



# Shorelines

*Rock River Homeowners Association Newsletter*

*P.O. Box 2813 Loves Park, IL 61132-2813*

**Volume 30 Issue 1**

**Summer 2019**

**2019 President's Letter** I am writing this letter 3 months late. Things have been pretty hectic with the last 6 months of flooding for us all. The summer of 2019 has turned HOT and DRY for a welcome relief for everyone. There has been a very productive year for the RRHA. Thanks to our BrokenDamRockford.com website, Com Ed put an untold amount of money into the our dam to have all 4 gates working again last fall. Thank you Com Ed for your efforts to have our dam work properly for the entire community. There was a very informative Town Hall meeting this March at the Harlem High School. The meeting was put on by Scott Lincoln, a Hydrologist with the National Weather Service. He presented a slide show presentation for everyone that was very educational on why all area rivers have seen an increase in flooding over the past decades. If you go to Winnebago County Sheriff website, click on river information tab, click on NWS River forecast services TAB, you can view the slide show that was presented. The presentation is tailored to our river and the 6,000 plus square miles that drains past our house any time there is a major rain event for our drainage basin. The 10" rain event last Labor Day in Madison all had to drain past here and this is what for the most part ended our boating season. I have learned a lot over the 30 plus years I have monitored our dam, but there were many facts that I learned during the presentation. I was also honored to be asked to be part of the panel along with Sheriff Gary Caruana and Tim Savage from Machesney Park. Com Ed and Sheriff Caruana have a very positive working arrangement for running the dam in a proactive manner the last 12 months and we could not be happier that water levels are more proactive than they have ever been. The RRHA helped to set up parameters on water levels at the dam and Sheriff Caruana is on our side to make sure the dam is run in a positive proactive manner. We have learned that the dam cannot stop a major flood from happening, but if monitored and run properly we can reduce the length of a high water event. There are some people that feel if we drain the river before a flood, it will make the flood not happen, we all have felt this way in the past. The problem is when there is a surge of trillions of gallons of water headed this way, there is NO way to stop our area from flooding. There are no flood control dams on the entire Rock River. Dams are designed to maintain a recreational Pool of water and when flow rates increase, the purpose of the gates on our dam are to open in a responsible manner to regulate our river level without flooding our downstream communities. The greatest tool we have is the USGS River Gauge at Davis Park. This was installed several years back through private donations raised by RRHA members. The RRHA is now paying the \$5,500/year maintenance cost for that gauge. We hope to someday have Com Ed pick up the cost but until that time your generous donations to our organization are keeping it going. We ask that when you send in your 2019 \$25.00 dues payment please add any extra to help with this project and all the other projects we fund for the safety and enjoyment of our river. I myself was never on Facebook until the past 7 months, but our RRHA Facebook page is a great way to stay up to date with our river. You owe it to yourself and family to check out all the fun activities that are available with an evening boat ride. Tuesday night at Nicholas Conservatory is food truck night with a discounted rate to tour the conservatory, Wednesday night is Ski Broncs at Shorewood Park and Music on the Rock at Burpee Museum Outdoor Pavilion. Thursdays is Dinner on the Dock at Prairie Street Brewery and Fridays is Ski Broncs at Shorewood Park again and City Market downtown. Sundays is Music on the Deck at TADS Restaurant. Boat parking is available at all locations and anchor parking is available for Ski Broncs also. Summer is short in the Midwest and don't let it pass you by! The Sheriff has patrol boats on the river this year and if you need help, the boat cell phone number is 815-262-1510. The RRHA has made river NO WAKE and RIVER CLOSED signs that are at all public boat ramps. We had to use them once this year and hope it is a long time before they need to be used again. It is very beneficial to have solar lights on your dock during the summer to help boaters safely navigate the river. They are an inexpensive way to keep everyone safe. So far there are several river homes that have been bought out by Machesney Park grant money this year. Since 2008 grant money has purchased 114 homes and removed them from the flood plain. Many river residents have invested in filling in their basements to combat river levels that have changed over the decades. I raised the basement floor level 2 feet and this meant that sump pumps only run when water levels went above a flood stage. The reality is that with more rain falling than 50 years ago, we all need to adapt to the changes living on a river. Let's hope it's another 10 years before we are faced with these problems again. See you on the River!

