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On Our Cover: The newly renovated Mackinac Bar at Monroe Street Station.

Chicago Yacht Club Calendar of Events



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
May					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	June			

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
July				1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	31		

May

- 1** Kids Movie Night (Monroe)
- 2** High School Invitational Team Race
Island Goat Dinner (Belmont)
- 2** Vlad Kopal Memorial Regatta
- 3** Spring Frostbiting
High School Invitational Team Race
- 6** Ladies' Fashion Show (Monroe)
- 9** Associates Smelt Party (Belmont)
CYC Club Racing Spring Bowl (Belmont)
- 10** Mother's Day Brunch
Guy's Grocery Games Featuring our
very own Chef Jill (Belmont)
- 14** Prospective Member Reception (Monroe)
- 15** Taste of Belmont
Associates Club Crawl
- 17** Auto Show Brunch (Monroe)
- 16** RYF (Belmont)
Rickover Regatta
- 19** Birthday Party (Monroe)
- 20** Belmont Skyline Series
Monroe Skyline Series
- 23** RYF (Belmont)
- 23** Baker Nationals
- 25** Flag Raising
- 27** Belmont Skyline Series
Monroe Skyline Series
- 28** Music in Mac Bar
- 29** Power Yacht In-Water Tech Show
- 30** RYF (Belmont)

June

- 3** Belmont Skyline Series
Monroe Skyline Series
- 5** CSF/PF Combined Spring Cruise
- 6** RYF (Belmont)
Belmont "Steaks"
- 10** Belmont Skyline Series
Monroe Skyline Series
- 11** NOOD Registration
- 12** NOOD Regatta
- 16** Power Fleet Special Needs Cruise
- 17** Belmont Skyline Series
Monroe Skyline Series
- 20** 69th Annual Fleet Review
- 21** Father's Day Brunch &
Evening Buffet (Monroe)
Father's Day BBQ (Belmont)
- 23** PF Special Needs Cruise
- 26** Annual Club Cruise &
Hamilton Cup
- 27** RYF (Belmont)
- 30** Birthday Party (Monroe)

July

- 1** 65th Old Guard Race (Belmont)
- 2** Wine Dinner (Monroe)
- 3** Grand Prix Invitational
- 4** 4th of July Monroe
4th of July BBQ (Belmont)
- 7** RC Summer Social
- 10** 107th CYC Race to Mackinac
- 18** RYF (Belmont)
- 22** Belmont Skyline Series
Monroe Skyline Series
- 25** RYF (Belmont)
- 28** Birthday Party (Monroe)
- 29** Belmont Skyline Series
Monroe Skyline Series

**2015
CHICAGO YACHT CLUB
VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP**

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CHICAGO YACHT CLUB
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Bobby Collins

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Dustin Domer

Head 420 Coach
Michael Cornew

Race Coordinator
Karen Paquin

Dockmaster
John Porter

Kitchen Steward, Employee of the Year
Jose Luis Reyes

From the Helm



Dear Fellow Members,

On January 1, I became the 67th Commodore of the Chicago Yacht Club, and I look forward to serving you in 2015. As we begin the 2015 boating season, I can report that your Club is in excellent condition and that your Flag Officers, Board of Directors, and professional management team are focused on providing you with a superb Club experience. I am fortunate to serve on the Flag with my friends Leif Sigmond, Lou Sandoval, Chuck Anderson and Nick Berberian. All are very passionate about being on the water and making sure that your Club experience is top notch.

Since the beginning of the year, your Flag and Board have launched a number of new initiatives to enhance your Club experience. We began construction of the new Mackinac Bar in January, and by the time you read this message, we will have already celebrated its re-opening. We created a new Entertainment and Education Committee, charged with planning a series of new member events. We have revamped our food and beverage team at Monroe Station. Our new Food & Beverage Director Remi DuBois and Executive Chef Larry Asher are now part of our crew and looking forward to serving you. We have launched a new paddleboard program for Belmont Harbor and have plans to offer kayaking at Belmont as well. Our Women's Committee, led by my bride and best friend – Dr. Chris Albanis – has planned a variety of new events for the ladies of our Club. Our new Family Activities Committee, led by Mark Svoboda, is planning new events designed to bring families together at the Club. Our Offshore Committee, in response to our members' wishes, has launched a new Wednesday night race series – the Skyline Series – designed to provide fun, casual racing events for Club members.

We have many more initiatives underway, and will be in touch with you frequently throughout the year with membership updates. As I am sure you will agree, the best part of our Club is you – our members. I am privileged to be part of such an accomplished and diverse group. During 2015, please keep an eye out for others who love the water and encourage them to become part of our community.

I'd like to offer a special thanks to our General Manager, Dwight Jenson. Together with our management team, Dwight has worked tirelessly to execute many of the initiatives described above, and we are grateful for his outstanding efforts.

There is much left to do, but we are excited about our progress to date. As always, please let me know how we can further enhance your Club experience. I look forward to seeing you often at the Club this year!

Warm regards,

GREG MIARECKI, COMMODORE
miarecki@chicagoyachtclub.org



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New Faces at CYC This Spring

CYC welcomed some new staff members to our team this spring. So the next time you see Larry, Michael, Remi or Karen when you're at the Club, stop by to say hello.

LARRY ASHER, EXECUTIVE CHEF



You'll find Chef Larry in the kitchen and dining room at Monroe Station.

Before CYC, Chef Larry Asher started his career in restaurants and grew his vocation in private clubs in Chicago and its north shore, including Hillcrest and Ravinia Green country clubs.

Now that he's at CYC, Chef Larry plans to bring fresh, new ideas in an atmosphere that brings families together. Chef plans to bring in some Spanish, Asian and Hawaiian inspiration to the menu and work with local growers to bring in the freshest local produce.

MICHAEL CORNEW, HEAD 420 COACH



You'll find Michael at Belmont Station, usually on the water coaching the high school program or summer race team. Otherwise, he is in the Sailing School barge maintaining equipment and coordinating regatta travel and attendance.

Before CYC, Michael attended Northwestern University where he was captain of the sailing team for two years. He led the team to qualify for four national semifinals and two team race nationals.

Now that he's at CYC, Michael is looking forward to working with existing junior sailing talent to achieve top results as well as bringing up the base line skill level of the high school and summer 420 programs.

REMI DUBOIS, FOOD AND BEVERAGE DIRECTOR



You'll find Remi welcoming members and ensuring the best service throughout Monroe Station.

Before CYC, Remi earned his culinary degree from Newbury College, worked in restaurants in New York City and Vancouver, and started his own catering company. Remi was chef at the Ritz-Carlton's Residences on Michigan Avenue.

Now that he's at CYC, Remi plans to bring a higher level of personal service to make all members feel that this space is just an extension of their own living room.

KAREN PAQUIN, RACE COORDINATOR



You'll find Karen at Belmont Station welcoming and supporting members, Race Committee volunteers and visiting yacht racers.

Before CYC, Karen worked at Southwestern Yacht Club during the Louis Vuitton Challenger Series in 1995. She has been an active member of the Coronado Yacht Club for 26 years where she has enjoyed racing, cruising and volunteering. After relocating to the Midwest six years ago, Karen has worked for the Geneva Lake Sailing School as well as Line Honors.

Now that she's at CYC, Karen plans to raise the quality of service by being an ambassador for the Club and the sport of sailing.

Traditions, With a Twist

CYC Debuts a Renovated Mackinac Bar at Monroe Station

By **DAVE SOLLITT**

In a club steeped in tradition, and a room named after one of the great yacht races in the world, change comes carefully.

The legendary Mackinac Bar has seen well over half a century of sailing history. In this room, sailing stories have been told and retold. Stormy passages, close calls, pleasant cruises have been shared. Protests past and present have been litigated without the interruptions of judges, and retold with the accuracy of memory but without the inconvenient rigor of facts. The lore of past Mackinac Races adorns the walls, with pictures of historic winners throughout.

Most members have memories that started or were enhanced in the Mackinac Bar. All were made special by the unique setting of the Mackinac Bar. When I was a youngster, I knew the longest unit of measurable time was the time it took my dad to have “just one drink” before we went home. Years later, it became easy to see why. It has always been one of the great rooms in the city.

So it was in 2012 when planning began for a renovation to the Mackinac Bar at CYC. The need was evident. The bar’s plumbing, fixtures and mechanics, designed and built in the late 1950s, were ill equipped to handle the large crowds and modern needs of a commercial bar serving large crowds during our many events in the summer. The space behind the bar was insufficient to handle the service requirements of a post-regatta crowd rivaling the crowds in a Rush Street bar during its heyday.

Commodore Joe Haas created a sinking fund in 2012 to initiate the planning for a complete renovation of the Mackinac Bar. In 2013, then Vice Commodore Greg Miarecki formed a bar subcommittee (one of the greatest organizational titles ever), and joined with a design task force headed by Janet Crabb to determine the needs and concerns of the membership for the renovation.

In addition to the basic needs of world-class bar service, the bathrooms, situated directly behind the bar, required



renovation to become ADA compliant. For CYC, host of one of the largest disabled sailing regattas in the world, this improvement was mission critical for a platinum rated club. Another goal of the renovation was to eliminate the need for passing an active bar to enter and exit the men’s room. All were achieved in the renovation.

