

The Bullship Log

Newsletter of the Rockford Yacht Club
May 2012

Mailing Address: 6302 11th St. Rockford, IL 61109
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Meeting Location: Harlem Township Hall
819 Melbourne Ave.
Machesney Park, IL



Monthly Meeting
Harlem Township Hall
Monday May 21 @ 7:00 p.m.

Program: RYC website tour - Burnie
Allen Penticoff's trip (with photos) to the
Dry Tortugas
Potluck Snacks

RYC Picnic -

Our picnic date is - July 28th, Noon, Bay View Picnic shelter,
Rock Cut State Park. Subject to change due to a flotilla conflict.
To be discussed at the May meeting.

Flotilla Nuze

May 19th. We're starting out with a joint sail with NWSA at
Lake Geneva. Launch in the a.m. at Fontana. Joe Rittner can be
contacted about this sail @ 815-455-4637 joerittner@att.net

Memorial Weekend at Lake Mendota. The Penticoffs are
planning to spend the 3 day weekend at Lake Mendota. Join
them?

Allen Penticoff 815-985-1108 or apenticoff@comcast.net

A Taste of Sail - June 16th, Rock Cut State Park. We need
skippers who can sail all day to contact Allen to volunteer your
time and boat. Boat but no time - Allen may be able to find a
skipper for your boat. Time but no boat - shore help is always
needed. We're busy, but it is a great time and it has always
brought new members into our club. Do plan to attend.

June 23rd. Sailstice. Mark Twain Lake - Missouri. Join us
with MTLSA for a good time. Contact Allen if interested.

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Commodore's Corner

Hello all. Well, we've experienced another month of crazy weather, offering some nice sailing opportunities at the most unpredictable times. Sure hope somebody found a day that proved convenient for them, because I certainly did not. At least we managed to get the projection screen that Burnie ordered for the meeting room installed at the last meeting. Had the WiFi been accessible, he would have given an introduction to the new RYC Home Page. If all goes well, we can try it at the next meeting. In other news, Burnie Turner is to be congratulated for officially becoming a US Coast Guard 100-ton Licensed Captain, and a captain of the Forest City Queen as well. Sounds like the makings of a good RYC social gathering in the near future.

Scheduled events are approaching quickly, and I'm hoping for good turnout at the meeting so we can get our calendars in ship shape.

Commodore Marty

Have you ever heard the term - "It has all the bells and whistles?"

If so, did you know that is a nautical term? US Coast Guard Navigation Rule 33 states "a vessel of 12 meters or more in length shall be provided with a whistle and bell". So in other words a proper yacht which has all the bells and whistles is at least 12 meters or 39 feet in length. So if anyone ever asks you what makes a boat a yacht, you now have the answer according to the US Coast Guard.

Captain Burnie

Pacific is Terrific

Ruth and I were in California at the last meeting. We were able to go sailing on the Pacific Ocean from Dana Point marina aboard a 30 foot Islander. The owner is a friend of my cousin Phil. He had much experience in power-boats and in scuba diving, but no experience sailing when he bought this boat. On our excursion it was planned to show him how to set up the jib. After spraying WD-40 on the corroded hanks and showing him the head, foot, luff, tack and clew we soon discovered we were short one jib sheet - but found a line that worked. It was a good day to sail on the wind, so the jib took us out of the harbor to the southwest sailing on a nice close reach. Some porpoises were spotted along with other marine life. It was a bit cool, but sunny. I also showed the owner that one can helm a wheel steered boat from places other than standing directly behind the wheel - showing him the lazy sailor's spot in the leeward corner where you can steer with your foot. It was a nicely balanced boat that sailed well. After an hour or two we had run out of beer and time - so we came about and headed in closer to the shore sailing mostly on a beam reach back. We were told this was an uncommon wind - from the west, northwest. In hindsight I wished we'd spent more time tacking so he could learn how the jib worked, but with five aboard it was more a day for cruising. Later we wrestled his inflatable aboard the bow back in the marina. Not an easy chore.

