The Fourth of July & the Boat Parade of the 1990s Chapter #25

At the May 1990 SLCOA monthly meeting, Al Stringham reported that the parade participants would meet at 1 PM, July 4th and the parade would begin at 2 PM. Al would place ads in the Perry Pennysaver in May and June. There would be four divisions of prizes. Al made arrangements for trophy-type prizes and for the use of approximately 3 party barges. Val Kelly, coordinator of the Sea Serpent Queen contest plans to have girls in the boat parade. The Ring of Fire was held on Tuesday, July 3rd at 10 PM.

The flares came in the first weekend in June and will be stored in Jack's garage. There would be no free flares with membership dues this year (1990) the cost per flare was $1.25. At the August 25th Annual Meeting, Phyllis Rudman raised the question of air pollution from flares which causes respiratory problems. A possibility was to have fireworks rather than using flares. The profit on 1800 flares was $300 that year. Another possibility was to have smaller light sticks.

Al Stringham did not respond on the outcome of the Boat Parade. Doug Klein called Al and the Boat Parade was put on the next meeting's agenda. Ron Straitiff reported he ordered 60 cases of flares instead of the usual 75 cases for the Ring Of Fire for the 1991 July 4th Celebration because there were 17 cases left over from 1990 sales. Ron Straitiff would get together with Jack Hourihan to discuss storage. The Ring of Fire was held Wednesday, July 3rd. Chris brought up the issue of pollution caused by the flares. It would be discussed at the next meeting. Doug suggested the issue be communicated in the winter newsletter to poll members about the Ring of Fire.

Ron Straitiff found a new distributor for the flares. They would remain at the cost of $1.25 per flare and were available at the June 22 meeting along with the directories and newsletters that begun at 9 AM at the Country Club.

Jane Bellamy of Silver Lake Marine mentioned she was interested in working on the boat parade as Al Stringham wanted to quit organizing the parade. At the March 1993 monthly meeting a memorial for former SLCOA President Howard Benedict was suggested by a longtime friend and neighbor Vince Cali to remember Howard by renaming the annual boat parade. A motion was made and passed and the boat parade was now renamed the Howard Benedict Memorial Boat Parade; plaques and trophies that were given at the parade would bear his name.

It was asked if there were any leftover flares that Conesus Lake could use them. They were still $1.25. Mrs. Benedict would be asked for the use of her garage or pick them up from Ron Straitiff of Eberstein Tract. It was reported at the July 1993 meeting that there were 9-10 cases of flares leftover. It was discussed that next year with advanced notice the flares could be centrally located to cut down on leg work by tract directors. A suggestion was to post signs where the flares were available like in years past; while people now expected delivery from tract directors, signs would let cottagers know where they can pick them up. Silver Lake Marine would have 2 – 3 cases and a sign that the flares would be there.

Under new business at the July 1993 Annual meeting Elaine read a note of thanks from Mrs. Debbie Benedict thanking the SLA for renaming the Annual Boat Parade on Silver Lake in honor of her husband and former SLCOA President, Howard Benedict. For the first time the winners of the boat parade were listed in the meeting minutes. The float winners were: Rich Eliasz's wood boat (Classic); the Stockmaster Family – Betsy Ross and friends (most patriotic); Fay and Sarah Clark – Mickey Mouse Club (most original); and Robynn and David Stone – Jungle Book (most humorous).

At the May 14, 1994 SLA meeting it was mentioned that Jane Bellamy worked alone last year on the Boat Parade. She would not be able to do it this year and gave two names of people who might. Elaine contacted one who could not due to surgery and had not received a response from the other. Jane felt that the parade needed more

promotion, possibly lead boat with music. Lorraine ordered 4 plaques to present to the winners of the Boat parade (most original, humorous, patriotic, and classic). The Chamber of Commerce would be contacted on the Sea Serpent Queen and contestants participation.

Vince Cali suggested SLA have an entry in the Sea Serpent Festival Parade. A suggestion that was made was to have two signs with the new name and logo that could be affixed to cars riding in the parade. A motion was passed to accept Tim Humberstone's quote of $185 for 2 magnetic signs with the new logo; he would have them completed within a week.

At the April 1995 meeting Lorraine said she was working on the details of the boat parade. In May she would bring samples of the new trophies that were available at Crestview Jewelers. When she brought them in for the SLA to see, the group approved of them. Trophies would bear the SLA logo and parade name. They would cost slightly more than the plaques. Lorraine would handle the parade with Sea Serpent contestants as the judges and discuss the lineup at the south end of the lake with Jane Bellamy of Silver Lake Marine.

Ron reported that he received a call from Jim Daly of Perry Ambulance over the winter requesting that Perry Ambulance purchase flares from the SLA as they were out and unable to obtain more right away. Ron discussed this matter with Elaine and agreed to donate a box of flares (estimated cost $37.) to the Perry Ambulance. The Board liked the gesture and agreed to support this if it were to occur again in the future.

The discussion of insurance premiums was given by Vince Cali. While the SLA Board members were covered, the SLA was exposed to greater risks as a flare vendor. The Board discussed eliminating flare sales and possibly having the marinas handle the sales. Vince felt the SLA was not unjustified in approaching marinas and possibly K. Bohn of the Lakeshore restaurant (Country Club) about selling the flares and eventually halting the association's role regarding them.

Bill reported on the figures he received from the Erie Insurance Company and Vince gave an overview on the SLA policy from General Accident. The policy SLA had covered $100,000/$200,000 for $500 premium. Eire Insurance offered $1 million/$1 million at a similar or lower premium. Bill would obtain more information on Erie Insurance and the Long Agency.

A motion was approved at the August 1998 meeting to give blue ribbons to the runner ups of the Boat parade. Don wanted to encourage people with antique/reproduction boats to participate in the parade.

Lorraine mentioned that her brother would be interested in the fireworks committee. The SLA's sponsorship would be unlikely since fireworks are illegal and would be an insurance risk. The SLA would publish something in the winter newsletter. Lorraine's brother should pursue this matter with the local fire department.

In May of 1999 Lorraine reported that $80 in firework donations were received and $10 more from the mail was added to this total. People were not waiting for the word that the firework show would be a go and were sending in checks payable to the SLA. Even after the letters announcing the new Silver Lake Fireworks Fund go out, it was likely people would continue before giving them to Mary for deposit. The Fund was at the Bank of Castile. In July 1999 or sometime near that date, Lorraine would request SLA to cut a check for the total deposits for fireworks received by then. Silver Lake Golf Club Board is hosting the show July 3rd. Due to the confusion the first year, Lorraine requested and received permission from the SLA Board to handle the deposits accordingly and to use the SLA PO Box number. It was vitally important that the Fireworks Fund monies be tracked and separated from the dues and flare money.

In July Rich commended Lorraine for organizing the fireworks display on July 3 and asked her to report. The display was an independent effort but enjoyed the SLA support through its mailbox and treasury as many donations were made to the SLA and not the dedicated Fireworks Fund. The donations exceeded the $3,000 needed to pay for the

fireworks and covered mailing and copying costs. Many people supported the display through notes and donations. 250 contributed to the fund and wanted it to become an annual tradition. Only one person opposed it citing it would lead to commercialization. Members would be asked to support the 2000 show for which the Golf Club Board extended another invitation to use its pier. The Silver Lake Fireworks Fund would remain in the Bank of Castile.