the Hudson River has come true and he just launched a 36' Tournament Fisherman. His professional background is in Advertising in NYC. Whitney helped design the club's logo, burgee, t-shirts and has made videos for the club that have received over

300k views. He's excited to helm this "Styled in Fiberglass" newsletter again while promoting the club and furthering its mission.

A message from Whitney:
Greetings all members. (new and old). For me this is as much of a homecoming as a new start. 12 years ago I gave up on my 3rd Commander - a project 55' that nearly took me out (lol not lol) - and I moved away from the club. But, my dream of owning another Commander never went away, and as my kids grow up (now all in their 20s) I am feeling the Commander bug again and I'm back.

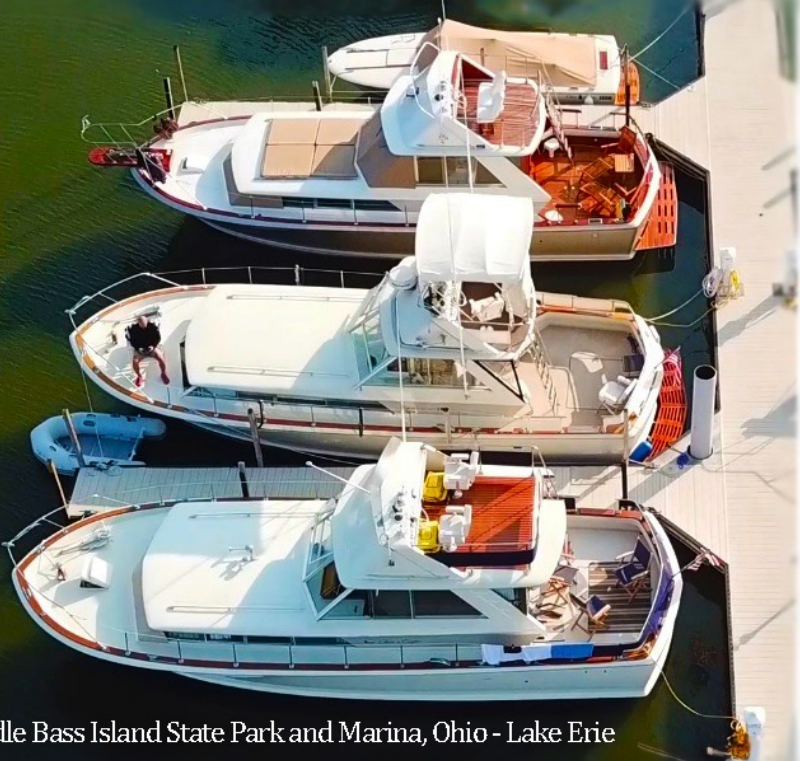
I've recently launched a 1973 36' Tournament Fisherman! (picture below) It is exciting to be a part of the new Commander Club website and the next part of our journey.

I'm excited to be editor of this great publication again, and look forward to seeing you at the next Rendezvous! I used to post frequently years ago and I'm tipping my toe back in the water, see you on the forum!



Regional Rendezvous

Middle Bass Island Ohio
August 16-18, 2024



Middle Bass Island State Park and Marina, Ohio - Lake Erie

All Chris-Crafts are welcome. Big, Little, Pristine or Patinae.

Hosts: T.J. Worsencroft, Sam Lillard, & Tim Toth.
For more information, contact TJ at tjw@navigator.com or call 440-541-7898.

Reserve your slip now at:
www.reserveohio.com

Regional Rendezvous Middle Bass Island

The Ohio guys have organized a 2024 CCCC Regional Rendezvous this summer!

What: Regional Rendezvous

When: August 16 -18, 2024

Where: Middle Bass Island Marina, Ohio - on Lake Erie

Who: All Chris-Crafts are welcome, big or small, pristine or patinae.

Hosts: T.J. Worsencroft, Sam Lillard, Tim Toth,
Contact:

TJ: tjw@navigator.com

440-541-7898.

[INFORMATION LINK](#)

The weekend will consist of boat tours, lots of socializing, and more.



