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## **Chicago Yacht Club announces Lou Sandoval will serve as chairman of the 104<sup>th</sup> and 105<sup>th</sup> Race to Mackinac**

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS (November 7, 2011). The Chicago Yacht Club appointed Lou Sandoval to be chairman of the 104<sup>th</sup> and 105<sup>th</sup> Chicago Yacht Club Races to Mackinac. In keeping with tradition, the announcement of the changeover was made at the Awards Ceremony on November 5. Outgoing chair of the 102<sup>nd</sup> and 103<sup>rd</sup> races, Greg Freeman, introduced Mr. Sandoval 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. Sandoval previously served as vice-chairman of the 103<sup>rd</sup> running of the race. He is a member of Chicago Yacht Club, has served on the committee for the past seven years and has completed in twelve races. Mr. Sandoval has been extremely successful in past races on his boat *Karma*, winning his section six out of the eight past years.

Mr. Sandoval commented on the work that the committee has undertaken in the months following the completion of the 103<sup>rd</sup> race this past July. *"We have had plenty of time to reflect upon what the Mac means to each of us over the past four months. Whether we do the race with family, friends or both, each race is significant in it's own special way. It is what we do each July - without question"*, said Sandoval *"The Mac committee has some heavy lifting to do over the upcoming month I know we will be up to the task. We will deliver a quality and safe race for all to enjoy."*

The 104<sup>th</sup> Chicago Yacht Club Race to Mackinac presented by Veuve Clicquot will take place on July 21, 2012. Participation in the 333 mile race from Chicago 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 104th Chicago Yacht Club Race to Mackinac, please contact the Chicago Yacht Club, Race Coordinator at 312.861.7777 or at [racecoordinator@chicagoyachtclub.org](mailto:racecoordinator@chicagoyachtclub.org), or visit the race's web site at [www.cycracetomackinac.com](http://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. 2011 marked the 103<sup>rd</sup> Running of the Race to Mackinac, in which 355 boats competed in the fourth consecutive sellout of the Race. The 103<sup>rd</sup> marked the third largest fleet in the history of the race with almost 3500 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. The 103<sup>rd</sup> race and yacht club site was visited by over 300,000 website visitors. Our Facebook page has been visited by well over 2 million visitors to date.*

*About Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin: Since its creation in 1772, Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin played an instrumental role in establishing and evolving the champagne industry as we know it today. Located in Reims, France, Veuve Clicquot prides itself on utilizing only the most distinct grapes from their vineyards for each bottle. Now, over 200 years later, Veuve Clicquot Champagne inspires the world to 'Be Clicquot': modern, audacious and premium quality. These values, set forth by the ground-breaking and extraordinary Madame Clicquot and maintained by generations of Clicquot drinkers, promise a remarkable experience with each sip of Veuve Clicquot Champagne.*