

The Bullship Log

Newsletter of the Rockford Yacht Club

December 2013

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



Merry Christmas -

Our "meeting" is the annual RYC holiday party at Lino's - Monday Dec. 16th

We'll start gathering around 6:00 for drinks and socializing - with dinner starting at 7:00.

We have our awards for Good Captain Ron - and Unfortunate Captain Ron - Member of the Year and the gift exchange.

November Meeting Highlights

Our commodore was absent, with Marty O'Connor taking charge of the meeting that included election of officers. We had a sizable contingent of members who are also NWSA members. Members present authorized a donation of \$200 to Harlem Township's holiday Toys for Kids program.

Officers for 2013 - not all of whom "volunteered" but were "drafted" in absentia.

Commodore: John Kochanski

Vice Commodore: Allen Penticoff

Purser: Burnie Turner

Yeoperson: Ruth Penticoff

Activities Captains: Kevin & Claudia Wenzel

Flotilla Captain: Allen Penticoff

Signal Officer: Martin O'Connor

Thanks to all who are continuing to serve our board.

You will note the big change is in Marty O'Connor stepping up to take over production of The Bullship Log. Future announcement needs should be directed to him for dissemination to the membership. We'll expect some changes to the newsletter and how it is distributed. Marty is very tech savvy.

Commodore's Corner

Ahoy Mates,

Isn't it amazing how you can go on vacation things just go along on autopilot. It's a really good feeling to have good people, like a crew, around you to carry on which leads me to say I am honored to again be your commodore for 2014. On a personal note, I finally have a fairly substantial 14 foot sailboat for the Taste of Sail at Pierce Lake in June thanks to Bill and Marty Siegworth who sold it me. Can't wait to take it out.

This last meeting of 2013 will be at Lino's at our Christmas party then the New Year will bring us all kinds of great adventures. We have an excellent group of dedicated officers willing to plan out all kinds of good things for us throughout the year with beautiful and exciting sailing destinations and fun events. Thanks to all the captains who provided their boats, time and energy to making this past year one of exceptional fun and excitement.

Merry Christmas to you all and Happy New Year too. See you at Lino's.

Commodore John

This & That

Remember to pay your \$25 dues - accepted by the Purser at the party as well as by mail or at the January meeting. In January we'll look forward to the Strictly Sail boat show to refresh our fondness for sailing.

Something we should discuss is changing our meeting night to accommodate our several members who also are members of NWSA (that meets 3rd Mondays as well). It would be nice if they did not have to choose one or the other - and make it possible for some RYC members to attend an NWSA meeting now and then without the either/or decision. Something to consider - which would of course depend on the Harlem Township Hall schedule as well.

Allen Penticoff steps down as The Bullship Log editor

This will mark my last *The Bullship Log*. I thank Marty O'Connor, who is just as busy as I am, for taking over.

Shirley "Sam" Walker was the first and long time editor of *The Bullship Log*, and there have been others in the editor's chair as well - Jean Larsen and Brian Black - but for much of the club's existence, I have served as the editor and publisher of the newsletter. I have long felt that the newsletter is the glue that holds the club together and is in large part why the club is still so strong after all these years (that and your passion for sailing).

We can look forward to some changes with Marty taking over - he is more tech/internet savvy than I - and I'm sure he'll find a more streamlined way to do things and not follow my previous format so closely. In the end it's not the shape of the newsletter that matters - it's the content. So you should help Marty by submitting content and photos he can share with the rest of us.

Not only do us dues paying members read the newsletter, but there is a list of non-members, prospective members and those folks who find us on the Internet who read *The Bullship Log*. So, when you write for publication - don't assume anyone reading it knows who you are talking about - this is a change I've had to adapt to over the years. We know who "Harley" is and what his boat is, but the rest of the world... As for myself, relieved of publishing duties, I hope to get back to writing more in-depth reports on flotillas and other sailing activities. We'll also find the Marty will promote the club via social media as well.

In another recent event - Ruth and I traded our trusty, rusty, 1990 Chevy Suburban in on a slightly used 2013 Chevy Volt. The "Burb" had recently served us well in towing our MacGregor 26D to Kentucky Lake and back - but it's list of not easily resolved body problems - like the body was not really attached to the frame, the tail gate was bolted shut, and the right rear door was mangled, windows not fond of going up or down and non-functional air-conditioning, made trading it in a better option than trying to sell it.

And thus it was with great reluctance that we let our great boat tower go. It was not particularly thrifty on gas (10 mpg when towing) and it didn't brake straight - but it always got us where we needed to go. With it went my fine collection of City of Madison boat ramp stickers. We'd found that even as the price of using the boat ramp climbed, it was worth it to buy the annual pass - then there is no chance of getting a ticket for parking overnight when we stay out on Lake Mendota for days at a time. With all those stickers in the window - the ramp fee monitors never gave us a second look. Besides, it is a small donation for using their excellent facilities. This is a photo of our collection. Now to find another tow vehicle and start a new collection... revive the old brown Burb?



Madison boat ramp sticker collection. Madison, WI. parks department requires ramp stickers year round - but there are several lakes and many boat ramps you can use. **Non-resident fee 2014 - \$45.** Once you get one, they will send a postcard for renewal each year.