Steve Lucas, RRHA President

**NEW TO BOATING?** There are always new boaters and new boats on the river each year. A good idea is to have anyone operating a motorized vessel take the Boat-Ed class, no matter what your age is, to know what the boating rules and laws are in Illinois. The class is available on line at [www.Boat-Ed.com](http://www.Boat-Ed.com) and is \$35 to obtain your certificate upon completing and passing the course. The course takes several hours to complete or you can do it in several days.

## Illinois Boating Laws and Regulations

### Age and Operator Restrictions

**Persons age 10-11** may operate a vessel powered by a motor of more than 10 hp **only** if they are under the direct on-board supervision of a person over 18 who has an Illinois Boating Safety Certificate.

**Persons age 12-17** may operate a vessel powered by a motor of more than 10 hp only if they have an Illinois Boating Safety Certificate or are under the direct on-board supervision of a person over 18 who has an Illinois Boating Safety Certificate.

Supervising **persons born on or after January 1, 1998**, must have a valid Illinois Boating Safety Certificate.

### Enforcement

Illinois law enforcement officers patrol the waterways to make your boating experience safe and pleasant. Cooperate with them by following the laws and guidelines.

**Carry the Card:** Vessel operators who are required to have a Boater Education Card must carry the card on board the vessel and have it available for inspection by an enforcement officer.

**Penalty:** Not carrying your Boater Education Card when one is required can result in a fine.

### *Past and Present Rock River Homeowners Association Projects*

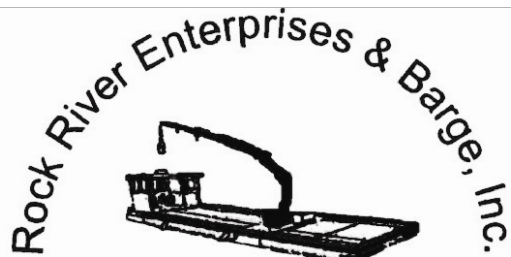
If you're wondering where your dues and other donation monies are being used to improve our Rock River, here are just a few of the completed and on going Rock River improvements your association has accomplished! (Not in any specific order!)

1. Installed commercial marine navigational solar lights on bridges and maintain with new bulbs and batteries when needed. If you boat at night, these are a great help to see what pass to use and where the supports are.
2. Installed directional arrow navigation signs on the bridges to help guide boat traffic under bridges.
3. Purchased additional buoys for no wake and hazard areas and installed flashing lights on them.
4. Purchased a new Bimini shade top for the Sherriff's patrol boat.
5. Installed and maintain news and information stations at launch areas.
6. Installed navigation solar light for entry to Sports Core launch on shore.
7. Construction and installation of a static river level gauge at Davis Park in 2014.
8. Purchase and installation of an official U.S.G.S electronic gauge at Davis Park at the dam for spring of 2015, this will be of great importance to everyone viewing the water level gauges on the website, as it will give the level at the dam.
9. Create and maintain a professional Website that shows all area river gauges in one page, and other important Rock River information to home owners and boaters.
10. Donate money to the Ski Broncs yearly for their program to further the Rock River's value as an entertainment venue.
11. Publication of the Rock River Homeowners Association Newsletter to keep homeowners and businesses on the river informed.
12. Support by board members and homeowners by volunteering during Rock River cleanup events like Rock River Sweep.
13. Removal of trees to safer areas after flooding.
14. NO WAKE signs and RIVER CLOSED signs at boat launches during high water and flooding.
15. Do you have a project you'd like to see addressed? Send us a note or call any of the board members!