Regional Rendezvous 2024 Itinerary

August 16-18, 2024

Middle Bass Island State Park and Marina, Ohio

Lake Erie

***There is no cost for attending. Participants must reserve and purchase their own slips with the State Marina and pay for their own bar tabs, food items, and travel expenses.**

Tee Shirts will be available for purchase (\$18) at event while supplies last, courtesy of SKAVAL Fitness Apparel.

Friday, August 16, 2024	
2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Registration Check In – At the Marina Pavilion (Near Dock B) Look for our banner and please pick up your signs if you want judged for Saturday.
6:00 p.m.	Dinner on your own
Evening 9- 12 p.m.	Marina after hours –Adventure Story Telling at the “Prohibition” (Secret speakeasy in the Island Grind – near the Old Lonz Winery)

Saturday, August 17, 2024		
9:00 am - Noon	Registration Check In – Marina Pavilion	Marina Pavilion
9:30 am – 10:30 am	Breakfast at Patio of The Island Grind -Coffee House & Wine Bar – Judging Instructions	Next to the old Lonz Winery
11:00 – 12:00	Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ “Repowering: What you should Know;” ➤ Nick Economus “CCCC Insurance Program Info” ➤ Meet the CCCC Artist Chuck Siford 	Marina Pavilion
1:00 p.m. -4:30 p.m.	Chris Craft Boat Tours (& Judging). <i>Please do not bribe the Judge with alcohol this year. We need him coherent.</i>	All Docks
5:00 p.m.	Award Ceremony	Marina Pavilion
7:00 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.	Dinner & Music at J.F. Walleyes	

Sunday, August 18, 2024	
11:00 am	Anchors up and Boat Parade to and around Put-in-Bay harbor / Drone fly-over weather permitting
12:00	Depart at your leisure.

Judged Awards

Bristol Fashion	Cleanest Engine(s)	Master Cabin	Varnish Valor	Best Galley Food Dish * has to be made onboard
Best Galley	Best Helm Station	Nice Touch	Best Bar	Most Squared Away

Hosts:

TJ & Susan Worsencroft 38 Commander *Capernaum* tjw@navigatora.com 440-541-7898

Samuel & Monica Lillard 38 Commander *On Time* slillard@columbus.rr.com 614-716-8531

Tim & Linda Toth, 35 Express Commander *Dunroin*

The Chris-Craft Commander Club Archives

The goal of the CCCC Archives is to have an internet based site to hold the **Superdisc** and **Resource Collection** materials for CCCC members to access on a subscription basis. As more tools and information become available we will be adding them online. Compatible browsers: Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge and Safari

Why a subscription fee?

- Your payment supports the activities of this dues-free club
- It helps pay for the web hosting
- We hope you will enjoy the other benefits from the club your payment will help provide.

There are two sections of the Archives:

SuperDisc: an electronic encyclopedia of every aspect of Commander maintenance and repairs. The information in this section is retrieved from the discussion forum and e-mail list, but organized in a way that makes information easy to find and use. Complete email archives with attachments (2000 - 2018) are sorted by message number, author and subject. If a Commander project has been done, someone in this great club has shared it!!! A great addition are master indexes of all posts for all nineteen years. You can browse for a specific topic or specific author and then go directly

to that post. There are 19,176 posts total. The master indexes are searchable with this online version.

Resource Collection contents include CC Catalogs and brochures. CC Service Bulletins, CC Price Lists. Engine & Transmission Manuals Dick Avery sketches and original drawings, a folder for every Commander model, and all kinds of technical and interesting stuff including archived posts beginning with 2019. This “living” collection is comprised of information



& content supplied by many club members and is updated regularly. A true “Treasure Trove” for the Commander owner! Currently there are over 2,000 items.

To learn more about this great resource visit the site and click on **Resources**.

