

MAY 2021

**Zoom General Meeting & Program on Knot Tying
May 18
7pm**

**Launch Party & Brown Bag Auction
June 12
Hammond Marina**

**LMCA Catalina Rendezvous
July 16-18**

**Fleet Meet at Kenosha
August 7**

**Lobster Fest at Michigan City
September 4**

**Annual Banquet
September 25
Palos Country Club**

FLEET ACTIVITIES TO RESUME! *

After a year on pause, we're ready to hit the play button—we hope! Log in to our Zoom Meeting on May 18 to hear what we plan for this summer. Locations, dates, and formats may differ from our traditional calendar, but the important thing is that we can renew and strengthen our sailing friendships.

May 18th will be our next all-member general meeting via Zoom. Bring your favorite beverage and a couple of short lines because we'll be practicing the 7 essential knots every sailor should know how to tie and use, such as a bowline and stopper knot (figure eight). Vice Commodore Harold Hansen will lead the discussion. So come to reconnect with your fellow Fleet 21 members and practice your knot skills and knowledge. Do not miss it! Test your knot knowledge with the knotable quiz included in this newsletter. Watch your email for a link to the meeting.

In June we're combining two of our favorite events: the margarita party and the brown bag auction. This mashup has a new location too—Hammond Marina. Hammond features a nice outdoor patio, free parking, and available slips in the marina. You'll need to bring an appetizer to share, your brown bag auction item, and cash! If you've never been to a brown bag auction before, it works like this: put something gift-worthy in a bag of some sort. The item can be nautical or not. You can re-gift something you can't use, recycle a boating accessory you no longer need, or just fill it with something neat or tasty. Staple or tape your bag shut and indicate on the outside an estimated value and a clue as to what's inside. Don't say what it is, just a clue. Then let the bidding begin. Our high-powered salesman will auction

off each bag to the highest bidder. The bidding can get fierce so bring lots of cash. You might just go home with a bottle of wine, boat gear, a door knocker, or next year's brown bag item.

***Of course this can all change due to Covid. Watch your email for any updates and check our website www.catfleet21.org**

COMMODORE	
Branson Stone	219-201-5583
VICE COMMODORE	
Harold Hansen	773-480-7412
TREASURER	
Pete Pohl	630-319-3207
SECRETARY	
Laura Pohl	630-682-3204
PAST COMMODORE	
James Caldwell	312-391-7777
HARBOR CAPTAINS	
Belmont	Harold Hansen 773-480-7412
Burnham	open
DuSable	open
Hammond	Pat Reynolds 773-779-4949
Jackson Park	Wanda Robertson 773-538-7531
Kenosha	Deborah Ruxton 630-279-4533
Michigan City	Ted Kuenzli 708-539-9955
Monroe	open
Montrose	Fred Swastek 773-578-6852
31 st Street	open
Waukegan	open
DIRECTORY	
Bill Thompson	630-373-3594
MEMBERSHIP	
Pat Shereyk	708-645-1957
OUTINGS	
Dave DeAre	630-469-6117
PROGRAMS	
April Hansen	319-321-9751
RACING	
Bob Garrett	773-988-5501
RIGGING & EQUIPMENT	
Leo Beer	708-204-6771
Jeff Danhauer	270-570-0385
MEMBER AT LARGE	
Jack Bretall	708-974-4932
PUBLICITY	
Fleet Sheet	Carolyn DeAre 630-469-6117
Main Sheet	Fred Collins 219-762-4107
MARINER'S FUND	
Ted Kuenzli	773-517-1576
WEB SITE	
Bob Kuba	773-327-9331
CYA REPRESENTATIVE	
James Graham	847-477-1491
BANQUET	
Madalyn Duerr	708-429-0005

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMODORE

It is May of 2021, and we are hoping for a better summer than last year. Hoping to get out more, get out on the boat more, spend more time with family and friends.