Weiss Architects was selected as the design firm in 2013 for preliminary designs for the bar, and submitted a design that “recognized that it was located in a very strong mid-century modern building. We felt compelled to honor the building,” said Steven Weiss. Over the next several months, numerous adjustments and fine tuning created a design that was finally approved for bidding in May 2014.

Macon Construction was awarded the job in November with a stipulation: demolition and construction had to be largely completed in the three-month closing of Monroe Station from January to March, while finishing would take place through the opening in April.

The result is a uniquely Midwestern space, one that honors both the Club’s boating heritage and the natural beauty of the Great Lakes, according to Weiss.

“We used mahogany, teak and holly for woodwork, with bronze accents, paying homage to the boating aesthetic. Behind the bar, we created a wall of limestone, reflecting the regional bedrock of the Great Lakes,” he noted.



New features include a soffit that extends the warm mahogany backdrop of the main bar over the bar's seating and service areas. There is new flooring, featuring a slate grey tile and new carpet throughout the bar and lounge areas. New furniture will arrive prior to Memorial Day, creating a warm, welcoming environment for the new space.

An elaborate new video system provides for custom, CYC originated content to be displayed behind the bar and on monitors placed in the north and south corners. Race results, club announcements, famous Mac winners, video content and the like can be displayed on these high definition monitors.

Behind the bar, all new refrigeration units keep beer and other chilled beverages cold and a new tap system provides for greater selections of draft beer. Mahogany cabinets provide a greater selection of liquors and eliminate the need for the liquor inventory to be put away each night by the bartenders and staff. That staff has significantly more room to work to serve thirsty members and guests in more efficiently and effectively.

Which is, perhaps, among the most vital traditions of the Mackinac Bar. With legendary mixologists and raconteurs with names like Duffy and Barnes and Nick, the Mackinac Bar has been best remembered as a place of uncompromising service and great drinks from remarkable bartenders. The current staff is looking forward to working in the new bar and using the new tools to provide that high level of service excellence that the bar and CYC have become famous for.

Hector Mizhquiri, who has been bartending at the Club for 26 years, said he was looking forward to serving members from the new bar. "It's going to let us do a lot more for the members," he said. "We'll be able to serve many more people more effectively and give them more selection."

Like all traditions at the CYC, the renovation of the Mackinac Bar is the result of many members giving selflessly of their time and expertise.

"The new Mackinac Bar will be a fantastic new addition to the Club," said an enthusiastic Commodore Miarecki. "I'd like to extend a special thanks to all of the members who helped turn this long-discussed idea into reality."

To ensure that the interests and concerns of a broad spectrum of the membership are reflected, the design committee interviewed many members to get their input on what would be important to change and preserve.

Mike Sollitt, (yes, that one) an experienced construction manager, headed the Stations Committee's oversight of the renovation.

"We have only one chance to get it right," Sollitt said. "It's an important part of the membership's enjoyment of the Club, so it's critical that it be done well, on time and on budget."

In April, the Mackinac Bar, like the great race it is named for, will again be a center of Club activity. Commodore Miarecki, the Flag, board and staff, hope all members will come in to see the dramatic new design and to enjoy a cold libation, a warm conversation and continue a great tradition. ➤

Committee News

The Chicago Yacht Club has more than 40 committees that help plan events, run regattas, brainstorm new initiatives and shape the future of CYC. In each issue of the Blinker, we're going to feature some of the committees.

What's in Your Attic?



The CYC History Committee is cataloging, preserving, and digitizing Club historical documents, publications and photographs. As we look in our attic, we wonder what is in your attic? If you have materials that may compliment what has already been gathered, the committee is looking for your donations. Please email or phone Fred Gorr to discuss your historical items for inclusion in the Club's collection at fredex6@gmail.com or 847-512-3288.

Protest Committee

The Protest Committee is the place sailors come to ensure that their race is ultimately fair. We have judges who are trained and certified by US Sailing, and we welcome anyone who would like to learn to be a judge and help us ensure that sailboat racing at our Club is fun and fair. Anyone who has raced, even just a little, is able to help. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to our Chief Judge, Fred Hagedorn.

From the Communications Committee: How to Get the CYC Website as an App

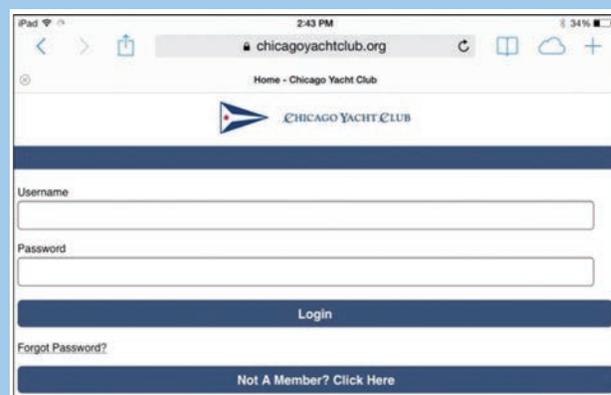
Did you know that it's easy to access the CYC website to see the calendar, make reservations, use the member directory and more? Here are the steps if you have an iPhone/iPad or Android device.

Step 1

On your mobile device go to www.chicagoyachtclub.org

Step 2

Log into the mobile site using your login credentials. (Hint: username is your member number and password might be your last name.)



Step 3 (iPhone)

Tap the options button



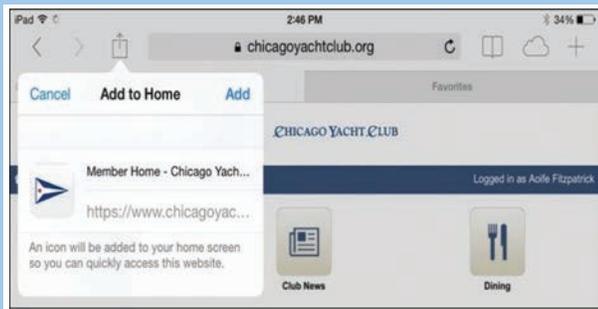
Step 4 (iPhone)

Tap the 'Add to Home Screen' Button' and then tap 'Add'



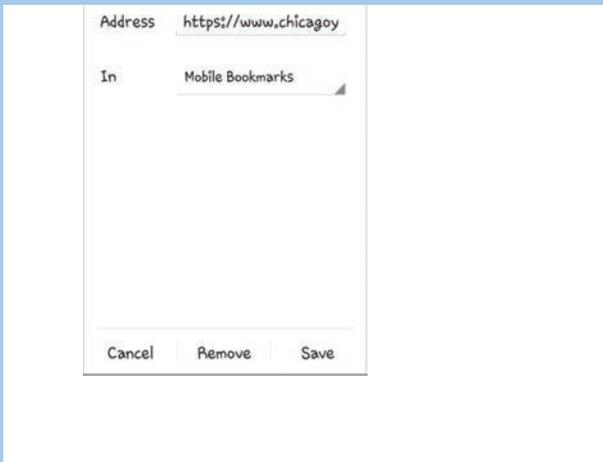
Step 3 (Android)

Tap the settings button. The below menu will appear. Tap the 'Bookmark' icon.



Step 3 (Android)

Tap 'Save.'



If you have an Android device, follow steps one and two above.

Step 5 (Android)

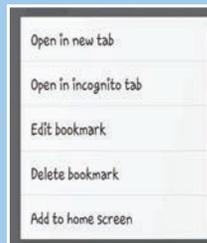
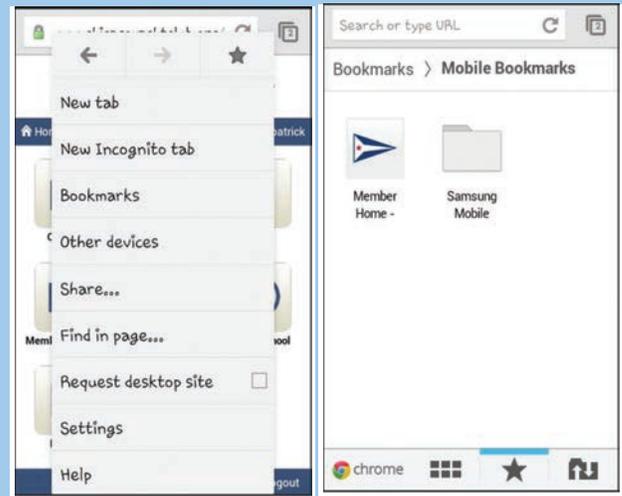
Tap your setting's button again for the menu and click 'Bookmarks.'

Step 6

Tap 'Mobile Bookmarks.'

Step 7

Hold down the CYC Member Home icon until the list appears and click – 'Add to home screen'



The CYC mobile website should now appear as an app on your home screen.



An Adventure on the Wild Mississippi

As told to **SUSAN ARRA**, by crew member **ROGER MAC DOUGALL**

In the mid-1670s, long before the City of Chicago was even a concept, a small group of five voyageurs, a priest and an explorer set out from the mission at St. Ignace. The Native Americans they met in a village near a portage site between the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers attempted to dissuade them from continuing farther into the interior lands. They had a great fear of the “Big Water,” which was thought to be filled with “horrible monsters which devoured men and canoes together.” They believed the banks of this great river were home to bands of warriors who would “break their heads without any cause.” To the south — if they made it that far — they would run into searing heat, which would wilt them, turn them black and eventually kill them. Regardless of the warning, the group departed heading toward the great river with two Indian guides from the village.

