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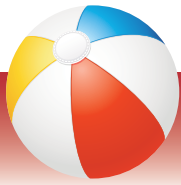


ON THE COVER

CHEROKEE SUNSET

The sunset on Geneva Lake is especially beautiful from the Cherokee, a 100-year-old antique yacht available to book for small group outings.

HEIDI SCHULZ PHOTO
Spirit of Geneva Lakes



IT'S COMIN' UP

AUGUST EVENTS

Lake Geneva Concerts in the Park – Soak up the sounds of summer! Gather your lawn chairs, picnic blankets and dancing shoes and visit the breathtaking shore of Geneva Lake as Concerts in the Park returns to the Brunk Family Pavilion in Flat Iron Park, 201 Wrigley Dr., Lake Geneva.

The concerts are free and fun for all ages. Here's the remaining lineup for this summer:

Aug. 1 – Haulin' Brass, sponsored by Habush, Habush & Rottier

Aug. 8 – Natty Nation, sponsored by Lake Geneva Balloon Company

Aug. 2-3 Neon Nights Music Festival

– two-day passes, single-day passes and VIP packages available for this event, featuring Trace Adkins, Wynonna, Sammy Kershaw, Aaron Tippin, Collin Raye, Mark Wills, Eddie Montgomery and John Michael Montgomery, presented by Kunes Auto Group at the Walworth County Fairgrounds in Elkhorn. For details including performance times and tickets, visit neonnightswi.com.

Saturday train rides – Take a 14-mile train ride on the only remaining electric interurban tracks in Wisconsin. Historic museum and carefully maintained rail cars from 90 to 100 years ago. Stops at the Elegant Farmer. 15 miles north of Lake Geneva on Highway 120. Trains depart hourly between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. from East Troy Depot at 2002 Church St. Tickets are \$16, adults; \$10, kids; \$13.50, seniors; free, children 2 and younger. For more information, visit easttroyrr.org or call 262-642-3263.

Daily, through Aug. 30 'We Like to Dive Right In' – A Wisconsin History Makers Tour that's available daily on the Lake Geneva Public Library grounds, 918 W. Main St.

Did you know there are more than 700 shipwrecks in Wisconsin waters? They are a key resource for learning about maritime history. Though written documents provide much information about the past, they cannot tell the full story. Dive in and see the outdoor display to explore how underwater archaeologists uncover, document, and preserve this lost history.

The History Makers Tour is presented by Culver's and is made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Fontana Music in the Park – In conjunction with Fontana's 100th Anniversary Celebration, concerts will be held, 3 to 5 p.m. on the following Sundays:

Aug. 11 – South for Winter; Aug. 25 – Great Sax Band; Sept. 1 – Tae.

The concerts will be held at the Reid Park gazebo. Guests should bring their own chairs; no alcohol is permitted on site. Reid Park is off of Fontana Boulevard and Third Avenue.

Local Farmers Markets

Lake Geneva Farmer's Market – Held 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays in downtown Lake Geneva, rain or shine. Farmers, artisans, craftsmen and vendors offer up some of the area's very best.

Horticultural Hall is at 330 Broad St., Lake Geneva. For more information, visit horticulturalhall.com (and read the story featured in this issue.)

Williams Bay Farmers Market – Williams Bay Farmers Market is a boutique Friday market, held 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., with a variety of farmers, makers and bakers with home-grown, hand-made, and home-made foods and goods. All local produce, fresh cooked dishes, baked goods, sweet treats, fresh flowers, hand-made jewelry, hand-designed art and décor, soaps, and gifts.

Edgewater Park is on Geneva Street, Williams Bay. For more information, email williamsbayfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Market at Tower Park, Delavan – Home-grown & hand-crafted items, fresh produce, eggs, baked goods, plants, and more. Join community organizations and neighbors on Thursdays, June 6 through Sept. 19, from 3 to 7 p.m. The market is at Tower Park, between Walworth Avenue and Park Place in downtown Delavan. For more information, email info@delavanwi.org.

Saturdays on the Square, Elkhorn – This farmers market is on Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. It features a variety of fresh produce, crafts, commercial products and more. Vendors set-up on a first come first serve basis with plenty of room for all who attend. Find food trucks and a morning workout on the square and get your weekends started off right!

Held at Veterans Park, 100 W. Walworth St., Elkhorn. For more information, email info@elkhornchamber.com.

Geneva Outdoor Market – Lake Geneva House of Music presents the Geneva Outdoor Market, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sundays. Celebrating local farmers, producers, food and beverages and artisans.

Held on the Lake Geneva House of Music festival grounds, N3241 County Trunk H, Lake Geneva. For more information, email chris@LGHOM.com.

The calendar of events is compiled from a variety of sources including area chambers of commerce and visitor bureaus and contains events available as of press time.

Dates and times may change, and events may be canceled. Please verify details and locations prior to making plans.

THE SPIRIT

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They jump for a chance at this job

Carrying on the tradition of mail delivery on Geneva Lake

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

Early on a recent morning, the Walworth, also known as the U.S. Mailboat of the Lake Geneva Cruise Lines, began a cruise on Geneva Lake. The Walworth usually leaves at 10 a.m. when delivering the mail, but on this day, the boat was on a special journey.

