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# **The Bullship Log**

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



## **Commodore's Corner**

Ruth and I are off to another sailing adventure – this time to Lake Monroe near Bloomington, Indiana. Look it up on Google Maps – it is a very nice lake. I'll be doing a boat review of a Beneteau 285 First – Liberty Cup boat of a couple we met there last time. We've been invited to speak before the board of the Lake Monroe Sailing Association and to join in their end of the season pot luck banquet. And – the weather forecast looks favorable for sleeping and sailing in good weather.

That's the good news. In the last month we've lost some members of the yacht club. It wasn't that long ago that Jim Pardee passed away, then more recently our beloved happy sailor, Albert "Harley" Johnson, lost a short battle with cancer. Now comes the word that Eric Mueller's wife Betty Mueller lost her struggle with cancer as well. Another fellow who was a member for a year

or two, Tom Atwood, recently died as well. All will be missed. Our condolences to all their survivors.

At the October meeting I will propose that the "Good Captain Ron Award" be retroactively renamed the "Harley Johnson Sailor of Merit Award" - or the Harley Award for short. Folks I've communicated with so far, including Captain Ron himself, Ron Bauman, are in favor of this change. Start keeping in mind who you might think deserves this award for 2015. And of course the Unfortunate Captain Ron Award with its golden paddle of shame and Member of the Year. Our big Christmas party is not all that far away!

So get out and do some sailing while you have the chance. Our good friends did.

Commodore Allen



## Fair winds and following seas

BY MARTY O'CONNOR

I chose the composite photo above because, for me, it evokes countless emotions, both bitter and sweet, while reminding me why it is so important to share the good times. Few people I know exemplify what that means better than these fellow sailors, Eric Mueller and Harley Johnson. On this particular occasion in June of 2009, I and my family had prior travel plans to SIU in Carbondale, IL, followed by a possible stop to see friends in the St. Louis area, and a slim chance that we might make it to Mark Twain Lake. As it turned out, we accomplished our goals and decided to divert to Blackjack Marina on our return home. Harley and Eric had already spent a night on Harley's boat, (as evidenced by the laundry on the transom rails) and had just sailed out of the marina when we contacted them by cellphone. They gladly told us they had room on board, offered directions to parking, and returned to the dock to pick us up. We enjoyed a full day of sailing, followed by an evening raft-up party, whereupon Eric and Harley cooked up some quesadillas and other treats to share. Leo and Judy Wehner were generous enough to take us aboard their Montego 20 for a several mile trip back to the marina so we could leave for home that night.

You'll notice that this psuedo-panoramic image shows the relatively rare incidence of Harley with his hand on the tiller of his own boat. He so loved sharing the experience of sailing, and exhibiting enough confidence in his guests to make them feel at ease, that he hardly ever took over the helm, and never delivered a harsh command or criticism. Our

experiences in the Rockford Yacht Club, whether planned or spontaneous, have always gone well, due mainly to the generosity and flexibility of other members. We have always been treated with patience and good humor, despite my lack of experience, organization and decisiveness at times. All our sailing friends, regardless of strain and stress in their personal and professional lives, have always put forth their best effort to live in the moment and extend comfort and joy to those around them, and I hope we can continue to pay it forward for generations to come.

I think I speak for all RYC members in saying how sorry we are for your loss, Eric, and it was real good to know you, Harley.



## Email from Ron Bauman:

Allen,

Thanks for copying me on your note. I was saddened to hear of Harley's passing. As the original recipient of the "Good Captain Ron Award", I wholeheartedly support the renaming of the award to the "Harley Johnson Sailor of Merit Award". I'm sure most of current RYC club members have no clue who Captain Ron is other than Kurt Russell from the movie of course. It is a fitting tribute to one of RYC's longest standing, dedicated and loyal members.

A little news bite on Suzie and I and our sailing plans:

I retired at the end of June after spending the last 12 years working on the most advanced commercial aircraft in the skies. That is the 787 of course. Suzie and I spent the last four years living in hotels providing "Entry into Service" support to airlines around the world (we lived in 9 countries & visited a total of 24). Meanwhile, Tango (our Nauticat 43) sat neglected on the hard suffering the ill effects of weather and poor (non-existent) care by the boatyard where she was stored. I will be refitting Tango over the winter in Seattle in time to take her to Alaska next spring for 4-5 months. After that we may decide to head to Mexico in the fall, but our long term cruising plans are still TBD. The plans are being adjusted from the original "circumnavigation dream" largely due to the 4 granddaughters we now like to spend time with.

Suzie and I miss all the fine folks and fun times we enjoyed during our years with the RYC. I'm happy to see the club is still active and giving greenhorns like us the opportunity to learn to sail in a safe and nurturing environment.

Please raise a glass for me in honor of Harley Johnson!

All the best,

Ron  
Formerly "Captain Ron"

Sent from my iPad

Back in the water finally after four tough years on the hard.....