### BRIDGE NAVIGATIONAL HEIGHT SIGNS

When you're navigating up or down the river and going under the various bridges, look for the "Arrow" signs on North and south areas of the bridges, for the best boat navigation under the bridge. The preferred space between the pylons will be marked with Arrow signs, and under some of the lower bridges, a "TALL" sign will guide you





Steve Lucas, Owner

6212 Park Ridge Rd. Loves Park, IL 61111

815-543-8742 (office) 815-243-8742 (cell) 815-654-8772 (fax)



Retaining wall Stair & Dock system

Steep Hill  
aluminum stairs  
with landings  
system design



My fellow Rock River residents, I have been selling boat lifts and docks for 27 years on our beautiful Rock River. I would have to say I love the river and all it has to offer. Whether having fun on it in the summer or just looking at it on a cold winter day, I would not have asked for a better place to live.

During the summer months after all the docks are in, I am able to help a few residents with shoreline work. Whether it's a small repair or a major job, I take great pride in every job. My goal is to have my work last a lifetime. I also do many odd jobs like trimming river trees that are only accessible by water. I know that I am sometimes hard to get a hold of, but once I commit to a job I make sure the work is done to the best of my ability. I look forward to the remaining summer with great excitement. If I can help you with a project, just drop me a message or send a text. Thanks again for the past 27 years and I look forward to the next 27! *Steve Lucas*

## NEED A NEW ROOF?




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	Bus: (815) 654-1155		JIM ANDERSON
	Home: (815) 494-1071		Fax: (815) 654-1196
	8414 N. Second St		Rockford, IL 61115

## FOR SALE

**Hewitt Double Jet Ski Lift and Hewitt Hydraulic Lift for Sale** Call/TEXT Mike Dags 815-979-3700



Double Jet Ski Lift \$2000 (new \$5000 plus)  
-includes canopy and frame  
-has 120 vac electric winch w/ 1 remote  
-includes four 48" adjustable hydraulic legs  
(power unit and control pendant required if not purchased with hydraulic lift)  
-includes original mechanical legs

Hydraulic Boat Lift \$3900 (new \$8000 plus)  
-4400 lbs capacity, 54 inch range  
-120 inch wide with rear boat guides  
-includes four 48" adjustable hydraulic feet  
w/ control pendant. Includes old mechanical legs  
-includes solar panel, hyd. power unit and battery  
-does NOT include: canopy / frame and front bow stops (old picture)



# GUIDE TO THE ROCK RIVER



PROVIDED BY: **THE ROCK RIVER HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**  
P.O. Box 2813, Loves Park, IL 61111

