

Talleidoscope

NOV-DEC 2006

We've been having so much fun this year, filling our calendar with activities, and enjoying the publicity from recent articles in the media and the television re-airing of a tall documentary. We also hosted a Milwaukee Weekend in September with a turn-out of over 110 people. For those new to tall club, a "weekend" is a weekend-long party hosted by a tall club and attended by talls from all over the country. Activities are usually: a Friday night mixer, Saturday day tours, a Saturday night dinner dance and a Sunday morning send-off to the guests. In this issue, you'll see a poem written by Edie Berman highlighting her trip from Washington DC to our Milwaukee Weekend. We'd like to hold another weekend in 2007, but we'll need your help.

Speaking of help: the start of the new year means **election of officers**. Our current board would love to see some new people step forward so we aren't playing Officer Shuffle. It's also time for **annual dues**. Because we incur costs for newsletters, support of TCI, voicemail and a post office box, please begin or renew your membership promptly. Checks for

individual membership should be made out to Tall Club of Milwaukee for \$25.

Next year, we'll be bidding adieu to two members who have, in many ways, been a strong foundation for our club. Barry, who has been a major player on the national and local tall club scene will be retiring to North Carolina with his wife, Carol. They have graciously offered their house in Franklin for one more club party. Ginger Peterson, of the annual Elvis party and camper trips "fame" will be retiring and moving back to Atlanta. She belonged to both the Milwaukee and Madison clubs and was always willing to help when there was a need. Ginger and Barry will be greatly missed, but we will continue to see them around TCI and we wish them our best. But they haven't gone yet!

We have some fun events coming up for the holidays – see the enclosed calendar. We'll likely have a goodbye party for Ginger in the new year, and don't forget the Chicago Paramount Club's weekend February 2-4, themed "Get Your Kicks on Route 66." See

their flyer, also enclosed with this issue.

Former Topper Tall club member Larry Kucharek has rejoined and invited the club to a Packer party at his house on November 12th. See details on attached flyer. Larry was a long time board member in the past and took a hiatus while his kids were growing up. Now that he has more time, he's getting involved and will be helping print and mail this newsletter. Welcome back, and thanks, Larry!

This Friday, Nov 10 is a **Marfan** chapter meeting. Please consider going to dinner and then the meeting. It's an opportunity to learn more about the syndrome and to promote the tall club as a social outlet for them! See calendar.

Birthdays:

Nov	2 nd	Daniel Bath	
	3 rd	Lawrence Kosikowski	
	Dec	3 rd	Jodie Reinhardt
		9 th	Michael Pues
		11 th	Deb Tetzlaff
Jan	19 th	Mark Flessert	
	25 th	William Fischer	
	20 th	Kelly Mathiesen	
	25 th	Terry Elliott	
	25 th	Laura Kryzenske	
	28 th	Ginger Peterson	
	29 th	Brad Black	
Feb	29 th	Diane Chandler	
	4 th	Natalya Schilling	
	7 th	Barry Umbs	
	16 th	Michelle Sutinen	
	17 th	Larry Kucharek	

Tall Clubs International 1-888-488-2552 www.tall.org

Tall Club of Milwaukee Milwaukee@tall.org

POB 1122, Milwaukee WI 53201

Events and Info Hotline: 414-321-8142

Web: <http://www.tall.org/clubs/wi/mketalls>

Group email: tallclubofmilwaukee@yahoo.com

Requirements: Age 21, Women 5'10", Men 6'2"

The **Tall Club of Milwaukee** (TCM) is a not for profit social club serving Milwaukee and Southeastern Wisconsin.

Our purpose is to create an environment where tall people can meet, share and exchange ideas, and develop tall friendships.

Our goal is to educate tall people to be undeterred in their outlook and activities because of height, and to promote friendship and respect.

We unite and organize tall men and women from all professions, ethnic backgrounds, and religions for the advancement of friendships and common interests. This is done by way of Social Events (including house parties, picnics, attending or participating in sporting events, going out to dinner, movies, happy hours, dances, etc.), participation in Charitable Projects (TCM volunteers recently worked a rest stop for Multiple Sclerosis), and involvement in our local community.

TCM is the sole organization responsible for the Jason Daniel Gosz Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded annually to a local tall graduating high school senior.

Membership Requirements.

Besides the minimum age and height requirements recognized by the Tall Club of Milwaukee and Tall Clubs International, all persons submitting their TCM Membership Application and Remittance MUST be approved by the TCM Board of Directors.

