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News on Tom Dogan's Lawsuit on Pollution Spills

Tom Dogan, Commodore of the LMYA, has recently filed a major lawsuit on behalf of LMYA and other plaintiffs including Portage Port Authority, KLM Dunes, Portage Public Marina, Marquette Yacht Club, Marina Shores at Dunes Harbor, and several individuals who live along the shores of the Indiana coastline of Lake Michigan. The suit concerns discharging of two toxic pollutants - cyanide and ammonia - into the Little Calumet River which empties through Burns Waterway directly into Lake Michigan. The company responsible, ArcelorMittal

USA, was sold to Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. which will now be responsible to answer the charges in the suit. These dangerous pollutants were spilled out of their steel mill during the steel production process due to negligence in maintaining their equipment. The spill was not reported to the state or local authorities until at least four days after they occurred. Once the spill was discovered, public beaches were closed for four days, Indiana Dunes National Park was likewise closed,

and boaters from yacht clubs and marinas in the area were restricted from their normal activities due to the polluted water conditions. In addition thousands of fish were killed which washed up on the area beaches and river banks. The pollutants also required closing of the drinking water intake for the town of Ogden Dunes which draws water from the lake. LMYA has been lead sponsor of the suit which seeks improvements in the plant equipment, operating changes to reduce potential pollution, and

creation of better controls of the chemicals that are being used so no future dangerous spills will occur. Some monetary civil damages are sought.

At this time, the steel mill has hired a law firm that has handled several pollution suits in the past and brings their experience to the defense against the charges. Tom estimates that they now have 50 lawyers to his 2, but our case is strong. There are a lot of questions to be answered before the case goes to court, but Tom is confident we can prevail.

Spreader—the Name We Use in LMYA

Special points of interest:

- Spreader—the name
- Lawsuit on Pollution
- Summer at SMYC
- Dave Tucholka Tribute
- Annual Meeting—Dues to Continue at Reduced Level

What's in the name of the Spreader? Our Spreader is actually good for you.

Since Covid came around, Dr. Fauci came up with the term Super Spreader which refers to events where many people gather and

the virus could spread easily among them.

Something to be avoided certainly. Never fear, our newsletter the Spreader won't make anyone sick. The term Spreader we use comes from sailing terminology where it is a metal

stay attached to a mast which keeps the supporting connection cables in place. We have been using this term for many years as a distributor of the latest LMYA information to our membership. Our Spreader is safe, and deserves to be read regularly.

LMYA Annual Meeting Report

The annual meeting of the LMYA was conducted by Zoom conference this year as a result of the Covid pandemic which is continuing. Eleven people attended and contributed to the discussions. Reports from the three regions covered the breakwater activity at South Shore in Milwaukee, the lock and dam repairs in the Illinois River at Starved

Rock and Marseilles, and the busy marinas in Indiana this past summer.

Commodore Tom Dogan called in from his boat which was being prepared for storage. Since filing the lawsuit against the Steel Mill, the mill has hired a law firm that has handled many environmental spill complaints, and they tried

to get the case dismissed before it could go to court. The firm has between 50 and 100 lawyers so there were many questions that have to be answered before the case goes to trial. Tom may want to expand the case to add another steel mill, USX, which recently spilled hexavalent chromium in

the same area. Tom requested a donation of funds to his defense team to add extra paralegals to answer these necessary questions. His request was approved.

The secretary, Jim, reported that enrollments for members were high—97% renewed their memberships, and clubs had a 94% renew-

Board Approves Plan to Extend the Dues Holiday

At the annual meeting in November, the LMYA board approved a motion to extend the dues holiday which was in effect last year for at least one more year. Dues had been reduced because the pandemic had caused us to curtail many of our social events last year, and we felt that clubs were under a lot of financial strains. Those conditions are still in effect. Normal dues of \$45/yr were cut back to \$30 for members, and yacht club dues were reduced from \$150/yr to just \$100. We felt it was important to help out our members in these trying times.

Board Approves Splitting Region

The Board approved a motion to split the Indiana/Michigan Region into two separate regions beginning in 2022. The single region was created several years ago because of the number of yacht clubs and members being smaller than either Wisconsin or Illinois. We now feel it is time to make this into two regions so that added emphasis can be placed on the two areas. Taking over the Indiana Region will be the new Rear Commodore Barb Lusco, who has been a member of the board for many years in an at large capacity. Barb will bring her experience in the LaPorte and Marquette Yacht Clubs to help us grow our membership.

Our Post Office Box:

LMYA Secretary
P.O. Box 631
Germantown,
WI, 53022

LMYA Officers for 2022

Commodore: Thomas Dogan
Vice Commodore: Matthew Dogan
Secretary: Jim Mergener
Treasurer: Sally Mergener
Judge Advocate: Thomas Dogan



Summer 2021 at South Milwaukee Yacht Club

Our club is largely about fishing, so starting in May we had our first fishing contest and continued with one contest a month through September. Most popular are the Four Day Fishing Contest that the men like, and the Powder Puff Contest for the ladies. As always, there is a board in the clubhouse with the weight of the largest fish caught in several species: chinook, coho, laker, rainbow trout and brown trout—listed by the name of the boat which caught the fish. This board was happily updated throughout the summer.

Coming slowly out of the pandemic, socializing is

starting to pick up at our club. We celebrated the club's anniversary entitled "70 + 1" this August because there was supposed to be a 70th year bash last year. Delaying the celebration made it even more special. This included steak night on Friday and a pig roast on Saturday. Also on Saturday there were games for the kids and raffles. There was a band concert Saturday evening with *Big Spoon*. To top off, a hangover breakfast was served on Sunday morning.

Not as big as before the pandemic, but still done

in style, was our slip shots event. This year it was called Christmas in September. Boat owners crafted interesting drinks and served a snack right at their pier. These attending moved from one Christmas decorated boat to the next around the entire marina, socializing and comparing offerings. There were prizes for the best decorated boat, best snack, and ugliest sweater.

As we entered into Fall, there was a Trunk and Treat event with many happy kids in great costumes. The kids went from one decorated open car trunk to the next

bagging treats. Even adults were in costume—one as a plague doctor from the 14th century bubonic plague, reminding us that we are just emerging from our own health scare.

To round the year out, the club's tree event in December featured an ornament contest. Most ornaments were fishing themed but any ornament was acceptable. The Christmas trees in the clubhouse hold ornaments going back many years.

Submitted by Linda Daly

Life Member David Tucholka Passes Away in August

. With great sadness we report the passing of David Tucholka, Life Member of LMYA. In his years of participation with Dave was one of our strongest supporters. He and his wife, Nancy, organized and ran the LMYA/SSYC Open House for over 20 years which brought in many new members to both clubs. He personally signed up more new members than any other person in the history of LMYA. Monies raised at the open houses funded the annual Big Brothers / Big Sisters party at SSYC for hundreds of inner city Milwaukee youth. He will be greatly missed by all at LMYA

