



The Bullship Log

Monthly Meeting
Harlem Township Hall
Monday - May 15@ 7:00 p.m.

COMMODORE'S CORNER

Ahoy Sailors!

We had a good turnout at the road cleanup and also as the Cinco de Mayo event in Beloit. (Cool fact: Cinco de Mayo in Spanish means 5th of May. To the average sailor, it means your mayonnaise has fallen overboard.)

Thanks to all the participants in road cleanup, it didn't seem like too much trash but we sure had a big pile of bags at the end. Earth Day was an appropriate day for the first clean up of the year since many other volunteers were seen out on other roads. I think we should try to do this on Earth Day next year.

Thank you to Linda for setting up the Cinco de Mayo event and the fabulous door prizes. All the attendees had a good time at the "Big House"

See you on Monday the 15th, for the meeting. We will be making plans for the icebreaker sail coming up on the 20th. The June meeting will be held at Rock Cut State Park.

Commodore Brian

Maintenance Tip to Share

I was at the new Casey's in Roscoe the other day and saw that they now carry fuel without alcohol in it. Yeah!

I like to use it in any small carbureted engine, but for boats it is more important to use.

If you are like me, you may have run your outboard on E10 gasoline. E10 means that the gasoline contains 10 % ethanol. Ethanol is alcohol made from grain compared to Methanol which is made from wood. Ethanol is not a bad fuel, Indy cars run on E100 which is 100% pure ethanol and if you have seen an Indy car, you know they scoot pretty well. At the drag strip hot rodders have chosen E85 (85% ethanol) as the new race fuel, it has high octane and is cheap to buy. The high octane allows them to run a high boost on the turbochargers and get really good power without expensive fuel. Ethanol runs cleaner than gasoline so is better for the air. I run E85 in my truck. E 85 has a lower heating value, so gas mileage goes down about 20% but it is also usually 20% cheaper so this is a wash, My truck makes more power on E 85 than on gasoline because it was designed primarily as an E85 engine. The timing is retarded when it runs on E85.

The problem with E10 is that it will absorb water from the atmosphere. This problem has left me with a carburetor bowl full of water and an engine that won't run. The problem is made worse by the high humidity when out on a lake. I worked in a small engine shop back in the 80s the alcohol was first being used in the fuel. The shop foreman called me over one day and said "Hey, check this out." He poured a sample of fuel into a shallow pan on a hot and humid day. He began slowly rocking the fuel back and forth and in about 5 minutes water magically started to flow back and forth in the bottom of the pan. "See that?" he said, "It just sucked the water right out of the air".

The plastics also were not designed for it and would swell up clogging fuel cap vents, and making mush out of fuel lines, etc. If you have an older engine (mid 80s) it was probably not designed for alcohol and may have problems with the plastic parts.

Save yourself the trouble and use the no alcohol fuel in your outboard, especially if it is a 2 stroke. Why? We can discuss it at the meeting.

May 20th Ice Breaker at Geneva Lake Combined sail with NorthWest Sailing Association

Launch at Fontana or at Williams Bay. Bring your own boat and crew and maybe a seat or two for NWSA crew. Arrive at nine; rig and launch by 10. The Lake Geneva YC has their E scow regatta on that Saturday which is fun to watch from afar or near a weather mark as they raise their spinnakers. Best to bring a box lunch. Some boats stop at the Williams Bay pier with clean rest rooms. I'm launching at Fontana.

Please let me know ahead of time if you bring your boat and crew email: joerittner@att.net. My cell is turned on at sail day 815-382-4116. Thanks, Joe Rittner

June 3rd on Geneva. Similar event as 5/20. Sail is coordinated by Marc Holdwick email: n8kwx@arrl.net



Pictures (clockwise from left): Joe's boat by Allen; Allen's boat by Joe; E scows at weather mark by Joe; Marc's Windrider trimaran by Joe



Sailing Tip to Share ~Brian Black

Ever hear of the saying one hand for yourself and one for the ship?

What they mean by that is when you move around on deck hold on to something so you don't fall or worse yet go overboard. (one hand for yourself). Then with the other hand you can do the task you need to do (one hand for the ship).

What do you do though when you need to perform a task and it is dark?

Let's see... One hand for yourself, one hand for the flashlight and one hand for the ship.

Wait a minute... that's 3 hands! It would be nice to have been born with 3 hands and an extra elbow for those hard to reach places, but since I wasn't, a good item to have on board at night would be a headlight.

They sell these for relatively cheap and come with led lights for long lasting use; also some have a red light option so as to preserve your night vision.

If you wear glasses like me, use the light over your hat and it will stop the glare on your glasses.

