

## Dockage before and after the GLSS Mac Solo Challenge from Chicago or Port Huron

**Purpose:** This document provided information about dockage before and after the GLSS Solo Mac from either Port Huron or Chicago.

**Discussion:** For the GLSS Solo Mac it is the skipper's responsibility to obtain dockage before and after the race. Because this is a busy season of the year is recommended that you make reservations well in advance at Mackinac Island. The following information is provided to assist in this effort and represents the general experience of GLSS skippers but other options are available particularly at Port Huron and Chicago. The skipper is responsible for dockage fees at both ends of the race.

**Port Huron:** There are several locations where one can dock in Port Huron. Typically the Mac Solo Challenge skippers meeting have been held at the Port Huron Yacht Club or at a restaurant on the east side of the Black Creek. One can dock at the Port Huron Yacht Club. Entrance to the club is to starboard just inside Black Creek, past a black always raised railway bridge. Space is usually available on the wall to starboard as one enters the Yacht Club Marina. Avoid the pump out stations and crane. It may be necessary to raft off other boats. Dockage may also be available on the outside wall on Black Creek but this will be a more turbulent location due to passing boat traffic. After docking one should check in at the clubhouse to get the access code for the showers. Port Huron Yacht Club has a reciprocal docking arrangement with other Great Lakes Yacht Clubs and has always welcomed GLSS racers. Pump out is available at the club but one must go a short distance across the Black creek for fuel. An alternate location is the Port Huron Municipal Marina on Black Creek that extends from just past the Port Huron Yacht Club up the creek. One can make reservations through the DNR web site. If one docks here past any of the bridges be sure to allow extra time to pass through the bridges on race day.

- [Port Huron Yacht Club \(web link\)](#)  
212 Quay St, Port Huron, MI 48060  
Phone: 810-985-9424
- [Port Huron Municipal Marina \(web link\)](#)  
2021 Water St., Port Huron, Michigan 48060  
Phone: 810-984-9745
  - DNR Reservations:  
Phone: 1-800-447-2757  
Internet: [DNR Internet Reservation Site](#)

**Chicago:** In good weather the Columbia Yacht Club is the most convenient place to dock as this is where the skipper's meeting is held for the Chicago Solo Mac. If the wind is from the south east the dock in front of the club can be treacherous as several GLSS members have had damage to bow pulpits and life lines. So if you choose to dock here be sure to watch the weather and with an expected south east blow move to the back side of the dock and use lines to keep the boat off the docks or move to a mooring buoy or one of the more protected marinas. Another option is DuSable Marina located just north of the Columbia Yacht Club DuSable Marina offers ice, electricity and water and is an easy walk to the Columbia Yacht Club. This is a well-protected harbor. Reservations are necessary at DuSable Marina

and a follow up call a few days before to confirm is a good idea as some have experienced record keeping issues. DuSable starts accepting transient reservations on May 1 and one should call as soon as possible to be sure of getting a reservation. DuSable Marina does not monitor VHF. Another option is to moor at a mooring buoy at Monroe Harbor, which includes about 800 mooring buoys just south of Columbia Yacht Club. There is no need to take a dingy as Monroe Harbor has convenient tender service that operates almost around the clock. The tender service can be contacted on VHF channel 68. No fuel is available at these locations and the nearest fuel is at Burnham Harbor. Burnham Harbor entrance is located about 3 ½ NM south of the Columbia Yacht Club so one should not plan to get fuel on the morning before the race. See chart below for relative locations. Enter Burnham Harbor from the south end and the fuel dock is located about half way up the marina on the port side.

- [Columbia Yacht Club \(web link\)](#)  
111 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601  
Phone: 312-938-3625
- [DuSable Marina \(web link\)](#)  
200 N. Front Drive, Chicago, IL 60611  
Phone: 312-742-3577
- [Monroe Harbor \(web link\)](#)  
Foot of Monroe Street, Chicago, IL 60603  
Phone: 312-742-7643  
Contact tender on VHF Channel 68
- [Burnham Harbor \(web link\)](#)  
1559 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605  
Phone: 312-747-7009

**Mackinac Island:** Transient dockage is available on Mackinac Island at the DNR Municipal Marina. This is also where one must check in after the race. Reservations may be made on-line, or by calling the DNR Reservation Department. When making your reservation at Mackinac, remember the fact that if you haven't checked in by 5:00 PM on the date of your scheduled arrival, and have not called to inform them you are late, you will lose your entire reservation and forfeit your total amount paid. Call to extend the reservation and avoid the loss of both slip and money. This is a good reason to carry a cell phone on board, as the cell coverage is generally quite strong from the Manitou Islands northwards in Lake Michigan, and from Rogers City to Mackinac in Lake Huron. There is pump out at the DNR Marina but no fuel. One must go to Mackinac City across the south side of the straits or to St Ignace on the north side of the straits for fuel.

- Mackinac Island Reservations / DNR Reservations:  
Phone: 1-800-447-2757  
Internet: [DNR Internet Reservation Site](#)
- Mackinac Island Marina Phone (for late call in etc.): 906-847-3561

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