

# SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER

Information Contacts:

Andrew Zolper  
630.200.1814  
commodore@saugatuckyachtclub.com

Eric Gollanek  
302.528.0361  
efgollan@gmail.com

John Peters  
269.857.2967  
jppubrel@gmail.com

## HISTORY OF SAUGATUCK YACHT CLUB TOLD AT SDHC JULY 21 "TUESDAY TALK"

JULY 10, 2020 -- The history of Saugatuck Yacht Club will highlight the next Saugatuck-Douglas History Center "Tuesday Talk" on July 21. Breaking with Tuesday Talk's Old School House venue traditions, this Talk will be hosted outdoors at the Yacht Club, 15 Park Street in Saugatuck. The one-hour program begins at 11 a.m.

Public attendance is invited and audience participation is welcomed to enrich the discussion. As part of the SDHC's Stay Safe plan, attendees must wear face masks as they arrive to check in and during direct interactions with participants and presenters. To help with social-distancing protocols, audience members are asked to bring their own camp chairs.

Presenter Andrew Zolper, SYC Commodore, promises a journey back in time to the winter of 1933, in a local basement where 15 young men and women, without any resources, would draft the plans for a small sailing club. Fast-forwarding over the the next 86 years, he'll recall how their "first clubhouse" (the bus station waiting room at the corner of Culver and Butler) would evolve into today's "sailing pavilion" on the opposite shore of Kalamazoo Lake, dedicated to water recreation, social gatherings, sailing education and responsible stewardship within our harbor community.

Two historic members will be showcased. One, who secretly sailed the Solomon Islands in support of U.S. Coastwatchers reporting enemy movements during WWII, was tapped to guide Eleanor Roosevelt and Admiral William "Bull" Halsey on a risky mission through the South Pacific. The other was a true pioneer for women in the sport of sailing, Zolper says, "with a sailing history that predates our club by 30 years, and an incredible story that has never been told".

As the grandson of one of the original 15 founders, Zolper taught sailing throughout his high school and college years, and now his children share his joy as 4th generation SYC sailors. Aside from his volunteer role as Commodore, he works for BMW in support of its dealership network in the Chicagoland area.

A summertime tradition since 1996, weekly Tuesday Talks present entertaining and informative insights into local community life throughout July and August. This program is sponsored by SDHC boardmember Renee Zita.

For more information about the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, its Museum in Saugatuck and Old School House in Douglas, or its activities planned for upcoming months, visit [www.MySDHistory.org](http://www.MySDHistory.org).

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TWO PHOTOS ATTACHED SEPARATELY (see jpegs "SYC-1937" and "SYC-1945")

**Editor choice...same caption applies to both, with change of date [in brackets]**

Caption: The history of Saugatuck Yacht Club, shown here as it was in 1937 [or 1945] at the foot of Butler Street, will be the subject of SDHC's July 21 Tuesday Talk at the current SYC club house.