



Newcomers News

Published by the Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse
(Antrim - Benzie - Grand Traverse - Kalkaska - Leelanau)

November
2009

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday, November 12
Newcomer Auction

BOARD MEETING

November 9

BOOK CLUB

November 3

BRIDGE

Various, see p. 4

DINNER OUT

November 22

EUCHRE

Various, see p. 4

FILM GROUP

November 13

FISHING

TBA, see p. 4

GARDENING

TBA, see p. 5

MEN'S BOOK CLUB

November 23

MEN'S BREAKFAST

November 11

OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH

November 11

POKER

November 3

QUILTING

November 10

SOLOS

November 1

November 7

November 15

VOLUNTEER AT THE STATE THEATRE

November 19

WALK IN THE WOODS

November 14

Visit us on the web
at
gtnewcomers.org

Please join us for the November Program:

The Newcomer Auction

Thursday, November 12
7:00 PM

New & Improved Location:

The Presbyterian Church of Traverse City
701 Westminster Road
Traverse City, MI 49686

(one block south of Munson Avenue off Airport Access Road)



Bring your "quality" donated items between 6:00 PM and 6:45 PM. Bidding starts at 7:00 PM.

Get a jumpstart on holiday shopping, or maybe find a unique treasure for yourself. The Newcomer Auction is an enjoyable activity for all. Your donated items may include homemade goodies and crafts, collectibles, tickets to local events, wine or, items for the home. Favorite donations in the past have included gift baskets, boat rides and dinners served in members' homes. You do not need to contribute in order to participate. We need lots of buyers, too. We are expecting unique items, a great time and much fun!

The evening's event includes both a silent auction and a regular auction. The regular auction is naturally a little more upbeat than the silent auction, but the gentle presentation of the items for sale is always done in good taste. Conducting the event again this year is our own notorious and high-priced auctioneer, Gentleman Lee (Tonsils) Hosler. Amazingly, he is not charging us for his services!

This is a major fund raising event for the club and we need your help. We need both items and bidders. Bring your donated items and description of services with you that evening. Enclosed in this newsletter is a page of "Bid Sheets" that you may use to describe your donated items and set a minimum bid. Additional sheets will be available at the auction if you bring more than four items.

Please bring your auction items between 6:00 PM and 6:45 PM. Also, if you can get local businesses to contribute an item or service, we will recognize them in our December newsletter. Come join the fun. We look forward to seeing you there.

Note: we are in need of some volunteers to help organize the auction tables or to bring cookies or other refreshments. If you can help, or if you have questions, please contact Marlowe Bonner at 932-0943 or mbmarbon@aol.com.

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PRESIDENTS' NOTE

November 2009



Bob Pelto & Susanne Bonner

Our Newcomer activities are in full swing. A rainy and windy fall has not kept us from enjoying the activities and each other's company. As many of you know or are finding out quickly, you can be as busy as you choose to be with the Newcomers. We have had great turnouts at most of our activities and many of our new members are becoming familiar faces at the events.

The Coast Guard "field trip" was a huge success with close to 100 people attending. Commander Jon Spaner, along with one of his pilots and crew chiefs at the air station, welcomed our group. The evening was very enjoyable and informative with interesting information and humor combined. Our apologies to any late arrivals who were not able to get past the entry gate.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at our annual auction, which has become quite a "happening." The evening is very entertaining with our very own auctioneer, Lee Hosler. Plus, there are always so many interesting items you will not be able to resist bidding on. Thursday, November 12, is the date, and details are listed in this newsletter and on our website.

The Holiday Dinner Dance will be held on Friday, December 4, at the Waterfront Conference Center. This annual event is a great time to get together with your Newcomer buddies in a festive atmosphere. If you do not dance, that is not an excuse not to attend. There is always so much interesting conversation and socializing taking place. Who would want to miss this party?

