

Wisconsin Boating Club

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Fleet Sheet

April 2025



Dates to remember



- **April 7:** Membership meeting at Brookfield Park and Rec. Kevin Moss will present his career as a surgeon.
- **May 5:** Membership meeting at Brookfield Park and Rec
- **May 17:** Boat Inspection at Point Burger Bar in Waukesha 9 am-12 pm
- **May 19:** Board meeting at Kaun's
- **May 23:** Commodore's shakedown cruise Pioneer Marina Oshkosh
- **May 23:** Boat Inspection at Pioneer Marina
- **June 2:** Picnic at Pleasant View Park, Franklin

Boaters News BY KEITH PONATH



Milwaukee River Renewal

Pittsburgh Pa. isn't the only city with three rivers, where the Allegheny and the Monongahela River come together to form the Ohio River. Milwaukee is also a city with three rivers, the Milwaukee, Menomonee and the Kinnickinnic river come together to form the Milwaukee Harbor.

The Milwaukee rivers' head waters are in Fond du Lac County and flows through four counties before emptying into Milwaukee's harbor. The Menomonee River starts in Waukesha County and

flows through Milwaukee County to the harbor. The Kinnickinnic River, on the other hand, is completely contained in the city of Milwaukee. As a matter of fact it is the most urbanized and developed river in the state of Wisconsin. Maybe Milwaukee should have been named Kinnickinnic? Anyway I digress; the KK Rivers headwaters are near South 60th street and West Cleveland Avenue.

The KK River does not compare to its cousins the Milwaukee and

April Anniversaries

Joe & Peggy Miotke 4
 Russ & Linda Weber 26

Shipshape

[A pontoon boating
adventure across
Lake Michigan](#)



Menomonee Rivers, it is more like a creek in most places. This does not mean it didn't have problems as the area developed and more houses, stores, parking lots and streets were built. Runoff became an issue. Flooding occurred in heavy rains as the water could not soak into the ground. In the 1960's, the answer was to channelize the river and line it with concrete to move the water downstream faster. The wrong answer was achieved, the old flood plain maps showed only 60 homes in the flood plain. After all of the "improvements" were done, a 2012 flood plain map now showed 700 homes there. Also, more drowning's were occurring. If someone slipped into the river during a rain storm, the current would be very strong. Combine that with a lack of trees to grab onto and you have an almost hopeless situation.

So now we have a new "solution" – which is to try and return the river to its natural setting. The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District is in the process of removing all seven miles the concrete lining. They have also bought and removed 80 homes in the flood plain. This was met with some resistance, but there was no way flooding could be prevented with houses built right on the river's edge. The Sewerage District is also planning to dredge the Jackson Park lagoon and build a retention pond to store some of the flood water in times of heavy rain. Don't look for a fast completion to this project, it is planned to take up to 15 years.

Do not be discouraged by this seemingly long timeline. Last fall I road my bike the entire length of the river and there has been remarkable progress made. The river from South Sixth Street to South First Street has been renaturalized and is now less of a flood-risk and safety issue. Also, you can now kayak or canoe from Sixth Street all the way to the harbor. You will pass Harbor District businesses like the Michels Corp. headquarters, The Boat House, Restaurant Depot and Skipper Buds. If you are hungry you can stop at the new Bridgewater Modern Grill or old favorites like Barnacle Bud's.

This year you can also watch progress on the KK River riverwalk which will go from the east end of Greenfield Ave. to South First Street. Going west from Sixth Street, you will go through a blighted area – where they have just removed some of the houses – until you reach Pulaski Park. There you will see a complete transformation, so if the rest of the project

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looks like this it will be fantastic. We have a tranquil river meandering through the park with walkways and bike paths on both sides of the river. Also, just completed is the Kinnickinnic River Plaza. The plaza was designed with the local community input and includes a pedestrian bridge over the river, bird and bat houses and a community garden. I hope I am around to see the completed project.

What was once considered a lost cause is now being reimagined as a vibrant, seven-mile long assist to the City. If you get a chance this summer visit Pulaski Park, it's on South 14th Street and West Cleveland Ave. and you will see what the finished product will look like.

