

The Bullship Log

Newsletter of the Rockford Yacht Club

January 2013

Mailing Address: 6302 11th St. Rockford, IL 61109
Contact phone: Allen 815-985-1108
Website: www.RockfordYachtClub.com
Meeting Location: Harlem Township Hall
819 Melbourne Ave.
Machesney Park, IL



Meeting at Harlem Township Hall Monday Jan. 21st, 7:00 p.m.

No program arranged. However it is time to plan our coming year of events and activities. Bring your calendar. Bring a snack to share. Bring your stories.

During our meetings, we always ask if anyone has been sailing since the last meeting. Even in the dead of winter there are stories to share. Iceboating counts. Allen Penticoff, a member of Four Lakes Ice Yacht Club, sailed on Lake Kegonsa two weeks ago - there was a big DN iceboat meet. If you go to the club's website, www.iceboat.org, you will find photos and video he took. You can also see that and other video by Googling "SailFly54." This weekend, Jan 18-20, there will be a big Skeeter, and Renegade meet on Lake Kegonsa. The ice should be better, and these sleek fast boats are interesting to watch sail. You might even bump into Buddy Melges, or Peter Harken. Dress warm - walk out on the lake - watch out for moving things. Free parking and a ramp where the boats set up is at "Quam" (Admundson Landing) on the south side of the lake. There is also free parking and access at "Springers" restaurant on the north shore. Allen may be out with his yellow DN - 3846.

Next weekend is a really big iceboat event on Lake Winnebago at Oshkosh, when the Northwest Ice Yacht Association celebrates their 100th anniversary. Huge "A" boats from all over the country are expected to participate. Details at www.iceboat.org

The same weekend is the Strictly Sail show in Chicago. It runs January 24 through 27th. Details at www.strictlysailchicago.com We often meet up with other RYCers at the show, particularly on Saturday evening. We'll see a show of hands at Monday's meeting to see who is planning to attend and coordinate getting together. We often bump into one another at the show too - as well as our friends from Mark Twain Lake Sailing Association and NWSA. Enjoy the Florida-like warm surroundings amidst a lot of sailboats. A really cheap vacation from the cold.

Duze

Dudes

You know it's time to pay your dues.

Still a bargain at \$25.

Pay at the meeting.

or

Checks pay and send to: Rockford Yacht Club
11380 Main St., Roscoe, IL 61073

Commodore's Corner

Welcome to all and many thanks to our former commodore, Marty O'Connor who is now the Vice Commodore again this year and for his dedicated leadership of the Rockford Yacht Club in 2012. Also thanks to all the officers in the club for your time and talents; most of whom re-enlisted for 2013. New officers are Jim Pardee - flotilla captain and Claudia and Kevin Wenzel - activities captains. I have accepted the commodore position with much humility since I am not an experienced sailor or own a sailboat at this time but I'll do my best in this position.

All of us are looking forward to another great sailing season with many opportunities to sail in a variety of waterways near and far. Hopefully we'll get enough snow and rain to bring up the levels of the lakes. It's always great to meet new people who join our club and not only to talk about the adventures we have on the water but to join us in them. All of the sailing experiences and stories are always a source of interest, especially to me. That's how we can learn.

My RYC adventure started in June 2011 with my wife, Diane, encouraging me to go to the *A Taste of Sail* at Pierce Lake in Rock Cut State Park. Preston was the captain on Jim Pardee's 17 foot Seaward Slipper and I thoroughly enjoyed that sailing experience and how I was made to feel; very welcome. I knew for sure I loved sailing that day. Since then my wife Diane and I have been on Lake Michigan with Bill and Marty Siegworth on *MJ2* their 34-foot Hunter from Milwaukee to Racine and back. That was so much fun. They are generous people and good sailors. Also in 2011 I sailed on Eric Mueller's 25-foot MacGregor at the frost bite sail on Lake Geneva, last year for the Memorial weekend on Allen's and Ruth's 26-foot Mac Gregor *Thebote* on Lake Mendota, Preston Aylesworth's 25-foot MacGregor on the North Channel of Lake Huron for an awesome 8 day round trip odyssey then on Burnie Turner's *Forest City Queen* riverboat on the Rock River and lastly on Evans and Shirley Walker's 30-foot Newport *Quickstep* from Kenosha to Waukegan in the late fall. Many thanks to all of you for your kindness and generosity.

Let's all have a great year of safe sailing and lasting friendships! RYC is a great start to a Happy New Year!

Commodore John