All of our new members will be receiving their Member Directories, if they have not already received one. Members who have renewed may print a hard copy from our website or request a hard copy by mail. Any questions or requests should be directed to Robin Timmerman, whose contact information is listed to the left of this article. We would also like to remind all members that our Member Directory is to be used for club business or social purposes only. As stated in our bylaws, the Directory may not be used to solicit members for outside business purposes.

As this article is being completed, there are green leaves and clouds out the window. Hopefully when you receive this newsletter, there will be beautiful fall colors and sunshine.

Co-presidents,
 Susanne & Bob

MISSION STATEMENT

The Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse is a social and civic organization whose purpose is to extend a welcoming hand to people living in the Grand Traverse area. The Newcomers Club also provides opportunities to meet and to socialize with other relocated people, sharing common interests.

**Mark your Calendars for
Upcoming Events:**

Friday, December 4: Annual Holiday
Dinner Dance

Tuesday, January 26: Program on the
Point Betsie Lighthouse



NEW MEMBER CORNER

Tom Thibault & Ruth Winter
Fenton, MI

Tony & Ana Brand
Bloomfield Hills, MI

Nancy & Del Johnson
Mason, MI

Jon Cump
Chicago via North Carolina

Don & Barbara Palazuk
Battle Creek, MI

David and Kathleen Bair
Kalamazoo, MI

Rich & Nora Socks
Clinton Township, MI

Lawrence & Nancy Draper
Cincinnati, OH

James & Judy Munsie
Plymouth, MI

Reserve now for next month's program:

Holiday Dinner Dance

**Friday, December 4
Waterfront Conference Center**

Come join us for a great evening out at the Newcomers Annual Holiday Dinner Dance on **Friday, December 4**. Enjoy the company of new and old friends at the Waterfront Conference Center, 2061 U.S. 31 North, Traverse City. Last year's event was enjoyed by all who attended and we expect the same this year.

Social hour will start at 6:30 PM, followed by fine dining and dancing. Paul Widlund will provide DJ service for the entire evening. Paul did an outstanding job of entertaining us last year and is always open to your personal requests. This evening is truly one of those special Newcomer events of the year.

Cash Bar @ 6:30 PM ▲▲▲▲▲ Sit-Down Dinner @ 7:30 PM

When making reservations, please select from one of the following two dinner choices:

- Brandied Pecan Walleye finished with beurre blanc & brandied pecans
- Beef Tenderloin Tips simmered with garlic, onions and mushrooms

If needed, special dinner plates may be requested.

All reservations should be received no later than Monday, November 30. Please send your reservations in early! Make your check payable to Newcomers Club for \$25 per person and mail to:

Karen Spencer, Executive Assistant
8165 S. Bingham Ridge Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684

Special Note: We encourage everyone to bring non-perishable food items to donate to the Northwest Food Coalition. Checks are accepted in lieu of food donations. Let's continue to help those less fortunate during this joyous but needy time of year.

ACTIVITY GROUPS

BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, November 3, 10:00 AM

New members are welcome to join us on the first Tuesday of the month in the lower level of Horizon Books. We meet at 10:00 AM and usually go out to lunch after.

This month's selection is *Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barberry. Bonnie Lockwood will lead the discussion.

If you have questions, please contact Letha Cairns at 231-271-6831 or gcairns@chartermi.net.

BRIDGE

TEAM BRIDGE:

First Friday of each month (except June-Aug.), 7:00 PM at Cedar Creek Commons. Bring a snack to share. New members are always welcome (bring a partner). Call Georgia Stoeber, 938-5846.

WOMEN'S BRIDGE:

2nd Thursday of each month, 11:30 AM, at Scott's Harbor Grille.
Call Judy Owen, 922-9619.

4th Thursday of each month, 11:30 AM, at G's, 1500 U.S. 31 North, Traverse City.
Call Judy Owen, 922-9619.

MIXED PARTY BRIDGE:

3rd Friday of the month, 7:00 PM. All skill levels welcome. Different hosts each month.

Contact Rick and Kathy Bodette, 271-7524 or richardrbodette@cs.com.

