

## **The HOOK Race and low Lake Michigan water levels**



Thank you for your interest in the HOOK Race. As we are all well aware, the record low water levels on Lake Michigan will offer some unique challenges to both cruisers and racers this season. The HOOK Race will require some changes in plans and preparation for both the Race Committee and the participants.

We completed a dredging project last fall at the Racine Yacht Club. Our slip system will accommodate boats exceeding seven foot draft in most places and over eight feet in some selected slips. Additionally, both Pugh Marina and Reef Point have plenty of deep water slips. Racers should have no difficulty in docking in Racine.

We also anticipate a minor change in the race finish. Due to the low water levels, the finish line will either be extended or displaced easterly to deeper water off the northeast corner at the Menomonee Marina. This will avoid shoal waters north of that corner.

We have every expectation that docking at Menomonee Marina will be substantially affected by low lake levels. We anticipate that boats over six foot draft will not have an easy time negotiating the slip system in that marina. Our best information also indicates that this harbor will not be dredged until Fall of 2013. Predictions based on the Army Corps of Engineers water level forecasts and historic drafts of HOOK boats leads us to believe that between one half and two thirds of the fleet will be displaced. We have had discussions with marinas and marine business owners along the Menomonee River to provide accommodations for the balance of the fleet. In this regard, the HOOK Race Committee will be providing temporary plywood sheeting along the selected river locations to facilitate safe docking along the sheet piling. If possible, we suggest deep draft boats bring their own fender boards. Lastly, the Committee will arrange shuttle service to and from our partner, M & M Yacht Club.

As we proceed into the 2013 sailing season, we will have information and more specific plans for your arrival after the HOOK Race. Please check our website at [http://www.racineyachtclub.org/the\\_hook.htm](http://www.racineyachtclub.org/the_hook.htm). We will post hydro surveys of the Racine Yacht Club and later, Menomonee, when they become available.