

Wisconsin Boating Club

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Fleet Sheet

February 2025



Dates to remember



February 3 – Membership Meeting at Waukesha State Bank

March 3 – Membership Meeting at Waukesha State Bank

April 7 – Membership Meeting at Brookfield Park and Rec

May 5 – Membership Meeting at Brookfield Park and Rec

June 2 – Picnic at Pleasant View Park, Franklin

Boaters News BY KEITH PONATH

The return of the ice

I am writing this column earlier than usual because Margaret and I will be in Florida when the deadline is due. Of course it doesn't matter to you readers because the publishing date is still the same.

Anyway, it is the coldest day of the year with wind chill is below zero as I write this. Since it is so cold the first thing I am going to write about is ice.

The U.S. National Ice Center released its seasonal outlook in

December of 2024. It called for slightly below to near normal ice conditions across all five Great Lakes. That was a big turnaround from last year's lack of ice. The winter of 2023-2024 had the lowest ice totals ever recorded on the Lakes, it was only 4.3%.

That followed the 2022-2023 season which the fourth lowest on record.

Lack of ice is good for the shipping industry but it can damage the long-term health of the Lakes.

February Birthdays

- Chris Vogds 11
- Joe Miotke 15
- P.J. Tamer 22

Shipshape



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An article in the Milwaukee Journal on December 24, 2024 related some of the many benefits of ice cover. Some of these I have reported on in the past but I will repeat them again.

Lake levels: Warmer lakes and lack of ice lead to more evaporation which will lower the Lakes even more.

Lake-effect snowstorms: As cold air passes over the warm water of the open lakes, downwind cities record much heavier snow totals. Buffalo, New York recorded over 5 feet in one event last December as the cold winds blew over Lake Erie.

Shoreline erosion and infrastructure: Lake ice tempers wave action when ice is present, there is less erosion to lake bluffs and less flooding to low areas. There is also less damage to infrastructure items like seawalls and intake valves.

Fisheries: Ice protects the eggs of fish that spawn in near shore areas and lay their eggs in the shallow gravel. There is less turbidity and a higher rate of hatch in the spring.

Food web: Warmer water and less ice can cause phytoplankton to bloom earlier in the spring. If the phytoplankton bloom earlier than the zooplankton that feed on them, there will be less zooplankton for the fish eggs to feed on when they hatch.

Water quality: Less ice and warmer waters can create ideal conditions for blue-green algae blooms to form in the summer and we all know how much fun it is to swim in blue-green slop.

The SS Minnow: More ice is protecting our local landmark; the 34 foot Chris Craft on the shore of Lake Michigan. As of January 15 it is incased in 5 feet of ice and we can probably enjoy looking at it well into the spring.

One thing I missed in early December was ice balls forming on the beach. They form when conditions are just right. Temperatures have to be just below freezing for slush to form, if too cold it will just be normal ice. As the waves go back and forth, the balls continue to grow. Normally they are the size of softballs or beach balls, but sometimes they grow up to 3 feet. I'm sorry I missed it, because it is quite rare.

Enough about ice, my next report will be about something warm. Do you know that we have an urban prairie on the shore of Lake Michigan? It is in Lakeshore State Park, which as you know is

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a manmade island in Milwaukee's harbor. It was formed from tunnel rock when they were digging MMSD's deep tunnel sewerage project. It is the city of Milwaukee's only prairie and it is filled with native grasses, wild-flowers, bees, butterflies and urban wildlife.



If you haven't been on the island you can access it by two footpaths, one at each end, or by boat at Lakeshore State Park's marina. What's kind of neat is that the State will do a controlled-burn this spring. The fire is essential to maintain a healthy prairie habitat. The DNR has not announced a date, but it will be sometime in the spring, once the snow melts and the invasives start to grow. It will not hurt the native plants because they are deep rooted and need an occasional burn for plant health.

The last controlled-burn in Milwaukee that I know about was when I was a supervisor for the Milwaukee County Highway Dept. It burned the area near I-94 from the Zoo Interchange thru the Stadium Interchange to 26th Street - before the Milwaukee Fire Department shut me down, but that's another story.

Anyway this story is done; I have to pack for Florida. See you at the February meeting.

