

The Bullship Log
Newsletter of the Rockford Yacht Club



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Meeting Location: Harlem Township Hall
819 Melbourne Ave. Machesney Park, IL

Meeting: Monday, Nov. 27th, 2006 @ 7:00

Please note the meeting is being held one week later than normal.

Also, this format of the newsletter is to accommodate the use of
a return form and envelope – a temporary change – we think.

Meeting Program: Nick & Gayle Scheuer's sailing adventures in the Pacific Northwest

Event alert: Christmas Party reservation form enclosed (yellow sheet), please complete as soon
as possible and return in the enclosed envelope. We need your reply by Dec. 1st.

Christmas Party – Monday Dec. 18th @ Lino's
5611 E. State Street, Rockford
6:00 cocktails
7:00 dinner

“Chinese Auction” gift exchange, 50/50 raffle, fun, camaraderie, awards
(gift exchange – for those who want to participate, items < \$15)

Commodore's Corner

Welcome to a new year for the RYC. We have some new officers and some new ideas that we hope will give everyone more chances to participate in RYC events.

The first big change is that we are planning to alternate business and social events every month. Starting in November we will have a business meeting with a program as well. For December we will be having our annual Christmas social at Leno's. We are planning to alternate business meetings and social events in this manner throughout the year. See the inside of the newsletter for additional details.

We are also planning more events to entice new memberships, like Allen's very successful "A Taste of Sail." This helps us get the word out about the club and sail more.

I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving, and I hope to see a number of you at the business meeting on Nov. 27th. We had to move the date at the request of the Harlem Township. Let's plan on discussing some of these new ideas and remember the RYC board is always looking for suggestions and new ways to make the club even more fun!

Evans Walker
Commodore – RYC

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November meeting food to be provided by 2006 officers.

Please note that the club will no longer be providing soda pop. Coffee and cups for water will be available and there is a soda machine in the foyer at the hall (Pepsi products). The purchase of pop and ice and transportation to the meetings as been an ongoing problem for the Activities Captains. Sorry for any inconvenience. There is also a Starbucks and Mobil convenience store one block north of the hall at Hwy 173 & Orlando.

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Our last event – the "End of Season Celebration" at the Penticoff home was a success. Well over 20 people attended – from old hands to people attending for the first time. All had a good time and the bonfire did happen once the wind died down.

We usually collaborate on getting together at the **Strictly Sail Show** Feb. 1 – 4. Details in Dec./Jan.

Welcome Aboard

Vistors to last meeting – **Mike Peterson** and his daughter Alyssa. Mike and his wife Keri have been liveaboard sailors on a 42' catamaran and Mike an ASA sailing instructor before moving to Candlewick Lake and raising a family. Their other two children are Sabrina and Hunter. They have a Hunter? 14 they sail on the lake.

New Member – this should have been in last month's Bullship Log – **Guy Gatis** joined us at the September meeting. Guy is experienced at racing as crew on Lake Michigan boats and events.

New Officers

Commodore – **Evans Walker**; Vice Commodore – **Nick Scheuer**; Purser – **Eric Mueller**;

Yeoperson – **Ruth Penticoff**; Flotilla Captain – **Harley Johnson**; Activities Captain – **Gayle Scheuer**

Membership Captain – **Shirley “Sam” Walker**; Signal Officer – **Allen Penticoff** *

* *We will need to vote again on the amendment to the bylaws that created the position of Signal Officer. According to the bylaws 32 days were to elapse between notification of the proposed change and the vote. We were under that number of days – plus we should have offered the exact wording to be amended.*

Thanks to outgoing officers for performing their duties – and thanks to those who have stayed on in their positions.

Member News

Joy and Dave Tarrant have made their way down to Florida – and will be staying in Ft. Myers’ Yacht Basin at dock “H”. Visitors are more than welcome. Cell phone: 815-519-7022

Ann & Preston Aylesworth are at or near their destination of Fair Hope, Alabama in their 16’ “The Crew’s Ship.” We met up with them at Kentucky Lake, as did the Tarrants on their way south. If you have not been receiving Ann’s email updates and would like them all – I have saved them. Email me, Allen Penticoff, at apenticoff@insightbb.com with your request.