Pere Marquette and Louis Joliet led this group of Europeans. They were the first explorers to provide eyewitness accounts of the wildlife encountered on their river trip, including wildcats they described as “swans without wings,” monstrous fish (probably catfish), and tremendous herds of bison*. While much has changed

since that first voyage, a trip down the river still appeals to many modern day Huckleberry Finn adventurers.

Just less than two years ago, *DreamCatcher*, a 44’ Catamaran, sailed from Panama, around Florida and up the east coast to New York. From New York, they followed a similar route traveled by those original explorers, through the Erie Canal and the Great Lakes passing Mackinac Island and then south to Chicago. After a year in Chicago, *DreamCatcher* departed with a small crew and headed toward the Mississippi River. Their ultimate destination: St. Martin in the Caribbean.

Seasoned sailors, the crew soon found the river wasn’t as easy to navigate as anticipated. While they had no worry of the horrible monsters once feared on the river, they encountered their fair share of challenges. Navigating around trees and large root balls found throughout the river along with significant commercial barge traffic created a new experience for the crew. At night they anchored out of the shipping channel or docked the boat at riverfront marinas along the route. While commercial traffic worked around the clock, it was deemed too dangerous to continue after sundown. Evenings were spent



in small river towns and local characters met along the way provided entertainment and stories the crew may share if asked.

While the original serpents once rumored to inhabit the great river may be only a myth today, there are points along the river where one might believe they still exist. Tremendous populations of Asian Carp were observed at various points on the trip. One can only wonder what those original explorers might have thought of these large jumping fish, which have taken over certain parts of the river.

“I can't decide which were more exciting, scenic river miles and locks by day, or anchoring at night hearing barges the size of the state of Rhode Island go by, seeing only their lights.”

Once through the channel to Pensacola the crew lifted the mast and began the next phase of their trip, traversing the Gulf of Mexico to Key West. After five days crossing the Gulf through storms and clear weather, the crew approached Key West. As the sun slipped in the western horizon the waters became more treacherous with the barges, root balls and carp replaced by hundreds if not thousands of lobster pots, hooked to the bottom and found throughout the shipping channel and approach to Key West.

Halfway through the lobster pots one of the boat's engines began to fail. A lobster pot rope was cut off of the propeller and they were able to continue on their way to Key West. The crew celebrated on Duval Street before



departing for Miami where *DreamCatcher* and two of the crew became official “Loopers,” having completed the Great Loop, a trip that began over a year earlier. This great adventure will not soon be forgotten.

A professional team sailed *DreamCatcher* from Miami to St. Martin where the boat remains in dock.

“I can't decide which were more exciting, scenic river miles and locks by day, or anchoring at night hearing barges the size of the state of Rhode Island go by, seeing only their lights”, said John Burns, *DreamCatcher* captain and owner.

**Information from City of the Century: The Epic of Chicago and the Making of America by Donald L. Miller, 1996. ▶*

Three CYC Members Inducted into Lake Michigan Sailing Hall of Fame

By **JANE VARTAN** and **SUSAN KANTOR**

In November three longtime CYC members – Gene McCarthy, Richard Stearns and Don Wilson – were inducted into the Lake Michigan Sailing Hall of Fame. These three members have each had impressive careers and given back to the Chicago boating community. We sat down with each inductee to learn more about their storied careers of sailing in Chicago.

Gene McCarthy



Gene and Mary McCarthy

Gene McCarthy's first sail was at age 10 in 1938.

"We sailed from Monroe to the Indiana Dunes, had lunch, and returned to Monroe. It got me. I decided sailing was something I'd do for the rest of my life."

He began sailing out Jackson Park Harbor in 1943 until college intervened with his sailing career for a few years.

"In 1952 I was invited to crew on a star boat and that began my lifelong career and interest in star sailing, which continues to this day," McCarthy said.

Since then, McCarthy has had an impressive career in sailing that includes the Great Lakes Star Championship winning crew (1956), chairman of the Pan American Sailing Games in Chicago (1959), chairman of the Star North American Championship in Chicago (1964), winning the SORC aboard Red Jacket (1968), skipper in the Great Lakes Star Championship (1974), lead promoter of the Chicago In-Water Boat Show (1976-1980), founder and Commodore of the Lake Michigan Sail Racing Federation (1981), creator of the US Sailing Regatta Liability Insurance Program, member of the US Sailing Safety-At-Sea Committee (1981), president of the Yacht Racing Union of the Great Lakes (1982), and many positions with US Sailing, including the board of directors (1996-2002).

In 1953, McCarthy was invited to replace someone who

dropped out from the crew of a 36-foot sloop, Sparkle. Thus began almost his almost uninterrupted series of Macs – 61 in total, with plans to sail again in 2015. But of those 61 races, there are three that McCarthy says he'll never forget:

1955: Starting Saturday at 1:45 p.m. and finishing at 2:18 p.m. the following Thursday.

1970: In hurricane winds that lasted four to five hours in the northern part of the lake, a wave caught McCarthy and washed him overboard. "I was in the water for probably a minute and a half and tangled in the sail. The sail ruptured and allowed me to surface, and the crew recovered me instantly," he explained.

2012: Sailing approximately five miles from the bridge, they were struck by a storm that sustained winds in excess of 100 mph. The crew sustained little damage and no one was hurt.

McCarthy has been a member of CYC for nearly 60 years.

"I joined CYC in 1956 with two of the greatest sailors as my sponsors – Harry Nye and Buck Halperin. To this day, I am thankful for them and their kindness."

"My affiliation with CYC has made me very proud, and when I was nominated for the Hall of Fame, I was humbled and thankful for the many contributions made to our sport of sail racing for many years," McCarthy said. "The quality of people and the friendships I've made with the people of the Chicago Yacht Club will be with me forever." ▶

Richard Stearns

Olympic medalist and coach are just a few of the marks Richard Stearns has made in the sailing world during his remarkable career. It all started when he was 15 years old, sailing with his father and friends. His father thought that if he got Richard a sail boat and got him interested in sailing it would "keep him off of the streets." It certainly did, and much more. Stearns' long list of accomplishments includes:

- Olympic games Star Class Silver medal
- Coach and manager for two Olympic teams
- Pan American Star Class Gold medal



Richard Stearns

- Coach and manager for two Pan teams
- Star Class World Champion
- Tartan 10 National Championships
- Seven North American Star Class Championships
- Great Lakes Championships in Etchells and Soling
- Skipper or crew for six Chicago to Mackinac races wins
- Hundreds of other awards

Stearns also worked quietly to make the sport of sail racing better. He served as chairman of the United States Olympic Yachting Committee for eight years and as a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee Executive Board, and was elected Vice President of the U.S. Yacht Racing Union (now US Sailing). He is characteristically unselfish and immodest, helping hundreds of sailors to have many hours of fun racing sail boats, and making the sport of sail racing an important part of American life.

Stearns has had many adventures sailing on Lake Michigan. He recalls, before the advent of positioning equipment, being lost in a fog for half a day.

“We were sailing on a 55-foot boat in a fog so dense we could not see the bow of the boat. We talked to the people up front using walkie-talkies. Feeling we were getting close to shore, one of the crew rigged up the automatic direction finder (ADF), which indicated we were 12 miles in-land, so we came about figuring we were too damn close to shore.”

He started sailing at the Jackson Park Club then joined the Chicago Yacht Club as a junior member in 1942.

Stearns did not think he would be inducted into the Lake Michigan Sailing Hall of Fame, but his family was not surprised. Stearns explained, “What matters is having fun sailing on boats and enjoying the other crew members and the sport.” ➤

Don Wilson

Don Wilson’s sailing career can be traced back to spending summers with his grandmother who lived on the ocean in Maine. When he was 11, Wilson moved to Switzerland and started racing 420s in Zurich.

When he moved back to attend the University of Chicago, he continued to race against other schools.

“When I graduated from college, I asked around to see what kind of boat I should get, and I ended up getting a T-



Don Wilson and family

10, Rebel. I became a CYC member at that time and had my boat up at Belmont. That was a pretty funny transition because I had been sailing FJs and 420s in college. And here I was, starting to sail a 33-foot boat that required a lot more people and logistics.”

Eventually he figured it out. Wilson purchased an LS-10 and started doing well in that class and in fleet racing. He did the Tristate and won every race in the T-10 fleet. He got a J/105 and did Key West Race Week. Then a Farr 40 and some sailing in San Francisco.

“There was a match race in 2007 that was hosted by CYC at Belmont,” Wilson explained. “I had not done match racing before, but the Club needed a member to compete, and I was offered the slot. It was in J/80s. I lost almost every single match, but I thought it was the coolest form of sailing. The whole race was in 15 minutes.”

That was a pivotal point in Wilson’s match racing career. He was hooked on match racing and started to going to match races around the world. At his peak, Wilson was ranked as the No. 1 U.S. match racer and 18th in the world (he’s currently ranked 22nd in the world).

In 2008 he decided to start the Chicago Match Race Center.

“I felt like there was an opportunity to set this up in Chicago and more opportunities for young people in Chicago to compete in a form of sailing that more than anything else sharpens your skills.”

The Match Race Center has hosted well-run, efficient events that attract people from all over the world to race in Chicago.

“Taylor Canfield worked at the Match Race Center and is ranked No. 1,” Wilson said. “I like to think that the Match Race Center contributed to that success.”

