

The Bullship Log

Newsletter of the Rockford Yacht Club

November 2010

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



Monthly Meeting
Harlem Township Hall
Monday Nov. 15th @ 7:00
potluck snacks

Program: Mike Sandell, a NWSA member, will have a presentation on his building of a 15 ft. gaff rigged sailboat.

This being a business meeting month, we have the business of electing officers who will serve in 2011. Commodore Burnie is presently acting as a one man nominating committee.

See enclosed flyer (or attached) for our RYC annual Christmas get-together. Again the gathering will be held at Lino's on the third Monday of December - **December 20th**. The gift exchange will continue to be our form of entertainment, as well as stories of mishap and fortune that make for the Captain Ron awards.

Last meeting:

At our last "social" meeting in October, we had the tables set up in a rectangular "round table" and we went around the whole table listening to the sailing adventures and comments from everyone. That was unique and pleasant first for RYC.

Other RYC news:

A message from Shirley Gylleck regarding past member Bill Gylleck - "I wanted to say thank you from myself and Bill for the good times he's had with RYC. I don't know if you are aware that he suffers from Alzheimer's Disease. This week he will be entering a specialized Alzheimer's facility in Sycamore. It is heart-breaking for all his family, but is necessary. Again, thank you for sharing the love of sailing with him. ~ Shirley Gylleck

Commodore's Corner

Hello Everyone,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Halloween. Evans and Sam made it out to go with Penny and I on the haunted hayride and a stroll through the haunted barn. It was a beautiful fall evening and everyone had a good time.

I hope everyone has their boats all put a way and winterized because it is just a matter of time before the snow will be here. The Christmas party is next month and I hope everyone will try to make it. The sign up sheet will be part of this BSL. It is also time to elect new officers for the club for next year. So please try to volunteer and run for an office. Nominations and voting will be a part of the November business meeting. Remember it is your club and without officers we would not be able to do what we do. It always seems to be the same few people who are always the officers. It does take a little bit of your time, but that little bit is all we need to make the club sustainable and enjoyable for all for years to come. I will run again as commodore if you will have me, but this year we never did have a vice commodore. So if anyone would run for vice commodore it would be great.

The social meeting last month really impressed me. We had great attendance and everyone around the table contributed to the meeting. I want to personally thank all those who did attend and hope we can keep the enthusiasm going for years to come. We also welcome new member Jeff Norris, who owns a Fireball and a Sunfish.

Respectfully,
Commodore Burnie

Louie's 12th Last Regatta

(held just offshore from McKinley Marina)

By George Kittner and Joe Rittner with data from NWSA's Mike Kenny.

There are times when all events in a day weave into a very memorable occasion. This past September 25th was one of those days that will be remembered by the 12 man crew of *Debbia*. George Kittner and Joe Rittner welcomed Mike Kenny's call to join him on his Catalina 380 in the annual charity race benefiting Children's Hospital of Wisconsin - Milwaukee [www.chw.org].

Mike and a partial crew sailed Friday evening from his home port, Racine. We heard it was a spirited sail with westerly gale force winds. But this is not unaccustomed to Mike as he and crew weathered the night passage. George and Joe on the other hand had a mundane road trip to Milwaukee with the usual construction sites along the way. All met Saturday morning at *Debbia's* slip per compliments of Brian Anderson's Performance Yacht Services. Docked close by was *Merlin* a Bill Lee modified 68' ocean racer. The appropriately costumed crew of *Merlin* was first to leave. We followed after a procession of boats motoring on the river from the north. Brian skippered *Sociable*, a Beneteau 40.7 and castoff soon after.

We motored beneath the harbor bridge (it seemed to go somewhere) with room to spare above *Debbia's* masthead. But we wondered about the clearance of *Merlin's* mast which was tall and tapered towards the top and stiffened by three sets of spreaders. Or was it four?

One hundred-thirty-three sailboats were entered - 112 finished the 4.2 mile beer can shaped course. Most looked and sailed smart. However, with so many racers tacking by the line and the five-minute intervals of the five starts, we had a busy crew at the bow shouting STARBOARD to some novices blinded by their offending genoa. It is a charity event, was what we thought to ourselves.

Our crew had varied backgrounds. Mike's neighbor experienced his first time under sail. Most of us were cruisers, but Mike and four others had racing experience. Although we practiced tacking and setting the asymmetrical as we passed the breakwater, we were not yet a team. We were late at the line and naturally had lots of clean air by then. Ahead we saw the white Dacron of the cruisers' sails and the modern composites of gray and silver of the serious racers as they tacked close hauled in the mounting NE winds.

At the short second leg we raised the green colors of the asymmetrical. We rounded the mark for the next long leg but lost the pull of the big sail as it wrapped on itself. Minutes were lost as we untangled and thought of teamwork. Before completing our first lap we were lapped by *Merlin* followed by *Defiance* a J-V 66 as they finished twice around. They were a sight to see as these powerful sleek hulls with their enormous spinnakers flew by. We understood why they were to first to start in this type of race.

