
The Bullship Log



Monthly Meeting
At Rock Cut State Park Concessions
Please Note change of venue
Monday - Jul 16 @ 7:00 p.m.

Sailing Lake Kegonsa

By Allen Penticoff

Ruth and I took an unprecedented pass on taking our MacGregor 26, *Thebote*, up to Lake Mendota for Memorial Day weekend. Our new "cottage" on Decatur Lake near Brodhead, Wisconsin is our lazy easy way to relax in an anchorage-like setting. So we did that instead.

I had the desire to do some sailing over the weekend, so we took our American 14-6, *TheLittleBote*, to Lake Kegonsa just north of Stoughton, Wisconsin on Memorial Day Monday. This lake is popular with iceboaters as it freezes up early in the season and has room to run fast. I've sailed it with my DN and Nite, but you don't do much sightseeing while iceboating, so this really was my first experience in inspecting the shoreline details. Mostly it is homes wedged in close proximity to one another the much of the way around. It would make a great lake to learn to sail on, and is certainly one that should be on your list to spend a delightful afternoon exploring.

Stoughton is a short drive from our cottage, and I first checked out the Amundson Landing & Park ramp on the south side of the lake that has no fee – and also almost no trailer parking. It was a lee shore and with the no-trailer parking, was not appealing at all. During iceboat sailing, we park our trailers on the ice - getting around that particular issue.

There are three other places to launch on the lake - all adequate. One is Fish Camp County Park and you must pay a fee (\$8). It is in the northwest corner near where the Yahara River enters this big round lake; the other is over near the Lake Kegonsa State Park, Town of Pleasant Springs boat launch (fee ?? gravel parking, no pier). Since we were towing *TheLittleBote* with our VW Vanagon camper, we chose to enter the state park, pay for the annual sticker (which we usually get anyway *) then use the excellent launch facilities of the state park. Of all four launch points, it would be worth paying the one day state park fee to launch using their two-lane, two-pier ramp facilities on the far east side near the river outlet.

We had a 10-knot breeze out of the northeast that afternoon, so getting away from the long dock was a cinch. The good wind propelled us on a complete circumnavigation of the shoreline with no tacking to speak of, until we stopped at the long courtesy dock at Springer's Restaurant on the north shore. There we just used the bathrooms and tacked on back to the boat ramp to windward.

Lake Kegonsa is rather big. It is also rather shallow. There is a sizable very shallow area on the west side that is marked with buoys, but it would still behoove you to look at an underwater surface chart to see the true extent of it. We managed to scoot along the western shoreline inside of this shallow area, where you may snag a few weeds. Memorial Day 2018 was in the low 90-degree temp range, but the steady breeze across the water kept us pleasantly cool. It was a great little sail on a simple boat.

** The Lake Kegonsa State Park entrance fees are: \$38 annual/\$11 daily for out of state. If you live have Wisconsin state license plates there are resident and senior discounts. The Dane County/Madison Parks annual launch permit is useable at Fish Camp County Park. Springers permits trailer parking free in their back lot once you launch. Do eat there – it is a good place to drink and dine. Worth the drive in itself.*

Commodore's Corner

Ahoy Sailors!

Hopefully you were able to make it to the picnic this year. The invites from Taste of Sail seemed to work and we had quite a few non-members show up at the picnic interested in sailing. I also sent them applications for membership to the club. This got me to thinking about the club and if we should all try to invite people to join whenever we can by making the membership form available to them. The form is available in our documents on the website. Please print a few out and hand them to people you see sailing or friends and neighbors who may be interested in sailing. I plan on keeping a few with me.

I was recently in a Home Depot store with my Rockford Yacht Club hat on and the clerk told me my hat was pretty funny. She told me she had an 815 T shirt that said Rock River Yacht Club on it. Ha Ha. I told her no... Rockford has a real Yacht Club that has been around for years, made up of sailing enthusiasts. I happen to be the current Commodore. Oh, she said, I'm sorry. I told her that it was OK.

But this is the mentality of some of the town. Rockford deserves a Yacht Club and is why we should promote it and ask more people to join.

Club promotion items: If you would like a Rockford Yacht Club hat, T-Shirt, Ladies T-shirt, Sweatshirt or Hoodie they are all available on the site. They can ship to you or you can pick it up in the store.

Here is the link to our promotion site: <https://stores.inksoft.com/rockforyachtclub>

Items on Calendar:

7/20 – 7/22 North Point Rendezvous, Sail from Racine or Kenosha to Northpoint or trailer sail out of North Point.

See you on Monday the 16th at Rock Cut State Park for the July meeting of the Rockford Yacht Club. If the weather is bad for the meeting, I will send out a text and we will meet at Harlem Township Hall as a backup. We will be making plans for the North Point Rendezvous, with most of the activities at North Point probably taking place Saturday night.

See you at the Monday meeting,

Commodore Brian





Thanks to Deb Askelson and her guest, Agnieszka, for some of these photos.