PIGEON KEY MARINA

Meet the Marina Staff | Marina Updates | Kudos & Thanks

Meet the Marina Staff



Pigeon Key Marina Manager, Julie Benoit is an alumni of Muskegon High School and Baker College. She currently is employed full time with School Zone Publishing as a quality assurance and technical support specialist. In her free time she is a Girl Scout troop leader to 12 wonderful girls. **Julie** has spent 9 years at Pigeon Key Marina first learning the ropes as a dockhand and later as manager. **Julie** has an exceptional work ethic and is often the person behind the scene to make Pigeon Key Marina run smoothly. It is not uncommon to see **Julie** taking care of a plumbing or other maintenance issue. She has been instrumental in initiating cost saving ideas for the marina. As manager, **Julie** reports to the Pigeon Key Marina Association Board and is directly responsible to the Board. She supervises the dockhands, determines their works schedules, provides instruction and guidance to insure continuity of specified policies and rules, as specified by the Board. She is responsible for interviewing, hiring, training and evaluating dockhand performance. She collects and verifies dockhand time cards and returns to PKM Accountant, **Shelly Zuder** for payroll preparation. She establishes marina hours of operation and adjusts based on need. She is responsible for collecting boater registration forms, ordering supplies, and getting the marina prepared for opening and closing day. She communicates to the board president as necessary to resolve potential or existing problems. If you have not

had an opportunity to meet **Julie**, please stop by the marina office during weekend hours. You will usually see **Julie**, along with the dockhands, handling the boat traffic in and around Pigeon Key Marina and Dockers.

Pigeon Key Marina Dockhand, Alison Benoit



Alison, younger sister of **Julie**, is an alumni of Muskegon High School and graduated in 2010 from Hope College with a BA in political science and business management. In 2013 she received a Masters of Public Policy from Michigan State focusing on education and healthcare policy. This is **Alison's** seventh year working in the marina and she has the same exceptional work ethic, as her sister, **Julie**. You will often find **Alison** working alongside her sister behind the scenes to make things run smoothly in the marina. Never one to shy away from dirty work, **Alison** has become pretty adept with a toilet plunger. We really hope **Alison** finds full time employment where she can utilize her many talents. She is currently looking for full time employment and would appreciate hearing about any leads. In her spare time she pet sits and dog walks. If you're ever in need of a pet sitter or help around the house feel free to ask **Alison**.

Pigeon Key Marina Dockhand, Erinn Taylor



Erinn graduated from Mona Shores High School in 2012 where she ran track and was a member of the Mona Shores High School swim team. She is in the honors college at Grand Valley State University majoring in broadcasting. She will begin her junior year in the fall. **Erinn** hopes to one day be in front of the camera reporting the news. When she isn't studying she will be a spin instructor at GVSU. **Erinn's** hobbies include going to the beach, running, and baking (especially cupcakes!). In

addition to working in the marina, **Erinn** is a lifeguard at the Muskegon Country Club where she will be coaching the seven year old members of the swim team. It wasn't too long ago when she was a Dolphin on the MCC swim team. This is **Erinn's** fifth year working in the marina where she has learned her skills from mentors **Julie** and **Alison**. She does an excellent job of keeping those spider webs at bay, is great answering the office phone and does a great job docking boats.

Pigeon Key Marina Dockhand, Pat Taylor



Yes, younger brother of **Erinn**, **Pat** graduated from Mona Shores High School this year. He likes to kite board, snowboard, SCUBA dive and surf (a real beach bum when he isn't working). During high school, **Pat** ran cross country, track, played baseball and was a member of the Mona Shores High School swim team. He placed eighth at the State swim meet held earlier this year. **Pat** will attend Grand Valley State University in the fall where he will major in engineering. In his spare time he gives kite-board lessons for Mackinaw Kites. This is **Pat's** fourth year working in the marina. When he started as a dockhand trainee he was looking up to big sister **Erinn**. Guess who is looking up now? **Pat** does an excellent job of keeping a level head when all those boats show up on the weekends. When he isn't docking boats he assists Board President **Dave Taylor** with routine maintenance jobs in the marina.

