

Wide-Waters YACHT CLUB

Member Lake Michigan Yachting Association
www.wide-waters.org

Box 28, OTTAWA, IL 61350

Home Port – STARVED ROCK MARINA

Member
Yachting Club of America
Illinois River Basin Boating Association (IRBBA)

2024-2025 Bridge and Board Members

Commodore – Tony Martinez
Vice Commodore – Mike Grzybowski
Treasurer – Wanda Gifford
Secretary – Dom Pacenti

Bylaws Chairman – Dom Pacenti
Fleet Captain – Cheri Westfal

Board of Directors:

Teresa Bush
Jeff Donovan
Stacey Nicholson
Joe Pacenti
Dave Puent

February 2024 Newsletter



Illinois River at Captain's Cove Bar and Grill January 27, 2024
Arctic subzero weather, near 60 degree temps, more snow, ice jams,
flooding..... enough already, bring on spring!



Save the date:

WWYC 2024 Events Calendar

Flag Raising & Member Memorial
10:00 AM Starved Rock Marina-----May 26

Blessing of the Fleet
1:30 PM - Buffalo Rock-----May 26

IRBBA Riverbottom - Pekin Boat Club ---June 22

Pig Roast and Draw Down Raffle - SRM---July 27

Lobster Boil – SRM -----September 7

Commodore's Chili Cook Off -----September 28

Haul Out Party----- November 9

Wide Waters Yacht Club – February Bridge and Board Meeting

Thank you, Mike and Kim Grzybowski for hosting the February Bridge and Board meeting at your home.

Miscellaneous notes from meeting:

- Treasurers report - bank statement and year end balances, along with 2024 insurance coverage were reviewed and approved.
- WWYC membership renewal forms have been sent out. The due date of March 1st on form should have been March 31st. Members, please note accordingly.
- This year's Flag Raising event will be recognizing one member, Lynn Jones. A memorial plaque will be ordered by Wanda G. along with tickets for this year's Draw Down Raffle and Pig Roast. The Grand Prize for this year's Draw Down Raffle will be changed from \$4,000.00 to \$3,000.00 to create a 2nd and 3rd place prize winners of \$700.00 and \$300.00.
- It was announced that Msgr. Mark Merdian will again be doing the Blessing of the Fleet. The start time for this year's event will be at 1:30 PM.
- WWYC participation in this year's IRBBA Winter Games was discussed at length in a separate meeting at the conclusion of the normal business meeting.

The next WWYC Bridge and Board meeting will be held at the home of Jeff Donovan and Cheri Westfal on March 2nd. Meet and greet will begin

at 11:00 AM with the business meeting beginning at noon. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Hope to see you there!

Upcoming Events

Winter Games. Whether you come for the day or stay for the weekend, it's always a fun event. This year's theme is TV Game Shows. The dates this year are February 23-25. Please see last month's newsletter attachments for exact times and event details. Remember, Lynn Jones will be inducted in the IRBBA Hall of Fame at this event.

Winter 2024:

What started out looking like it was going to be a mild winter, turned out to be a real weather adventure. From temperatures near -20 degrees to temperatures approaching near 60 degrees, several inches of snow, ice jams and flooding, it has not been a boring winter! Thanks to SRYC, Marty McConville, Deb and Kevin Esler, here are a couple of photos from their Facebook postings capturing the moment.



Staging towboats collecting barges that broke free in the ice flow

Dock Rescue – just a week later, 2/3/24, several Wide Waters Yacht Club members decided to rescue the boat docks that were taken out from Dockside Bar and Grill by the ice flow.

With the ice gone, the docks were located down river past Starved Rock Lock and Dam. Up to the adventure, Tony Bush, Riley Stoneking, Chris Donnelly, Ryan Donovan, and friend Ricky Howard, all headed out on the quest with some land support from Jess.

The dock rescue turned out to be more than a 12 hour adventure. Because of the high water, permission was needed to launch the rescue boats from the Starved Rock Park side of the dam.



Broken channel markers passing by Starved Rock Marina

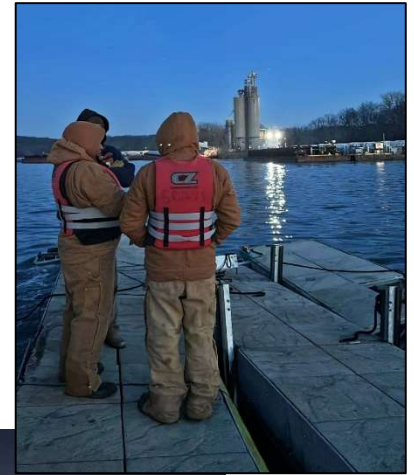


Dockside docks found

The current was horrendous on that side of Plum Island.



