

Boulder Yacht Club Boulder Bits



Carlyle Lake, IL

Bits and Pieces: Some Noteworthy, None Newsworthy

March 2021

OFFICER REPORTS

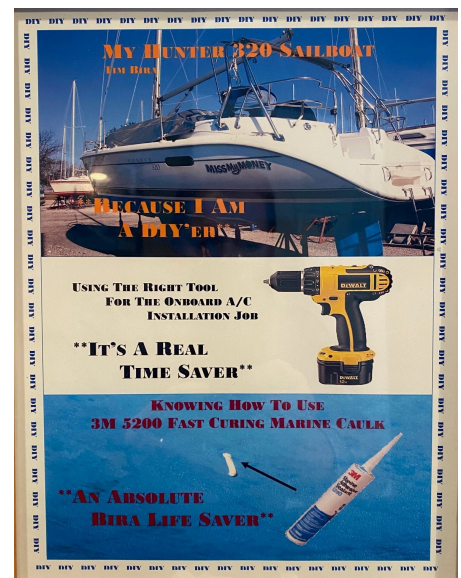
FROM THE COMMODORE



As I sit at my desk and write this article, we are around our 10th day of below freezing temperatures and are waiting for a second round of heavy snow. This cold and winter weather is cruel and unusual punishment on top of COVID restrictions, but let's hope this summer will be a little closer to normal. It's hard to believe that in just a couple of months, we will begin work on our boats preparing them for the upcoming sailing season. Even though I have a lot of work to do before *Miss My Money* goes in the water, I can't wait to get started.

This issue, we were asked to write about a memorable event or experience we have had in our time on Carlyle Lake. While my family and I have had many fantastic experiences in our 12 years of sailing, I, personally, have had an extremely embarrassing one occur the first year we had our boat. I was in the process of installing an on-board air-conditioning system and was drilling holes in the mounting platform to secure the unit to the boat. All holes were drilled to perfection, but were not quite large enough to accept the mounting screws. Rather than force the screws into the smaller holes, I elected to use a larger bit and expand the existing ones. The first three went fine, but as I was finishing the last hole, I applied a little too much pressure and the drill bit not only went through the plywood mounting platform BUT ALSO THE HULL. Did I mention the boat was in the water when this occurred?!

Well, needless to say I freaked out and used a few choice expletives as a stream of water began arching into the boat. Thankfully, Jeff Morrison was helping me with the install (although he bears no culpability in this disaster and even cautioned me on using too much force), and after we quickly thought of and discarded a few ideas, we settled on putting a screw with a little putty in the hole to lessen the amount of water entering the boat. About then, Dennis happened by and asked what was happening. After giving him a brief synopsis, he suggested a syringe and some 5200 to inject into the hole. Since 5200 will cure underwater, this solution worked perfectly, and our boat is, thankfully, still floating today. The picture to the right was presented to me by Steve Cantino as a reminder of this memorable day, and I have it hanging in my office as a constant reminder of the stupid things I am capable of doing.



P.S. To add insult to injury after everything that happened that day, as I was checking the lines getting ready to leave, my Oakley sunglasses slipped off my head and into the water. Sometimes it just isn't your day. Until next time, stay warm and safe and see you at the lake.

Tim Bira, BYC Commodore

FROM THE VICE-COMMODORE



Hello BYC members. It has been suggested by our Bits Editor that we pass along some personal experiences from our sailing past. A couple thoughts come to mind. My wife Gail and I have had our boat *Gail Force* for a long, long time. I have gotten comfortable handling her (the boat) in a variety of situations. If you are new to sailing, please keep the following in mind:

Learning how to operate your boat takes time and practice. You will get better, but each vessel has its own characteristics. It's up to you to get out there and learn how your boat handles. In the early years, I noted a direct correlation to the number of on-lookers at the dock and my ability to put her into the slip. The more that watched, the worse I seemed to be. Whether facing a freak cross wind or an unforeseen obstacle, it was not pretty at times. You get better with practice. These days, it's much more routine for me when I come into the harbor.

But King Neptune has a way of keeping you humble. I still blow from time to time. And yep, there are plenty of people watching.

Another lesson I learned the hard way had to do with a blustery day. It was a beautiful day on Carlyle Lake. A sailor's dream: wind and sun! It was blowing about 15 knots with gusts into the 20's. So, there we were, two good friends, Andrew and Alicia, and I easily sailing *Gail Force* downwind toward the dam at the south end of the lake. A few snacks and an adult beverage or two were consumed. It was perfect. The time came to tack back north. Around we went, just like I've done dozens of times before. I'm on the high side of the boat at the helm with my view of the jib obscured by the main sail. Suddenly Andrew blurts out, "Your jib has ripped!" I had not realized during our leisurely downwind run that the wind speed had increased to the upper 20's. When the jib filled after tacking, one of the seams just gave out. We rolled it up quickly and prevented complete destruction. Did I mention these are the original 1993 sails on our boat? Older sails don't handle the wind as easily as new ones. Fortunately, I was able to have it repaired. Now, each time I see the repair I am reminded of that day and the lesson I learned: reef early!

Jeff Morrison, BYC Vice-Commodore

FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

Ahoy All! It's about 15 degrees and snowing as I write this. Working on BYC stuff makes me think of warmer times and seeing good friends. I. Will. Get. Through. This. Winter. As to business, memberships are starting to come in the mail and via Paypal. If you haven't done so already, please send in your dues. Additionally, if any of your information has changed, please send me an updated membership form, and I can update it.

