

The Bullship Log

Newsletter of the Rockford Yacht Club
February 2012

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



Meeting @ Harlem Township Hall Monday Feb. 20 @ 7:00

Potluck snacks

Program: discuss flotilla schedule and socialize

January Meeting Highlights

There was a lot of good stuff to eat thanks to all who provided.

Leo Wehner told us his kite boarding story - wherein 911 was called and rescue personnel dispatched to Lake Sule when passerby on I-39 saw a "parachute crash into the lake." It took Leo and Judy a lot of convincing the rapidly stripping policeman that everything was really just fine and normal.

We decided to hold our fund-raising nautical auction in March - start searching now for those things you'd like to donate.

Six women RYCers are planning to attend the Women's Sailing Conference in Milwaukee on May 19th. If you too are interested, contact Ruth Penticoff @ 815-985-4223.

Strictly Sail

We had a pretty good turn out of ten RYCers at the show. We all met at Bubba Gump's on Navy Pier for dinner on Saturday night. Those cruising forums on sailing the French and Spanish speaking Caribbean islands certainly get the juices flowing. Speaking of juice, the French canal barge forum even served small portions of red wine with their talk. Both were captivating forums.

The number of boats on display seemed to be down a bit, but one of those on display was a 70+ foot carbon fiber racer. Long lines were ever present to go aboard. What was inside was not much - small galley, pipe berths (using carbon fiber tubes) and the hit of the show - the carbon fiber toilet. Ruth and I had a short wait to go aboard on Friday - well worth it. As always, I love sailing the radio controlled boats in the pond - for Ruth it was her first time at it. We also enjoyed hanging out with the friendly folks at the Good Old Boat Magazine booth, meeting up with people I work with but rarely see and chatting with old friends too. ~ Allen

Commodore's Corner

For many, this time of year brings a lull in their activity level, whether recreationally, professionally or socially. Those of us not lucky enough to be vacationing in the tropics are often battling the flu, or snow in the driveway. The major family holidays are behind us, the wind is cold, the new year's resolutions are fading, and the looming specter of tax filing is right around the corner. Fortunately, the sky has been bright and the snow and cold have been minimal on the home front, without completely dashing hopes for people planning a ski trip or a day of ice boating.

Personally, this year has proven atypical by offering too many places to be, and things to do, forcing us to miss out on Strictly Sail — Chicago. I do hope all RYC members who attended found it worthwhile, and shared some quality time with sailing friends. Anyone else who may be feeling a bit housebound, mulling over your seed catalogs and dreaming of spring flotillas, should consider the internet, where Burnie Turner has established the Rockford Yacht Club Facebook page. Even if you're averse to social networks, I encourage all of you to have a look, and contribute anything relevant to RYC specific activities and boating in general. Just remember to be considerate of fellow readers' sensibilities, in order to facilitate the duties of co-administrators (Marty O'Connor, Burnie Turner, Allen Penticoff).

*Please don't hesitate to contact one of us, however, if you have a concern regarding content on the page. For those already active on Facebook, this group provides a place to stay connected to our club, without the necessity of expanding your individual friends list. Simply search **Rockford Yacht Club** and click the "Like" button. Should you choose not to use Facebook, Yacht Club business will still be communicated via the Bullship Log.*

*Hope to see you at the meeting -
Commodore -Marty O'Connor*



Strictly Sail - looking much the same as last year. Plenty of big expensive boats to check out.



73 feet (?) not counting the spinnaker sprit - a chance to inspect a very high-end (\$3M) racer.



A little girl grinds the winches on the big racer.



A bigger girl, Ruth, finds the racer's galley small but efficient.



Hit of the show: carbon fiber toilet. Guess if you need one, you don't need to ask the price.

Below: some of the many "pipe berths" on the racer. Cozy aft under the cockpit. Fwd was a very sparse double in the vee/bow. Leading one to ponder what two guys share that.



Right: A dry land sailing simulator, worked well via wind from several fans. Saw several demonstrations of how quick "roll tacking" is.





Above: The Good Old Boat booth was always active, and often hectic.

Right: Good Old Boat contributing editor/troubadour Tom Wells and his wife Sandy sing the BOAT show song... Break Out Another Thousand.



Left: Saturday, Ruth and Allen went up to the observation deck of the Hancock building to enjoy the splendid views. Could make out Racine to the north! On the beach below were "polar bear" swimmers en masse - brrr.



Below: Navy Pier from 100 stories up. We could see as far as the dunes near Michigan City, Indiana.



Left: Allen makes sure Marilyn is wearing undies (yes).