

MARCH 2025

Yachtapalooza

March 22

Crowley's Yacht
Yard Lakeside
Followed by
lunch/dinner at
Bulldog Brewery

Kick-Off Event

April 26

Corinthian Yacht
Club

SPRING AHEAD

Welcome to the first Fleet Sheet of 2025. This issue is a sure sign that spring and a new sailing season are just ahead. Even if you don't believe a groundhog, it won't be long before you're shedding those winter coats. According to meteorologists spring began March 1. To astronomers spring begins March 20 and to Crowley's Yacht Yard it begins March 22 with its annual Yachtapalooza.

As usual, the Fleet will have a recruitment/greeting table at Yachtapalooza. It's your chance to reconnect with members and other sailors and pick up your VC-17. The day features seminars, demonstrations, a nautical flea market, food, super sales, and entertainment. Cindy Mahlfeldt will be selling her driftwood art and one of the programs of interest is on the new Navy Pier Marina, a transient docking facility on the north side of Navy Pier scheduled to open this year. At around 2:30 Fleet members will head to Bulldog Brewing Company in nearby downtown Whiting for conversation, a brew and a bite to eat. (Bulldog Brewery is at 1409 119th Street in Whiting).



Clocks spring ahead on March 9. That means more daylight hours to get that bottom painting done and start on the spring to do list. You can also use that extra hour of daylight to fill out your Fleet 21 membership renewal form. It's included in this newsletter. We try to publish the membership directory in May so if you want to be included, **renew now**. Fill out the form completely! Don't just send an email (saying renew me) and payment. You can pay by check, credit card or Zelle. You may also contribute to the Mariner's Fund with a separate check. The Mariner's Fund was established as a way for the Fleet to help the sailing community. Every year we donate to a worthwhile organization or event. Donations may be made in memory of someone, to honor a special occasion or just as a donation.

Missing Mainsheet? For members who get Mainsheet magazine with their Fleet membership, you likely haven't yet received the Winter 2024 issue. Be patient because it's coming. In it you'll find a feature article written by Laura Pohl highlighting Milwaukee harbor that we visited during last summer's Wisconsin cruise.

Mainsheet publishing responsibilities switched this fall from Eagle Ltd. to Catalina corporate. In the transfer, the list of Fleet recipients was not received by Catalina. They're sending copies of the issue to Commodore Pete who will send them via US mail.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMODORE



I used to be an advertising copywriter. As a student of the business, I recall a print ad I admired for Winnebago motor homes. It said, "Life is two periods of play separated by 40 years of work."

Speaking for myself, it's nice to have made it to that second period of play. But unfortunately for us northern sailors, sailing is five months of play separated by 7 months of whatever the heck it is we do to make it through the offseason.

The first issue of the Fleet Sheet is a sign of the thaw and time to start thinking about what needs to be done on the hard before we can get back to playing on the water. For me, I have a depth gauge that stopped working and reefing lines that somehow need to be properly rerouted in the boom. Then there's all the hours of cleaning, buffing and reloading.

But it's all worth it once we're out on the water with the head and the main sails up in a 12-knot wind on a sunny afternoon. Then later when the wind dies, we drop anchor with other Catalinas and float in inner tubes for a couple hours out in front of the Indiana dunes.

If you come to Crowley's Yachtapalooza, be sure to stop by the Fleet 21 table. Then join us for a late lunch/early dinner around 2:30 at Bulldog Brewing in downtown Whiting. It's sort of become a tradition. And plan to join us at the Corinthian Yacht Club on April 26 for camaraderie, dinner and a presentation by the amazing photographer, Barry Butler.

Fear not sailors. Our season of play is just around the corner.

Commodore Pete

For more Fleet 21 news go to our

Web site: www.catfleet21.com

Facebook page: Chicago Fleet 21 Chicago Region

*May your anchor be tight,
your cork be loose,
your rum be spiced,
and your compass be true.*



KICK OFF EVENT

Join us for renowned Chicago photographer Barry Butler

Join Fleet members on Saturday, April 26 at Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club for drinks, dinner and a presentation by Barry Butler. He'll show and discuss his amazing photography. And his books will be available for purchase.

Barry Butler is a Chicago-based/Ireland-born, internationally published landscape and cityscape photographer. Getting his start over 25 years ago, Barry, a self-taught photographer, has captured images from locales around the world, but he is legendary for his Chicago imagery. Reporter Mike Lowe of WGN-TV nicknamed him "Chicago's Picture Poet".



More details in the April Fleet Sheet.

CYA

CYA February Meeting Highlights

- Venetian Night 2025 is planned for Saturday, July 12
- The print version of Yachting in Chicago magazine is available for \$10. (A free electronic version was forwarded to Fleet members by Commodore Pete.)
- The new Navy Pier Marina located along the north side of Navy Pier is taking reservations via Dockwa; the first available date is June 13. Search for it on Dockwa where it's listed as Navy Pier Marina (NPM Venture LLC)
- An in-water boat show will take place at Navy Pier August 21 - 24

LET'S GO CRUISING!

Start spreading the news! We're cruising again this year and you're invited to join us.

Fleet 21 Michigan Shore Cruise for 2025

We've earmarked the week of July 7 for our annual Fleet 21 cruise. We're meeting up in South Haven on July 6, but please be aware that slips are booking up fast.

From South Haven, we'll travel to Saugatuck, then Grand Haven for 2 nights. We'll return to Holland and St. Joe.

July 5 or 6, arrive South Haven

July 7, depart South Haven for Saugatuck (Singapore YC or Safe Harbor Tower Marine in Douglas)

July 8-9, Grand Haven

July 10, Holland (Eldeans)

July 11, St. Joseph West Basin

July 12, return to home harbors

For a more detailed itinerary, email Pete at Ppoh157@aol.com.

***Thinking about a different cruise and want company? Let Pete know about it. He'll send out an email to the Fleet. And let him know if you have an idea for an event, like sailing on the Red Witch in Kenosha or the Flotilla in Michigan City. We're always open to new events and ideas.



Become the next Directory Chairman

After many years of handling production of the Fleet directory, this will be Bill Thompson's final edition. Thank you for all your efforts over the years, Bill. We now need a member to take on this important role. The sooner the better so Bill can train you for next year.

FLEET AWARDS BANQUET

The Fleet 21 Awards Banquet at Burnham Park Yacht Club was enjoyed by 37 attendees. Thanks to all who came. And a special thanks to those who contributed the terrific gift baskets. The raffle collected \$620. (Thank you, Harold Hansen, for handling ticket sales.)

Congratulations to our award winners:

Brett Boas, Harold and April Hansen – Commodore’s Award

Tom and Kathy Steider – Rookies of the Year

Leo Beer – Boat of the Year



Leo Beer –
Boat of the Year



Harold and April Hansen, Brett Boas
Commodore’s Award with Commodore Pete
Pohl



Mainstays Table: Ed Kita, Kathy Cusimano, Pat
Shereyk, John Lauraitis, Carolyn DeAre, Dave DeAre,
Pat Reynolds



Caldwell's win big!



Mesmerizing speeches



Last year's winners



Gift Baskets



Pat Shereyk, Ed Kita and John Lauraitis

BUY/SELL/TRADE

Fleet members may list items they want to buy, sell or trade
In this column. Listings are free and fun for three issues of the
Newsletter. Send submissions to the Fleet Sheet editor at
Deare30@sbcglobal.net

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FIRST CLASS