Some of you may already have your boat in the water, or are getting the boat ready to launch. Harbors are open, most with fewer restrictions, and some with no restrictions at all for this coming summer.

Sadly, last year we were not able to hold a single Fleet 21 event or meeting. This year is going to be different. We already had a spring kick off at Crowley's Yachatapoolza in April. On the schedule for this summer is the Margarita-Brown Bag Auction in Hammond on June 12th. LMCA is again sponsoring their rendezvous in Holland MI on July 16, 17 & 18. Next will be the Kenosha outing on August 7th. After that we will have Lobster Fest in Michigan City on September 4th. We will end our season with our Fall Banquet on Sept 25th. We are planning to add additional meetings and events to the calendar.

Fleet 21 will have a general Zoom meeting on May 18th at 7 pm. Watch for your formal Zoom invitation. We would welcome any and all suggestions for additional events at the general meeting.

Also I want to thank Jim Graham and Ted Kuenzli for their work on the Mariner's Fund. The Sea Scouts were not able to hold their Spring Launch Party/Fund Raiser due to covid-19 restrictions. The Fleet will make a donation of \$300 from the Mariner's Fund to the Sea Scouts to help this important program to continue.

Mark your calendars so you do not miss any of the upcoming events, and watch the Fleet Sheet for additional events and programs. In the meantime, be safe, and I hope to see you out on the water.

Branson Stone
Commodore

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome all returning members! You're a member this year without paying any dues.

And welcome to the following new members:

Name: Leanne Thulin
Address: 317 S. Fork Drive
Gurnee, IL 60031
H Phone: 847 373-8140
Email: lthulin@msn.com
Boat Info: Crew on *Indulgence*

Skipper: Maria Rayson
First Mate: Kenneth Kirsch
Address: 12823 W Regan Road
Mokena, IL 60448
Phone: 815 735-9266
Email: maria_rayson@yahoo.com
Boat Info:
Name *Wynd Ryder* Size: 30 Sail #5406
Harbor: Burnham Mooring:



Fleet member Stuart Gordon passed away on March 24 after battling bone marrow cancers. Stuart and his wife Jill sailed out of Waukegan where Stuart was our harbor captain. Gone too soon. Our condolences to the family.

MARINER'S FUND

The Mariner's fund this year will give a \$300 donation to the Sea Scouts of Chicago. This is a part of the Boy Scouts of America. They have three boats available to teach and help young people develop leadership skills.

The Mariner's fund was established by the Fleet in 2000 as a means to give back to the sailing community. You don't have to have a special occasion to contribute, but donations can be made in honor of a special birthday, anniversary or as a memorial contribution.

CYA

Reported by James Graham

Following is a summary the Chicago Yachting Association meeting, 2/25/21.

- Fireworks are returning to Navy Pier starting Saturdays, with Wednesday shows expected also.
- About 90 percent of docks have power and water now.
- Water levels about 12 inches below last year, lowest since 2018.
- Occupancy climbing at all harbors, mostly back to 2019 numbers. Uptick in occupancy at Diversey with improved bridge clearance. Montrose, Belmont near capacity, with some 30-foot slips available.
- Started security at Montrose now, other harbors will see security started soon as in previous years. Tips concerning security: Keep valuables locked up and don't make it easy for thieves or vandals. Make sure your parking pass is visibly displayed. Quiet time at harbors is 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. Security should be on site 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. If you have a complaint, call security while the incident is taking place. The security number is posted on all gates; put it on your phone contacts list.
- Questions about Montrose parking meters were asked. No update offered on new or proposed meters, primarily because the meters are operated by the city not the park district. The fenced-in lot for owner's who have parking passes should handle most needs, they said, but the Montrose yacht club representative said there are not always enough spots in the fenced-in area. For now, the only alternative parking is at metered spots.
- Codes on gates will be changed Thursday-Friday this week.

