

MAY 2024

LAUNCH TIME!

It's that time of year...birds are singing, boat yards are humming, and the question on every sailor's lips is "when are you launching your boat?" It's launch time for Fleet 21 too and we'll celebrate the start of our 51st summer season with our traditional margarita party. Again this year not only will we have \$1.00 margaritas, but Danita's delicious taco salads will also be on the menu. The party is June 1 at 3pm in Michigan City. Complete details are included in this Fleet Sheet.



Even if your boat is not at the dock yet, it's not too early to think about how to improve your sailing. Our Sail Trim Seminar on Thursday, May 16 will help you do just that. Todd Basch of Quantum Sails will give a presentation on sail trim at Columbia Yacht Club. Fleet 21 member Robell McMiller is the CYC sponsor for the event. Thank you, Robell. Cash bar drinks will be at 6:30, menu dining in the Upper Salon at 7:15 with Todd's presentation starting around 8 or 8:15. **You must RSVP to April Hansen (april.hansen@sbcglobal.net, (319) 321-9751 by Monday, May 13.** Park in the CYC lot. When Randolph dead ends at the yacht club, turn left (north) and use the first lot under Lakeshore Drive.

Looking for something to read on those rainy days? Pick up a copy of our next book club selection: *Dirty Waters: Confessions of Chicago's Last Harbor Boss*, by R. J. Nelson. A wry, no-holds-barred memoir of Nelson's time controlling some of Chicago's most beautiful spots while facing some of its ugliest traditions. Exact date for book club to be announced but it will be sometime in July. The book is available from Amazon for Kindle, paperback and hardcover, and Crowley's ship store or your local library.

If you didn't get around to purchasing Catalina Fleet 21 50th Anniversary t-shirts, long-sleeve t-shirts, tank tops and hoodies, you still can. They're available at bonfire.com/store/catalina-fleet-21/



Also check out our newly revamped website. Catfleet21.com is full of great pictures, updated graphics, and our latest news. Again it's www.catfleet.21.com (not dot org).

COMMODORE	
Pete Pohl	630-319-3207
VICE COMMODORE	
Cat Hillenmeyer	630-915-8163
TREASURER	
Erik Hillenmeyer	630-915-8163
SECRETARY	
Maria Rayson	815-735-9266
PAST COMMODORE	
Harold Hansen	773-480-7412
HARBOR CAPTAINS	
Belmont	Cat Hillenmeyer 630-915-8163
Burnham	Maria Rayson 815-735-9266
DuSable	open
Hammond	Pat Reynolds 773-972-2177
Jackson Park	open
Kenosha	Deborah Ruxton 630-279-4533
Michigan City	Captain Leo Beer 708-304-6771
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	
April Hansen	319-321-9751
OUTINGS	
PROGRAMS	
Laura Pohl	630-682-3204
RIGGING & EQUIPMENT	
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A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMODORE



We've had a couple of fun events since my last column. At Crowley's Yachtapalooza, we reconnected with old members and spoke with potential new members. That's the best part of being there. I also debuted my latest version of the Fleet 21 video which you can view on YouTube at www.rb.gy/gn4pzc

Then we had our Corinthian Kickoff Event featuring Lee Murdock who told fascinating stories to introduce each song. It was a great evening catching up with 30+ members and guests. Once again, we enjoyed an excellent Italian buffet from La Vida catering. We also got to do a little singing ourselves. Lee had us join in on a shanty and we also serenaded former Commodore (Formmodore) Harold Hansen for his 75th birthday. Thanks for the cake, April!

One of the best things about having a sailboat is the way it makes you use your brain. I've had a couple of on-the-hard projects that I've really had to strain my brain to figure out how to solve: What to do to replace my shower drain pump located in an impossibly tight spot beneath our head vanity; how to patch a piece of damaged sole in our cabin. Both had me staring at the ceiling at 4 a.m. I'm pleased to report the pump is replaced and I'm making good progress on the sole.

And there's always more to learn about something you think you know. Like sail trim. We've all had lots of experience with it, but wouldn't you love to know how to get more from your sails? Then come to our Thursday, May 16, meeting at Columbia Yacht Club. Todd Basch of Quantum Sails will give a sail trim presentation.

One more thing I've had to wrap my head around is websites. The Fleet's site needed to be updated and moved to a platform that's easier to work with. A very reasonably priced designer/developer was hired and we got it done. Brett Boas has agreed to become webmaster and our web address is the same as before except for the suffix: www.Catfleet21.com

That's enough out of my brain. Get your Catalina ready for a great season.

Commodore Pete

limited and this is a week after the Mac Race, but it was determined that the 20th was the best option.

National Maritime Day and Blessing of the Fleet

The Chicago Chapter of the International Shipmasters Association, representing maritime professionals, has set May 22, National Maritime Day, as a tentative date for a Navy Pier "Blessing of the Fleet."

MEMBERSHIP

Did you renew your Fleet 21 membership? If not, this will be the last Fleet Sheet you receive. You can still renew, but you probably won't be in the Fleet directory. You can find the membership form on our website under Membership.

CYA

Here's a summary of highlights from the March 28th meeting of the Chicago Yachting Association by Jim Graham our CYA representative.

Michigan City Coast Guard

Following a recommendation by Catalina Fleet 21's representative, Jim Graham, the leadership of the association agreed to send a letter to the appropriate elected officials and the Coast Guard expressing deep concern about proposed reductions in service at the Michigan City Coast Guard Station. The Coast Guard intends to staff the station only on weekends during the summer. A Coast Guard spokesman indicated that on the other five days per week, assets from the Chicago area would be made available to support the rest of Southern Lake Michigan, meaning the impact will be felt throughout the region. Graham was asked to draft the letter for the CYA's commodore's signature.