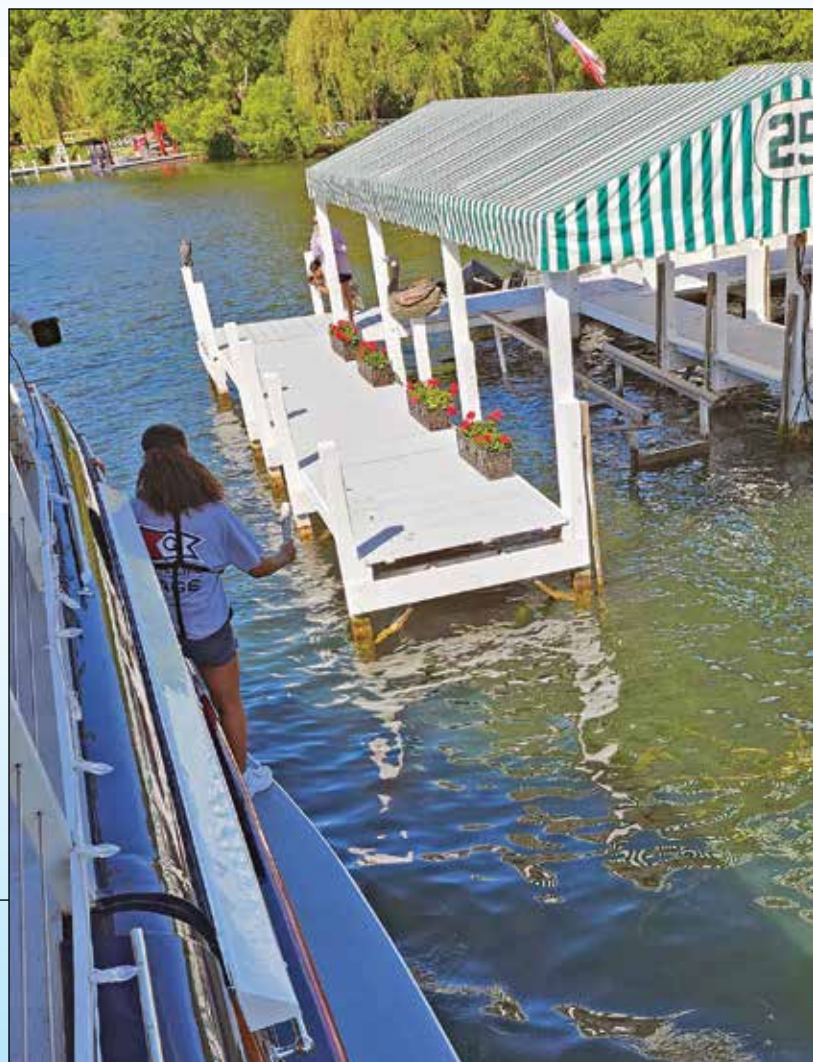
This was the day when the prospective applicants were auditioning for the job of mail jumper for this summer. A total of twelve gathered in the front of the boat, ready to display their skills.

They all seemed to know each other, and were sharing stories and concerns about the day. To become the mail jumper is not just a question of jumping, but also performing other needed tasks during the cruise. The mail must be sorted, as there is no time to do so while they are delivering the mail and moving from pier to pier.

In addition to delivering the mail, the mail jumper must also read some of the live narration of the growth of the Lake Geneva area, especially pointing out the special summer cottages – mansions of the rich and famous – along the shore of Geneva Lake. The job of narration is shared by the mail jumper, when not jumping, and the Captain. Homes of well-known families are identified – such as the Wrigley Compound, with their six homes currently on their estate.

So, on this day, the applicants took turns reading the history. Some had done this before, as they previously have been mail jumpers. The judges listened and graded them.

“Being a mail jumper is the most sought-after job,” said Ellen



above: After tryouts for this year’s team of mail jumpers, the applicants gather outside the Walworth to commemorate the experience. **at right:** Pier 25 has some special traditions including jumpers giving the mailbox goose a kiss. If time allows, the owl at the end of the pier also gets a kiss or a pat on the head.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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Burling, general manager of Lake Geneva Cruise Lines. "In order to try out for the job, you have to have worked for the Cruise Lines for at least a year. Each year, the jumpers reapply for the job. Being a mail jumper one year does not guarantee you will be chosen the next year."

Like many Lake Geneva Cruise Line employees, Ellen is a past mail jumper, having held that position in 1984. Being a mail jumper is often a family affair. Ellen's sister was a mail jumper, as were her son and daughter.

Special delivery

For most people, grabbing their mail means opening the front door and pulling it out of the mailbox, or walking down the driveway to the postal box along the road where the mailman deposits their mail each day. But for those who live on Geneva Lake, there is another alternative, which is to have their mail and newspaper delivered by boat onto their pier.

Beginning over 100 years ago, receiving the mail on the pier was the only way to receive it, as there were not any roads around the lake and delivery of mail. Everything else from building materials to food supplies arrived by boat as well. Boat arrival was also the way the residents were transported to their homes on arrival.

This was only done in the summer, as these "summer cottages" were for the most part not insulated or built with furnaces to



Gathered on the pier after jumping off the boat and running the prairie path, the group waits on a pier further down for the boat to pick them up.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

allow occupancy year-round. On the first cool days of fall, the owners packed their belongings and returned to the city.

It was in 1916 that the idea was suggested that delivering the mail by boat could be made much more exciting if they added mail jumpers to leap off the boat, deliver the mail to the mailbox on the pier, and return to the boat and jump back on before it finished passing the dock without stopping.

At the time, the mail jumpers chosen were all athletic, long-legged men, who

were thought to be able to handle the jump from the boat over the 4 to 8 feet of water between the boat and the pier.

Women can jump, too

This went on until 1974, when Elaine Kanelos decided she needed a summer job, and that job would be that of the mail jumper. Living on Geneva Lake and collecting the family mail each day in the summer, she chose to go right to the top. She sent a letter to Bill Gage, Sr., head of the

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Gage Marine Boat Company as it was called at the time and told him of her desire to be a mail jumper. Much to her surprise, three weeks later she received a positive response from Gage and was given the job.

Her first day on the job also served as her tryout. She passed the tryout and successfully delivered the day's mail. Over the next 10 years, many more women have made the cut.

According to Ellen, there was one point where all the mail jumpers were women. Today, everyone is welcome to apply, and it varies but this year one young man tried out while all of the other applicants were women.

While the Walworth normally has 150 passengers aboard to view this unique way of delivering mail, on tryout day, only a few invited guests were aboard the boat.

First, there was a group of judges who would be scoring the jumpers as they made their jumps and did their readings. Most of the judges seem to have been mail jumpers in the past.

Also aboard were a few members of the press and some honored guests, including a 5-year-old who is determined to be a mail jumper when he is older and wears his mail jumper shirt proudly.

Bruce Pett, who was a mail jumper 60 years ago, returns every few years to watch the tryouts.

Unique summer job

All the people trying out this year are enrolled in colleges all across the country, but in the summer, they return home to Lake Geneva. Many of them have been employed at Lake Geneva Cruise Lines for several summers, and some have been mail jumpers for as many as three years, while others are hoping to make the cut this year for the first time.

"I was able to jump twice last year, and it was truly one of the best days of my life," shared Mia Fiscelli. "I have lived on Geneva Lake my whole life, and being a mail jumper has always been a dream of mine. I love giving the tour and talking about the history of the lake."