Getting locked through and then fighting a very strong current, the speed was estimated to be about 1 mile per hour! Finally reached their destination about 8 PM that night, much later than anticipated. Very cold! Great job guys!



Locking through Starved Rock Lock



BE READY FOR SUMMER:

ILLINOIS BOATING LAWS & REGULATIONS

Who May Operate a Vessel (625 ILCS 45/5-18)

Persons born on or after January 1, 1998, may operate a vessel powered by a motor of more than 10 horsepower (hp) *only if* they have a valid Boating Safety Certificate accepted by the Department of Natural Resources.

- Persons under the age of 10 may *not* operate any motorized vessel, including personal watercraft (PWC).
- Persons at least 10 years old but less than 12 years old may operate a motorized vessel with more than 10 hp, including a PWC, *only if* they are accompanied by and under the direct control of a parent, a guardian, or a person at least 18 years old designated by the parent or guardian.
- Persons at least 12 years old but less than 18 years old may operate a motorized vessel with more than 10 horsepower, including a PWC, *only if*:
 - They complete a boating safety course and possess a Boating Safety Certificate accepted by the Department of Natural Resources *or...*
 - They are accompanied by and under the direct control of a parent, a guardian, or a person at least 18 years old designated by the parent or guardian.
- Parents, guardians, or designees born on or after January 1, 1998, must have a valid boating safety certificate to supervise a person 10 to 17 years old who is operating a motorized vessel with more than 10 hp.

Delbridge Island Construction Update:

As detailed and shown on a map in the October/November Wide Waters Yacht Club Newsletter, the Army Corp of Engineers has begun construction to restore Delbridge Island across from Starved Rock Marina and Captain's Cove. The multi million dollar project is intended to help restore the habitat that was lost back in the 1930's with the construction of Starved Rock Lock and Dam. It will also help maintain the navigation channel past the marina.



Marina info:

- Women's showers have been demolished and are currently being remodeled. Completion is expected by the end of March.
- Spring/Summer Rate sheet, the terms & conditions sheet and a contract form have been emailed to all members. Everyone is encouraged to review the information as some things have changed. Invoices are being sent out separately over the next few days.
- If you did not get an email, please message them and they will send you another package. Note, there have been issues with sbcglobal.net emails getting returned undeliverable. Please use a different email address.
- Remember, to launch your boat, your paperwork and account must be up to date. Payment plan options are available.
- SRM part time spring office hours will resume in March.
- Captain's Cove Bar and Grill season opening will be Friday, March 8th!

Don't forget to check and keep your boat registration expiration decals up to date before spring arrives!

From THE HANDBOOK OF Illinois Boating Laws and Responsibilities:

Before Going Out

All operators are required to obey laws that regulate your vessel's registration, titling, and operation.

Registering and Titling (625 ILCS 45/3)

- You must have an Illinois Certificate of Number (registration), expiration decals, and Certificate of Title to operate your vessel legally. The only exceptions are:
 - Unpowered vessels, including canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards
 - Vessels owned by the federal or state government
 - Vessels properly registered in another state and using Illinois waters for less than 60 consecutive days
 - Vessels documented with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and using Illinois waters for less than 60 consecutive days
 - Vessels used solely as lifeboats
 - Vessels registered in other countries temporarily using Illinois waters
 - Vessels used exclusively and solely for racing purposes
- Vessels 21 feet and under in length are not required to have a Certificate of Title.
- Registration is valid for three years. All certificates expire on September 30 at the end of the three-year period.



Where to Title and Register

Watercraft registration application forms are available from www.dnr.illinois.gov/boating/Pages/WatercraftApplications.aspx.

Boaters may renew their vessel registrations:

- By calling **1-866-867-3542**
- On the Internet at www.dnr.illinois.gov

Registration Questions?

Call the Illinois Department of Natural Resources at **1-800-382-1696** or visit www.dnr.illinois.gov

- The Certificate of Number (registration card) must be on board and available for inspection by an enforcement officer whenever the vessel is being operated.



ANY INFORMATION you'd like to share with the club, future events, past events, photos, things of common interest,

PLEASE SEND IT TO:
Dave Puent

david.puent@comcast.net



STARVED ROCK Marina

Boating Season is on the way.

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We are your
family-friendly,
family-owned,
family-affordable
waterfront marina destination.

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starvedrockmarina.com ~815.433.4218



Captain's Cove Bar And Grill At Starved Rock Marina

SEASON OPENING – FRIDAY, MARCH 8TH!

Serving corned beef and cabbage on
St. Patrick's Day

(815)434-0881

www.captainscovebarandgrill.net



Currently Closed for the Season

(815)434-9200

<https://starvedrockriveradventures.com>



Weeta's Boutique
at
Starved Rock Marina



OPEN - Great Place for some boutique shopping!
Please stop by and check out all the new spring fashions and say hello to Kathy! Call ahead for hours or to schedule an appointment.