*Your Legislative Liaison
Keith Ponath*



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Commodore's Corner

Wow what a couple of busy weeks!!! From Christmas Eve with the kids and grandkids, Christmas Day starting with a Church Service at 9, then down to SSSC for Tom and Jerry's with the Danowskis and Pete Zierden, followed by another Christmas gift opening with the east side family till Robin and I finally came home to a quiet house.

Shoes came off and the sound of silence was a welcome relief from all the festivities. Nope, not done yet, Robin's birthday celebration with all the Milwaukee clan, a Tailgate picnic meal and Green Bay decorated birthday cake with the appropriate number of candles (I'm not telling how many) to watch the Packers. While the game didn't go as hoped, the wrapping paper was disposed of and my goodness, the gifts that Robin received were met with "they all fit" or was "just what I wanted" as Robin declared.



Next up was the Milwaukee Boat Show. We had lots of interest, good foot traffic – but few follow up slips. Dana and Tom worked their magic and the booth was set up in record time.

The show inventory was an overwhelming number of beautiful pontoon boats with 200 to 400 HP outboards. What ever happened to the martini barges from the 70's?

Vince has set up some great programs, so please try to make it to the Membership Meetings for fun, education and just a grand time planning for summer. While the weather forecast brings the term 'Polar Vortex' back into our vocabulary, we are closer to launch day than decommissioning days, always a warm feeling for us. *-Sincerely, Jim Kaun, Commodore*



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Membership Meeting

January 6, 2025



Members present: Robin, Jim Kaun, Linda, Russ Weber, Lynn, Vince Verhasselt, Dana Fredrickson, Keith Ponath, Donna, Dan Danowski, Chris, Lloyd Vogds, Kate, Kevin Moss, Ren Rodee, Katie, Todd Memmel, Duane Delaney

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Commodore Jim.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from our December meeting by Keith, seconded by Vince. The minutes were approved.

Purser's Report:

Beginning Balance	\$4,137.16
Income	\$240.00
Expenses	\$2,126.03
Ending balance	\$2,251.13

A motion was made by Keith to accept the purser's report, Duane seconded. Report approved.

Membership/ Marketing:

Dana had a signup sheet or sign up on genius online to volunteer for a time slot for the Boat Show. Dates are January 17-19 and 22-26. We have insurance through the Boat Show, after the Show it will expire. Please email any cruises to Dana as she will have a sheet at the Boat Show for people to look at.

Programs:

Our program tonight is the gift exchange.

February's program is TBD. It will be held at the Waukesha State Bank.

Safety:

Coast Guard Boat Inspections will held on May 17th in the Milwaukee area. May 23rd at the Pioneer Marina in Oshkosh.

Cruise Manual:

Tom has a list of past advertisers and would love it if members would volunteer to contact some. Ads will be the same price as last year. Calls can start anytime, Tom needs to have the agreements by April 15th. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Website:

The website is current. Ren will add information as he gets it for upcoming cruises, activities. A shout out to Ren for having a link to the Boat Show with all the information regarding it on the site.

Fleet Sheet:

Send any information and photos to John by the 20th of the month.

Sunshine:

Boyd was in the hospital in Florida with pneumonia but has been released and is recovering and enjoying the sunshine. Keith thanked us for coming to Sally's funeral. He appreciated it as well as her children.

Kevin and Kate's oldest son and his wife who live in London are expecting their first baby in May. Best wishes for a safe and healthy delivery.

Legislative Liaison:

Keith reported on the Harbor Safety meeting that was held in December. The Milwaukee Common Council approved the money for a dock for cruise ships to be built north east of the Lake Express dock. There are a number of illegal boat charter's happening in Milwaukee. Boaters are taking people out on their boats without a Captain's license but are given money by the riders. It was shared that the RNC went very well on the water ways.

Old Business:

Todd gave out awards to those that missed the Christmas party. Ren got the DIY award, for his many boat and truck issues that he had to fix last season. Russ got the I can't or can catch a bolt award, for getting a very large and long bolt in his rear trailer tire on the driver's side. Linda got the flag light up award for having to direct traffic away from Russ as he was trying to repair the tire!