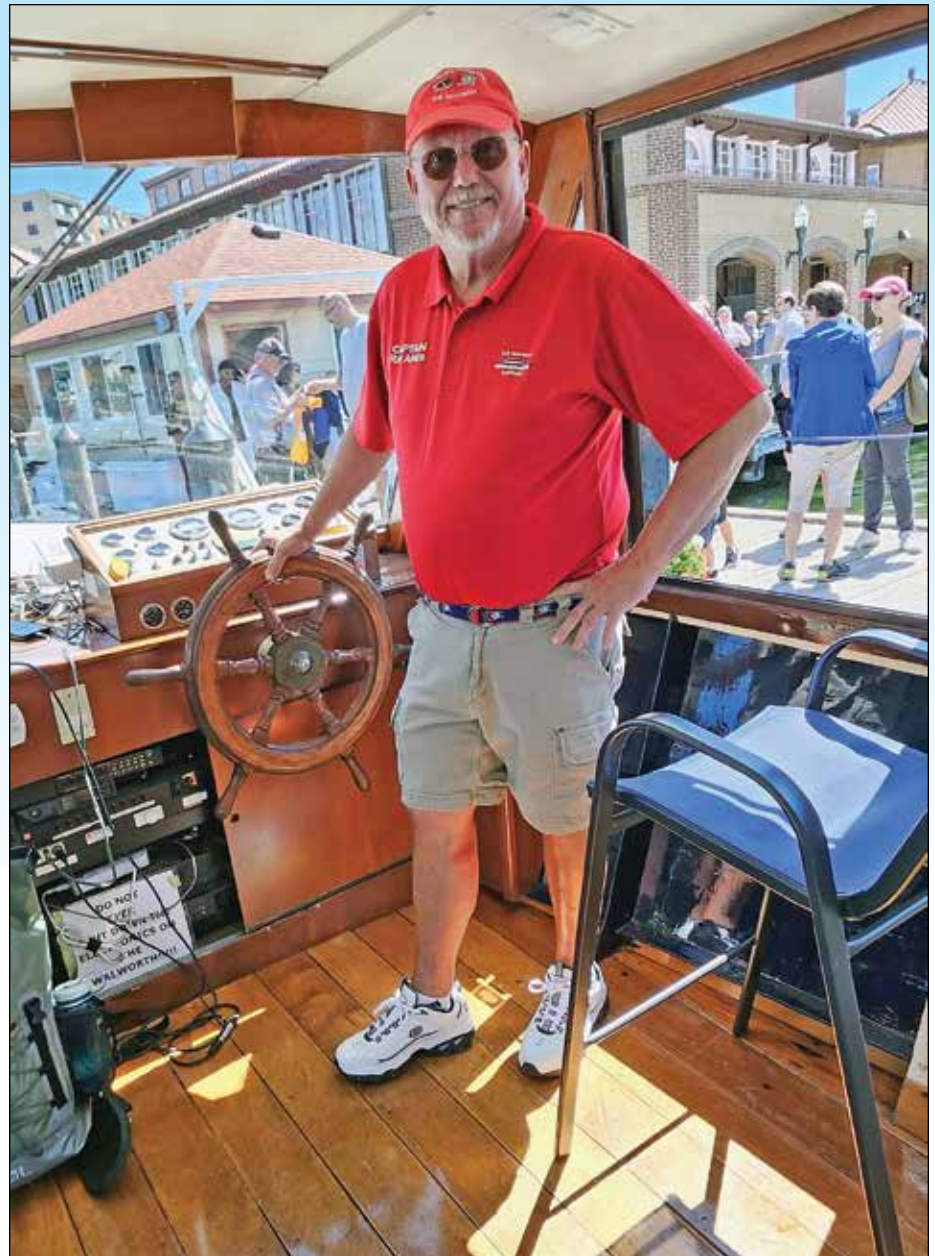
Mia also said jumping onto the pier is the easiest part of the jump.

"It is jumping back to the boat that is more difficult. There is more timing required," she explained.

at right: Annie McEneaney, a four-year employee of the cruise line, smiles as she awaits her turn to jump, hoping to make the team for the second year in a row.

far right: Former mail jumper Sid Pearl announces the procedure for tryouts while the mailboat makes its way toward the first pier a jump will be made. **top:** Captain Ray Ames, shown after docking the Walworth near The Riviera in Lake Geneva, became captain of the mailboat tours in 2019 after the retirement of Captain Neill Frame who handled the duty for more than 40 years.

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Mia attends the University of Colorado and is active in ice hockey and lacrosse. She has finished her first year on the hockey team in Colorado and was ranked in the top 10 for rookies in Division One of the American College Hockey Association.

Annie McEneaney, a student at the University of Wisconsin working on a degree in special education, has been working for Lake Geneva Cruise Lines for the past four summers.

"This is the best job ever," she said while waiting for her turn to jump. "I was a mail jumper last year and loved it. My sister, who is 6 years older, was a mail jumper, too, several years ago. Working with Captain Ames, (captain of the Walworth) is fun, as he was my band teacher in middle school."

Obstacles a challenge

As the applicants prepared for their jumps, they were called by name and made their way to the window near the front of the boat, which was opened for them to climb out, stand on the ledge, and, as they approached the pier, make the jump.

Each jump is unique, as the placement of the mailbox varies by pier. Some are placed at the front of the pier, meaning they must jump, stop their forward momentum, and grab the mailbox without being catapulted down the pier.

Some piers require running to the back of the pier to the mailbox, zigzagging through the personal belongings of the homeowner that may be scattered on the pier, to reach the mailbox.

Then, there is the return trip to the boat and the leap onto the ledge at the back of the boat before the boat passes by. Even once on the boat, they are not in the clear yet. They then have to walk or run the ledge back to

the front window to grab the next batch of mail for the next pier and be ready to jump again before it's too late.

Captain Ray Ames replaced Captain Neill Frame, in 2019. Like his predecessor, Ames is a people-person who enjoys working with the jumpers as well as the visitors. Ames can be found piloting the Walworth seven days a week throughout the summer.

"Mail is delivered six days, and the newspaper is delivered all 7 days, no mail on Sunday," Ames said. "We currently have 75 homes with a Lake Geneva mailing address that choose to receive their mail on their piers from June 15 through September 15. Our mail jumpers show their athleticism as they leap from the boat to the pier, race to the mailbox, take out any outgoing mail or packages, insert the day's mail, and race back to the boat before I pass the pier.

"Sometimes they don't quite make it and we have to return to pick them up. Occasionally, they miss the boat and end up in the lake," he added.

Landing in the lake on a very hot day is enjoyed by the jumper as a way to cool down. Sometimes the falls are to provide excitement for the boat riders. A planned spill in the lake is always safer, as the captain will move the back end of the boat out a little so the back propellers are away from the jumper, and they don't have a chance of being pulled into the wake of the boat.

Making the cut

After over two hours of tryouts, the boat returned to the pier at the Riviera.

But these prospective jumpers were not finished, because the boat was needed to be readied for a tour of the Lake, which was scheduled to leave a half hour later. It was the applicants who were given the job of

replacing the seating that had been removed for the tryout cruise with traditional seating that will hold the expected number of guests.

In spite of the activity over the previous two hours, they were right at work, all still smiling.

