

It has been a busy summer but finally have the tour boats laid up for the winter. Now time to catch up on things I haven't done all summer.

Got a call from MV Joe Block, they would be in Cedarville to load stone. Ray wanted to know if Mary Ann and I would like to come down for a visit. Lodge 22 member Curt Kikkert was already onboard. We had a nice visit with PGP Capt. Ray Sheldon.

Mary Ann and I also attended the Great Lakes Memorial Service on December 9th at the Maritime Sailors' Cathedral in Detroit. It was my first time to that service. It was very nicely done with good representation of ISMA members in uniform.

The next night we attended the Lost Mariners Remembrance on Bell Isle at the Dossin Museum. This is an impressive event itself. A candle vigil was held around the anchor of the Edmund Fitzgerald for those that were lost on her. Each man lost had a candle holder with their name and title on a plaque. The Detroit Fire Department's boat's illuminated monitors led a parade of USCG, RCMP, OPP etc. vessels. The USCG vessel approached the seawall to pick up a wreath which was placed on the river. Following with dozens of red roses, each placed in the river by attendees.

Returning inside we were provided an educational session on the Benjamin Noble that was lost near Duluth in 1914. Underwater photography detailed the vessel's underwater exploration. At nearly 360 ft it is one of the deepest dives in the Great Lakes.

Both of these are well worth the trip to attend them and I encourage all mariners and those interested in the maritime industry to attend both.