



BYLINE



BELMONT YACHT CLUB

January 2008

Bridge

Commodore
James Sanderson
Vice Commodore
Tim Harrington
Rear Commodore
John Graneto
Secretary
Charlotte Mullen
Treasurer
Michael Premer

Staff Officers

Fleet Captain
John Garrett
Fleet Surgeon
Geoff Engel, M.D.
Judge Advocate
Barry Lewis, J.D.
Club Historian
Scott Baumgartner
Public Information & Publications
Tim Harrington

Board of Directors

Scott S. Baumgartner, PC
Charles Goes, IPC
Betty Lerner, PC
Deborah Loviza
Kenneth Low
Jane McMillan, PC
Dick Rose
Eric Schuermann
Fred Van Dorpe
Daniel Waters

Belmont Yacht Club
P.O. Box 13130
Chicago, IL 60613
(773) 871 – 4424
www.belmontyc.org

OFFICIAL NOTICE

The next board meeting will be held
Tuesday January 15, 2008, 7:00 pm
Schuermann / Caddy Residence



Commodore's Corner

Dr. James Sanderson, Commodore



HAPPY NEW BOATING YEAR TO ALL!

By the time you read this the 2008 Boat show will be history. We were unable to arrange space but will try again in 2009. We do plan to have a booth at the Strictly Sail Show, January 31 thru February 3rd and need members to staff our booth. Please give Vice Commodore Tim a call to set up a time to help promote our club. When I attend these shows my excitement for the boating season starts even if we have a foot of snow. We have either ordered a new boat, probably not, or we are starting plans to fix up and repair our current "hole in the water" for the new season.

Either way it will be a little costlier this year as there will be an increase in dockage. Westrec was awarded a contract for 5 years so we are lucky to probably have our same harbor staff.

Our Budget Chair Chuck Goes and Treasurer Premer have worked hard along with the Board to come up with a very good and easy to read Budget for 2008. It will be voted on at the January meeting and a copy will be sent to all current members soon after. We have planned for a reachable new member growth but with members help we can add more as we did last year. Membership invoices will be mailed shortly and if possible early payment would be appreciated.

I would like to remind all members that you are always invited and welcome at Board Meetings. It is a great way to be part of the club planning and we always have a social time before and after the meetings. Hope to see you at the next meeting. Commodore Jim

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Mark Your Calendars

January 15, Tuesday – 1900hrs Board of Directors Meeting at the Schuermann / Caddy residence and is open to all members. RSVP required

January 16-20 – Chicago Boat & RV Show at McCormick Place

January 31 – February 3 – Strictly Sail at Navy Pier

<< Details for all BYC events may be found on our website at www.BelmontYC.org >>

Celebrating This Month...



Members celebrating their birthdays in January are;

14 – Louise Sanderson
31- Sondra Edidin

January, on average is the snowiest in Chicago with an average of 11.3 inches of snowfall. **The Great Chicago Blizzard on January 26-27, 1967 dumped 23 inches of snow and drifts to 6-7 feet.** On January 15-16, 1990 at Prince Williams Sound, AK, 64.9 inches of snow sank a half dozen vessels in the harbor



Membership and Merriment

By Vice Commodore Tim Harrington



Welcome to the New Year! I am looking forward to another great year for the Belmont Yacht Club. As Vice Commodore I am charged with being the membership chairman for the club, and as such I am happy to announce the first new member of the year, Ms Edna Lee. Edna and her first mate Tracy Houck both hail from Oak Park and their membership was approved unanimously at the November board meeting. We extend the welcome mat and look forward to seeing Edna and Tracy around the club this year.



>Membership renewal notices will be going out soon for the coming 2008 boating season. Just a reminder that your current membership ends March 31, 2008 and due to new security measures being implemented by our Rear Commodore, all access to the club will also end on that date unless you have paid your renewal and received a new membership card. Don't be left out in the cold, renew early as two of your fellow members have already done.

>Thursday, January 31 through Saturday, February 3 marks the return of Strictly Sail Chicago to the exhibition hall at Navy Pier. This year the board has voted for BYC to have a booth, to both raise general awareness of our club and to advertise the 2008 There & Back Race. I am asking for your help by volunteering to staff the booth during the show. If you are available to work a three or more hour shift on any of those days, your admission to the show will be covered by the club. The show floor has a very electric feel, and meeting other people from around the area that are interested in the Chicago yachting scene can be a lot of fun. Please contact me as soon as possible to let me know your availability via e-mail at Tim@BarrFuneralHome.com or my cell at 773-315-3600. See you at the pier.