RYC Calendar

Vice Commodore, Nick Scheuer, has worked out a tentative calendar for next year that accommodates our intention to reduce the number of “business” meetings (*odd numbered months*) and hold more that are of a social nature (*even numbered months*). This reduces the demand on the Vice Commodore to find appropriate programs – and reinforces what we really are – a club of like minded individuals who love to talk about sailing and eat! A remaining decision is whether to have the social events on third Mondays – or Fridays close to a holiday type event i.e. Valentine’s Day and Halloween. Feel free to let us know what you think of this plan – for or against.

Abbreviations: “TBA” = programs not yet determined; “HTH” = Harlem Township Hall meeting location

Nov 06 – Harlem Township Hall (HTH),
TRUE NORTH cruises Strait Of Georgia

Jun 07 - Annual Picnic at Rock Cut
A Taste Of Sail to be one week prior (or first weekend in June)

Dec 06 – Annual Christmas Party, Lino’s

Jul 07 – Sailing at Rock Cut

Jan 07 – TBA (HTH)
Special Event - Strictly Sail, Navy Pier, Chicago

Aug 07 – More sailing at Rock Cut

Feb 07 – Valentine’s Day Party (location open)

Sep 07 – TBA (HTH)

Mar 07 – *Aylesworths Cruise in to Gulf Coast* (HTH)

Oct 07 – End Of Season Party & Election of Officers
(location open)

Apr 07 – Party (location open)

Nov 07 – TBA (HTH)

May 07 – Flotillas Planning (HTH)

Dec 07 – Annual Christmas Party

Flotilla Report - Kentucky Lake '06

By Allen Penticoff

We departed Rockford at 10:30 on Wednesday night. The rain earlier in the day had stopped – but would reappear further down the road. Arrived in the Kentucky Lake area at 7 a.m.-ish and headed straight to the Kentucky Dam Marina to have a snooze and some coffee perhaps – only to find a dozen bass boats and tow vehicles backed up on the road leading to the marina. Bass fishing tournament time again! No point in trying to get in now. Turned around and went over the dam to Lighthouse Landing Marina (LHL), then decided not to sleep but go to “The Lite Side Café” for a nice warm breakfast and coffee.

Tried to work out best time to meet up with my sister and brother-in-law who live and work at Wranglers Camp – a huge U.S. Forest Service campground dedicated to horse riding that is in the middle of the Land Between the Lakes. About that time Preston called. He and Ann were over in Pisgah Bay in *The Crew's Ship*. We told them to stay put, it was not very distant. We drove over since the day's forecast was not favorable to sailing at all (*rain and cold wind all day*). We found them at Birmingham Ferry Landing (*a place I'd been to on land before*) and they came ashore. No sign of the Trailer Sailor's Association flotilla that was supposed to be there as well (*we did meet some at LHL who decided to bailout of the event*).

There was a lot of driftwood lying about – so Preston suggested a small fire. I recommended we borrow a fire from some nearby campers who were the only other people in the whole campground. I'd met Sharon when she pointed out a tortoise to me in the upper parking area – she seemed nice enough. Retired, Sharon and Joe have a small class C motorhome and already had a dandy fire going. Sharon made us a couple pots of coffee too. The five of us shared their fire and company – then my sister and brother-in-law along with two of their friends from Orangeville, IL. found us and joined in the fireside party. It was no day to hang out outside indefinitely – so *Thebote's* crew of Ruth, Dan Medler and I headed down “The Trace” (*the road running the length of the LBL*). The fall colors were the best I've ever seen here despite the lack of sun and occasional rain. While we were

headed for a rendezvous with lunch and hot pie at “Cindy's On The Barge” at Ken Lake Resort Marina, Ann and Preston were getting wet bashing into a light chop back to Lighthouse Landing to meet up with us later.

The lunch was great and we literally closed the place out at 2:00 when the waitress/cook/owner said we could stay as long as we wanted to – she was leaving. The restaurant is a part of the ship's store on the barge/fuel dock – and the rest was open, if extremely quiet.

After stopping by the Land Between the Lakes visitor center to learn about the region, we visited my sister's large home/trailer in the campground which is five miles of remote paved road from the visitor center. They were not home yet, but that was fine; the three of us took nice warm naps before heading back to Lighthouse Landing to take Ann and Preston out for dinner with us. I should mention I forgot the key to the trailer tongue lock – so we were dragging *Thebote*, our 1989 MacGregor 26C around with us everywhere we went behind Dan's Suburban.

