

The Bullship Log

Newsletter of the Rockford Yacht Club

June 2009

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5292, Rockford, IL 61125
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Meeting Location: Harlem Township Hall
819 Melbourne Ave.
Machesney Park, IL



NO Meeting @ Harlem Township Hall

Event: June 27th A-Taste-of-Sail
Pierce Lake, Rock Cut State Park
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Skippers:

Allen Penticoff - American 14.5

Harley Johnson - O'Day 23

Preston Aylesworth - *if a boat can be made available.*

Marty O'Connor - extra small boat

We really need four boats!

I'd like to see someone loan Preston a boat to use again. Can't sail, but have a boat? Let me know.

Also, we need registration crew and dockside assistance. It can get crazy at times. Any helpers, please let me know in advance so I can count on you.

Bring some lunch.

Sessions start at 10 a.m. so boats need to be ready to sail by then. Three more sessions at noon, 2:00 and 4:00. While 90 minutes is the target time, an hour is often enough, and gives more time ashore to explain things. Be prepared to describe how sailing works. Bring as many life jackets as you can round up.

Want to sail, but not do the passenger thing - come on down. It's a great day to sail.

A lot of work - but it's fun work. Come join us. - Allen

Next RYC Meeting is **July 20th** - bring a boat night/ swap meet. Food to be provided by Eric Mueller and Penny Turner

Congratulations to recent RYC newlyweds...
Burnie and Penny Turner

Thanks to Janet Smolar for the interesting May program and to Walkers for pizza, Ruth P. and Kittners for the food.

Commodore's Corner

Hello fellow sailors,

June holds a lot of promise for good sailing and camaraderie. Four RYC boats will be traveling to Mark Twain Lake for a flotilla with the Mark Twain Lake Sailing Association this weekend. Allen and I met many of them last Labor Day weekend and had the chance to sail and party with them. They are a great group of people. June 27 we will hold our 3rd annual Taste of Sail at Pierce Lake. We need skippers and boats to accommodate the many enthusiastic people who want to try sailing. If you don't have a boat, just come out for the day and hang out. It's a lot of fun while reaching out to the community - so many people don't know RYC exists.

Hope to see you soon,

Commodore Ruth

Adopt-A-Road

Time once again to clean up Harlem Road.

Date: June 20th Time: 8:00 a.m.

Place: Argyle & Harlem Roads
Breakfast at Steve's Maid Rite following.
Always more fun than it sounds.

Flotilla Schedule

June 13-14 Mark Twain Lake

June 27 - A Taste of Sail, Pierce Lake Volunteer to bring a boat, crew, or help out with the booth. Pierce Lake now has a permanent shelter near the launch ramp we should be able to use.

July 4-5 Lake Winnebago You can bet Oshkosh has waterfront fireworks, as well as a zillion boats out to watch them. We've not done a flotilla to Lake Winnebago in awhile. Nice marina, plenty to do, big lake to sail long reaches on.

Flotilla Captain: Bill Siegworth MarthaJ12@charter.net
Cell: 608-751-0897

Memorial Weekend Lake Mendota Report - by Allen Penticoff

Ruth and I arrived at Madison's Marhsall Park on Friday night at 10 p.m. Our usual routine is to stop by the Dominos Pizza place down the street first, order a veggie pizza, and have it delivered to the boat ramp while we go and set up. The pizza delivery beat us to having the mast up. Bugs aplenty this night. They loved our brightly lit deck below the parking lot lights. We were floating by 11:30, dead, dying and live bugs and all.

We woke to rain in the morning. Not just a sprinkle but RAIN. This did not bode well for our day's plans which included two other couples coming up from Rockford to sail with us. We decided to head on over to a nice homey eatery, **C's Restaurant Bakery**, nearby in Middleton to get some breakfast. I also had to call Bill Siegworth and confirm they were coming up with *Martha J* as I was short one life jacket for the day and needed to borrow one. They'd be up around 10 a.m.

During breakfast I tried to learn where the Middleton library was so I could go have a look on a computer what was up with the weather. The library is hard to find, so after dropping Ruth off at *Thebote*, I drove three miles out to the Middleton Airport and used their weather computer. I could see clearing coming, but a potential bigger wet spot on its way, off in central Iowa. The forecast also called for little wind. It wouldn't be the first time we provided a motorboat tour of Lake Mendota on *Thebote*.

