

The Bullship Log

Newsletter of the Rockford Yacht Club
May 2010

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



Monthly Meeting Harlem Township Hall Monday - May 17 @ 7:00 p.m. Potluck snacks & food

Program: Flotilla schedule and A Taste of Sail planning
Nick Scheuer's Chesapeake sailing report
Sailing check-in

April Meeting Highlights

Burnie Turner has been in touch with the Sheriff's department on where an expire flare shoot off can be held.

Burnie (nor anyone else) was going to Lake Carlyle for sailing the scheduled flotilla there.

Nick Scheuer announced he was taking *True North* to the Chesapeake Bay area sailing. (we'll probably hear a report from Nick on this at the meeting) Nick also answered questions about the leeboards on his Shearwater 28.

Eric and Harley reported they had taken Eric's boat to Lake Mendota on the weekend of (April 10?) and had the lake to themselves.

Evans Walker talked at length about chartering in the British Virgin Islands, including anchoring techniques in the islands.

Siegworths announced they would have a christening of their restored 1984 Hunter 34 MJ2 on May 8th at their home in Beloit. (see page two & links on message page)

Ruth Penticoff's 50th birthday party included an open invite to all in RYC.

Some talk of tides and seiche waves ensued.

Jim Pardee petitioned to join the club - **welcome Jim and Dena.**

Commodore's Corner

I hope everyone is getting a chance to get ready for the summer sailing season. I know some boats are in the water and just waiting to be cleaned up. Others are waiting till it warms up a bit more. My wish for this summer is for RYC to have some great sailing weather and really good turn outs for our upcoming events. Increasing membership this year would be a wonderful thing and events like our "Taste of Sail" at Rock Cut State park really seem to get the word out there. So if you have an idea for another event where we can get more people in the Rockford area exposed to sailing, don't hesitate to mention it. On a more personal note Penny and I now have our new boat home. The trailer I built worked out great once we got it adjusted and added the bow eye to the boat. Lots of work and a bit of discovery ahead of us, but that's how it goes with any new boat. We have to get her cleaned up, outfitted and ready to berth in our slip in Racine.

Commodore Burnie

Turner's Tanzer 26 "Finest Kind" ready to hit the road.



Dennis Nelson, Marty & Linda O'Connor, Sam & Evans Walker, Burnie & Penny Turner, John & Deb Dimmick, Ruth & Allen Penticoff, Preston Alysworth, George Kittner, Harley Johnson all helped with the adopt a road on April 17th and had a good time at breakfast afterwards.





May 8th, RYC members Bill & Marty Siegworth held a “wine & cheese” party/christening of their 1984 Hunter 34, MJ2 (that’s Martha J two). Thirty-four friends, family and RYC members attended. Their pastor “Dan” had a nice ceremony (words in the photo album). Marty struck the bow of their beautiful boat with a bottle of sparkling apple cider and it was official. It was also their 17th wedding anniversary. Those in attendance toured the remarkable restored hurricane wreck. Bill brought it home in June 2006 and rebuilt, refinished everything himself, including splicing the mast and overhauling the diesel engine. Soon it will be moored at McKinley Marina in Milwaukee for a shakedown summer before a cruise to Fairhope, Alabama. Photo album at:
<http://picasaweb.google.com/TheboteSkipper/ChristeningOfMJ2#>
A large (324 MB) video download of the ceremony is at:
<http://files.me.com/martinoconnor/dbm387.mov>

Your Next Big Adventure

By Brian Black

When I think about the Rockford Yacht Club, I think of the typical questions a person might ask when they learn you belong to a Yacht Club. The conversation would go something like this; “Do you have races on Wednesday nights and Saturdays?” No. “Do you have a big clubhouse?” No, we just have a place we usually meet. “Is your Yacht Club on a lake?” No, there is just one small lake nearby. “Does it cost a lot to join the club?” “Is it an exclusive club?” No, the whole family can join for only \$25.00 a year. “So if you don’t have all these things, how is it a Yacht Club?” Good question.

If I described to you all of the adventures the members of Rockford Yacht Club have had, you would see that we are a Yacht Club that has done a lot more than just race twice a week and have a fish fry on Friday. There are people that have gone from Chicago to Alabama in sailboats and small boats. People who have sailed across the Gulf stream from Miami to the Bahamas. People who have purchased far away boats and brought them home to restore. People who have sailed patched up boats all the way down Lake Michigan to bring them home. There are others who have sold everything and moved aboard a Trimaran for the cruising life. There are people who have trailered their boats to sail in the Bahamas, The North Channel, The State of Washington or the Apostle Islands. There are some that moved across the country to live on a sailboat in Seattle. There are people who have lived on their boats in Florida over the winter or started a charter operation with their sailboat. Even some have left the Midwest to run a marina in Alabama. Yes, the club is full of people who have the right attitude to make these ordeals an adventure. I think the good attitudes and sense of adventure is what defines the Rockford Yacht Club. I am proud of all of the things that members have accomplished. These range from community service like road cleanup and Taste of Sail, to personal achievements. This is really a great club to be a part of.