Membership Dues

Single Membership - \$25/year
Married Couple Membership - \$30/year

2005/2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Home phone numbers unless otherwise indicated)

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Dave Rasmussen

Tall Club of Milwaukee's Wine and Harvest Weekend was a Success – Tom and Dave

Our "Weekend" celebrated 60 years of tall clubs in Milwaukee. A few of the members of the original Stratoliner's club attended, as did others from the later Milwaukee Toppers and Milwaukee Skyliners, whose clubs ultimately merged into what is today's club. Friday night five carloads of early arrivals enjoyed the famous fish fry at Serb Hall. At 8pm that night, attendees were treated to a fancy wine tasting session organized by Jennifer, where we sampled many Wisconsin wines and enjoyed dancing to our club's favorite DJ.

On Saturday most of our guests

boarded a coach bus to the Cedarburg Wine Festival. The weather was perfect and the trip's first destination was a covered bridge where we were met by a local news reporter for a group photo. After enjoying the festival in Cedarburg, we stopped at Kopps' Frozen Custard and the Milwaukee Art Museum. Saturday night we held an awards banquet and a dance. Maria from Detroit and John B from the Twin Cities clubs won Best Hugger awards. Travel trophies went to Chicago and Cincinnati while Garth Voz from Houston won greatest distance traveled by a single person. Our raffles netted TCI and the National Marfan Foundation nearly \$1000.

(Tom Grupp is not a writer by trade, but is perhaps our club's most prolific

storyteller, submitting articles about events he's participated in. For this newsletter Tom wrote no less than 4 articles. Thanks for being such a faithful reporter, Tom! Other members of the club or prospective members are invited to submit articles. Send them via email or snail mail.)

Madtown Talls party at the Nau-Ti-Gal – Tom

August 13th, the Nau-Ti-Gal saloon held a customer appreciation party, which Tom, Pat, and her family took part in. The weather was fine as we ate and drank and listened to the great sounds of Mel Ford/West Side Andy band. It was a wonderful way to spend a Sunday afternoon. This is an annual event; we hope to see you there next year!

Tall Clubs October events with Mad Town Talls – Tom and Deb

Sunday Oct 15th was a beautiful day and the last sailing of the season for Betty Lou Cruise lines in Madison. Tom, Deb, and new member Cheri from Milwaukee joined Pat from Mad Town Talls for a brunch cruise on Lake Mendota. The 2-hour trip with free champagne and excellent food also included narration about shoreline landmarks. After the ride we took in the movie The Illusionist at Point Cinema in Middleton. This outing is a tradition; do try to join us next year!

On Saturday Oct 21st, rain didn't keep Tom, Deb and Pat from enjoying spectacular fall colors. The day began with a ride on the Pumpkin Train departing from the North Freedom train museum. Pat bought home a pumpkin with a cute (as opposed to ghoulish) face painted on it. After the train ride, Pat served as tour guide through Devil's Lake State Park, where we visited the nature center and enjoyed a lovely drive around the lake, with stops for picture taking. Lunch at a Baraboo pub allowed us time to enjoy a Badger's game and plan the rest of our day. We ended up at the Dells for the Upper Dells boat trip. During the boat ride, passengers were allowed two shore excursions: a walk leading to a waterfall along a pathway through rock formations; and at another, our guide jumped a gorge off the edge of a bluff to the top of a famous landmark called Stand Rock. Back on land, our trio of friends ended the day with cocktails and dinner at the Green Acres restaurant in Sauk City. Thanks, Pat, for hosting this event.

Three Tall Club Halloween Parties – Dave Rasmussen

On Saturday October 28th there were two excellent Halloween parties for Wisconsin tall clubs. Julie and Greg Lobitz invited the Tall Club of Milwaukee for great food, drink, and a weather-permitting bonfire. In Monticello, Tim and Wanda did likewise for the Mad Town Tall Club of Madison. And I had told friends in each that I would attend.

So I loaded up my little Ford Aspire with 2 pails of frozen drinks and a half gallon of Edy's Special Edition pumpkin pie ice cream, plus my camera, a sleeping bag and my toothbrush, and headed down to Greenfield. I was met at the door by Batman (Greg). Wonder Woman (Julie) was preparing treats in the kitchen as Rufus (their dog) dressed as Crypto, Superman's dog, greeted me. Family and friends arrived and after an hour or so I packed up and headed to the next party.

