

MARCH 2023

Yachtapalooza
March 18
Crowley's Yacht
Yard Lakeside
Followed by
lunch/dinner at
Bulldog Brewery

General Meeting
Corinthian Yacht
Club
April 29

Save the date!
Michigan Shore
Cruise
Last week of June
Details to come

SIGNS OF SPRING

Your calendar probably says spring begins March 20, the weathermen say spring begins March 1, but here in the Midwest you never know! A spring day might be followed by a week of snow! There are signs of spring everywhere though.

A sure sign of spring is when you receive your Fleet 21 renewal form in the newsletter. Again this month we are including the form. If you haven't already done so, please complete the form and mail it to our Membership Chairman today. We like to have our membership directory to the printer by May 1 so if you want to be included, renew now. There are lots of special events in the works to celebrate our 50th year and you'll want to be included. The only way you can do that is to **renew your membership.**

Crowley's Yachtapalooza is another sure sign of spring. (Is it ever nice weather??) This event may be over by the time you receive this newsletter, but hopefully you connected with fellow Fleet members either at Crowley's or at the after party at Bulldog Brewery.

Did you buy bottom paint at Crowley's? That's another sure sign of spring: boat yards are getting busy as sailors prepare for the season. There are many articles and YouTube videos out there reminding and showing you what needs to be done. Here's a link to just one article:

www.Sailmagazine.com/spring-commissioning-get-ready-for-the-water. Search YouTube under "spring commissioning a boat" for more tips—and a good way to spend a rainy spring afternoon!

Our Fleet comes alive in spring too. On April 29 we'll get together for dinner and a program at Corinthian Yacht Club in Montrose Harbor. Details are not yet finalized, but save the date. And road construction is a sure sign of spring! Before it gets into full swing, take a drive. Check out the harbors and then stop by the Chicago Maritime Museum for one of their programs. They have special events on the 3rd Friday of the month and at other times. On March 17 at 7pm the topic is *The Ships of John Gregory*. Gregory built 30 vessels that operated in the Chicago River and Great Lakes beginning in 1865. On April 15 at 4pm Strategic Maritime Solutions presents *What's the Point: Marine Electronics Installation and Operation*. Go to www.chicagomaritimemuseum.org for more information.

Happy spring!



Have you checked out our Facebook page yet? Go to Facebook and search for Chicago Fleet 21 Chicago Region. Ask to join the group. If you have pictures of a Fleet related event or just something you would like to share, post them on our Facebook page.

COMMODORE	
Harold Hansen	773-480-7412
VICE COMMODORE	
Pete Pohl	630-319-3207
TREASURER	
Eric Hillenmeyer	630-915-8163
SECRETARY	
Laura Pohl	630-682-3204
PAST COMMODORE	
Branson Stone	219-201-5583
HARBOR CAPTAINS	
Belmont	Cat Hillenmeyer 630-915-8163
Burnham	Maria Ryerson 815-735-9266
DuSable	open
Hammond	Pat Reynolds 773-972-2177
Jackson Park	Wanda Robertson 773-538-7531
Kenosha	Deborah Ruxton 630-279-4533
Michigan City	Ted Kuenzli 708-539-9955
Monroe	Cathy Bredlau 708-807-2165
Montrose	Fred Swastek 773-578-6852
Waukegan	open
Wilmette	Jim Graham 847-477-1491
DIRECTORY	
Bill Thompson	630-373-3594
MEMBERSHIP	
Pat Sheryk	708-645-1957
OUTINGS	
PROGRAMS	
April Hansen	319-321-9751
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RIGGING & EQUIPMENT	
Leo Beer	708-204-6771
PUBLICITY	
Fleet Sheet	Carolyn DeAre 630-842-8545
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Ted Kuenzli	773-517-1576
WEB SITE	
LeAnne Thulin	847-373-8140
CYA REPRESENTATIVE	
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A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMODORE

Thanks to all of you, our Catalina Fleet 21 membership and our many hard-working volunteers, Catalina Fleet 21 is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2023. This is a great thing, so let's keep it going. The club needs your involvement in many ways. First is renewing your membership – fill out the form and send a check. Second, participate in the CF21 activities: Yachtapalooza outing, the new book Club – April 20 via Zoom, and the general meeting being organized at Montrose Harbor, April 29th. Your participation is key.



A couple of harbors are still in need a Harbor Captains: DuSable and Waukegan Harbors. Primary duties are to represent the Catalina Fleet 21 in the harbor and recruit Catalina owners to join, which is a very important role for CF21's future. It means being aware of Catalinas in your harbor, walking the dock a little, and talking to people about CF21. If you are in either of these harbors, please consider volunteering.

The Fleet Officers and others are working to plan how we celebrate this our 50th anniversary. We need your input about the annual banquet traditionally held in the fall. I sent out an email with a survey link to solicit your thoughts, so please take two minutes and respond to us by March 17.

The survey link is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7BNYXC5>

If you have not thought about it much, it is time to plan your spring launch and commissioning. Yachtapalooza is a chance to get started, learn a thing or two, find a bargain and reconnect with your Catalina Friends at Bulldog Brewery at 2:30pm March 18. Vice Commodore Pohl will lead our team at the membership table. Stop by!

Mostly I want to encourage you to be active with the club this year. Get to know your fellow Catalina owners. Start an adventure, partner in a project, share some knowledge, sail together, and have fun on your Catalina. See you on the Lake – Soon!