Wilson attributes some of his own success to sailing with his family. He has four kids, who each have spent time at the CYC Sailing School during the summer. He founded the Match Race Center with his sister, Jennifer. This past season, the Wilsons won the 2014 Verve Cup Offshore and were named T-10 North American Champion. The Convergence crew included Wilson’s 12-year old daughter, niece, sister and brother-in-law.

“It’s an honor to be inducted into the Lake Michigan Sailing Hall of Fame, especially at the age of 46.” ➤

The Women On the Water (WOW) Kicked Off the 2015 Season at Belmont

by **CHRIS ALBANIS, MD**



The Women's Committee kicked off the season on Friday, January 30 at Belmont with an evening of camaraderie, champagne, delicious appetizers, and review of the WOW survey. The event attracted over 50 women and several men on the cold winter evening. Women enjoyed the Spanish flavors of Anna Rose Brut and discussed topics ranging from life, kids, fashion, work, weather and everything in between! Several women were able to meet each other for the first time, the momentum was palpable, and smiles were free flowing. Comments ranged from "great event" to "it's fun to be with other women from the CYC" to "the energy is contagious."

The purpose of the Women's Committee is to foster events specific to the needs and desires of the women of CYC, host frequent and consistent events that appeal to a broad range of women, and foster the strategic mission of CYC with events planned by promoting Women on the Water and events that bring us together at CYC.

Before the event, women were surveyed on their current and future CYC involvement. With over 100 respondents, the survey helped shape the remaining events planned by the Women's Committee for 2015. The purpose of the survey was to seek input that results in activities based on data versus assumptions, obtain fresh ideas, and gauge the interests of a wide mix of women. For complete survey results, please visit the Women's Committee page on chicagoyachtclub.org.

The survey had many highlights. Thirty-seven percent of respondents were those who were members for over 20 years and more than 90 percent visit the club at least monthly (with 20 percent of those visiting weekly). Work commitments limit women from coming to the Club more often for 65 percent of respondents and over 60 percent live or work within five miles of the Club. Women were then asked to comment on their planned involvement in potential activities ranging from boating, learning, and health and entertainment activities. Forty-four percent

responded favorably to boating lessons, 66 percent to Friday Night Ladies' Happy Hours, 69 percent Lunch and Learns and 71 percent to cooking classes.

Based on the survey results, the Women's Committee has prepared a fun-filled calendar for all to participate in 2015! Highlights include:

- **Lunch and Learn:** A series of lectures combined with networking lunch opportunity geared toward the interests of women. These events will feature women from both within and outside CYC.

- **Friday Night Ladies' Happy Hour:** A series of Happy Hours (why limit to one hour?) featuring tastings of our favorite libations.

- **Women On the Water (WOW) Keelboat Instruction and Fun:** If you're looking for a friendly learning environment to learn how to sail or would enjoy going out on the Sonar sailboats for fun, this program is for you! Instruction will take place on the water in good weather and at Belmont Station if weather conditions do not allow for safe sailing.

- **Signature Events:**

- o The Ladies' Fashion Show will return on Wednesday, May 6 with the theme of "A Day at the Races." Dust off your gorgeous hats, and join us for Mint Juleps, roses, and tons of fun!

- o Our very own Chef Jill will give us live commentary during the viewing of "Guy's Grocery Games" where she competes on the Food Network! The show airs on Mother's Day at 7 p.m., and will be a great opportunity to bring your mom, daughter or friends for some evening fun. We are proud of Chef Jill's the accomplishments and look forward to being with her on this special evening!

We look forward to seeing you soon on and off the water. Stay tuned for more information, and the announcement of more events. ▶

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, April 24 (6 pm – 8 pm)

Ladies' Night Cocktail Party, Monroe

Wednesday, May 6 (10 am – 2 pm)

Ladies' Fashion Show, Monroe

Sunday, May 10 (6:30 pm – 8:30 pm)

Guy's Grocery Games Sails into CYC

Viewing Featuring our very own Chef Jill, Belmont

Thursday, May 14 (6 pm – 8 pm)

WOW (Women On the Water)

Keelboat Instruction and Fun, Belmont

Wednesday, May 20 (noon – 1 pm)

Lunch and Learn, Monroe

Thursday, June 11 (6 pm – 8 pm)

WOW Keelboat Instruction and Fun, Belmont

Wednesday, June 17 (noon – 1 pm)

Lunch and Learn, Monroe

Sunday, July 12

Mac Race Ladies' Porch Party, Mac Island

Friday, July 31 (6 pm – 8 pm)

Ladies' Night Cocktail Party, Monroe

Thursday, August 13 (6 pm – 8 pm)

WOW Keelboat Instruction and Fun, Belmont

Wednesday, August 19 (noon – 1 pm)

Lunch and Learn, Monroe

Friday, August 28 (6 pm – 8 pm)

Ladies' Night Cocktail Party, Monroe

Thursday, September 10 (6 pm – 8 pm)

WOW Keelboat Instruction and Fun, Belmont

Wednesday, September 16 (noon – 1 pm)

Lunch and Learn, Monroe

Friday, October 2 (6 pm – 8 pm)

Ladies' Night Cocktail Party, Monroe

Thursday, October 8 (6 pm – 8 pm)

WOW Keelboat Instruction and Fun, Belmont

Thursday, October 22 (TBA)

Harvest Wine Dinner, Monroe

Friday, November 20 (6 pm – 8 pm)

Ladies' Night Cocktail Party, Monroe

Wednesday, December 9 (6 pm – 9 pm)

Holiday Shopping Extravaganza, Monroe

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Cruising Sail Fleet Dances the Night Away, Latin Style

by **LYDIA LUTZOW**

What a fun evening! The Cruising Sail Fleet hosted its annual Dancing with the Stars Event on March 7 at Belmont Station. The mood was set with long-stem roses and candles around the room as a near capacity crowd enjoyed Latin music and perfected their moves dancing the Rhumba, Meringa and Salsa. Kenneth from Fred Astaire studios showed us the steps, spins and turns so that we looked great while having fun. Later in the evening, we watched with awe as professional dancers showed us their expert interpretation of these same dances.

Chef Jill and her crew topped off the event with a terrific menu of Latin-inspired food. From the passed hors d'oeuvres of conch fritters, lobster cakes and brie cups, to dinner of beef fajitas and blackened mahi with all the sides, straight through the rum cakes and bananas foster, we wined, dined and danced the night away Latin style.

Thanks to all for coming. It was great to see so many new faces having fun on our dance floor! Thanks to Chef Jill and her great staff for their expert help and especially, thanks to my assistants Beth and Dwain. ▶



What's New on the Water in 2015



CREW FINDER

Are you a racer looking to join a crew or a skipper looking for new crew? Look no further than CYC's Crew Finder. Our new online application connects potential crew members with boats. Check out www.chicagoyachtclub.org/crewfinder to post your information, look for crew, or find a crew.

STAND UP PADDLE BOARDS AND KAYAKS

Here's a way to literally get your feet wet. We're bringing the popular sport of stand-up paddle boarding to Belmont. You'll be able to rent the boards when available, as well as take basic paddle boarding classes and paddle board yoga.

GRAND PRIX

This year, we created the Chicago Yacht Club Grand Prix Invitational, a High Performance Rule (HPR) regatta to be held the week before the CYC Race to Mackinac. The Grand Prix provides another reason for all sailing friends on all the other coasts to bring their boats to the Great Lakes for a summer of racing. Read the full story on page 26.

WEDNESDAY SKYLINE SERIES

This spring, CYC announced a revamped Wednesday racing series – the Monroe Skyline Series. Starting May 20 through September, bring your friends and family out to sail quick, casual races and social activities afterward every Wednesday night. Read the full story on page 22.

SPRING TEAM RACING

We started team racing last fall, but we're ramping up the program in 2015. Team racing is one of the fastest-growing sports on the water. It involves a team of four people sailing the Sonars. This is a program that will teach even the old salts something, whether it is boat handling or racing rules. We will use the Club Sonars to run practice, clinics and events this year.

SONAR SEASON RENTALS

We're offering an annual pass to use the Club's fleet of six Sonars. A one-time fee will allow you to rent a boat when they are available. But first, schedule an orientation with Chuck Nevel to learn how to rig a boat, tie knots, demonstrate proper crew communication and go out for a quick sail.

THURSDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT SERIES

OK, we know it's not technically on the water, but the Entertainment Committee is planning a series Thursday evening in the new Mac Bar. Come out for live music and paired food and drink specials.

WOMEN ON THE WATER SAILING

If you're looking for a friendly learning environment to learn how to sail or would enjoy going out on the Sonar sailboats for fun, the WOW series is for you. The Women's Committee is planning instruction on the water in good weather and at Belmont Station if weather conditions do not allow. Read the full story on page 16.

It Takes Verve to Sail in Chicago



By **SUSAN ARRA**, Photo by **MICHELE IDSTEIN**

Verve

vərv/

noun

1. An Energetic Style, Vigor and Spirit or Enthusiasm.
“The first boat effortlessly cruised across the finish line with verve and gusto.”
2. Synonyms: Energy, pep, dynamism, vitality, vivacity, buoyancy, animation, zest, sparkle, charisma, spirit, exuberance, life, gusto, eagerness, passion, zeal, relish, feeling, ardor, pizzazz, liveliness.
3. Antonyms: Apathy, lethargy

In Chicago, it takes energy and pep along with vitality, enthusiasm, spirit and passion to race against the strong competitors on Lake Michigan, regardless of the weather. It takes Verve!