Also, our editor has suggested that we submit an early sailing anecdote. So here goes: my first sailing experience. My kids were in high school and college, and I was quickly becoming an empty nester.

To fill that void, I decided I wanted some new experiences and new social connections...aka, friends. So, my ride and I signed up for sailing lessons at Creve Coeur Lake on Capri Waves. This was to be an "adults only" class. I was notified that if we were sailing with a bunch of kids, I would lose my ride home. Fortunately, the class was a group of folks like us and three teenagers. I was grateful that my ride did not count the teens as kids, so all was good. It turned out that the teens were the instructor (a junior Olympian) and his two assistants. All three sailed out of CSA. They were great! I learned the points of sail, parts of a sailboat, tacks, jibes and was quickly put on a Capri Wave and set off on Creve Coeur Lake. The boat moved slowly and at times I simply drifted. My teen instructor sailed circles around me and smiled a lot (possibly mocking, but maybe I was too sensitive). Finally the class was due to end, so we sailed back to the seawall. I sailed to the wall, now just needed to turn, or...what did they call it? My first experience was a fun, though slightly frustrating day of learning, sailing, jibing and swimming.



Cheryl Schaette, BYC Sec/Treasurer

THE RACE CHAIR

Hello all BYC Racers! First of all, racing will be mandatory in 2021! No excuses! ;) I am kidding, of course, but in all reality, I want to see more boats on the starting line and, more importantly, on the finish line this season. I know it's hard to imagine sailing at this time of year, but you can always watch the America's Cup to get you in the mood. After a not-so-great performance of the USA boat this year, my new favorite is the Prada Pirelli Boat with Jimi Spithill on the controls. He is a cool, down to earth kinda guy. But I digress... back to BYC Racing.



For our small club races, I plan to do most in a "Hound and Hare" format. For those unfamiliar, Hound and Hare format means that every boat starts with a boat-specific handicap time, slowest boat first. This makes for relaxed starts as there is no wrangling for positions. The boat that crosses the finish line first wins. Some other rules: starboard and leeward boat have right-of-way, and everybody should give room when rounding marks. I am happy to talk to anybody about rules and offer a few pointers for those interested. It's not near as complicated as most people think, I promise. Until then, I'll be dreaming of the arrival of our new boat and getting out there sailing!

Thor Schaette, BYC Race Chair

FROM THE SOCIAL CHAIR

Hello All! Everyone has a story for how they started sailing; here's mine. Rich introduced sailing to me in 1980, and he's still trying to teach me to sail. He constantly tells me to pick a tree and aim for it. I don't know about all of you, but the trees all look alike to me and then the wind shifts and my tree is gone. We change direction, and I have to



pick another tree. I have learned a lot from Rich about sailing, but the tree method isn't for me. One of our funniest moments we've shared was when I ran the boat aground; Rich stripped to his skivvies, jumped in, and pushed us free. I laughed so hard that day, and it's taken him awhile, but he is laughing now.

We sailed out of West Access for several years, but deciding to come to Boulder was the best decision. We love our Boulder family, which brings me to the business of BYC events. Right now, our events are on hold for now until the COVID situation stabilizes. This doesn't mean that smaller pop-up activities won't occur, but we are holding back from scheduling large events in order to keep the health and safety of our members a priority.

Carolyn Sutorius, BYC Social Chair

MARINA MEMOS

When our adventures at Carlyle Lake began, we had one major objective: learn to sail and head for the wide-open ocean! We've learned to sail, (well, we think so anyway), and we still have our sights set on that ocean, but it may be a few years. Boulder Marina has taken the top spot on our priority list for sure!



Boulder Marina has quickly become our home away from home, and we're already underway sprucing the place up. We fell in love with Boulder as she was, but fresh eyes and energy have us dreaming up a bit of a facelift for this old girl. We hope that any changes we make will only add to the love that everyone has for our little slice of heaven. When spring hits, you may notice some small changes. We've deep-cleaned the

store, added a nice glass-front cooler, spiffed up the freezer for ice cream, and plan to offer many more products. Also, the shop is well on its way to being a fully-functioning mechanic shop (let's hope you don't need that part very often though!). We also have some landscaping updates in the plans along with other maintenance. We ask for your patience this season as we do everything in our power to make this year as fun and enjoyable as possible! PS- please remember to call ahead to schedule your launch this year!



Shanna Sampson, Boulder Marina Management

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

We are happy to announce that BYC has a new website! The club officers unanimously agreed that, with the newer, more user-friendly options available, it was time to revitalize our web presence. We want to offer our sincere thanks to Rob and Bill Schmidt, who maintained the site for the past two decades. They did it without the aid of Wordpress templates, and their hard work and advice made the creation of a new site much easier. The new site still has the same domain (www.boulderyc.org), but it has some new features already, and several more in the works. Check it out, use it to pay your membership fees if you haven't already, and feel free to send any feedback or suggestions to Joel and Emily Elden at bycbits@gmail.com.

EDITOR'S NOTE



Thanks for reading the BYC Bits! If you'd like to contribute a story or images to an upcoming edition, please follow the instructions below.

***Submission Instructions:** send an email to bycbits@gmail.com with your article as the email body and any pictures attached as jpeg files. Event flyers may be submitted in PDF format but if you would like me to check them for errors, please attach a word/google doc instead. Items received after the 25th of each month may be held over until the next edition.

Emily Elden, BYC Bits Editor

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