Monticello is in the middle of county farm roads, south of Madison, so I traveled cross-country from East Troy to Whitewater, through Milton Junction and Atica to get to Tim and Wanda's farm. Christine from Winnebago, Illinois, whom some of you met at our Milwaukee weekend, was dressed as a witch. Lugene, who was attending her first "tall" event, was also dressed as a witch and her sister was dressed as a demon. Because this was most likely the last Wisconsin Halloween party for Ginger, (one of the reasons I drove 100 miles when I could have stayed at a perfectly good party), I was not disappointed. Sweetie that she is, Ginger was a bag of Skittles and passed packages of that candy around. Pat was dressed as a beer keg with pump assembly, and was pouring mudslides for people from atop her

head. Dave J was the masked DJ for the event and regaled us with selections from his record collection. Wanda was a witch and Tim, a court jester. Kevin and Carol were there from Mardi Gras. Grant and Libby came as a German couple, complete with lederhosen. The potluck food was great, as usual, but the highlight was the pulled pork sandwiches and home-made ice cream from Wanda, and Libby's delicious apple crisp. Lugene is an aspiring recording artist and her work can be heard at

<http://tinvurl.com/v99hue>

A number of us stayed overnight at Tim and Wanda's Bed and Breakfast for a slumber party. At sunrise the next morning Tim took advantage of a sunny dry day to be out working on silage. Wanda cooked us a hearty breakfast featuring Jimmy Dean sausage casserole and Ginger's zucchini bread for dessert. It was a fun weekend, indeed.

The 3rd Halloween party to report on is Chicago Paramount Tall Club's "Talloween" party, which Deb attended on November 4th, at Paramount's new venue for their business meetings: McNally's Irish Pub in Elmhurst. It was well-attended, with many new faces. Paramount, like the Milwaukee club, is enjoying a renaissance with prospective members taking an active interest in the club. Awards for best costume were given out, and their DJ played some fabulous music that nearly everyone in the room got up and danced to – including Deb! Deb's friend Chuck, who is one-inch shy of the membership requirement, enjoyed meeting new friends and commented that the TALLS are such fun people to be around. Let's spread that word around, eh? See you at a tall club party SOON.

And now, introducing the Poet Laureate of the Milwaukee Wine and Harvest Weekend, Ms. Edie Berman, from the Tall Club of NYC....

September 14th I flew to Milwaukee for the Wine and Harvest Weekend, but

On the way I visited Chicago's Field Museum to see the exhibit of King Tut.

Then after a short train ride to Milwaukee, I checked in to the Radisson at the airport,

And went for an Italian dinner, with dessert a delicious chocolate torte.

September 15th, I toured Milwaukee, had lunch at a restaurant called Coast,

And visited the new Milwaukee Art Museum, of which the city should certainly boast.

The distinctive "sailboat" or "flying bird" design with fabulous views of the Lake Displays a beautiful Chihuly glass sculpture as large and colorful as anyone could make.

The evening event was a fish fry where we were served all we could eat.

Then there was the wine tasting party where we sampled wines dry and sweet.

September 16, was the Cedarburg Wine and Harvest Festival in a near-by town:

We enjoyed the numerous crafts and antiques and ate juicy bratwurst roasted brown.

We took photos of the last covered bridge in Wisconsin, built in 1876,

And stopped by Kopp's for frozen custard, of which we all had many licks.

Over 110 people attended the club's 60th anniversary dinner and dance,

Including some founding members whose marriages began as a TCI romance.

Raffles raised considerable money for charity - Marfans and the TCI foundation -

And the weekend chairpersons, Deb Tetzlaff and Jennifer Buchholz, deserve a standing ovation

For a weekend that was delightful with weather that couldn't be beat:

The Wine and Harvest Weekend in Milwaukee certainly was a treat!

And from the E-Mail bag, after that recent documentary on The Learning Channel...

Dear Mr. Rasmussen,

I saw you last week when TLC re-ran its show "The World's Tallest People". I wanted to write to you to thank you for sharing your story. I am 39 years old and 6'1", which is rather tall for a woman. I can identify with what you said about other children's comments when you were in school. The kids who lived on my block used to call me "spider" because I had such long arms and legs.

Thankfully, that was a long time ago! I am an attorney now, and I think my height actually gives me an advantage sometimes, especially in the courtroom. Thank you again for sharing your story and telling the world what it's like to be "above average". :)

Sherrie Johnson, Texas



WINTER CALENDAR...

Events subject to change; watch our website for updates and additions!

You are strongly encouraged to RSVP to each event's contact person. See contact info at bottom of this list. Some events are in Madison; note the locations carefully.

