

## Event to benefit pancreatic cancer research at Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit

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Rick Thie of Metamora is translating several of his passions – boating and raising money to fight pancreatic cancer – into a fun summer event that raises money for the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit.



*Rick Thie, left, organizer of the Second Annual Torch Lake Classic & Antique Wooden Boat Rendezvous "Cruising for the Cure," met with Dr. Philip A. Philip, M.D., Ph.D., FRCP, multidisciplinary team leader of gastrointestinal oncology at Karmanos, to provide him a donation from revenues generated from last year's inaugural boat event and nostalgic calendar.*

Thie and his family, along with support from individuals and the local business community, are planning the Second Annual Torch Lake Classic & Antique Wooden Boat Rendezvous "Cruising for the Cure" July 23 and 24 in the Harborage of Clam River, near Bellaire.

The event, which features classic wooden boats from 1969 and earlier, is in memory of his late mother Jane Thie, who succumbed to pancreatic cancer in January 2007 at the age of 69. Event proceeds go to the Jane H. Thie Memorial Fund, which contributes money to Karmanos Cancer Institute for pancreatic research. Karmanos is one of only 40 National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer centers in the United States and is Michigan's only hospital solely devoted to fighting cancer.

Eligible boats can also be constructed post-1969, but must be wooden. Due to space constraints, boats also must be from the Chain O'Lakes area in Antrim County to be entered in the show. Cost to register a boat is \$25, and \$10 for each additional boat. The deadline is July 1.

Thie said he remembers well the summer days he and his family spent in the Chain O' Lakes area, cutting the waves in their 1950s-era wooden Chris-Craft boat.

His mom, Jane, loved boating and was excited when Rick and his wife, Ellie, purchased a 1953 22-foot Chris-Craft utility boat in 1998. It was the same model and year as the one Jane and her husband, Dick, owned back in the late '60s and early '70s. She pushed Rick hard to get the boat restored, just so that she could cruise the lakes one more time.

"She knew she was fading and was eager for the restoration to be completed before summer's end," Thie said. "We restored the boat before my mom died and she was able to take one of her last boat rides in the place she liked most to spend time on this earth."

Last year's rendezvous raised \$4,200 for the fund, with much of the revenue coming from sales of the 2010 Cruising for the Cure antique wooden boat calendar, featuring classic double and triple cockpit boats. Images from last year's inaugural event were captured by a team of professional photographers and assembled in the calendars. Thie said that he hopes to double the amount of money raised for Karmanos this year.

He noted that while his mom was treated at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, doctors there contacted Philip A. Philip, M.D., Ph.D., FRCP, multidisciplinary team leader of gastrointestinal oncology at Karmanos, for weekly consultations.

"Dr. Philip made such an impression on my family," Thie said. "His demeanor was so caring. It was about treating the patient, not just the disease."

Thie said he got the idea for the calendars and the rendezvous from a boat restorer who was helping him restore his own boat, named "Nauti Ellie." Last year's inaugural event brought together about 40 boats.

This year's event features a few new additions, including the "Party on the Pier" event at 6:30-9:30 p.m. July 23 at the Dockside Restaurant on Torch Lake, at the mouth of Clam River. Tickets are \$20 per person and include two drink tickets, hors' oeuvres and a silent auction.

Organizers also have added a Parade of Boats event, departing from DeWitt Marine at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday. Chris Smith, grandson of the legendary Christopher Columbus Smith, founder of Chris-Craft, will serve as parade grand marshal.

Boats will be judged for awards in four classes: The Fairwood Award, which goes to the People's Choice Best in Show Inboard Boat; the Jane H. Thie Memorial Award, which goes to the Captain's Choice Best in Show Inboard; the People's Choice Best in Show Outboard; and Captain's Choice Best in Show Outboard.

Cruising for the Cure T-shirts, an event poster and a 2011 antique wooden boat calendar featuring a salute to sport utility boats in the show will be on sale at the event.

Thie said about 300 to 400 people attended the event last year. It is relaxed and family friendly, and inspires attendees to take a walk down memory lane when they see the boats, according to Thie.

"I think attendees enjoyed the fact that those boats had been around since their childhood," he said. "People in their 70s had seen these boats in their youth."

Plus, the event raises funds for a cause Thie and others are passionate about.

"I'm glad I can help people with pancreatic cancer live another day," he said. "I have a passion for the boats and a passion for taking another step towards eradicating pancreatic cancer."

For more information about the Second Annual Torch Lake Classic and Antique Wooden Boat Rendezvous "Cruising for the Cure," visit [www.cruiseforcure.org](http://www.cruiseforcure.org) or call Rick Thie at (810) 441-4792 or e-mail him at [cruisingforthecure@prodigy.net](mailto:cruisingforthecure@prodigy.net).