

**APRIL 2022**

**Lake Michigan  
Coastal Program  
& General  
Meeting**  
April 19  
Virtual

**Commissioning  
Program &  
General Meeting**  
May 17  
Virtual

**Annual Banquet**  
September 24  
Palos Country Club

## ***IS IT SPRING YET?***

The calendar says it is; the weather, not so much. Either way sailors are getting ready for a new season. Use that bottom paint when you can and use rainy days for planning your summer sails. By next month we hope to bring you some dates for Fleet outings. Two programs are already on the calendar:

Please join us at 7 p.m. on April 19<sup>th</sup> for a virtual discussion of the **Lake Michigan Coastal Program**, administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Our speaker will be Jenny Orsburn, who is the program manager and a native of Michigan City (and a 2001 alum of North Central College). Her team focuses on a variety of emerging coastal issues, including coordination of State resources, grant funding, education and outreach on water quality, habitat protection/restoration, coastal community resiliency planning, and cultural/historical resource protection.

On May 17 our Treasurer, Eric Hellenmeyer will discuss **Spring Commissioning: Creating a Check List and Things You Can Probably Do Yourself**. Eric will talk about how he readies his and Cat's 36' *Seabird* for launch each year, and the basic chores you can do yourself, rather than pay the boat yard. There will also be time for discussion and input from attendees and a checklist provided as a take-away. Mark your calendar, 7:00 PM.

You will receive an email with a Zoom link for viewing both of these programs. Do we have your current/correct email? **Make certain by returning your membership renewal form today. The cut off to be listed in the 2022 Directory is May 1.** A renewal form is included in this newsletter.



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## ***A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMODORE***

Crowley's Yachtapalooza was a good time. Numerous members stopped by our table, shared updates in their lives, and told a few stories. April and I managed to shop a bit at Crowley's and Nautical Donations. Good Stuff. And several past and potential members stopped by and talked.



Everyone was looking forward to the summer and a new sailing season. Speaking of which, have you thought about or made plans for sailing adventures this summer? Several of us from Catalina Fleet 21 have purchased passes for the Sail GP, June 18 & 19. We plan to anchor off the end of Navy Pier and watch the races. Consider joining us and share in the excitement. We did it for the pre-Americas Cup races a couple of years ago and had a great time.

While thinking about connecting, have you considered an outing to another port up the Michigan coast or up the Wisconsin coast? Such outings make for great get-aways to explore another harbor, visit a quaint downtown and its social scene. If you are a little nervous about venturing very far from home, consider connecting with a Catalina Fleet 21 member to sail with. The first time April and I were contemplating a lake crossing to Michigan City, we were quite nervous about venturing out all by ourselves. We had just met Carolyn and Dave DeAre. They offered to connect with us to cross the lake to Michigan City. It gave us a lot of confidence knowing that there was another boat in contact with us and within sight when we were out there, seemingly all alone. In the process, we made new friends, gained experience and a few tips about doing a crossing. One of the lessons I'll share is when time matters and the winds are not ideal to get you there, START the engine and motor or motor/sail to make efficient progress. It is allowed! I'll confess to doing this more hours than pure sailing, but it gets you on the water, enjoying the wind, the water, the sun while creating an adventure. Once you get to that first new harbor, traveling on to the next one gets easier. Try it. You will have a good time!

More information will be coming soon about our Fleet 21 outings. I encourage you to sail to these events whenever possible. If you need help making a connection, talk with other Catalina owners in your harbor or reach out to me and I'll try to find you a sailing partner if you don't want to sail alone.

I hope your spring commissioning goes well and that you will make plans for a sailing adventure. Watch for the details of the CF21 Commissioning/ DYI Program scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Harold Hansen, Commodore

## ***RIGGING & EQUIPMENT***

Do you have old sails in your basement or sails you know you'll never use again? You can give new life to an old sail and recycle it with **Sea Bags**. Through their Sail Trade Program, the process of donating a sail is easy. And for every usable sail, they offer customers a Sea Bags product in trade.

Go to [seabags.com](http://seabags.com) for all the details, but basically you contact them and describe your sail. They can arrange to pick up your sail or pay to have it shipped to them. Or you can drop it off at any of their retail stores. They have stores in Saugatuck, Harbor Springs, Charlevoix, and Traverse City, Michigan.

Once they receive your sail, they evaluate the size and condition to determine the trade. They make each trade as advantageous to customers as possible and will even make your trade from the sail you've donated. Sail bags can be made to celebrate a wedding, birthday, or just your boat.

There is no sail that is too small or too far away. Sea Bags has reclaimed over 700 tons of sails since they started and in 2020, took in nearly 7,100 sails that would have otherwise gone to a landfill.

