

Birds & Worms News

the newsletter of the Newport Yacht Club, Rochester NY



NYC 2007 Board of Directors

seated (from left) Norma Platt (Assistant Treasurer), Ted Horvath (Treasurer), Cindy McRenolds (Commodore), Tom Lee (Secretary) Paul Riordan (Cruising Fleet Captain), Lynn Bluett (Vice Commodore)
standing (from left) Howard Stickney (Director), Eric Schoenhardt (Race Chairman), Steve Leach (Rear Commodore), Jim Cuddihee (Laser Fleet Captain), Larry Hill (Harbormaster), Norm Dahl (Snipe Fleet Captain)
not shown Lori Foster (Lightning Fleet Captain)

What's Up?

- 4/27 – General Membership Meeting (7:30) preceded by potluck lasagna dinner hosted by the Snipe Fleet
- 4/28 – Spring Work Party (9:00)
- 5/6 – Racing Starts (1:00)
- 5/12 – Launch Breakfast (9:00)
- 5/31 – Thursday Night Sailing starts (5:20)

Since the Last Newsletter – J. Boettcher

The dinner preceding the January general membership meeting on Jan 26 was hosted by the Lightning Fleet and had a Greek theme. I was told there was some Greek wine but I was not fast enough to get a taste. The

food was terrific. The meeting that followed was brief and without particular note as I can recall. Highlight was the budget for the coming year which featured a dues increase of 10%.



Buffet at Jan 27 General Membership Meeting Dinner

Our vice commodore Lynn Bluett has had his share of troubles keeping the clubhouse in working order over the winter. First there was and still is the septic system problem. Our leach field is apparently shot and, even with pump outs of the tank, one never knows how well the toilets may be functioning. Next was the furnace which would not respond to the thermostat. Various theories, all with some merit, were proposed in an attempt to solve the problem. The final straw was reached when the onset of extremely cold weather froze the outgoing sump pump drain. This caused the coupling to part, showering the basement with sump water and also allowing the sump to fill and prevent the drain from the furnace from operating. Additionally, the vendor admitted to not putting in the proper size vent for the exhaust. Needless to say, Lynn spent a great deal of time at the club during February. Much thanks for your efforts, Lynn.

I write this in late March and can't believe that in a month of so we will be sailing again. The winter was pretty mild until mid-Jan and then all hell seemed to break loose. I remember doing a lot of skiing and some snowshoeing for a few weeks. This didn't last all that long before we got to the dreary up and down temperatures. This didn't bother me too much since Norma and I left town for the first two weeks of vacation (Yes, birding, this time in Trinidad. Hey, someone has got to do it!). Still fresh from this, I can make it to May. See you at the general membership meeting on 4/27.

Commodore's Comments – C. McReynolds

I hope everyone enjoyed or a least survived the winter. Let's hope the spring weather gets better soon so our focus can be on sailing. I would like to encourage

everyone to market the Club as a great place to sail, picnic with friends, host parties, gatherings, etc. or even Swing Dance. The Club has much to offer due in part to the great diversity of the club members. I am looking forward to the "busy season" this spring, summer and fall. If any of you have any ideas, suggestions, etc., you can always send me a note directly at cindymc@frontiernet.net.

Happy 2007 Sailing Season.

Vice Commodore Communication – L. Bluett

The busy season for the clubhouse is rapidly approaching. The biggest challenge for the clubhouse is the septic system. We have a committee consisting of Paul Riordan, Eric Schoenhardt and me working on a solution. If you would like to help us, give me a call. We have estimates for replacing the septic system (about \$11,500) or connecting to the sewer that comes partially down the hill (\$15,000). In order to connect to the sewer we need an easement from the owner of the property next door where the pump-out station is. Paul Riordan has been negotiating with the neighbor and we hope to be able to report something at the general membership meeting at the end of April. We think that the sewer hook up is the best long term solution and hope it can be implemented. Meanwhile, please let me know if the drains back up or you notice water bubbling up in the parking lot near the building.

I am already getting requests to reserve the club. There are reservation forms and a calendar showing current bookings under the Thursday Night Sailing bulletin board for those without computers. The electronic form is available on the club's web page. I have been working hard to keep the bookings on the electronic calendar up to date within a day or two of receiving the reservation. If in doubt, please call me and I will let you know if a date is open.

The list of things that need to be done at the Spring work party to get the club ready for the sailing season is growing. I hope to see lots of people there so we can get everything done quickly.

Assistant Treasurer's Item – N. Platt

Thanks to all members who paid their dues on time.

Race Chairman Report – E. Schoenhardt

The racing schedule is on the last page of this newsletter.

Harbormaster Needs Help! – L. Hill

The bottom of the Doc Mac needs to be sanded and repainted with anti-fouling paint. If you've got an orbital sander and some time, we need you! Get in touch with me (phone, 334-8185; email: lwhfac@rit.edu).

Long-Range Planning Committee Activities

Former chair Ed Bell called a meeting on April 3rd which was well attended. The committee needs a new chairman and will look to the membership for a candidate. If you have organizational experience, please volunteer for this important position. Contact commodore Cindy McReynolds.

Items before the committee include dock and slip planning, dock security, financing of capital improvements, membership marketing, and clubhouse evaluation and improvements.

Launch Breakfast – Saturday 5/12 – J. Vaughn and J. Boettcher

Join us for some great grub. Starting gun is at 9:00, cost is \$2/person, and you need a reservation so that we will have an idea of how much food to buy (call John at 671-9639 or email johnwb2@rochester.rr.com). Give your mom a treat by taking her out for breakfast the Saturday before Mother's Day. This would be a great time to get help launching your boat. You might even be able to recruit help from among your friends with the promise of a great breakfast before their labors.

