

# The Bullship Log

Newsletter of the Rockford Yacht Club

October 2011

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



## Meeting at Harlem Township Hall Monday Oct. 17th @ 7:00 p.m.

Program??? We'll hear from you about your sailing adventures.

### See Commodore's Corner about details of a fun event coming up before the Meeting.

No minutes from the last meeting. Ruth and I were at the NWSA meeting that is also held on the third Monday of the month. I was there to present my program on iceboating. We first met many NWSA members and officers at a nearby restaurant for dinner beforehand (Joe Rittner compered the dinner too). Then we unloaded the iceboat and I set it up in the yard of the historical society where they have their meetings. About 50 members attended the meeting. They have snacks and beverages too as does RYC - and more "news" as they have more members. After the meeting they adjourn to a nearby bar to socialize a bit more - we did not go to that - had to hit the road. In all we enjoyed their meeting, meeting folks and the chance to see how our sister club operates.

Speaking of iceboats - on Sunday Oct. 9, Ruth and I went to the Four Lakes Ice Yacht Club picnic in Madison. It was held in a conference room near the airport - with large deserted parking lots adjacent. This was important, for one member is promoting sailing Blow Karts. (photos online version). After eating and drinking some delicious home brew - members went out to try their hand at sailing the Blow Karts. Something new I've always had an interest in. Wind was spotty. Good wind, then nothing -- making judging sail trim difficult. Without anything other than blowing leaves to tell wind direction, it was tough at times to keep going. When the wind dies, you roll the tires with your hands ala wheel chair. But, with the help a healthy push at the starting line - I won the one race I competed in.

The Last Tarp: I am afraid that I have put the last tarp on the RYC pedal raft. I had planned to sell it years ago - but never quite got around to it. I also thought we might use it at a picnic or during On The Waterfront. None of those things happened. Now after many years of leaks and condensation drippings, the plywood is very rotted. Repairs would be extensive to make it seaworthy again. Then too, a lot of time will go into disassembly and disposal. I'll call for a work party next year to help with the latter. Sad to see it go. Should have sent it off to someone else who could use it - or deal with it. Too late now. Photos of the raft are in our photo album at Harlem Township Hall. *Allen*

## Commodore's Corner

*Hello Everyone,*

*The soft water sailing season is just about over. There will be the hit and miss days here and there remaining, but you'll have to be ready to jump on them when they arise. Then there are the lucky few who are going to venture south for one more trailer-sail flotilla. If you can get out the fall has some of the prettiest days to go sailing and the winds are usually great.*

*The NWSA frostbite sail was one of those great fall days for sailing. The winds were good and the weather was perfect. The trees had just started to turn and the lake was pretty much void of motor boaters. Columbus Day was a great day to be out on Lake Michigan. A friend of mine Tawane that a few of you have met, my nephew and myself took the Tanzer 26 out for one last sail before loading her on the trailer and bringing her home for the winter. I always enjoy taking someone out on Lake Michigan for the first time and seeing the look on their face and those words that are always spoken "That is a lot of water!".*

*We are still looking for a program for the next meeting, so if you have any ideas, please let us know. Some of the best programs have been last minute suggestions.*

**This Sunday October 16th at 7:00pm** we will meet at the Haunted Barn and Hayride. The address is 6512 Manchester Rd, South Beloit, IL 61080. The cost will be \$5.00 per person per adventure. So if you decide to do both it will be \$10.00 per person. That price is 50% off the usual ticket price.

This is usually a very fun event for everyone who can make it out. Please RSVP to [Burnie@cherrywoodmedia.com](mailto:Burnie@cherrywoodmedia.com) or call me at 815-298-3800.

*I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.*

*Commodore Burnie*

**Thanks** go out to Adopt-A-Road volunteers: Eric Mueller, Joe Rittner, Preston Aylesworth, Harley Johnson, John Kochanski, Burnie Turner, Marty & Linda O'Connor, Scott Foster, and John Reh. We continue to be amazed that RYC members come from far away to pick up litter in our county. It shows how close and committed we are to one another. *Allen & Ruth*

## RYC - ROCKFORD YACHT CLUB LAKE GENEVA / FONTANA SAIL REPORT

The last RYC / NWSA combined sail of the year was scheduled for Saturday, October 1, 2011 on Lake Geneva in Wisconsin. The weather forecast was for cool temperatures and strong winds.

Trailing their boats to Fontana launch ramp were: **RYC** Eric Mueller Macgregor 25; **RYC** Harley Johnson O'Day 23, Dick Spears MacGregor 25 ; **RYC** Burnie Turner. There were a total of 4 boats and about 22 sailors. The rigging went smoothly, with assistance of willing crew members, with no major problems.