I have been following the adventures of such a person with a great attitude named Jessica Watson. She is a 16 yr. old from Australia who is attempting to be the youngest person to sail around the world non-stop without assistance. You should look up the story on the internet. Her story is nothing short of amazing. At some point we all dream about what it would be like to sail around the world and I have been going around the world vicariously since last October. This is the closest I will probably ever come to doing this. As soon as a 16 yr old girl makes it around the world it seems kind of pointless for me to try it at 46. Hey, a girl can do that at 16! When Jimmy Buffet turned 50 he wanted to go around the world in a seaplane. Even though a seaplane is much faster than a sailboat it still seemed like a long way around and he eventually decided against it. Instead, his next big adventure was to circle the Caribbean in a seaplane and write a book about it. Just like Jimmy we probably won’t go around the world, but it shouldn’t stop us from planning our next big adventure.

So what constitutes the next big adventure? Well, I haven’t really participated in any big adventures like some members of the club. That means that there are a lot of things that could be my next big adventure. You don’t have to have plans to sell everything and set sail into the sunset to have an adventure of your own. Your adventure could be just a small goal. Maybe you own a catamaran and would like to make a run all the way across your favorite lake on just one hull. Maybe you would like to learn to sailboard. Any thing that you do that stretches what you have done before is an adventure to you. Some of you are planning to put a new boat in the water and others are planning to go across Lake Michigan. I am planning to make a two day trip and actually go somewhere on my boat this year. To try to travel and cover some miles will be an adventure for me. If you’re not sure what your next sailing adventure will be, make a mental note of sailing that you have done. Now dream of what you can do next. It doesn’t have to be a huge step. It just needs to be your next big adventure.



Left: RYC member, Dan Medler (you may have never met him unless you go sailing) had a puppy adopt him. His new Golden Labrador is "Dee Dee."



This is Ruth Penticoff's adventure themed birthday cake. Lots of sailboats. Thanks to all who came to the party. RYC was well represented.

A somewhat bigger version of the adopt a road photo.



Blessing of the *MJ II*
A Special Blessing for Bill & Marty Siegworth
May 8th, 2010

Eternal Father who created all that exists, at the beginning of time you covered the Earth with waters. In your infinite wisdom you caused them to recess and you separated the waters from the waters, the dry land from the dry land. When the great flood came you instructed Noah to build the Ark and you kept him afloat on the seas to safety and new life. In the days of Israel's captivity you took command of the Red Sea when Moses parted it to save your people. John the Baptist shared waters with the new believers in your son as a sign of re-birth and new life. In the days of Jesus you called the disciples from their boats to join in becoming fishers of men. Jesus walked on the same waters to their boat without fear and he calmed the troubled seas of life with a word that was filled with majesty and power.

We gather today to ask your blessings on this new boat which Bill and Marty have put their labor, skill, and love into. It represents more than just a classy piece of wood: it represents a hope and optimism for their future. Together they have built a marriage which sustains them and gives them life. In this new boat they have built a home that will float on the same waters which you created and separated into the great lakes of your world and allow them to continue to share their love and confidence in one another.

Dear God, we commend to your gracious care this vessel known as the *MJ II*. May your Holy Spirit come to rest on this good craft so it may be kept safe and be a blessing to all who sail upon her. Bear with her in winds of favor and tempest and deliver all who sail upon this boat from harm. May this vessel be kept safe in all its days so it may be a source of renewal to Bill & Marty and all who sail upon her as they share in the beauty of your world. As they sail the waters which you have created allow them to be refreshed by the sounds of the wind and waves. Enable them to be invigorated by the air of the seas and the taste of freedom as they sail over the waters.

We give you thanks for all who are gathered on this day to celebrate the christening of this ship. We humbly ask your presence and blessing upon each of them and their lives upon the waters. Bless their vessels so they may be kept safe from harm. May the friendships represented this day build each of us in every manner in which we have need so we may continue to share the joys of life with all whom we touch.

All this we pray in the glory and power of your name and in the name of your son and our Lord, Jesus. May all who stand here on this day say as one voice, Amen.