



December 2022

Ahoy Stern Steering sailors and supporters,

As the cooler weather sets in and seeing posts on the Four Lakes Ice Yacht Club facebook page of boat building, I'm anxiously awaiting favorable ice conditions. Given the unpredictability of our season and discussion from members, officers have been discussing moving the regatta weekend up to the weekend after New Years Day. While conditions may not generally be suitable that early, having more opportunities sure seems like a good idea to us, so please note the new earlier date of January 7 and 8 for the first regatta notice.

The friendly nature of this group is a big reason I'm sailing stern steers and passionate about ice boating. Unfortunately, we've lost two stern steer sailors this year with the passing of Jeff Lallier and Marv Luck. While reminiscing good times iceboating, stories of those who are no longer with us are often told. Jeff spent a lifetime sailing on Lake Winnebago and more often than not, if stern steers were sailing on a lake Marv would show up. Marv would often time set up a boat and have it ready to go. I particularly enjoyed Marv's generosity a few years ago when he let me sail his B boat in fairly strong winds. It was an incredible ride and an experience I won't soon forget. Andy and I had a brief conversation a few weeks ago and noted we're getting to be the old salts! That may be so, but iceboating brings out youthful exuberance in me experiencing the excitement that comes from the first sail of the season or being on the edge of out of control. As I get older I sometimes don't get as close to that edge, but the fun of sailing and enjoying time with all of you is something I look forward to every year.

While we anxiously await racing conditions, there are often plenty of opportunities to go cruising. I'd like to encourage everyone to utilize the Four Lakes facebook page and let us know if you're going out sailing somewhere. It may be just the information needed to draw a few other stern steer sailors out for a day of fun. Given the challenges setting up our larger boats, having a team of fellow sailors makes short work and safety in numbers on the ice. Andy Gratton and Mike Kroll have put on some nearly 100 mile days, and having joined them on numerous Oshkosh to Somewhere cruises is a lot of fun. Cruising tends to be more hazardous as conditions have not necessarily been scouted so sailing with a group not only multiples the fun factor but the safety factor as well.

I hope you all have a Happy Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Holidays. I hope to see you all soon!

Joe Terry
Commodore

WSSA Website: www.iceboat.org/regattas/wssa/

If you would like to be removed from this mailing list, contact the WSSA Secretary below.

**Andrew Gratton, 2102 Doty Street, Oshkosh, WI 54902
920-231-3015/abgratton@gmail.com**

WSSA Regatta

The annual Wisconsin Stern Steering Regatta was not held in 2022 due to lack of suitable conditions. Perhaps we will have better luck this year. People have been throwing ice cubes in the lakes to help the lakes freeze sooner. Now, how to keep that pesky snow away.

NIYA Regatta

The 2022 Northwest Ice Yacht Association Regatta was not held in 2022.

W.S.S.A. REGATTA NOTICE

Wisconsin Stern Steering Association's Annual Championship is scheduled for January 7 and 8, 2023 as a two-day regatta. Regatta information will be available by Sunday evening, January 2, 2022. See www.iceboat.org for ice conditions and tentative regatta sites. Final confirmation will be on Thursday, January 6, 2022, with information being available after 1 PM. If conditions do not exist the regatta will be tentatively rescheduled for the following weekend so stay in touch. This is early, but there have been times we could have raced had the regatta been scheduled.

To the non-racers, remember that wherever a regatta is held the ice will be good to sail on. Bring your boat, even if it is just to cruise and have a good time with iceboating friends. Don't miss out! WSSA even has a trophy for the winner of the "Cotton Sail" division, so bring the old boats to the event!

We could use some volunteer help with the Race Committee for the WSSA regatta - starting the race and recording finishes. It's easy, you'll get to help run a low-stress fun event, and you get front row seating. Let an officer know if you are available to help. Many thanks to those that can do so.

N.I.Y.A. REGATTA NOTICE

The Northwest Ice Yachting Association Annual Championship has been scheduled for January 20 to 22, 2023. Watch iceboat.org for further information.

Hearst/Stuart Cups Challenge

The Hearst and Stuart Cups Challenge was not sailed in 2022.

The William Randolph Hearst Cup and the F.A. Stuart Cup Series is strictly for Class A and larger stern steerers. It is independent from any other regatta. Further information about this event may be obtained from any of the three trustees listed here:

Rick Hennig, 262-884-0133/ riteeng@wi.twcbc.com

Dave Lallier, 920-921-8345/ animae1@sbcglobal.net

Erik Sawyer, 231-893-3921/ ecsawyer@charter.net

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WSSA Annual Meeting Minutes

There was no annual meeting in 2022 because there was no regatta. At the last meeting, March of 2021, the officers elected are:

Joe Terry – Commodore
Mike Kroll – Vice Commodore
Andy Gratton – Secretary/Treasurer

Mark Wiener's last act as Commodore is to approve WSSA buying two drinks each at the next regatta instead of just one since we couldn't do that in 2021 due to Covid.