Harold Hansen

Commodore
Catalina Fleet 21

RIGGING AND EQUIPMENT

Sailing: Great Lakes vs. Gulf of Mexico

Contributed by John Lucy

After sailing Lake Michigan and Lake Huron for 28 years, Marilyn and I have made Punta Gorda, Florida our winter home port. This Florida West Coast winter home of Fleet 21 South is on Charlotte Harbor where ten or more couples spend the winter. Sailing the Gulf and sailing the Great Lakes is far different.

Of course, the most obvious difference is that we sail here during the winter. Several fleet members join us weekly for a day sail on our Catalina 320 *S'more Therapy*. What may not be so obvious is that we do "summer storage". But that is just the beginning.

That summer storage for most of us has us taking our boats to an inland boat yard and preparing the boat for hurricanes. Florida yards only permit jack stands and not all allow anchors to the ground. All items inside must be left at home in air conditioning. If not, they will be full of mold by fall. Only a fool leaves sails on the boat. They will either rot or be torn off the boat by fall.

It is also a good idea to thoroughly clean and wax the boat before storage. The extreme summer heat is hard on the fiberglass. Also, it is a must to chip any barnacles off the hull prior to storage. If they bake on in the summer, they must be ground off in the fall before bottom painting. Before leaving *S'more Therapy* for the summer, we continue the practice we did up North. We put a half a dozen open small bottles of white vinegar on the inside. It retards mold and mildew and the boat has no musty smell when we return.

Speaking of bottom paint. No VC17 for us. After using many inferior products, I concluded Pettit Hydrocoat is best in our waters. It is water soluble and when diluted 10% by water it spreads as easily as VC17. This will last two years if when you launch the second year you scuff up the bottom with a scotch pad. Most years I have fewer barnacles in year two.

In the fall, it's much like up north except working in the yard is hot. Another clean and wax is also

recommended. Water tanks need to be sanitized. Again, mold is always a problem. All electric connections must be sprayed with T9 rust and corrosion protection. Every part corrodes in the salt water. Lots more cleaning and lubrication. The water separator should be checked before starting and monthly thereafter.

Be aware that your boat will age 3x faster in salt water. Before, you say no way. Just think about sailing from your back yard in the middle of March or to Fisherman's Village for lunch in December. Your boat may age faster, but you won't.



S'more Therapy on the hard (or shall we say sand) in Florida

BUY/SALE/TRADE

Fleet members may list items they want to buy, sell or trade in this column. Listings are free and run for three issues of this newsletter. Send submissions to the Fleet Sheet editor at deare30@sbcglobal.net.

Remember when?

Pancake breakfast at Hammond 2004



Catalina Fleet 21 - Chicago Region 2023 Renewal Membership Form

Skipper: _____ Home Phone: _____ Other (Circle One) Work Cell Phone: _____

First Mate: _____ Home Phone: _____ Other (Circle One) Work Cell Phone: _____

Zip Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Code: _____

Boat Name: _____ Boat Size: _____ Sail #: _____

Harbor: _____ Mooring: _____

E-Mail Address _____ Mate E-Mail Address _____

Make check payable to *Catalina Fleet 21* (check dollar option below):

\$45 - 2023 Renewal Membership Fee

\$60 - 2023 Renewal Membership Fee (\$45) + Mainsheet Subscription (\$15)

****Optional Payment****

Mariner's Fund Donation Donation Amount: \$ _____

*Make separate check payable to Catalina Fleet 21 Mariner's Service Fund - see newsletter for details.

Return this form to:

Patricia Shereyk

13418 Choctaw Trail

Homer Glen, IL 60491-5984

Membership Committee: Pat Shereyk 708 645-1957

In consideration of the opportunity to participate and/or my participation in any trips, events, lessons, races or other sport or non-sport activities of Catalina Fleet 21, I for myself and my heirs, assigns, executors and administrators, hereby agree that Catalina Fleet 21 and its officers, directors trip and event leader instructors, assistants, agents and representatives, shall not be liable jointly or severally, for any injuries to my person or property. I also agree to indemnity and hold harmless the parties from and against any and all actions, claims, demands, liability, loss damage and expenses of any kind, including attorney's fees arising from such claims.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Date Received: _____ Amount: _____

Check #: _____ Posted: _____

CYA

Highlights of the February 23rd Chicago Yachting Association meeting at Diversey Harbor reported by Jim Graham

* The mild winter has meant less ice damage at Chicago harbors, which should allow for a timely reopening for the 2023 season. * The NASCAR Chicago event will be July 1-2 and will create some inconveniences in the area during the two weeks leading up to it. The race will be in Grant Park and will include music and other entertainment. The track is a 2 mile loop running east from Michigan Avenue and south from Jackson, taking up a portion of Lake Shore Drive. * Chicago's police marine unit sent a representative who informed us that an additional 20 new marine officers are slated to join the force, more than doubling their number. They also anticipate having a second helicopter in operation in the year ahead. * Chicago's locks open April 15. * At DuSable Harbor, docks F and H, along with possible additional DuSable docks, will be re-decked using composite lumber. Wifi enhancements are also planned for DuSable. If tested successfully, similar wifi enhancements may come to other harbors.* Ben Alden of Westrec, which manages Chicago marinas, said a new organization called Boat Safe Chicago (boatsafechicago.com) will be offering beginner and advanced safety training and is interested in partnering with boating organizations. They are apparently a for-profit business and charge fees for their courses, using USCG licensed master captains.*The Chicago Yachting Association is hoping to partner with the city and other organizations to bring Venetian night back. *Finally, for those of you not aware, Fleet 21's own James Caldwell is the current vice-commodore of the Chicago Yachting Association. The current commodore is LaRue Watson.

Catalina Fleet 21

306 Linden Street
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FIRST CLASS