

The Bullship Log

Newsletter of the Rockford Yacht Club

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5292, Rockford, IL 61125
Contact phone: Allen 815-874-9604
Website: www.RockfordSailing.org
Meeting Location: Harlem Township Hall
819 Melbourne Ave.
Machesney Park, IL



Meeting date: Monday Sept. 17th, 7:00

Location: Harlem Township Hall

Food and Fun: Chili Cookoff Contest



Program: Photos and Tales of adventure from
the "North Channel Cruise"



The Scheuer's *True North* was enjoying the company of a Trailer Sailor's Association Flicka cruising the North Channel (Flicka in photo).

Story begins on page three.

Commodore's Corner

Hello All! Here we are in September and the fall colors are already starting to show. Another sign the season is changing, I just got our snowmobile newsletter. Soon sailing this summer will be a memory, but not yet! Sam and I are planning at least two more sails this month before we take Quickstep out for the season. The way the weather has been we may still be sailing in November. I hope everyone can attend this month's meeting to either bring or sample and vote on some of the best chili in Rockford. I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at this fun event!

Sincerely,

Evans Walker
Commodore - RYC

RYC News

Last month sixteen of us met at Shorewood Park in gloomy conditions to be entertained by the Rockford Ski Broncs. Some among us brought dinner and picnicked together, others came to chat and watch the show. None got wet, and by all accounts, the overcast skies made it easier to watch the show rather than looking into the setting sun.

The Chili Contest - RYC will provide crackers, cheese, bowls and utensils etc. Please bring your own or buy on site a non-alcoholic beverage. We provide coffee. Not competing with a pot 'O chili? Please bring another dish to share. Chips, dessert, cornbread? This event is always a tasty treat.

This month we'll ask for volunteers for a nominating committee to round up a slate of new officers or re-elect the current ones to present at the October meeting / Party. Normally we don't do "business" at an event, but it should be quick enough.

Activities coming up: **Halloween Party** /meeting at the Hill's Farm on **October 27th** - Nautical Costumes will be the theme, but not required. Details in the next Bullship Log. Mark your calendars - now - you don't want to miss it.

Flotilla Nuze

There was a report of some sailing out on the Anderson/Hill Peterson 33 from Kenosha to intercept the tall ship fleet. Eric Mueller, Bill Seigworth, Nick Scheuer, and Harley Johnson went out with Kyle, Scott and Guy Gattis to sail with the Tall ships and Guy demonstrated how to fly the spinnaker. (see photos after the North Channel story)

We're seeing people still out sailing yet -great!!! Scott Foster seems to ALWAYS be at Pierce Lake. Scott - where do you sleep there?

Ruth and I are considering a Lake Mendota sail Sept. 15 & 16, let us know if you are interested in meeting us up there.

Also, our plans are to spend a week at Kentucky Lake in October and to meet up with RYC the days of Oct. 19 - 20 or whatever works out. Again let us know of your interest.
- Allen

NWSA/RYC - Green Lake Report August 10-12, 2007 by Dick Spears

Green Lake is one of the best sailing lakes in the state of Wisconsin, with beautiful scenery and less boat traffic than we normally have in our area.

Most boats were launched at the Green Lake Conference Center (GLCC) and stayed at rented moorings or slips. There were two boats associated with the Rockford Yacht Club. The Kohls launched their boat at a ramp on the south east edge of the lake. The Frazers keep their boat at a mooring at GLCC for the summer.

BOATS, DAYS AND CREW

Bill Bixley ; American 18 ; Friday crew Jim Leineweber ; Saturday crew Jim L , Tom Ripson ; Sunday crew Jim L , Jim & Shelley Kohl ; American 18 ; Saturday. crew Mike Kenny, Jeff Wortley, RYC **John & Eileen Frazer**; Coronado 23; Saturday crew **Chuck Johnson (Harley's brother)** RYC **Harley Johnson** ; O'Day 23 ; Saturday crew **Eric Mueller** ; Sunday crew **Eric Mueller, John & Eileen Frazer** Joe Rittner ; MacGregor 25 ; Friday crew John & Cindy Heisler ; Saturday crew Sandy Piwowarczyk, Bob Winkenbach ; Sunday crew John & Cindy Heisler, **George Kittner** RYC **Dick Spears** ; MacGregor 25 ; Friday crew Joe & Helen Richart ; Saturday crew **George Kittner** RYC, John & Cindy Heisler, Irene Jarmulka, Arlene Harley ; Sunday crew Irene Jarmulka, Joe Richart, Sandy Piwowarczyk, Bob Winkenbach

Sailing took place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. On Friday morning two boats and crew left GLCC and headed east on the lake. The winds were good for the most part, with some spirited sailing (heeling) . Joe Richart during one stretch of heeling exclaimed "Now this is sailing!" There was also some competitive sailing between the two MacGregor 25's. Bill Bixley launched later in the day and also sailed on Friday with low winds. After

the sail, some had an excellent buffet dinner at the GLCC dining hall.