The Mary B Foundation is willing to take donations to the restoration and upkeep of the Mary B iceboat. See IceboatFoundation.org. There is a 45 minute documentary available of the boat called *Mary B: Madison's Legendary Iceboat*.

If anyone has a good story or interesting historical information to share in this newsletter, please send it to the secretary at the email address in the footer. An example story is at the end of this newsletter.

For Sale

- C class stern steerer, C-3, tandem cockpit, about 28' x 32' tall. 2 sets of sails-1 set new, 3 sets of runners, trailer with plenty of storage in box, gin pole, new cushions, and all new covers. Location: Racine, WI \$7500
Call John Stanley, 414-418-1635 or windspread@hotmail.com
- There are a number of very nice stern steerers for sale on the 4LIYC website, www.iceboat.org
- Stern steerer in Minneapolis area, 1937 Johnson Boat Works B boat with D sail plan, 38' LOA, 18'+ newer plank, 26'x 2" S&R glass wing mast, 3 sails, 2 booms, plate and slush runners, trailer with storage box. \$2,500
Kurt Martinson, 612-388-6009 or Kurt.r.Martinson@gmail.com
Photo below.

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- Ice Hagge (Old English term for Fallen Timber) for sale, 2 sets of runners (angles and inserts), 16'6" long x 12' wide, trailer, \$2500, contact Chuck Emery at Boatracers@earthlink.net. Photo below.



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- Class A, Leaping Lena, 36'10" backbone, 34'6" mast, 18'3" boom, 22' plank, 2 sets of plate runners, 1 set of slush runners partially rebuilt, cotton sails plus original gaff rigged sails. Older trailer, \$5500. Contact Dan Bierman at 920-299-0773, Green Lake. Photo below.



- 16' sloop, cast runners, 4 cotton sails in bag, needs some TLC, needs to be put back on the ice, make offer. Menominee, MI, contact Jason Fifarek at 906-290-0047. Photo below.

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- FREE - 18' Madison style side-railer, 11' plank with partial wooden hobbler, sails, needs TLC, Andy has free runners that might fit. Madison, WI, contact Brett Hulseley at 608-334-4994 bretthulseley1@gmail.com



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WSSA long sleeve t-shirts, \$25.00 each plus shipping. Choice of three colors – charcoal, medium blue, and forest green. A colored WSSA logo is on the left side of chest, a stern steerer in a tall hike (thanks to Jeff Seeboth for the pose) is on the back. Send t-shirt orders to WSSA Secretary/Treasurer.



front of shirt



three colors

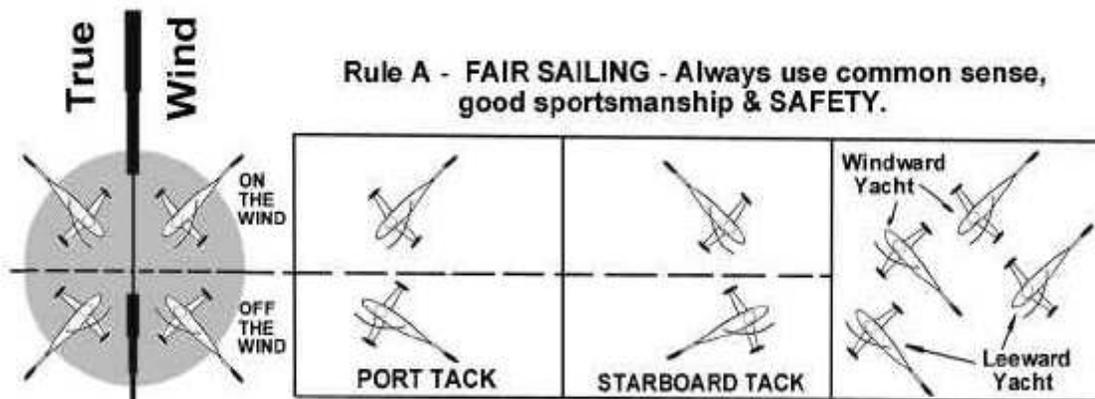


back of shirt

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RIGHT OF WAY and SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

The Purpose of the Rules is to PREVENT COLLISIONS.



