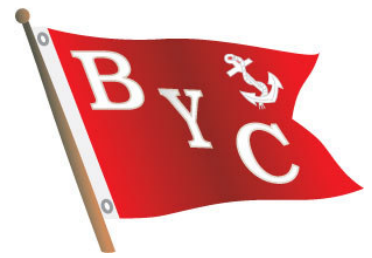


Boulder Yacht Club Boulder Bits



Bits and Pieces. Some Noteworthy; none newsworthy.

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December 2008



BYC FLOTSAM & JETSAM

This time of the year sailors are taking their boats out for the winter or preparing them for their winter stay in the water. The marina is modifying the lift to make this procedure easier, so there is a lot of activity at the marina even though not much sailing. The lift has been widened to make it easier to enter and lengthen so you won't have to take your forestay loose. Dennis, Barry Nelson and the new Marina Manager Schmidty are doing this work. Some sailors are working on their own bodies to make sailing next year better. Here are some details of these sailors that I know about, though there are probably some more.

As some of you know my wife Sharon had her shoulder replaced and is doing so well that her doctor released her yesterday. Now she can raise her right pointing finger higher to point out my mistakes while sailing. Jeff Morrison lost his hearing and found out tumor on his brain caused it. The operation to remove the benign tumor went so well he may return to work soon. Oh yeah and now he can hear me "inform" Sharon that I didn't make a mistake. If you saw Bill Jaworowski limping along the docks last year you well may still see him limp, but not from pain. He had his hip replaced and is back home trying to work out the kinks. His computer is downstairs and his doctor only wants to make the trip once a day, so if you wish him well by computer it may take him a while to reply. Monica Schowe had corporal tunnel on her hand and is also home and doing well. Now she can keep making those great gin & tonics. If you want to wish these people well, fill free to do so.

Strictly Sail Chicago

The last weekend in January will herald the 14th annual Strictly Sail Show at Navy Pier in Chicago, IL. The show will run from Thursday, 29 Jan, through Sunday, 1 Feb 2009. Show times are 11am to 8pm Thursday and Friday, 9am to 7pm Saturday, and 9am to 4pm on Sunday. Tickets can be purchased on line at www.strictlysail.com/us for \$12 for Thursday and Friday, and \$15/day for the weekend. Children 15 and under are free accompanied with an adult. By buying on line you can also chose a free subscription to one of the following: Yachting, Caribbean Travel & Life, Sail Cruising World or Power Cruising. Parking at Navy Pier is \$19 per day on Thursday and \$23 per day Friday through Sunday. CTA buses 2, 29, 65, 66, and 124 services Navy Pier as well as a free trolley that runs from 10am until one hour after the pier closes.

So how do I get there? You can always drive; taking either I-55 or I-70 to I-57 up to the LSD (Lake Shore Drive) but what is the weather like between here and Chicago during the end of January? Here are a couple of options.

Mega Bus www.megabus.com offers 3 round trips per day from St. Louis' Union Station to Chicago's Union Station. The scheduled 5½-hour trips depart from St. Louis at 8:30am, 4:34pm, and 1:15am. Returning departures are at 9am, 4:30pm, and 11:55pm. Pricing is about \$28 per person but that depends on when you make your reservation.