## ***Fleet 21 South***

No, we do not have an official Fleet 21 South. But we have so many past and present Fleet members in and around Punta Gorda, Florida that we call ourselves that. Recently many of us got together (along with friends we've added along the way) to celebrate the end of season here and the start of the exodus back to Lake Michigan. As with any sailing outing, the weather did not cooperate! The one rainy day in three months forced us out of Ponce De Leon park and into Ed Kita and Kathy Cusimano's home. We still got to enjoy musical entertainment and even though the sun did not shine, a bag piper appeared at sunset for the traditional piping down the sun.

## ***CYA***

Following are highlights of the CYA March 24th meeting as reported by Jim Graham.

Ben Alden, representative of Westrec-Suntex (the two companies [merged in February](#)), reported:

- Harbors open May 1 and repairs from significant ice damage are now underway at Montrose and 31st Street, with Belmont, Diversey and other harbors to follow. He noted that Diversey Harbor's A, B and C docks need work.
- Smelt Season starts April 1, a sport seen mostly around Montrose Harbor. I believe it lasts through the end of April.
- Slips and moorings are still available at Diversey and 31st Street harbors, with a much more limited supply of space sizes available at Montrose, Belmont and Burnham.
- Lake levels are forecast to be down from last year.

Upcoming events:

- Sail GP, Navy Pier, June 18-19, tickets on sale now.



## ***CHEERS!***

In last month's newsletter the Commodore asked for your favorite drink recipes and suggestions. Raise a glass with one of these:

From Branson & Danita Stone, *Sail La Vie*

### **Aperol Spritz**

Fill a wine glass with ice  
Combine Prosecco and Aperol in equal parts  
Add a splash of Club Soda  
Garnish with an orange slice

Harold & April Hansen, *Indulgence*

### **Monte Antico**

Toscana  
Blend: Sangiovese, Merlot, and Cabernet Sauvignon, 2016  
Full bodied but not heavy, very enjoyable

Teri Weber, *Tranquil*

### **Apple Margarita Mocktail with Tequila Option**

Ingredients:  
1 lime cut in half  
2 Cups Sparkling Apple Juice  
1 Cup Tequila (optional)  
2 tsp finely rated lime rind  
2 TBLsp Lime juice  
4 cups ice cubes  
4 slices green apple (garnish)  
salt for glass rims

Run cut side of lime around glass rims and dip in salt to coat

Into blender place sparking apple juice, lime rind, lime juice, ice and tequila if using and blend until smooth

Pour into glasses and garnish with apple slices

I like to make ahead and throw in the freezer to use when ready.

Michael Gorman/ Julia Reed, *Saltire*

**The Smokey Saltire**, a classic cocktail with equal parts to be enjoyed dockside.

1 Oz Amaro  
1 Oz Aperol  
1 Oz Mezcal  
1 Oz fresh lemon juice

Pour all ingredients over ice and shake for 1 minute. Strain into a cocktail glass and garnish with a lemon slice. Slainte!

Brian Ruxton, *Mabuhay*

When I think of boating and wine, I think of summer and white wines. Unless I am eating beef. That calls for a red where you can't see thru the glass.

I like some Sauvignon Blancs but you have to be careful. I don't like the New Zealand ones. I prefer Napa or Sonoma brands. Girard, Honig are a few. Another very interesting Sauvignon Blanc comes from France. Couldn't name a label but anything from Sancerre is good and very distinctive. A Sauvignon Blanc from Chile that tastes like a Sancerre is EQ Coastal. Less than \$15.00 at Binny's.

I also prefer white wines from Southern France or Italy. Dry, dry, dry. White wines from Languedoc, Cote du Rhone or Roussillon use grapes we don't use much in the USA. White Grenache, Marsanne, Vermentino. Costco had one from Paul Mas last year. This Spring I got a bottle of Paul Mas Sur de France at the Sawyer Garden & Grocery store (right outside of New Buffalo) for \$9.99. Definitely worth it. A few good ones from Italy are Gavi and Falanghina.

The thing about a lot of these European whites is you get a better wine for less money. If you want really good reds or great chardonnays you have to spend a lot of money. The wines I have mentioned all go for less than \$15.00 per bottle. Some from any particular region might be more but you should be able to find them for that price. Costco is a great source. They tend to have "runs" of wine so if you find something you like, get a lot of it.

Another good, dry white from America is a Pinot Gris from the Willamette Valley in Oregon. Any one is good. Again, same price range.

My last thought is that also a good summer wine is a Rose. Again, Costco sells a Cotes de Provence in the summer for about \$8 that is just wonderful. Also, a good wine is a Rose of Pinot from Oregon. Willamette Valley of course

## ***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](mailto:deare30@sbcglobal.net).

### **Catalina Fleet 21**

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**FIRST CLASS**