



A PUBLICATION OF JACKSON PARK YACHT CLUB

FOGHORN

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May

2007

A Hero Among Us

by Steve Pittman, *Blues Doctor*

QUESTION: What chart would you use to plot the following course? Begin with George Washington in 1776, end with Jack Lyle in 2007. Make 133 stops including the Wright Brothers, Jesse Owens, Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks, Jackie Robinson and the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

ANSWER: the list of Congressional Gold Medal recipients. JPYC's Jack Lyle and the other Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Gold Medal in a ceremony in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda on March 29, 2007. The Congressional Gold Medal – the highest civilian award bestowed by Congress – had previously been awarded only 133 times in its 230 year history.



Jack served as part of the Tuskegee Airmen from 1943 through 1945, flying 26 combat missions from their base in Ramitelli, Italy. When asked for a memory that stood out, he cited a “mystical experience” he had on his 3rd or 4th mission. “I was flying at 20,000 or 25,000 feet, looking down at the mountain peaks and feeling a little apprehensive. Then it came to me. ‘Lyle if something happens, you’ll just return to where you came from, part of the atoms and elements of nature.’ After that I just relaxed and enjoyed the ride.”

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JPYC Opening Day Sunday, May 27th

10:30 am Continental Breakfast

11:00 am Opening Ceremony

Lunch & Fleet Review Following

\$25 adult ♦ \$10 under 12

RSVP immediately to 773-684-5522

JPYC Racing Starts Wed, May 30th

5:00 pm – food available

6:00 pm – Captain’s Meeting

7:00 pm – Race Begins

JPYC races will continue every Wednesday evening for the rest of the season. For more information contact JPYC Race Committee Chair Janet Hansen of *Decembers Child*.

Sat. “Popcorn Parties”

June 2nd will be the first of the season’s weekly Saturday “Popcorn Parties”. Tess Garner will host this kick-off. Contact John and Cherie Parker of *Dippy K II* for host signup or more information.

Spring Work Party Cleans House

story & photos by Steve Pittman, *Blues Doctor*

Around twenty five JPYC members and four Sea Scouts showed up for the Spring Work Party on Saturday, May 12th. Windows were washed, trophies polished, tables and chairs cleaned, porch railing painted and other necessary jobs completed.

Not every task on the “to do” list got done, and too many members were missing. But everyone who was there did their part. And there is no

doubt the clubhouse will look a lot better for Opening Day.

The Spring and Fall Work Parties are important events in the life of JPYC, and members’ participation is crucial. Some members who couldn’t make it have already signed up for a task. If you didn’t make it out, it’s not too late for you to do your part. Check with Daryl, our Club Steward, for an assignment. *RP*



Congratulations Captain Jack

by Jane Leuthold, *Optimality*

There is a lot to like and admire in Jack Lyle – his big smile, his wry sense of humor, the way he sails into the harbor on a summer day, his good natured arrival at the Club in the late afternoon after a day of hard labor at his business, his love of a good discussion – Jack is an admirable kind of guy. Now we have something else to admire in Jack, he is a Congressional Gold Medal recipient.

The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of African Americans trained at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama to become fighter pilots during World War II. They became one of the most successful fighter squadrons in American military history, fighting both the enemy overseas and discrimination at home.



photo by Jim Lett

Captain Jack at his favorite pastime

Jack and Eunice co-own the sloop *Nightwatch* with Jim and Carol Lett. Jim recalls accompanying Jack to see an exhibit of military aircraft at the Kalamazoo Air Zoo. The Director took a special interest in Jack. There was a P51, the aircraft Jack flew over Italy, and two Messerschmitt on exhibit. The Director asked which Messerschmitt Jack would like to see, and Jack said he didn't know; the last time he saw one, it was firing at him.

Jack was also honored with an Honorary Degree from Tuskegee University last spring. *R*

Hero

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When I asked what stood out about their trip to D.C. for the ceremony, he answered in typical Jack fashion. “Walking. Lots of walking. And being hungry. I didn't get a chance to eat all day.” He then added, “I got to see 3 or 4 of the guys. I hadn't seen them in 60 years. They acted like they were glad to see me.”

As usual, I turned to Eunice for the rest of the story. The hero treatment began when Southwest Airlines called to say their flights were complimentary. On the plane out the crew poured wine, other passengers asked to take their picture with Jack and the airline pilots lined up in tribute at the arrival gate.

What stood out most for Eunice was “when the Tuskegee Airmen marched into the rotunda. Seeing all those gentlemen in their 80's with their wings and medals on their chests. How good they looked. They were different from other men. When they signed up they knew they could do what needed to be done.”

After the ceremony, Senators Durbin and Obama had an Illinois reception in Durbin's office in the Capitol. And there was a formal reception at the Library of Congress.

Eunice has said more than once (and I bet Jack never has), “Jack Lyle is a real hero.” I know I'm honored to have him as a JPYC member, even more so because Jack is Jack.

As Congressman Charlie Rangle pointed out in his remarks: in a Capitol building built by slaves, Congress, on behalf of the American people, has finally paid tribute to true American heroes – the Tuskegee Airmen.

Put perhaps less elegantly, I'm glad that Jack and the Tuskegee Airmen finally got their props. *R*

May Members Meeting

by Steve Pittman, *Blues Doctor*

Nearly 30 JPYC members turned out for the semi-annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday, May 8th. Wanda Robertson (*My Tyme II*), JPYC's first woman Commodore, steered JPYC past another historical waypoint by presiding over her first full membership meeting.

