



# BYLINE



## BELMONT YACHT CLUB

November 2008

### Bridge Officers

#### Commodore

Tim Harrington

#### Vice Commodore

John Graneto

#### Rear Commodore

Charlotte Mullen

#### Secretary

Dan Waters

#### Treasurer

Charles Goes, PC

### Staff Officers

#### Fleet Captain

#### Fleet Surgeon

#### Judge Advocate

#### Club Historian

#### Public Information & Publications

Tim Harrington

### Board of Directors

Scott S. Baumgartner, PC

Deborah Loviza

Kenneth Low

Dana Ott

James Sanderson, IPC

Eric Schuermann

Fred Van Dorpe

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### Commodore's Corner

Tim Harrington, Commodore



**A note to the membership of Belmont Yacht Club:** As the harbor empties and the boating season ends, I begin a new adventure as your Commodore. Having been duly elected by the members to lead this club during the coming year it is with honor that I take the helm of this great organization, and with humble pride I accept this opportunity to serve you. I believe each new leader of any organization should clearly state his or her intentions as it relates to how they see their leadership affecting the organization. I have had many opportunities to listen to the members explaining both what they liked about our club and what needed fixing. Although I make no grand promises to fix all that is wrong, I would like to refocus on the core of our club's existence. As pointed out in the survey of members last year, the number one reason people joined this club was to have the opportunity to socialize with their fellow boaters. People may see other values to yacht club membership including the use of the club facilities, reciprocity with other clubs, and being represented as a larger voice with the park district and Westrec; but ultimately, we just want to be around others that understand the boating community and to have a little fun together. I therefore would like to commit my year in finding ways to have fun together, and make fun times happen in new and exciting ways. Now in most letters of this type those words would be followed with, "but I'll need your help to do it", but I'm not going to ask for your help. I think that since you elected a board of directors, you should expect the board and officers of Belmont Yacht Club to organize and schedule fun events for you to come and enjoy. Let me say that again; you do not have to do anything except come and enjoy the events! We will do our best to make sure you know in plenty of time when events are happening, but YOU need to check the calendar on the club website; YOU need to open your emails; and YOU need to respond in a timely manner so we know how many will be coming. We will do our part in setting up the events, all you need to do is attend, and maybe bring a friend. We all want fun things to happen this next year; I am committing my year to make that happen. The board will be meeting in November and December to plan the calendar for next year. If you have any ideas you would like to see happen, please drop me a note via email or phone, I would love to hear your thoughts.

*Commodore Tim Harrington*

## Mark Your Calendars

### Monday, November 3

- Jerry Pride's Birthday

### Wednesday, November 5

- John Garrett's Birthday

### Saturday, November 8

- CYA Ball

### Wednesday, November 12

- Deborah Loviza's Birthday

### Thursday, November 13

- 5:00 pm -7:00 pm : CYA Meeting

### Sunday, November 23

- Dan Water's Birthday

### Sunday, November 30

- DJ Reali's Birthday

< Details for all these BYC events are available on our website at [www.BelmontYC.org](http://www.BelmontYC.org) >

## Come Have a Ball

The Chicago Yachting Association (CYA) is a membership organization for groups in the greater Chicago marine community, such as yacht clubs, boat clubs, the coast guard, and others, and Belmont Yacht Club is a dues paying member. Once a year the CYA holds a black-tie event, The Chicago Yachting Ball, to honor boaters in the Chicago area for various achievements both on the water and off. This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual and will



be held Saturday, November 8, in the United Club (formally the Cadillac Club) at Soldier Field. It is a great chance for boaters from different harbors and different pursuits in boating to come together in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. Every member of all the member yacht clubs are invited to attend. Last year brought out over 500 people and this year is on



track to equal that. Last year BYC had two tables of guests, and we have that many again this year, but we want more. As a percentage of home club members attending, BYC has the strongest representation; we are known for our outsized participation and our disproportionate amount of enjoyment. Reservations were due by October 25, but if you can make it call Commodore Tim right now and he will check if any more tickets are available. Go to the CYA website at [www.chicagoyachtingassociation.org](http://www.chicagoyachtingassociation.org) for more information, but don't delay or you'll miss the best ball in town.



## Westrec Fees Going Up

In a recent meeting with Scott Stevenson from Westrec Marine attended by several members of the BYC board, he made notice that the mooring fees for 2009 will be going up approximately 4%, and transient slips will increase 9%. While the exact figure would not be known until the budget is released, he assured us he believed it would not exceed the stated percentage. Stevenson went on to commend Mayor Daley for making some hard financial decisions and continuing to fund the Chicago Park District at current levels allowing the cost to boaters to be held as low as possible. On another note; Stevenson mentioned all boats must be out of the harbors by the stated dates: October 31 or November 15 if you have a "late-leaver" permit. Belmont is a designated late-leaver harbor but you have to pay for a late-leaver permit. "Any boats still in the harbor after [the stated dates] will be towed to safe harbor at the owner's expense", Stevenson declared.



