

APRIL 2023

**Book Club
Meeting**
April 20
Zoom

Kick-Off Event
Corinthian Yacht
Club
April 29

**Michigan Shore
Cruise**
June 23 – July 4

Red Witch II Sail
August 5
Kenosha Harbor

BLOW THE MAN DOWN!

Don't forget-- join us in kicking off the boating season and our very special 50th Anniversary Year by joining the Fleet for drinks, a casual meal and superb entertainment on Saturday, April 29th, starting at 6 p.m. at the Corinthian Yacht Club in Montrose Harbor. <https://www.corinthian.org>

We're excited to welcome Tom Kastle, who has performed maritime music (sea shanties) and stories at festivals and maritime institutions throughout the United States, from Mystic Seaport to San Francisco; in Europe, from the Netherlands to Poland; and in the Pacific. He is cofounder of the Chicago Maritime Festival and taught a class in sea music at the Old Town School of Folk Music in Chicago for many years. He accompanies himself on guitar and concertina.

For years, Tom Kastle traveled the world, collecting and performing maritime songs and stories and captaining sailing ships on the Great Lakes. These days, his passions are even more diverse and include theatrical projects, from *Man of La Mancha* to Shakespeare to *God Help Us!* with the legendary **Ed Asner**; film projects, like Francisco Torres' *Delight In the Mountain*; and television, where he hosted a short documentary on the Bicentennial Battle of Lake Erie that was nominated for an Emmy Award. Add in musical director and composer credits, writing and performing concert opera narrations, hosting and interpreting nautical events, and captaining the tall ship *Windy* at Navy Pier and the schooner *Denis Sullivan* in Milwaukee, and you have an artist, and sailor, living a vivid life, indeed!



Cost for this wonderful evening is \$35 per person for buffet meal and first-class entertainment. Parking is free and the cash bar is very affordable! And please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Appetizers and drinks will take place from 6:00-7:00, dinner at 8:00 and entertainment at 9:00.

You must **RSVP to Harold Hansen by April 24**, email address is harold-hansen@sbcglobal.net and send your check, made out to Catalina Fleet 21, to our home address : Harold Hansen 7414 N. Sheridan Rd. Chicago, IL 60626. If you're bringing your check to the event, please let us know so we can plan on the correct amount of food. Non-Fleet guests are welcome!

MEMBERSHIP



Beloved Fleet member Lori Lauraitis passed away on April 15, 2023 after a valiant battle with cancer.

A member of the Fleet since 1992, Lori served as Commodore in 2002 and through the years also was the Membership Chairman, Outings Chairman, and our CYA representative for many years. If you ever got a parking spot at Burnham without a boating pass, it was due to Lori. She could charm those Harbor Masters! In fact she could charm anyone with her smile, friendliness, and good humor. If you ever met Lori, you were her friend for life.

Along with her husband John and friends and partners Ron and Pat Shereyk, she had countless adventures on their Catalina 36 *Team Effort*. Lori loved life, sailing, her dogs, cruises, traveling, her friends and family.

She will be greatly missed.

"There are some who bring a light so great to the world that even after they have gone the light remains." — Unknown

And while we say goodbye to one Fleet member we welcome several new and returning ones.

Skipper: Larry Gelbert
Address: 3530N Lake Shore Dr - Apt 7A
Chicago, IL 60657
Email address: imgelbert@gmail.com
Boat Info: Name: *Intention* Size:30
Harbor/Mooring/TBD

Skipper: Nikolay Opalku
First Mate: Olga Opalku
Address: 1514 St. Marks Place
Palatine, IL 60067
Phone #: 224 567-1516 (Nikolay)
773- 520-4904 (Olga)
Email Address: nopalko@gmail.com (Nikolay)
olga.opalk@gmail.com
Boat Info: Name: *Callisto* Size: 36
Harbor: North Point Marina

Skipper: Tom Steider
First Mate: Kathy Steider
Address: 4818 Grand Avenue
Western Springs, IL 60558
Skipper Phone: 630- 697-1307
Email: twsteider@gmail.com
Boat Info: Name: *Fairwind* Size: 30 Sail #41757
Harbor: Monroe Mooring: F12

Returning member:
Skipper: Christian (Chris) Cantwell
First Mate: Sandy Cantwell
Address: 1361 Redtail Lane
Woodstock, IL 60098
Phone: Chris 815-341-2916
Sandy 815-341-2915 both Cell
Email Address: Skipper: details02@sbcglobal.net
First Mate: cantwell.sandy@icloud.com
Boat Info: Name: *Away* Size 445 Sail #: 128
Harbor: Kenosha Slip I - 525

Did You Forget?

Have you renewed your membership in Fleet 21? The renewal form was in the last two newsletters or is available on our website www.catfleet21.org

If you have not renewed by May 1, this is your last newsletter and you will not be in the Fleet directory.

FLORIDA WEST COAST SAILING

BY John Lucy

Last issue, we talked about the good and bad of maintenance when sailing the Florida West Coast. In this issue, we will talk about the fun of sailing the Gulf along the Florida West Coast.