Harbor News

Scott Stevenson of Westrec, manager of Chicago harbors, reported:

- All harbors are experiencing higher occupancy and they now have 200 boats more than at this time last year. In addition to new boaters, some who have been out of the harbor system in recent seasons are returning.
- Commercial boats will be arriving at harbors as early as April 1, and some recreational boaters will be allowed in as early as April 15. They are on schedule for a full opening to all boaters at all harbors on May 1
- Work continues to improve electronic infrastructure and wifi service throughout the harbors.
- Belmont Harbor will see improvements at its fuel dock.
- DuSable will see redecking of docks completed by May 1.
- Monroe Harbor's moorings will be replaced in half the harbor.
- Burnham Harbor winter damage on south end under repair.
- 59th Street Harbor will see A dock replaced and B dock redecked.

Asked about Soldier Field redevelopment, Steve indicates it is too early for boating interests to participate in discussions.

Venetian Night

At Westrec's request, CYA tentatively agreed to take a leadership role in planning and coordinating the return of Venetian Night. It will be largely based at Monroe Harbor and the tentative date is July 20. Options for dates were very

CORRECTION: BoatUS discount available

BoatUS is offering a discount to Fleet 21 members when you use this Cooperating Group Accord number: #GA82275S. You get 10% off on unlimited towing memberships. They are not offering any deals on insurance (however, their prices are competitive). If you need additional info, contact BoatUS directly at partner@boat.us

LET'S GO CRUISING!

Following a successful Michigan cruise last year, several Fleet members met to develop an itinerary for a Wisconsin shore cruise for August 2024. Everyone is invited to join us for all or a part of the cruise. Please note that if you need a slip in Chicago during Air and Water Show, the Dockwa system opens on May 1. We're hoping that boats needing slips just for Sunday night will be able to find availability.

Please let Laura Pohl know if you're interested in the cruise and we'll add names to future planning meetings on Zoom.

Summer 2024 Wisconsin Cruise

Saturday-Sunday, Aug 10-11, Chicago Air and Water Show

Monday, Aug. 12, leave Chicago, sail to North Point Marina

Tuesday, Aug. 13, Racine

Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 14-15, Milwaukee Yacht Club

Attend <https://irishfest.com>

Friday and Saturday, Aug. 16-17, Port Washington (Setting up transportation to visit Cedarburg and possibly Kohler Design Center)

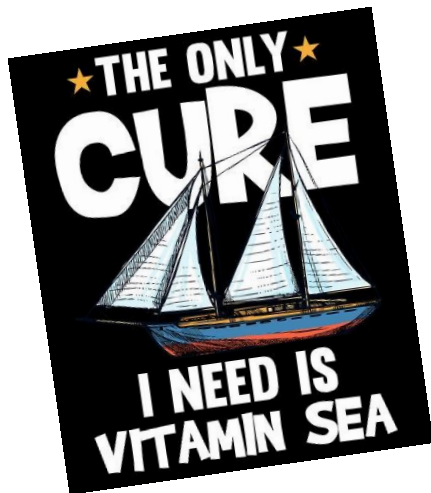
Sunday, Aug. 18, Milwaukee

Monday, Aug 19, Kenosha

Tuesday, Aug. 20, back to Chicago or lake crossing to Michigan City if weather permits

BUY/TRADE/SELL

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



Catalina Fleet 21

306 Linden Street
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

FIRST CLASS

Catalina Fleet 21

2024 Launch Party

See old friends, make some new friends
Margaritas & Taco Salad Dinner

Saturday June 1, 3 pm
800 Dock Pavilion
Michigan City
\$1 Margaritas
Dinner \$10.00 per person



Bring an appetizer or dessert to share

RSVP by May 29 (be sure to call so we know how much food we will need)

Sponsors: Branson & Danita Stone 219-201-5583

Dave and Carolyn DeAre 630-842-8544



To reserve a slip call the Harbor Master at 219-872-1712 and ask for the 800 Dock. Parking is available if you drive. Check with Branson for options.

RIGGING & EQUIPMENT

BOAT COMMISSIONING

CHECKLIST COMPILED BY

Leo Beer

Ultra Early Spring (aka Winter)

1. Complete boat repair projects.
2. Complete equipment upgrade projects.
3. Service winches and anchor windlass.
4. Service steering system.
5. Service seacocks.
6. Inspect ground tackle and renew anchor chain markings.
7. Inspect safety equipment and update associated registrations.

Before Launch

8. Remove and recycle the winter cover (or move to storage if reusable).
9. Clean, compound as needed, and wax from the waterline to the rail.
10. Sand and prep bottom for bottom paint.
11. Prep and paint transducers with transducer antifouling paint.
12. Paint bottom with overnight dry time between coats.
13. Clean underwater metal and lights and renew all zincs.
14. Apply PropSpeed antifouling for underwater metals and lights.
15. Double-check all winter work.
16. Set out dock lines and fenders for boatyard staff before launch day.

After Launch—Back to Work

17. Service batteries.
18. Commission air conditioning system and/or heating system.
19. Commission engine(s) and generator.
20. Service stuffing box on shaft(s) and rudder post(s).
21. Commission freshwater system.
22. Commission ice maker.
23. Commission head(s) and sanitation system.
24. Commission refrigeration system.
25. Re-rig summer running rigging.
26. Inspect, tune, pin, and tape rig (also check mast lights while aloft).
27. Varnish.
28. Clean, compound as needed, and wax from the rail up including all stainless.
29. Bend on sails.
30. Install canvas.
31. Clean bilge, anchor locker, cockpit lockers, and engine space.
32. Clean cabin including all storage lockers and contents thereof.
33. Clean and inspect dinghy.
34. Commission dinghy engine.
35. Perform a full systems check.