



OFFICERS		
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MISSION STATEMENT – The mission of the Fond du Lac Sailing Club is to provide sailing events for the recreation, challenge, and pleasure of the membership, while promoting safety, fellowship and an opportunity to improve sailing skills and knowledge.

Commodore's Comments

Hopefully everyone has had a great holiday. Now what mindset are you regarding resolutions? For me I don't do resolutions, but I digress.

See you at the next meeting.

Marty

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, Jan. 6, 7:00 pm
Regular Meeting
FDL Yacht Club

Minutes of the FDL sailing club meeting

No minutes were needed to be taken at the Change of Watch in November and the Christmas Party in December. Thanks to all those who helped sponsor those two programs.

Race Results 2021

Ed Malone Cup – Ruben Witt

Pirates Cup: Boat of the Year – Marty Witt

Telescope Trophy – Dave Whealon

Holiday Series Cup – Karin Whealon

Single Handed Race – Marty Witt

Early Nimmer Cup – Bill & Ann Freund

Late Nimmer Cup – Dave Whealon / Lallier

Thomas Mc Gualey Plaque –
Cruiser – Marty Witt
Day Sailor – Ruben Witt

Lewis Trophy – Sailor or the Year
 Tom Clausen

Cruiser Early Season

1. Animae – Dave Whealon/Dave Lallier
2. Viajante – Marty Witt
3. Windbreaker – Jack Boatman

Cruiser Late Season

1. Animae – Dave Whealon/Dave Lallier
2. Viajante – Marty Witt
3. S2 - Paul Miller

Sunday Series

1. Animae – Dave Whealon/Dave Lallier
2. Viajante – Marty Witt
3. Osprey – Bill & Ann Freund

Mainsheet

From the designated ballast (db)

A Chat with Sailing Club Members:
Sally and Jack Boatman
By Mike db Mahnke

I think the FDL Sailing Club has great members who gladly share their experience, expertise and knowledge with one another, novices and landlubbers like me. I thought you would enjoy reading about them. So, I managed to stowaway on a boat or two – with hopes of getting permission to ride on other boats in the future - to talk with more members. I prefer to join skippers while they are racing, because rules require boats must finish races with the same number of bodies that start the race. This (theoretically) keeps me from being tossed overboard...

... by any other name - just wouldn't be the same: Boatman



I remember the first time I heard Jack's last name. I thought "well that's a pretty cool name for a guy who sails!" Was it just coincidence? Was it fate? Was he related to *Volga Boatmen*? Even more curious – did he sing the song of the Volga Boatman when he was sailing....? (I thought, perhaps, we might enjoy a rousing chorus of that little ditty while stealthily passing other vessels in the race.

As fate would have it, Neither Jack nor Sally were well versed on the traditional song collected by Mily Balakirev and added to his Russian folk songs published in 1866. I share this bit of Russian nautical (and musical) knowledge in the [likelihood] that you, reader, may be asked the question: "Where did the song of the Volga Boatman come from?" And you'll be able to explain that the song originated in Russia and was sung by the "burlaks" (barge haulers) on the Volga River.

But I digress.

It's hard to believe that this interview took place a few months ago on a warm September evening of racing, wrapping up the end of the official racing season. I didn't have to walk far to join my H dock Slip neighbors and I knew things would go well that night when I received permission to come aboard.

Jack has been sailing for more than 50 years. He started when he was ten and started on Crystal Lake near Frankfort, MI. He explained the name boatman actually comes from England where he can trace his heritage back to the 1660's. While I was impressed that he knew that, in the back of my mind I was thinking "that may be well and good Jack, but where were you on the Russian questions?"

Mainsheet



I asked him what he likes best about sailing. He explained that for him it wasn't just one thing – but so many different things. “You're on your own and responsible for everything”. He said that with sailing (vs motorboating) you are in tune with nature. It's back to basics and enjoying what mother nature dials up for you.

He can't pinpoint one particular race as being the most challenging because “every race is different and presents its own challenges” whether it's weather, equipment or fellow sailors. Sailing can be very rewarding and to Jack that means; No one gets hurt, nothing gets broken, weather is conducive to a great sail and everything goes right. “Winning is fun” Jack said, “but the act of sailing is the most rewarding. I mean, you're sailing! Does it get any better than that?”

Jack doesn't sail this colicky Irwin 27 named “Windbreaker” by himself. And, yes, I had

considered commenting on the potentially explosive name of the boat, but I didn't want to air my opinions about the vaporous nature of the vessel...that would be too easy...and I'm not going to do that. I will just say that when not wind powered, this boat is powered by a Universal Atomic 4 (yes, more gas – not diesel).

Talking with Sally Boatman gave me even more insight into their winning sailing and even more importantly – their winning partnership and provided a nice reflection on the Boatman's experience and history of their sailing. She is the full-time crew and often the downwind skipper. She was twelve years old when she was first exposed to and played with sailboats in West Okoboji.



Sally met Jack in college at Iowa State University. And, since she had sailed before, told him that she knew how to sail. Jack recalls that conversation and their first sailing encounters

Mainsheet

and I was left with the impression that there might have been some discrepancy between their skill assessments at the time. Realizing there were still a couple of hours of sailing left...I dropped that line of inquiry...and they lived happily ever after...

Sally reflected on her skipper and why she liked sailing with him. "He taught me how to sail. When we got this boat, that's when I got involved in sailing". And they've had Windbreaker for 14 years. The Irwin 27 was Jack's first experience with a keel boat and has been a great learning experience for both sailors. Jack started sailing scows, butterflies and I 20's. Sally shared one experience in crewing on another boat. She was assigned to adjusting the back stay – the first time ever. She was willing to do whatever was required of her as a crew member. The only problem was no one showed her what to do or how to do it – but yelled at her during the race. That she said was most frustrating. She also said she liked sailing with Jack because he's not a "screamer". She said there are skippers who are screamers and those who are non-screamers – and Jack is definitely not a screamer.

I asked if they had ever had a close call (meaning any near crashes or emergencies while sailing and they both concluded – they hadn't, but they did have some close finishes in races. They shared one particular Lighthouse race they felt really good about. "The race was near conclusion and Animae was challenging for first place. Wind speed was at the max without overpowering and we felt like we had sailed a mistake-free race. It was an awesome feeling. It was a lot of fun sailing and chatting with the Boatmans. The weather was great, the wind was just right, and we had plenty of time to talk and "hydrate" ... we also had a great time getting close to other boats and getting some nice photos of the racing fleet that Thursday night.

Thanks Sally and Jack! Thanks for sharing – can't wait for next season and you're in a new boat!



MAINSHEET EDITOR

Tom Clausen - Mainsheet Editor

Please send items for publication to fdlsailingclub@gmail.com or call 920.960.7484

FOND DU LAC SAILING CLUB WEBSITE

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