Fri Nov 10 5pm, Dinner at Yianni's Gyros. On corner of Blue Mound and Hwy 100. Bring entertainment book coupon B403. Order by 5:30pm. At 6:45 go to **Milwaukee Marfan Network Meeting, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. 7-9pm.** North on Hwy 100, past Wisconsin, right on Connell, left and free parking either in front of Children's Hospital clinics, or parking structure to north. Meeting on 2nd floor main auditorium – ask inside for directions or follow Dave. Please RSVP to Dave. This is a real opportunity for us to learn more about Marfan Syndrome and introduce their members to the tall club. Refreshments will be served.

SAT Nov 11th – Chicago field trip, KING TUT exhibit at the Field Museum. Tickets are “timed” and should be purchased in advance because weekends are selling out. \$34 includes audio tour (highly recommended) and gives you general admission to the entire museum. We'll hook up with members from both Paramount Tall Club from Chicago, as well as Mad Town Talls. (For those who may have already seen the King Tut artifacts, perhaps you might like going to the Shedd Aquarium instead, which is next door to the Field Museum?)

Meet up at Field Museum to take in the King Tut exhibit at either 10:00, 10:30, or 11:00am. Tickets are issued for half-hour increments. Once you are in the museum, you can stay as long as you like. The entrance to the KING TUT exhibit is the east entrance of the museum, the entrance door facing the lake. Parking is \$15. Museum does not have lockers for coats, but they do offer a coat-check service for clothing and parcels.

12:30pm...meet outside the King Tut gift shop at the end of the tour, near the mastodon display and the coffee break tables in the Great Hall—we'll split up from there, spending the afternoon where groups wish to go: perhaps the Art Institute, shopping along Michigan Avenue, the Shedd Aquarium, or the Museum of Science and Industry.

5pm...meet for supper at Bandera Restaurant on Michigan Avenue across from Virgin Records, on the SECOND FLOOR of 535 N. Michigan Avenue. Fabulous steaks and seafood, generous salads that look like works of art, fresh catch of the day, awesome garlic mashed potatoes, best cornbread in the universe (because you'd swear it's NOT cornbread) and a nice wine selection by the glass or bottle served by impeccably friendly wait staff. PARKING: Bandera will validate tickets from the Row Parking structure on OHIO between Rush and Wabash; patrons get a discount on parking. Bring your parking-garage ticket into the restaurant with you.

EVENING options for the night owls in our midst: comedy club? Second City? some improv somewhere? blues joint? anyone have any ideas? (The new IMPROV in Schaumburg on the way home is a very classy joint.) RSVP's = DEB from the Milwaukee tall club. See contact information at end of this list. Website: <http://fieldmuseum.org>

Sun Nov 12, 11am-??? Packer Party at Larry's. 8828 Oriole Lane, Wind Lake, Wisconsin 53185.

To RSVP and get directions, plus see what others are bringing for potluck contributions, go to <http://www.kucharek.com/directions> or see back of flyer. Contact person: Larry Kucharek 262.565.8926 or Lkucharek (at) wi.rr.com. RSVP by Friday Nov 11.

Fri Nov 17th – Holiday Folk Fair. State Fair Park Expo Building on south end of grounds. This is an opportunity for tall club to get FREE PUBLICITY...we are volunteering ourselves to

staff tables there from 6-10. (Dave, Julie, Cheri, Debbie, Ruby, Angela will get in free – anyone else want to join us?) Others may visit fair and those of us working can trade off being on break and walking around to see the sights. See <http://www.folkfair.org> for details.

SAT Nov 18th - deadline for ordering December 10th tickets -- see details of show under that date.

Sat Nov 18th -- concert TBA: Tentative morning free “concert.” Location and details will be emailed by Dave to list as date approaches. Dave has been asked to play in a string quartet for National Geographic TV in a role as someone with Marfan-related symptoms having fun. (The day before he will swim and play volleyball at UWM at noon for them.) They would like an audience for Saturday morning's shoot. Mongolia's 2nd tallest man, a 7'1" wrestler, may also be there.

SAT Nov 18th – Madison: dinner and bowling night; 6:30pm, meet for dinner at a Mexican restaurant at 802 Atlas Ave. Directions: from beltline 12/18, go NORTH onto Stoughton Road/Hwy 51; right (east) onto Cottage Grove Road and a short left (north) on Atlas Avenue. 9pm – “moonlight” bowling at Dream Lanes, 13 Atlas Court, 608.221.3591. Dream Lanes are located just east of the restaurant.