In August, *verve* means even more to sailors, because for two weekends the Chicago Yacht Club hosts the Verve Cup Regatta on Lake Michigan.

The Verve Cup is the oldest trophy of the Chicago Yacht Club collection. It is named not for the regatta, but rather for a “Scotch Cutter” built in England and the winner of the Chicago Yacht Club’s Annual Regatta on July 12, 1884. The cup was brought out of storage in the spring of 1964 for an Invitational Race for Mackinac Race qualified offshore yachts. Promises of vigorous racing and a Saturday night dinner dance ensured tremendous participation. The success of that weekend created a tradition, and tales are still told of the races in the ensuing years.

The event evolved in the 70s from a single day of racing

on Saturday to a full weekend, including a party on Saturday night. In 1992, the Verve Cup was combined with the Kendall North race for a Saturday/Sunday series and became the Verve Cup Regatta. In 2010, it added a distance race and became the largest offshore course race regatta in North America. The event is now sailed over three days and takes place on three racing circles in Lake Michigan with a Chicago skyline as the backdrop. The competition includes offshore and inshore courses, as well as the distance race.

The 2015 Verve Cup Offshore Regatta will kick off Thursday, August 6 with a skippers’ meeting in the regatta tent. Races will be held on Friday through Sunday and parties promising spirit, pizzazz and liveliness (aka Verve) are planned on Friday and Saturday evenings. Over 200 boats and nearly 2,000 sailors, guests, race committee officials and judges are expected to participate and enjoy the festivities. This is a *must do* race for Chicago racers and a signature event for the Chicago Yacht Club.

Important Dates

- Offshore registration deadline: Early-June 19; Late-July 31
- Inshore registration deadline: August 7
- Verve Offshore: August 7-9
- Friday Party: August 7
- Distance Race: August 8
- Verve Inshore: August 22-23

What’s New

- Friday night party will celebrate Chicago and feature live music
- To participate in the Verve Inshore, skippers need to have US Sailing membership. ▶

Preview of the 24th Annual North American Challenge Cup

by **ANN RUNDLE**, photo by **MARC ANDERSON**

The Chicago Yacht Club has released the Notice of Race for the 2015 Chicago Yacht Club's North American Challenge Cup. This year marks the 24th year for the NACC, which will be held from Friday, July 31 to Monday, August 3 at Chicago Yacht Club's Belmont Station. Racing will be sailed in three classes of sailboats: the one-person 2.4mR, the two-person Freedom 20, and the three-person Sonar. The NACC begins with a pre-race clinic on Friday, conducted by US Sailing/Sperry Topsider Paralympic Coach Betsy Alison, followed by three days of competitive sailboat racing.

The Chicago Yacht Club created the NACC regatta in 1992 as part of its ongoing effort to bring world-class sailboat racing to Chicago and the Great Lakes. This regatta was one of the very first truly national regattas, bringing sailors from around the country, in addition to hosting international sailors as well. Over the years this event has become recognized as one of the "must do" regattas in the disabled racing circuit, and as a result has hosted many Paralympics competitors and medalists.

A look back over the list of past NACC winners and participants reads like a "who's who" of world champion disabled sailors. From the very first NACC regatta in 1992, won by the team of Robie Pierce & Nick Bryant Brown, the list includes many other well-known names, including winning sailors like John Ross-Dugan, Ken Kelly, Bob Jones, John McRoberts, Chris Murphy, Jim Leatherman, Paul Tingley, Brian McDonald, Brad Johnson, Jean-Paul Creignou, John Ruf, Nick Scandone, Maureen McKinnon-Tucker, Rick Doerr, Brad Kendall, Gerry Tiernan, Stacie Louttit, Sarah Everhart-Skeels, and Jennifer French, just to name a few. This list exemplifies the top caliber level of competitors who continue to compete at NACC, with teams coming from as far away as Japan, Israel, Ireland and Sweden, as well as teams from Canada, the East coast and West coast.

In addition to having some of the highest levels of competition, the NACC is known for including a one-day racing clinic to kick off the regatta, giving both novice and seasoned racing sailors the opportunity to learn new skills and techniques, as well as provide the opportunity for boat tune-ups and adjustments to ensure optimal sailing and crew work. Chicago's beautiful skyline serves as a magnificent backdrop for the pre-race clinic and three days of solid racing. The regatta offers a



good mix of new sailors and experienced sailors, with plenty of racing, as well as good parties and off-the-water enjoyment.

Longtime NACC winners express this sentiment best: "I want a good result while having fun with a friend and enjoying Chicago," said Ken Kelly. And his long-time crew Bob Jones agreed, "The NACC is a tradition and the opportunity to see people who I've become very familiar with over the years." ►

9 Things to Know about CYC Wednesday Night Racing in 2015

This spring, CYC announced a revamped Wednesday racing series – the Monroe Skyline Series. Starting May 20 through September, bring your friends and family out to sail quick, casual races and social activities afterward every Wednesday night. Here are nine things to know.

1. The name is changing to Wednesday Night Skyline Series.

We will do racing just like you've experienced on Wednesday nights, with a few changes. First, we selected a name that reflects what we actually do: spend the evening racing with Chicago's skyline as our backdrop (at sunset, no less), capping off the evening at the Club with food, drinks, friends, and Navy Pier's fireworks display. It's really about sharing this great Wednesday tradition with family, friends and newbies. Yes, we'll still be drinking beer out of cans, but that's just one aspect of what we do.

2. The racing will start and finish much closer to shore.

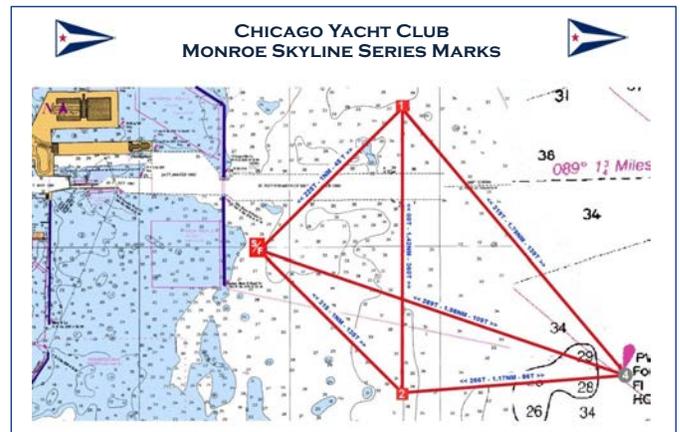
The Monroe Skyline Series starts and finishes a half mile northeast of the Monroe Harbor Breakwall light. The race course (shown here) is currently posted on the CYC registration page and will include a combination of marks to the north, south and east, including the 4 Mile Crib. Each Wednesday the actual course will be announced by the Race Committee boat before the starting sequence. Each course is designed to have all boats finished by 8:30 p.m.

3. Seasoned racers will be out there, but all levels of experience are welcome.

Several Mac Race winners started their racing 'careers' at the Wednesday night races. At one point, everyone was a newbie and beginner. Don't be too shy to ask for help or a little guidance; our CYC Offshore Race Chair Viviana Fanizzo will happily answer any of your questions and concerns. If you would prefer to go out on an experienced boat before taking your own crew out, we can arrange this, as well. Visit chicagoyachtclub.org/crewfinder to add your name to CYC's Crew Finder.

4. Wednesdays@CYC: competitive & fun racing, food, drink, awards, fireworks.

The first warning gun of the night will be 18:55, with starts every five minutes thereafter, and we anticipate all boats will be able to finish racing by 20:30. When you arrive at the Club, we'll have live music on the patio to go with your burgers, brats, beer or rum. Did we mention there will be Mount Gay rum? Mostly because sailors like Mount Gay rum... and red hats. After the night's racing prizes are handed out, racers can compete with a joke, funny story, or sing for an additional prize. Then the 9:30 fireworks will help put an exclamation point on your night.



5. Basically, there will be lots of prizes and awards.

Because winning things is fun. Mount Gay Rum prizes will be awarded to the boats with the best performance on the race course, but the rum must be shared equitably with your crew or you risk mutiny. Also, maybe some red hats will be tossed around the patio like Frisbees. Sometimes there will be beer awards, too. There will be many other prizes, for things unrelated to being first in a race, things like best family-filled boats and best newcomers. Come join us, especially if you like winning, fun, or prizes.

6. Bring the kids, the dog, the friend who's been asking to go sailing, and anyone else who loves being on the water.

Sailing should be enjoyed by those of all ages. With appropriate supervision, small children can enjoy the Skyline Series races. While pulling on lines and grinding winches requires some strength, most people can quickly learn how to handle many of the jobs on a race boat.

7. We're thinking 'outside the can,' so to speak

We will have racing just like you've known it in the past, but closer to shore and with more exciting courses. We'll also have two unique races on the schedule this year: Pursuit Races with a Harbor Start. These are unlike anything we've had in recent years. Friends and spectators will cheer skippers on as they're counted down by the CYC flagpole, then they rush to their boats, motor-sail to the outer break-wall, then sail around the crib and finish upon returning to the outer break-wall.

8. We will be able to score each boat, whether you have a rating or not.

If you don't have a PHRF Certificate, we have a committee in place that will determine a fair rating for your boat so you can participate.