SuperDisc Content Testimonials:

“We got the Superdisc for my Dad for Christmas (along with a club hat and coffee mug) If any of you are thinking about buying

the Superdisc but wondering if its worth the price, BUY IT, it’s literally worth 5 times what it cost. You could look at its contents for 2 hours every day for a year and probably not get to all of the info that’s there. Again, a hundred thanks for all of the help! I’m hoping that we are able to bring the boat to the meet, and say thanks in person!” - John Scouler

“It’s more impressive than I even thought it would be. I ordered both the Superdisc and Resource Collection. There are manuals, model-specific info, and TONS of history from this forum on pretty much every issue. Definitely worth picking up!” - Matt Cowles

“I received the Superdisc last evening and just wanted to report how extremely happy I am that I now have all of this information at my finger tips. I’m only disappointed that I waited so long to obtain one, but then again I’ve just got that much more information to review.” - Scott Pullin

“What a great source of information! Well worth the cost and it’s a bonus that the fund supports this site. I saw a factory test of my hull when it was new. 19.1 mph top speed @42,999 pounds! It’s crazy how different the same boat can weigh, that sheet alone shows 47’s from 34k to 43klbs.” - Steve Valvasori

“Amazing stuff inside, it will take quite some time to browse through it. Well done for creating such a valuable tool, and also a historical database! Thanks again” - Sam Sarakinos Malta, Europe

Remembering Clif Orphal



November 24, 1946

-

November 11, 2023

Clif was a member of the Chris-Craft Commander Club since 2001. He and his family attended many rendezvous and hosted the 2006 Big River Rendezvous in Dubuque, Iowa. He leaves a legacy of love for family, Chris-Craft Commanders, boating, woodworking and craftsmanship.



Clif and his family enjoyed many boating seasons along the Mississippi River aboard SEAQUEL, a 1966 38' Express with 427 engines. SEAQUEL

was purchased in 1997 and the restoration projects commenced.

Sequel's interior and cockpit were completely stripped, sanded, re-stained and varnished, new 2 piece mahogany swim platform made, and a new aft enclosure super-structure made with new canvas.

Other projects included replacement of all toe rails and replacing the canvas enclosure, new refrigerator, new galley sink, new counter and dinette top, new upholstery in cabin and V-berth, new headliner in cabin, V-berth and cockpit and more. Many of Clif's projects are archived in SuperDisc posts.

More of Clif's handiwork is chronicled for club members by Chris, his son and past Commander Club Chief Commander, who owned a 35' Commander and now a 42' Commander that has been extensively restored.

Commanders are part of the Orphal DNA. Chris & Julie, and grandchildren Collin and Claire continue to enjoy the Commander life and all it offers. Clif's legacy, influence, and knowledge will live in our minds, our hearts, and the Commander Club archives.

To Clif's family and friends:

May your hearts soon be filled with wonderful memories of joyful times together.

May the love of friends and family carry you through your grief.

As the days and weeks pass, and as you return to life's routine, may you continue to feel comforted by the love and support of family and friends.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of grief. May your memories bring you comfort.

Clif, we bid you, "Hail and Farewell!" shipmate, until we drop anchor beside you at the Last Great Rendezvous.



More info: [Clifton Anthony Orphal](#)

Remembering Herb Brock



November 12, 1948

—

February 9, 2024

Herbert O. Brock, Jr., 75, of Cape Coral, Florida passed away peacefully on February 9, 2024, at Gulf Coast Village in Cape Coral.

Commander Club members are mourning the passing of longtime member Herb Brock. People like Herb are a reason our passion for Chris-Craft Commanders thrives today. Another chapter of history closes as the boating world has lost a great friend. It saddens all of us at the Chris-Craft Commander Club to learn of his passing.

[More Information and Tribute Wall](#)

Curt Radford, one of the original founders of the club wrote:

I wanted to let the members know of the passing of one of our first members who attended the first CCCC get together in Drummond Island as well as Michigan City and another in Florida.

Herb restored a 38' Chris Craft Commander Express MISS JEANETTE and he cruised out of Pine Island, FL. I remember fondly a cruise he and I took on the inland waterways of Florida.

Herb was a big supporter of the Chris-Craft Commander Club.

He was a lot of fun. I'm going to miss him a lot. I'm sure some of our older members will remember him.

If anyone wants to send a note of condolence:

*Jan Brock
1333 Santa Barbara - Apt. 523
Cape Coral, FL 33991*

Together we will remember Herb's contributions and the legacy to our passion and love of all things Chris-Craft.

