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Chicago Yacht Club announces Matt Gallagher will serve as chairman of the 106th and 107th Race to Mackinac

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS (November 4, 2013). The Chicago Yacht Club appointed Matt Gallagher to be chairman of the 106th and 107th Chicago Yacht Club Races to Mackinac. In keeping with tradition, the announcement of the changeover was made at the Awards Ceremony on November 2. Outgoing chair of the 104th and 105th races, Lou Sandoval, introduced Mr. Gallagher at the completion of the awards ceremony that was attended by nearly 400 skippers, crew, other members of the sailing community, Chicago Yacht Club officers and honored guests.

Mr. Gallagher previously served as a vice chairman of the 104th and 105th runnings of the Race. He led the race's social media and communications teams, as well as producing and writing the *Safety Thursday* series which highlighted safety topics for offshore sailors. He is a member of Chicago Yacht Club, has served on the committee for the past three years. Mr. Gallagher and his wife, Emily, entered their boat *Endeavour*, in the Race's cruising division for the 103rd, 104th and 105th Races. Mr. Gallagher also serves on the Chicago Yacht Club's Board of Directors.

Mr. Gallagher commented on the transition. "I have a big pair of shoes to fill. Lou did a tremendous job leading this world-class event, and I hope to continue in that tradition. The Mac is the high-point of the summer for my family and myself, and I look forward to the opportunity I've been given to share this with my friends and fellow competitors. With the tremendous volunteers of the Mac Committee, I know we will be able to produce another safe, challenging and fun race for everyone."

The 106th Chicago Yacht Club Race to Mackinac will take place on July 19, 2014, with the cruising division starting on July 18. Participation in the 333 statute mile race from Chicago Yacht Club to Mackinac Island, Mich. is by invitation only. Chicago Yacht Club looks forward to staging a world-class sailing race for skippers and crews. Should you have any questions about participating in the 106th Chicago Yacht Club Race to Mackinac, please contact the Chicago Yacht Club, Race Coordinator at 312.861.7777 or at racecoordinator@chicagoyachtclub.org, or visit the race's web site at www.cycracetomackinac.com.

About Chicago Yacht Club: The Chicago Yacht Club is one of the oldest and most respected yacht clubs in the world. Today, the club boasts a membership of nearly 1500 boating enthusiasts and is one of the preeminent organizers of regattas, races and predicted-log events in the United States. The club offers an array of spectacular off-the-water amenities, including fine dining and full-service catering at both its Monroe and Belmont stations. "A tradition of yachting excellence" is a fitting description of a club that has dedicated itself to promoting the sport and perpetuating the values of camaraderie and community since 1875.

About the Chicago Yacht Club Race to Mackinac: At 333 miles (289.4 nautical miles), the Race to Mackinac is the oldest annual freshwater distance race in the world. 'The Mac' starts at the Chicago Lighthouse, just off Navy Pier and continues to Mackinac Island. 2013 marked the 105th Running of the Race to Mackinac, in which over 300 boats competed, with over 2500 sailors participating. The Race has also amassed a strong following using technology and social networking; it can be followed virtually using Facebook, Twitter and its Race tracking interface. Friend the Race at <https://www.facebook.com/ChicagoYCRaceToMackinac> or follow us on Twitter @RacetoMackinac