

The Bullship Log

Newsletter of the Rockford Yacht Club

August 2013

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



Meeting Monday Aug. 19th @ 7:00

Harlem Township Hall

Potluck snacks

Sailing Stories

Join us for RYC camaraderie.

I'll start out with a link to an article that appeared in the Boat/US Marine Insurance magazine *Seaworthy*. Editor Beth Leonard has written several books on cruising the world - all worth reading, but this article is probably the most important message she has ever delivered. It is about how people are electrocuted by stray current in marinas. I'll not go into the details, but insist you read this story (see link below and in message).

Our steel boat, *Coppelia* was in a slip at Port Washington for a couple of months. Steel boats should not be kept in slips in marinas as the stray current will eat holes in them. I knew of this, but was not worried since we would not be there long. Nonetheless, a small hole was created in our bronze propeller from stray current. We only used an extension cord to power a light bulb and an electric heater. So stray current is there and to be respected. I for one will not enter the water in a marina where there are power posts - the chances of electrocution are too great. Read the story - spread the story. ~ Allen

Hi Allen -

Thank you for asking permission. Please feel free to reprint ESD Explained and credit BoatUS Marine Insurance. You will find a downloadable PDF at the top of this page: <http://www.boatus.com/seaworthy/magazine/2013/july/electric-shock-drowning-explained.asp>

Thanks for getting the word out on this important topic.

You can also reprint the Inspecting Older Sailboats piece in your YC newsletter, again with a credit to BoatUS Marine Insurance. If you need a separate PDF of that, let me know. [See attached]

Bullship Log – I love it!
Beth

Commodore's Corner

Ahoy mates,

The summer sailing season is flying by so fast and I hope you got out there and got some wind in your sails.

I had a wonderful couple of days on Green Lake on Joe Rittner's boat with Preston Aylesworth July 29th and 30th. Joe's outboard motor had suddenly quit on Lake Mendota and since he already asked Preston and I to join him on Green Lake for the next day he was very disappointed to call the event off. Thanks to some good old fashioned cooperation and last minute thought by Preston we got to sail after all. He offered to take his 9.9 HP engine along and mount it on Joe's MacGregor at Green Lake in order to not miss sailing on that beautiful lake with Joe. All went as planned and we did have two days of fine sailing. The day we were to leave we got some really great winds and we just enjoyed the heck out of that. Joe decided to fly his spinnaker the first day since first we had very light winds. It worked great and we had lots of fun.

Please join us this Monday at 7:30 for some good snacks sailing stories at our social meeting.

Commodore John

RYC Picnic

I think there are some photos of the RYC picnic on our Facebook page posted by Marty O'Connor.

It was a short picnic. Who would know that we'd be freezing our patooties off in AUGUST. While I brought my American 14.5 along, I did not feel like rigging it and going out. Now that's chilly.

We ate, we chatted, we even built a fire in the barbeque grill to warm ourselves - although most of the warmth came from gathering wood.

Everyone cleared out pretty early.

~ Allen

“..... Let’s Go Sailing”

The plan was to spend a few days on Green Lake with Preston Aylesworth and John Kochanski. However, at the end of a good day sailing on Lake Mendota with family, the 9.9 outboard suddenly stopped when approaching Marshall Park harbor. It had worked well at the morning launch and at the municipal pier by UW. Now at the end of the day with storm clouds approaching, repeated attempts to restart the Evinrude failed. Fuel and open vent were good, motor settings were correct, but it would sputter to silence after a few seconds. Sailing and paddling in against the wind did not work. Two fishermen saved us a drenching by towing us in.

Several days earlier I made arrangements for John and Preston to meet me at the Green lake Conference Center right after the family Mendota sail. Sadly I called and said that we’ll need to cancel since the engine would not work. Later in the evening Preston called back saying “let’s go sailing, you bring the boat, I’ll bring the motor”.

We launched, motored out of the harbor, and were sailing in light winds by early Monday afternoon. Winds were from the west with faint ripples on the water. We raised the symmetrical thinking that the light nylon would serve best, but it hardly billowed beyond the forestay. I took the attached picture of John making adjustments to lines as the big sail made its best showing. Tuesday’s winds were just right with some whitecaps on the lake and the working jib and main giving us some excitement.

So thanks John and Preston for that call back “... let’s go sailing” and for Preston bring his motor.

Joe Rittner



Preston (L) casually steers Joe’s (R) MacGregor 25



Not entirely sure what Joe is up to with the spinnaker - about to gybe? Advanced sailing - come a long way in a short time Joe.



Preston hanging out in the cockpit with the pop top up on Joe’s MacGregor 25. I could use one of those covers. ~ A



Photos:

Top Left - a beautiful wood boat was recently tied up to the pier in Marshall Park on Lake Medota. Above is it's cockpit. I took several more photos, and if you'd like to see them - let me know. Gotta get them out of my phone. Although pretty, I question the wisdom of having seats so far apart - no bracing while heeling.

No heeling (left) on the HMS Roscoe pirate ship. Now sporting masts. I understand the wedding it was built for took place already. I'm sure there will be more. RYC ought to look into a tour or hosting a meeting there. Arrrr.

Boats for sail/sale

From: William Siegworth <marthaj12@charter.net>

Subject: For sail RYC

Hello Allen, remember a few years ago when we bought that small sailboat from the club. It is about 14' long with a trailer. I cleaned it up, painted the inside and the deck. Repaired some fiberglass. The sails were sent to Sail Care to be cleaned and repaired, almost like new. We had it out one time and its been sitting in our yard all tarped waiting for someone to use it.

It is now for sale. It's a great little boat for around here, **and its cheap \$ 350**. Bill's phone 608-751-0897

From: Mark Gasser <markgasser1@yahoo.com>

Subject: 14' Clark Craft 'Sprinter' (still) for sale! Know anyone interested?

Hi Allen,

I forgot if I met you at Rock Cut with my boat or just heard about the club, but I still have a nice 14' wooden day-sailer for sale, if you happen to know anyone who might be interested. I'll post a link below and would also be happy to answer any questions or show you the boat (I'm in Elgin, IL)

<http://chicago.craigslist.org/nwc/boa/3613510505.html> [email Mark - not on craigslist any longer]

Thanks! Mark