



Root Beer Float

**Root Beer and
Checker Club**
Established 1944
April 2023

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A publication of the

**Root Beer and
Checker Club**

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Issue 199

President's Message

My fellow Checkers!

Well, Spring has definitely arrived. Daffodils are up everywhere, soon to be followed by tulips and deer. Our plans for the following months are equally exciting.



First, the details for the Spring Cocktail Party have finally been set. It will be on May 10 at the Atlantic Highlands Yacht Club, the same venue we had for our party in the Fall. The Club is subsidizing a portion of the costs so the final amount due will be \$55 per person. There will be a cash bar though a complimentary glass of wine is included in the price. Our experience with this location has been excellent so it is sure to be a great time. The downside, however, is that there is limited seating availability. Only the first 60 reservations can be accepted. Therefore, it is critical that you get your notice into Sal Difede and your payment into the Club as soon as possible. We have a cut off date of May 1 so don't let this skip your attention.

On April 18, we will have a speaker. Chris Brenner will be giving a talk about Rumson Hill. Chris has been highly informative and entertaining in the past and we expect a good turnout. Of course, spouses and friends are invited as well. In this regard, it is also important to RSVP to Bill Tice when you get the email about the lunch. We have to let Bahr's know about the likely attendance so that they can arrange for adequate seating for us. Your help here is appreciated.

On April 24th, we will have our monthly birthday cake. Those who still have a sweet tooth should be sure to attend.

We continue to work on plans for other events, a Blue Claws game in June, a Day at the Races perhaps in August, and a guided tour of the Lakehurst Naval Air Station in the Fall. Please let Bill Tice know if you have any interest in these or any other events which you think might be of interest. This helps the planners act accordingly. In this vein, I have to report that the Friday luncheons at Val's are discontinued. Interest quickly fell off to the point that it did not seem worth the effort. If you can think of an alternative venue that you think might work, feel free to explore it and let us know.

And still another matter in which we need your input: the Club website. For a good period of time now, Lew Anderson has made the effort to keep it up and running, all the while being unsure as to who actually uses it. We'd like to hear from you as to whether it is worth Lew's continued efforts. Please let us know if you would want to use the site. If we don't get enough responses, we probably will be shutting it down. **(cont. on page 3)**

Club News

Our Birthdays This Month

Ray Veth	8	Bill Armstrong	15	George Morris	15
Lew Anderson	20	Jim McGuinness	20	Ralph Wyndrum	20

Chris Brenner - Rumson Hill - 4/18 - Details page 5

April's Birthdays Cake - Bahr's Tuesday 4/25

Count Basie Theater: **Guys and Dolls** - May - 7 - 2023

Ed Fenton at ... 732-859-7158 ... or ... E-mail: efentonjr@gmail.com

Spring Cocktail Party - May 10th - AHYC

1 Simon Lake Drive Atlantic Highlands, NJ

\$55 p/p - cash bar - Further details page 4

Phoenix Productions 2023-2024 Season Shows:

7/23, 9/24, and 3/3/2024 - Details page 6

FYI - Fall Cocktail Party

Boat House at the Rumson Golf and Country Club

September 13th - \$68 p/p

Events under consideration: 1) A visit to Lakehurst Naval Air Station, and 2) a BlueClaws baseball game in August. Please let Jim Powers know if interested.

Seamuspowers@yahoo.com

FYI - If anyone is having a problem with transportation to our lunches or special events, please let Jim Powers (seamuspowers@yahoo.com) know.

Note - Emails from Dona Topinka are your RB&CC invoices !

Special Note - With respect to everyone's health, anyone with COVID symptoms, anyone living with a person with COVID symptoms, or exposed to anyone who is still within the quarantine time-frame (5 days) should not attend the lunch.

Club News (cont.)

President's Message continued,

Speaking of shutting down, we now conclude with a subject near and dear to your President's heart (if he has one). The election of new officers and board members is on the horizon and, although and agreed upon slate may be proposed, our Bylaws provide any member or group of members may propose and have a vote on any alternative slate. If you have such a proposal, or if you or someone you think of might be interested in serving the Club as an officer or board member for the coming year, please let Marty Torbert know.

As for me, I will be busy preparing my Farewell Address. In the meantime, never forget: "You can't say I didn't warn you."

Terry Flynn



**Hats ! We've got Hats !
Thanks to Terry Flynn
for making this
happen !**

**\$22 each billed
through
monthly invoices.**



**March's
Birthday Cake
via Jim Powers**



Club News (cont.)

Blue Claws Game

Once again we are planning to attend a Blue Claws game with the date to be determined. Please let me know if you are interested in attending. The game tickets are \$16 each. On Sundays the game is a matinee usually starting at 1:05 or 2:00 pm. Let me know if you would prefer an afternoon game. Evening games start at 7:00. You would be responsible for getting there on your own.