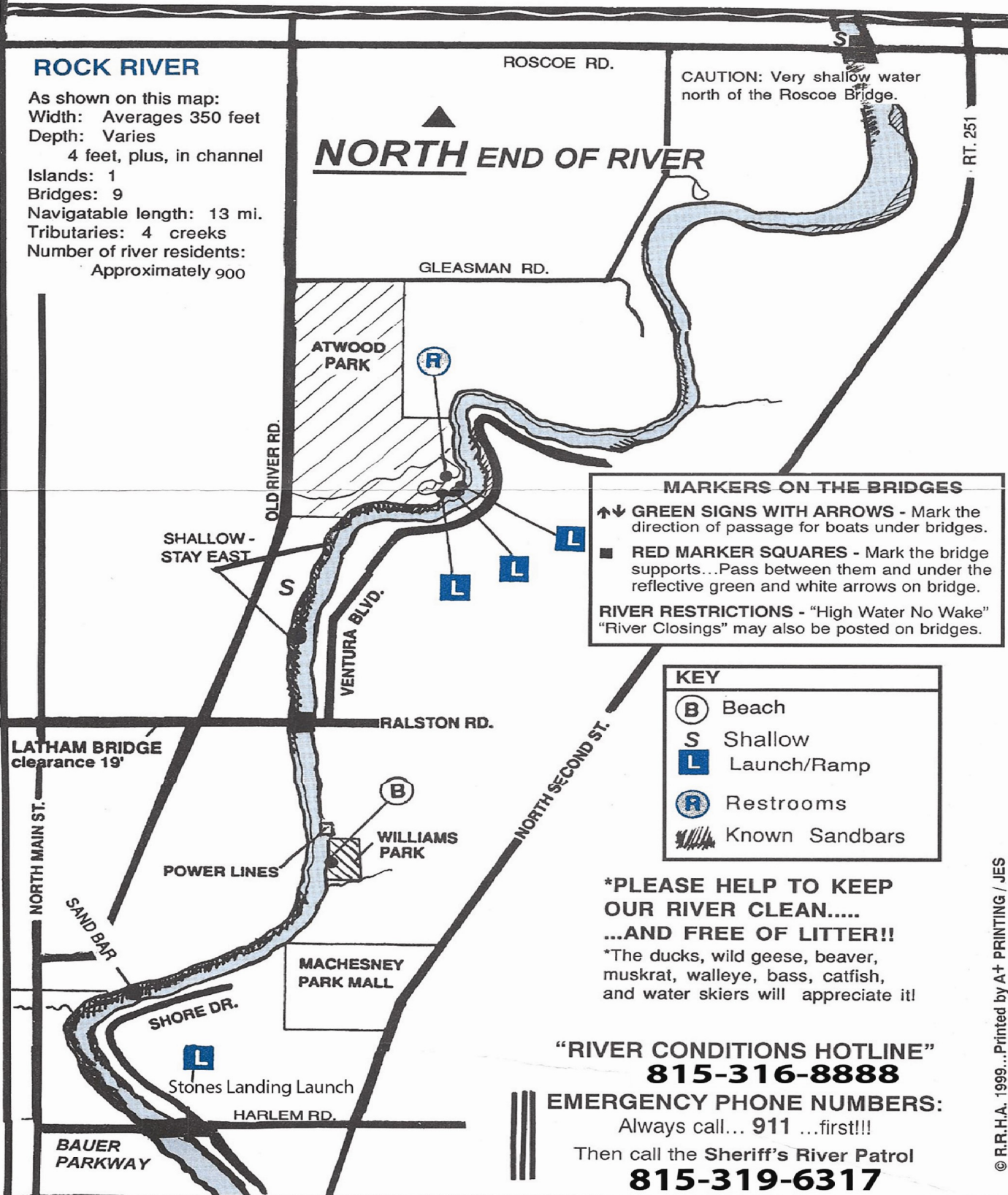
\* Safety on the Rock River is our #1 concern.

## ROCK RIVER

As shown on this map:  
Width: Averages 350 feet  
Depth: Varies  
4 feet, plus, in channel  
Islands: 1  
Bridges: 9  
Navigatable length: 13 mi.  
Tributaries: 4 creeks  
Number of river residents:  
Approximately 900

## NORTH END OF RIVER

CAUTION: Very shallow water  
north of the Roscoe Bridge.



### MARKERS ON THE BRIDGES

↕ **GREEN SIGNS WITH ARROWS** - Mark the direction of passage for boats under bridges.

■ **RED MARKER SQUARES** - Mark the bridge supports...Pass between them and under the reflective green and white arrows on bridge.

**RIVER RESTRICTIONS** - "High Water No Wake"  
"River Closings" may also be posted on bridges.

### KEY

- (B) Beach
- S Shallow
- (L) Launch/Ramp
- (R) Restrooms
- Known Sandbars

**\*PLEASE HELP TO KEEP  
OUR RIVER CLEAN....**

**...AND FREE OF LITTER!!**

\*The ducks, wild geese, beaver,  
muskrat, walleye, bass, catfish,  
and water skiers will appreciate it!

