
The Bullship Log



Monthly Meeting
Harlem Township Hall
Monday - Oct 16 @ 7:00 p.m.

NOTICE! *Sailing companion needed.* Join me on my San Juan 21 "Enriqueta" for RYC events, NWSA events, and other sailing fun. Snug, secure quarterberth available.

Contact John Morris at JM.Sail.21@Gmail.com

Commodore's Corner

Ahoy Sailors!

Probably closed the pool and put away the boat a little too early this year. The warm weather has been holding on for awhile, but I felt Fall in the air today with the recent rain. Maybe some of you have been able to get in a little sailing in the nice weather.

Two items are coming up this week.

Adopt a Road is this Saturday the 14th. Meet at Harlem and Argyle Road at 8 am for the last clean up of the year. Breakfast afterwards.

See you on Monday the 16th for the meeting at Harlem Township Hall 7 pm. John Kochanski has asked his neighbor Matt Preston to give a presentation on using a drone for videos. Matt is planning on making a video of John and Bruce's sailboat while sailing. He may be available to video your boat too. It should be a really cool perspective of sailing.

At the meeting on Monday, bring your pictures and sailing stories to share.

See you there.

Commodore Brian

Sailing Lake Shabbona -Marty O'Connor

Lake Shabbona is 1550 acre in SE DeKalb County, approximately 7 miles east of I-39 just off US30. Although it has nearly ten times the area of Pierce Lake in Rock Cut State Park, you would never guess it as a sailor. There are several dead tree zones and backwaters designated for no motors, mainly accessible to paddlecraft. There are two small, yet relatively steep ramps near the middle of the west shore of the lake, with little dock space to tie off you boat away from the ramp. Overhanging trees on the north ramp are an impediment to launching sailboats, so the south ramp is preferred. Sailboats are limited to 14 feet on Lake Shabbona, though I doubt anyone would quibble over an extra couple of feet, especially if your non-compliant length isn't boldly displayed on (both, in our case) your hull or sail. Shabbona's length limit was a factor when choosing my first sailboat, a Chrysler Lone Star 13, and I sailed my first trials with it there. Over the years, I have also sailed my Sunfish and DN Iceboat on this lake, which is only 20 minutes from home, one-third of the travel time to Pierce Lake. Shabbona is very much a sport fishing lake, and benefits greatly from volunteer support and revenue generated by fisherman.

Sunday, September 24th, Linda and I decided to take our American 14-6 down for an afternoon sail. Though winds were forecast around 10-11 mph, they seemed to be gusting a bit stronger as we rigged the boat. I plan more adaptations to my shrouds to avoid snagging jib sheets, and Linda is still recovering from shoulder issues, so I opted to leave the jib in the bag and sail under main alone. Although it slightly hindered us on broad reaches and runs, it proved adequate and relaxing to get us around the lake, and we had a great sail.