Met up with the Aylesworths at the marina and all drove over to a restaurant about five miles west of the dam on Hwy 62 near Benton called “Catfish Kitchen.” It had come highly recommended to me by someone several years ago. This summer during a visit I'd found it but not dined there. The décor is rustic with tons of “stuff” on the walls and ceilings – like an explosion in a rummage sale. We got tables immediately on this rainy Thursday night, and before we ordered, the food started arriving. Everyone gets the same basic stuff with dinner – coleslaw, hushpuppies, white beans and bread. From there it is a matter of how much catfish do you want – or other entrées. All reasonably priced and tasty. Back to the marina, we slept in *Thebote* on its trailer in the parking lot. It was cold, our day long, so sleep came early in our cozy sleeping bags.

Fortunately the forecast was for improving weather over the next couple of days. Friday morning was a distinct improvement, if a tad chilly. Insulated pants paid off. The day would ultimately climb into the low 60s under mostly sunny skies.

Ann and Preston spent time getting ready while we went over to Kentucky Dam Marina to launch *Thebote*. The water was very low at the LHL ramp. Mooched some coffee off the marina office and talked to a woman who'd come in on a 40' sailboat. They had started from Sandusky, Ohio, many weeks ago and come through the Great Lakes and rivers. They'd had enough for the year and would lay their boat over here for the winter while returning home.

Leo Wehner and his wife Judy, from Byron, IL., made it down late the night before and stayed at the Grand Rivers Inn motel. They came over to the ramp with their Montego 20 "*Free Wind*." Leo rigged before us and was floating while we were wrapping up eating some breakfast before launching. The bass fishermen were all out fishing, so the ramp was relatively quiet, if parking space something of a premium. Leo went out first with his electric trolling motor pushing his fine little fixed keel yacht along. He hoisted sail, but we did not bother. There was not enough wind to sail. Still it was nice to be out on the water on a pretty day. Judy and Dan drove our respective rigs back to LHL. Dan stopping at the IGA in Grand Rivers to pick up a gallon of water – a commodity we failed to bring along this time.

It was after 1:00; Ann and Preston had not departed yet – but were close to it - enjoying all the fine company in the marina. Since there was not enough wind to sail, we invited the Wehners aboard *Thebote* for a motorboat trip over to Lake Barkley. They brought along their prepared lunch and we set out for a trip through the canal to Lake Barkley.

The Wehners have been sailing since 1999, but have always done so alone (*at times with family aboard*), not in the company of other boats, in marinas, or flotillas. So the whole Kentucky Lake experience was great for them. A new place to sail, a different style, marinas, and their first raft up later on Saturday. But today we just turned right into Lake Barkley and found a pretty cove to drop the hook in and enjoy lunch and a nice long chat. While floating there we observed a real stern paddlewheel driven riverboat passing by – it was quite huge. After lunch there was a light and variable wind we played with under sail before motoring through the canal – which at one point we had to share with a large raft of barges being pushed

under the bridge. Out into Kentucky Lake, a breeze had come up so we deployed the sails once again and enjoyed a good hour and a half of sailing before needing to be back in the marina and a 6:30 dinner date with my sister and friends at the Iron Kettle.

We were a tad late – but so was sister Gail, having been stuck behind slow moving traffic the whole 23 miles up The Trace. As usual, the all you can eat buffet was all we could eat – leaving the nine of us stuffed. But they had to ask us to leave – as we lingered and talked. Leo and Judy just went next door to their motel room where they were staying for \$41 per night. Since they were arriving late the night before – the owner had just left the key in their room door so they could let themselves in. This night, however, the motel was full with tournament bass fishermen. We returned to a warm *Thebote* thanks to an electric heater plugged into our slip's outlet.

Saturday morning was not near as cold. We did not use the heater through the night and used it little in the morning. Breakfast and coffee on *Thebote* was more like normal for us than dining out all the time. Today the "Fifty Miler" sailboat race was being held. It looked like a good day for it with a nice steady breeze of 10-15 mph coming from the south. A parade of boats passed us as they headed out to the starting line for the nine a.m. start. The race is PHRF handicapped, but seems to have more "racing" boats than cruisers participating this year. They sail from abeam LHL to the highway bridge some 25 miles away then back. Today it would be a windward beat all the way there and a dead run back. There were three classes: spinnaker, class B (non-spinnaker) and Catalina 22 (four boats). The Catalina sailors are deadly serious about racing their boats – shaving off hundreds of pounds of hull weight and using Kevlar sails!