Pigeon Key Marina Dockhand, Mark Schmiedeknecht



Mark graduated from Mona Shores high school in 2012. After spending a year and a half at Western Michigan University trying out different majors, he decided to come back to Muskegon. He is currently attending Muskegon Community College and plans to take part in the EMT program at Baker College in the fall. In high school **Mark** played football and ran cross-country. His hobbies include

SCUBA diving, running, playing sports, working on cars and fixing things. This is **Mark's** third year at Pigeon Key Marina. He is really handy around the marina and always does a great job. He recently put the new picnic table together, assembled the office chair, and designed the brick work around the new grill. **Mark** is always eager to help out wherever and whenever he is needed.

Pigeon Key Marina Dockhand, Joey Paul



Joey just graduated from Mona Shores High School this year. He will attend Muskegon Community College in the fall to start his college career. Of course, not waiting to let any grass grow under his feet, **Joey** is taking a class this summer. **Joey** was an avid member of the Mona Shores High School swim team and enjoys kayaking, disc golf, and hanging out with his friends. This is **Joey's** third year at Pigeon Key Marina and he loves working here. He comes from a long line of Paul dockhands. His older brothers Jimmy and Tommy were former PKM dockhands. **Joey** does an excellent job of handling the boats and comes from a family with sailing experience. He, also, is quick to lend a hand with routine maintenance jobs in the marina.

Pigeon Key Marina Dockhand, Hayden Hall



Hayden was a member of Mona Shores High School's class of 2013. He just completed his first year at Northwood University where he is majoring in entrepreneurship. **Hayden** enjoys playing golf and disc golf. Hayden has grown up around boats and really enjoys boating. In addition to working in the marina, **Hayden**, also, works at Halls Sports Center where he has honed his boat detailing skills and dealing with customers. This is **Hayden's** third year working in the

marina. You will see him doing a great job of making all boaters feel welcomed when they come into dock.

What does a dockhand do?

Under the guidance and direction of the marina manager, the function of the dockhand is to effectively assist in the day to day marina operation to insure smooth, efficient, and safe delivery of services to all boaters using the marina. They must follow instruction and guidance provided by the marina manager to insure continuity of specified policies and rules, as specified by the PKM Association Board. They assist the marina manager to provide for an efficient, pleasant marina and marina office operation. They are trained and learn how to tie and safely secure large and small power and sail boats docking in the marina and for Docker's Restaurant. When they are not docking boats, they clean the restrooms, marina office, picnic table and grill; they remove weeds on the walkway and in the rock areas, sweep spider webs on docks; operate the marine radios, cash register, know how to operate the fire extinguisher; open and close the marina office; answer the telephone, record messages and operate the answering machine; remove and dispose of trash and perform other duties as assigned by the marina manager. The dockhands are there to assist you. If you need extra help in carrying things to and from your vehicle or boat, don't hesitate to ask a dockhand for assistance.



Tipping Dockhands

There are no hard and fast rules for tipping the dockhands in Pigeon Key Marina. As you can see these two characters **Mark and Pat** will go to all lengths to get an extra tip. They think wearing pink helps. Really guys? Some boaters tip each time they get assistance when they leave or return to their boat slip. Some give a lump sum tip at the beginning or at the end of the season. The dockhands share the tips equally by dividing the

tips at the end of each shift. They say it always balances out to be pretty even by the end of the season. A dollar, a few dollars, or lots of dollars, how and when you tip is up to you. However, tipping is always appreciated for a job well done and what college student doesn't need a few extra dollars in their pocket? They, also, like to eat so baking them cookies or buying them an occasional pizza is always appreciated.

Marina Updates

Julia & **Alison** started early in May to get the marina spiffed up and ready to open on Memorial Day Weekend. They got out the elbow grease and begin cleaning everything that needed cleaning. Before opening weekend they had the awning up, ice delivered, and supplies purchased. The Pigeon Key Marina flag was flying early and it sure was nice to see the marina coming to life, after the long winter.

New purchases this year include a gas grill, picnic table and umbrella,





solar lights, anti-slip white tape for the ramps, outside thermometer, digital clamp meter and shock tester and replacement bulbs for the shore power pedestals. Dimension Four Painting, Inc. painted all of the shore power pedestals in April. Using the new digital clamp meter and shock tester, **Dave Taylor** checked for electrical leakage from the shore power pedestals. Fortunately there were only two pedestals that showed

leakage and have been or will be repaired. The broken pedestal on C-Dock was replaced with one that was in storage.