New Business:

There will be a Mississippi River cruise around the same time as in the past years. Dates and locations to be coming as many marinas are charging \$3 or \$4 per foot.

Another cruise will be crossing the Lake from Sturgeon Bay to Leland, Frankfort, Charlevoix, Petoskey, and North Point. Dates to be confirmed soon.

Misc. Business:

Vince thanked everyone for the welcome that they gave to Melissa and her husband at the Christmas Party. They both enjoyed themselves and plan to join the Club.

Sheboygan will be holding the Boat Races this summer August 9-11. Dan reported this is not an event to miss.

Jim asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Duane, seconded by Vince. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Robin Kaun, Yeoperson*

Spotlight



Tony Memmel, Todd and Katie's son, had the opportunity to sing on the stage at the Grand Ole Opry this past December.

The event is called, "The Birth of a King," which is Tommee

Profitt's legendary Christmas spectacular. Tony shared the stage as one of 100 voices from Nashville's The Choir Room, along with 50 orchestral musicians. Soloists included Christian artists Tauren Wells, We the Kingdom, and more.

Tony said, "It was one of those super-cool Nashville nights. Most importantly, a chance to sing some carols and anthems in preparation of the King who's coming."

In response, Katie said, "I can only imagine it's what Heaven is going to sound like some day."

Scuttlebutt

At our WBC Christmas Party, as always, several outstanding awards were presented. A couple of recipients were not present, and so Todd Memmel handed these out at the January Membership Meeting.



Todd rummaging through his sack of goodies (awards)

Ren Rodee was awarded the "Most Repairs Made in a Single Year" award



Russ Weber receiving the "I Can Catch a Bolt in One of My Ten Tires" award



Linda Weber was awarded the "I Can Fend Off Any Car, Truck, or Trailer, etc." trophy for her gallant efforts of keeping Russ safe while he changed the tire that held the bolt

Board Meeting

January 10, 2025



Members Present: Robin, Jim Kaun, Keith Ponath, Dana, Tom Fredrickson, Todd Memmel, John Schultz, Vince Verhasselt

Guests: Margaret Landis, Katie Memmel, Lynn Verhasselt, Bette Yentz

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 p.m.

A motion to accept the minutes from the last board meeting was made by Tom, seconded by Vince. Motion passed.

Purser's Report:

Beginning balance	\$2,251.13
Income	\$2,331.13
Expenses	\$0
Ending Balance	\$2,331.13

Tom will be auditing the books.

Membership/Marketing:

Members are signing up for the Boat Show slots to volunteer on Sign Up Genius. There is a helpful hints sheet at the booth as well as a flyer on tentative cruises, activities we will be doing this year. Tom made a motion to have new members pay half price for one year, Vince seconded. Motion carried, people that sign up will be getting half price for one year.

Our insurance is on file with State Fair Park.

Programs:

Vince asked how we felt the gift exchange went this year. The board felt it went well. He is working on finding programs for this year. He has a weather person tentatively coming to a meeting. The board offered suggestions as to possible programs, NOAA, West Marine, or a Boat salvage person

Safety:

Tom is firming up a Milwaukee area location for the Boat Inspection on May 17.

Grievances:

None

Fleet Sheet:

John reported that it is going swimmingly! Please send photos to John to include in the Fleet Sheet.

Website:

Is up and running. Please send photos to be put on the site.

Cruise Manual:

Tom has a list of current and past advertisers ready to be contacted. Any advertisers that our members can contact will really help out in getting our Cruise Manual published.

Sunshine:

Peg Miotke fell and broke her foot. Duane is having rotator cuff surgery on Tuesday, Jan. 14th.

Legislative Liaison: no report

Old Business:

No report

New Business:

Future Board meeting dates are, May 19 at Kaun's

August 18 at Memmel's, November 17 at Verhasselt's

Misc. Business:

Our June picnic will be at Pleasant View Park in Franklin. They have an indoor and outdoor pavilion. A motion by Tom to spend \$275 to rent the space was made and seconded by John. The motion carried.

Dates to remember:

Jan. 17-19, 22-26 – Boat Show

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June 2 – Picnic at Pleasant View Park, Franklin

Jim called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, motion made by Todd and seconded by Keith.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Robin Kaun, Yeoperson*