
The Bullship Log

Monthly Meeting
Harlem Township Hall
Monday - Oct 20 @ 7:00 p.m.



Commodore's Corner

Ahoy Mates,

Unusually good and heavier water sailing opportunities abound in the fall of the year as our boats are sailed to home ports and for their final romps in the lakes before putting them away. I had two great days of sailing on RYC members boats, one on Ray Olson's 34 foot Hunter in September and one on Evans Walker's 30 foot Newport this month and both of them were awesome sails on Lake Michigan. I even got my little 14 footer out on two good sails on Lake Summerset just this past weekend with nice cool temperatures and ample winds. It was the first time my family got on that boat this year and they really enjoyed it, especially my 9 year old grandson who absolutely loved it.

This Monday the 20th of October for our monthly RYC meeting lets recall some of the significant things that happened while sailing. Those things that went particularly well and those that didn't. We can all learn from each other and become better sailors because of it so don't be afraid to share the good and the not so good stories with us. After all, don't doctors practice and learn more with time and experience?

Til then, fair winds,

Commodore John

New Transient Docks on Lake Mendota

by Allen Penticoff

Ruth and I were sailing on Lake Mendota in September. We had a nice windy Saturday for a sail about the lake with Tom & Sandy Wells from the Mark Twain Lake Sailing Association aboard - but when we cruised by the new transient docks on the UW Madison waterfront - they were quite busy at the time. On Sunday, we had a dead calm, so we motored from the Middleton boat ramp all the way to the docks, which on Sunday morning were not very busy. It turns out you don't have to pay the \$3 per hour rate before 11:00. So we had about an hour to enjoy the convenience for free.

I found them to be excellent, with many spaces - although they are a bit short for a 26 foot sailboat - we tied up on the outside long pier. There are also many slips for paddle craft along the gangway to shore. The parking machine is ashore at the entrance. We were told the credit card part has not been found to work yet. Time limit is two hours. Supposedly.

While ashore, we got Berghie off Thebote, where he did his natural thing and we picked it up. Dogs are allowed on the Union terrace at the lower levels. Inside are restaurants and restrooms. Outside there is a new patio grill with bratwurst, burgers? and beer available for a quick grab and go. While there we were witness to a couple hundred new sorority girls coming out and parading around with their fellow pledges. All in different bright colors. Over 80% were blonde - all had long straight hair. Must be Wisconsin!

After departing our free tie up - we motoring over to the dock at the lock between the lakes. We walked all the way around Tenney Park for the first time, and upon return I went for a brief dip in the water at the park beach - where my family used to go when I was a child - and thought the Lake Mendota waves were the ocean. It was chilly.

We motored back to Marshall Park, and derigged Thebote as much as we could along the way. However, it was a great day for powerboaters and the ramp was insanely busy. I had to raft up alongside Stephen Cook's Seafarer 24 in order to wait for a break in the traffic. Steve came along shortly after - and was okay with that - even offering use of his mooring ball if I ever need it.

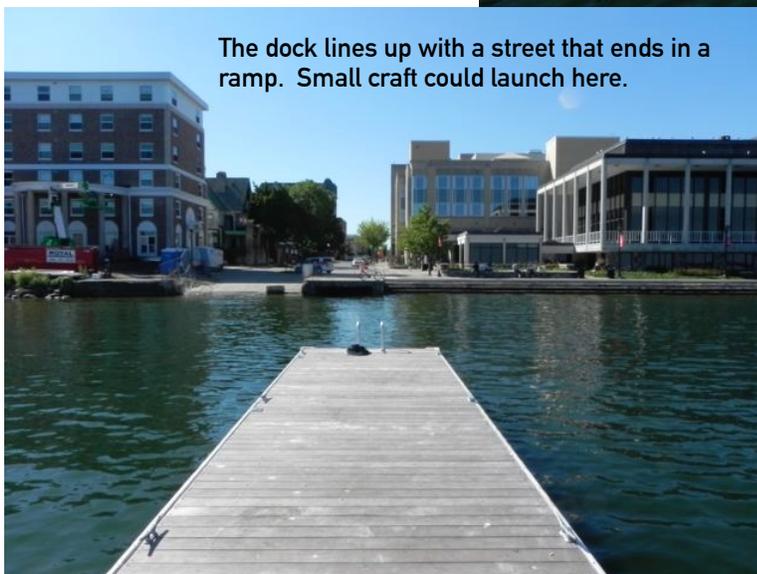
We got out eventually and were home before dark. I am pleased to report the mast eating trees along the lane to the boat ramp are gone. But so is their shade.



The paddle craft slips are the first thing you come to just across from the red brick Armory.



Slips are good for a 20-footer. Otherwise look for outside edge space.



The dock lines up with a street that ends in a ramp. Small craft could launch here.

This sign says it all.



Where you pay your dockage fee.





Local sailor, Stephen Cook, sails his Seafarer 24, "Endeavor" with wife Dian and a couple guests on the western reaches of Lake Mendota. I reviewed this boat for Good Old Boat magazine - and liked the photo from the magazine so much I have one framed in our living room - don't have one of our own boats! But Endeavor is very photogenic.



Early morning at the Middleton boat houses. We anchored off Mendota County Park for the night. Berghie need ashore, so we went to the Middleton Ramp - which has limited free two hour tie up. After putting Berghie back in Thebote, we went to the nearby C's Restaurant and Bakery. Other places are within easy walking distance for dining and shopping as well. A nice quiet walk is the lane behind the houses lining the beach all the way to Marshal Park.