

The Bullship Log

Newsletter of the Rockford Yacht Club

October 2013

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



Meeting at Harlem Township Hall

Monday Oct. 21 @ 7:00

Program: Sailorly Camaraderie

Potluck Snacks

We had a pretty good turn out in September for the RYC/RYC Shrimp Boil fest at the Racine Yacht Club. About ten of us were there and we had two good days of sailing. Saturday's wind and waves were particularly interesting - big rolling swells, but winds more from the west - creating an ocean like ride. Even the odd sensation of big following waves while sailing close on the wind. Sunday was good wind too, but the wave action was down. Nice brisk fall sailing.

We also had a good turn out at our last Adopt A Road. Thanks to all who came and helped pick up.

At the September meeting we had a number of reports of recent sailing activity as well. Allen Penticoff brought up a new issue. He and Ruth observed some free "life jacket loaner stations" for children while vacationing in Wisconsin. Evans Walker searched the internet and found out more about this program that originated in Alaska and adopted throughout Wisconsin and other states. Members at the meeting agreed it is a project worth getting involved with. A goal would be to start with a "Kid's Don't Float" station at Rock Cut State Park. Costs involved appear to be minimal. Other sponsors could be sought as well.

Commodore's Corner

Ahoy Mates,

With the fall colors upon us and a chill in the air it looks like it might be time to get our boats winterized and put in storage, unless you are heading south. I'm still looking forward to going out one more time on Lake Summerset. I just bought an older 14 foot daysailer from a member of the yacht club. It sails fast and well in light winds. The make and model is unknown and hopefully someone in the club can help me identify it.

*We welcomed new member **Jim Olson** to RYC in September. He has been sailing since the 1970s, lives in the rural Freeport area and has a Montgomery 15 named "UNE PETITE SIALIA." Glad to have you aboard Jim.*

Would RYC folks like to get together to see the new Robert Redford movie - "All is Lost"? It's about a man trying to survive the sinking of his sailboat in the Indian Ocean. We could talk about what is right and wrong with it for drinks or dinner afterward. We'll discuss a date at the meeting. It's not showing in Rockford yet.

A final note, please use abundant amounts of caution if you are boating this month since the water temperature is getting dangerously cold. I know that I will. I'm looking forward to the RYC meeting on Monday. See you there.

Commodore John



Inside under the lift up lids are numerous kids' size life jackets - most red in color.

Recreation of a Boyhood Experience - by Allen Penticoff

I'd not been back to Lake Arbutus in 50 years. Our family camped on this lovely lake north of Black River Falls, Wisconsin, several times during my youth. I remembered it fondly for the camping was right on the lake. It still is - only more of it. Recently Ruth and I went on a camping vacation that included Lake Arbutus as our end destination. In part so I could recreate this famous childhood photo of me with a toy sailboat. Unfortunately - I forgot to take the photo along - so I could not quite duplicate the pose. Close enough though. Seems glasses, beard and beer gut have come along in the last 50 years or so. Lake Arbutus and nearby Hatfield - still much the same.

Not long ago, I asked my 83 year-old mother why they got me a sailboat. "I guess you asked for one," was her



answer. Mystery to both of us. I grew up in Freeport, Illinois, nowhere near water. Although my uncle Jim did have small powerboats and I'd paddled canoes at scout camp. I can't recall having seen a sailboat, although it's possible I'd seen them on Lake Mendota, as our family would sometimes go swimming in the big waves at Tenney Park beach in Madison, Wisconsin.

This toy boat I had sailed off. I went after it on some sort of wood raft and was soon stranded. I was pulled to shore by a passing boat - but my little sailboat sank. I don't know why a toy sailboat would sink. I was sad. It's probably still there.

A couple years ago, someone put up a very similar looking sailboat at our club auction. I bought it for use in my occasional sailing class - but it was eerily like my first boat. I've since looked closely at the old photo of the first boat - I think it must be by the same manufacturer - there are many identical parts. This one leaks through a crack in the keel - but didn't sink.

Anyway. I enjoyed sailing it and would like to fit some better sails. Then I'd really have to go after it!

Check out the 2 min. video on my YouTube channel "SailFly54"