
The Bullship Log

Monthly Meeting
Harlem Township Hall
Monday - Apr 21 @ 7:00 p.m.
Potluck snacks & food



Commodore: John Kochanski

Vice Commodore: Allen Penticoff

Purser: Burnie Turner

Yeoperson: Ruth Penticoff

Activities Captains: Kevin & Claudia Wenzel

Flotilla Captain: Allen Penticoff

Signal Officer: Marty O'Connor

Please send any BSL contributions, photos and other member alerts to martinoconnor@mac.com

2014 Adopt-a-Road kickoff

Our first Adopt-a-Road of the season, held last Saturday, drew ten volunteers from two states and seven different zip codes. The shortest distance travelled by anyone in attendance was no less than sixteen miles. It rained only a little while before the crew finished gathering up bags, but a heavy downpour with large hail caused a few late arrivals at the Riverside Family Restaurant.



Flotilla photos from Joe Rittner

It's been such a miserable winter. Here are some sailing pictures on Geneva Lake a few years back. Dick Spears launched his MacGregor 25 with John Reh and Joe Rittner on board. Burnie crewed with Allen on his American14.5. It was a spirited sail with some unexpected gusts. Allen took pictures of the M25 and Joe took pictures of the A14.5. Such scenes are something to look forward to in the coming months after all of the recent cold and snow. Here's wishing all of us some spirited sailing!





Safety Consideration

Swim Ladders

In the Beneteau 32s5 review I criticize the location of the swim ladder. I point out that you cannot deploy it from the water or the cockpit. Having once had great difficulty getting out of the water on a nice warm day in flat water, up a rope ladder – I resolved to install a good swim ladder on my boat. Had I not had the rope ladder, I would not have been able to re-board, and as it was, a fellow swimmer had even greater difficulty than I did with re-boarding – we were close to towing him two miles to a shore.

From this I developed the philosophy that no matter the size of your boat – you should be able to unassisted, re-board the boat from being a swimmer in the water. The swim ladder should also be easily deployed by the person at the helm without leaving the helm for anything but a few seconds. Imagine trying to steer in a sea and go down to the swim platform of the Beneteau and get back up. You may end up with the whole crew in the water and the boat adrift.

It doesn't take stormy weather to put you in the water. Sailboats are covered with things to trip you up. If you were to fall over at anchor in cold water at night while peeing off the transom – you may well be in serious trouble if your ladder can't be deployed easily and there is something to hold onto while doing that. And therein is my complaint about the Beneteau's nice, but not so nice swim ladder.

Allen Penticoff

Commodore's Corner

Ahoy mates,

My boat is still in storage and i need to work on it soon but it's too cold right now. Maybe it will warm up by the middle of May. It is good to see water instead of ice on the lake and am getting anxious to get things going with some boat work as i'm sure many of you are too.

With the advances in smartphone technology i would hope that some applications are out there for sailors to use. If anyone knows of some good ones perhaps you could share that with all of us. That could make a difference for someone in a tight situation and be a good backup system or for finding their way through some difficult or unfamiliar passage and avoid problems. Also, having the latest weather and wave height forecast is very important for any boaters.

Looking forward to seeing you this Monday at 7:00 p.m. for some good camaraderie, planning of sailing flotillas and events. Lets all bring some snacks to share too.

Happy Easter!

Commodore John