Just for everyone's edification the SS Minnow is still on the beach north of McKinley Marina. I will keep everyone informed of its condition and when it will be removed. Well that's it for now, my two fingers are tired and I have to pack for my Trans-Atlantic cruise.

*Your Legislative Liaison
Keith Ponath*

2025 Cruise Schedule:

May 23 - Boat Inspection at Pioneer Marina

May 23-26 - Pioneer Marina, Commodore's Shakedown Cruise, theme is Rodeo!

June 12-22 - Mississippi River Cruise

July 4-6 - Pioneer Marina in Oshkosh

July 25-27 - Oshkosh for EAA

July 31-August 10 - Lake crossing to ports in Michigan



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SEAKEEPER

MERCURY **YAMAHA** **SUZUKI**

Commodore's Corner



Ah Mother Nature, you can be so cruel! Recently we hit a high in the mid-70s, then the next day a snow storm! Robin and I recently took a trip to check on Last Dance in storage. Boy, Kettle Marine sure can put 10 pounds of boats into a 9 pound bag. Many bass boats, ski/wake boats and a "cajillion" pontoons. Tucked in a far corner was Last Dance. From across the crowded floor I think I saw one of our nav light's winking at me! As I got closer it was just my imagination, but then again maybe it wasn't. Climbing onto the swim platform and into the cockpit it played with my mind, "When will we get to bring her out of storage and begin spring commissioning?" Robin was as excited as I was to be back on board.

On to club discussions. A tremendous thank you to Past Commodore Vince for lining up a great program in March, Brian Gotter presenting his career in meteorology to TV presentations to a varied fun question and answer period. As they say, a good time was had by all. April's program has yet to be announced, but I'm sure Vince will bring a good program to the floor. If any member has an idea of a program, please bring it to Vince's attention. Brain storming is the best way to get varied programs for our club.

Cruises are beginning to formulate. A partial list of cruises is our first boat inspection on May 17th, Point Burger Bar in Waukesha, Commodore's cruise on Lake Winnebago, Memorial weekend. During that time, the Coast Guard Auxiliary will be conducting a second set of CMEs. The Mississippi River cruise June 12th to the 23rd. Come for all or even a part of the cruise. Contact Robin or myself if you haven't signed up at one or meetings if you can join us. I'll be making reservation calls in the next few weeks. July 4th, Oshkosh for the holiday. July 25th to the 27th for the EAA experience on Lake Winnebago. July 31st to August 10th, crossing Lake Michigan to several ports in Michigan. More cruises to follow. Please see Vince to sign up for these cruises and others as they develop.

-Commodore, Jim Kaun



Extensive menu including pizza, pasta, party subs, salads and party trays. Catering, dine in, carry out or delivery.



**Hours: Monday - Thursday 11-9
Friday & Saturday 11-10
Sunday 12-8**

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Membership Meeting

March 3, 2025



Members present: Robin, Jim Kaun, Donna, Dan Danowski, Lynn, Vince Verhasselt, Duane Delaney, Kevin Moss, Katie, Todd Memmel, Linda, Russ Weber, Chris, Lloyd Vogds, Peggy, Joe Miotke, Dana, Tom Fredrickson, John Schultz, Bette Yentz, Keith Ponath, Kevin Moss 4 guests of Vince's, Rick, Lynn Schoos, Joe, Karen

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 for a program with Brian Gotter.

At 8:38 p.m. our business meeting began. A motion to accept the minutes from our last meeting was made by Keith seconded by Tom. Minutes were approved.

Purser's Report:

Beginning balance	\$2,331.13
Income	\$0
Expenses	\$18.60
Ending balance.	\$2,312.53

The audit of our books was completed and our books are in good standing.

Membership/ Marketing:

Dana has contacted interested partys from the Boat Show. One couple is interested in coming to a meeting, another was not interested at this time, and a third recieved a message. A fourth couple may come to the April or May meeting.

More information coming next month about marketing opportunities.

Programs:

Tonight's program was meteorologist, Brian Gotter formally from Channel 4. Vince is working on next month program but is waiting for confirmation for April and May.

Safety:

Our Boat Inspections are set up and ready to go. Tom will give contact information for those unable to attend either inspection. Look for it in the Fleet Sheet. Annual boat inspection is a requirement for our club.

