

Wisconsin Boating Club

wisconsinboatingclub.com



Fleet Sheet

January 2025



Dates to remember



January 6 – Membership Meeting and Gift Exchange. 7 p.m. Brookfield Park and Rec, 2000 N. Calhoun Road.

January 10 – Board Meeting, 6 p.m. at Water Street Brewery in Delafield.

January 17-19 and 22-26 – Milwaukee Boat Show. Expo Center at State Fair Park.

January Birthdays

- Robin Kaun..... 6
- Traci Koepke 6
- Steve Koepke 21
- Tricia Peck 21
- Suzanne Rodee..... 23
- Dan Danowski 27
- Kate Moss 29

Shipshape

Scuttlebutt Winter Edition



Boaters News
BY KEITH PONATH

Modern Day Minnow

and other tales from the Harbor Safety Meeting

Well, we finally had the Milwaukee Harbor Safety Meeting on December 11. The meeting was held at South Shore Yacht Club at 9:00 a.m. and there were about 40 members in attendance. When I say members, that means anybody who has an interest in boating and safety in the Milwaukee area, everyone is welcome.

The first contributor was the manager of SSYC, I didn't catch his name but after welcoming us, he updated us on the progress

of the new break wall. Work continues seven-days-a-week and it is progressing well. They will not finish this year, but are under budget and will be able to add an extra 100 feet on each end, which means it will be 1,100 feet long when done. He informed us that there are very few firms that design break walls and this project was designed by a company from Australia.

The break wall is designed to withstand the maximum wave height expected in the Milwaukee

area. Unlike the normal break wall – which is just a pile of large rocks – this wall has smaller rocks in the center and is capped with larger ones. Each is placed, not just piled, which prevents water from passing through. It is interesting to watch the operation and the placement of each rock. The system is designed for a 50 year life span.

Second up was NOAA, who gave us a video presentation and a winter outlook. We have a weak La Nina in place, which means temperatures will be about average with more snow late in the season. NOAA is always looking for up-to-date information on conditions on the lake. They partner with commercial traffic to obtain current information for areas not covered by their wave buoys. Up to date information can be obtained at their website [NWS. Milwaukee@NOAA.gov](https://www.nws.milwaukee.gov). Lake levels are expected to remain slightly above normal for the near future.

The U.S. Coast Guard had two presentations, one by Sector Lake Michigan and one by Station Milwaukee. They mostly recapped events on Lake Michigan [170] and events in Milwaukee [29].

Of course the RNC was the biggest event and they explained why many of their closures were short notice. If a high target was moving around they did not want to give too much notice so nefarious characters could plan ahead.

Station Milwaukee did have 86 search and rescue operations in our area.

There was some discussion on closing the North Gap for the Air and Water Show, but it was determined that the show could not be moved farther north to accommodate leaving the North Gap open. They also had a handout which explained Guidance for Passenger Vessel Charter Operations. We are not in the charter business, but I did find it interesting that under Consideration [46 USC 2101[5] which explains what consideration is it has a but; not including a voluntary sharing of the actual expense of the voyage, by monetary contribution or donation of fuel, food, beverage, or other supplies. That is a change from the past when that was considered a charter and required a license.

The DNR warden was next. There are five wardens in the Milwaukee area but only one on the water. He discussed the need for Restricted Area Buoys which could be put out on short notice for local emergencies. The Coast Guard will provide them.

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Discussion was also had on the dry-dock on the KK River; it is difficult to get around if only one leaf of the First St. Bridge is opened. Even though it is quite large it is not in violation of any State or Federal laws and it will remain in place.

There were a lot of questions on the [Chris Craft Roamer stuck on the beach](#) just north of McKinley Marina. It is an interesting story, the owner, who is from out of state, had just purchased it in Manitowoc and was coming down the Lake. He stated he could not find the entrance to the Milwaukee harbor and was circling around to find it when he ran out of gas. The boat drifted ashore and became stuck on



Chris Craft Roamer, icebound until spring near Bradford Beach

the beach. He had no insurance and could not pay to have it towed. It was not a hazard to navigation, so the Coast Guard was not involved. The DNR could not do anything until 30 days had passed and they could only issue a

citation for littering. It has now rocked so much it is really stuck in the sand and cannot be towed off the beach. The latest estimate is it will cost \$30,000 to have a wrecker come and pull it onto a truck. A sad end to a nice boat.

The warden was also concerned about the amount of lighting on the party boats on the river and lake; he stated you could not see the navigation lights to tell which way it was going. I thought, just look at it, it's lit up like a Christmas tree, and you can see which way it's going.

The Milwaukee Police Dept. Harbor Patrol reported they were down 2 officers, from 12 to 10. They had 47 rescue calls this year which was less than normal. Their patrol boat is put away for the season but they have a mutual aid agreement with Waukesha for a hover-craft in the event of an ice rescue.

Dredging will resume in 2027 when the new containment area is completed. They will dredge 2 million cubic yards from Milwaukee's three rivers.

Again my two fingers are tired so that's it.

