

# **CYA**

## ***Reported by James Graham***

Following is a summary of the Chicago Yachting Association meeting on August 26

### **Westrec report on Chicago Harbors**

- Contracts for winter storage at Chicago Harbors will be mailed out in a week or two.
- Aquatic weed treatments were applied in all harbors this week, one of three done throughout the year.
- Jackson Park's outer harbor had a parking gate malfunctioning. They think they identified the cause and work is ongoing to fix the culprit electronic component.
- The CYA attendee representing 59th Street harbor reported dock power outages, which Westrec says are isolated and should be fixed. It was also reported to Westrec that security officer visibility was lacking.
- At 31st Harbor it was pointed out that weekend sound restrictions are not well-enforced.
- At Montrose Harbor, lighting around the promenade has been repaired.

CYA's Sea Scouts reports an extremely successful year with good participation.

Happy sailing all!

## ***RIGGING & EQUIPMENT***

### ***SEALANT CONFUSION***

#### ***Submitted by Leo Beer S/V High Life***

Hey Everyone, It's been a really fast summer but I think Deb and I made the most of it. Unfortunately, as you're reading this some of you may be doing the fall haul out or getting ready to finish out the season and tuck in our summer love for a long winters nap. This is a sad thought, but something we northern sailors must face every year.

Our sailboats are very susceptible to leaks, with all the deck hardware attached to the topsides. With this comes the chance for water intrusion. This is bad, even worse over the winter exacerbated by freezing and

thawing of any moisture that may find it's way into any crack, crevice, screw hole or seam. There are a lot of sealant options out there and may be confusing on what type of sealant to use and where. So here is a quick rundown of sealants from 3M and a few others.

Starting with a product to repair those little spider cracks to in gelcoat to keep water out is "Capt. Tolley's Creeping Crack Cure". The capillary action penetrates the even the finest hairline gelcoat spider cracks. It's easy to apply, flexible and dries clear. For use above the waterline only. Remove any wax first.

"Butyl Tape" is a choice of many sailors to seal deck hardware. It's great for filling in odd shaped voids around chainplates, lifeline stanchions or anything with a larger gap to fill. Its easy to shape, cleans up easy and is easy to remove in the future. It needs to be replaced periodically as it does dry out eventually.

"3M Marine Grade Silicone Sealant" is for use above the waterline. It is not an adhesive. This is the best silicone sealant for a boat since it's mildew resistant and non-yellowing. Good around screws and non-direct water pressure or UV exposure.

"3M Fast Cure 4200" number is misleading as it is a lower grade sealant/adhesive than the 4000. It is medium grade that's designed for interior use since it's not UV resistant. For the same cost go for the 4000, it's virtually the same. I confirmed this with 3M's technical department.

"3M Fast Cure 4000 UV" has it right in the name, UV. This is a great all around high performance product for interior, exterior, above and below waterline sealant / adhesive. It has an excellent UV resistance and is color stable. Best part of this is you can get it apart with a little patience and some work without destroying your boat or the part. It's also paintable after fully cured.

"3M Marine Adhesive Sealant 5200" is the mother of all adhesives. It is a permanent bonding sealant. Do not use this if you ever think you might need to get it apart. There is a fast cure version of this product also but use the slow cure if you have time to wait 48 hours. This gives you time to move or change assembly if needed.

Get your boat snug and leak free and you'll be happier at spring launch. See you all at the banquet.

Safe sailing.

Leo