My favorite is to take the train. AMTRAK (www.amtrak.com) runs 5 trains a day from St. Louis to Chicago. Now, given that there is no parking at the downtown AMTRAK station in St. Louis and that it takes an hour for the train to clear downtown and cross the Mississippi River, I have always caught the train in Alton. There is available surface parking and in over 20 years of leaving my car in the Alton station lot, I have never had a problem. Departure times from Alton are: 5:21am, 7:21am, 9:18am, 3:46pm, and 6:16pm. The scheduled duration from Alton to Chicago is 5 hours. However, AMTRAK is not known for its on time performance. Of particular note is the 9:18 departure. This is the Texas Eagle, train #322/#22. This train originates in Texas (hence the name) and is notorious for being 2, 4, or even 6 hours late. Returning trains from Chicago leave at 7:00am, 9:25am, 1:45pm, 5:15pm, and 7:00pm. The 1:45pm return is the south bound Texas Eagle and the schedule deficiencies of its northbound version are not experienced heading south. This train is also very well equipped with an expanded snack bar and observation car as well as a full dining car although if the train were on time you would not have sufficient time to dine. Legroom is significantly greater than on any of the other trains listed. Some have driven to Centralia and taken the train from there. Departures for this 4-½ hour trip are 4:10am (City of New Orleans with the same schedule concerns as the Texas Eagle), 8:23am, and 6:08pm. Return trains leave Chicago at 8:15am, 4:05pm, and 8:00pm. AMTRAK offers a number of discounts for AAA members, seniors over 62, military, and the like. Our experience has been fares from \$75 to \$125 for the two of us round trip. Originating in Carbondale there also is train #390 leaving Centralia 8:23am and arrives at Union Station at 1:00pm. Return train #391 leaves Chicago 8:15am and arrives in Centralia 12:16pm. Cost for 2 senior round trip coach is \$95.20. They have a nice parking lot for long term parking at 103 E. Broadway in the heart of downtown Centralia. For reservations call 1-800-872-7245. Wherever you board, you can bring a cooler (yes you can) and sit back and enjoy the scenic beauty of backyards of Illinois. Oh Baby!

Southwest Airlines and American Airlines offer a number of non-stops between Lambert and Midway or O'Hare but given the time to deal with airport security and then the time to transit into downtown, I do not think you save any time. It is also more expensive.

So where to stay in Chicago? Well, as a friend of mine likes to say, "If you can't get laid in Chicago..." Wait, that's a different story. There are of course countless hotels in the downtown Chicago Area. A couple of web sites that I have used are www.hotels.com and www.hotwire.com. Hotels.com will give you a list of available hotels in the area along with a star rating, details of the property, and a price quote per night. Using Hotwire is a bit more adventuresome. Hotwire will let you chose a neighborhood and will list unnamed properties with a star rating. You do not know the actual name of the property until you have committed to purchase the room with your credit card. For this trip, we booked through Hotwire and got the 4-½ star Intercontinental Hotel right on Michigan Ave near the Tribune Building. Both sites charge a booking fee of about \$50 for the transaction. Our rate was \$99/night plus the booking fee. It is a good idea to check directly with the hotel you want to stay at to see what their rates are. They may be the same and then you save the booking fee.

Dining in Chicago is too expansive to do justice to but here are a few of our favorites: Weber American Grill on State Street, Rosebud on Rush, Little Italy on Monroe in the heart of the Loop, and for Chicago classic pizza, Gino's East on E. Superior.

This will be our first time to attend the Strictly Sail Show so we hope to see some of you there.

Rick Humphrey
Double "D"

FROM THE COMMODORE

Wow, can you believe it, it's almost Christmas? Seems like only a few weeks ago, we where Sailing! Times sure fly's, when you're getting old! (Gett'n, I guess I'm already there!)

This Week End is the Ladies Luncheon at J. Bucks. I hope you all got your Invites in the Mail! The Boys will be going to Hooters to Play! I mean have hot wings and ogle the Girls.

Next, (I will have the Formal invitations in the Mail after Jan.1st.) is the "No Boat" to be held on Feb. 28th 2009 at the Drury Inn, in O'fallon, IL. at Green Mt. Rd. and Hwy. I 64. I have Blocked Off 20 Rooms, 1 King Bed @ \$85 and 2 Queens @ \$90 each. We need to Book at least 20 rooms, to get a Good Rate on the Ballroom. Once, again, buy popular Request, I have Booked Vince, to Rock us with The Oldies! He always

puts on a Great Show. To Book your Room call 618-624-2211, be sure and tell them you want to be OVER THE BALLROOM! They will tell you that they can't promise that, until you check in, but at least they will try and put us over the Ballroom so no one will complain, about the loud Music!

