

The Bullship Log

Newsletter of the Rockford Yacht Club

March 2010

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5292, Rockford, IL 61125
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Meeting Location: Harlem Township Hall
819 Melbourne Ave.
Machesney Park, IL



Monthly Meeting
Harlem Township Hall
Monday March 15th @ 7:00

Potluck Snacks/Food

Potluck Program

Fine tuning the flotilla schedule, see page two.
"How to beat the high cost of not sailing," see page 2.

February Meeting Highlights

New Commodore Burnie Turner took the wheel, as we had a round table discussion of the flotilla. Penny Turner agreed to take on the Purser position if others would take over the Activities Captains duties - several members agreed to this plan.

Burnie displayed a tee-shirt with the RYC logo. Orders were taken sufficient to cover an initial order of twenty or so at \$13.00 each.

The Turners announced they have acquired another sailboat, a Tanzer 26, at the time in Sandusky, Ohio. Their Tanzer 22 is for sale.

Joe and Isolde Rittner of Crystal Lake became new members. Joe has sailed with Northwest Sailing Assoc. for several years with his MacGregor 25. We welcome them aboard.

Activities Captain and Vice Commodore positions are still vacant.

Allen mentioned the 50% Boat U.S. membership discount we get with our **Group I.D. number - GA83077Y**. He also passed out new copies of Northern Breezes.

Commodore's Corner

I am sure everyone is excited about spring. Make sure to get those boats cleaned up soon as it gets warm enough. Penny and I are really looking forward to this sailing season. At the last meeting when we were working on the flotilla schedule, it seemed like there were lots a great suggestions for some short trips and weekend sails. The T-shirts are also ready and I will be bringing them to the meeting. They look great and we should really stand out and look like a team at events like "A Taste of Sail".*

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting.

Commodore Burnie

**If you have not paid for your shirts in advance, please come ready to pay for them at the meeting.*

Current RYC membership stands at 28 paid memberships with 50 members & spouses. Thanks for paying your dues in a timely manner.

We now have 3 DN iceboats in the club, in addition to Commodore Burnie's iceboat. Not looking too promising for iceboating now, but a good freeze should bring another day or two of fast sailing.

Save the date: Saturday May 1. An evening with friends to celebrate Ruth Penticoff's 50th birthday (*which is May 1*). Location "The Filling Station" in New Milford. Band: Southern Rock by "The Almost Brothers Band" led by former RYC member Adam St. James. Pizza, salad, beer & wine on us. No presents please - but contributions for the band appreciated. Only six weeks away!

Allen & Ruth

Proposed Flotilla schedule Bill Siegworth “focused members input to sailing schedules 2010.”

April 2, 3, 4 **Lake Clinton** Ruth & Allen Penticoff

April 23, 24, 25 **Lake Carlyle** Penny & Ruth Turner

Late April/May, Marty & Bill Siegworth will be commissioning M.J. II **Milwaukee WI.**

May 1st celebrating Ruth Penticoff’s birthday @ Filling Station in **New Milford, IL.**

May 15, 16 Ice Breaker **Williams Bay WI.** NWSA event

May 29, 30, 31 Memorial Day Sail **Lake Mendota**

June 12, 13 **A Taste of Sail Pierce Lake** at **Rock Cut State Park** all RYC members

June 18, 19, 20 **Mark Twain Lake, MO.** (Fathers Day weekend) Johnson & Mueller, Penticoffs, Scheuers

July 9, 10, 11 **Lake Mendota, WI.** NWSA event

July 25,26,27 **Lake Michigan Crossing Port Washington** Thurs, Fri. returning Mon. or Tues. ports of call
Holland & Saugatuck & return Scheuers & Siegworths.

(Trailorsailor ideas last 2 weeks of July?)

July 29, 30, 31 **Bayfield WI.** Dick Spears

August 7, 8,9 **Green Lake** with NWSA (checking for deeper boat launch locations)

August Club Picnic **Pierce Lake** date to be determined

August 9-15 one week in **Sheboygan WI.** Siegworths

August 20-25 all Ships arrive **Navy Pier** Chicago

August 24-29 Tall Ships return **Navy Pier** Chicago (www.tallshipschicago.net)

September 3, 4, 5 **Door County weekend:** “The Big Journey” crossing to Traverse Bay, Sturgeon Bay launch sites. More details to follow

Mid September Marine Trade show IBEX International Knoxville, Kentucky

Mid September r late October **Kentucky Lake** Sail to be determined

October 2 **Lake Geneva, WI.** Frostbite Sail NWSA event

Flotilla schedule will be updated with more details at March meeting.

How to beat the high cost of not sailing

By Brian Black

Around February of each year when the cabin fever starts to get high, I find myself searching the internet for used sailboats and or equipment for my boat. I can’t say that is a bad thing, because I have upgraded boats and equipment a couple of times. Through all of this surfing I learn a lot about boats and what I like and dislike about them. This year I ran across a deal on a Bayfield 25 in Florida. I don’t have a vehicle or trailer to move it with, so the search for those things also ran through my mind. After awhile, with encouragement from my wife, I came to realize what a money pit this project could become and the fact that I really don’t need another project. I really need to go sailing to cure my cabin fever.

And so it goes year after year. I also realized that because of this winter cycle we have every year I still have a stove to install in the boat from last year. I have a stereo and radio to hook up from two years ago and the high cost of not sailing continues to mount.

People sometimes ask me: “Isn’t sailing expensive?” I usually say it doesn’t have to be. It can be really cheap to really-really expensive, depending on what you want to do. What I should say is that the sailing is free. It is the not sailing that will really cost you. Getting blown about on the junction between aerodynamics and hydrodynamics is free.

The expenses of not sailing are not always obvious though. They can come in the form of things not related to sailing and things directly related to sailing. The best way to beat the high cost of not sailing is to sail.

To figure your costs of not sailing, add up all the toys that you have that are not cost of living items.

Things like the motorcycles, vacations, bicycles, kayaks, fishing equipment, sailboats, powerboats, Jet skis, Snow skis, snowmobiles, etc. You can see that these things can really add up. Then take all these items and divide the costs per year by the number of days you went sailing last year and you will see that the cost per day is quite high.

The number you get is not the cost of sailing, but the cost of not sailing. Sailing doesn’t require any of these things. It does require a sailboat, but the boat doesn’t have to be yours. For someone who really wants to sail, not sailing can also have physiological costs. After sailing, sailors usually feel relaxed and peaceful.

This peacefulness can last for weeks, so it must be good for you. Go sailing as much as possible and you will lower your cost of not sailing, especially if you don’t have a boat.

Hey wait... I just saw a Hunter 27 for only \$990.00? That could be such a sweet boat...I need to go sailing!