The judges met after the tryouts ended to decide on who would be this year's mail jumpers. According to Ellen, they were judged on a variety of points, including style and the stamina needed to complete the job.

"This was a very difficult group to judge," said Burling. "Never have there been this many good choices."

Yet those tough decisions had to be made and all five jumpers chosen for this summer have previous experience in the job.

This year's chosen jumpers were Marie Nickolette, Gina Weis, Marissa Torres-Raby, Ella Clapp and Michaela Fletcher, according to Ellen.

Marissa has served as a mail jumper for three years, and the other four have each had one year as a jumper.

To purchase tickets for a Mailboat Cruise, visit www.cruiselakegeneva.com/public-tours/usmailboat. The 2 1/2-hour cruise leaves the Riviera Docks at 10 a.m. each morning, loaded with mail, packages and newspapers to be delivered to piers around the lake.

left: The group made their way onto the side walkway of the boat before all jumping onto a pier and running as a group along the prairie path. After running some distance on the path, they gather on a different pier to be picked up by the boat. **right:** Jumpers leave the cabin of the boat through this front window so they can access the walkway used to jump onto the piers and then back onto the boat.

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A sight to see (and experience)

100-year-old wooden boat in the hands of a worthy caretaker

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

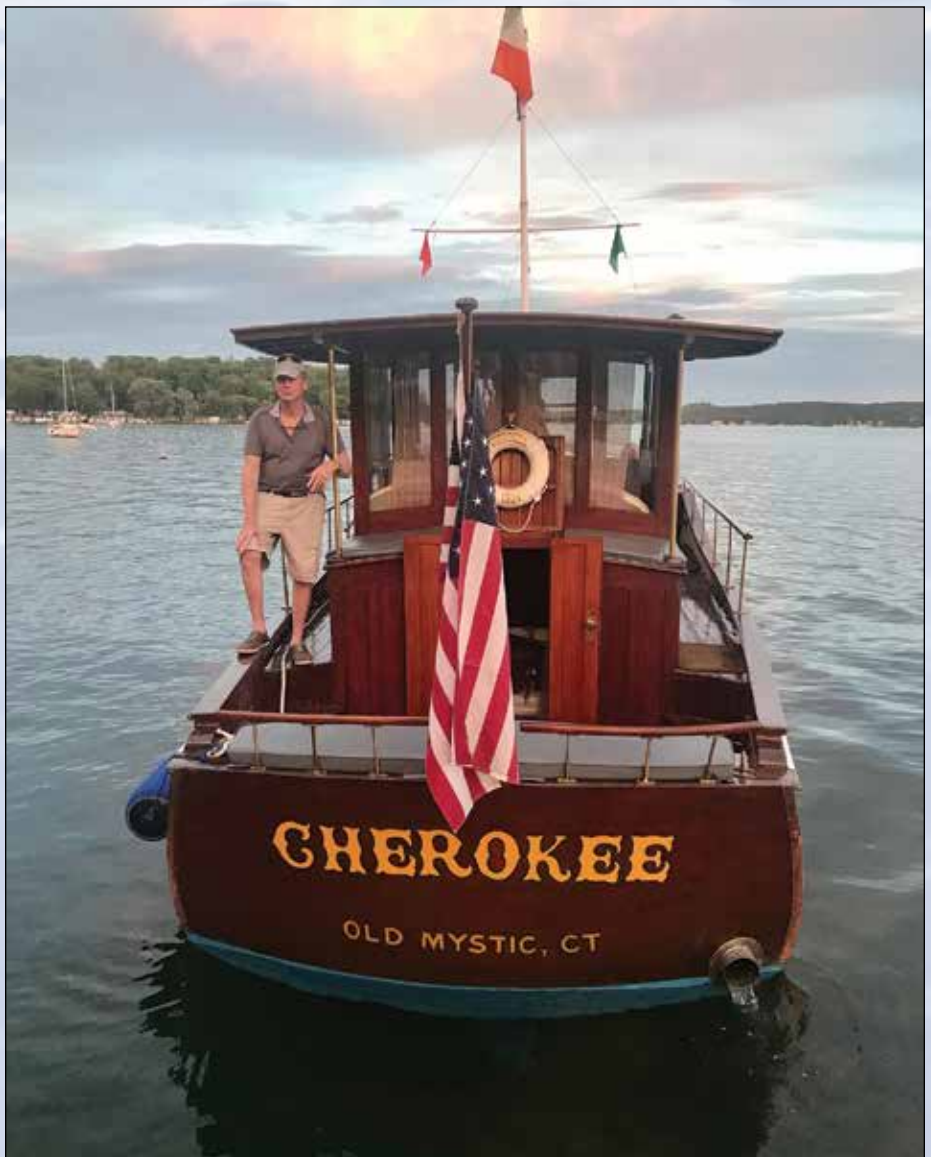
One of the most beautiful sights is boats gliding gracefully across the water on a clear lake, such as those on Geneva Lake. Today, we see a variety of boats out on the lake, from excursion boats taking visitors along the shore to view the mansions built there in the late 1800s to private boats spending a day enjoying time on the water. There are also a few very old wooden boats that cruise through the water, reminiscent of times of old.

These old wooden boats have been on the water for many years, going back to the days when there were no roads around the lake, and everything was delivered to the home site by boat.

When a home was being built, all the materials arrived by boat. When homeowners made the trip Lake Geneva by train, they were transferred to their lake home by boat. When food and other household supplies were needed, again it was the boats that arrived with everything needed for their stay.

While the boats provided the necessities, families also had boats for pleasure. Many of them had their own captain to take them out on their boat, so the entire family could enjoy the day. Visiting neighbors on the other side of the lake also required a boat trip.

“Today, there are not many wood boats left on the water, especially not many that are 100 years old,” said Patrick Maher, owner and Captain of the Cherokee. “My boat, the Cherokee, was built in 1924 in Morris Heights, New York, by Consolidated Ship Builders, for wealthy businessman



above: The Cherokee is a 100-year-old boat available for rental cruises on Geneva Lake.

top: Patrick Maher is the captain of the Cherokee, an antique yacht he restored.

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H.J. Heinz.”

Maher said that in the 1920s, many well-to-do folks traveled from areas such as Connecticut to Manhattan, New York, in their luxury yachts. There was, he said, a place along the Hudson called the Speedway, where the boats would travel faster than a trotting horse to get into the city.

The Cherokee spent most of its life in Old Mystic, Connecticut, sharing the waters with many vintage classic yachts rich in maritime history, making the run to New York City. After a refit in 2002, they sold the Cherokee for \$350,000. It made its longest trip to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and then returned to Old Mystic.