If I don't see you, before Christmas, have a Safe and Merry Christmas!

See Ya at the No Boat Regatta,
Gary J. Lopez Commodore
gary.lopez@charter.net

FROM THE VICE COMMODORE

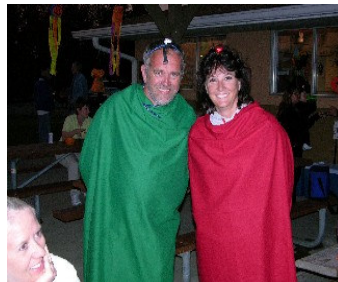
As next year's Commodore I am looking forward to seeing you on the docks, arie mon. I know Ulli will make an excellent Vice Commodore next year. She is already very active and she hasn't taken office yet. Vice Commodore Schmidt 636-587-2899 or schmidtw_sail@yahoo.com

FROM THE Sec./Treasurer

Nothing has been happening to report, but I'll remind you if it's gonna happen, it's gonna happen out there! (Captain Ron)

Rob Schmidt BYC Secretary / Treasurer
Schmidt Happens....
robschmidt@aaahawk.com

FROM THE NEW SOCIAL CHAIR



All enjoyed the Halloween Party, hosted by Bill and Sharon Schmidt, held on November 1st. Thorsten and Ulli Schaette won the award for the wearing the most imaginative costume; they were dressed as Channel Markers with red and green flashing lights on their foreheads. The chili, hot dogs and chocolate cake followed by a roaring fire in the BYC Cauldron highlighted another successful party. Mark your calendar for the December 6th Ladies Luncheon to be held at Joe Buck's in Fairview Heights and the Men's gathering at a nearby Hooter's. This ladies event is hosted by Madam Commodore, Maggie Lopez, and is always a good time to review the 2008 BYC year and trade all of gossip worth repeating. Wishing all BYC Members Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year, Dave Uttendorfer & Dana Maschmeier

Dave Uttendorfer and Dana Maschmeier
daviduttendorfer@yahoo.com

FROM THE RACE CHAIR

Not much happening as there were no races in November. I would like to say that I think Thor will do a fine job as Race Chair next year. He is already working on a race schedule for next year and has some ideas to get

more race participation. One idea he is talking about donating a folding bike from his bicycle company to the winner of next years competition. The bits will have more on this when everything is finalized by the officers.

Jon Miller, 2008 Race Committee Chairman

Byc_rc@sbcglobal.net

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 6 ---- Ladies Luncheon in Fairview Heights

Chicago Strictly Sail -----In Chicago IL.

BYC No-Boat----- Drury Inn, in O'fallon, IL.

EDITOR'S NOTE

If you see an error in the club roster or in the *Bits*, just send an E-mail to myself, Bill Schmidt, mail address magicdragon1@prodigy.net or Rob Schmidt at robschmidt@aaahawk.com and we will set you up to receive the *E-Bits*.

I don't know why I put this in here but the **deadline** for the next (Dec.) issue of the Boulder Bits is **12/25/2008**. We encourage everyone to send articles of interest to share with us.

Bill Schmidt, Editor magicdragon1@prodigy.net

OFFICERS

<i>Commodore</i>	Gary Lopez
<i>Vice-Commodore</i>	Bill (Schmidty) Schmidt
<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i>	Rob Schmidt
Race Chairman	Jon Miller
<i>Social Committee Chairpersons</i>	Dave Uttendorfer
<i>Historians</i>	Sharon Schmidt & Laurel Juenger
Boulder Bits <i>Editor</i>	Bill Schmidt
<i>Webmaster</i>	Rey Neville
<i>Co-Webmaster</i>	Rob Schmidt
<i>Social Ambassador</i>	Susanne Watkins
<i>Fire Marshal</i>	Todd Schroeder

Directors

Chairman	Steve Kratchman
Secretary	Dave Renard
Other members	Bill Schmidt, Kort Juenger, Dave Commens

Web page:- <http://www.boulderyc.org>