Treasurer David Ward (*Unknown Lady*) reported that JPYC finances were in decent shape. He then enlivened the meeting a bit with a power point presentation that mixed charts illustrating the share of various income and expense categories in the overall budget with slides one described as editorializing humor.



photo by Steve Pittman

Rear Commodore Dennis Hansen, Commodore Wanda Robertson & Vice Commodore Mary Avellone

After hearing all the Committee Reports, two things were very clear:

- 1) we have a solid core of volunteers working hard through the committees to create a full and fun season of activities, and
- 2) we need more members to step-up and help with the facilities and activities.

Ernest Coleman (*Ms. Ann*) was unanimously elected to the Board to fill the vacancy created by Johann Hudson's (*Robert Smalls*) resignation.

Several areas relating to Westrec's slow performance getting the harbor ready for the new earlier May 1st opening were discussed, including dredging, "A" dock access and the "D" dock power outage. If you experience problems of this sort it is important that you contact Westrec directly and provide a Bridge Officer with the details.

Additional important items from the meeting are covered elsewhere in this issue. More will be covered in the June Foghorn.

After adjournment, members spent the rest of the evening doing what we do best: talking about how much work we have or haven't done on our boats, swapping stories and spinning yarns – both old and new. *R*

stories ♦ pictures ♦ cartoons
send 'em all to the Foghorn
jpyc-foghorn@sbcglobal.net
our goal is to have a Foghorn every month
during the season, so get us the info
FOGHORN COMMITTEE
Steve Pittman, editor
Jane Leuthold

2007 Member Packets

The 2007 members packets can be picked up at the clubhouse now. Your packet will contain:

- ♦ Membership Card(s)
- ♦ 2007 Yearbook(s)
- ♦ Proximity card(s) for the new card reader.

For a short period of time you will need to keep your old keycard for access to the South Door and the Ice House. *R*

Strictly Sail Chicago

by Steve Pittman, *Blues Doctor*

Forty plus members made JPYC more visible to area boaters by standing a watch at our Strictly Sail booth this year. 2007 was the 4th year we participated.

The volunteers answered questions and encouraged people to visit our club and harbor. We extolled the virtues of our weekend brunch and the value of our mast stepping. We listened to visitors' stories about the time they sailed to, raced from or danced in the front yard of JPYC. And yes, once or twice each day, we even told someone "no you won't run aground 'cause they now dredge the harbor every year."

Getting folks to visit JPYC for the brunch or to take advantage of the best mast-stepping deal in Chicago is a great way to introduce people to Jackson Park Yacht Club and our harbor. It's a good opportunity to recruit new members. And even if they don't move to Jackson Park and join JPYC, the added brunch and mast-stepping income help support our club.

The Board is preparing for next year. We're gathering ideas for improving the display, attracting more people to the booth and getting more people to JPYC. So if you worked the booth, we need to hear your thoughts. What were the most frequently asked questions? What answers didn't you have? What drew visitors' interest? Give a holler or send an email to Steve Pittman (jpyc-foghorn@sbcglobal.net) or one of the Bridge Officers with your ideas and comments.

If you just visited the booth – plan to sign-up for a shift next year. It's a great way to help our club and you get in free – so you can use the admission fee to help pay for all that neat gear you couldn't live without. 

New Key Cards

We are installing proximity card readers on the 2 club exterior doors and the ice house. The new key cards will be permanent and work for as long as you are a member. However, the cards are more expensive so there's a deposit of \$10.00 per card. The deposit is refundable if you leave and return the card.

These cards are programmable, so if you lose one it can be replaced, and the lost card disabled. The cards physically resemble the old ones. The big difference is that you only need to hold the card close to the reader to unlock the door. 

It's Happenin' at Jackson Park

in June

2nd Galley Opens
2nd 1st "Popcorn Party"
16th Boating Flea Market
16th Island Party

and beyond

July 7th Blues Fest
Aug 4th-5th Raske Race
Aug 10th Sail to Montrose
Aug 11th Jazz Fest
Aug 25th Bennett Cup
Sept 15th Commodore Cup &
Kids Day

don't forget Wed club racing, Fri
movie night, Sat & Sun galley, and Sat
"Popcorn" Parties

Galley Opens

June 2nd

open every Sat & Sun

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

\$10 brunch buffet

reduced price for kids

& individual items for sale ala carte

eat in or carry out

Boating Flea Market

Have boating gear you want to get rid of? Have some space that needs filling? The JPYC Boating Flea Market is for you.

Saturday, June 16th

8:30 am to 3:00 pm

Vendors pay \$5 for space and can setup at 7:30 am. Rain date is June 23rd. Electrical will be available for testing. For more information contact Pam Rice (*Purple Reigns*).

Island

Party

Saturday, June 16th

Caribbean food

live Caribbean music

watch your mail for details

contact Ken Harris for more info

At the Helm

JPYC Board of Directors

Commodore

Wanda Robertson

Vice Commodore

Mary Avellone

Rear Commodore

Dennis Hansen

Treasurer

David Ward

Recording Secretary

Yvonne Nelson

Membership Secretary

Eric Jensen

Directors

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Ted Graves

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Stan Hill