We will cherish the memories. Our lives are richer having known Herb. He is enjoying some much calmer seas in the great beyond



The Adventures of Brian & Dawn Stone

Brian and Dawn have been boaters and Commander Club members for many years. This article shares their adventures using Dawn's Facebook posts and photos.



2014 Dawn Stone is with Brian Stone

December 25, 2016

Merry Christmas to us! It's time to make it Facebook official. We are now the proud new owners of a 1970 55ft Chris Craft Commander. Our intention is to live aboard as the kids move on and it's time to prepare for that now. It is a project for sure but it will be stellar! We will be at MacRay Harbor most weekends this winter - come say hi!



2021 NATIONAL RENDEZVOUS
July 2021, Algonac, MI



August 26, 2023

We got home last night and the new owners of Grand Illusion were here to pick her up and take her back home to Lake St Clair. Congratulations Todd Zack and Loretta Pirtle. I hope she gives you as many wonderful years and memories and as she has us! I'm really happy she's going to someone who has the same zest and love for the vintage Chris-Craft boats. On to a new adventure. You know Brian Stone won't be boat-less too long. He's on the net as we speak.



Dawn and Brian at Macray Harbor.

September 5, 2023 at 2:54 PM ·
Harrison Township, MI ·
Boat shopping on our anniversary.. What else would we be doing. We may have found the next one...

September 14, 2023 at 2:14 PM
Wow! It's amazing how much can get done around your house when ur hubby wants to buy a new boat!

September 29, 2023
We are on our way! Sooo we sold our big boat. Planned on downsizing. We obviously are part of the Chris-Craft community and had posted ultimately what Brian would love but there are very few of them. Only 59 built. In 2012 or so we were in Maumee and saw one and had to actually act with class and not drool. We saw a yellow hull tournament and it was a stunner! Back to now and a guy in Saugatuck answered Brian's request. He had a 45 tournament and it was that yellow hulled boat we drooled over. Many of you know her.

We bought NEUROSIS, a 1974 45' Tournament Fisherman, and she is heading back to Lake Erie. She's as beautiful as the day we saw her. This is a sketchy time to bring her around. Many of the fuel docks are closing. I'll be posting our journey... It's a big one!

Just left Singapore Yacht Club. Stop #1 planned for Frankfort to assess fuel and how things are going. Thank u Jon Riley. Good luck w your new boat! We are blessed.

Editor Note: Before starting this adventure Dawn said the key to success was “My Little Book” that she created. Preparation! Since all the docks and fuel ended Sept 31st, she called every marina all the way around for contacts, hours. Who was open (or would) if they called. Made it much better and safer.



Sept 30, 2023 9:22 PM

Today didn't go as planned but was great. Got about 40 miles near Leland and that storm we were watching got serious looking. Decided it was time for safe harbor. Wasn't tempting fate on a weather front like. Had my little harbor contacts and called Leland Harbor. Guy was waiting on the dock to help get us in before it hit. Got all

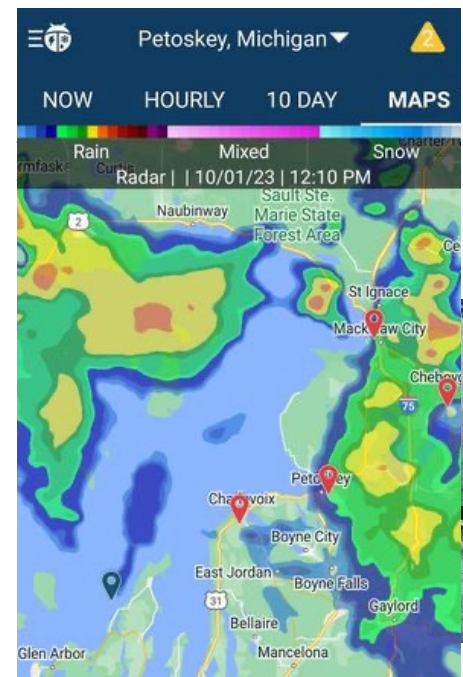
buttoned down and the storm split. Just above and just below us. We didn't get one drop! We refueled (never pass that up) and really thought whether to go on or stay. There was a lot behind that one but looked like we could ride ahead of one and behind the other.