FRI Nov 24th - Madison fish fry and dancing; 5:30pm, meet at Esquire Club for the best fish fry on the east side of town! 1025 N. Sherman Ave, 608.249.0193. Directions: from I-94, continue west on Hwy 30 into Madison; Hwy 30 becomes Aberg Avenue when it slants toward the northwest. Aberg Ave will come to a “T” at N. Sherman Avenue, turn left (south) onto Sherman Ave, and go about 1/4 mile. You'll see Esquire Club on the left (east side of the street). If you go past the railroad tracks you've gone too far. **8pm, Rex's Innkeeper in Waunakee,** dancing to one of the Mad Town Talls' favorite bands. 301 N. Century Ave, 608.849.5011. Directions: from the

restaurant, go north on N. Sherman about a mile and a half, and when it comes to a T at Hwy 113, take 113 WEST/NORTH. (Also called Northport Drive.) Proceed northwest on 113 and follow it all the way into Waunakee. The highway will become Main Street. In the center of town, turn north (right) onto N. Century Ave, and the bar/restaurant Rex's will be there.

Thursday Nov 30th – deadline to RSVP for Mad Town Christmas party on December 9th.

Friday Dec 1, Paramount Tall Club Christmas Party. See flyer. Contact Dave for carpool info.

Sat Dec 2, Membership Social, Milwaukee Ale House, 233 N Water Street, 226-2337, for drinks at 5, dinner at 6. Please RSVP by 3pm to Dave. Bring Entertainment book coupon B268 for \$10 off 2 meals. Walk around a bit and end the evening with tree lighting and fireworks.

Sat Dec 9, MadTownTall's Christmas Party at Alt -N-Bach's. RSVP to Pat by Nov 30. Event starts at 6pm, Dave J will be DJ for the evening and collecting a \$10 donation. Location: 2602 Whalen Lane, Todd Drive exit off beltway, behind American TV, on Frontage Road.

SUN Dec 10th - Cudahy Carolers musical comedy at Vogel

Hall, 2pm (Marcus Center, formerly the PAC.) Hilarious concert/play dat pokes fun at our dear brodders and sistahs in dah Milwaukee area who have doze sout-side accents and love to bowl, drink and have fun, doncha know. Tickets usually sell out! Contact Deb by NOV 18th to reserve a seat; tickets are \$25-30.

SAT Dec 16th - Basilica of St. Josaphat, Concord Chamber Orchestra, 8pm, program entitled "A Literary Christmas" featuring their composer-in-residence, some choral works, narration and symphonic pieces. The basilica is at 6th and Lincoln. **We'll be dining out, using our Entertainment Books, prior to the concert.** Mad Town Talls will be joining us for this magnificent evening. RESTAURANT TBA.\

FRI Dec 22nd – deadline to RSVP for New Year's Eve party.

Sun Dec 31 – Mad Town Talls New Year's Eve Party in Madison. 6pm dinner at **Quaker Steak and Lube** at 2259 Deming Way, Middleton. Exit the Beltline right at University and Hwy 14. Take 2nd stop light right onto Deming Way. 608-831-5823. Pat needs RSVP's by 12/22. New Year's Eve party (tickets usually required) at Tallard's Station, which has a \$10 appetizer buffet and champagne at midnight. The bands playing all evening long

have been fantastic in the past. Directions: Beltline/Hwy 12 to Airport Road West, left on Nursery Drive, right to 8152 Forsythia St

Sat Jan 6, Ginger's Retirement Party – Harry's Café and Place, 808 W Main St, Lake Geneva. For more info, call Ginger.

TBA: **Ski outing to Cascade or Devil's Head.** Non-skiers can tube at Cascade, or hang out at the lodge or shop in town. Meet for dinner afterward? maybe join up with Madison tall club? Contact Dave if you have any interest in this.

New items that come up will be on our web site and emailed to members who have subscribed to our email list. To join it go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TallClubofMilwaukee> or email one of the officers below.

TBA: **Elvis Party** early next year.

Feb 2-4, Chicago Paramount Weekend. See flyer or www.tcweekends.com for details.

TCI Convention, Portland Oregon --June 29-July 1, pre-convention activities; July 2-8 convention. See flyer or go to www.tciconvention.com.

Contact info:

Deb T – 262.377.7355 / debtetz (at) hotmail.com / cell 262 496 2167

Dave R – 414.962.1685 / dave (at) uwm.edu, cell 414.430.3055.

Julie L – 414.321.4042 / gjpenguin (at) aol.com

Ginger's Party Line (har har) – 262.742.4107

Pat with Madison Tall Club – 608.206.6825 - (Pat does not have email)

Wanda with Madison Tall Club: wjwilkinson (at) kw.com, 608.219.8480

Tall Club of Milwaukee website: <http://www.tall.org/clubs/wi/mketalls/>

Mad Town Talls website: <http://www.tall.org/clubs/wi/madtowntalls/>