Lakehurst Naval Air Station

Tours of the hangers and their history are given on Wednesdays and the second and fourth Saturdays from 9:30am to 1:00pm. The following must be provided for a security check: first name, middle name, last name, birth date, and state and driver's license number. If you don't have a driver's license then a state ID will do. Passports are not accepted. This information must be provided at least two weeks prior to the tour. Once again, I'm trying to get a sense of the number of participants. Please let me know if you are interested.

Jim Powers, seamuspowers@yahoo.com

* * * **Monmouth Park - Day at the Races - August timeframe ?** * * *
Let us know if interested !

RB&CC Annual Membership dues and other payments

In order to clarify the process and maintain sound fiscal financial policy please note that the RB&CC Board of Directors has agreed to the following:

Annual membership dues are \$120 due July 1st with invoices being emailed June 1st, payments for luncheons are due monthly, payments for special events such as Spring, Fall and Christmas/Holiday parties are due in advance of the dates involved.

The Board has agreed to monitor and send out reminders as needed.

CARE COMMITTEE

Note, that if anyone should know of a fellow member being ill, incapacitated or unfortunately deceased, please let one of the Board members know, so that as a club we can get in touch with a phone call, get well/sympathy card, or visit to a hospital or

Club News (cont.)



The Root Beer and Checker Club

*Cordially invites you to attend our
Spring party at the*



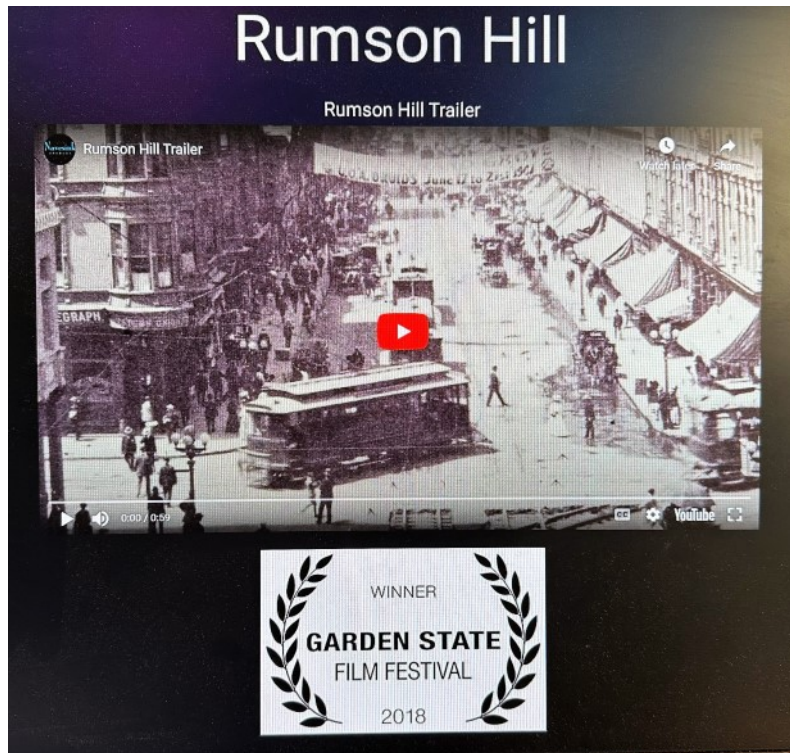
The event will be held

May 10th from 6:00PM to 8:30PM

Upon arriving you will be welcomed with a complimentary glass of wine followed by passed hors d'oeuvres and a sumptuous buffet dinner followed by coffee and dessert. Live entertainment will be provided.

Due to limited capacity, the club can accommodate only 60 guests. Reservations must be received by May 1st and will be accepted on a first-come basis. If you plan on attending please email me at difedes@verizon.com and promptly mail a check for \$55 per person to the Root Beer & Checker Club, P.O. Box 6121, Fair Haven, NJ 07704. Be sure to annotate Spring Party in the comment section of the check.

Rumson Hill - Chris Brenner - Preview



"Chris Brenner will return to speak at our lunch on **Tuesday, April 18**. His focus will be on his film, **"Rumson Hill"**, which won an award at the 2018 Garden State Film Festival.

Did you ever wonder why there are so many large Sycamore trees lining Buttonwood Drive, Fair Haven in such orderly fashion? Did you ever wonder what that now-demolished bridge was doing over Ridge Road? Whether or not you were ever puzzled by these local phenomena, you will be intrigued by Chris's documentary about the fascinating history behind them.