**"RIVER CONDITIONS HOTLINE"**  
**815-316-8888**

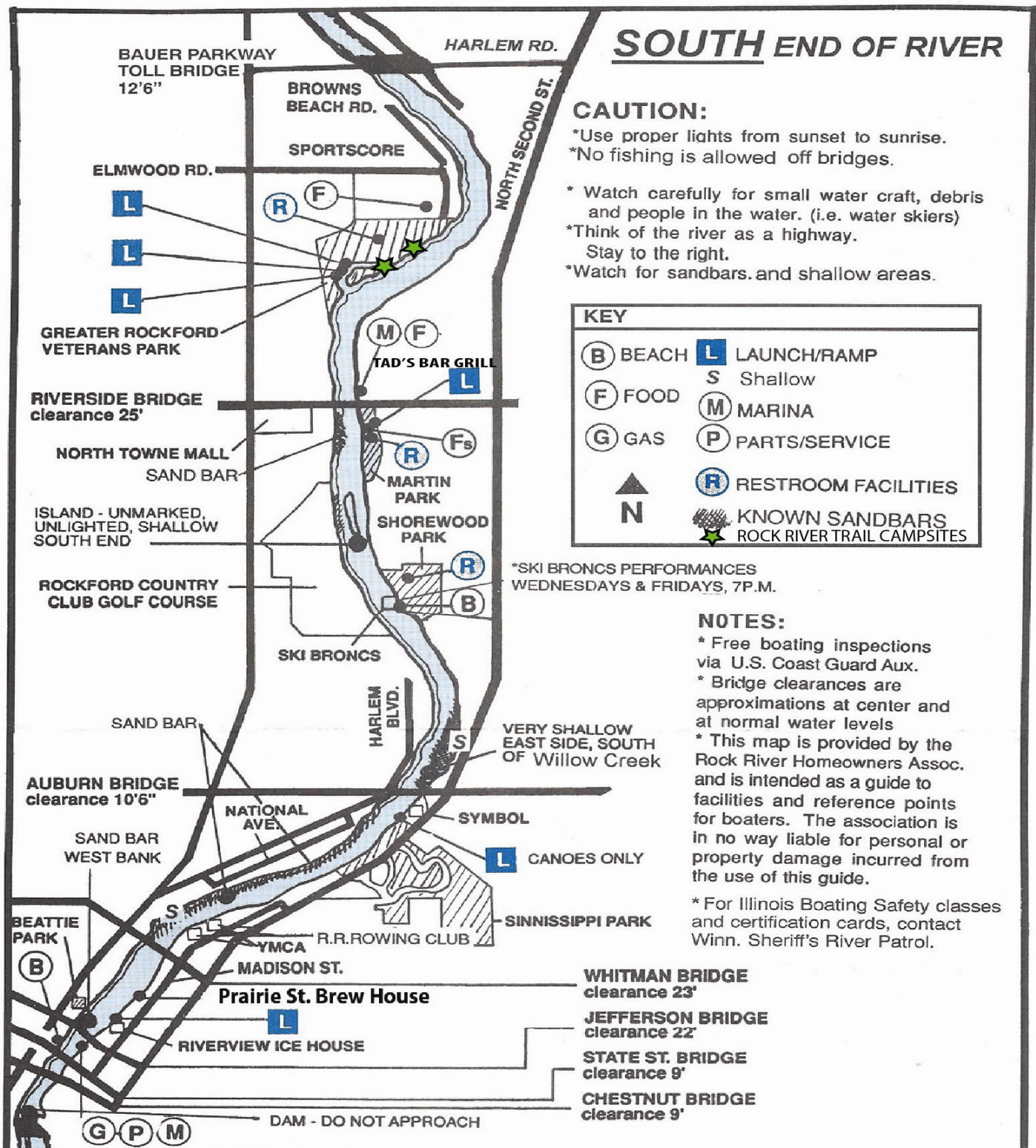
**EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS:**

Always call... **911** ...first!!!