Sounds from Your Rear

By Rear Commodore John Graneto



Each year the Board looks to make our club ship more usable, safe and clean. What great strides we have accomplished in the past two full seasons of use of the **John B Mack II**. This year the board approved funding a line item in the budget for enhanced door security. Even as close as our neighbors to the north, the facility requires a card reader to allow member access. That's right your membership card would be the only thing you need to enter the club ship. No more remembering a numeric code, or finding a key (remember those

days) to open the door. We are looking at a card reader system that allows your membership card to be read and cause the door to electronically unlock. This allows the officers to track usage and assure access is limited to paid members. It prevents the code numbers from being arbitrarily distributed or keys from being duplicated unscrupulously, and it saves us from having to change the door code as new and old members potentially join and fall off the roster. We are doing all this in the name of security, for us and our club. We look forward to the new season aboard your ship



Park District Selects Westrec

By Tim Harrington

As most of us know, the Chicago Park District has been searching for a new harbor management company to run the Park District's nine marinas in Chicago. Over the past two years officials have put the contract out for bid three times, hoping to draw more bidders. The latest request offer in spring of 2007 drew four bidders. Parks Supt. Tim Mitchell announced on December 17 that Westrec Marinas' bid was the lowest and that the Chicago Park District has awarded a five-year contract to Westrec, at \$835,000 for the first year. The contract then calls for a 3 percent annual increase after that, and the park board can also choose to extend the contract for two additional years. Mitchell said few boaters have complained about Westrec's track record. Instead, he said, most have criticized the Park District's fee hikes and lack of harbor amenities. But some boaters have complained at public hearings that Westrec does not regularly clean restrooms, and that Westrec crews are short-staffed and not very diligent. The Chicago Park District hopes to address complaints against its harbor-management company by forming an advisory committee made up largely of boaters and sending in "secret shoppers" to evaluate the company's customer service practices. Boaters will also be able to e-mail concerns to Westrec Marinas and the Park District.



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F.Y.I. for Tropical Travelers

Fleet Surgeon Geoffery Engel, M.D., F.A.C.S.



There is some controversy regarding the simultaneous use of the insect repellent DEET and sunscreen. The Medical Letter (May 21, 2007 issue) had recommended applying DEET first to avoid decreasing the effectiveness of the sunscreen. However, a recent study found that applying the DEET first resulted in increased absorption of that chemical. It is not known if this could increase the risk of clinical toxicity, but applying the sunscreen first should lower this risk. Here's hoping for a short winter.



< MORE THAN HALF OF THE COASTLINE OF THE ENTIRE UNITED STATES IS IN ALASKA >



BYC Sea Scouts Lend a Helping Hand

By Tim Harrington, COR SSS #2006

Let's hear it for our Sea Scouts! December 1st marked the arrival of the Christmas Tree Ship and our scouts were there to help. The event actually began the night before with an overnight lock-in at the Columbia Yacht Club. More than 150 youths from as far away as Kansas City, MO, Wisconsin, and Indiana, chaperoned by about 50 adult leaders enjoyed the festivities on Friday night kicked off by a DJ and Karaoke on the main cargo deck. BYC sponsored **Ship #2006** joined forces with Columbia Yacht Club's Ship #5111 to show the visitors what a good time we have here in Chicago. Soon after 10 pm they were allowed to scramble upstairs and find a spot to lay out their sleeping bags and call it a night. People could be found sleeping in most every corner of the ship including the dining room and helm.

Saturday morning came early and the many blurry-eyed Scouts and leaders made the walk over to Navy Pier to begin the job they had come for; namely unloading 2000 Christmas trees from the deck of the



L-R Mike Lamble, Jay Lamble, Pat Harrington, Tim Harrington, Pat Cabrerros, and Sean Lamble take a break

USCG Cutter *Mackinaw* onto the many trucks sent by local churches and other charitable organizations. The trees were then distributed to local families that could not afford to purchase a tree for the holidays. Although it took almost two hours to complete the job, our scouts and the others had the opportunity to help others while having fun, a true win-win proposition. After assisting with the sweeping of the deck to clear the four garbage bags full of needles and branches, our scouts were given a personal tour of the vessel. Most agreed the bridge was the "kewlest" place to be. Following the tour, all the scouts were invited back over to Columbia for hot dogs and hot chocolate were they used what little energy they had left to dance to the sounds of a live band before packing up and heading out.