Crew joined the captains on the various boats which left the Fontana dock between 9:30 and 10:30 AM. There were good winds at the start so most of the boats started out with the main sail and jib sails.

The winds were brisk and the sailing was exciting. When we got close to Williams Bay approximately 30 racing sailboats, part of a regatta, were sailing near us so we had to be careful and avoid those boats in order to prevent a collision. All of the boats rendezvoused at the Williams Bay dock for a hardy lunch with good conversation, good lakefront scenery, and a refreshing breeze. After a pleasant lunch with good conversation at the picnic area along the waterfront, we set out for an afternoon sail. Most of the boats docked back at Fontana at about 3:30PM, others came in later. After the boats were unrigged with the help of many crewmembers, approximately 18 of us went to Gordy's restaurant for an early dinner with sea tales and general camaraderie. We were joined for dinner by NWSA member Phil Marshal.

Sailing with Dick Spears RYC were: NWSA Dave Beakey, John Heisler, Cindy Heisler, RYC Kevin Vaught, Betty Rhoads and in the afternoon, Ty Liles NWSA.

With Harley Johnson RYC were: Marty O'Connor, Linda O'Connor, Tom Price, Estuardo, Michelle Waters NWSA

With Eric Mueller RYC were: John Kochanski RYC, Sandy Krugman NWSA, Margie Schmitz NWSA, Paul Del Monico NWSA and Barb McAlister NWSA, in the afternoon Marc Holdwick NWSA.

With Burnie Turner RYC were; Tawane Burk RYC, in the morning: Marc Holdwick NWSA and Ty Liles NWSA

A special thanks to the captains who brought and shared their boats and made it possible for so many to enjoy a great day of RYC / NWSA sailing on Lake Geneva. Also we had a special thanks for the great sailing winds that gave us spirited sailing for the day. We had a great day of sailing.

DICK SPEARS: RYC "Geneva Frostbite 2011" cruise coordinator

**Below is an excerpt from an email I received from new member John Kochanski - I thought it worthy of sharing with RYC. I will comment that Preston Aylesworth has been called upon to instruct many times in similar circumstances... person with boat - needs lessons. ~ Allen**

**From:** John Kochanski

I invited Preston A. to my house yesterday to go sailing with me on Lake Summerset in my AMF Alcott Zuma (13 foot) and teach me proper boating techniques. I suggested that he not wear his jeans but a swimming suit since we may get wet. We did! Not just the spray from the waves and wind (10 to 20 mph). He taught me some great knots to tie and how to rig the ropes. Sailing was great and we tacked into the wind just fine then with the wind we flew to the East very quickly. Tacking back from the dam was a bit challenging, some rough tacks, but Preston coached me on the right direction and we moved pretty well West after that, back to beach 2 where we launched from in the sand. I accidentally dumped Preston in about 2 feet of water when we were almost to shore because the centerboard hit a rock and we got stuck, I jumped out, tipping the boat 45 degrees, the centerboard flipped overboard and Preston was upside down in the water with his glasses on. We both had life jackets on. He didn't get upset with me. We were 10 feet from shore. Just our pride was dampened a bit. Diane made dinner for us and we talked a long time about his great boat trip and boating strategies. It was a fun day and evening. Preston is a generous person and good sailing instructor.

John



Blow Kart newbies about to go out for a two lap race.

You “reef” by changing the sail size. The frames are the same on all - the second “49” has a larger 5.2 meter sail.

They are extremely maneuverable and can turn on a dime. Tacking and Jibing can be as quick as you dare. In light winds they were quite stable. In stronger winds they do lift a wheel.

Due to light winds, some of the racing was v e r y s l o w. Slower than a walk. But with wind they scoot.

This is our “raft.” Actually it is a photo from last year. I was looking for good photos of it in its heyday on a floppy disk, but can’t locate it at this time.

It was originally just barrels with a flat platform to paddle from for the Rock River Raft Race. It evolved into a 20 foot wood pontoon boat with 8 bicycles powering a big three blade propeller. It would do 3.5 knots.

When I find better photos I’ll do a better history of “the raft.”



Northwest Sailing Association holds their meetings in a meeting room of the Arlington Heights Historical Society @ 7:30 on the third Monday of each month.

Board members meet monthly the week prior to the meeting. Officers all wear white coats so you know who to look for.

They have business first, then refreshments before having a guest speaker. Afterwards some go to a nearby bar to socialize more.