9. Other nuggets of wisdom

➤ You can race in one of the full spinnaker racing sections, the jib and main only section, or you can race Cruising Class with a cruising spinnaker or a gennaker. We also welcome members of any other clubs, including Burnham Park, MORE, Chicago Corinthian, and others. The more the merrier.

➤ There will be many experienced racers out there. If you're less experienced, watch what they do and see how they make their way around the course. That is a great way to learn. ➤

CYC Foundation Accepting Applications for 2015 Grants

To support its mission, the Chicago Yacht Club Foundation offers grants in aid to Chicago area residents, age 8 up to pre-college.

Grants for eligible candidates are offered in two categories. The first of these is **Sailing Education**. This covers learn-to-sail and racing education. Neither the program for which assistance is being sought, nor the person applying need be associated in any way with Chicago Yacht Club.

The second grant category is **Regatta and Clinic Grants**. With these grants, candidates may apply for financial assistance with expenses related to regatta and clinic participation. As with Sailing education grants, assistance is given without consideration for affiliation with Chicago Yacht Club.

Applicants for either category must have their primary residence in the Chicago area, or must be seeking to attend a clinic or regatta in the Chicago area. Children from age 8 up to those who have not yet attended college are eligible to be considered for grants in either category. Additional details and specific requirements can be found at www.chicagoyachtclub.org/foundation. Applications may be submitted online or mailed. For more information, please contact grants@chicagoyachtclubfoundation.org. ➤

Save the Date for Our Third Annual Cruise Friday, June 26 through Sunday, June 28



The annual cruise is a Club tradition that brings together all our fleets. So all CYC members – cruisers, power boaters and racers – are invited to take part in our third annual Club Cruise to North Point Marina in Winthrop Harbor, Illinois. The cruise starts on Friday, June 26 with our power fleet predicted log and the Hamilton Cup for racing and cruising sailors. We'll have events, activities and parties planned throughout the weekend. Come celebrate what it means to be part of our CYC family. Watch *Dock Lines* for more information coming soon. ➤

CYC Opti Team Winter Travel

By **DUSTIN DOMER, HEAD OPTI COACH**

The Chicago Yacht Club's Opti team had three members attend the annual Orange Bowl Regatta at Coral Reef Yacht Club in Miami, Florida. This has generally been a regatta where send our older 420 sailors, but with our new energized young group of sailors, they couldn't wait until the spring to get back on the water.

This year, 287 Optis attended the Orange Bowl from 27 different states and 23 countries. Our three sailors competed in the Green Fleet alongside 69 other competitors. The Green Fleet is for the newer sailors to get a taste of racing and also receive very close coaching in order to help them advance to the next level. Head Opti Coach Dustin Domer believes Orange Bowl has the largest Green Fleet in the country, and there is no other regatta that allows a 7 year old to start on a line with 70 other boats.

The three CYC sailors who attended were Christian Prendergast, Peter Barnard and Charlie Gallagher. Charlie, who was only 7 at the time of the event was arguably one of the youngest sailors at the entire Orange Bowl. The green fleet got in 12 races throughout four days experiencing very light and challenging conditions for the entire event. Our sailors have never experienced a large fleet like this and learned valuable lessons about starting with big fleets and how to manage the fleet and the course at the same time. After the event, Peter, Charlie and Christian's results were 38th, 46th, and 47th respectively. The sailors learned a lot and are very excited to get back on the water.

The Opti team's next big trip will be the last weekend of March. They will be traveling back to Coral Reef to compete in the Spring Fling regatta. This regatta is serving as a warm up event for the US National Team Trial regatta which will be held in Miami in May. There will be upward of 100 Optis at this event from around the country. The same three sailors will be attending with the addition of Greg Wooton, one of CYC's older Opti sailors. It will be exciting to be able to put everything learned at Orange Bowl to use at Spring Fling. 🚩



CYC Race Committee Stays Warm Over the Winter

Story and photos by **JANET BAXTER, RC CHAIR**

Last fall we celebrated the 2014 season with an appreciation dinner. The theme, Denim & Diamonds, brought out the bling and some terrific outfits as we shared great food and some laughs. (See photos on page 33 in CY-Scene.) Congratulations to the award winners. It's never too early to nominate for 2015, so write down those quotes and keep the video cameras rolling.

But winter is not all play; getting ready for the 2015 season starts before we put the boats away in the fall. Schedules! Scheduling all of our events around the weather, holidays and other club activities is no small feat and our On-the-Water Director Jay Kehoe has his hands full fitting the pieces into the calendar. Just keeping everyone informed of conflicts and changes could be a full-time job.

While all that is going on, our Race Documents Team comes together to determine what's new for 2015 and decide on protocols for the events and the documents. Then each event on the schedule is reviewed. We start with what worked and what didn't in the prior year. Working with the regatta or series chair, we edit and edit and edit. The Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions are prepared together, although we don't publish the SIs until right before the event. This reduces the number of amendments, but things are always changing and the intrepid Race Documents team keeps the documents up to date.

This winter, we've documented roles and responsibilities and spent lots of time talking about how to keep track of all our volunteers. We have more than 130 people interested and we need to engage each person in that group, as well as recruit more volunteers. Our Race Coordinator Sean Ellis has been our communications point, and we wish him luck with his move to California. While we will miss his enthusiasm and creativity, we welcome Karen Paquin to this role.

And the RC training continues. We sold out the Basic Race Management seminar in February and have an educational session at each of our monthly meetings. The April RC Refresher is held annually and provides sessions in safety, mark setting, weather, and many skills needed to run a successful race. Our new recruits especially benefit from this jam-packed day, and we have a special track for those with lots of experience.

In January, CYC was part of the Sailing World Cup,



Jay Kehoe puts the marks away at the end of the day, but it looks like the mark can put itself away.



One of CYC's new boats heading in and deflating marks after the event.

Miami. Over 800 of the world's best sailors raced the ten Olympic and three Paralympic classes. Two of our boats were used for Race Committee and several of our volunteers were assisting on the water. We do this to learn more about running top level events, to support US Sailing, and to have fun! Seven long days, but well worth it.

There are many opportunities to help on the Race Committee. We are on the water from March through mid-November and during the summer we run races for three or more events each week. If you are interested in joining the fun, contact the racecoordinator@chicagoyachtclub.org or check out the RC pages on the CYC website. ▶

CYC Adds Racing Back to Independence Day

By **MATT GALLAGHER, LEIF SIGMOND, AND JAY KEHOE**



One of the great strengths of the Chicago Yacht Club Race to Mackinac is its consistency. The same course is run year after year, and generations of sailors from around the Great Lakes and around the world have experienced the pleasures and challenges of sailing on Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. But consistency is also one of the great challenges for the race's organizers. How do they keep the race interesting and attract new challengers to come to the Great Lakes in the summer? How do they keep it exciting and yet honor the traditions of the past?

This year, we created the Chicago Yacht Club Grand Prix Invitational, a High Performance Rule (HPR) regatta to be held the week before the Chicago-Mackinac Race. The Grand Prix is intended to provide another reason for all sailing friends on all the other coasts to bring their boats to the Great Lakes for a summer of racing.

CYC intends to run it in odd-numbered years. In those years, the Chicago-Mackinac Race is the first of the two great races to Mackinac (they alternate which race is first with their friends at the Bayview Yacht Club). Running the CYC Grand Prix over a holiday weekend this year allows three days of racing and offers racers' friends and family a practically-unlimited set of opportunities to enjoy Chicago.

An owner could bring his or her boat to Chicago at the beginning of July and have an entire season of great racing on the Great Lakes: The Grand Prix (July 3-5); the Chicago-Mackinac Race (July 11); the Bayview Mackinac Race (July 18); The Harbor Springs Ugotta Regatta; and the Verve Cup in August.

The Chicago Yacht Club Grand Prix will be run under the HPR rule for Farr 40s, Swan 42s, TP52s and other boats with an HPR rating. It will combine three days of great round-the-buoy racing in Chicago with the traditional distance challenge of the Chicago-Mackinac Race. Entrants in the Grand Prix will compete for the Grand Prix trophy under the HPR rule using a combination of their buoy-racing performance and their performance in the Chicago-Mackinac Race.

Simultaneously, they will be competing in the Chicago-Mackinac Race under ORR. CYC is working with the developers of the HPR rule to make it as easy and inexpensive as possible to obtain an HPR rating for competing boats. See the Notice of Race for more details; in some circumstances, an introductory HPR certificate may even be free.

For those entering into the Grand Prix, Chicago Yacht Club will provide overlay HPR scoring in the Chicago-



The centerpiece of the racing season in Chicago is the 107th Chicago Yacht Club Race to Mackinac presented by Wintrust. Early demand for the race is high, with over 300 boats already entered at the beginning of April and likely more to come. This annual tradition is the signature event of the Chicago Yacht Club and is the most prestigious freshwater distance race in the world. The Mac draws sailors from around the Great Lakes and around the world annually for the challenge of 333 miles of distance racing, finishing at Mackinac Island, MI. Boats competing in the Grand Prix will also race in the Mac as the distance part of their race, and those boats entering the Supermac will start on the line with their Mac competitors and will continue on past the finish line to complete the Supermac. All three races are supported by hundreds of CYC member volunteers.

Mackinac Race to calculate HPR fleet Grand Prix results, and they'll still compete under ORR for the Mackinac Cup and Trophy.