Chris is a film hobbyist, who produces documentary films that mostly focus on the history of eastern Monmouth County. His film, "Highland Beach" (the subject of Chris's talk to us Checkers about 6 years ago) won an award at the Garden State Film Festival in 2017. "What About An Airport?" (also the subject of a RB&C previous lunch program), was selected for showing at the 2020 Garden State Film Festival. "Against The Tide: A Surfer's Journey" was selected for showing at the 2021 Garden State Film Festival. In 2022 he produced, "100 Years - Past, Present and Future", about the 100 year history of Congregation B'nai Israel. Most recently, he released, "Above Fair Haven", an adorable vignette about the town many of us call home, as seen from the vantage of the birds that fly over our heads.

Chris's films can be accessed via his website, "Destinations Past" which can be found on his Facebook page by the same name or by a web search."

Al Zager

Club News (cont.)

Phoenix Productions 2023-2024 Season Shows:

It is time to **renew** the RB&C tickets for **Phoenix Productions** shows:

Cost remains the same as last year for **3 Shows: \$117 per ticket.**

NOTE: Last year we did get a discount. Each ticket cost was \$114.30. If we can obtain another senior discount a credit will be issued. Of course, that is TBD!

Shows & Dates:

The Music Man - Sunday July 23, 2023, at 2:00 PM

The Music Man follows fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill, as he attempts his greatest con: getting the people of River City, Iowa to purchase instruments and uniforms for a boys' band he vows to organize — despite the fact he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef. Hill's plans to skip town with the cash are foiled when he falls for Marian, the librarian with a scandalous reputation. But can she transform him into a respectable citizen and create a marching band before Harold skips town or is arrested for fraud? With a classic score including *76 Trombones*, *Trouble*, *Wells Fargo Wagon*, and *Till There Was You*, this family friendly celebration of traditional American values combined with modern American get-rich-quick schemes is a contemporary masterpiece.

In The Heights – Sunday, September 24, 2023, at 2:00 PM

From the creator and star of *Hamilton* comes Lin-Manuel Miranda's first Tony Award-winning musical, a love-letter to the community in upper Manhattan where he still lives. *In The Heights* tells the universal story of a vibrant community in New York's Washington Heights neighborhood – a place where the coffee from the corner bodega is light and sweet, the windows are always open, and the breeze carries the rhythm of three generations of music. It's a community on the brink of change, full of hopes, dreams, and pressures, where the biggest struggles can be deciding which traditions you take with you, and which ones you leave behind. A hip-hop musical with a salsa beat, *In the Heights* is the winner of the 2008 Tony Awards for Best Musical, Best Score, Best Choreography and Best Orchestrations.

Ragtime the Musical – Sunday, March 3, 2024, at 2 PM

Based on the novel by E.L. Doctorow, this musical tapestry follows the journeys of an African-American family, a Jewish immigrant family, and a wealthy white suburban family in turn-of-the-last-century America, who collide in pursuit of their American Dream. Nominated for 13 Tony Awards® including "Best Musical," and winning for "Best Original Score" (including the songs *Never Go Back to Before* and *Wheels of a Dream*) and "Best Book of a Musical," *Ragtime* is a powerful portrait of life during the turn-of-the-last-century, exploring America's timeless contradictions of freedom and prejudice, wealth and poverty, hope and despair.

**If any questions, contact Ed Fenton at efentonjr@gmail.com.
We need to get the tickets by mid-April in order to get the best seats.**

Member Photos - Al Zager



March 2023

**Here are a couple photos for
the Float showing the latest in
Checker fashion at
"Potter's by the Sea"
in Anegata,
British Virgin Islands.**

**That's me with the restaurant
proprietor, Sam-with-a-plan.**

Al Zager



Member Photos - Marty Torbert - 3/31



What to RB&CC's bikers do when they're not biking ... **BOCCE** ! Left to right Jim Weythman, Dennis Swijter, Steve Draper, and Marty Torbert. Looks like Dennis with an "red air ball" below.



Member Photos - Marty Torbert - 3/31 (cont.)



Jim (above) and Steve (below) in action. If you look real close in the photo above you can see a little white ball called the jack , a.k.a. a *boccino* ('little bocce') or *pallino* ('bullet' or 'little ball') in Italian depending on local custom, next to the green ball. Great toss Jim !



Member Photos - Bill Tice

On our trip to Venice, Italy in 2008 we couldn't help but notice the beautiful masks in all the shop windows. As per the all knowing internet the wearing of the masks goes back to the 12th Century. It is speculated that it was a response to rigid class structures. Eventually it was limited to their Carnival Season.

Wear a mask and be anyone you want to be !





Valentine's Day 2023 luncheon photos at Bahr's.



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*We all long for
smooth sailing.*



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Songs of Martin Torbert 

Recorded by the artist "Fezziwhig" available on the Web at:
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Cartoon of the Month !

