

# THE TALLEIDOSCOPE

Volume 13.1

Fall 2013



## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TOM GRUPP**

Dick and Lauren Buroker threw a great surprise birthday party for Tom Grupp's 40<sup>th</sup>. Great food including a spread from Doug Zachau, hilarious gifts, games designed by Lauren about Tom's childhood and later memories with his friend Dick, all contributed to a very entertaining time for 19 friends from work and the Midwest Tall clubs. Those were the days. Anyways, Happy Belated Birthday Tom!

This is the first newsletter of this club in a while. A lot of the club interaction now goes on electronically in cyber space, on social media, e-mail and our club web site. If anyone without a computer would like help to learn how to use these tools, ASK! A hand me down computer or nowadays tablet or cell phone and accessible network is all you might need to also be pulling tall information out of the cloud!

Check out our social media presence:

Web Page

<http://tallclubofmilwaukee.org>

Meetup

<http://www.meetup.com/Milwaukee-Talls/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TallClubOfMilwaukee/>

Tall Clubs International <http://tall.org>

We Talls have three Christmas parties coming up. First for the Tall Club of Milwaukee by our gracious host, Mr Barry Umbs, christening his newly renovated house in Menomonee Falls. The following Friday, the 13<sup>th</sup> no less, the Paramount Tall Club of Chicago hosts their party at Ristorante Vilaggio in Roselle IL after work. And finally the Mad Town Talls of Madison have theirs Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> in "Donna's Club House" in Madison. But wait there's more! Lee Nichols is hosting on the southwest side of Milwaukee, at Club Paragon 3pm Sunday Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, when the Packers take on the Cowboys.

See flyers in subsequent pages or the web for these and the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of January, Paramount Tall Club of Chicago's "Crazy in Chicago: head to toe" Weekend. If you haven't experienced a tall club weekend, ask your friends to tell you how much fun a weekend of activities with tall friends in another city can be. We're thinking about holding one here in Milwaukee again for our friends across the country to attend! And ask about carpooling to Chicago and Madison events!

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**

These include a minimum height of 6'2" for men and 5'10" for women, and a minimum age of 21 years.

Note: These minimum membership requirements are necessary in order to initiate the membership application process as 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 - \$15/year

Married Couple Membership - \$25/year



#### **TALL CLUB OF MILWAUKEE**

Post Office Box 1122,  
Milwaukee, WI 53201-1122

VM/event contact#: (414) 9-TALL-01  
Email Addr: tallclubofmilwaukee@gmail.com  
414-982-5501  
Web Site: <http://tallclubofmilwaukee.org>

#### **2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

(Home phone numbers unless otherwise indicated)

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414-962-1685

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414-520-1324

**Sergeant at Arms**  
Tom Grupp

#### **Tall Clubs International**

<http://tall.org> 1-800-521-2512

#### **Upcoming Birthdays:**

December 11 Deb Tetzlaff  
January 26 Sandra Gipp  
February 8 Barry Umbs  
February 17 Larry Kucharek

### Membership, Publicity, etc - by Dave Rasmussen

For membership, our latest prospective member I'd like to welcome to the Club is Kay, a teacher from Elkhorn who found us on Meetup. Introduce yourself. If anyone has any tall friends, talk them into joining you for events, and then if they have fun they'll join us. We have plenty of business cards to pass out amongst other tall people or on bulletin boards, even a stack at stores willing to make them available to other customers.

The picture to right, which is dated, is of Dave Rasmussen meeting now 28 year old Igor Igor Vovkovinskiy at the Minnesota State Fair in St Paul MN in 2003 with 5 foot something friends in front. Igor has since earned the reputation of America's tallest man at 7'8" tall, a little more than 4 inches taller than me. Both of us have been on a hand full of Discovery Channel and other documentaries.



Our President at the time and Queen, Heidi Holliman, did us proud at Tall Clubs International's 75<sup>th</sup> Silver Anniversary Convention in Las Vegas. For the talent portion she did a silent choreographed dance routine, which stood out in creativity and grace, but perhaps hard for the judges to appreciate. After making it to the final three it seemed she nailed it on the final questions, but our friend Valerie Ahrens of Chicago won out with Donna Stocker from Vancouver as runner up. Still for the first time running, Heidi won recognition for our club and we're proud of her.

Leading up to the pageant both Heidi and Larry were getting busy in other areas, she studying real estate, both into dance, remodeling a house, etc, that they decided to bow out with her as President of the club. Larry for the moment has travelled to Arizona and Heidi is still here. We wish both our very best!



Our club also won the best web site award, surprisingly to me because there was nothing fancy, but I was told because ours was complete and easy to navigate.