Rule B - RIGHT-of-WAY - Yachts must KEEP CLEAR as follows:

<p>1 <u>IN MOTION</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Keep clear of <u>STOPPED YACHT</u></p>	<p>2 <u>OFF THE WIND</u></p> <p>Keep Clear</p>	<p>3a <u>ON THE WIND</u> <u>PORT TACK</u></p> <p>Keep Clear</p>	<p>3b <u>OFF THE WIND</u> <u>PORT TACK</u></p> <p>Keep Clear</p>
<p>4a <u>ON THE WIND</u> <u>SAME TACK</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">WINDWARD YACHT</p> <p>Keep Clear</p>	<p>4b <u>OFF THE WIND</u> <u>SAME TACK</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">LEEWARD YACHT</p> <p>Keep Clear</p>	<p>5a <u>RIGHT - OF - WAY YACHT</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Do not alter course so as to mislead or prevent a non right-of-way yacht from keeping clear.</p>	<p>5b <u>FASTER YACHT</u> <u>SAME TACK</u> <u>OVERTAKING</u></p> <p>Keep Clear</p>
<p>6 <u>TACK or JIBE</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">DO NOT IF COLLISION IS PROBABLE ←</p>	<p>7 <u>OBSTRUCTION</u></p> <p>Signal</p> <p>Keep Clear</p>	<p>8 <u>ROUNDING MARK</u> <u>OUTSIDE YACHT</u></p> <p>Keep Clear</p>	<p>9 <u>AFTER FINISHING THE RACE -</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>KEEP CLEAR</u> of the <u>COURSE</u></p>



- REMEMBER -
PREVENT COLLISIONS
Use Your Parking Break!
Wear a Crash Helmet!
Use Common Sense!

Reproduced from NETA
New England Ice Yacht Association

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WSSA Membership Form

WSSA membership dues are \$20.00

Make check out to WSSA, send check and this form to:

WSSA

C/O Andy Gratton

2102 Doty Street

Oshkosh, WI 54902

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Boat name and class _____

Boat overall dimensions _____

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2011 “Intrepid” Excursion to Fond du Lac and Back

In late winter of 2011 Matt Critchley and I decided to take a ride on Wisconsin and cruise south from Oshkosh to Fond du Lac, about 15 miles in a straight line. There were a few inches of fresh snow on the ice with about 15 mph west wind. We sailed in front of the South Side Ice Yacht Club a few passes, hiking the boat up just for fun. Did you know, once a stern steerer gets hiked high enough going upwind it can slide on the side of the runner's edge and will slowly lose speed until it is nearly parked? The runner tracks in the snow are interesting. We practiced doing that a number of times, then turned southward.

Early in the season the entire lake had frozen at least 4” thick, then a very strong NE wind blew the whole sheet about 4 miles, opening up the north end of the lake. All that ice piled up in front of Lakeside Park in Fond du Lac, along the points sticking out from the west shoreline, and into two huge piles on the north side of the island halfway to Fond du Lac, near Wendt's. We sailed along, zipping here and there as we worked south, stopping at a few places along the way to climb on the ice piles. We also stopped at the huge piles near the island and climbed to the top. The piles of ice were taller than the mast which is about 26’ off the ice. The piles looked like a giant dump truck had deposited its load.



Ice piles along the west shoreline.

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Sitting on an ice pile near Wendt's, at least 30 feet high.

When we left the area there was a small uneven fracture to cross. Matt was kneeling and still getting situated in the front basket. We didn't have enough speed (about 5 mph) when we hit the ridge so the runners did not climb, suddenly stopping the boat but not stopping Matt who tipped forward into the space between the rails. He still won't let me forget that, though I thought it looked funny, him kneeling in the basket with his butt in the air and his hands on the ice.

We continued south to Lakeside Park and past the Fond du Lac Yacht Club. There was quite a lot of activity in the area, so we stopped to watch. There was ice fishing, 4 wheelers, snowmobiles, and a couple kites on skis. They came over to talk with us. Someone with a camera showed up about then and asked for a photo. The boat was parked pointing west into the wind. Then the photographer took the kites' photo with their kites in the air. Sometime later we came across a *SCENE* magazine that had us on the cover! How cool is that? Inside, it even mentioned "(the snow) didn't stop two intrepid ice boaters from taking one rig out". I pointed out to Matt that this is not the photo taken of us, we were pointing to the flat shore to the west, not the ledge to the east. Hmm, it looks like photo-shopping at its best.

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Collage of three photos, "Intrepid ice boaters" mentioned inside the magazine.

The wind was dropping a little, so we started sailing north. I was a little worried we might use up all the wind. It took longer to sail north than south, but at least we didn't have to push much. It was a good day.

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