
The Bullship Log

Monthly Meeting
Harlem Township Hall
Monday - Jan 19 @ 7:00 p.m.



Commodore's Corner (reporting live from the Chicago Boat and RV Show)

Ahoy Mates,

This show has (almost) every kind of boat. It didn't have a Precision 18, but now I know where I can get parts for it. It's a nice show, and I bought cam cleats for my small day sailer here.

Commodore John

Day after Christmas Sail on Pierce Lake

by Allen Penticoff

We have had some weird weather this year. The coldest November I have ever experienced had me thinking of iceboats. And while folks were iceboating on Lake Kegonsa with the "best ice in a decade" - I had not been on top of that enough to take advantage of that sweet smooth black ice that lasted all of December.

Despite going sailing with my friend Steve Gausebeck on his Catalina 27, "Quilty Pleasure" on Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake on cool sunny 40 degree day on November 20th (see photo below of Steve using a cockpit cushion to deflect the cool breeze) I was still jonesing to go sailing - and put out the word for anyone interested in going for a Day After Christmas Sail. I got no takers. And when the

day arrived - it was better than expected - so I decided "what the hell, I'll go by myself." And so I did.

I had to do some jury-rigging of the rigging to get ready, but by mid-afternoon I was sailing on a nearly 50 degree day with light winds on Pierce Lake. Fortunately the new docks were still in the water and no ice covered the main



part of the lake. I was the only boat on the lake - and I'm sure there were many onlookers who thought I was crazed.

The light breeze was just right for tooling about the lake full of frigid water. I had taken insulated pants along in the event my legs got cold, but the sun was plenty warm - although I did use the pants to insulate my butt from the cold cockpit seats and thus had to relocate them on each tack.

On the north side of the lake there was a huge flock of a couple hundred geese that scattered upon this intruder's approach. It was delightful. And good entertainment for myself and the many folk walking around the lake.



Over in the south cove I found more geese standing around - on ice. But they, for the most part, did not fly away as I approached, but walked further into the cove.

The eastern third of the lake was still frozen over - and covered with geese, ducks and seagulls. I could see an edge where



the ice was broken up a bit - so I sailed into it. This set off all the thousand-some birds into huge flocks circling around. More, and better, entertainment for us humans.

Our American 14-6, "TheLittleBote," was pretty sluggish going through the ice though. I was on the verge of breaking out the paddle. I'd never sailed through ice before, and it looked like a few cubes floating on the surface would offer



little resistance. Instead I could feel sunken ice dragging over the centerboard and rudder. I raised the centerboard to help slide over it. But never did paddle. Just take my word for it - no need to try it yourself.

A few tacks to make it back to the boat dock and take down this fine little boat. Score another late season sail. Off to the boat show to dream of warmer weather sailing.



There are now three piers at the Pierce Lake boat ramp. The center one is shorter than the outer two. Unfortunately they are too close together to accommodate launching/retrieving four boats at once. In the photo there is a strip on each dock - a sign says the ramp ends 10 feet beyond these stripes.

There are also some odd curbs on the ramp approaches to the piers to be aware of - they are right about where you need to open the door of your vehicle.