Then call the Sheriff's River Patrol

**815-319-6317**







We still are selling RRHA river shore signs for \$40.00 each. You can send a check to Rock River Homeowners Association, PO Box 2813 Loves Park, IL 61111 or pay with paypal on the website. (with the convenience fee) Please fill out the information below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

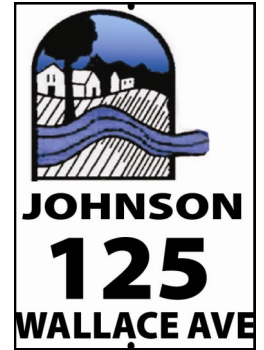
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on sign: \_\_\_\_\_ (first or last name, limit to one line)

Address numbers: \_\_\_\_\_ (will be boldest)

Street name: \_\_\_\_\_

These are usually displayed on the shore and used for waterfront address location, or emergency boating help. These also make great gifts! For Father's Day, Mother's Day and housewarmings. They are 12" x 18" aluminum



#### ARE YOU NEW TO THE RIVER??

Welcome and here's your chance to get the scoop on what you need to know about what's going on in that beautiful, wet watery "street" in your back yard! You'll get inside information on concerns being addressed, events going on and get to meet experienced "river folk" that can answer most questions you might have or direct you to someone who can. Plan on keeping in the loop and join the Rock River Homeowners Association today! You don't want to miss any of the excitement and fun! Send your membership application in! today!

**NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING:** Ads will be run 3 times a year, beginning with our Spring Newsletter. Anyone that wants to start advertising at a different time of the year will pay only the prorated amount for the balance of the year.

Ad Sizes—Business card \$100 1/2 page \$280

Make checks payable to RRHA Advertising

PO Box 2813, Loves Park, IL 61132-2813

Email print ready ad or info you want published to:

Asigndesigns@aol.com 815-877-5096

Please support our advertisers! Remember, For Sale or Want to Buy ads are FREE for members! RRHA reserves the right to located the ad within the newsletter and also the right to refuse ads deemed inappropriate. Call for further details.

**DON'T FORGET YOUR ORANGE SKI OR TUBING FLAGS! CAN BE PURCHASED OFF OF STEVE LUCAS'S DOCK!**

### **FLY YOUR FLAG**

**ROCK RIVER HOME OWNERS NAUTICAL SILK SCREENED NYLON BOAT FLAGS. \$25.00 EACH**

Flags are 12" x 18" inches with triple sewn hems and brass grommets. If you're a proud river home owner, this will look great on any boat for your river excursions. All proceeds go to future river projects!



Mail \$25 to Rock River Home Owners, po box 2813, Loves Park, IL 61111 and one will be mailed to you, or call Mary Johnson at 815-877-5096 and you can pick one up.

**NOW OPEN**

★ PRAIRIE ST BREWHOUSE ★

**DOCKSIDE TAPROOM**

★ 2013 ★

**ROCKFORD BREWING COMPANY**

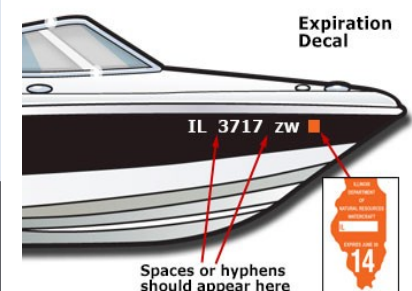
Sunday thru Wednesday: 11AM to 10PM  
Thursday: 11AM to 12AM  
Friday & Saturday: 11AM to 2AM

200 Prairie Street Rockford, IL

• (815) 277-9427 •

www.rockfordbrewingco.com/dockside

Make sure your registrations are current and all of your safety equipment is on board and working. A good idea is to keep spare light bulbs for anchor and navigation lights and phone chargers to keep your batteries charged on your cell phone. You can keep your registrations and other paperwork safe in a zip lock baggie.





**INVOICE for 2019 Membership (Please put this in your bill paying pile!)****2019 Rock River Homeowners Association Membership Application**

Whether you are joining for the first time, or a long time member renewing, we'd love to have you!

Our mission is to: "Preserve and protect the Rock River environment, enjoyment of the river, and to promote public awareness of river safety."

Membership is \$25 and it is good for one year. It includes the newsletter to keep you informed of events and information, the ability to become a RRHA board member, and to directly make improvements to our great river. We welcome suggestions, and hope to address concerns, as well as to make the river a better place for us all, so please feel free to get involved and fill out the application.