A long trip

“The yacht eventually made its way to Wisconsin, where it was parked on County Road A at an old schoolhouse for over eight months. The yacht was sold to David Young, the Verlo Mattress King. He had it put on a tow bed and shipped to his home in Elkhorn, where it sat on a trailer for seven years. The yacht needed repair, and was used as a playhouse for his children,” Maher explained.

“Eventually, Young hired my brother Dan and I to repair the yacht in his backyard. His goal was to restore it and take it down the Mississippi for a ride, but he passed away before it was ready to go,” he added.

After Young’s death, Patrick Maher and his brother, Dan, who has since passed away, purchased the boat.

Because it had been on that old trailer for so many years, they had to hire two cranes to lift it up onto a new trailer to move it. But move it they did, and Captain Patrick, his brother Dan, and Patrick’s son Zach continued to work on the boat, restoring its beauty and seaworthiness.

Long-time friend and fellow sailor, Richard Biers said Patrick’s work is admirable.

“There is no one who can varnish a boat like Patrick. With his full-body strokes, he leaves a clean, shiny surface that is admired by everyone,” Biers said.

Once the yacht was returned to seaworthiness, it was a while before it made its way to Geneva Lake. Patrick was invited to the Edgewater Hotel in Madison on Lake Mendota, where he spent the summer working and living on the boat.

“This was an open spot, and there was nowhere to hide when storms appeared,” said Patrick. “We spent four days trying to hide from the storms at Picnic Point.”

He spent some time with the boat on Delavan Lake, but ran into difficulty there due to low water. He spent time with the Delavan Sailing School, giving rides around the lake. He also often auctioned off trips around the lake to the carriage trade for amounts from \$100 to \$800 per trip.



top: The inside of the Cherokee has ample seating for groups and is an ideal place to enjoy food items. **above:** Pier 486, which the Cherokee is shown docked at, is known for having antique yachts docked there.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Ongoing project

Today, when not working at his job at the Spring Grove Cemetery selling headstones, all of Patrick’s time is devoted to the boat.

“A wooden boat this old is in need of perpetual care to keep it seaworthy,” Patrick said. “There is always something that needs to be updated to keep the yacht in prime condition. Each year, it is professionally winterized to assure it is water ready when spring appears. Then, when it is ready to be launched, water is poured into the boat to be certain that everything is water tight and does not need additional caulking.”

Then there is the yearly painting and

varnishing that needs to be done. And while it is a lot of work to keep the yacht seaworthy, it is well worth the time and energy to do so, according to Patrick.

It’s not surprising that Patrick loves boats. He grew up in Lake Geneva and had a father who owned boats and was always helping to keep them in shape.

Good to be home

The yacht is now on Geneva Lake at Rainbow Point and can often be seen docked at Pier 486, a pier known for having an antique wooden boat in place, often with someone working on it. The Cherokee gives the look of times of old, when yachts were

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at the dock of every estate on the lakeshore.

When the Cherokee is not docked at the pier, it's out on the water with Captain Maher, giving cruises to private groups on Geneva Lake. The Cherokee offers a variety of customized personal tours to be enjoyed.

"Each tour is two hours long and takes the group along the shore of Geneva Lake. We point out some major places, such as the Wrigley Estate, but refrain from giving the names of the private citizens who live on the shore, as a means of preserving their privacy," he said.

The private tours are ideal for small family reunions, special family events – such as anniversaries and birthdays – or just a small gathering for a group of friends. There might not be anything better than spending a couple of hours on a beautiful antique wooden boat with friends or family members, enjoying time out gliding through the lake water.

For a special corporate excursion, consider a cruise on the Cherokee. Employees will be impressed, and, after two hours on the water, will be refreshed and ready to work harder, possibly in anticipation of another excursion.

The yacht holds about 10 visitors. They can enjoy time out on the deck, inside, or under the roof on the top of the boat. Food and beverages are supplied by those hosting the event, so they can be as intricate or as simple as desired. There is a small refrigerator on board for food or beverages.

"Some of my favorite trips have been the wedding venues. Taking the bride and her father for a last ride alone and delivering them to their wedding venue, often the Riviera, for the ceremony is often an emotional event," Patrick said.

"On the other end of the evening is having the bride and groom board the yacht and be whisked away across the lake to enjoy a quiet cruise together after the excitement of the day, and then be delivered to their bridal suite. What a great way to end the perfect day," he added.

According to Maher, tours can be booked for any day of the week from late June through July, August, September, and even October or early November if the weather permits.

To reserve a cruise for this summer or fall, contact Captain Patrick Maher by calling 262-903-6577.

"I am an old fashioned captain on an old boat, and I do prefer to speak to people by phone. So, call to set up your special cruise."

He also said you do not really own a yacht this old. Rather you are its caretaker and need to do your best so it remains in good shape for the next generation.

"I hope to be remembered as an old man with an old boat when it is my time to leave this world," Patrick said.

But he is not anywhere near there yet. Despite some serious challenges, he continues to enjoy life – especially aboard his 100-year-old yacht.



top: The large windows of the front of the boat can be opened or closed. Either way they offer an amazing view of the lake. **above:** A group of guests spend time outside on the Cherokee during a private cruise.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HEIDI SCHULZ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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A market of all things past

Elkhorn Antique Market has two more shows this year

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

Each summer, visitors are drawn to the Elkhorn Antique Market, which is held on four days spread throughout the summer and early fall season. Visitors coming to the market enjoy the variety of vendors, who come from several states. Many consider the trip to the market an event that they look forward to each year.

“The Antique Market was founded in 1981, and this year will be the 43rd year that it has been held,” said Amy Nottestad, who, along with her husband Nick, has owned the business since 2020.

“The Elkhorn Antique Flea Market was originally started by Nona and Skip Knopp. It started as a small Antique Market and continued to grow over the years,” she explained.

Although the Antique Market has grown, it has not changed its location. It started at the Walworth County Fairgrounds in Elkhorn and remains there today.

What has changed is the number of vendors and vendor spaces that have increased over the years. It was originally a small place and took up only a small section of the fairgrounds.

“Originally, Nona started with 25 vendors to sell antiques and had some local food vendors to provide food for the vendors and the shoppers,” shared Amy. “But it did not take long for the business to begin to grow.”



above: The Elkhorn Antique Market has items of all sizes available, from small trinkets and jewelry to doors and more. **top:** It's spread out over 12 acres of space at the Walworth County Fairgrounds.

ELKHORN ANTIQUE MARKET PHOTOS Spirit of Geneva Lakes

She said that was due to the quality of vendors and merchandise that was available. She and Nick continue to hold the same high standards for their vendors today.

