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A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMODORE

Crowley's Yachtapalooza was a good time. Numerous members stopped by our table, shared updates in their lives, and told a few stories. April and I managed to shop a bit at Crowley's and Nautical Donations. Good Stuff. And several past and potential members stopped by and talked.



Everyone was looking forward to the summer and a new sailing season. Speaking of which, have you thought about or made plans for sailing adventures this summer? Several of us from Catalina Fleet 21 have purchased passes for the Sail GP, June 18 & 19. We plan to anchor off the end of Navy Pier and watch the races. Consider joining us and share in the excitement. We did it for the pre-Americas Cup races a couple of years ago and had a great time.

While thinking about connecting, have you considered an outing to another port up the Michigan coast or up the Wisconsin coast? Such outings make for great get-aways to explore another harbor, visit a quaint downtown and its social scene. If you are a little nervous about venturing very far from home, consider connecting with a Catalina Fleet 21 member to sail with. The first time April and I were contemplating a lake crossing to Michigan City, we were quite nervous about venturing out all by ourselves. We had just met Carolyn and Dave DeAre. They offered to connect with us to cross the lake to Michigan City. It gave us a lot of confidence knowing that there was another boat in contact with us and within sight when we were out there, seemingly all alone. In the process, we made new friends, gained experience and a few tips about doing a crossing. One of the lessons I'll share is when time matters and the winds are not ideal to get you there, START the engine and motor or motor/sail to make efficient progress. It is allowed! I'll confess to doing this more hours than pure sailing, but it gets you on the water, enjoying the wind, the water, the sun while creating an adventure. Once you get to that first new harbor, traveling on to the next one gets easier. Try it. You will have a good time!

More information will be coming soon about our Fleet 21 outings. I encourage you to sail to these events whenever possible. If you need help making a connection, talk with other Catalina owners in your harbor or reach out to me and I'll try to find you a sailing partner if you don't want to sail alone.

I hope your spring commissioning goes well and that you will make plans for a sailing adventure. Watch for the details of the CF21 Commissioning/ DYI Program scheduled for May 17th.

Harold Hansen, Commodore