

The Bullship Log

Newsletter of the Rockford Yacht Club
May 2009

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5292, Rockford, IL 61125
Contact phone: Allen 815-874-9604
Website: www.RockfordSailing.org
Meeting Location: Harlem Township Hall
819 Melbourne Ave.
Machesney Park, IL



We'll be getting together
Monday May 18th @ 7:00
Harlem Township Hall

Food by: Ruth Penticoff & Sam and Evans Walker

Program: TBA, but we do need to discuss the
upcoming June 27th A-Taste-of-Sail.

The Taste of Sail event is very popular with the public, I've already received a call wondering if we'll be doing it this year. Yes indeed.

Not only does it give us a chance to find new members for the club, which the event does accomplish, but it gives us a chance for free publicity and exposes many people to sailing while we have fun.

I've been reluctant in the past to let people sign up a bunch of kids to go sailing, but whenever asked, I capitulate and allow them to go aboard. Many young people refuse to go aboard when they get there, but just as many enjoy the sail. Younger children seem to enjoy playing with the passing water more than in the experience of sailing the boat, but we can't discount their distraction as being an unfulfilling experience. Who knows when someday in the future they'll fondly recall the "little sailboat" ride and decide to seek out sailing again as a pleasant activity.

Many of us have a list of friends and relatives we've promised sailboat rides to. This is a good opportunity to catch up on those commitments too. In the end, the whole event is one of the better attended, interesting and fun activities the club does during the year. Let me know if you can spare a day to spend introducing strangers to our shared love - sailing.

Allen Penticoff

Commodore's Corner

Hello fellow sailors,

Time again for another meeting. I'm looking forward to seeing you all again. I'm also looking forward to another sailing season.

Allen and I sailed Lake Mendota with Thebote May 2 & 3.

It takes a lot of energy to pack and plan, but once the sails go up and the motor is off, it's all worth it. A weekend of sailing, away from routines, distractions, and stresses seems like a mini-vacation.

Keep an eye on this season's flotilla schedule. I hope you'll be able to join us for some of the many events we have planned this summer.

Happy Sailing,

Commodore Ruth

Flotilla Schedule

May 23-25 Lake Mendota Those interested in camping at Mendota County Park, let Allen or Bill know so we can get together there.

June 13-14 Mark Twain Lake So far we have five yachts heading to meet with our fellow sailors of Mark Twain Lake Sailing Association. Eric & Harley (who's boat?), Nick & Gayle, Bill & Marty, Leo & Judy and Allen & Ruth. Join us.

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

Other News

Allen Penticoff is pleased to say he's made his national debut as a freelance writer by having an article published in the May/June issue of *Good Old Boat*. The article is a review of the O'Day 26 presently owned by club members Bill & Martha (Marty) Siegworth. They were getting calls about their mast raising system from a reader before they'd seen the article themselves. Also, Mark Twain Lake sailor, Tom Wells, owner of Tartan 37 *Higher Porpoise*, has a boat review in the same issue.

Research and the photo shoot took place last October on Lake Mendota when fall colors abounded and they had the great fortune of perfect sailing weather (*it was the last possible date too!*). The two crews "camped" the night at the Mendota County Park canal and close observers can see that some of the photos that appear in the magazine were shot there. RYCer Dan Medler was along as helmsman and boat setter-upper as Allen's back was giving him trouble that weekend. Allen got some awesome sailing photos, only one of which appears with the story.

Deadline was late January to submit photos and a draft story. Allen got much of his information from an Army Master Sergeant, Mark Swart, who was stationed in Afghanistan. MSgt. Swart has owned an O'Day 26 and hosts a small website devoted to the boat. Swart no longer has an O'Day, but bought a Hunter 34, while still stationed in Afghanistan. Swart had the Hunter delivered to a marina on Lake Barkley where he'll finish fixing it up and putting on all those parts and accessories he's been buying on E-Bay when he returns to base at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky the end of May. Allen and Mark continued their long distance keyboard pal relationship and hope to get together for sailing on Kentucky Lake later in the year.

Good Old Boat does not have an office per se. Karen Larsen and Jerry Powlas are the editor/publishers working out of their home near Minneapolis. Allen's editor, esteemed marine author, Dan Spurr, lives oddly enough near Bozeman, Montana. Other members of the "staff" are connected to Good Old Boat headquarters through the internet. Spurr pared down the article from Allen's overabundance of words and fine tuned the nautical terms. Karen Larson edited as well, and the result is seamless. Reviews can be a bit technical and clunky as the nature is to pass on information rather than tell a story. So here is "the story."

Long time RYC members know that this boat was brought to Illinois by Gary and Marcia Askegaard, who owned it for many years before selling it to the Siegworths. Due to the nature of being a "review" boat, the personal story of the owner's relationship with their boat and sailing cannot be told to any great extent, those kind of articles about the owners are called "feature boat" stories.

During July of 1996, Gary had located this boat via the internet in Rhode Island and he and Marcia drove there with their Ford Bronco to sail it on Narragansett Bay before towing it home. Other than trailer problems, all went well with that trip. They named it *Cygnnet* and sailed it many years. Sometimes the Askegaards trailer-sailed *Cygnnet* on various waters, and some years she was moored at slips in marinas at Madison and Kenosha, Wisconsin. The O'Day had also been to destinations like Bayfield, Wisconsin, as well. Such is the beauty of a trailerable yacht. Gary's work as a remodeling contractor left little time for sailing in the summer, so he bought a 37 O'Day to keep in Florida for their winter sailing excursions - and was about to advertise *Cygnnet* for sale.

The Siegworths were not sailors when they bought what became renamed *Martha J*. Allen and Ruth Penticoff had owed them a sailboat ride due to a church service auction along with another couple. The excursion got put off until the sailing season had passed and very bad weather cancelled the one date that would work for all. Instead of tossing the food that was prepared for the day. Ruth and Allen invited all over to their home to eat and watch the movie *Captain Ron*. Marty's mother, the late Lynn Rund, who had arranged for their excursion, came along as well.

After dinner and the movie (*which does not really inspire one to take up sailing*), Allen took everyone on a tour of the various boats stored in his large pole building. At the time, *Cygnnet*, as well as a Rockford built, Freedom 24/ Pierce Arrow 23, *Chandelle*, were in the building. Bill seemed smitten by the idea of sailing, despite only having powerboating experience as crew on billionaire Ken Hendricks' huge yacht on a trip to Florida down the rivers.

A day or two later Bill was calling Allen saying he'd found a boat on the east coast on E-Bay. Allen said, "Whoa! You don't need to buy a trailer-less boat sight unseen on the east coast when I have boats for sale in my building." Bill considered *Chandelle** briefly, but the roomier O'Day had more appeal. Within days the Siegworths were the new owners and in mid-November a few days of decent sailing appeared and Allen, Gary Askegaard and Dan Medler were showing Bill how to sail on *Martha J* on Lake Mendota. The rest is history. They loved sailing and are hooked - buying yet two more sailboats - a hurricane damaged Hunter 34 to fix up, and an ancient 12' fiberglass sailing dinghy to take grandkids sailing locally. Bill and Marty are definitely "Good Old Boaters."

*(Note: *Chandelle* is still here for sale, only \$2,000 now.)