But then I saw that Leland is a cute little town with good restaurants and shops. The next couple days “look” uneventful so why not stay. So glad we did! What a cute little “fishtown.” I've never been on the west side except silver lake and it's worth seeing! Reminded me of Alaska with the fishing stuff and old buildings. The color tours are starting up so the town was bustling. Sometimes it pays to smell the roses. I'm not good at it. All fueled up next goal is harbor beach. It will be a big day if all goes well. Might Mac tomorrow!



Oct 1, 2023 11:21am

Waiting... Everything good here but what happens not sure. Kinda determined to get to that bridge today!

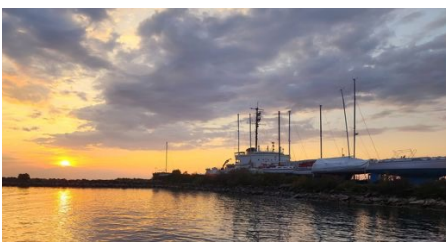


Oct 1, 2023 9:49 pm

Well we are sitting here in Mackinaw City. Warm and safe. For me this day was terrifying but somehow we seemed to be in the best place and the best time the whole time. Brian did everything possible to get my mind off checking Weatherbug every 30 seconds, checking NOAA and every other darn thing. He tried singing um.. You know how that is. He tries to get me to read charts, I can't even think straight lol.

The boat did great. 90 miles today. Got to eat at The Hook

and Brian says their lobster bisque is the BEST he's ever had. Even over the boardwalk! The shops and streets, cute but commercial. Still nice. We went into Momma Mia's and walked thru the bridge museum dedicated the Iron workers who built it. What a job! I did get video going under the bridge. Pretty sweet! We did it!



Oct 2, 2023 8:48 am

And we are off. Brian was up early fluids topped off, coffee done and gas dock lady was there at 8 to fuel us up! Worked out great as weather was there to greet us before that. See how today goes. Sunrise in Mackinaw City

October 2, 2023

She's getting a good rinsing now. In Saginaw Bay area now Boats doing great though. Definitely a sit down ride now. Brian in his glory. At least it's sunny. Knew it wasn't gonna last that flat but it was good a long time!

October 2, 2023 11:14 am

Omg Brian Stone just said that he thinks he loves this boat more than he loved ILLUSION. Holy crap. Many of you know what that's about and what a Statement that is lol. Didn't know that could be. I am officially the other woman...And fine with it.

October 2, 2023

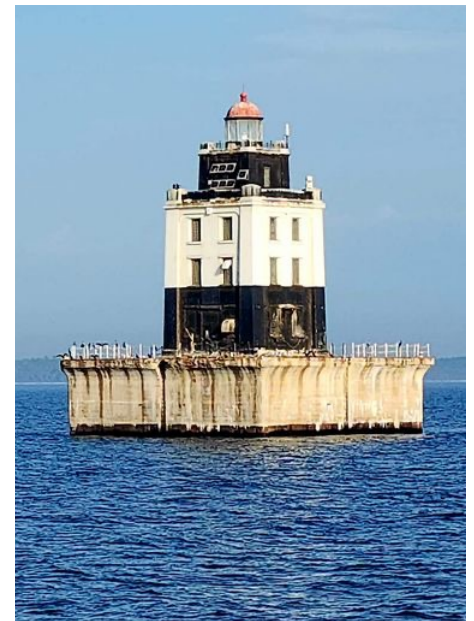
Yay! Harbor Beach! The day was great. First half, FLAT Lake Huron. (Weird) As we got closer to Saginaw Bay that changed and she got a boat washing and got to show off her abilities a little. She did great! Brian Stone at this point, again in his glory! A little sporty but not horrible by any stretch especially for Huron.

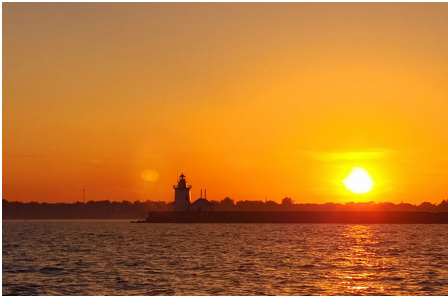
I called Harbor Beach Marina earlier to tell them we were coming and Lisa said she would be out here to show us in. Didn't know she was coming back after being home already, she offered to fuel us up tonight (and preferred that over 7am).

