

LAKE MICHIGAN YACHTING ASSOCIATION



www.lmya.net

LMYA Annual Meeting Scheduled

Special points of interest:

- LMYA Annual Meeting set
- Major Pollution Spill affects Lake
- Tom Dogan's Reports from NBF meetings
- South Milwaukee YC junior sailing program expands
- Lock Closures and Repairs in 2019
- Top of the lake Tour

The Annual Meeting of the LMYA has been scheduled for November 16th, 2019 to be held at South Shore Yacht Club in Milwaukee. The club is located at 2300 East Nock Street.

The meeting will begin at noon with roll call followed by a luncheon which is free to all who attend. The agenda includes reports from the three regions, the commodores

report on the cyanide lawsuit, and elections of officers for next year. Any members in good standing, LMYA delegates, and Commodores of member yacht clubs are invited to attend. Please RSVP to , Jim Mergener, LMYA secretary at jsmgener@gmail.com if you wish to attend.

The Bridge—2019
Commodore: Thomas Dogan
Vice Commodore: Matt Dogan
Secretary : Jim Mergener
Treasurer : Sally Mergener
Past Comm: Scott Robertson
Judge Advocate: Tom Dogan

State Rear Commodores:
WI : Jim Mergener
IL: Wade Schroder
MI/IN: Christine Hunt

Our Post Office Box:

LMYA Secretary

P.O. Box 631

Germantown, WI

Major Pollution Spill into the Lake

A large steel Mill in Indiana, ArcelorMittal Burns Harbor, LLC, has been found to have illegally discharged a large amount of cyanide and ammonia nitrogen into the Little Calumet River which feeds into Burns Waterway and then into Lake Michigan. The spill was the result of a failure of their blast furnace water recirculation system. It occurred on August 11th but was not reported until August 14th.

The cyanide spill poisoned about three thousand fish and some birds which died and floated into the Burns Waterway from the Little Calumet River. The incident led to a one week closure of four public beaches, marinas and yacht clubs, one state park, one national park, and other public places. Vessel traffic at the Port of Indiana was also paused until the oil spill could

be cleaned up. The plant also has a history of other ammonia liquor spills and oil spills dating from February of this year.

A Notice of Clean Water Act Violations has been initiated by Dogan & Dogan law firm to address claims by over 100 plaintiffs and to bring about a better discharge monitoring system to protect the public from future spills which went unreported for four days by the steel company.

LMYA has joined in sponsoring this suit and will make a major contribution to the fund to hire expert witnesses who can testify at the trial regarding the toxic effects of the discharged materials and what type of monitoring system should be developed to keep this problem from reoccurring and going unreported for such a long

time. The LMYA feels that it is important for our association to take action to protect our lake and beaches from dangerous pollution and to encourage lawmakers to make changes to the existing system of "self-monitoring" which allow industries to escape detection on spills or cover up the results of their actions.

Our concerns are for public safety and protection of the lake which we all use to recreate, fish, and engage in outdoor activities on the lake front.

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Tom Dogan's Reports from the NBF

Tom reports from his meetings with the National Boating Federation that they have concentrated on two issues of high importance to recreational boaters.

The first is the recent EPA approval of **year round sales of E15 ethanol fuels**. A recently released Department of Energy study of the effects of using E15 fuel in marine engines found that some engines were so badly damaged the tests could not be completed. Other components

were badly corroded and exhaust emissions were shown to increase. Although most marinas don't sell E15 fuel, many boaters who trailer their boats fill up their tanks at local roadside gas stations which can lead to major engine damage.

The President has signed the Water Infrastructure Act into law which provides for easier access to waterways and parks through rebuilding roads, ramps and bridges. Broadband access will also be improved.

Lock Closures coming in 2020

Illinois Rear Commodore Wade Schroder reports that many of the locks along the Illinois River are still under repair. The Army Corps of Engineers will have to shut down several locks for up to 80 days next summer for repairs. Both Marseilles and Ottawa Locks will be full closed from Sept 21 through Oct. 5th. In 2020, others will be closed for periods of time Starting July 1st at Peoria, LaGrange, and Starved Rock, and July 6th at Marsailles,

Keith Ponath reports that the locks on the Fox River are pretty much completed but the "dry lock" which involves either raising boats with a boat lift then using a washing station or else a washing chamber has yet to be started. It is still in the planning stages. LMYA has been monitoring this lock repair project for several years in hopes that the Fox River will be reopened to boaters from Green Bay to Lake Winnebago.

New Community Sailing Program at SMYC

South Milwaukee Yacht Club has expanded its junior sailing program to several high schools in the area to teach more youngsters how to sail. South Milwaukee, Cudahy, and Oak Creek high schools were given the chance to have sailing classes once a week for four weeks.

Ryan Rybka, who runs the program said "It was amazing how the kids handled situations when

under pressure and watching their parents freak out not knowing how sailboats work." The classes used 16 foot open boats which hold two to four people. These small boats went right out into the lake which could be a bit scary at first.

The kids had a great time and want to return next year for more sailing. Some of the parents even showed interest in becoming

associate members of the yacht club. The success of the program has inspired many new ideas on how to expand these activities next year. Ryan hopes to grow the club's sailboat fleet and set up morning and afternoon classes. Another idea is to use paid instructors and charge participants to cover the costs. It is really a wholesome summer activity for kids in the area.

Linda Daly—SMYC



A Top of the Lake Tour

We just completed a tour of the top half of Lake Michigan and visited some familiar places. We crossed the lake by RV on the S.S. Badger, the coal-fired steamship. We have done trips around the top of the lake several years ago staying at marinas with our 34 foot boat, but this time we wanted to see the same cities from the land side. The lake is beautiful whether you are

cruising across it, swimming in it, or driving past it.

We visited Ludington, the beaches of Sleeping Bear Dunes, Frankfort, Traverse Bay, Charlevoix, Bay Shore Yacht Club, Petosky, Mackinac City, the Mackinac Bridge, Sault Saint Marie, and the Sault locks. After a side trip to Canada to ride the Agawa Canyon railroad, we went

along the shores of lake Superior to Munising, Pictured Rocks National Seashore, then back to Lake Michigan for Gladstone, Escanaba, Cedar River, Green Bay, and Door County. Without the boat, we only missed Beaver Island and Fayette.

There is so much to see on our big lake—rugged shorelines, sparkling beaches, waves, no matter how you get there. Enjoy.

Jim and Sally Mergener

