
The Bullship Log

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



Adopt a Road

On Saturday, September 12th, we held another successful roadside pickup, thanks to RYC volunteers: John Kochanski, Bruce Lombardo, John Reh, Marty & Linda O'Connor, Allen & Ruth Penticoff, Burnie & Penny Turner.

Commodore's Corner

Ahoy mates

With Labor Day behind us, it seems it is time to wrap up the sailing season. But it's not. September and October offer some of the best sailing days. Sure you may need a jacket, but you are not baking in the sun either. The breezes are fair and steady. The foliage is turning color – and most of the powerboats are gone. It is really the time to sail.

Ruth and I are heading north this weekend to sail on Lake Mendota – sorry to be missing out on the Racine Yacht Club shrimp boil festival. We hope many of you can make it to that event and enjoy the “other” RYC's hospitality and join with our NWSA compatriots in swapping sailing stories. Contact Ray about the event if you have not already RSVPed.

As for Ruth and I, this was a three day weekend that coincides with time off available to Dave and Carol Severson of Princeton, IL. They are new sailors who bought a MacGregor 26D identical to ours. I provided their first lesson on Clinton Lake and now we want to get together to show them how our Mac is set up and show them around our favorite lake. But it may be a bit chilly.

Three weeks hence, Ruth and I take Thebote to Lake Monroe near Bloomington, IN again. Another boat review or two to do and hopefully get a chance to explore this interesting lake further. We'll be arriving in time for the Lake Monroe Sailing Association's annual club bash. So that should be fun. It is a big, very active club, but not the least bit fancy. Our kind of folk.

Lastly, I'd like to thank everyone who has helped with Adopt A Road this year. I often praise RYC on your willingness to come from far and wide to pick up trash in someone else's back yard. It is our close camaraderie that makes this happen. Thank you.

So don your stocking cap, hook up the boat and go SAIL.

Commodore - Allen

Trip Report: Racine and Winthrop Harbor, Sept 5-6

BY MARTY O'CONNOR

Ray Olson invited Linda and I to sail with him from Reef Point Marina, home of the Racine Yacht Club, to North Pointe Marina, home of Winthrop Harbor Yacht Club for WHYC's annual "End of Summer" Celebration. We decided it would be best for Ray and I to meet early Saturday at Racine to hopefully sail down to Winthrop Harbor and meet our wives at the dock after Linda and Nancy rode together from Rockford in the afternoon. This allowed us the flexibility of coming and going according to different schedules and gave Linda the option of making the return trip to Racine with Ray and me on Sunday. Other than a persistent fog in the harbor that delayed our departure from Reef Point on Saturday morning, and a strong direct headwind, which forced us to motor a due south course to Winthrop Harbor, things went more or less according to plan. Ray and I arrived abeam the marina in less than 3 hours and decided to raise sail and reach off shore.. After a while, we decided to come about and make our way to the transient slip Ray had reserved. We contacted Nancy via cellphone and she and Linda were there to help us with the docking, whereupon they left to get started with the grilling, while Ray and I finished securing "Island Time" and tidying up for the party. Ray's friend Aaron and his wife, Katie, had also come down from Racine aboard their Catalina 37, and stopped by to offer us a beer and chat for a bit, so we were scolded for tardiness when supper was ready.

After enjoying our marinated pork chops and tenderloin and sampling all different side dishes from the picnic buffet, we headed over to Skipper Bud's to hear the band, New Odyssey. They bill themselves as "3 guys - 30 instruments" and they put on a great show, covering wide genre of songs and medleys, at times playing several instruments simultaneously. Aaron and Katie joined us at our table, and we also met and talked to a family of sailors from the NWSA at the next table. They had started out on a Lake Michigan crossing earlier in the day, but aborted the trip due to the wife's illness. It was noisy and I'm poor with name recall, but these members had sailed with RYC members at Lake Geneva in the past, and knew most of our joint members in their club. Linda decided to spend the night on the boat with us and sail back Sunday, while Nancy headed back home Saturday Night.

The weather Sunday morning was beautiful, with winds directly out of the south again. We arrived a bit early for breakfast at WHYC, so we sat near the shelter and observed the lakefront and a small flock of migrating cedar-waxwings around the clubhouse. Breakfast was delicious, and we were warmly treated by all members of the WHYC that we met. After breakfast, we set off for Racine on pretty much a starboard tack, dead run. The breeze and relatively calm waves made for a very comfortable ride, and Linda napped in the cockpit for about a third of the trip. There was a good amount of sailboat traffic, most of it daysailing east-west from the marinas, enjoying clear skies and a steady warm blow from the south. After one jibe to port to clear the shoals near Reef Point Harbor, we decided to sail out away from shore again as we had on Saturday and savor the opportunity for a bit of exhilarating sailing, before calling it a day and furling the genoa as the winds began to raise a few white-caps.

We lunched on the rest of our sandwiches and samples of grilled summer squash offered by Racine Yacht Club members outside the RYC club house, then Linda and I thanked Ray and our other hosts for a memorable weekend, and headed back to Rockford to pick up Linda's car and thank Nancy for all her legwork to make it possible.



Ray dancing the fog away with ladies from Racine Yacht Club



