



The Bullship Log

Monthly Meeting
Thunder Bay Grille

7652 Potawatomi Trail, Rockford, IL

November 8, 2021 7:00PM

Cocktails at 6:30PM



At our October meeting, RYC founding member, Janet Smolar graciously donated a large selection of sailing memorabilia she collected in her travels over the years, for the club to distribute or use for fundraising. We were glad to see Janet again, and wish her well in downsizing and moving out of state. Thank you Janet, for visiting us once again and sharing some of your treasures.

October 23rd was chosen for our final Adopt-A-Road cleanup day this year, and the date quietly sneaked up on the Signal Captain. Thanks to a reminder from Bill Siegworth, we managed a last minute callout and drew six members to participate. Weather was clear and not too windy, and combined with light frost and not-too-overgrown vegetation, we were able to complete the task in just over two hours. Thanks to Evans Walker, Allen and Ruth Penticoff, Brian and Karen Black, and Marty O'Connor (my self) we collected a fair amount of trash and enjoyed a nice breakfast at Riverside Family Restaurant afterward.

A brief revelation from Allen Penticoff

Recently when I was at a boat ramp in Madison, Wisconsin, a fellow came in with an old beater MacGregor 25 as I was setting up my own boat. I had help putting my rig up, he did not and declined it when I offered help. It takes me at least 45 minutes to do everything on land, then more time in the water as the ballast fills - when I hank on the jib and remove the sail cover. It takes me an hour and a half to take down and hit the road.

We were out and sailing when this fellow launched, but I saw him sailing with just a genoa on a light wind afternoon. I gave up and returned to the launch where I hung around in a lawn chair drinking

beer while watching and helping folks at the busy ramp (I remained at a dead-end dock with no ramp for the night).

I went to help this fellow (his first solo sail) with the MacGregor 25 when he came back in. Turns out he was a GOB subscriber. But he needed no help. The cast iron centerboard guides it well onto the trailer. I noticed he had no boom at all and roller furling on the headsail. THIS explains why he said he could rig in 5 minutes.

He is strong enough to raise the mast himself, no messing with gin poles, does not even need to hank on a jib or install a boom and run a luff up the mast. I'm thinking, this is SIMPLE. With some modification he could probably eliminate the backstay and its tendency to tangle on things during mast raising (ala Hunter). Garry Hoyt would be proud of him.

Consequently, without bothering even with fenders on that OLD boat he had it down to a pretty quick in and out. I have only rarely done a one day sail in my MacGregor due to the work involved in set up - and this guy goes out for a couple hours and then takes it down.

Hmm. I've been pining for a boat so simple to set up and take down yet have some stability and cabin space. Maybe I don't need a design contest or invent one of my own. Just track down an old beater MacGregor 25 and go this route. I'm getting too old and stiff to do all the work that needs doing to launch and de-rig my M26, but I hate to give up trailer sailing.

Yeah a genoa only sail is slow at times, but as I often say, "sailing slow makes the lake bigger."