

The Bullship Log

Newsletter of the Rockford Yacht Club
September 2012

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



Meeting @ Harlem Township Hall Monday September 17 @ 7:00

Program: None. Chat about sailing. Make some plans for more.

Potluck Snacks: Do bring something. We've had some sparse offerings lately.

Upcoming Events: Saturday Sept. 15th Racine Yacht Club Shrimp Boil - Contact Ray Olson @ 815-519-5751

In August we all gathered on the *Forest City Queen* for a night cruise up the Rock River with our own Burnie Turner as skipper. We nearly filled every one of the tour boat's 49 seats. It was a very good time, with pizza and soda before on land, then with the nice guided tour of the river. We're glad so many of you came out for the evening.

However - there is little business to report.

We do welcome new members John and Virginia Morris from Carol Stream. Some of us who have attended joint RYC - NWSA flotillas will remember John for his unique white beard and mustache. John sails a speedy San Juan 21 named *Enriqueta*, which they've owned since 2009. John says he sailed as crew on various boats from 1967 to 1975, then as crew on a racing Fireball from 1975 through 1994. Those who have met John on flotillas will know he has many interesting stories to tell. Welcome Aboard.



I recently met a fellow - "Mark" from Crystal Lake on the boat ramp at Pierce Lake. Mark has a newer American 14-6 like our *The Little Bote*. In discussing boats and sailing (and of course inviting him to come to a club meeting) I learned from him that over on Crystal Lake there is a location where you can rent American 14 sailboats that are kept on moorings. If you have any information on this - please pass it on to me and I'll spread it around. I often get asked if there is someplace to rent sailboats - and I usually have to tell people about the Hoofers in Madison or the Chicago/Milwaukee clubs. Something nearer to us - and smaller - would be great. ~ Allen

Commodore's Corner

Hello all. Lacking any recent sailing stories, since our only time on the water this year was August's RYC tour aboard the *Forest City Queen*, and having little nautical wisdom to expound, I thought I'd share something "techy" that I recently came across. This image is known as a QR code, as you have probably seen in magazine ads, product containers, or even business cards. They are simply a type of 2D barcode that can be printed almost anywhere and read by most smartphones. This one in particular will direct your web browser to our RYC homepage, allowing novel features to be added our club communications and promotional material. Something to toy with, however like most of you, I'd rather be sailing.

~Commodore Marty



Sailing in September and October

Fall sailing can be some of the best sailing times of the year. The brisk breezes are much more reliable than some of the doldrums we experience in the summer. Sure - you have to bundle up a bit, but the fresh bite of cold on your cheeks makes you feel alive. Even wearing gloves does not deter the experience. But one should be much more careful and wear life preservers as a trip into the cold waters can be much more serious. It is not a good idea to sail alone in cold water either.

For many years we've cheated the cold of Northern Illinois and headed south to Lake Carlyle near St. Louis or to Kentucky Lake in late October. We've had cool rainy days and hot balmy days, and a great many splendid days enjoying the turn of Fall color. Heck, we've even sailed well into winter. So don't cover your boat just yet - there is plenty of good sailing ahead.