
The Bullship Log



**Monthly Meeting
Harlem Township Hall
Monday - April 17@ 7:00 p.m.**

Commodore's Corner

Ahoy Sailors!

The population of the earth will be about 8 billion by the year 2020. At that point, the IoT (Internet of Things) will have grown to 50 billion objects connected by the internet. The number of objects using the internet will be over 6 times the number of people on earth.

There are differing opinions on the amount of energy this will all consume, but some say it is 10% of the earth's total energy usage.

So what does this have to do with sailing? There is a new interest in people learning barefoot navigation and now there are barefoot charters. These are charters that train you to navigate using low tech methods based on the book *The Barefoot Navigator*. They still have the electronics aboard for safety, but people are now enjoying getting away from all the electronics. I experienced electronics failure once when sailing with a friend in Lake Michigan. He handed over the wheel on his 41 ft. boat and pointed to some electronic display behind the mast. It was supposed to tell me how to keep the boat at the right angle to the wind. I was completely lost and asked him why can't I

just look at the waves and the tell tales on the sails. Plus the wheel had no feel when I was used to a tiller. He acted like I was from the ice age. Surely I should know how to use his electronics device. Uh, No. Check out the easy way to find your latitude with some crude items on this month's navigation tip.

There will be things to plan and discuss at this month's meeting.

One item that came up last month was the possibility of having a boat at Pierce Lake. This has come up in the past and liability was the problem. I spoke with the owner of the concession stands at Rock Cut State Park and found out that there are some options which we can discuss for having a boat available.

Check the calendar on the website and bring your plans for this year to the meeting.

Adopt a Road will be on Earth Day Saturday April 22nd, 8AM Harlem and Argyle Road. Breakfast following road clean up.

See you on Monday the 17th, for the meeting.

Commodore Brian

St. Patrick's Day dinner at Poison Ivy was quite a success, and RYC was treated very graciously by management and staff. For those who could not make it, you missed some fun conversation, good music and a pretty good spread,



Come reconnect with friends and welcome new crew next month to kick off the home sailing season.

Cinco De Mayo party, May 5 at:



**618 4th St
Beloit, Wisconsin**

**RSVP to Linda O'Connor
smilesaver@mac.com**

Barefoot Navigation Tip to Share

Finding your latitude can be done with just a few crude items.

The following will work in the northern hemisphere:

Locate the North Star.

To find the North Star, find the Big Dipper. Find the front edge of it and it will point to the star at the end of the handle of the Little Dipper. That star is Polaris, the North Star.

Find out how many degrees above the horizon the North Star is.

The distance between the star at the edge of the Big Dipper that points to Polaris and Polaris is 25 degrees. Hold out your hand or a ruler and estimate the height of Polaris above the horizon using the 25 degree space a reference. This is your latitude in degrees above the equator.

A protractor, a straw and a weighted string can be used to get the angle.

Your smart phone with a level device can be sighted on one edge while someone reads the angle.

Or you can just turn on your GPS to see where you are, but some how it is not quite as cool as knowing where your at without any devices but your hands and your eyes.

Finding longitude is a little harder, but if you keep the North Star on your port or Starboard side you will eventually get to land and someone will know where you are.

~Commodore Brian