

## **Spring, 2018 Maintenance Update**

### **By Joe Cannon, Maintenance Coordinator**

First of all, as the new maintenance coordinator, I'd like to express thanks and appreciation to **Tom Peterson** for all he has done during his tenure in this position. The organization has benefitted enormously from his knowledge and hard work. I will certainly depend upon him for guidance.

Along that same vein, the maintenance program would benefit if the knowledge and experience of the membership could be harnessed. Some members are (or were) boat owners who performed their own maintenance. Many members who are not boat owners have researched and completed various repair tasks on Sail Chicago boats. **A first goal for the coming year is to make it easy for members to document and share what they know or have recently learned.** One approach would be to provide a one-page procedures template:

- Describe the task
- Source of information (personal knowledge, books, on-line research)
- Source of supplies/materials (Crowley's, West Marine, Ace Hardware, etc.)
- Step-by-step procedure (short phrases)
- Time required
- What would I do differently next time?

The information would then be expanded and finished by Maintenance Coordinators and posted to the Sail Chicago website.

**A second goal is to get more members involved in maintenance.** Having access to documents as described above would give prospective volunteers an idea of what opportunities are available and some preliminary knowledge they can apply when they arrive to help out. In addition, volunteering could be made easier and more attractive by establishing an on-line volunteer sign-up mechanism, reassessing service credit allocation for various duties, and adopting an easier method for recording service. These are longer-term solutions that will require input from many within the Sail Chicago organization.

There will be **big changes in Monroe Harbor** this coming season. All moorings will be north of the channel, and we have requested to be located at the center of the southern-most rows. There will be an additional 10' between moorings, each with larger blocks and new chains.

**Spring is coming!** We hope to have the Colgates ready for motoring up the river to the harbor by April 22, but this will require a great deal of work. Calls for help will be coming out soon. Please consider volunteering. There may not be too many maintenance documents ready for this spring, but feel free to contact me if you have questions: cannon\_joseph@icloud.com.