On Saturday morning the boats headed East on Green Lake for a lunch rendezvous at Norton's Marine Dining Room. Near the East end of the lake a westbound American 18 with spinnaker was spotted by the eastbound MacGregor 25 which carried a close hauled genoa jib. As they passed, the American 18 did a quick 180 degree turn to challenge the MacGregor 25. In their haste to compete, the spinnaker wrapped around the forestay for an extended period of time. Before you knew it, the American 18 was 400 feet behind the bigger boat which was also 300 feet to windward. A close hauled genoa will usually out point a spinnaker and it was apparent after 10 minutes that the American 18 challenge was futile.

Heavy wave action made for tricky docking at Norton's. Careful use of large fenders and proper dock lines was critical. During the docking of Kohl's American 18, crewmember Jeff Wortley made the leap and was initiated into the Asayo Horibe Olympic Swimming Club. With no damage done, heroically turning down all offers of assistance. Still in good spirits, Jeff dried out and continued having a good day. Note this was not Jeff's last encounter with water that day. A little later the Frazer's joined us at Norton's. Leaving Norton's with the heavy waves pushing the boats against the docks required teamwork of many skilled hands from our group. We all sailed west; and as we got near the GLCC Joe Rittner hailed us and pointed out the threatening sky to the north. At that, we started our engines and headed for the GLCC harbor and our slips. The rain beat us there. Later we found out that the Kohls had sailed to Norwegian Bay and had gone swimming at the sand bar. They were later caught and drenched by the rain storm. Most crews went to the Conference Center dining hall for dinner. The food was excellent with good conversation and great camaraderie. We were at the dining hall engaged in good conversation for a long time after finishing our excellent dinner.

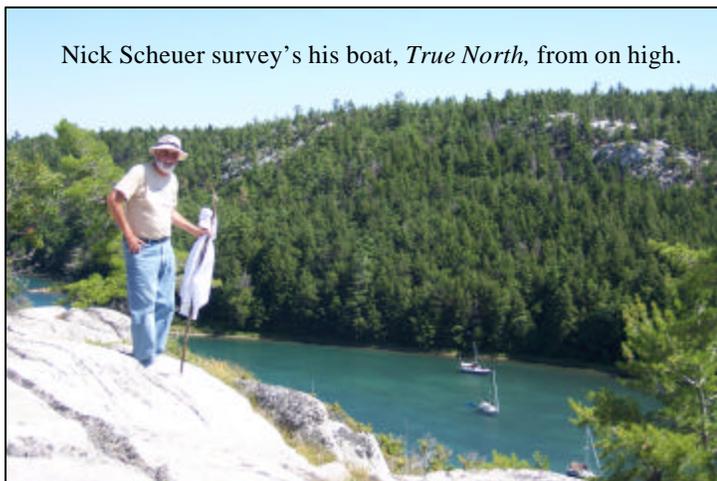
We were scheduled to sail from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Sunday. Some of us met for breakfast at the dining hall Sunday morning. After a hearty buffet breakfast, we set sail again - most sailed west to check out that end of the lake. After a pleasant sail with some moderate and some low winds and lunch on board, we ended up motoring back to GLCC. We all worked together to get the boats back on the trailers and out of the water. We then unrigged the boats with the willing help of many crew members and headed home.

Some of the best parts of the event were the great camaraderie at the dining hall and working together at Norton's dock to secure and launch boats and protect boats against the heavy wave action. All three days of sailing were great.

It was a great sailing event for both the NWSA and RYC sailors who participated. A special thanks to those who brought their boats and provided sailing for so many people. (Note : it is reported? that the Kohls may be borrowing a Mac boat for their next encounter with the 1986 MacGregor 25.)

Cruise Captains Joe Rittner and Dick Spears

Nick Scheuer survey's his boat, *True North*, from on high.



FRIENDS

No, not the TV Show, but the friends with whom Gayle and I cruised our Shearwater 28, *True North*, in company with the Trailer Sailor Association (TSA) earlier this summer through Lake Huron's North Channel. Foremost were three other Rockford Yacht Club boats, Joy and Dave Tarrant's MacGregor 26 - *Mucky Duck*, Bill and Marty Siegworth's with their O'Day 26, *Martha J*, and Don & Gayle Jepsen up from Alabama with their Lancer 25, *Gayle Ann*.

There were also several boats I know well from the Trailer Sailer Forum on the Internet which included Rod and Ondine Brandon from Peterborough, Ontario in their MacGregor-26 and Jerry Hardin from Tennessee in his wife's Catalina-22, *Sandpiper*. Finally, there were the many new friends we met in the Trailer Sailor Association, some of whom have been doing this annual North Channel Cruise for decades. Even the Shallow Water Sailors, the group of mostly Edey & Duff boats with whom we've sailed the North Channel on previous three occasions, were represented by the *Reasonable Assurance*, a Dovekie towed up from Detroit by Mark and Marilyn Bertacchi. Together the company numbered 39 boats.

