

West Michigan Ice Yacht Club

Since 1954

Iceboat lakes in our area: Bear, Fremont, Gun, Hess, Mona, Muskegon, Reeds,
Spring and White Lakes

Issue 1, 2017 - 2018 Sailing Season



Commodores Corner by Dean Runk

FIRST THINGS FIRST – In accordance with our WMIYC By-Laws our first meeting of the WMIYC for the 2017-18 sailing season will be the 2nd Sunday in December 2017. This year that means we will be meeting on December 10th from 1:00-3:00! Refreshments will be limited to our normal fare of beverages and snacks.

As a reminder as well, our regularly scheduled monthly meetings throughout the balance of our 2017-18 sailing season will be held on the 4th Thursday during the months of January^(See NOTE below), February and March. If we are fortunate enough to have a longer season your board may schedule an additional meeting at the end to celebrate.

NOTE:

- Due to the fact that MYC will be closed for “deep cleaning” on the 4th Thursday in January 2018, we have made arrangements with Steve Schiller to sponsor our meeting at the Viking Lodge, 3132 Lakeshore Dr, Muskegon, MI on January 25th, 2018. Please take note and place this date on your calendar.
- Unless otherwise notified, all these meetings will be held at the Muskegon Yacht Club (MYC) at 3198 Edgewater Street in Muskegon, MI.

SO, AGAIN AS A REMINDER, OUR UPCOMING WMIYC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017, FROM 1:00 TO 3:00 PM AT MYC.

What will the program be for this December meeting? Not certain yet, but we have several members who have new additions that they may be willing to discuss or unveil at the meeting this year.

The Same Old Issue of DUES

As requested by Chip in one of his earlier emails to the general membership, **PLEASE** mail him your WMIYC 2017-18 dues **PRIOR** to the meeting! As of the swap meet our paid membership stands at 78 members, two of which are Life Members and 14 are new for the 2017-18 sailing season, most of which resulted from the swap meet.

Mail to:

Chip Sawyer
4602 Bluff Road
Whitehall, MI 49461

“WESTERN MICHIGAN ICEBOAT SWAP MEET” RESULTS

As I trust all of you are aware, the three “Ice Yacht Clubs” that represent the ice boaters of Western Michigan finally came together and joined forces in executing our 1st Annual Western Michigan Iceboat Swap Meet. This event took the place of the normal Gull Lake swap meet that typically takes place down at the country club on Gull Lake the first Saturday in November. In planning the event, in addition to several phone conferences, we had board members from all three clubs represented at two meetings at a central site in Grand Rapids. The swap meet event was hosted at the Muskegon Yacht Club campus. It was a two day event with Ron Sherry making a presentation about his experiences in planning and sailing the 2017 Miami to Havana Cuba race. The presentation was

available to all those iceboaters that came in on Friday, as well as any soft water sailors that might have been present at MYC that evening. Ron made another technical iceboat related presentation to those in attendance on Saturday.

From the lunch ticket count we had over seventy (70) iceboaters attending the full event. From the feedback we received from those in attendance, in spite of the miserable weather, it was an event they want to carry on in future years.

Financially, we failed to “breakeven”, but from what we learned we will be able to adjust and breakeven, or come out slightly ahead, in subsequent years.

I put out a request for photos of the event, but unfortunately as of today I have received no response. Sorry, there are no photos to share in this newsletter.

IS EARLY ICE POSSIBLE!!

With the warm temperatures we have experienced throughout the month of November, and so far this December, any thought of early “sailable” ice is pretty much out of reach! It may be worthy of note, however, as we was headed north for Thanksgiving, Bear Lake, up on US 31, appeared to have a skim of ice, but upon returning home the next week it was all gone! Let’s all hope for some long stints of colder weather! Chip says he’s ready....are you?!

Some Things to Watch for

Although we had a rather mediocre season last year, with the majority of our members getting less than 4-5 days of sailing, a surprising number of our members remained undaunted throughout this past spring, summer and fall. Several optimistically planned and executed new projects and/or picked up new boats that will be unveiled this season.