After running the business from the beginning, it came time for Nona to retire. She was concerned about selling the business to a stranger who might not continue to run the business as she had. She worried that they would lose some of the quality vendors and their many long-term fine customers.

Taking over

She was very pleased when Amy and Nick spoke to her about buying the business.

“We had been helping Nona in the summer when she had shows for several years. She was a friend of my mother-in-law, which is how we became involved,” Amy said.

“And my husband and I were both teachers, so we were free in the summer. It was a fun thing to do, and we learned a lot from Nona about putting together the Market,” she said.

Many people thought a business that was only open four days a year would be a piece of cake to run.

Well, having worked with Nona over the years, Amy and Nick were well aware of just how much was involved. It was not just a simple four days of work a year. It’s a business that takes time throughout the year, and it became obvious to Nick and Amy that this would become a full-time business for them, if they wanted to be successful.

“I begin contacting the vendors in January with the contracts for the coming year. We require them to return the signed contract by March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day – to be certain that they are accepted and again receive the space they desire. Often, they may want



In addition to outdoor space, there are vendors who set up in some of the buildings at the fairgrounds.

ELKHORN ANTIQUE MARKET PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes



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additional spaces, and it may be difficult to provide them in the space where they have been located. We encourage the vendors to do all four shows for the year," she explained. "Once the contracts are returned, we begin to work on the map of where everyone will be set up."

According to Amy, many of the vendors want the spaces they had the previous year. They feel that customers know where they are located, so they can more easily find them in the large 12-acre site. Even when she offers them a better spot more to the front where more visitors will pass by, they often prefer to stay where they are.

Antiques required

"We require true antiques, no craft items, and all items sold must be from the 1970s or older," Amy said. "We want to keep it a true antique show and not turn it into a craft show."

So far, their plan has worked.

They now have 550 spots open to dealers. Depending on the size and amount of the merchandise the vendors bring, they may need several spots to display all their offerings for sale. The dealers are not all local – many are coming from a multi-state area.

Each vendor brings their own unique collections of antiques, often traveling with a large U-Haul trailer. Some may specialize in quality antique jewelry, which takes up less space, while others may have a collection of old automotive parts. For others it may be collectibles, china, statues, books, or silver. Each vendor has a unique collection, and all are proud to display their items.

Archaeological salvage has become very popular, especially with items like corbels. Corbels are items that may be structural or decorative. Traditionally, they are used to support the weight of objects above them, such as the roof or an overhang. The decorative ones may be ornately carved.

Corbels can be created out of stone or wood. Those restoring old homes may be looking for unique corbels, and others may just desire them to add a unique look to their homes. Old windows are also highly desired.

Mixing it up

A unique feature of the Elkhorn Antique Market is the way the booths are set up. In many markets, items are placed together because they are alike. For example, in many markets, all the jewelry vendors are together, all the collectibles together, all the food vendors are in one space and so on.

"We do not do that," Amy explained. "We separate things so that there is a variety in every section of the market. It is a large space to cover for the visitors, and we want to be certain that every visitor has the opportunity to see a variety of



above: Some vendors haul their items to the market in U-Haul trucks or trailers.
top: Visitors can find a variety of treasured items at the antique market.

ELKHORN ANTIQUE MARKET PHOTOS Spirit of Geneva Lakes



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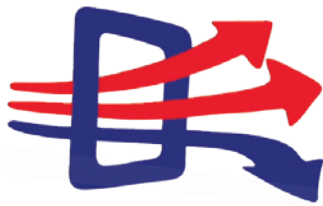
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collections, not just a group of one type of objects, especially if they don't have the stamina to cover the entire event."

The spaces in use are a combination of outdoor spaces and indoor spots that are assigned in various ways. There are eight buildings in use, five of them with concrete floors. These indoor buildings with the floors are usually used for nicer things, like jewelry, or for objects such as books or paper objects that could be damaged in rain or very humid weather, for the event goes on rain or shine.

The dairy barns are also used. These have dirt floors rather than concrete, so they are better suited for machinery, automotive objects, and architectural objects that don't require a spiffy clean space, as they may have oil on them.

Food is another specialty of the market, with a variety of locally produced items found throughout the fairgrounds.

"We try to encourage local foods to participate. And we offer a variety of different types of food that will work well with their shopping day," Amy said. "We have grab-and-go items that customers can pick up and enjoy while they continue browsing the sale and dessert items that can be enjoyed also while on the move. And then there are whole meals which can be taken over to the picnic tables and enjoyed leisurely while the shoppers get a rest in a shaded area."

Locals supported

Many local volunteer agencies are present and creating food for the visitors. The Whitewater Lions are known for their steak sandwiches, and the Elkhorn FFA handles the other end – hot dogs, which are always enjoyed. The Loves Country Pork Producers bring their pulled pork sandwiches, and Anchor Inn in Delavan offers a variety of Mexican foods, while a local bakery provides popular sweets, including their strawberry sundaes and brown éclairs.

And, of course, it would not be a Wisconsin event if there weren't cheese curds. The ones here are from Say Cheese in Spring Green.

You may also want to pick up some fresh produce available from Geneva Lake Produce. Also pick up a bouquet of flowers from Little Miss Sweet Pea to bring some summer sunshine into your home.

Consider a stop at the Elkhorn Antique Flea Market. It's sure to be a fun and active day, and you never know what treasures you might find for your home. Make sure to bring some cash, as some dealers do not accept credit cards – whether they do or not is a choice each individual dealer makes for themselves.

Here are some suggestions to make a visit to the antique market more pleasant.

1. Wear comfortable shoes. There is a lot of walking involved.
2. Bring a cart to put your purchases in.



above: While some vendors sell similar items others have a wide variety of things on display.
top: There is no shortage of items to checkout at the market, for people of all ages.

ELKHORN ANTIQUE MARKET PHOTOS *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

If you think you can carry items bought, you might be mistaken. Many dealers will hold paid items until the end of the day so if needed, buyers can go check out a wagon to collect their purchases and transport them to their vehicle.

3. Stop in the office when you arrive for a map of the grounds to help you find favorite dealers.

4. Have some idea in advance of the items you most likely want to shop for. You may run out of energy before you visit everything so find the most important ones to you first.

5. Wear sunscreen, carry water to stay hydrated, and rest when tired.

6. Enjoy your day.

The final two dates of the Elkhorn Antique Market for the 2024 season will be held on Aug. 11 and Sept. 9, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Parking is available on-site. The entry fee for visitors is \$5.

The Market is held at the Walworth County Fairgrounds, 411 E. Court St., Elkhorn.

For more information call 414-525-2820 or visit www.elkhornantiquefleamarket.com. Note that pets are not allowed on site.