Other reports from meeting participants:

- National Boating Federation board member Sonny Lisowski is advocating for more activities that get youngsters involved in boating and out on the water. Anyone interested in supporting his efforts can contact him.
- Sea Scouts have two vessels ready to go into the water by May. However there will be no spring launch party which in the past has been a fundraising event.
- The Chicago Maritime Arts Center has a boat building camp for kids. People interested in participating can attend a Virtual Orientation meeting May 3rd. Visit www.chicagomaritime.org. They are looking for adults who can help instruct and mentor kids during this two-week program.

RIGGING & EQUIPMENT

Boat Wax

Waxing your boat is essential to maintaining the color, shine, and integrity of a gel coat finish. Marine waxes are very durable in order to stand up to water, algae, and the sun. Boat wax also makes regular cleaning easier and can make it harder for grime to stick to waxed surfaces. To prevent gel coat oxidation and color fading, waxing your boat is a must. Normally if you've followed a multiple step process starting with either a dedicated compound and cleaner/polish or just a cleaner/polish, then you would apply a non-cleaning wax. In this case, you no longer need the cleaning power, but instead want maximum protection.

Carnauba wax with a sealant is one of the longest lasting boat waxes available. Real carnauba wax fused with advanced crystalline polymers locks out UV rays and prevents degrading the underlying finish. This is also one of the easiest boat waxes in terms of application.

Carnauba wax with a sealant combines the proven benefits of real carnauba wax and polymers into one easy-to-use formula. The real carnauba wax imparts a high-gloss, slick finish while the polymers provide rugged protection against UV rays. It's an added bonus that carnauba with a sealant is exceptionally easy to apply and remove, by hand or dual-action polisher.

An orbital polisher or dual action polisher will make waxing a boat much faster and easier. Spread on the wax evenly with a soft foam buffing pad at a low speed. You have a couple of options for wax removal. You can use a microfiber bonnet on the polisher to buff off the wax. This method is best if you're using a wax that can be applied to the entire boat before being buffed off. If you're working section by section, you might find it easier to buff with microfiber towels.

Boat waxes and synthetic sealants have been around for decades and work well to protect your boat against the elements of nature for periods of several months. Thanks to advancements in technology, a new type of protection for your boat is available that lasts upwards of five times as long as a regular wax.

Don't forget the Non-Skid!

Who wants to spend an entire Sunday afternoon cleaning and waxing the non-skid on a boat? We certainly don't, which is why there are specially designed non-skid boat wax that only needs to be sprayed on and wiped off! Arguably the most innovative boat wax ever introduced.

HARBOR NEWS

- Face coverings will be required on harbor grounds, on all docks, and at all gathering locations.
- City of Chicago **and** State of Illinois guidelines will be enforced to the fullest extent.
- There are limits on number of passengers allowed.
- Rafting of up to three vessels is allowed in Monroe Harbor, providing all boats are within the prescribed passenger limits.
- Yacht clubs and concessions shall abide by City of Chicago industry-specific guidelines for these business operations.

Chicago Harbors Safety Precautions

- Daily cleaning of high-traffic touch points in the Chicago Harbors
- Sanitizer stations available at dock gates and harbor offices
- Increased PPE and protective barriers
- Winter Storage locations will require masks to be worn this spring when individuals cannot maintain a 6-foot distance with other persons

Burnham Harbor Dock Improvements:The installation of new M, N, and O Docks at Burnham Harbor is complete.

Jackson Park Outer Harbor Breakwater:The construction of the new breakwater at the entrance to Jackson Park Outer Harbor resumed last week and is on-schedule to be completed before May 1st.

Water Levels: Depending on how much precipitation falls this spring, Lake Michigan water levels look to be almost one foot lower this season. This is especially good news for Jackson Inner, 59th Street, Burnham and Diversey Harbors who saw significant complications from high water levels in 2020.

Go to westrec@chicagoharbors.com for the latest developments.