A big thank you goes out to our BYC Sea Scout Skipper **Jay Lamble** and **Joan Harrington** for spending the almost sleepless night with a boat full of teenagers. By the time I joined them Saturday morning, they both looked like they were ready to quit, but they persevered and helped carry trees with the rest of us.

Thank you also to the members of BYC for your continued support of the Sea Scout program. Through this program, local youths are given the opportunity to discover the fun of yachting in Chicago. We are looking forward to having a new-to-the-program 1984 J-35 sloop rigged sailboat available



Emily Harrington walks the plank with one of 2000

for our use this coming season. This vessel has been raced locally for years and we are hoping to do the same. Although kept on a star dock in Montrose

<Christmas Tree Ship Continued>

Harbor, don't be surprised to find it alongside the *Mack II* during the evening hours this season while the scouts are preparing to go out, or returning from, an evening sailing. The scouts are also eager to participate in BYC functions this year, so if you are the event chairperson for one of the many events this year and can include the scouts in the planning or execution, it would be greatly appreciated. Happy New Year wishes from the officers and crew of Sea Scout Ship #2006, the *Cutlass*.



Why Boats Sink and How to Prevent It

A study of 100 sailboat sinkings from the BoatU.S. Insurance claims files could help prevent your sailboat or any boat from becoming a statistic. "The sinkings were found to be divided evenly into two broad categories—those that sank at the dock and those that sank while underway," said BoatU.S. Marine Insurance Technical Director Bob Adriance.

"However, when it came to sinking underway, a sailboat's deep draft became the obvious factor," Adriance continued. Striking a submerged object was found to cause 40% of the sinkings while underway. Next on the underway list was a broken prop shaft or strut (16%) and damaged or deteriorated fittings below the waterline (16%). "Prop shaft corrosion seems to be a bigger issue with sailboats than with powerboats as auxiliary sailboat engines are not run as often, allowing corrosion to set in," added Adriance.

The complete study results are as follows:

Sinking at the Dock

- Below waterline fitting 44%
- Stuffing box leak 33%
- Keel and centerboard 7%
- Rain 7%
- Head back-siphoning 3%
- Above waterline fitting 3%
- City Water hookup 3%

Sinking Underway

- Struck submerged object 40%
- Prop shaft or strut 16%
- Below waterline fitting 16%
- Grounding 8%
- Stuffing box leak 8%
- Storm/knockdowns 8%
- Above waterline fitting 4%

Five Tips for Prevent a Sailboat Sinking:

- Any time your boat hits bottom, immediately inspect the bilge and keel bolts or centerboard pennant and hinge. To be safe, inspect again an hour later.
- Routinely — twice a season — inspect all below the waterline fittings, hoses, and hardware. If the fitting is long enough, it's good practice to have two marine-rated stainless steel clamps on all hose ends. Any hoses showing signs of rot should be immediately replaced.
- When at rest, stuffing boxes should never leak. If leaking persists after the packing gland nut has been tightened, the packing must be replaced.
- Don't ignore through-hull fittings or hoses that are installed above the waterline. While they may appear to be "safely" above the water level, they can leak when heeled over in a seaway, or when snow or ice forces the boat under.
- A winter haul out is the perfect time to inspect the prop shaft and cutlass bearing. More info at www.boatus.com

2008 Chicago Maritime Festival - Saturday, February, 23

The Chicago Maritime Festival at the Chicago History Museum, now sailing into its 6th year, continues to offer the most diverse maritime program in the Great Lakes. This indoor festival held in Chicago's "off season", is a wonderful way to meet maritime minded (or nautically curious) folks from all around the region and across the sea. The festival is organized by the Chicago Maritime Society, the Chicago History Museum, and Common Times, and sponsored by Chicago Yachting Association, BOAT U.S., and others. Seminars are presented by individuals and organizations including the Underwater Archaeological Society, US Coast Guard Auxiliary, National Weather Service, International Shipmasters Association, Chicago Maritime Society, Friends of the Chicago River, John G. Shedd Aquarium, Michigan Maritime Museum, and others from the maritime community of Chicago, the Great Lakes, and the World. The performers are among the best in the World and have hailed from all across the United States as well as England, France, Scotland, Canada, and the Netherlands. Activities for kids have included model boat building, lakeside biology, knot tying, seeking maritime careers, and "How to Become a Shipwreck Detective". Find more information at their website:



www.chicagomaritimefestival.org/2008/

