

# Trailer Sailor Locations in the Upper Midwest

Prepared for Northern Breezes by Ted Sojka

These destinations provide a quiet place to camp and sail for a weekend or a weeks vacation. All are in easy reach from Minneapolis, Des Moines, or Milwaukee, and are suitable for small cruisers or daysailers packing tents. Explore and enjoy.

## WISCONSIN

### LAKE WISSOTA

This reservoir is near Chippewa Falls Wisconsin not far from I 94. It has a ramp located on the East shore in the state park. There is a lovely small island located near the southern end of the lake, suitable for picnicking. There is a small sailing club located in the northwest corner of the lake that has regular sailing events. (Don't miss the tour of Linnenkugel's Brewery and the zoo in Chippewa Falls.)

### LAKE PETENWELL

This second largest inland body of water in the state offers miles of sandy beaches and several anchorages to spend a night on the hook. There is a great ramp at the county park off Highway Z on the East shore of the lake (and a first class campground). (Don't miss a meal at the Hideaway restaurant, (dock and beacon near the Northeast corner of the lake.)

Barnum Bay Yacht Club hosts races each Memorial Day, Labor Day, and it's annual Petenwell Regatta on the third weekend in July.

Quieter camping can be found on the East shore at the Juneau Co. Wilderness Park. (write BBYC, Box 32 Wisconsin Rapids 55214)

### SHELL LAKE

There is a city campground and park on the north west corner of this large clear, round, lake, located in Northwest Wisconsin. The ramp is excellent and is located at the end of the main street, (next to the campground). All town amenities are available within walking distance of the ramp. Write the Chamber of Commerce. Shorelines are sandy and great for swimming.

## LAKE DUBAY

This lake near Stevens Point, Wisconsin is a great gunkholing lake with an excellent campground and ramp on the West shore. Regatta's are held at the end of the summer for a variety of small boats. This adds to the fun of sailing in a new place, old stories to share with new sailors. Contact Stan Dale in Rothschild, WI. for information about this year's Governor's Cup Regatta in August.

## DOOR COUNTY, WI

Great sailing water, but a very popular and crowded tourist destination. Daysailors should try Pottawatomie State Park, and Brown County Park between Green Bay and Sturgeon Bay. These offer less crowded ramps than the overused Peninsula State Park, which offers outstanding sailing in Horseshoe bay, Eagle Harbor, and off many small islands to the West. Consider camping here only with reservations which you can make through the Wisconsin DNR. Launching facilities for small cruiser can be found in Ephraim, and many other town docks. Stop in at a Wisconsin Tourist information center for Door County maps and specific information.

## OCONTO-MENOMINEE/MARINETTE

If you want to sail Green Bay but don't want to tow in heavy traffic, try sailing out of Oconto. If your primary interest is sailing, you get to the same place without the traffic hassle. What you miss are the great restaurants and shops, but you can sail across Green Bay to destinations like Fish Creek or Sister Bay, spend the night, shop wine and dine, then sail back in the morning.

If you launch from Menominee check in at the M&M yacht club. They have a wonderful fleet of Pearson Ensigns which race regularly. Shear joy to watch for one who loves classic sailboats.

## LAKE PEPIN

Access to this natural lake formed on the Mississippi River is had from Pepin, WI, and Lake City, MN. It's deep, wide, and the surrounding Bluffs are very scenic. The hotbed of activity is in Lake City, with its well equipped marina, sailing club, and many regattas to watch from your boat. New docks at the Pepin Marina are courtesy of the Flood of '93. It is a little quieter than its West shore neighbor, but offers all amenities.

## IOWA

### LAKE RATHBUN

Located in Southeast Iowa, this is a large quiet lake with a large ramp and marina on the East shore of the lake. Also there are many campgrounds and small inlets great for mooring out. The Rathbun Yacht Club operates out of the marina on the east section of the lake. Write .....

### LAKE RED ROCKS

Located South of Des Moines, this large reservoir has two marinas on the North and South shores. There are also many ramps located around this large and pretty body of water. Lake levels do vary greatly from year to year, best local knowledge can be obtained by calling Sail Iowa, look for the 800 number in the add in "Nortern Breezes".

### CLEAR LAKE

Located about halfway between Des Moines and Minneapolis off I-35, this large lake offers some excellent sailing. The Town dock and ramp is on the East shore, and offers access to the town square, the Clear Lake Yacht Club, and all services.

On the North shore is Macintosh Woods State Park with camping and a ramp located on an adjoining body of water near the town of Ventura.

Regular events held on Sundays offer lots for sailors to see from their boats. There is an active X boat fleet, a Blue Jay Fleet, and various Scow classes. There are also events for cruisers. Contact the CLYC or Chamber of Commerce.

### OKIBOJI & SPIRIT LAKES

Located in Western Iowa, and home to great scow regattas, Okiboji is a deep blue lake often called one of Iowa's jewels. There is a state park located on the West shore. It is in the middle of vacation land and is often crowded with motor boat traffic. Spirit lake is big round lake that is more shallow than its neighbor and better suited to daysailing.