

# The Bullship Log

Newsletter of the Rockford Yacht Club

November 2011

Mailing Address: 6302 11th St. Rockford, IL 61109  
Contact phone: Allen 815-985-1108  
Website: [www.RockfordSailing.org](http://www.RockfordSailing.org)  
Meeting Location: Harlem Township Hall  
819 Melbourne Ave.  
Machesney Park, IL



Monthly Meeting - **DATE CHANGE!!! Monday, Nov. 28 @ 7:00 CHILI CONTEST**

Location: Harlem Township Hall

**Special Event:** Gary Burgess and Patti Holquist will describe living on a sailboat and cruising in the Caribbean. See *Commodore's Corner* for more details about Gary and Patti. **Nov. 21, 7:00@ Carlyle Brewing**

**Annual Dues are due:** \$25

**Christmas Party:** Dec. 19th, at Linos - cocktails @ 6:00, dinner @ 7:00. Please complete the attached reservation form and bring to the meeting with your payment. You may also mail to Evans Walker per directions on the form. Please do not combine dues and dinner reservations on same check.

## Commodore's Corner

Hello Everyone,

The first snow of the season has been here and gone; now we at least have that out of the way. I hope everyone is close to or completed the task of getting their boat(s) winterized and stored. Once Penny and I get all the boats off the water, motors drained and such, the weather turns cold and we start scraping windshields, I always start looking forward to Strictly Sail. The other thing is making the list of projects I want to complete in the spring before launch time.

It always amazes me how sailing is usually always in the back of our minds. No matter what we are doing, sailing just seems to pop up in conversations. Sailing has become a part of who we are and not just a little hobby. Even if you don't get a chance to get on the water much anymore - it doesn't matter. Sailing is something that we all carry with us the rest of our lives. The Rockford Yacht Club is just another way that we all use to share those experiences with each other. RYC is also a great opportunity for ALL of us to share or love of sailing with wannabe and non-sailors alike. Those are the people who become new members and will keep the club going for many more years, sharing what we shared with them.

This is all leading up to my request for the current members to do your part and please consider becoming a club officer. Being an officer in the RYC is not a huge commitment, but it is a commitment to keep the club going and make those opportunities possible for years and generation to come. Our meeting this month is a business meeting and the main agenda item is the election of new officers for next year. Even if you are not exactly sure what a particular officers duties are, don't worry about it. We'll all help you along way. Penny and I had only been members for one year when we were asked to become activities captains. It was a nice learning experience and a great way to meet more members of the club. Sure, we did not get everything correct, but anytime we asked for advice or help it was there.

**Gary Burgess and Patti Holquist** have agreed to give a presentation on living on a sailboat and cruising in the Caribbean. In another words "They are living the dream." They have been full time cruiser for the past 3 years. They used to live and work right here in the Rockford area and decided to follow their dream. So if you have ever thought about or considered anything along those lines, now is your chance to talk to a couple that are actually doing it. You can read books and watch video, but nothing beats getting first hand information and experiences from real people. They will be heading back home to their boat November 29th so we are lucky to have them join us. Join us in conversation with them at **Carlyle Brewing Co. on Monday Nov. 21 at 7:00 p.m.** - we'll be in the side room. **Carlyle Brewing is at 215 E. State St., downtown Rockford**, food and beverages available.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting,  
*Commodore Burnie*

**CHILI CONTEST** - Bring a pot of your best chili recipe or a pan of cornbread. RYC will have bowls, spoons, and condiments for the chilies. We'll judge them for Hottest/Spiciest, Most Unusual, and Best Overall. Bring your appetite - we're all winners on chili contest nights. Bring your own non-alcoholic beverage.

**DUES:** Time to pay your \$25 dues for 2012. You may pay at the meeting or by mail.

**WE NO LONGER HAVE A POST OFFICE BOX.** Mail dues or any other correspondence to:

Rockford Yacht Club  
6302 11th Street  
Rockford IL 61109-4343

November meeting will feature election of new and renewing members to our officer positions.

**October meeting highlights:** Visitors were Steve and Sarah Leonard, who had been A Taste of Sail participants. We learned that former member Bill Gylleck had passed away on October 5th (see following comments). Everyone present told of a recent sailing experience - but Bill Reilly topped them all as he told us some of the details of chartering a Lagoon 47 catamaran in Sicily, and what is involved in "Med mooring" a boat. Nick Scheuer announced that he had purchased an Albin 25 trawler and is selling his Shearwater 28 (it has been sold to a couple from Louisiana). The RYC auction has been postponed - some of late member Bill Davies' nautical items may be available to us for auction.

### **Bill Gylleck Remembered** - by Allen Penticoff



The photo is of the group of us who crewed aboard Dave & Judi Moore's S-2 32 center cockpit yacht *Fine Alee* on it's delivery from Charlevoix, Michigan to Kenosha, Wisconsin in May (year?).

Pictured L-R back row are: Steven "Salty Dog" Krietlow, Allen Penticoff, Mark Moore (Dave's son), front row L-R: Dave Moore, Gary Askegaard and Bill Gylleck.

It was a LONG, cold, wonderful trip, sailing at night on a deserted Lake Michigan, arriving in Frankfort, Michigan near midnight to dive into hot stew that Dave had prepared and crashing hard in our bunks. The next day we headed out to cross the great lake to the Wisconsin side. I recall we got to

the other side and found the wind was out of the south and against us. We motored into the swell night and day, getting very chilly as we huddled in the lee of the dodger or down in the unheated cabin. Mark, a paramedic, detected in Bill, signs of hypothermia and began to treat him with warm beverages and all the clothes and blankets we could find. Despite such an experience, Bill's enthusiasm for sailing was undaunted.

Bill owned and sailed a 17' West Wight Potter. He was good friends with former member John Caldwell, who owned a large steel ketch, the *Anna Z*. Bill was a regular crewmember. In his position as first mate he was the one to deal with anchors and headsails - an often wet chore. This earned him the name "Bowsprit Bill," an appellation he wore proudly.

Alzheimer's Disease took Bill from us, but not from our hearts. He'll sail with us in our hearts always.

**Kentucky Lake Report** - by Allen Penticoff: Due to our own schedule issues we trailered our MacGregor 26D to Kentucky Lake the weekend of October 22-23. This was too early for the best of autumn colors, and if we'd gone a week later we'd had more RYC company. We had a tailwind driving both directions in Dan Medler's red Chevy truck. Rare. Also rare, we had downwind sailing for three days. Launching after lunchtime at the state park ramp, we had a downwind sail that carried us to a just after sunset arrival at the other state park marina where we stayed the night and had a big breakfast at Cindy's on the Barge. Glad to have a heater. The next day was a downwind sail as the wind had switched 180 degrees. We anchored in the unnamed cove north of Pisgah Bay and enjoyed the solitude there. Sunday morning we had more downwind sailing back to the boat ramp. Covered a lot of miles. Never went into Lighthouse Landing or had our usual trip to the Lite Side Cafe. In all very different from past trips - and we definitely missed the RYC camaraderie even though the sailing was excellent and mostly warm.