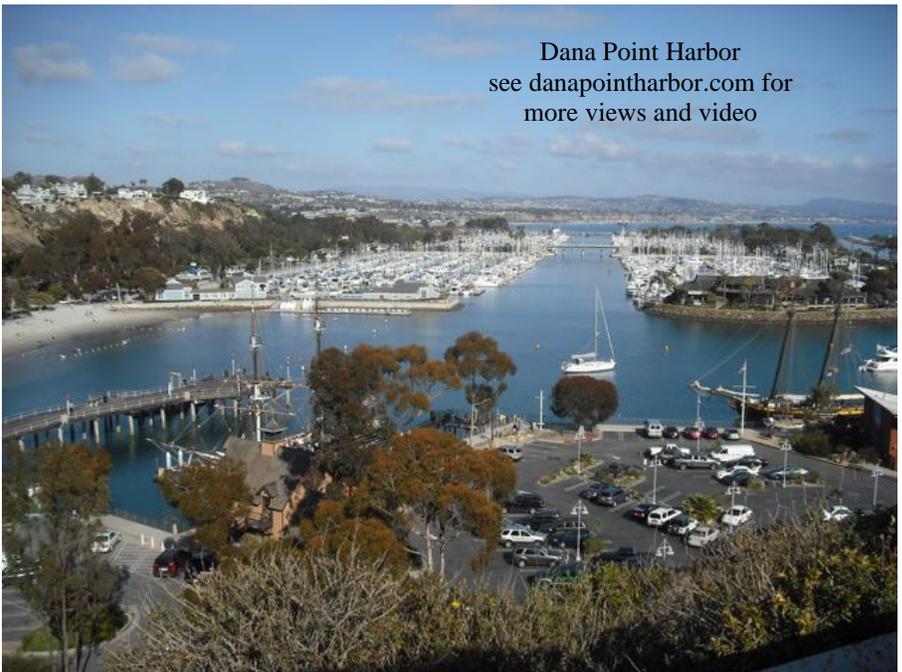
There are a ton of sailboats on the west coast. But unless one is interested in a long sail to Catalina Island or one of the other Channel Islands, there are few opportunities for a short cruise. Thus local racing is popular. It is not unlike those who have boats moored at western Lake Michigan harbors.

I a bucket list item of long overdue-ness done. I went hang gliding from the 350 foot cliffs of Torrey Pines. It was quite interesting. If you are out that way - stop by the gliderport and watch, take a ride in the paragliders (better than hang glider) or simply peer off the cliff at the clothing optional beach below and vast Pacific Ocean. Scripts Birch Aquarium is just down the road too - well worth a visit.

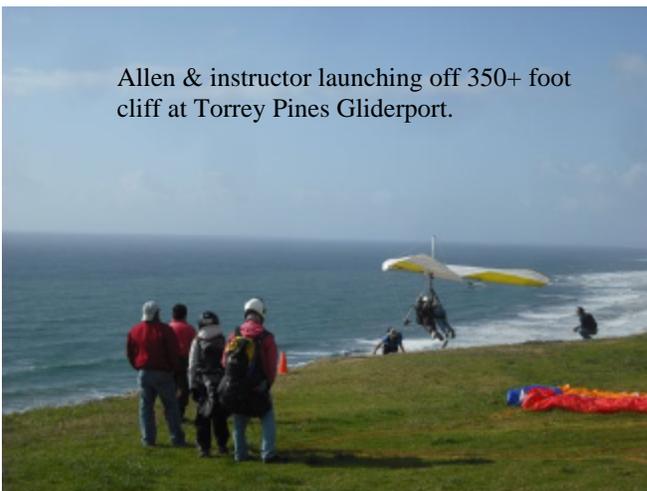
Allen



Islander 30 image courtesy Sailboatdata.com - a great website for tech info on sailboats, designers and builders.



Dana Point Harbor
see danapointharbor.com for more views and video



Allen & instructor launching off 350+ foot cliff at Torrey Pines Gliderport.