

# The Bullship Log

Newsletter of the Rockford Yacht Club

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Meeting Location: Harlem Township Hall  
819 Melbourne Ave.  
Machesney Park, IL



## Regular Meeting, Monday Nov. 17th, 7:00

### Harlem Township Hall

Election of Officers

Pay Dues

Christmas Party Sign Up

Sailing Stories to Share

Food by the outgoing Officers

As of this date, we don't have a speaker for this meeting. So - YOU come and chat with us about your experiences this year.

### It is time once again for our membership dues.

They continue to be \$25 for 2009. We've had a change in how our newsletter is printed, and we don't know what the exact expense will be for 2009, but we'll hold to the current \$25 renewal for now.

As of this writing, the nominating panel has yet to line up all the new officers - we WILL have that done by meeting time. Please pay your dues at the meeting, but if you would like to mail your dues and/or Christmas Party reservations, please send them to our new purser:

Rockford Yacht Club  
% Shirley Walker  
4719 Manheim Rd.  
Rockford IL. 61108

(We still use the P.O. Box, but it is checked infrequently.)

Make your checks to: Rockford Yacht Club. Separate checks for dues and party reservations are appreciated.

## Commodore's Corner

Hello All! First I would like to thank everyone who attended the Halloween Party. I had a great time. Sam is now officially retired and we are planning our next adventures. However this month, we need to make sure our boats are winterized and prepare for our winter activities. We still have lots of leaves to rake and with all the time we have available now it still does not seem like enough. I look forward to our November business meeting at the Harlem Township Hall and seeing you all there! Then we are off back up north for deer hunting season and spending Thanksgiving in the Northwoods.

Evans Walker  
Commodore - RYC

Halloween Party Photos posted on our website:  
<http://www.rockfordsailing.org/photos/webgallery/index.htm>

## Christmas Party111

Always the biggest event on the RYC calendar. Come join in the fun.

Gift Swap

Awards

Camaraderie

Where: Lino's Restaurant

When: Monday December 15th

Time: Cocktails @ 6:00 Dinner @ 7:00

To reserve a room we must have 30 reservations by Dec. 1. Last minute (24hr.) accommodations can be made. See reservation form on separate page.

## Other Stuff

I recently was asked to inspect a Venture 23 in Oregon, IL. for Verva Thomas, widow of former RYC member, Dick Thomas, who passed away in early October. After inspecting the boat (it is for sale), Verva gave me several charts and a number of sailing books to donate to the RYC library. Thanks Verva! -- Allen

A small bit of info about **George O'Day** as I research for an upcoming Good Old Boat article. O'Day's well built boats have been popular with RYC members. - Allen

George O'Day, was a sailboat designer and racer who captured an Olympic gold medal in yachting, died of colon cancer at 64 years old in 1987. A native of Brookline, Mass., O'Day designed 32 classes of sailboats, both for recreation and racing. O'Day collaborated with Uffa Fox to create and build the Day Sailer. The list of boats that O'Day built is far too long to list here, but includes the O'Day 20, 23, 27, and the Finn, Soling, and Javelin. The O'Day company built a total of 76 designs totaling 40,000 boats when production ended in 1991. A full list of designs built are at: [http://www.ihearttoday.com/model\\_information.html](http://www.ihearttoday.com/model_information.html) O'Day also wrote three books on recreational boating for beginners.

George O'Day began racing sailboats competitively in high school. At age 37 he sailed the 5.5-Meter yacht *Minotaur* to victory in the 1960 Olympic competition off Naples, Italy. He also served as assistant helmsman on the winning United States yachts in America's Cup races in 1962 (*Weatherly*) and 1967 (*Intrepid*).

Below is a **Aug. 9, 1963** *Time Magazine* interview with George O'Day: **The Bathtub Navy**

Ever since he got his first catboat at eleven, Bostonian George O'Day, 40, has idolized sailboats. Regarded as one of the world's best downwind sailors, O'Day has handled almost every class of boat up to sleek 12-meter racers (he was the successful Weatherly's assistant skipper during last year's America's Cup races) and has a seasoned eye for graceful lines and good design. About the only boats that O'Day doesn't like are those he makes himself.

Since 1958 his O'Day Corp. has been turning out stubby Fiberglas boats for amateur sailors that offend his sensibilities ("They look like unwashed bath tubs," O'Day admits wryly) but have sold fast enough to make him the world's largest builder of sailboats under 20 ft.