We get a late start – 10:30 but soon catch up to Leo and Judy as we both beat our way towards a favorite cove just south of Moss Creek bay for lunch. It is an awesomely beautiful sunny day - great wind, moderate temperatures. Just a perfect sailing day with the colorful Kentucky Lake shoreline as a backdrop to it all. Watch the other boats in the race sailing away towards the bridge, while others are coming out just to enjoy the day.

We beat Leo and Judy to the cove and anchor without starting the engine. Soon they come alongside and we raft them off of us. A new experience for them. It is a bit cool here as the breeze is still getting at us and a swell comes in off the lake. But it is pretty.

After lunch – and Dan’s nap – we decide to explore nearby Pisgah Bay, as in all the times we’ve been here sailing we have never gone in to look around. Now that there have been several connections with it for me this year – it is appropriate that I finally have a look.

There is a manmade breakwall that marks the entrance, but one has to look out for a shoal that extends out from it toward the south, leaving a narrow area for a deep draft boat to enter, then a few other shoals to dodge around. Since these shoals are rock filled and we don’t have a depth finder other than our daggerboard, we’d rather play it safe. We drifted lazily downwind for the most part around the bay where several powerboats are anchored out to bask in the sun. One big boat has two jet skis that slide into its transom – and we hope he can’t get one of them started. Our wishes were granted so we had a nice quiet time noodling about the narrow bay.

It was a dicey beat of several short tacks to get out of the bay and back out into the main lake, a fun challenge made possible by a steady wind of still 10 - 15 mph.

We sailed a bit further southward toward the next large bay before turning around and joining the tail end of the racing fleet after swapping the jib for the genoa for the long downwind wing-on-wing leg back to the marina. Leo got out his spinnaker for the return trip – then disappeared ahead of us. It was a time to relax. The sun was obscured an hour early due to the arrival of a cloud bank that foretold a change in the weather – leaving us to enter the marina in nearly full darkness at 6:30.

We had a nice pasta dinner prepared by Ruth aboard *Thebote* that evening. Leo and Judy tried to get into famous “Patti’s” restaurant, but decided against the two hour wait and went to the IGA to buy some Hot Pockets to cook in their room’s microwave.

Dan departed when a bit of rain came by (*he was sleeping in his Suburban this trip*). Ruth and I stayed up and read awhile. After turning in I had to get up twice during the night to take care of *Thebote*. Strong winds got one unattended to halyard to banging on the mast (*along with hundreds of others*) and the daggerboard bumping – but we were blown away from the dock, with wavelets lapping noisily at the transom, making it tough for me to sleep, so I took care of what I could. Later the wind blew us up hard against the dock – where *Thebote* twisted around to rub the hull up against the dock’s rub strip – again making a noise. Break out another fender to nip that in the bud. The wind was howling. Apparently a front passing through. Dan said it was screaming up at the Suburban in the exposed lakeside parking lot.

Sunday dawned windy and overcast at first. Decidedly colder. Not really a great day for sailing, so we’ll quit while we’re ahead. I saw one purple decked Catalina 22 (*with Tiger Shark mouth on the bow*) go out with a young family – but they were back shortly.

Other trailer sailors had pulled out successfully at the LHL ramp, so we decided that’s what we’d do after joining Leo and Judy for breakfast at The Lite Side Café. The café was packed, with no waitress, so it was a sort of happy serve yourself affair for everyone. Nice to be warm for a while. Water had been seen flowing into the marina, so we had no problem hauling our boats out there instead of making the trip over to Kentucky Dam Marina. We were on the road at 12:40 and enjoying the splendid fall scenery as the sun began to shine through and illuminate what I think was the best color I’ve seen in Southern Illinois on any of these many autumn trips we’ve made.

Home by 9:30 p.m., a little earlier than usual – but very happy with the whole experience – and glad that gas was only \$2.07 - \$2.14 !!

- - Allen