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A sesquicentennial celebration of sailing



Lake Geneva Yacht Club hitting the water for the 150th year this summer

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

This year, the Lake Geneva Yacht Club will celebrate 150 years since the Sheridan Race and the unofficial beginning of the club. While it would not be officially formed for another two years, the Sheridan race was considered the first official event held.

The race was held on Aug. 31, 1874, to honor visiting Civil War Officer Lieutenant General Philip H. Sheridan. He was known for his work in the Civil War and later his coordination of military relief efforts during the great Chicago Fire, which occurred on Oct. 8, 1871.

At the time of his visit to Lake Geneva, Sheridan, a war hero, was stationed in Chicago as the Commander of the Department of the Missouri, a command echelon of the U. S. Army in the 19th

Century.

The trophy that was awarded for this race was called the Sheridan trophy and continues to be awarded each year.

To secure the trophy for this early race, money was raised for its purchase. They wanted to purchase an appropriate trophy for this event. When they raised \$200, they were very pleased, for in 1874 that was a tremendous amount of money.

The Chicago firm of Giles, Brother and Company designed and produced the trophy. It would include a silver replica of the winning boat on the top.

Because the replica of the winning boat could not be created until the race ended and a winner declared, it was close to a year after the completion of the race before the trophy was finished.

This same trophy continues to be awarded each year to the winner of the Sheridan, and the winner's name is inscribed on the trophy with all the other previous winner's names.

The winner of that first race held for Lieutenant General Philip H. Sheridan was a 21-foot, topsail sloop named Nettie, which was sailed by Billy Woods and owned by Julian Sidney Rumsey. Rumsey was a past mayor of Chicago and former

president of the Board of Trade, who enjoyed his summers on Geneva Lake.

The club is formed

It was almost two years later that a group of boat owners gathered at a popular hotel, the Whiting House, and founded the original yacht club, first known as the Geneva Lake Yacht Club. They predated their founding to 1874, the date of the original Sheridan Race. Nathaniel Kellogg Fairbank, of Chicago, was chosen as their first Commodore.

According to Julie Navin, who serves on the Lake Geneva Yacht Club's Board of Directors as both the secretary and head of the trophy committee, the club has occupied four different clubhouses over the years.

The current facility was dedicated in 2015 and is home to both the Lake Geneva Yacht Club and the Geneva Lake Sailing School. Not surprisingly, the entire property – approximately 8 acres – has been named the Buddy Melges Sailing Center, in honor

The current home of the Lake Geneva Yacht Club is on South Lake Shore Drive in Fontana.

It's the fourth home for the club.

PHOTO COURTESY MICHAEL MOORE *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

of Melges and his contributions to sailing.

Established in 1938, the sailing school has been responsible for guiding several excellent sailors. Among these was Harry C. Melges Jr. (1930-2023), known as Buddy.

Melges began attending the sailing school in the 1940s, and his love of sailing soon became apparent. He went on to become one of the most accomplished and respected sailors of his time.

He was an Olympic Gold Medalist in 1972 and won America's Cup Helmsman in 1992.

Melges, with sailing mate Bill Bentsen, were awarded a bronze Olympic medal in 1964. Bentsen, also a well-known Lake Geneva Yacht Club member, was known not only for sailing but also for his contributions to the service of racing, through his long service as a judge of the sport.

"My husband, Bill Bentsen, was inducted into the National Sailing Hall of Fame in 2017 for his contributions in the development of racing rules," shared Ellen Bentson.

Changes over the years

According to the Lake Geneva Yacht Club's website, over the years the types of boats that have been seen sailing and racing on Geneva Lake carrying the Yacht Club's sails have changed.

The early sailing, including the first Sheridan race, was composed mostly of boats known as sandbaggers.

This was a work boat design that carried huge amounts of canvas in jib and mainsail and required a large and fearless crew to shift the 50-pound bags of sands as ballast from side to side as needed with the tack.

For non-sailors, tacking means to change directions by turning the bow of the boat through the wind, according to Davis Instruments, who create a wind-tracking device. This maneuver may require sailors to move the sand bags.

The first Sheridan race consisted of seven boats of various lengths, and the race was 16 miles.

Today, the race is regulated by a trust agreement first created in 1969, which has been amended over the years.

"The race will be of one design Class A Series scows, as defined by the National Class A Scow Association. The race is only open to yachts whose owner and skippers are members in good standing of the Lake Geneva Yacht Club and are eligible to race under its bylaws," the agreement states.

It further states that the race will be held yearly on the last Saturday in August. It will begin at the Yacht Club and for the race to be official, a minimum of one boat must complete the course in six hours.

A summer of celebration

This summer, as the Lake Geneva Yacht Club celebrates the 150th anniversary of



top: Teams race on Geneva Lake while competing in an E Spring Regatta.

PHOTO COURTESY
MORGAN KINNEY
Spirit of Geneva Lakes

above: Two boats with sails unfurled glide across the water.

PHOTO COURTESY
LAKE GENEVA YACHT CLUB
Spirit of Geneva Lakes

at left: Sailors from the Great Lakes U.S. Naval Station lowered the flag on Memorial Day Weekend. At the end of the day, the sailors properly fold it.

PHOTO COURTESY
KELLY OTZEN
Spirit of Geneva Lakes



Boats at the starting point await the signal to start a race on Geneva Lake.

PHOTO COURTESY LAKE GENEVA YACHT CLUB *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

both the club itself and the Sheridan Race, members will be celebrating together.

This year's sailing season began on Geneva Lake at the Yacht Club on Memorial Day Weekend, with a "Back to the Lake" celebration. The lowering of the flag and the playing of taps at sunset was provided by the color guard from the Great Lakes U.S. Naval Air Station.

The tradition of playing the current version of Taps goes back to 1862 during the Civil War and has a connection to the Yacht Club. A young bugler, Oliver Wilcox Norton, played that version of Taps as a signal to the troops that it was lights out.

Many years later, Oliver and his brother Edwin joined the Lake Geneva Yacht Club. Oliver was to become the owner of the Tattler who was the 1892 winner of the Sheridan Prize. His brother Edwin went on to serve as Commodore in 1903

and again in 1904.

"This season, we will be celebrating the Sesquicentennial of the Yacht Club and the first awarding of the Sheridan Trophy. We will be celebrating with many events this year, including a formal Gala. However, because we are a private club, we prefer not to publish those dates," Navin explained.

While most of the club's events are only open to members, many people enjoy watching the regattas from their own boats on the lake or even from the shore. The club will be holding the usual regattas that are normally held throughout the sailing season.