That took a bit to fuel the 250 gallons we needed (not bad for 181 miles) I asked her where to eat and she said Little Caesars was about it (and she actually took me there) Holy cow! Super nice, well protected harbor. Small town. Not much here.

When we pulled in Argo actually puts you in the wrong entrance. (For those of you coming in future) we had to move wells so I took the opportunity to snap a couple pics!

For some reason the electric keeps tripping so guess what - we turned on the generator - HA! Some of u know why that's a HA! We will try again after eating.

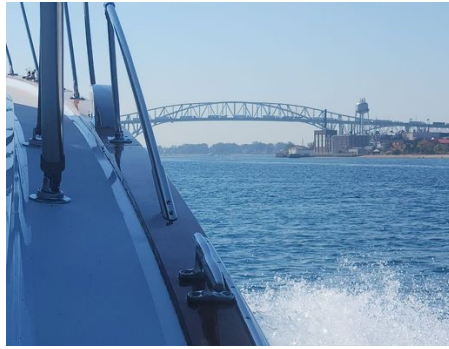




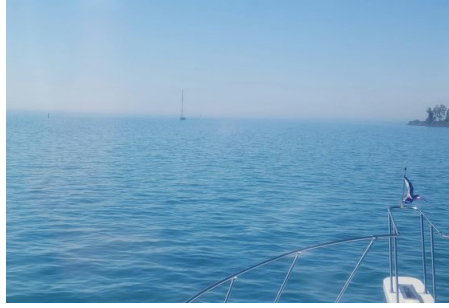
October 3, 2023 8:09 am
 And we're off as of 8:09am. 141 miles today. Anticipating canon fire around 430-5! We are ready. A whole boating season miles in 4 days and then some. Harbor Beach text us wishing us safe travel this am. So nice! This boat is extra!



October 3, 2023
 Blue Water Bridge! Caught the web cam. Brian Stone cousin Connie Shereda Jones lives in Port Huron and got a shot of us going by. Thank you!



October 3, 2023
 Lake St. Clair soupy



October 3, 2023
 We made it! 600 miles in 4 days! We saw such great harbors, met great people, saw cool towns. Had an escort in to FYC and got the cannon (whenever a new boat comes to the harbor) it scared me even though I knew it was coming. Thanks to everyone who went

on the journey with us and all who came to celebrate with us. I'm so glad I went. (At moments not so much) but wouldn't trade it now.

To my husband, the Captain. You are the best! Not only do you have to deal with the boat,



An updated Original

My Story – Bryan Huntley Chapter Two

Editor's Note: This article first appeared in Lakelandboating.com June 2023. Bryan has participated in several Commander Club national rendezvous and has had 2 boats selected to be the flagship WATER WORLD 2023 and ON TIME 2014



My family history is rich in boats. Both my grandfathers boated the waters of Sandusky Bay and Lake Erie many decades ago on Chris-Crafts. Those boats would now be considered vintage. My father and mother would take my brother, sister and me out on whatever boat my dad had at the time.

We traveled Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, Georgian Bay, across Florida and even trips to the Bahamas on chartered sailboats. Our adventures were on Lymans, Chris-Crafts, a 1936 46-foot and a 1959 42-foot Matthews. We also raced sailboats on Lake Erie, a sport my family still participates in today.

So it should be no surprise that when my passion for old boats began, that it would be in Chris-

Crafts. My first restoration project was a 1957 26' Clipper. My second Chris-Craft was a 1958 35' Constellation that my wife, Julie, and I toured Lake Erie on for our honeymoon 22 years ago. While doing our teak decks one day, Julie asked me if they made these beautiful Chris-Crafts in fiberglass. My answer was, "yes," so we made a move to a 1964 38' Commander Flybridge Express.

I think it is safe to say that all my boats turn heads wherever they go. The 38' Commander was awarded the Flagship for the 50th Anniversary Rendezvous.

Our current Commander is a 1976 45' Tournament Fisherman. Taking the "45" out for a quick spin is the drawback of a boat that size, so we quickly learned why the word "runabout" was created.