As you look at a Florida map, it is readily apparent that Florida's West Coast is about the same distance as from Chicago to Mackinac, but what a difference. We'll divide the trip into the Northern half Part I and Part II and do the Southern half Part I and Part II in future issues.

Marilyn and I have called Punta Gorda home for the past 23 years and live on Charlotte Harbor, 17 miles from the Gulf. Charlotte Harbor is now the home of the unofficial but very active Fleet 21 South,

For either Northern or Southern trips, we go to the mouth of Charlotte Harbor the first night and anchor out at Cayo Costa State Park's Pelican Bay. Anchoring out is the preferred option for overnights due to cost and the ability to enjoy the beautiful natural surroundings. Cayo Costa is a great place to start. It is a State Park with a large anchoring area, dingy dock, and tram to take you to pristine beaches on the west side of the island. There are outdoor shower facilities, rest rooms, but no stores or dining facilities.

Prior to making your way North you will have to make a decision, inside or outside. Inside is the ICW, a ditch of varying width 50 yards to a half mile and varying depths 6 to 12 feet at low tide. It is marked with channel markers with red **always** on the mainland side. Don't worry the bottom is soft sand. The advantage to the inside is that it is never rough and is generally the shortest route. Disadvantages are several bridges that open on schedule and no chance to sail. The opposite is true of outside passage no bridges, sailing most of the time. The best strategy is to do a combination, but that takes careful planning. Not all entrances to the ICW from the Gulf are passable by sailboat.

Going outside from Cayo Costa head north staying very close to the shore in front of the beautiful Boca Grand Lighthouse. Continue parallel to the shore and as close to old pier as possible until you are off the

second Bocca light, then head out to sea a mile or two. Just keep sailing north. You may be able to head inside at Stump Pass, but not advisable. It is often too shallow. Continuing north, you may enter the ICW at Venice. You can anchor off the yacht club in a tight anchorage, dock at Higel Park for free or take a slip at the Crow's Nest that offers bikes to go to town. Fine dining upstairs and bar food available downstairs.

It is wise to head north on the ICW here because the next inlet is Sarasota where there are two shallow and treacherous passes. You will have several bridges. You are probably ready to overnight in Sarasota. Call Marina Jacks on the VHF for a mooring ball or go in and fuel up and pump out before taking a mooring. There is plenty of dining in the area. Heading north out of Sarasota is easy and sailable on the ICW due to good depth and lots of water in Sarasota Bay. At the north end of Sarasota Bay, the ICW gets quite narrow so the motor goes on until you pass Jewfish Island where you can go outside at Longboat Pass. Continue northward but move 4 miles off shore due to shallows off Anna Maria Island. At the North end of Anna Maria keep a northerly course to Edgemont National Wildlife refuge. Pack a lunch and dingy ashore and enjoy the solitude and nature.

Now go about 10 miles to the mouth of the Manatee River. Head to the anchorage at the Desoto National Memorial anchorage. Here again just a few miles from a large city you will find wonderful nature trails and an overnight anchorage that is quiet and protected.

Head due north across the entrance to Tampa Bay watching out for **LARGE CONTAINER SHIPS**. You are heading to Fort Desoto for a historical adventure. After visiting the Fort head east into Tampa Bay. Stay on the left side of the entrance and away from Commercial traffic. After going under the Sunshine bridge (Don't worry you have plenty of clearance.) Proceed northward to St. Petersburg. Call into the St Petersburg Municipal Marina for a mooring ball in Vinoy basin. There is a good dinghy dock in Vinoy that brings you ashore near the Salvador Dali Museum and many downtown places to eat as well as a movie theatre. Plan on a few days here.

Time to take a break. We'll continue northward in the next issue

COMMODORE		
Harold Hansen		773-480-7412
VICE COMMODORE		
Pete Pohl		630-319-3207
TREASURER		
Eric Hillenmeyer		630-915-8163
SECRETARY		
Laura Pohl		630-682-3204
PAST COMMODORE		
Branson Stone		219-201-5583
HARBOR CAPTAINS		
Belmont	Cat Hillenmeyer	630-915-8163
Burnham	Maria Ryerson	815-735-9266
DuSable	open	
Hammond	Pat Reynolds	773-972-2177
Jackson Park	Wanda Robertson	773-538-7531
Kenosha	Deborah Ruxton	630-279-4533
Michigan City	Ted Kuenzli	708-539-9955
Monroe	Cathy Bredlau	708-807-2165
Montrose	Fred Swastek	773-578-6852
Waukegan	open	
Wilmette	Jim Graham	847-477-1491
DIRECTORY		
Bill Thompson		630-373-3594
MEMBERSHIP		
Pat Sheryk		708-645-1957
OUTINGS		
PROGRAMS		
April Hansen		319-321-9751
Laura Pohl		630-682-3204
Cat Hillenmeyer		630-915-8163
RIGGING & EQUIPMENT		
PUBLICITY		
Fleet Sheet	Carolyn DeAre	630-842-8545
Main Sheet	Dave DeAre	630-842-8544
MARINER'S FUND		
Ted Kuenzli		773-517-1576
WEB SITE		
CYA REPRESENTATIVE		
James Graham		847-477-1491
BANQUET		
Madalyn Duerr		708-305-3342
PHOTOGRAPHER		
Ed Kita		847-226-5286

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMODORE

Welcome to a very special season! Most of us are busy getting our boats ready for launch. Many of us have been waiting for it to warm up enough to work outside on our boats, but it looks like the weather may have finally turned a corner.