August will feature some additional activities, including the Sheridan Sailing Society Event on Aug. 3. The MC National Championship will be held this year Aug. 21 to 24.

The month of August will end with the Sheridan Prize

Race and Trophy Dinner, with the awarding of the Sheridan Trophy to this year's winner. It's the oldest award given by the Club.

This season will be a time of fun for the members of the Lake Geneva Yacht Club, who will enjoy the 150th anniversary of both the forming of the club and the first event it held - the Sheridan Classic in 1874.

Lake Geneva Yacht Club is located on a beautiful 8-acre lakefront property in Fontana, known as the Buddy Melges Sailing Center, 1250 S. Lakeshore Dr., Fontana.

More information about the club can be found on the website at lgyc.com. To find out about events open to the public or inquire about joining the Yacht Club, call 262-275-2727.

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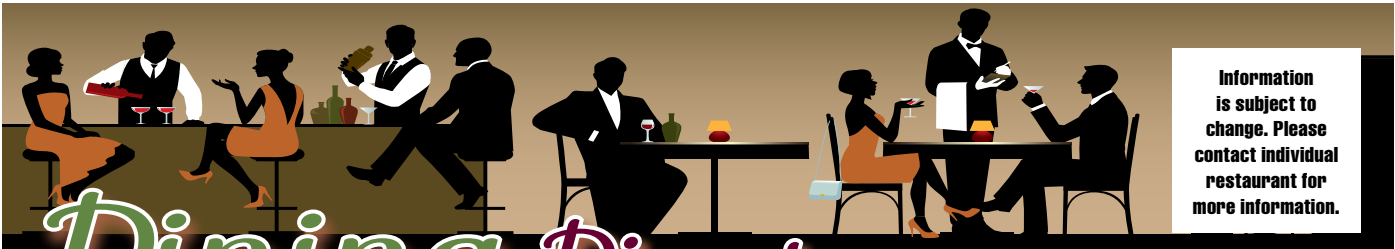
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Call for Carry Out & Delivery Options

1903 SALOON • 11230 260th Avenue, Trevor, WI 53179. **262-298-7005**. Comfortable gathering place with friends. Dine in or take out. Excellent food. Specialty drinks. L, D, \$\$ ☿

THE GREEN GROCER AND DELI • 24 W. Geneva St., Williams Bay. **262-245-9077**. www.greengrocergenevalake.com Organic grocery store with a deli. Serving sandwiches made with Boars Head meat and cheese, homemade soups, salads and pizzas, wine, beer and cocktails. Dine in, Carryout or delivery. Open 7 days a week. L, D, \$-\$\$ ☿ ☎ ☺

SPORTSMAN'S PUB & GRUB • 25313 W. Loomis Rd., Wind Lake, WI 53185. **262-895-1055**. Join us Friday and Sunday FOR THE BEST PRIME RIB IN TOWN! \$2.00 OFF Any prime rib dinner. L, D, FF, ☎ ☺ \$\$\$

MICHAEL'S ON THE LAKE • 3101 Eagle Road, Kansasville, WI 53139. **(262) 878-3313**. A Wisconsin supper club on the shore of Eagle Lake. Known for our steaks, prime rib on Saturday night, fish fry on Wednesday and Friday, baby back ribs and our famous carrot cake. Visit www.michaelsonthelakeWI.com for our full menu. Open Wed. & Thurs. @ 3; Fri. & Sat. @ 11; Noon on Sunday. L, D, \$\$\$, GF, FF, ☎ SR ☿ ☺

LOCAL FOLKS RESTAURANT & PUB • 39601 60th St. (Slades Corners), Burlington. **262-539-3200**. Open 6am every morning! B, L, D, \$, FF, ☿ ☺

PINE STREET CAFE • 141 N. Pine St., Burlington, WI 53105. **262-763-9800**. Homestyle food made from scratch daily using only the finest, freshest ingredients. Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner. Fish Fry Every Friday. Sunday 6am - 3pm. Monday - Saturday 6am - 8pm. \$\$, B, L, D, FF, ☿ ☺

GINO'S EAST OF CHICAGO • 300 Wrigley Dr., Lake Geneva. **262-248-2525**. www.ginoseastlakegeneva.com. Chicago's original deep dish pizza, Italian sandwiches, salads and entrees. L, D, \$-\$\$ ☿

B&D'S VILLAGE INN • 34414 Geneva Rd., New Munster, WI. **262-537-4719**. Open daily at 11 A.M. Serving Friday fish fry!

LUISA'S • Just off Hwy. 50, 12 mi. east of Lake Geneva. **262-537-4795**. Superb Italian & American cuisine. Dine in, carry out, delivery, catering avail., call ahead & will have it hot ready to go. D, \$\$ ☿

Key

B: Breakfast L: Lunch D: Dinner NC: No credit cards accepted \$: Mostly under \$10 \$\$: Mostly under \$20 GF: Gluten free
\$\$\$: Mostly under \$30 FF: Fish Fry ☎: Reservations requested ☿: Alcohol served ☺: Kids menu SR: Senior menu

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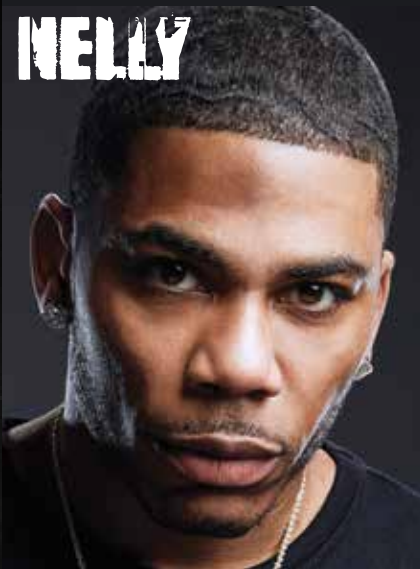
AUGUST 28 - SEPTEMBER 2



WALWORTH COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS • ELKHORN, WI

AUGUST 30

NELLY



AUGUST 31

**BRANTLEY
GILBERT**



SEPTEMBER 1

CROWDER



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THURSDAY • PI MOTORSPORTS TRACTOR & TRUCK PULL
PRESENTED BY PETE'S TIRE-ELKHORN

FRIDAY • NELLY PRESENTED BY THE ECKLUND GROUP @PROPERTIES

SATURDAY • BRANTLEY GILBERT PRESENTED BY GREAT LAKES COMPONENTS

SUNDAY • CROWDER PRESENTED BY THRIVENT SHORELINE GROUP

MONDAY • DEMOLITION DERBY PRESENTED BY AMERICAN TRUCK CENTER, LLC

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WALWORTHCOUNTYFAIRGROUNDS.COM