One day, Julie asked me if they made a smaller Chris-Craft, and the search for a 23' Lancer began. We found a lot of I/O models locally, but I wanted the inboard model, so we went on the hunt. We found our 1973 Lancer hiding in the inland waters of Iowa. I hired two young guys, Isaac and Jesse Zimmerman, to bring her back.

She arrived in Sandusky on Father's Day 2018. She was preserved to a degree, but not to my standards, so I embarked on a three-year restoration, starting with the gelcoat, bottom, bilges and interior.

The restoration moved on to a complete revamp of the interior cushions, V bunks, engine, convertible top, bulkheads and chrome. All in all, she is very original and pretty much new throughout. We keep her undercover in a boathouse on Sandusky Bay. We love to watch the sailboat races on the bay, take her out for an evening spin, or run over to Kelly's Island for dinner. We hope to show her at the Algonac show in June.

OEM vs. Aftermarket?

(How about Quality vs. Price?)

By Lee Dahlen

It's been as much of a debate in the boating public as Ford vs Chevy. Everyone has an opinion and we know where that leads to. But let's dive in a bit on this debate and try to help you make the best decisions for the long-term health of your investment.

What is OEM? Simply put it's the "Original Equipment Manufacturer" of parts used in your boat. You'll notice, if you read closely "manufacturer" there? It's absolutely false that your engine manufacturer makes every single part in their engines. Just because the box or part has the engine name on it, is not proof that they made the part. But for instance if you buy an impeller for your generator and it says Kohler or Westerbeke on the box? It "could have" been made by another company who actually made the pump itself.

Think of it this way. When you're in the milk aisle, there are several brands of the same Vitamin D whole milk right there in front of you. And then there is a "store brand." The store brand is almost always cheaper than the popular brands. Is it different? Is it better or worse than the others? It's all Vitamin D whole milk right? Well maybe, and maybe not. But did the grocery store

make that milk? Not in most cases. Instead, they entered a contract to have their name labeled on the milk because it meets "their requirements" and represents their marketing strategy.

Back to parts. There are several things to consider when using parts on your boat. First and foremost. If your boat is under factory warranty you are obligated as part of the warranty terms to use ONLY OEM parts, and service intervals. We often ask this question when being contracted for service because some warranties require a servicing dealer perform and document the service interval.

For instance, a Yamaha Outboard has specific service intervals and requirements and will void the engines warranty if those guidelines are not followed. We will turn away and refer the client to the nearest servicing dealer explaining this reason to them. For those engines that are not under any further warranty, we gladly service with high quality parts, exceptional service and education.

Do we use aftermarket parts? In a lot of cases, yes. But aftermarket is a technical term. As in the references above, and even on others. We use Impellers that are made by the pump manufacturer not the

engine brand.

An interesting thing happened one day regarding this story. The client requested "Volvo Penta OEM parts only be used on his boat. We will gladly do this for any client who requests it. When we went to pick up the Spark Plugs required for the job. We opened the sleeve labeled Volvo Penta with their part number and found eight AC Delco Plugs with part numbers available at any parts store. Want to guess what the price difference was? It was significant! We had to take pictures to prove to the client we honored his request.

Now, when it comes to fluids and filters? It's always prudent to use OEM as the oils and filters are the lifeblood of the engine. As the old oil filter commercials used to say "Pay a little now, or a lot later." Price should not be the determining factor for the parts we use. It is one equation but not THE equation. It's far more important to do your research if you don't want to pay OEM prices.

In some cases (not all) you'll be able to find out who makes the filters for your engine. Now I'm not talking about a cross reference to other brands here. I'm talking specifically about what manufacturer MADE the OEM filter you have. One good general example of this not

related to boats is Napa Gold Filters. Did you know they are not made by NAPA? No, they are made by WIX (which is actually Mann-Hummel Corp in Europe) see how many names just popped up there? M/H makes Wix which makes NAPA Gold (and only the GOLD) filters. Puts the NAPA name on it and ships it out.