Homeowner(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**(please give us your email address so we can notify you of current concerns and notices)** RRHA Zone Number (refer to the board member zones on the address page) \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership: \_\_\_\_\_ I am a new member \_\_\_\_\_ I am renewing

Please return this page in it's entirety with your payment of \$25 by August 30, 2019 to:

RRHA P.O. Box 2813, Loves Park, IL 61132-2813

You can also go to the [www.rockriverhomeowners.org](http://www.rockriverhomeowners.org) website and pay via paypal if you'd prefer—

**2019 Rock River Homeowners Association****DONATION PLEA**

To support the on-going Rock River improvement and safety projects under the guidance of the Rock River Homeowners Association, we ask that you consider an additional monetary contribution. We ask that you PLEASE support these important addition to our area by sending your membership dues in promptly and if you have just read the newsletters, and not ever sent in your dues, PLEASE help us to support our efforts to make the Rock River a safer place for homeowners and guests alike!

**Donations in any amount will be gratefully accepted and appreciated. The Rock River Homeowners Association is a non-profit organization and your donation is tax deductible.**

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to make a one-time donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to donate \$100 \$200 \$300 \$400 \$500 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your checks payable to: Rock River Homeowners Association and mail with your membership dues to the above address.

***Thank you! Your Board of Directors***

**LOST AND FOUND**

If you have lost your pier or dock sections, please go to our facebook page, Rock River Home Owners Association, where you can post a photo of your lost or found dock. We have helped a few people locate theirs this way. Be sure to have your name and address on your dock sections if you haven't already to help identify them when so many are similar looking. You can also add some color to the sides if that would help also. Most docks are tied up after removal in the fall, but swift flood waters can break them loose, so being able to identify them is key. We've seen whole boat lifts get carried downstream for blocks during a flood and the only way to find them is to use a locator.



PRSRT STD  
 U S POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 #700  
 RKFD, IL 611

Or Occupant

**Rock River Homeowners Association**  
**P.O. box 2813 Loves Park, IL 61132**

**The Officers**

President	Steve Lucas
Vice President	Jack Sokolski
Treasurer	Ron Neuschwander
Secretary	Mike Dagefoerde

**Committee Chairs**

Membership	Chip Gammel
Newsletter	Mary Johnson
Natural Environment	Bruce Olson
Dam Operation	Steve Lucas
Website	Chip Gammel

**Telephone Numbers**

Sheriff's Dept.	815-282-2600-Dispatcher
Sheriff's Dept.	815-319-6317-Shift
Chief Deputy Ditzler	815-319-6312
Coast Guard Auxiliary	815-877-6522
Army corps of Engineers	(309)794-4200
Emergency Services	815-319-6215
River Hotline	815-316-8888
Com-Ed	800-344-7661
Sheriff's Boat cell	815-262-1510

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission of the Rock River Homeowners Association shall  
 be to preserve and protect the Rock River environment, enjoyment  
 of the river and to promote public awareness of river safety

**THE BOARD**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>TERM</u></b>	<b><u>NUMBER</u></b>
<b>ZONE 1: West side from State St. To Harlem Bridge</b>		
Loyd & Diane Koch	2018	815-968-6685
Kim Bailey	2019	815-262-0576
<b>ZONE 2: West side from Harlem to Roscoe Bridge</b>		
Ron & Sharon Neuschwander	2018	815-654-9276
Mike & Pij Richter	2018	815-654-9621
Chuck & Jane Barber	2019	815-654-9720
Mike & Nancy Dagefoerde	2019	815-623-5045
<b>ZONE 3: East side from State St. to Harlem Bridge</b>		
Steve Lucas	2018	815-654-8742
Jack Sokolski	2018	815-877-8205
<b>ZONE 4: East side from Harlem to Roscoe Bridge</b>		
Tim Hendricks	2018	815-633-2327
Chris Whiteford	2019	815-243-1999
<b>ZONE 5: North of the Roscoe Bridge</b>		
Bruce Swartz	2019	815-624-2465