Speaking of turning a corner, Catalina Fleet 21 has turned a corner into a very special year and season: our 50th Anniversary. We are hard at work planning special events to commemorate this year, many of which are outlined in this edition of the Fleet Sheet. We hope you can join us for as many of these as possible.

We've extended the deadline for our season kick-off event at the Corinthian Yacht Club at Montrose Harbor, so it's not too late to join in on that fun. We have 7 boats sailing together on the June Michigan Cruise, so if you want to sail with the group on any or all legs of that trip, come along! Just let us know your plan. And look for future announcements about a special Fleet 21 sail on the *Red Witch* Tall Ship and outing in Kenosha on August 5th and the Michigan City Sail in and Rib Fest over Labor Day. Save the dates!

I'd like to give a shout-out to returning Fleet members Chris and Sandy Cantwell, sailing out of Kenosha, and three new members: Tom Steider out of Monroe, Larry Gelbert out of Belmont and Nikolay and Olga Opalko out of North Point. It's always exciting to have friends come back to the club and for new members to join the club and we look forward to getting to know all of you!

While Fleet 21 has a good number of events and programs, the best part of this club is the people and the relationships and camaraderie that are built from sailing, working, and having fun together. I can't urge you enough to get involved in the club and make a contribution as we look forward and move into our next half-century!

It is an honor to be your Commodore in this very special season. See you on the Lake!

Harold Hansen

Commodore
Catalina Fleet 21

CYA

Contributed by Jim Graham

The following are highlights of the March 23 CYA meeting held at Corinthian Yacht Club, Montrose Harbor:

Scott Stevensen of Westrec. Chicago's harbor management company reports that the mild winter will make it easier to open harbors on schedule. Water levels are 4-5" below last year's level but will rise in weeks ahead. Dredging at harbors will commence in April and May DuSable Harbor dock redecking is about 80 percent complete.

Lakefront events. Expect a full schedule of lakefront events this season, including numerous concerts at Soldier Field, among them Taylor Swift's little gig June 2, 3 and 4, and NASCAR races opposite Monroe Harbor July 1-2.

BoatSafeChicago. Capt Jon Meyer, one of a group of CSCG-licensed master captains who recently formed BoatSafeChicago, told us his organization is now offering a range of training programs to clubs and other groups looking for beginner-to-advanced safety education. He noted that last year alone there were 44 deaths and numerous life-changing accidents in Lake Michigan. The group has cooperative relationships with CYA, Chicago Harbors and BoatUS. For more, see www.boatsafechicago.com.

Belmont Yacht Club 50th Anniversary. Like our Catalina fleet, Belmont Yacht Club is this year celebrating its 50th year. Give'em a high 5-oh.

HELP WANTED

This is becoming a regular column!

We are again looking a new Web Master. Do you know how to use Wordpress or are willing to learn? The job involves posting the monthly newsletter, adding links of interest, and answering inquiries sent to the site. We need a volunteer to step up and fill this position. Contact the Commodore if you're that person.

We are also looking for an Outings Chairman to coordinate outings (it does not mean you sponsor them all!) and Harbor Captains for Waukegan and DuSable and North Point.

OUTINGS

It's shaping up to be a great sailing season for Fleet 21! The summer schedule is still a work in progress, but mark your calendars now for the following:

Michigan Shore Cruise June 23 – July 4. Setting sail from South Haven Municipal Marina the group plans to be in Holland, MI on June 25 & 26, Grand Haven Municipal Marina on June 26 to 28, June 28 to 30 Saugatuck, MI, June 30 to July 2 South Haven, and July 2 to 4 New Buffalo Municipal Marina. Sail along for entire cruise or join the group as you can. Contact the Commodore if you are interested.

Also in the planning stage is a **sail on the tall ship Red Witch II** from Kenosha Harbor on August 5 and a Labor Day weekend **Sail-in and Rib Fest in Michigan City.**

If you have an idea for an outing or would like to plan something in your harbor, contact the Commodore.

BOOK CLUB

Hosted by April Hansen

Don't forget to join us for our first **Fleet 21 Book Club gathering on April 20th** at 7:00 (ZOOM invitation coming later). Our first book is *Victura*, written by our own member, Jim Graham. Jim will join us to talk about his experiences writing this charming book about the sailboat owned and passed down through the Kennedy family in Hyannis Port, and how sailing shaped their summers and lives. It's a fresh and enlightening window into the Kennedy family culture. I know I learned things about JFK that I never knew before and I'm guessing you will, too.

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.

Have you renewed your Fleet membership? If not, this is the last newsletter you will receive



Catalina Fleet 21

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FIRST CLASS