

# The Bullship Log

Newsletter of the Rockford Yacht Club

April 2012

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Website: [www.RockfordYachtClub.com](http://www.RockfordYachtClub.com)  
Meeting Location: Harlem Township Hall  
819 Melbourne Ave.  
Machesney Park, IL



Monthly Meeting  
Monday April 16th @ 7:00 p.m.  
Harlem Township Hall

Social meeting. Potluck snacks.

## Upcoming events:

### **Adopt A Road**

Saturday, April 14th, 8:00 a.m.

Meet at the corner of Harlem Road & Argyle Roads. Burnie Turner will be in charge while Ruth and Allen are away in California. Since this is the first clean up of the year, all hands on deck are requested. Breakfast camaraderie to follow. RSVP if you can to Burnie...burnie@cherrywoodmedia.com or 815-298-3800. Drop-ins are of course welcome. Always a good time despite the chore.

### **Sailing 101**

April 20th, 9:00-12:00, @ Center for Learning in Retirement Class is offered through [Rock Valley College](http://RockValleyCollege) Community Education Program. Three hours classroom instruction on the basics of sailing. Great for beginners. Even without on the water lessons, students will understand how to make a sailboat go and do basic navigation (get somewhere and back).

**“Sailor’s Ball”** (formerly known as Wine & Cheese Party)

**Saturday April 21st, 6:00 p.m.**

Location: Bill & Marty Siegworth’s home  
2555 S. Riverside Drive  
Beloit, WI

Questions: Bill @ 608-751-0897

Despite the fancy name, no need to dress up or dance. However, it is a potluck - so bring something tasty and BYOB if you need something special, although some beverages are provided. Prepare to have a good time hobnobbing with your fellow sailors and dreaming about sailing yet to come.

## Commodore’s Corner

The commodore is missing in action this month - so I’ll commandeer his space. Starting with an apology for not printing a newsletter last month. While those with internet access were apprised of the change in meeting date - those without were in the dark and some inconvenience was caused. I could offer my excuses, but they all come up lame.

So, I’ll be combining the February news and the March meeting news below.

Visitors & New members: Welcome aboard Steve and Sarah Leonard (Feb.) and Bart Beardsley (Mar.) as new members. The Leonards sailed with us at the 2011 A Taste of Sail, while Bart found us on the internet. All are new to sailing and are looking forward to learning from our experienced captains. Bart as an 11 foot boat and a Hobie 18 but no experience with them yet.

At February and March meetings, Burnie advised us that the RYC website has been upgraded and changed address. The website is now [www.RockfordYachtClub.com](http://www.RockfordYachtClub.com). A log in is required for member only areas (contact Allen or Burnie). A calendar is handy there now to see activities and who is sailing where and when. The old URL - [www.RockfordSailing.org](http://www.RockfordSailing.org) will work to send you to the new site for the foreseeable future. Much thanks to Burnie for making this happen.

While still talking about the internet - join us on Facebook. First, join Facebook, then join Rockford Yacht Club. There you can easily update what’s happening with yourself and sailing and post photos. Our status upgrades when we reach 30 “friends.” You can join from the icon on our website.

At the March meeting, flotilla activities were discussed. Floated were: NWSA/RYC Lake Geneva May 19, Lake Carlyle on Memorial Weekend, Mark Twain Lake on June 23rd (Sailstice), NWSA/RYC Lake Mendota July 1, and Lake Winnebago on July 21 or July 28 weekends (EAA show starts July 23), Racine the second weekend in August (shrimp boil party). Members are urged to check the Northwest Sailing Association website for their calendar of flotilla activities - we often join in - and sometimes outnumber them.

**RYC’s - “A Taste of Sail” is June 16th.**

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News continued.

Many of the women sailors in the club will be attending the Women's Sailing Conference in Milwaukee on May 19th. We look forward to their report.

The RYC Picnic date has yet to be announced.

Burnie Turner had arranged for RYC to purchase a new permanently mounted projector screen that we will donate to Harlem Township. Of course we'll be using it! Cost was \$114.

That cost was easily covered by our Nautical Auction at the March meeting. While "stuff" seemed to be overwhelming, and much did not sell or went for ridiculously low prices, we did gain \$155 for the RYC bank account, which stood at \$2,552.72 prior to the auction. Many thanks to the estate of Bill Davey for donating his books, equipment and fine collections to the club for sale at our auction.

I believe this brings us up to date.

Allen Penticoff, Signal Officer

Do visit our shiny new website:

[www.RockfordYachtClub.com](http://www.RockfordYachtClub.com)

Folks, it has been a long time since I had a sailing adventure to report on. Unfortunately, I only have limited space to tell you about it for now. I do plan to have a meeting program on this adventure, in particular the destination, Fort Jefferson, at a future meeting.

In the course of lining up a Gemini catamaran to review for Good Old Boat magazine, the owner of the boat I chose to review asked if I wished to join him and two crew for a cruise from Ft. Myers Beach, Florida to the Dry Tortugas. I did not have to think about that long. I got to Ft. Myers and stayed with RYC founding member, John Capittelli at his and Pam's newly acquired condo on the Caloosahatchee River for a few days before heading out on the adventure. John's MacGregor 26X is kept at a slip in front of the condo on the river - and he's only a mile from the active nightlife of downtown Ft. Myers. Untie the lines and go sailing - no motoring for miles to reach the gulf. Very nice. John and Pam are very much enjoying escaping winter at their new place. Additionally, I drove out to where Dave and Joy Tarrant winter in nearby LaBelle and spent an evening with them. I am planning to do a Good Old Boat review on John's MacGregor as well.

The 1999 Gemini M105 cat belongs to Henry & Linda McKivitt, it's name is *Linda Lee*. We sailed in the company of another boat, a Westsail 28 crewed by father and son. Due to weather, our departure was delayed. But once underway we found ever growing winds and seas, until we were faced with beam and breaking following seas of 5-10 feet that were quite close together. Exciting is an understatement. After arriving at Fort Jefferson (70 miles west of Key West) all boats were pinned down for three days by high winds. Not even the ferry boat came out. This left the fort to our brave crew who managed to get Linda Lee to the ferry dock for a day on Wednesday, and again on Thursday. Although on Thursday the ferry boat was back with plenty of tourists. Snorkeling was okay, but limited to the edge of the fort. The trip back was mostly a motorboat ride because the wind was too close to our course - though not without incident. Twice large pods of porpoises swam with us close by. About 24 hours journey each direction.  
~ Allen P.



John Cappitelli sailing the river.



*Linda Lee* sailing on the Gulf of Mexico