

# Wisconsin Boating Club

[wisconsinboatingclub.com](http://wisconsinboatingclub.com)



# Fleet Sheet

March 2025



## Dates to remember



**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

**May 17** – Boat Inspection at Point Burger Bar in Waukesha 9:00-12:00

## March Birthdays

- Lloyd Vogds..... 1
- Boyd Dittmer ..... 13
- Lynn Verhasselt ..... 16
- John Schultz ..... 19
- Donna Danowski ..... 25

## March Anniversaries

- Dale & Tricia Peck..... 28
- Ren & Suzanne Rodee..... 25

## Shipshape

[The Carbon Conundrum](#)

[Spring-cleaning your gas tank](#)



## Boaters News

BY KEITH PONATH



## Speedbump on Brandon Road

JB Pritzker, the Governor of Illinois, has halted the \$1.1 billion dollar Brandon Road Lock and Dam project on the Illinois River.

As I reported last year, this project is intended to halt the spread of invasive Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes. At present there is an electric barrier upstream of the Brandon Road Lock which has been in place for years. It is ending its life cycle and needs to be replaced. The Brandon Road project is a state of the art project, incorporating the latest

techniques to keep even the smallest fingerling from passing through. The barrier project is part of the reconstruction of the lock and dam.

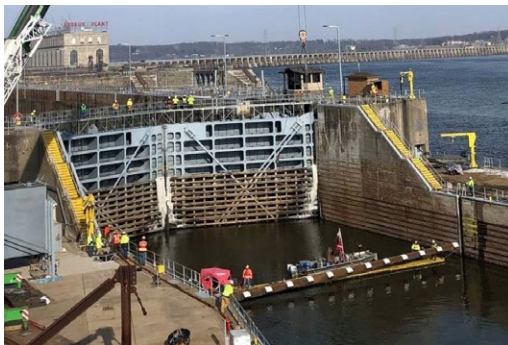
Pritzker makes a good argument for halting the project; the Federal Government has withheld \$117 million in federal grants from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, thus halting nearly 70 infrastructure projects in the state. Gov. Pritzker said in a statement “Our hands are tied here. At the end of the

day, we must do business in good faith, and the Trump administration has yet to show us they are capable of that.” I think it is just part of the Trump administrations’ look at all Federal spending but as of yet the president has not consulted with me.

Right now, the Feds are supposed to provide \$1 billion and the states of Illinois and Michigan about \$114.6 million for the Brandon road project. Pritzker’s concern is that if the project would get underway and the Feds pull out, the state of Illinois would be left holding the bag. These are legitimate concerns but also of concern is why have only Illinois and Michigan, of the eight Great Lakes states and Canada, put any money towards this project.



**The Brandon Road project has been paused awaiting Feds funding review.**



Wisconsin has the second-most miles of shoreline of any of the Great Lakes states, and has a lot to lose if Asian carp get a foothold in Lake Michigan or Lake Superior. I am not one to waste our hard-earned tax dollars, but I think Wisconsin should provide some help for this worthwhile project. As I said earlier, I think the Trump administration will eventually provide the money they earlier committed to. As a side note, this would not have been a problem if Chicago had not reversed the flow of the Chicago River 120 years ago.

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Just in case some of you don't know the history of invasive Asian carp, I will give you a short lesson. According to an article in the *Milwaukee Journal* published on February 13, invasive carp were introduced in the U.S. in the 1970s to control weeds and algae in sewage treatment ponds in the south. Flooding enabled them to escape the ponds and spread through all the waterways, threatening the entire eco-system.

Four species; bighead, silver, black and grass carp can exceed 4-feet in length and weigh up to 100 pounds. They outcompete native fish and disrupt natural food chains. These carp are voracious eaters and can eat nearly half their body weight daily. Bighead and silver carp are the biggest threat to the Great Lakes, as they consume massive amounts of plankton, which starves native fish and mussels. These fast-breeding fish degrade water quality, destroy habitats for water-fowl and amphibians and endanger prized sport fish and the \$8 billion sport fish industry.

This makes them a major ecological concern and possible financial nightmare. Let us hope they do not make it into the Great Lakes.

Did you know that Lake Michigan has an active surfer culture? Sheboygan is sometimes called the Malibu of the Midwest. While it is the hot spot on Lake Michigan, surfing occurs all along our shores. The prime time for surfing is in the fall and winter so don't expect to see any bikini clad beauties or hunks in speedos. Thick neoprene wetsuits, gloves and boots are the order of the day.

