
The Bullship Log

Monthly Meeting
Harlem Township Hall
Monday - Sep 18 @ 7:00 p.m.



Commodore's Corner

Ahoy Sailors!

Hurricanes and more hurricanes! Been thinking a lot lately about club members and former members with boats in Florida and I hope everyone is doing well. We've seen the pictures on the weather channels and it doesn't look good. Many damaged boats or future projects. Hopefully our members were spared from damage.

See you on Monday the 18th for the meeting at Harlem Township Hall 7 pm.

I hope everyone got in some good sailing over Labor Day weekend since the weather was nice. I had the privilege of sailing on "Island Time" with Ray Olson for a couple of days from Racine to North Point and back. See Photo. More details at the meeting.

At the meeting on Monday, bring your pictures and stories to share.

See you there.



Commodore Brian

Lake Waubesa ~ Allen Penticoff

Saturday August 5th I was up at our Decatur Lake home when everything called me to avoid all chores and go sailing. I had already brought our American 14-6, TheLittleBote, up to our lake house (can't sail on our lake) after A Taste of Sail, so I headed north to Lake Waubesa to take advantage of a perfect day for a sail.

From our lake house, it is only 32 road miles to Goodland Park on the southwest shore of Lake Waubesa, so I was in the water and sailing in under an hour. While there are other launch sites on the lake, this one is one of the better and quite convenient to access. You will need to pay \$8 for the launch or have the annual Dane County/Madison Parks sticker, this is in part why I use this lake... I already have the sticker, whereas over on Lake Kegonsa the sticker is of no use and you have to pay to launch.

Lake Waubesa is just south of Madison on the Yahara River, in fact the river comes in from the north out of Lake Monona and exists mid-lake on the east side. It is a fairly large lake, with a surface area of 2000 acres and a shoreline length of 15 miles (I estimate it is over a mile wide and three long). It lays on a NE – SW axis and is narrower at the southern end where it looks dammed, but is not – it is a large wetland there. There is a big state park, Capital Springs State Park & Recreation Area, with camping on the northwest side (with a launch ramp). This big park encompasses most of the river wetlands on the north end of the lake on both sides of the river (great kayaking too).

Otherwise the lake is surrounded by waterfront homes. The more cabin sort are to the south with the larger over on the east side. On the northeast side there is the Green Lantern restaurant – they have dockage and great food. It is worth a stop even if not boating. There is also a large restaurant/bar called Christy's Landing with dockage just north of the Goodland Park launch on the west shore (within easy walking distance). A sailing club is on the very north shore just east of the river. They race E scows in the summer.

Also just north of Goodland Park, along the west side of the lake there are some shallow spots, more mounds than bars. Some, like the "Rock Pile" are marked, others are not. If you see folks fishing from boats – don't go there. Though most small boats are okay going over these areas. Some weed on the west side too. None to speak of on the east side. Max depth is 36 feet. I do suggest acquainting yourself with one of the maps available on links below.

In all, my solo sailing experience was great that Sunday. Winds were strong enough to allow main and jib while occasionally needing to ease the main a bit to keep the rail out of the water, yet never so strong as to be in need of a full dumping of sail power. Perfect. At times it was quite light toward the end and I had to paddle to the ramp from two hundred yards out. In all it took me almost three hours to sail down to the south end (near the launch) up the east side, to the river inlet and tack back. This is why I like Lake Waubesa - you can go for a long time on one tack. Yet it is not overwhelmingly huge like Lake Mendota and it is prettier than Lake Monona with the bonus of the two waterfront restaurants.

The boat ramp at Goodland Park has two docks and two cement lanes between them, with tie-up space on the outside. The docks are quite long, but a bit high for a small daysailer. It can be a busy place on the weekend. In fact, the trailer parking was nearly full despite not many boats to be seen – I was there when a small flotilla of beautiful wood power boats were coming in. Due to high water, the whole lake was posted as a no wake zone. A sailor's delight! Normally you'll have to contend with a lot of powerboat wakes and chop if sailing on a summer weekend.

To get to Goodland Park, take Highway 14 towards Madison, exit Lacy Road, turn right and a short distance a left onto Goodland Park Road which has a two zig zags as it leads nearly directly to the park. All good road. If you need to relieve yourself before sailing – the restrooms are to the north of the trailer parking area, not down by the lakeshore. You'll need to rig in line with the launch ramps due to overhanging tree limbs.

Maps: <https://www.mappingspecialists.com/store/lake-waubesa-wall-map/>

<http://juliemj.blogspot.com/2010/08/lakes-featuring-lake-kegonasa.html>