DINNER OUT

Sunday, November 22, 6:00 PM

Our Dining Out for November, is at a place some of you remember. It's Hanna's for the chicken meal, it really IS a very good deal!

Hanna Bistro, 118 Cass St., Traverse City. Chicken dinner, \$6.99 (salad and dessert extra). **Contact Pat Haber at 228-4245 or pathaber@msn.com by November 15.**

Pilgrim attire optional.

EUCHRE

Couple's Euchre groups meet once a month in each other's homes. It is an evening of fun and friendship. The only prerequisites are having a sense of humor, knowing

the game, and a willingness to snack and sip. We now have 6 groups and a 7th group is pending. We also have a sub list.

Penelope Olson reports that Jeri Cleverdon of Euchre Group #5 scored 63 total points in their September gathering. In one round Jeri's team attempted 4 loners, making 3, and scored 17 points in that game! Way to go, Jeri!

Contact: Karen Coquillard, Couple's Euchre Coordinator, at karenmary32@hotmail.com.

FILM GROUP

Friday, November 13 (please note change in day)

The Film Group is a casual fun group made up of people who love going to the movies. We attend movies at different theaters throughout the season and go out for discussion, food and libations afterwards. The group meets the second Thursday of every month from September through May. I may occasionally add an extra film date during any given month if a film looks interesting and may not be playing at the time of the regular scheduled meeting.

Because the Newcomers auction will be held on Thursday November 12th the **film group will meet, for November only, on Friday, November 13th. Watch your email or check the website for specifics.**

Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Judy Pelto at jpelto1@charter.net or 231-668-9490.

FISHING

Fall fishing activities are expected to continue on an individual basis; steelhead will increase their movement into rivers this month. Group members are encouraged to contact each other about fishing opportunities or questions.

Contact Pete Albers, phalbers99@gmail.com, 922-7289 if you are interested in participating in any of the group activities.

GOLF

The September weather interfered with two of our outings. We were, however, able to play twice. On September 24th eight golfers played at the Leelanau Club. Steve Lockwood was closest to the pin on #11; Jim Neibauer had the longest drive on # 12; Mike Huffman had the fewest putts @ 29; Bud Dockter shot an 85 for low gross. Thanks to Tom Custance and George Cairns, 12 golfers played the Wolverine course at Grand Traverse

(Continued on page 5)

ACTIVITY GROUPS

(Continued from page 4)

Resort. Mike Huffman was closest to the pin on #14; Tom Custance had the long drive on #7; Terry Samuel had fewest putts w /29 and low gross with an 82.

Unless we have an Indian Summer, golf is over until May 2010 with Ralph Brickman as group leader.

MEN'S BOOK CLUB

Monday, November 23, 10:00 AM

Our selection for Monday, November 23, is *The Worst Hard Time* by Timothy Egan. Andy Gerben will be the discussion leader.

The club meets in the lower level of Horizon Books the fourth Monday of each month at 10:00 AM. New members are welcome whether you have read the book or not. We sometimes go to lunch at a local restaurant following the meeting. Contact Pete Albers for questions, 922-7289.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Wednesday, November 11, 9:00 AM

This group meets at the **Omelette Shoppe next to the Wild Birds Unlimited store in Campus Plaza** every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 9:00 AM. We meet all year around and always meet regardless of the weather. Bring all the testosterone you can muster.

Contact George Kobernus: gkobernus@chartermi.net or 933-9321.

OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, November 11, 1:00 PM

Join us for lunch at the Silver Swan, 13693 S West Bayshore Drive, Traverse City. The restaurant is on the west side of the road, just north of the intersection of M-72 and M-22 (Tom's West Bay is on this corner.)

Contact Sis Leake at 929-7036 by **Monday, November 9**, for reservations and so that car pools can be formed.

POKER

Tuesday, November 3, 1:30 PM

The poker group usually meets the 1st Tuesday of the month, with winter hours of 1:30 PM—4:30 PM and summer hours of 6:30 PM—9:30 PM. The group meets on a rotating basis at each member's home. The game is small stakes, (5¢, 10¢, 25¢), to keep the game and conversation fun and friendly. The host merely has to provide the home and setup, while members bring snacks and drinks.