Cruise Manual:

Tom has 11 confirmed ads. If you know of a potential advertiser, please contact Tom.

Website:

No report

Fleet Sheet:

As John will be on a trans-atlantic cruise, please have photos and information to John by March 18 for the April Fleet sheet. The Fleet Sheet will go out March 22nd.

Sunshine:

Cards were sent to Dana for being sick, Linda for her fall and Keith fainting. Peggy got her boot off and is doing well walking. Dana is having a consult for possible surgery on her knee. Linda is having surgery on her shoulder.

Legislative Liaison:

Work has begun on the Cruise Ship Dock. The port fee will be \$11 per person when they get off the ship. The cost is comparable to other ports.

Zebra Mussels are in the St. Croix River. A YouTube video called All Clear explains how the Gobi eat the larvae of the zebra mussels. The Fish Killer on Netflix tells the story of how the Sea Lamprey nearly destroyed the Great Lakes fishing industry.

Grievances:

No report

Old Business:

Reefpoint Marina in Racine is in the process of rebuilding the docks.

New Business:

Navy Pier is accepting reservations through Dockwa for this summer. It is a brand new facility.

Misc. Business:

We are looking at giving Cindy at Red Wind Marina a plaque for her hospitality over the years.

The picnic venue is available from 11 a.m.- 8 p.m.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was make by Duane, seconded by Russ. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Robin Kaun, Yeoperson*

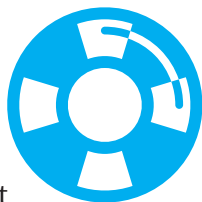
Kick off the season with Safety First!



2025 boat inspections

What's the very first thing you do to prep your boat for the season? A fresh coat of wax? Inflate those trailer tires? Change the engine oil? Or perhaps, a quick inventory of the onboard refreshments? While all those tasks are important, there's one that should always take priority: **checking your safety equipment.**

For Wisconsin Boating Club members, the annual USCG Vessel Safety Check (VSC) has long marked the official start of our boating season. While the location may change from year to year, our commitment to safety remains constant. A successful USCG inspection isn't just a recommendation; **it's a requirement for participation in any of our club cruises.**



Beyond fulfilling a requirement, a USCG inspection provides invaluable peace of mind. It ensures your vessel is equipped for safe voyages and offers the opportunity to gain valuable safety insights. By scheduling an inspection, you're demonstrating your dedication to the WBC's safety-first philosophy.

This year, WBC members have multiple opportunities to get their boats inspected:

Official inspection dates

■ Saturday, May 17th 9 am-12 pm

Point Burger Bar Pewaukee

W229N1400 Westwood Dr,
Waukesha, WI 53186

South end parking lot

■ Friday, May 23, 3pm – 5 pm

Pioneer Marina

1100 Pioneer Dr,
Oshkosh WI, 54902

If you are unable to make either of these inspections, Contact a USCG Officer in Charge of Vessel Inspections:

Southeastern Wisconsin: contact **Robert Koebert** rkoebert@sbcglobal.net or call 414-254-3692

Fox Valley area: contact **Mr. Perry Kidder**, call 1-920-450-0452.

Or you can request a vessel check through the USCG Auxiliary website: https://wow.uscgaux.info/i_want_a_vsc/index.php.

Why a USCG Vessel Safety Check?

These free inspections are educational, ensuring your boat meets federal and state safety standards. If your boat doesn't pass, you'll receive a report outlining the discrepancies, allowing you to address them.

Key areas of inspection include:

- Life jackets (PFDs)
- Registration and documentation
- Visual distress signals (VDS)
- Fire extinguishers
- Navigation lights
- Sound-producing devices
- Ventilation
- Electrical systems
- Bilge pumps, fuel systems, and overall vessel condition.



The benefits of a USCG inspection are clear

Enhanced Safety: Minimize the risk of accidents and injuries.

Peace of Mind: Confirm your safety equipment is in good working order.

Compliance with Regulations: Avoid potential fines or citations.

Educational Value: Gain valuable safety insights from knowledgeable examiners.

Potential Insurance Discounts: Some insurers offer discounts for inspected vessels.

Preventative measure: Find problems before they become big problems.

Remember, a USCG safety inspection is a proactive step towards responsible and safe boating and it is required for cruise participation.