Our passengers arrived, as did Bill and Marty at 10:00. The weather was looking much better already, and after leaving the harbor, we hoisted the main and genoa as a little wind was out there from the south. Not only was there wind, but plenty for a leisurely sightseeing cruise along the north shore mansions. We anchored off the Governor Nelson State Park beach for lunch - well away from other traffic. Then recommenced the tour of the lake, all under sail. Not until our heading back to Marshall Park did the wind die when only a half-mile out. Not a bit of rain and a great sail. The Siegworth's had a similar experience.

Saturday evening the Siegworths rafted up to us in Marshall Park and the four of us walked to the plaza in Middleton to go to the **Tapas Rias**, Spanish restaurant. Delightfully good food at very reasonable prices. Actual Spaniards own and operate the place - our waitress' English was better than my Spanish, but not by much. Drinks were pricey, but we did not have any. Beer supply running low already, so a trip across the street to the beverage store resupplied that need. We've learned that Wisconsin does not allow package liquor sales after 9:00 p.m. - so shop early, although you can buy package beer and wine in bars until midnight. Also, Wisconsin is going smoke-free statewide July 10, next year. That'll be nice as we like the Middleton places to eat, but not the smoke.

Returning, we had just enough daylight left to motor quickly out to Picnic Point to drop anchor for the night. Ruth and I got to sleep early because we had a complete cabin lighting failure that was something worse than a blown fuse. But by 5:30 in the morning the wind had really picked up from the northeast and was rocking *Thebote* with sizable waves. With Ruth still in the bunk, I hoisted anchor and motored directly into the building chop over to Governor's Island where we dropped the hook in the lee of the heavily wooded bluff. Eventually we could see the *Martha J* sailing, so we did too. They were on their way to the canal docks to pick up RYC member Ray Olson. We took chase and caught up, but both boats stopped at the Hooper docks first and we all went ashore for a walk up State Street, across the square and stood atop Monona Terrace gazing out on Lake Monona on a perfectly splendid morning. Returning before the Hoopers had a cow (pun intended) about using their dock, we quickly set out for the canal lock docks at Tenney Park.

Thebote was staying off-shore to drift while *Martha J* picked up their passenger, when we got a call from RYCers Burnie and Penny Turner. They were on their Harley at Marshall Park. Soon they rode around to the canal and we came in to pick them up. Ray had arrived, and soon both boats were out enjoying the best sailing of the weekend. Beautiful sunny, yet not hot, plenty of wind for a tour of the lake. Bill tried out his spinnaker for a while too. Of course we had to all go back to the canal for returning our guests. Following which, Bill and Marty headed off to Marshall Park to meet Ray at the **Imperial Garden** for a Chinese dinner, while Ruth and I headed to our cove at Governor's Island for a cook aboard. Several boats were anchored in the same bay, including the *Martha J* which came in late and anchored off our bow. The wind blew hard all night but we were well protected. Early to bed again as the light issue still was not resolved.

We stayed at anchor in our cove for a long rest. I messed with the wiring for a while and had to give up. Then in the early afternoon, craving some adventure, we picked up Bill and Marty and tried to take them ashore. The first attempt did not work as *Thebote* ran aground too far out for dry foot beaching. But I backed it to the opposite, north, side of the bay and were able to get ashore at the base of a tree by a clearing. We then proceeded to go for a very nice explorative walk around Governor's Island and the immediate proximity. The "island" is connected to the mainland by a manmade (or enhanced) isthmus and has nice wide well-maintained trails leading to rocky bluffs and wetlands. The property is not a public park, but part of the expansive Mendota Mental Health Institute grounds that allows restricted public access to this area. Both crews wanted to go home early, so a fast broad reach under genoa alone in the heavy wind and 1-2 foot waves sent us rolling back to Marshall Park quickly, and de-rigged and on the road before the next rain arrived. Three great days to be out on the water. A nice min-vacation!

Some pictures are available on the pdf/internet version of *The Bullship Log*, page three.



Clockwise: Martha J on a beam reach; Burnie, Penny and Ruth sailing ahead of Martha J; Beneteau at anchor Governor's Island; Martha J at Governor's Island bay; Martha J in pursuit of Thebote.