- Our Holland Mafia contingent, with their growing and diversifying fleet of boats, largely larger, is aggressively working on their huge bus conversion project. However, from what I have been told the “brakes” have been temporarily applied. We are all hoping that they will be able to bring their new conveyance up to our December meeting so we can all see their progress in bringing their dream to fruition! I am certain we will all be very interested in seeing and sharing their progress on this major project.**

BREAKING “BRAKE” NEWS: After many hours and tearing deeply into the complex air brakes on the bus, it is now being reported that the issue was the brake’s foot pedal! Sometimes it is wise to start at the beginning and work your way back! LOL!

Some New Additions to Our Member’s Fleet

A couple of our members have added and/or are in the process of changing over to more comfortable rides.

- Jon Tasker, in joining several others in the club, has worked on his “project” Sprinter and has it**

about ready for the ice. His DN has been given a “face lift” and is available for sale to anyone looking for a good older boat.

- **Greg Caskey, also part of the Holland contingent, picked up an old Sprinter from Bruce Wiers’ “bone yard” and has been doing CPR on it for some time. From what I am lead to believe he is about ready to unveil it as soon as there is sailable ice. Way to go Dr. Caskey!**
- **Tim Freye has picked up another boat in his perpetual efforts to upgrade his fleet! He recently made a road trip out to Rapid City, IA where he met the owner of his new acquisition, a carbon fiber hulled “A” Skeeter named “Outlaw”. The gentleman he met came in halfway from Canyon Ferry, MT. I believe Tim, in an effort to limit his fleet size, also recently sold the “B” Skeeter he acquired last season to a gentleman from the Lansing area. We look forward to seeing his new boat on the ice!**
- **Don Fischer picked up a DN that he has subsequently gave to his grandson, Evan Fischer. Evan was also one of the 14 or so new members we brought into the club as result of the swap meet. That’s one way to assist us in bringing younger members in! Good work Don!**

As an observation, it appears as though, as our average age of members continues to rise, the desire for comfort is outweighing the ease of set-up and teardown!

JUST A THOUGHT

This year when the time comes to pull our program(s) off the ice, after the final day at any given venue, let's all plan ahead so the assistance needed by those with larger boats does not fall upon the usual few. Let's not hang in trying to be the "last sailor out" there if you have one of these larger boats requiring assistance to haul off the ice!

Muskegon Surf Cam Reminder

I just tested the link to the webcam atop Balcom's Cove condos. This camera is located alongside the Cottage Grove public launch site on Muskegon Lake. We have the link posted on our website. It is very handy to check out the activity on the lake, and at the launch site, prior to departing for Muskegon Lake if we are planning on sailing. If you want to check it out now use this link:

<http://www.muskegonsurfcam.com/muskegon-lake/>

Don't forget to check out and try to interact with our website. The only way you will ever overcome any difficulties is to try it and then bring your issues to a meeting and discuss them with Trevor, our webmaster!

Treasurer's Summary West Michigan Ice Yacht Club Statement of Operations Fiscal Year 7/1/16 – 6/30/17

Revenues

Dues	\$ 955.00
Merchandise	<u>37.50</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 992.50

Expenses

Meeting	\$ 1,243.23
Printing and Postage	-0-

Merchandise	- 0 -
Other	<u>104.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 1,149.60

Net Revenue \$ (354.73)

Fund Balance 7/1/16 \$ 6,699.77

Fund Balance 6/30/17 6,345.04

Net Change \$ (354.73)

ACCOUNT BALANCE

As of December 02, 2017: \$ 6,072.60

This FY statement does not reflect the results of the recent swap meet. Each sponsoring club has a financial obligation resulting from the meet in the amount of \$156.72. We are to receive a total of \$313.44 from the Grand Traverse and Gull Lake clubs to cover their portion of the swap meet costs.

Based upon the above it is likely that we will NOT be increasing the dues for this year!

About The WMIYC Newsletter

Again due to the time involved, I have again found it necessary to distribute this newsletter via email. Some may feel this is an error, but I find it necessary. Unless there is a major objection, or someone else is desirous of taking on the responsibility, this is what you'll continue to see in the future.