We did find our stride on the second lap. The wind and seas picked up. We heeled. The asymmetrical pulled strong with the foot slicing through the bow waves. The heavily clothed crew looked beefy, not as hunks, but rather as aged and chilled rail meat. After a tack it took some doing to get to the high side, like climbing a ladder but without the footing of a rung. Our finish at the line was bow to bow. And a photo finish it was as we beat *Wissoto*, a Beneteau 40.2, by a second. Actually... we had a boat length lead at the last marker, but this competitor was relentless, approaching from windward and closing the gap. We tweaked the lines on our broad reach as they reached stern quarters. And then amidship. Where is the line on this short leg? "Up ahead" as the bows were riding the incoming swells. The friendly finish line, for us, cut short the challenger. You know they did have the advantage of inherent hull speed, but no excuses. We experienced the joy of the sail and the thrill of the race.

Back at the dock, *Merlin* was already neatly packed when we arrived. A quick relief and wash up and we were on the way to celebrate at Milwaukee's Ale House, a sponsor and contributor for the charity event. Brian again extended his courtesy by providing a pontoon boat to ferry the three crews up the river. The slips at the Ale House were full and some of the sailboats were rafted at the ends of the piers. Colorful nylon won in races past along with burgees of various affiliations were snapping in the breeze. Many of the crews were in costumes vying for a prize. It was a sight rivaling any regatta anywhere.

Children's Hospital was the big winner with over \$116,000 raised in Louie's 12th Last Regatta. Perhaps influenced in part by the gratis bottled import from Barbados as this condiment spiced the Cokes. No doubt the mixture lubricated the auction biddings at the Ale House with the intended freeing of purse strings. All for a good cause. Only a few suffered that well known sailor's walk back from the sea. On *Debbia's* behalf, her crew ranked seventh in on-line fund raising of more than \$1,600. Well done Mike!

It was a memorable event. This year's race also had a modification allowing slower rated boats to enter with only a one lap course. Louie's certainly is something to look forward to. Ready to make some plans? Hope to see you September 24th, 2011.



Photos this page by Larry Hagemann.

This past September 25th was one of those days that will be remembered by the 12 man crew of *Debbia*. George Kittner and Joe Rittner welcomed Mike Kenny's call to join him on his Catalina 380 in the annual *Louie's Last Regatta* charity race benefiting Milwaukee's Children's Memorial Hospital.

A beautiful day for sailing with a stiff northeast breeze that provided for lively wave and racing action. Most ran with spinnakers on the southbound leg. North Sails sponsored an "Ugliest Spinnaker" award. A whopping 133 boats entered - 112 finished.

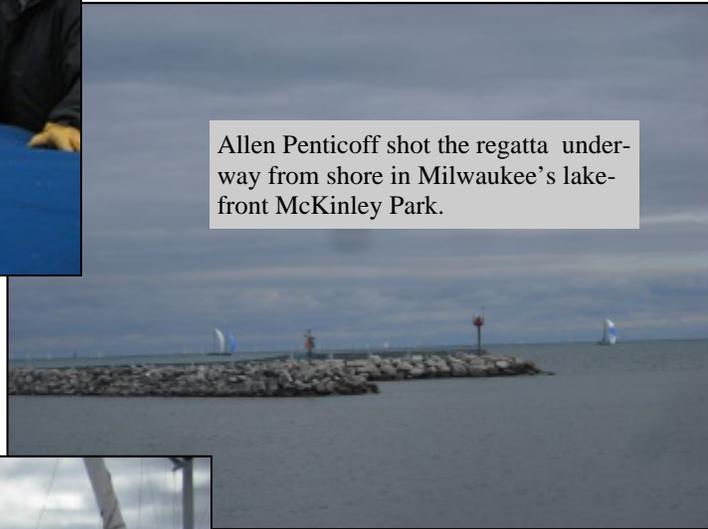
It is well worth a visit to www.louieslast.org for more info.



By being "crew" - they mean, being "rail-meat." Not a bad place to sit and watch the action though.



George "Turtle" Kittner snapped this shot of a spinnaker'd racing boat bearing down on them.



Allen Penticoff shot the regatta underway from shore in Milwaukee's lake-front McKinley Park.



The same day as the regatta (9/25), Bill and Marty Siegworth hosted Allen Penticoff, Ruth Penticoff and Dan Medler aboard their recently restored/floated Hunter 34, *MJ2*.

While a bit cool, it was a great day for a genoa only sail through the inner harbor down through the South Side Marina and out into Lake Michigan for a couple of long windward tacks back to McKinley, with some lively wave action due to the long northeast fetch.

L-R Bill Siegworth, Martha "Marty" Siegworth, and Ruth Penticoff - all bundled up for the sail.