The fan in the front bathroom was replaced and what a chore that was. President **Dave Taylor** and Secretary/Treasurer **Linda Taylo**r spent several hours taking the old one out. (Is that really in my job description?). Of course, the old one didn't come out without a fight and the new one was smaller than the old one & made of plastic parts instead of metal. Oh well, it works and no longer rattles like a bunch of marbles in a tumbler.

The aerator on C-Dock quit working and was repaired. Deck boards were painted to show where there is water access. A good thing since another leak sprung on C-Dock. Lasko Plumbing arrived at 7 a.m. to make sure the leak was fixed and we were operational for the weekend.







Dave Taylor gets assistance from dockhand, **Pat** along with **Joe**y and **Mark** in replacing the hand rails on the floating docks next to the wall to make them sturdier. The dockhands have each learned a few woodworking skills this year. Nice job guys!



How many dockhands does it take to measure a board?



Dockhand **Mark** designed a brick enclosure for the new gas grill. He picked up the bricks and finished the job in nothing flat. It makes the new grill look really nice. Feel free to use the grill whenever you want. And anyone interested in organizing a Pigeon Key Marina dock party just say the word.





A-Dock ramp will need to be replaced next year. George Bailey, Great Lakes Docks & Materials, LLC will provide a bid sometime this month. We have asked him to give a bid using the same type of wood ramp, one on rollers, and one made with aluminum.

Kudos and Thanks



CONGRATULATIONS to Pigeon Key Marina dockhands for the past three years, pals since grade school, teammates on the Mona Shores High School swim team, **Joey Paul** and **Pat Taylor,** graduated from Mona Shores High School on June 4, 2014.

THANKS TO:

Jerry Giele, for his years of service on the PKM Association Board and to **Steve Gaynor**, who has taken his place, until a new Vice President is elected.

the **Muskegon Sail and Power Squadron** who completed vessel safety inspections and all of the Pigeon Key Marina boaters who participated in this free event;



Michelle and Tom Harris relax after receiving their 2014 safety sticker on *All for One*

Steve Gaynor, Doug Gaynor, Bryon Mazade & son and Dave Taylor for moving the huge logs out of the marina to provide for safe passage of returning boats;

Chris Cok for removing the weeds at the west end of the marina;

Jim and Laura Vilker (especially Laura) for updating and maintaining the Pigeon Key Marina website. If you haven't looked at the new design, please check it out at **http://pigeonkeymarina.com** . If you have any suggestions or would like to post something on the website, please email Laura at **lwelch-vilker@cuanswers.com** ;

all **co-owners** who have paid their annual fees in full. We currently have a balance of $63,000 in the bank.

REMINDERS

We need co-owners to volunteer to take over the management of the marina. The Taylors will be stepping down at the end of this season. A few individuals have indicated their willingness to serve, however, we need to elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and two Board of Directors. If you are interested in having your name added to the Slate of Officers, please email **lindastaylor@comcast.net**

The annual maintenance fees of $924 are due **February 1 and August 1**. All payments are to be mailed to PKM Accountant, **Shelly Zuder**:

PKM Association
Shelly Zuder, CPA
1497 W. Laketon
Muskegon, MI 49441

If you have on-line banking you can set up your annual fee payment through your on-line banking. Use **Pigeon Key Marina Association** as the payee, your slip number(s) as the account number and **Shelly's** address above. The annual reserve fund fee of $50 can be paid in full on February 1 or half can be paid on February 1 and the balance paid on

August 1. In September 2015, a review will be made to determine if the annual reserve fund should be eliminated, increased or remain the same.

NO SWIMMING IS ALLOWED IN PIGEON KEY MARINA

Pigeon Key Marina Association Board Members

President davidrtaylor3529@comcast.net	Dave Taylor 231.343.9125
Vice President gaynors@comcast.net	Steve Gaynor 248.302.1824
Secretary/Treasurer lindastaylor@comcast.net	Linda Taylor 231.343.9128

Other Contacts

PKM Manager	Julia Benoit 231.638.6464
PKM Accountant 1497 W. Laketon Ave. Muskegon, MI 49441	Shelly Zuder, CPA 231.759.7410
U.S. Coast Guard	231.759.8581
Tow Boat U.S.	231.755.7141

Pigeon Key Marina website: http://pigeonkeymarina.com

On behalf of the Pigeon Key Marina Association Board, we hope you have a safe and fun 2014 boating season.
Linda Taylor, Secretary/Treasurer
Pigeon Key Marina Association