Another item (like milk) Store brand oil.... It's the same, right? No, it's not. Not even remotely close to the same. Years back, by accident I learned from a counter guy that a specific store brand oil was actually made by Valvoline. A large supplier of many store brands. I don't know if they still do or not, but it's just another case of identity confusion. But I wonder who makes Volvo Penta brand oil? It's a good question and I'm sure a well-hidden secret.

Belts, hoses, manifolds, risers, plugs, ignition parts, water pumps, and the list goes on. Do you think West Marine makes their own batteries? No DEKA East Penn makes them and puts the West Label on them.

My point on all of this is simply wrapped up this way:

1. Review your warranty status and the terms.
2. Research who the real company behind the "curtain" is (the real manufacturer)
3. Make sure the parts used meet all requirements of your engine manufacturer before saving a few dollars?

Or just stick with OEM if you're not sure. That's our policy at Glassic!

2024 Awards of Distinction Honorees

*On behalf of the Chris-Craft
Commander Club, we present
Awards of Distinction to:*



Jeremy Goldstein

*In recognition of his continued
support and dedication to
the mission and goals of the
Chris-Craft Commander Club
for being the number one
contributor in 2022 to the
Club's Resource Collection and
beta testing the new website*



Lee Dahlen & Chris Orphal
*Top contributors in 2023 to the
Club's Resource Collection and
beta testing the new website*



Tim Toth & Warren Whitmore
*Top contributors in 2023 to the
Club's Resource Collection*

**Tim Miller, Jim Frens,
Whitney Pillsbury,
Alarik von Hofsten,
Terry Sorensen,
Steve Riley and
Robert Simiriglio**
*For beta testing the new
CommanderClub.com website.*



Tim Miller



Jim Frens



Whitney Pillsbury



Alarik von Hofsten



Terry Sorensen



Steve Riley



Rob Simiriglio

*We congratulate these twelve
members and appreciate
their active participation in
promoting and preserving the
Chris-Craft Commander line of
pleasure craft.*

Commander Insurance Opportunity



Insurance for all life's risks

Navigate Risk Advisors and Hagerty Insurance are providing the best coverage for your Commander and giving you the peace of mind you need while on the water. They've created a special program for Commander Club members.

Program Features:

Watercraft Liability -

Protection and indemnity if you are responsible for injuries to another person, or damage to their boat or their property.

Pollution Liability - helps cover reasonable cost and expenses and includes damage to property or cleanup resulting from unintentional spillage of a contaminant.

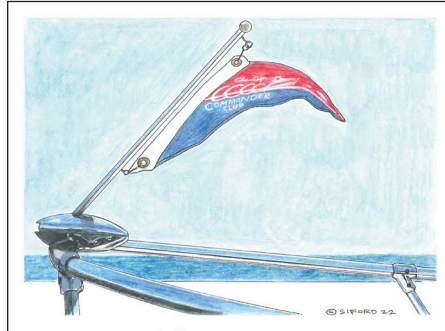
Medical Payments - help with necessary medical expenses resulting from an accident causing bodily injury to any person while in, upon boarding, or leaving your boat.

Paid Crew (Jones Act) - Coverage for legal obligations you have to those that run and maintain your boat.

Upon completing the on-line application, the program will review your boater's resumé for eligibility in **waiving the Boat Survey requirement.**

[Navigate Risk Advisors application](#)

Chuck Siford Originals & Nautical Art Prints



"Burgee"



"Bow Badge"

Shown above are two of the artworks Chuck had on display last August at the Rendezvous at Cedar Point.

Chuck has original art and high-quality prints available. He also offers a "Custom Black & White Pen & Ink Drawing of your Commander!"

If you are interested in learning more about Chuck's art, purchasing a piece, or commissioning him to draw your boat, reach out to chucksiford@gmail.com or visit his website sifordideas.com for more details!

The Dock Shop:

Check out the Dock Shop at CommanderClub.com for Commander Club Shirts, Mugs, Duffle bags and more. There are also items available for specific models!



Cccc White Dog T-Shirt



Cccc White Tile Coaster



CCCC Wall Clock



Cccc Polyester Tote Bag

Boat U.S. Membership Renewal:

If you are renewing your Boat U.S. Membership, be sure to mention our Cooperating Group ID number: GA85017B to get a specially reduced rate on towing.