The November meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 3rd. Jim Neibauer is hosting this month from 1:30 to 4:30

PM. Jim will send directions to anyone interested. Please contact Jim by e-mail (jeneibauer2@charter.net) or phone (231-967-9553) if you plan to attend. You may also contact the group coordinator.

The poker group coordinator is Mike Huffman. Phone is 517-655-3374. Email is wdcspike@yahoo.com.

QUILTING/SEWING

Tuesday, November 10, 1:00 PM

The quilting/sewing group will meet November 10 at 1:00. The meeting will take place at Barb Fitch's home (4441 Lakeview Trail, Traverse City). We will be looking at quilt patterns and learning "how to read" the pattern.

Please RSVP to both Pauline (jwatt1107@charter.net or 929-1107) **and Barb** (bsfitch@charter.net or 929-1729) **by November 8** if you plan to attend.

SOLOS

Sunday, November 1

Saturday, November 7

Sunday, November 15

We are a group for singles or those who wish to participate in activities without their partner.

November 1 - Solos will be meeting at 12:30 PM on November 1 to tour the quilt barns on Old Mission and then have dinner at a restaurant on the peninsula. Please call Caroline at 941-4842 if you will be joining us. She's leading this event.

November 7 - We will be going to a craft show at one church and then attending another where they have a salad luncheon. We hear it's delicious. So call Anne at 668-7444 for more details.

November 15 - Judy will be attending Cats at the Old Town Playhouse (3:00 PM performance). If you would like to get a ticket and join her, call her at 922-9619. Dinner afterward is optional.

VOLUNTEER AT THE STATE THEATRE

Thursday, November 19, 2:30 PM

State Theatre Volunteers: Join us as we work in the concession area, take tickets, sweep floors, usher, run errands, and sometimes we even get to watch the movie. Free popcorn and pop, a voucher for another movie, and tokens for the parking ramp complete the experience. Our afternoon shift is usually slow. It is designed to introduce you to the State and help you determine whether you'd like to move to a busier time on your own. You are more than welcome to

(Continued on page 6)

ACTIVITY GROUPS

(Continued from page 5)

remain at this less active level too. Sometimes we have more volunteers than theater-goers.

We work on the 3rd Thursday of the month (November 19 this month), from 2:30 PM to 5:15 PM. Join us for dinner after if you have time.

Contact Jody Bennett if you would like to be added to the list of potential volunteers, bennettjj@charter.net, 932-9249.



Newcomers enjoy the view at the High Banks Rollway during October's "Walk in the Woods"

WALK IN THE WOODS

Saturday, November 14, 11:00 AM

Sabin Pond Trail

As we all know the weather here in November can be problematic but the last three years we have managed to have decent enough weather to have a nice walk. The Sabin Pond Trail is part of the Grand Traverse Conservation District's network of nature areas and, like its sister trails along the Boardman River, it gives us a look at nature and man's attempts to harness it, for better or for worse. The network of dams and ponds on the Boardman and their future have been a hot topic for the last few years. The trails are very well maintained, not too challenging, and the views and history are worth the time.

We will begin at the Nature Center which is located on Cass Road, just south of Hartman Road. The Center will be on your left just after you pass Hartman.

Please contact Marlowe Bonner if you plan to attend at mbmarbon@aol.com or 932-0943.

Knit and Stitch Group **Thursday, November 5 and 19, 2 PM**

If you knit, cross-stitch, embroider, do needlepoint or any type of needlework, you are invited to join this new group, which meets the first and third Thursdays, 2-4 PM, at Cuppa Joe's Lounge in the Warehouse District.

Just bring something to work on (or not!) and join us as we share ideas, show off our projects, and have a cuppa while we knit and stitch.

Have questions or want to be on the email distribution list for this group? Contact Sandy Seppala, sansep19@earthlink.net or 421-3343.