***Rainbow to windward, foul fall the day;  
Rainbow to leeward, rain runs away.***

If the wind is coming from the direction of the rainbow, the rain is heading toward you.  
Conversely, if the rainbow is in the opposite direction, it has passed you.

## **Status of Universal Education Effort in Illinois**

**By Fred Poppe, PC Chicago Yachting Association**

After several discussions, emails, and one meeting with the DNR in Springfield, the attached Final Draft of Section 5-18 of the Operation of Motorboat Act has been hammered out. I feel that we have an excellent draft document that will accomplish our goals, namely a safer boating environment in Illinois. I hope that after you review the draft that you will agree with me and are ready to support every effort to move this document through the legislative process in 2009.

### **ARTICLE V. OPERATION OF MOTORBOATS**

(625 ILCS 45/5-18) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 315-13)

#### **Sec. 5-18.1 Motorboat Operator Age Requirements.**

- (a) Beginning on or after January 1, 2010, no person, unless exempted by section 5-18.2 shall operate a motorboat on the waters of this state unless that person has a valid Boating Safety Certificate issued by the Department of Natural Resources.
- (b) No person under 10 years of age may operate a motorboat.
- (c) Persons at least 10 years of age and less than 12 years of age may operate a motorboat on the waters of this state only if the person is under the direct on-board supervision of a parent or guardian or a person at least 18 years of age designated by a parent or guardian who holds a valid boating safety certificate or is exempt under Section 5-18.2 of this act.
- (d) Persons at least 12 years and less than 18 years of age may operate a motorboat on the waters of this state only if the person possesses a valid boating safety certificate or is under the direct on-board supervision of a parent or guardian or a person at least 18 years of age designated by a parent or guardian or is exempt under Section 5-18.2 of this act.
- (e) The owner of any motorboat or any person given supervisory authority over a motorboat shall not permit a motorboat to be operated by any person not possessing a valid boating safety certificate as required by this act.

#### **Sec. 5-18.2 Exemption from requirement to obtain boating safety certificate.**

- (a) The following persons required to possess a Boating Safety Certificate under this act shall be allowed to obtain such certificate in accordance with the following guidelines.

#### **IF BORN AFTER:**

January 1, 1983 but before January 1, 1988

January 1, 1978 but before January 1, 1983

January 1, 1973 but before January 1, 1978

January 1, 1968 but before January 1, 1973

Persons born BEFORE January 1, 1968

#### **MUST BE CERTIFIED BY:**

January 1, 2011

January 1, 2012

January 1, 2013

January 1, 2014

January 1, 2015

- (b) A boating safety certificate is not required if a person:
  - (1) Possesses a valid United States Coast Guard commercial vessel operator's license;
  - (2) A person over the age of 12 years who holds a valid certificate issued by another state, a province of the Dominion of Canada, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary or the United States Power Squadron need not obtain a certificate from the Department if the course content of the program in such other state, province or organization substantially meets that established by the Department under this Section.
  - (3) Persons employed by the United States, a State or a subdivision thereof while in performance of their official duties.
  - (4) Persons 60 years of age or older.

## Potential Recreational Boating Regulations

By Fred Proppe, PC Chicago Yachting Association

Admiral Thad Allen, Commandant, United States Coast Guard, recently addressed the United States Naval Institute (USNI) on the topic of the potential threats posed by small vessels to Homeland Security. In the past, Adm. Allen had suggested that operators of recreational vessels be licensed. The broad-based objections of many organizations, including that of the National Boating Federation, caused him to back down from this objective. His address to the USNI emphasized the need to involve the millions of recreational boaters in "America's Waterway Watch" program which encourages the recreational boating community to alert law enforcement agencies of any unusual or suspicious activities on or near the water via VHF radio, 911 telephone calls, or directly to the Coast Guard Hot Line at **877-24WATCH** (877-249-2824).



In the meantime, the Coast Guard wants Congress to expand its mandate so that it includes control over recreational vessels. Should the Coast Guard succeed in this attempt, it will have broad support from many entities, including the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), for uniform national regulations such as universal, mandatory boating education and perhaps some form of mandatory wearing of life jackets.

On the issue of mandatory wearing of life jackets, the Coast Guard will have total support from Major General Dan Riley, Director of Civil Works, United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) who is pushing for revisions of Federal Regulation Title 36 CFR 327 that mandates the wearing of life jackets on all USACE waters for boats of 16 feet or under in length. Some USACE personnel believe that they do not have the manpower to enforce such regulations. Their preliminary study, resulting in an Interim Report dated 2 May 2008 cited the need for the Coast Guard to take the lead on this issue.

NASBLA is conducting a study, expected to be completed in 2008, exploring the beneficial results derived from Mandatory Boating Education. This report should have a positive impact of our efforts to promote Universal Boating Education in Illinois.

