

# The History of Quagmire

Written in 1994 for Vikings M.C.'s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The origin of the Quagmire dates back to 1975, when it was used as a tongue in cheek moniker for a group of friends. In 1979 the late Barclay Churchill brought the Quagmire, kicking and screaming into the Boston Club scene, through participation in "YOU MAY", an inter-club fund raiser held at the old Bradford Hotel.

In 1981 the members of Quagmire decided to become more fully involved in the club scene in Boston and named Joe Cwikla, the founder, as its next spokesperson. It was at this point that the relationship between the Quagmire and the Vikings began, since to assume the leadership of the Quagmire Joe had to resign as a member of the Vikings M.C..

Although the Vikings lost a member and a past secretary, a bond of brotherhood and mutual support was forged that lasts right up to the present.

The first "club" event that the Quagmire sponsored was a club day at 119 Merrimac entitled "Springtime in the Swamp" in March of 1981. Boston hadn't seen a club event quite like this, with the bar decorated, members in costumes, a complete theme carried out in the bar, advertising, a buffet, and games and special events happening during the club day. It was the support and encouragement of the Vikings that helped make this event an unqualified success.

The success of "Springtime in the Swamp" opened the eyes of some of the other clubs in Boston and encouraged them to liven up their own club days, which, to be honest had gotten rather dull and monotonous. The very next Sunday, the Vikings, always quick to adapt to changing circumstances, held an equally successful theme club day.

The first run that the Quagmire attended as a group was Lief Erickson 1981. Not being content to just attend Lief Erickson, the Quagmires arrived and set up Quagmire Pavilions complete with tents, lights, oriental carpets, and a multi-tiered champagne fountain equipped with an illuminated Cupid. This served as the centerpiece for a pre-banquet cocktail party. (which by the way in good Viking tradition was scheduled for 1 hr, but lasted 2 1/2 hours with periodic pleas from the kitchen to "stretch it a bit")

In the succeeding years, the Quagmire/Viking connection produced some of the more unforgettable events on Lief Erickson, including Baldor arriving out of the mists by torch lit barge attended by four "Rhine Maidens", the Dead Dog Saloon, and Peckerwood. Each year, these themes were accompanied by the appropriate costumes, lavish musical numbers and decorations.

During all of this activity, working side by side, and through succeeding administrations of the Quagmire and the Vikings, the bond of brotherhood has grown stronger and stronger, and so it is with great pleasure that we, the Quagmire, congratulate our brothers on their 25th Anniversary.