Florida condo rental:

Looking for someplace warm to getaway this winter? Mike and Lynn Huffman's older son has a condo in Panama City Beach, Florida, which you can rent for a day/week/month or longer. The condo is right on the beach of the Gulf of Mexico of Florida's panhandle. His unit includes 3 bedrooms, plus a pull-out sleeper, and 2.5 baths. It also has a full kitchen with a laundry room in the unit.

The property has efficiencies up to 4-bedroom units. Currently they're running a special of stay two nights and get the third free. Website: www.townofseahaven.com

Please contact Stacey Mata for reservations at 850-636-8561 or staceymata@townofseahaven.com, and mention Michael Huffman or his unit #1706.

It's a Good Life



By Tom Custance

As the early grey skies of fall try to envelop our spirits and drag them down with thoughts of another long winter, it is time to step back and put into perspective the blessings we have.

The adage that "travel broadens" was on our minds (and hips) during a recent cruise to the Baltic. The sights of the palaces and cathedrals covered with gold were awe-inspiring. It's the arrogance of the aristocracy that also hit home. Many lives were lost in the construction for the pleasure of a few. The contrast of these palaces with the dour apartments built during the 60's and 70's seemed to deepen the impressions.

Are we a perfect country? Hardly. But the freedoms we are afforded by the insights and sacrifices of those who have gone before us give us a lifestyle that is the envy of the world. We worship, travel and speak freely. We have more than enough food and water. We have the opportunity to better ourselves when motivated to do so. All in all, a pretty darned good life.

So when the Thanksgiving table groans under the weight of all that food, or when the Christmas tree hides behind a mountain of presents, remember to take a moment to reflect... "It's a Good Life".

Editor's note: Tom Custance is a past Co-President of the Newcomers Club.



A large group of Newcomers enjoyed a presentation by Commander Jon Spaner at the Coast Guard Air Station during the club's October meeting. A lively demonstration and discussion about water rescue followed, along with a hands-on look at one of the Coast Guard helicopters.

Patronize our sponsors

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10850 E. Traverse Hwy, TC
946-9644

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The Dance Center

225 E. 14th St., TC 947-6820

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Business and Financial Advisors

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www.dgnpcpa.com

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1217 E. Front St., TC
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933-9622

Grand Traverse Heritage Center

322 Sixth St., TC
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231-534-6750, 1-888-437-2772

Grand Traverse Children's Clinic

3537 W. Front St., Ste. G

Traverse City

935-8822

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Dr. Kim Anderson
3409 Veterans Dr. TC
946-5816

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Interlochen, MI
231-276-7200

Kids Creek Children's Clinic

5024 North Royal , TC
935-0555

Mary Kay Cosmetics

Pat Westbrook 929-1830

Merrill Lynch

Briant Sikorski, 231-922-6831
333 W. Grandview Pkwy, TC

Munson Healthcare Regional

Foundation

935-6482

Music House Museum

U.S. 31 North, Acme
938-9300

Oakwood Veterinary Hospital

924 Hastings, TC 941-7241

Oleson's Food Stores

New store: Hammond Rd./3 Mi.
3850 N. Long Lake Rd. TC
947-6510

Old Town Playhouse

148 E. Eighth St., TC
947-2210, ext. 3

Oryana Nat. Foods Coop Mkt.

260 East Tenth, TC

Pizza Hut

3030 US 31 South, TC
947-2077

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305 6th St., TC 947-6347

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933-5400

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Charlie Stiehl
800-786-6333

The Mom's Club of Grand

Traverse Area

www.TheMomsClub.net

Traverse City Beach Bums

Wuerfel Park
333 Stadium Drive
Ticket office: 231-943-0100

Traverse City Record Eagle

Newspaper

946-2000

Traverse Magazine

148 E. Front St., TC
941-8174



The Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse
C/O Terrill Persky - Membership
438 N. Elmwood
Traverse City, MI 49684

Quick Tip! If you change your email address please notify us at terrillpersky@gmail.com.
Email is the best way to get information to members between publications of the Newcomers News.