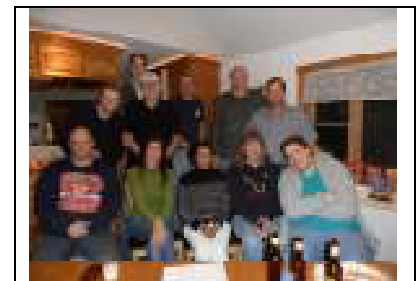
After convention our unofficial club "campout" was a fun time with people from all three clubs sharing the air-conditioned house with 2 bathrooms with showers and a full kitchen at Point Bluff Resort, Deb Tetzlaff from Madison, Dave and Lee from Milwaukee and Pat, Milanne and Dave from Chicago canoed the Wisconsin River complete with Bar stop, both nights checked out bars in Lindsay Station and Saturday night Dave and Deb checked out the ball room dance at Devil's Lake State Park. Next year Milanne and Dave will run the event with help from friends from the Wisconsin clubs.



Towards the end of July Tom Grupp and I joined the MadTownTalls in Evansville for a small town 4<sup>th</sup> of July with Pat and Donna. We also played Sequence!

Our former member from Milwaukee, Deb is an aspiring writer. I joined her at UW Waukesha for a short story conference keynote..... And earlier in the year at The Moth – a story telling event which would be fun for our group some time.

Keep in touch and suggest activities. We've been posting most new events to our Facebook and Meetup groups, then adding things to our own web's Google calendar. It's easier to get the word out electronically, accessible these days by smart phones. Watch the web sites and calendars of our sister clubs in Madison and Chicago, not to mention others across the country, as well, and our parent organization's at tall.org.



Merry Christmas and a Happy TALL New Year!

## CALENDAR

**Saturday Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, Tall Club of Milwaukee Annual Christmas Party** at the new House of Umbs, N84W18391 Menomonee Avenue, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. Please contact Barry at 414-520-1324 or [xtallbarry@aol.com](mailto:xtallbarry@aol.com) to discuss what you're sharing at the Potluck. A honey spiral ham will be the main course. Please also bring a wrapped white elephant gift not worth more than \$15 for the wacky gift exchange. Free admittance to tall club members or alumni of any TCI club. (Other clubs might consider this practice.) Non-members may join the Tall Club of Milwaukee for \$15 else pay \$10. Everyone should pick up cards to pass out to others to help us grow the club.

**Friday Dec 13<sup>th</sup>, Paramount Tall Club of Chicago Christmas Party**, (see attached flyer), 6pm [Villaggio Ristorante](#), 1242 W. Lake Street, Roselle, IL. Contact Dave at the club voicemail at 414-9TALL-01 or other members about carpooling. Dave is staying overnight but with an early work meeting in Madison the next morning.

**Saturday Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, Mad Town Talls Holiday Party**, 8406 Isaac Drive. From Beltline (Hwy 12&18) exit West/left at Mineral Point Road, North/right on Junction Road, West/left on Isaac Drive (across from Target) and then turn right into the last driveway. We'll be in the complex's party room/building. Music by our own DJ, DR and DT. Bring a dish to pass. Full kitchen and fridge available for preparation. Also bring a not worth more than \$15 gift for exchange.

**Sunday Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, 3pm, Club Paragon**, 3578 S 108th St, Greenfield, WI. Watch the Packers cream the Cowboys with your friends with a view over the short people, who I'm told are good with ketchup.

**Tuesday Dec 31 New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance** at Rex's Innkeeper Old-Fashioned Supper Club, 301 N Century Ave, Waunakee, WI. 608-849-5011. Directions: Interstate north to 19/113 West. In Waunakee turn right (north) at Century Ave then left. Music: Universal Sound Dance Band – Wisconsin's Premier Dance Band, with dance music from all Decades including oldies, 70's, 80's, Swing, Country, Motown, Sinatra and contemporary hits. This 5-piece variety band, whose versatility and 20 years of experience make them an ideal band for New Year's with music for everyone. NO COVER CHARGE. Reservations for dinner hold our table for the 9pm Entertainment. Hats & Horns at midnight to welcome the New Year PLUS Free sandwiches after midnight!. RSVP ASAP to Pat (608) 206-6825 or [patwish1@aol.com](mailto:patwish1@aol.com) or to Wanda (608)219-8480 or [wjwilkinson@kw.com](mailto:wjwilkinson@kw.com)

**Wednesday January 1 New Years Day welcome of the Sun.** If you weren't up until midnight to welcome the new day, consider joining Dave and some other friends at Bradford Beach before sun rise on January 1 to see in the new day, then have breakfast at Ma Fischers, 2214 N Farwell, to warm up.

**Saturday January 18<sup>th</sup>, 6pm, Friday's Front Row of Brewer's Stadium**, membership social/dinner. Sit back and catch up with your tall friends, go out and see some music or dance after perhaps. Hosted by Lee Nichols.

**Tuesdays, 8:00pm East Coast Swing Lessons** at the WhereHouse, 818 S. Water Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204. \$7, then free dance at 9pm.

**Thur-Sun January 23-26**, Crazy in Chicago: head to toe Tall Club Weekend. See attached flyer with deadlines for more info. Rooms can be shared to keep costs down and that we do.

**Fri-Sun Feb 14-16** Phoenix Phebruary Phiesta Weekend. See [tall.org](http://tall.org) for more details.

**Thursday March 6, 6pm.** Jason Gosz Scholarship review and selection for 2014 TCI Scholarships submittal. Contact Dave if you'd like to help. 414-9TALL01.