They could not have chosen a better place to rendezvous than the Municipal Marina at Spanish, Ontario. Consider the large parking lot, the excellent concrete ramp, the secure piers, and of course, the matchless public building that includes dining facilities, large bathrooms with saunas, a clean laundry, a gift shop, an accommodating staff, and a great lounge for hanging out in air-conditioned comfort.

The Cruise Leader had prepared three float plans; one-week, which included the Jepsens and Siegworths going as far east as Little Current; two weeks, which included Gayle and I as well as the Tarrants, reaching a point east beyond Kilarney; and a two week one-way journey east from Spanish to the town of Britt located in Baie Georgiene.

Only the first day gave us winds gusting to 20 knots and water to match. Of course, the cruise plan called for beating right into it west along Whaleback Channel. It would've been a wonderful sleigh ride had we gone east instead.

The *Mucky Duck* suffered some misfortune on the first day out, breaking their rudder right in two! Unable to steer using just their motor in the boisterous weather, we tried to tow them back to Spanish. Again, steering was a problem, so we rafted alongside, but that proved to hazardous for both boats. So Dave and Joy just put down the hook and waited in the lee of a small island for the weather to calm down enough to permit steering with their motor. They were finally able to return to Spanish later in the evening. If that was not bad enough, Dave suffered some badly bruised ribs in a fall on deck following the rudder failure, so they elected to return home rather than try to fix or replace their rudder.

True North was trying her new mainsail from Harding Sails (vendor of our original sails) for the first time, and it proved a great success. Unlike the original, this one has some roach, along with three battens. We will be furling this sail on the sprit instead of vertically on the mast, as Harry Mote does in the Shearwater, *Ardea*.

We experienced a dearth of wind throughout the cruise, following the first day, spending at least part of each day under auxiliary power. Fortunately for *True North*, her 9.9-hp Yammerhammer was up to the task. Our intermittent problem of not being able to start the motor electrically over the last three seasons was solved last winter when a new repair shop discovered that the fuse in the starter circuit was an automotive type, and too short to maintain continuity. The proper marine fuse is 1/8 inch longer.

The Bertacchis had planned to end their cruise at Little Current. We wanted to have a farewell dinner with Mark and Marilyn, and so did the crew of *Tarranui*, a Precision-23 from Ontario. *Tarranui* and *Reasonable Assurance* both had tow vehicles in Little Current, so we drove to a resort located on a small interior lake which features a German style restaurant. A worthy repast it was.

Old hands at cruising the North Channel often tell about Ann Westlund and her *Raggedy Ann*, a 20-foot sloop featuring red sails which she handles solo. We consider ourselves fortunate for having crossed tacks and speaking to her a mile or so east of the Strawberry Island Lighthouse.

Shallow Water Sailor friends who cruised the North Channel some years ago in company with my daughters Laura and Ellen in my old Dovekie, PIL-PEL may remember the cranky skipper of a 40-footer from Lake St Claire, MI which they had T-boned in the fickle winds of a mainland cove located several miles north of the Benjamin Islands. Well, we encountered him again, and his temper has definitely not improved over the intervening years.

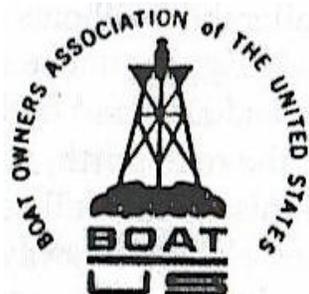
We were tacking *True North* at close quarters through the cove on the north side of Eagle Island amongst the assemblage of TSA boats who had preceded us. Our objective was a beach at the head of the cove, and we did a creditable job of crisp tacking, according to comments by various TSA mates later. When we came about toward the big sloop from Michigan, close, but not dangerously so, he was seen to be scampering about the deck of his vessel shouting, "PASS ASTERN, PASS ASTERN! The last time I saw a boat like yours it RAMMED ME !" Well, passing astern had been my intention all along, and I certainly did not require directions from a maniac scampering about waving a boat hook and yelling at me. Nevertheless, I maintain that Shearwater certainly does not "look like" a Dovekie. A Dovekie is much more handsome. We disdain imprecise speech in my boats; always have.

Faire winds, Y'awl, Moby Nick & Gayle



North Channel taxi - Don gives his first mate, Gayle, a lift in their dinghy. Beats row'n.

Rockford Yacht Club has a cooperating group accord with Boat U.S. - this allows members a 50% discount on Boat U.S. membership. Cite our group number **GA83077Y** when contacting them.



Tall Ship Intercept -

Shadowfax heads out to check out the tall ships. Eric sent me several nice photos of the tall ships, unfortunately I only have room for a few of them here.



L- R: Kyle Anderson, Scott Hill, Nick Scheuer



Can you identify the types of ships these are?



It is hard to believe we all got started here by brave people sailing the Atlantic in the little, open, "Nina."