



JOSEPH CONRAD YACHT CLUB

by Albert Niedzinski

It has been another busy year for Joseph Conrad Yacht Club. The 2001 sailing season officially ended with the Autumn Season Ball on November 17th. During the Ball, awards were presented to winners of two races of the 2001 summer, one for the "Regatta for the Commodores' Gold Button", and another, for the "Trophy of the Consul General of Poland". Honored guests included Mr. Mariusz Jakubowski, the Commercial

Consul of the Republic of Poland, accompanied by his wife Danuta, as well as the Deputy Consul General, Mr. Mariusz Brymora. The high point of the program was a fashion show organized by Mrs. Danuta Jakubowska, presenting beautiful models showing off the latest in high fashions. Attendees also reflected on the tragedy of September 11th.

During winter, several club members organized group charters, to the Caribbean sun and put on some sailing miles during winter. During the winter season the club also sponsored a seamanship and navigation course, given by a Polish licensed yacht captain, Mr. Tadeusz Krajewski, who graciously donated several Saturdays of his time.

Sailors arriving from Poland are amazed by the fact that in the US, there are no official requirements for yacht operators to possess basic seamanship, or navigation skills. In Poland, difficult and intensive seamanship and navigation courses are a mandatory prerequisite to obtain a Helmsman's or a Captains' license to operate a yacht.

The 2002 season kicked off with the annual Polish Constitution Parade in May in which the Club participated. On July 14th 22 boats entered the "Race for the Commodores Gold Button." Winner in the Group 1, PHRF rating to 170 was a Tartan 10, *Yellow Mellow*, owned by Waldemar Emmerich. Winner of Group 2, above PHRF 170, was a Buccaneer 29, *Dove Tails*, owned by Roman Chorazy.



Club boats at Monroe harbor prior to start of a race, *Light Horse*, *Upabuba*, *Intentions 2*.

A couple of our yachts participated in the blustery 2002 Mac, *Grytviken*, a Mirage 34 owned by Peter Madrzyk, and *Yellow Mellow*, a Tartan 10, owned by Waldemar Emmerich.

On August 11th, 20 boats entered the "Race for the Trophy of the Consul General of Poland." Weather was excellent. We were honored by the presence of two guests, Consul General of Poland, Mr. Franciszek Adamczyk and the Commercial Consul, Mr. Mariusz Jakubowski. Both sailed the course as observers on *Upabuba*, Commodore John Ciurlas' media/observer yacht.

As in last years' race, the winner in the Group 1, PHRF rating to 170 was a 38' custom PJ, *Intention 2*, owned by Albert and Michael Niedzinski. Winner of Group 2, PHRF 170 and up, was *Sovereign*, a Columbia 30 owned by Leszek Groman. Line honors went to *Light Horse*, a Melges 30, owned by Les Ziolkowski. This time the post-race celebration took place in Monroe Street harbor, drawing several hundred fans, with our faithful sponsors providing the epicurean delights.

One of our club boats, *Fazisi*, an 82' maxi, has sailed Florida waters during the summer, and participated in the Regatta Del Sol al Sol from St. Petersburg to Isla Mujeres in Mexico. 27 boats entered the annual race this year, organized by St. Petersburg Yacht Club. Several boats carried badly needed medical and school supplies to the island's inhabitants. *Fazisi*, skippered by Bogdan Stojkowski came away with the second place finish.

Our former Commodore, Isidore Ryzak, again utilized his boat, *Karolinka*, in Mayor Daley's program to introduce sailing to inner city youth. He has had high praise for the

emotional rewards by sailing with these youngsters.

Club members organized a cruise to St. Joseph for the 4th of July holiday, and repeated with a cruise to Racine for Labor Day.

At least five of our club members are flying to Poland in September to participate in the annual International Polonia Sailing Week, a gathering of sailors of Polish descent from all around the globe. The chief sponsor of this event is

the President of the Republic Poland, Mr. Alexander Kwasniewski. The event is held in Gizycko, in the heart of the Mazurian lakes area of Poland, appropriately named the "Great Lakes Region." Included are several days of one design sailing in identically prepared boats, provided by the organizers. On the evening of the last day of the races there will be a shanties concert. Three days of the event feature a cruise through four interconnected lakes.

On November 15th and 16th a shanties concert at St. Patricks Performing Arts Center, 5900 W. Belmont in Chicago will provide fans of the traditional sailors work songs an unparalleled opportunity to hear some of the world's best performers of this genre. The organizers, Mr. Jacek Reschke and Tom and Chris Kastle prepared a wonderful program. Friday's program is titled "Sea Songs and Shanties from Poland."

Saturday afternoon will feature workshops by Geoff Kaufman, Lee Murdock and Marek Siurawski. Saturday evening concert is headlined "Shanties from the Seven Seas." Concerts will feature Stare Dzwony a world famous and award winning Polish shanty group, our own Chicago group, Mlynn, Lee Murdock, Mystic Seaports Forebitter, Poles Apart, Smugglers, Tom Lewis, Pech, and Qftry. For more details check their website at www.shanties-chicago.com

Summer sailing season will be officially closed on November 23rd, during the annual Autumn Season Ball, held this year at the Waukegan Yacht Club.

Our web site, www.jcyccchicago.com is beginning to function, providing details of the clubs activities.