*Your Legislative Liaison
Keith Ponath*



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Commodore's Corner

As I start this month's Commodore's Corner, Robin and I are in Denver to visit the kids and grandkids. Our weather is quite different than home. While home has had snow, clouds, and potentially freezing rain, Denver has treated us to 40's and up to 60 degrees, crystal blue skies and making our decision to bring many layers of winter clothes kind of silly.



We are fast approaching Christmas and New Year's just around the corner and we are wishing all our boating friends Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Now focusing on our club. Our first meeting of 2025 will be on January 6 at the Brookfield Park and Rec building across from the Brookfield Library.

Our program will be a Gift Exchange game with those wishing to participate to bring a gift priced around \$20. A new method of playing the game will make it more fun than prior years. I hope to see many of you there. Some of our members will be away for the holidays in warmer climates, but those that tough it out in Wisconsin are in for a fun time.



Believe it or not, it's not too early to think about our cruises in the 2025 boating season. Some on the books include Boat Inspection and the Commodore's Memorial Weekend Shakedown Cruise in Oshkosh at the Pioneer Marina.

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Following on the success of last year's cruise, we will again be conducting our US Coast Guard Auxiliary boat inspection at the Pioneer Marina. Tom Fredrickson has already contacted the Auxiliary for inspectors. Tom also will be setting up an alternate date to conduct our inspections for larger boats in the Milwaukee area. Way to go Tom.



Our first official activity for WBC will be our booth at State Fair Park for the Boat Show.



Tom and Dana are knee-deep into the plans for this year. I'm already looking forward to the smell of fresh fiberglass

and looking at the new boats and motors. Sign-up info will be coming out soon.

Recently, Keith Ponath and I attended the Milwaukee Harbor Safety Meeting. Keith will have a fun, fact-filled report on activity at our January meeting.

Lastly, the duties of Purser will be handled by Todd Memmel. I'm super grateful to turn over my temporary duties as Purser to Todd. Contrary to WBC's tradition as Purser, I didn't buy a new boat, but sure enjoyed looking at them.

This report shows that your club does not go silent when the water turns to ice. Stay safe on the roads and pace yourself getting that snow off your driveways and sidewalks. See you in the New Year.

*Sincerely,
Jim Kaun, Commodore*



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Membership Meeting

December 2, 2024



Present: Vince Verhasselt, Robin, Jim Kaun, Dana, Tom Fredrickson, Ren Rodee, Katie, Todd Memmel, John Schultz, Bette Yentz, Keith Ponath.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

A motion was made by Keith to approve the November minutes, seconded by Ren motion was carried.

Purser's report:

Beginning balance	\$3,473.76
Income	\$1,020.00
Expenses	\$7.34
Ending balance	\$4,129.82

A motion was made by Keith to approve the purser's report, seconded by Tom, motion was carried.

Membership/Marketing:

Dana will pass around a Boat Show Volunteer Sheet at the January meeting. You may also sign up to work a shift through Sign-up Genius.

Jan. 16 will be the Boat Show set up. The show start Jan. 17-19 and 22-26. Jim will be the contact person during the show.

Programs:

Tonight's program, Keith will be filling us in all the things going on around the Milwaukee area and beyond.

January 6, 2025 meeting will be the Gift Exchange. Please bring a \$20 gift to exchange per person or couple.

Safety:

Tom is looking at locations in the Milwaukee area for the Boat Inspection. There will also be an

inspection at the Pioneer Marina on Memorial Day Weekend. He will have the location decided before the Boat Show so we can hand out cards with that information on it.

Grievances:

No report

Fleet Sheet:

No report

Cruise Manual:

No report

Website:

Ren will add the latest Fleet Sheet, then it will be current.

Sunshine:

Cards were sent to Russ for his recent surgery, Boyd for his hospital stay, Duane and Jenny on the birth of their new Granddaughter, Sophie, Dennis and Sarah's new baby, Keith on the passing of Sally, Lynn for recent health trouble

Legislative Liaison:

Keith will present information for tonight's program.

There will be a Harbor Safety Meeting on December 11, 9:00 a.m. at South Shore Yacht Club.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

There will be 33 people attending our Christmas Party!

The election of Officers was completed. The Slate of Officers for 2025 are:

Commodore: Jim Kaun

Vice Commodore: Tom Fredrickson

Past Commodore: Vince Verhasselt

Purser: Todd Memmel

Yeoperson: Robin Kaun

Legislative Liaison: Keith Ponath

Membership/Marketing: Dana Fredrickson

Fleet Sheet: John Schultz

Senior Pilot: Open position.

* Tom has asked other members to help with specific activities.

Officers will be installed at the December 7th Christmas Party.

Misc. Business:

Suzanne brought up that she would like to have the information reviewed that we publish regarding members.

Dates to remember:

January 6, 2025 Membership Meeting and Gift Exchange will be held at Brookfield Park and Rec.

January 10 Board Meeting will be held at Water Street Brewery in Delafield, 6 p.m.

Todd made a motion to adjourn, Tom seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Robin Kaun, Yeoperson*

Christmas Party Highlights

Saturday, December 7, 2024, Diamond Jim's Steakhouse



Well-earned awards were proudly displayed.