The emphasis in the Grand Prix will be providing top-quality racing and fun social events for the racers and their families. The Grand Prix will be run out of Chicago Yacht Club's Belmont Station.

CYC is known for providing a great product for racers, both on and off the water, and the Grand Prix Regatta is intended to extend that experience, especially for those who choose to bring their boats to the Great Lakes for the summer.

"It was a good way to finish Opti sailing at our Club." ►

Going the Distance in the Super Mac

By **JIM MURRAY**

For some participants in this year's 107th Chicago Yacht Club Race to Mackinac, 333 miles is just the beginning.

The summer of 2015 will see the return of the longest competitive freshwater yacht race in the world to the waters of Lakes Michigan and Huron. First held in the 1970s, and last run in 2009, the "Super Mac" tops the charts at an astonishing 568 statute miles. Starting off Chicago's Monroe Harbor, the contestants (all of whom will be simultaneously competing in the Chicago Mac) will first sail to Mackinac Island via the traditional course.

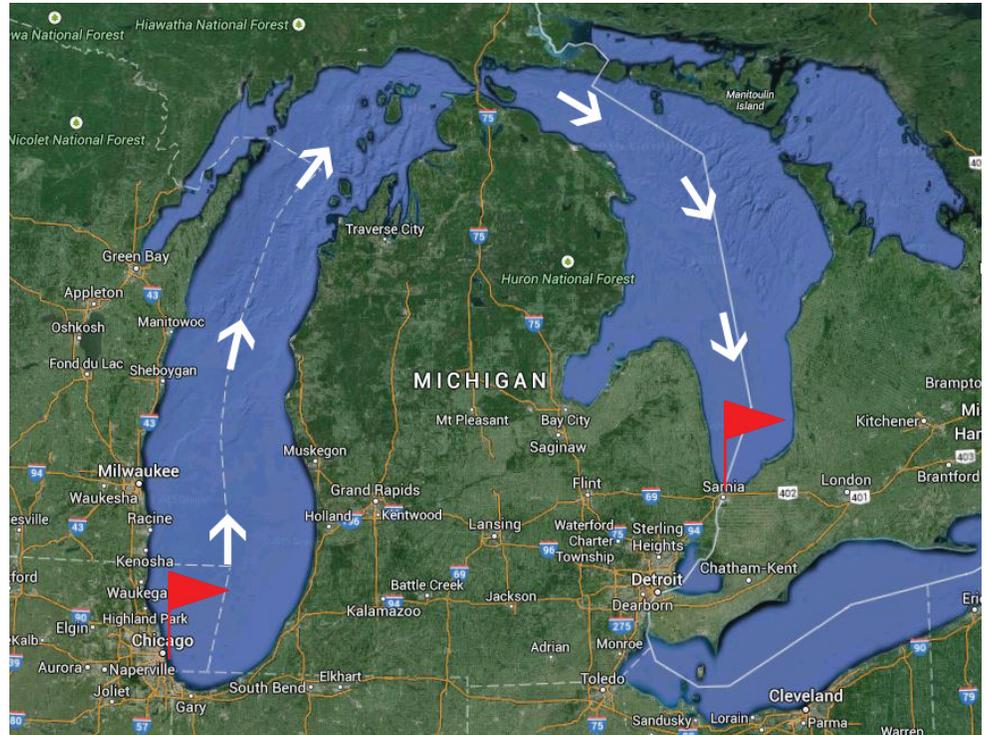
While most of the fleet will make port there and enjoy some well-earned rest, the Super Mac yachts will cross the Round Island finish line and keep right on going. Leaving Bois Blanc Island to starboard, they will emerge from the eastern end of the Straits of Mackinac into northern Lake Huron. Heading south, hugging the eastern shore of the Lower Peninsula, they will follow the 'Shore Course' used by the Bell's Beer Bayview Mackinac Race to a finish off Port Huron.

And if that weren't enough of a trial, most of them will turn around in 48 hours and race back to the Island as part of the 91st running of the Bayview Mac.

How long is this race exactly? Five hundred sixty-eight miles is the equivalent of sailing from Chicago to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Put another way, a boat that averages six knots over the entire course (a healthy average speed for most competitors) and sails the rhumb line exactly would take over 80 hours to complete the Super Mac. Forget about a Monday finish, or even making it to the Pink Pony by closing on Tuesday – a Super Mac crew is hoping to make it to Port Huron by Wednesday morning.

An easier way to put it – the Super Mac is more comparable to the Newport-Bermuda (635 miles), the Sydney-Hobart (630 miles) and the Fastnet (608 miles) than it is to any other freshwater regatta.

Competing in the Super Mac is a rigorous undertaking. The roughly five-day elapsed time allows for greater



variation in weather conditions, adverse currents, and of course, many many more flies. Two more nights on the water will add to the crew's sleep deficit, tax the ship's stores, and create more wear-and-tear on sails and rigging alike.

"We're incredibly excited to be collaborating with our friends at Bayview Yacht Club to bring back this one-of-a-kind event," said Matt Gallagher, chairman of the 107th Chicago Yacht Club Race to Mackinac. "This is a bucket-list race for competitive sailors in the U.S. and around the world, and we're looking forward to welcoming a world-class group of participants."

Gallagher and his counterpart at Bayview, Peter Wenzler, have begun work with their teams on a Notice of Race, which they expect to release shortly. While over 300 yachts regularly compete in the Chicago Mac, and over 200 go to the line for the Bayview Mac, expectations are that the Super Mac fleet will be significantly smaller.

"The last running saw about 30 entries, and we would expect to see a couple of dozen boats mount a campaign this summer," said Gallagher.

Regardless of the outcome, this will definitely be a race to remember.

Find out more about the Super Mac at cycracetomackinac.com. ▶

Spotlight on CYC's High School Sailing Program

By BAILEY CORNOG



Every day during the fall and spring seasons, starting around 3:30 in the afternoon, Belmont Station is filled with young, motivated, and inspired sailors. High school students come from all over the Chicago area to practice and compete at the Chicago Yacht Club. The junior barge becomes filled with backpacks and gear bags as the coaches outline the drills for the day. In no time, the lake is filled with two dozen dinghies as well as half-dozen Sonars and coach boats.

High school sailing is the fastest growing segment of the sport, and luckily Chicago Yacht Club is home to one of the premier programs in the country. Home to six different high school teams, three full time coaches, and a fleet of 24 420s, CYC is recognized as one of the best. High school sailing is both a fall and spring sport, with the fall as more of a training season and the spring as more of a championship season. Run out of Belmont Station under the direction of Bobby Collins, the program has grown to include over 110 sailors.

New Trier High School, St. Ignatius College Prep, Latin Academy, Hinsdale Central High School, Walter Payton College Prep, and the Rickover Academy all have teams through CYC. While sailors compete wearing their own schools colors, everyone still practices together, sharing coaching and learning experiences.

There are three different levels of high school sailing within the CYC program: Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Freshman/Sophomore. Sailors are assessed based on their skills at tryouts held at the beginning of each season.

- *The Freshman/Sophomore team* is designed for younger

sailors who show interest and potential, but still have a lot of skills to develop. This team practices three times a week, twice a week in the Sonars and once a week in the 420s.

- *The Junior Varsity team* is for those sailors who are passionate and have some experience, however are not quite at the top competitive level yet. JV practices three times a week in 420s, and participates in some regattas over the weekends.

- *The Varsity Team* is for those sailors who are experienced, hardworking, and driven to continue to improve. Varsity also practices three times a week in 420s, and participates in regattas most weekends during the season.

Due to popularity of all three teams, the Club has reached its full capacity for the high school program. Sailing School Director Bobby Collins noted: "We are looking at creative solutions to the capacity issue, such as staggering practices, using college coaches, and other ideas. Meanwhile, we are encouraging anyone interested in high school sailing to get started in the summer so they can develop their basic skills more quickly."

High school sailing has two major types of racing: fleet racing and team racing. In the spring, there are regional qualifiers to attend both the Mallory Fleet Race Championship and the Baker Team Race Championship. As members of the Midwest Interscholastic Sailing Association (MISSA), the top two teams qualify to compete for the Mallory Trophy, and only the top team qualifies to compete for the Baker Trophy. With three of our high school teams ranked in the top 10 of the district,

sailors and coaches work very hard for the chance to represent their schools and CYC at these national events.

This Memorial Day Weekend, CYC will host the prestigious Baker Team Race National Championship. With 12 of the top high school sailing teams in the country in attendance, it is a weekend guaranteed to be filled with some spectacular racing. All seven districts that comprise the Interscholastic Sailing Association (ISSA) have slightly different qualifying rounds to get to the championship. For MISSA, there are two qualifying regattas. MISSA is broken down into three regions, Central, East, and West, and each region holds a pre-qualifier in which only the top three or four teams qualify for the actual qualifier later in the month. CYC will be hosting the Central pre-qualifier the weekend of May 2. The level of sailing to get to this national championship is incredibly high, and CYC with the beautiful Chicago skyline as a backdrop is the perfect venue for the event. The Junior Board will be hosting an event on May 23 for those interested in the high school program. Come out and see the future of sailing with these outstanding young sailors!