Weekend Sailors. A combatively candid man, O'Day is sometimes regarded by fellow sailors as a traitor to his class.

He enthusiastically endorses the change in sailing from a seacoast sport dominated by yacht clubs and big-boat owners to a family hobby and national pastime. Last year, of 15,000 boats sold in the U.S., 80% were less than 20 ft. long and one-third were destined for fresh water launching. Only 10% of their new owners intend to race them. "The rest are weekend sailors who aren't out to break any speed records," says O'Day. "This is the market I decided to go after."

As U.S. sales agent for Britain's boatbuilding Fairey Marine Ltd., O'Day was convinced there was a lot of money to be made from boats for weekend sailing. In 1957 he drew up a list of 35 specifications a weekend boat ought to have, but he could not sell Fairey on the idea. So O'Day, with a handful of U.S. sailing friends, decided to produce the boat himself. Famed British Naval Architect Uffa Fox got the design contract. The boat that came off Fox's drawing board, christened the Day Sailer, was enough to make an old yacht-club commodore choke.

O'Day's own wife had little enthusiasm for sailing, and from watching her O'Day got some idea of what women dislike about boats. His Day Sailer was made of Fiberglas instead of wood for easier maintenance and easier production, held six in the cockpit instead of the maximum of three people that most sailboats are ideally designed to carry. It rode far up in the water to decrease splashing while under way, had a peculiarly high boom to clear landlubbers' heads when it swung around too fast, included such gadgets as shelves for feminine gear. An ugly duckling it was, but at \$2,000 apiece O'Day got so many orders for Day Sailers that it took his tiny plant nearly three years to catch up.

Champagne Celebration. O'Day also revised the methods of boat selling. "Most dealers," says he, "are guys who came up in the marine business as mechanics. They don't know how to sell sailboats," and they could not cope with the questions of customers. O'Day hand-picked 250 dealers in 32 states, gave them lessons to increase their own sailing ability, and promised 25% commission instead of the customary 10%.

O'Day has added five more models to his bathtub navy, including the Rhodes 19 (a 19-footer designed by Architect Philip Rhodes), which, at \$3,000, may eventually outsell the Day Sailer. His company sold 250 boats and took in \$300,000 in 1958. This year, he expects to sell 1,800 boats. The only trouble with all this growth is that apart from a modest \$12,000 profit the first year, O'Day Corp. has lost money every year since, largely because O'Day knew a lot about sailing selling but less about business.

In 1961, the operation was overhauled; stockholders moved convivial George O'Day up to the chairmanship and brought in efficient Lyman Bullard, 41, a former textile executive, who has pared the payroll, streamlined the assembly line and installed cost accounting. This year, as a result, O'Day Corp. expects to make a \$90,000 profit at last; there was a happy champagne celebration at the company's Fall River, Mass., factory last week when the 1,500th Day Sailer and the 1,000th Rhodes 19 both were hauled out of the plant. "From here on, it's downwind all the way," enthused George O'Day. End

# Rockford Yacht Club Christmas Party Dinner Reservations

**RESERVATIONS DEADLINE:** Monday, Dec. 1st

Join us for the annual RYC Christmas party

**Monday December 15<sup>th</sup> at Lino's** - 5611 E. State Street, Rockford

Cocktails @ 6:00 (cash bar)

Dinner @ 7:00

All dinner choices include 7 courses: relish tray, soup, garlic & pizza bread, Lino's salad, variety of pasta, coffee and spumoni. Prices include tax and tip and are based on a minimum of thirty people. We need 30 people to reserve a private room.

- |   |         |         |
|---|---------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baked Vegetarian Lasagna | _____ @ | \$17.18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baked Chicken ala Lino   | _____ @ | \$17.18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baked Orange Roughy      | _____ @ | \$20.42 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rib Eye Steak            | _____ @ | \$25.19 |

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Payable to: [Rockford Yacht Club](#)

Print Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Payable at the Nov. 17th RYC Meeting, or mail to:

Rockford Yacht Club  
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4719 Manheim Rd.  
Rockford, IL 61108

We will continue our tradition of the "Chinese Auction" gift exchange. Always entertaining. Bring a small wrapped gift if you plan to participate.

Awards: Member of the Year, Good Captain Ron Award, Bad (misfortunate) Captain Ron Award

Bring your tales of heroism / helpfulness and/or your tales of misfortune.

**Don't Delay - Send Today!**