



Black Chicago Sailors

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PRESS RELEASE

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Two African American Ships Participate in the 100th Chicago - Mackinaw Race from Jackson Park

CHICAGO, IL --This year marks the 100th year of the Chicago Yacht Club's Chicago-Mackinaw Race. Over 400 boats will participate this year. The Chicago - Mackinaw Race is the longest fresh water race that covers over 333 miles. Some of the most competitive skippers and crew come from around the world to compete. This year, the race has an innovative tracking system that will allow each boat to be tracked throughout the race.

There has always been Black sailors participating in the Chicago-Mackinaw Race, in some capacity. The first recorded African American crew was captained by Dave Mayberry in 1965. Mayberry was a fireman and engineer from Burham Harbor. In 1994, the first African American crew of both men and women, captained by Bill Pinkney raced the Upanayana. The owner of Upanayana, was David Blackwell, and all of the crew were skippers—Nate Morgan, Ted Graves, Lance Lovely, Pam Rice, Yvonne Nelson, Wesley Smith and Robert Bassett.

This year, there are two ships, DeDa's Toy, captained by Theodore Graves and Unknown Lady, captained by David Ward.

Graves has participated ten times in this race, taking his ship five of them. For Ward, this will be his first.

Graves an experienced racer, has received several racing awards throughout the years and has participated in several Chicago - Mackinaw races, Tri-State, and Bennett Cup/South Lake Series races, to name a few. The crew of De Da's Toy are Dennis Hansen, Johann Hudson, Stanley Hill, John Hansen, and Marlon Harvey, all are skippers of their own boats.

Ward has been sailing for over 40 years and has raced Tri-State Races, the Bennett Cup/South Lake Series and MORF races. The crew of Unknown Lady are Ken Harris, Scott Roberts, David Dobbs, Scott Morris and Igor.

Stan Bailey, a skipper from Monroe harbor is racing his 43-foot Tripp, The Raven. Bailey has been racing for many years. Among his crew, Stanley Hill, Jr., son of Jackson Park Harbor's immediate past commodore, Stan Hill, Sr. Hill, Sr. is crew on DeDa's Toy.



Counter clockwise back left: Captain Ted Graves of De Da's Toy, Stan Hill, Marlon Harvey, Johann Hudson, Dennis Hansen and John Hansen



DeDa's Toy - 31 ft Cal



Left to right: Johann Hudson, Stan Hill and Captain Ted Graves presents the “Red Mount Gay Caps”



Scott Roberts, Ken Harris, Captain David Ward of Unknown Lady, and Scott Morris, not shown, David Dobbs and Igor.



Captain Ward's Unknown Lady, a 30 foot Newport



Captain David Ward, and David Dobbs preparing for departure from JPYC.



The Raven and its crew. Captain Stan Bailey at the horseshoe.



Captain Stan Bailey's Raven, a 43 foot Tripp