Sailor Spotlight

Christian Koules has been part of the CYC junior sailing program for many years. He started his sailing career in the beginner Pram class over 10 years ago. Since then, he has been an active member of the CYC junior



sailing program, participating in both the summer and high school seasons. Christian began his high school sailing career the spring of his freshman year, where he was a member of the freshman/sophomore team. By the fall of his sophomore year, Christian had made the varsity team and has been competing at a high level ever since. "Sailing has been a huge part of my life for many years, and joining the high school team has been a great way to continue pursuing the sport. Getting to be a part of a competitive team has been a great experience for me. Something I have really enjoyed about high school sailing is the regattas and all of the people you get to know."

Off the water, Christian is a member of the junior activities board and was CYC's Junior Commodore. This past summer, Christian was awarded for his hard work with Sollitt Trophy for good sportsmanship. ➤

An advertisement for the Chicago Yacht Club's summer apparel. It features a blue background with a white and blue compass rose graphic. In the top left, there is a photo of a sailboat on the water with the Chicago skyline in the background. Below that, two pairs of sunglasses are shown: one in pink and one in purple. A woman in a blue sleeveless polo shirt and khaki pants is standing in the center. The text "GET READY FOR SUMMER AT CHICAGO YACHT CLUB" is written in a large, outlined font at the top. Below that, another line of text says "NEW CYC APPAREL WILL BE AVAILABLE IN OUR SUMMER CATALOG COMING SOON". At the bottom right, it says "VISIT US AT HTTP://CYC.YACHTCLUBSHOP.ORG TO SHOP NOW!".

GET READY FOR SUMMER
AT CHICAGO YACHT CLUB

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TO SHOP NOW!

HOLIDAYS AT CYC

photos by **CHRIS ALBANIS, MD, FAY JENSON, SUSAN KANTOR AND LOU SANDOVAL**

Each December, the Club is transformed into a winter wonderland on Lake Michigan. This year, Mr. and Mrs. Claus arrived by water to greet all the CYC youngsters on the “nice” list during the Children’s Holiday Parties. The Associates threw the tackiest sweater party. Commodore and Mrs. Bober hosted a grand Commodore’s Open House to celebrate the year with CYC members. And members rang in 2015 with a rockin’ New Year’s Eve party at Monroe.





PINK PONY PARTY photos by FAY JENSON

CYC members and Mac racers kicked off the 107th Chicago Yacht Club Race to Mackinac with the annual Pink Pony Party on January 17. Yachts and yachts of fun at Belmont Station!



RACE COMMITTEE APPRECIATION DINNER

photos by **CHRIS ALBANIS, MD**

CYC was covered in bling for "Diamonds & Denim," the 2014 Race Committee Appreciation Dinner.



RACE TO MACKINAC AWARDS CELEBRATION photos by MISTE PHOTOGRAPHY

On Saturday, November 1, Club members, skippers, crew members and Mac fans gathered at Monroe Station to toast the teams, trophies and traditions of the 106th Chicago Yacht Club Race to Mackinac.



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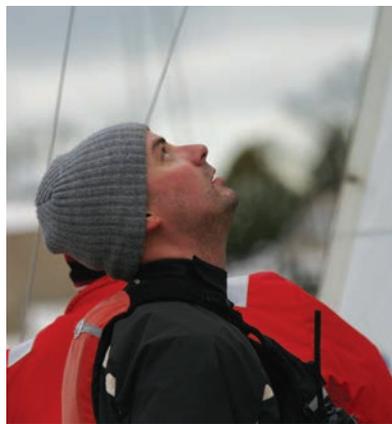


©MISTE Photogra



INTERCOMMITTEE CHALLENGE photos by CHUCK NEVEL

On Saturday, October 18, CYC committee members competed in the second annual Intercommittee Challenge in the Club's Sonars. The Associates, Keelboat, Mac, Offshore, Race, Sonar and Trophy Committees battled it out in chilly October temperatures. Congratulations to the Mac Committee, winner of the 2014 Intercommittee Challenge!



ST. PATRICK'S DAY photos by RAY GOBLE AND EVELYN O'DONNELL

The CYC Juniors and Sea Scouts did a great job decorating our float and representing the Chicago Yacht Club in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 14.



Membership

New Members:

Regular

John Bruno — Executive Vice President at Aon. John and his wife, Carol, have two sons, Michael and Anthony, and they reside in New Jersey. John owns a Formula 35, *Elocin*, and looks forward to joining our boating community.

Bob Hillier — Owner at Line Honors in Lake Geneva, WI. Bob and his wife, Erika, have three sons, Carson, Finn and Trip, all with a genuine interest in sailing. The Hilliers look forward to continuing to be a part of the many traditions and community at the Club.

Kathleen Miles — Treasurer at FGM Architects in Oak Brook. Kathleen owns a 31' Beneteau, *Tethys*, in DuSable. She looks forward to actively sailing and participating in Club events. While in San Francisco she led a prominent women's sailing group.

Jason Shilson — Attorney at O'Keefe, Lyons & Hynes LLC. Resides in Chicago with his wife, Carol, and their son, Connor (6). Carol is the Executive Director of Celiac Disease Center at The University of Chicago. They own a 33' sailboat, *Aegier*, in Belmont.

Amy Schwartz — Project Manager at United Healthcare. Resides in Chicago. Has been a volunteer on the CYC Race Committee for two years. She has had the opportunity to volunteer on Mac Island for the Race to Mackinac and is looking forward to officially becoming a member of CYC.

John Vratstranis — Managing Director, Transaction Analytics. John is a long-time sailor who is looking to get involved in the Race Committee and other opportunities to get out on the water.

Associates

Morgan Bailey — Global Account Manager at Logicalis in Downers Grove. Morgan looks forward to meeting new members and attending more events at CYC.

Jeremiah Buss — Owner of Custom Granular, Inc. Resides in Richmond, IL. Owns a 27' power boat and 47' sailboat, *Bliss*, in Waukegan Harbor. Has sailed in a variety of club races this year and looks forward to becoming active at CYC this spring.

Michael Dannecker — Underwriter — Environmental at XL Insurance Company. Michael has over 10 years of racing experience in one-design classes and owns a 30' Etchells, *China Girl*, in Belmont and a 24' J/24, *Entourage*.

Igor Fedulov — CEO at Intersog, Inc. Resides in Chicago with his wife, Natalia, and four children. Owns a 37' sailboat, *Enchantee*, in 31st Street Harbor. Excited for his children to learn to sail and he hopes to also sail the Mac in the future.

Ian Gordon — Associate Vice President at Ironwood Capital Management. Ian and his wife, Avery, are relocating from San Francisco to Chicago. Over the past few years, Ian has been racing J/105s. They both look forward to meeting new friends and joining the CYC community.

Greg Grose — Investment Analyst at Geller Investment Co and resides in Chicago. Greg has grown up sailing optis and lasers. He has sailed in three Mac races since moving to Chicago.

Kellee Miller — Dentist at Alan Kushner & Associates and resides in Chicago. Her family has a Beneteau, *Tranquillite*, at 31st Street Harbor. Kellee is looking forward to team racing this year at CYC.

James Suprenant — Director at William Blair and Company. He and his wife, Heidi, recently moved to Chicago from Baltimore where they were members at Eastport Yacht Club. The couple recently welcomed a new daughter, Sophie, in June and look forward to joining the community at CYC.

Maria Uspenskaya — Currently attending DePaul University and resides in Chicago. Maria looks forward to getting involved with the Associates Committee and enhancing her on-the-water knowledge with lessons.

Captain Todd Williamson — President/Owner at Broad Reach Sailing. Todd and his wife, Holly, have two sons, Jonah and Michael, who participate in our junior sailing programs. Todd owns two Dufour cruise boats, *Lily* at Burnham and *Peony* at Belmont.

Juniors

Evan Fallon

Bridget Groble

Raymond H. Groble

Grace Kiergan

Aiden Kiergan

Molly Kiergan

Anthony Kolton

Anna Rhodes

Michael Rivkin

Becca Rose

Anne Samis

Ben Spring

Mandy Watson

Cameron Wright

Member Milestones:

REGULAR TO VETERAN STATUS

John Bodenmann
Dr. Anthony Geroulis
William O'Brien
Thomas O'Laughlin
Richard Stephenson
Richard Stuckey

VETERAN I - II

Edward McNulty
Oscar Reid
Thomas Pado

VETERAN II – III

Robert Allen
Michael Kamerlink
John Marquardt
Thomas Mason
Stephen Schiller
George Thein
Walter "Gibby" Vartan
Bernard Wiczner

In Memoriam:

Carolyn Barrett
Commodore Homer J. Livingston
John Paisios
Joseph Tecson
Olive Meyers
Robert Bilhorn
T. Paul O'Donovan
Thomas E. Leonard

Share Your News with the Club

Do you have a milestone in your career or family that you'd like to share? Get engaged or married? Welcome a baby to your family? Earn a promotion at work?

We'd love to hear about it. Send all member news (and photos, too) to communications@chicagoyachtclub.org to submit for consideration in the *Blinker* and *Dock Lines*.

Reserve your social event at Chicago Yacht Club –

A wonderful on-the-water dining experience!

As a member or sponsored by one, we are here to plan your social and office parties and business events. Our team will provide quality food and beverage along with outstanding detailed service.

Contact our Food & Beverage Department at 312.861.7777 for more information.



from Vignocchi wedding

The Chicago Yacht Club is Proud to Announce

WINTTRUST®

As Presenting Sponsor of the
107th Chicago Yacht Club Race to Mackinac

July 10-11, 2015

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