If this is a sport any of you would like to try it would be a good idea to take lessons from a winter surfing instructor. You can contact Andrew Jakus, the owner of EOS Surf Shop in Sheboygan or Daniel DeWitt, who owns High 5 Surf Shop in Milwaukee for more information. I bet you didn't know we had surf shops in Wisconsin. Maybe we can have a WBC surf party next January at Bradford Beach, or not!

Another update on the SS Minnow on our beach. It is now so covered in graffiti that you can hardly recognize it as a boat. Well that's it for now; I will see you at the next meeting.

*Your Legislative Liaison,  
Keith Ponath*



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## Commodore's Corner



Wow, who would have thought the recent snows would trigger boating thoughts for me! Yup, while the snowblower was getting its well-deserved rest – OK, me too – I allowed myself to think of boating adventures for 2025. Some YouTube videos brought me warm thoughts for Robin and I on Last Dance for this year. Our participation as a club at the boat show left me anxiously waiting spring. Thanks to all who made a positive effort recruiting new members.

One item that really snagged my thoughts recently was our annual boat inspection(s). Tom has set a positive opportunity to fulfill our club requirement for a successful Coast Guard Auxiliary Boat Inspection. While I know it still a bit in the future – currently in Brookfield the temperature this morning was in the minus range – I allowed myself to think warm thoughts.

To that end, here are some items that we can all process for a successful inspection. First, do you know where your current registration is? Is it up to date? Last year many of us worked through the Kidde fire extinguishers recall so hopefully we are all up to date. Some items: bearings repacked, nav lights checked, working horn, PFDs in good condition, inflatable suspenders check for proper CO2 canister, dock lines washed and inspected, batteries properly tied down and terminals covered, trailer tires inspected for date, controller location for the trailer winch, (don't ask me about this), trailer license up to date, Oversized Load Permit current/renewed and in the truck. OK that's enough for the required items, add more as needed!

Robin frequently gives me a "To Do" list for when she's in Denver doing grandkids visits. Sometimes I tend to lose these lists, but when it comes to our boats, I make *myself* a list of chores. I know many of us have our boats in hibernation and cannot visit them, but it doesn't hurt to make our own "To Do Lists" in the meantime.

-Commodore Jim

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# Membership Meeting

February 3, 2025



**Members present:** Robin, Jim Kaun, Linda, Russ Weber, Kate, Kevin Moss, Peggy, Joe Miotke, Bette Yentz, John Schultz, Duane Delaney, Lynn, Vince Vehasselt, Donna, Dan Danowski, Tom Fredrickson, Katie, Todd Memmel, Keith Ponath

The Meeting was called to order at 7:02

A motion was made by Duane to approve the minutes from the last meeting, seconded by Vince. The minutes were approved.

### Purser's Report:

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

Duane made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Kevin. Report approved.

### Membership/marketing:

Tom thanked everyone for their help at the Boat Show.

There were 3 inquiries that Dana will follow up with. Tom did get 2 full pages from advertisers from the show.

### Programs:

Tonight's program is all about electronics presented by Vince.

March: Brian Gotter, former weatherman on Channel 4.

April: TBD, May TBD, suggestions were made to get Jerry Guyer from boat salvage.

June: Picnic

### Safety:

A Boat Inspection will be held May 17, at Point Burger Bar in Waukesha, 9-12 p.m. Friday, May 23rd inspection at Pioneer Marina in Oshkosh, 3-6 p.m.

### Cruise Manual:

A discussion was had about the cost of the manual. Each family will get 1 manual with additional ones that may be purchased. Todd talked about having a QR code to access the manual wherever you are.

### Website:

No report

### Fleet Sheet:

Send any information or pictures by the 20th of the month.

### Sunshine:

Cards were sent to Peggy for her broken foot, Duane for his rotator cuff surgery, Vince and Lynn sick, Katie and Kevin for COVID, Dana RSV and bad knee.

### Legislative Liaison:

A study is being done concerning the flooding on the upper Mississippi River. An abandoned boat on the Mississippi River is being fined everyday it is not removed. The DNR is changing rules on catching Lake Trout. Now they can be caught and kept. This was a record year for finding shipwrecks in Lake Michigan.

### Grievances:

No report

### New Business:

No report

### Cruises:

- Commodore's shakedown cruise May 23-26 Pioneer Marina, Oshkosh
- Mississippi River cruise: June 12-22
- Lake crossing to western coast of the state of Michigan July 31-August 10

### Misc. Business:

Keith and John will be crossing the ocean on a repositioning cruise for 15 days this spring.

### Dates to remember:

- **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
- **May 17:** Boat Inspection at Point Burger Bar in Waukesha 9-12
- **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

A motion was made by Duane to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dan.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52

*Respectfully submitted,  
Robin Kaun, Yeoperson*