Lightning Fleet Report – L. Foster

The Lightning Fleet hosted the first general membership dinner of the year with a 'Go Greek' theme in honor of those Lightning sailors traveling to Greece this summer to participate in Worlds and World Masters.

Here at home we are getting ready for a fun-filled summer of local Lightning competition both at Newport and within the Central New York Lightning District. The popular 'Reunion Regatta' will be June 2 and 3. Save room in your guest rooms for visiting sailors and bring your appetite for the best après sailing hors d'oeuvres on the Bay!

The Lightnings are an outgoing bunch and this year they will demonstrate that by supporting the several series that make up the 2007 sailing season. As usual, we will have the Spring, Fall and Thursday Night Sailing (TNS) series. A new addition is the Summer Saturday series. This is to satisfy the racing appetite of the Lightnings that don't travel to regattas. Those requesting a series for Saturdays have promised they will continue to support and sail TNS, too. We need good participation in each series to be able to justify the two series. I ask that you participate in as much racing at Newport as possible. If you need crew, let's each of us help you find someone. If you want racing tips, we are all willing to share. Just ask. Need help tuning-up? Again, ask around. Want to try a regatta? Our regatta is a great place to start. Pick the brains of the visitors, too. Lightning folk are what make this class outstanding.

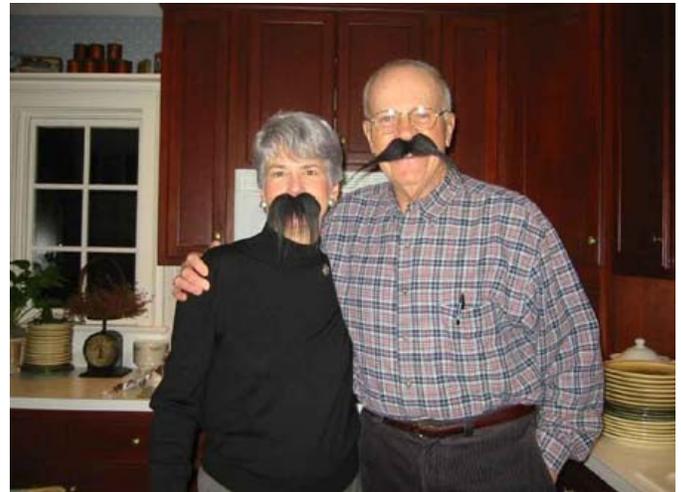
Please remember to support the International Lightning Class association (ILCA) with your membership. This helps the Class function and continue to have a presence in the world of sailing.

Fleet dues will be collected at our fleet meeting sometime mid-May. Please continue to make Howard Stickney's job of collecting dues easy.

Have fun, be safe, and see you sailing!

Snipe Stuff – Norm Dahl

Without the competitive stimulation of sailboat racing, we substituted a "Best Mustache" contest at our winter pot luck. The grand prize winner took home a sculpture of transcendent beauty and mystical meaning. Lesser competitors in various categories won lesser trophies. Virginia Cumine and Dorothy Kane were the judges. Rosemary Dahl was the photographer. Our hostess, Carol Morse, won the grand prize and her husband, Phil, won in the Softest Mustache category.



Winners of the Best Mustache Competition

Many thanks to Virginia Cumine and helper Jennifer Perena for hosting the last pot-luck event. We enjoyed the sunny new room Virginia built on the back of her house and ate some yummy soups and had some interesting and enjoyable conversation. The Horvath's volunteered to host the next pot luck. It will be a 12:30 brunch on Sunday, April 15.

Talk at the Snipe pot luck events has ranged from the serious (West African politics) to the silly (Who has the best mustache, Carol Morse or Lisa Gwinner?). At the next brunch, we will talk about sailing. (Does anyone understand the pole launcher tips in the class newsletter?).

Our haul-outs are in good shape, except that Charlie Courtsal's haul-out needs a new winch wire. Our boats

are pawing the ground, anxious for their owners to get them into the water. Skippers and crews are calling up memories of sailing to windward in a sunny thermal (and suppressing memories of sailing any direction in a west wind).

The Snipe regatta schedule has settled down. Here are some nearby: May 26-27, Palm D'Or at Guelph Lake; June 30-July 1, Canadian Nationals at Guelph Lake; July 14-15, District V Championship at Cuba Lake; August 18-19, Briody Regatta at Newport YC; September 10-13, US Masters at Winchester, MA (Mystic Lake); September 15-16, Mystic Open at Medford, MA (Mystic Lake).

Cruising Fleet Comments – P. Riordan

The Cruising Fleet held a season planning meeting at Paul Riordan and Dorothy Drazal's home on April 4th attended by Peter and Peggy Allen, Ed Bell, Lynn and Denise Bluett and Steve and Sue Leach. After some good conversation and sailing stories and some great food, we got down to business. Moonlight sails were set for June 16, July 14 and August 11. Club members are invited to contact any member of the Cruising Fleet to join in the sails. The sails are, of course, weather permitting and space is limited so contact your preferred skipper soon. All cruisers are also invited for a fleet day sail on July 28 with a return to the club for dinner. Bring your own entree and drinks. Salads and desserts will be assigned to sailors as we near the date. If you can't sail or if conditions are bad for sailing we still plan on a dinner get together. At the year end Cups and Flags, cruising awards will be given for best combined finish at the club handicap races scheduled for May 28 and July 4 and the Brown Jug on September 3. First and second place awards will also be given for most sails on your own boat and most sails overall so keep track of each time you're out on the water. A final award will go to the crew that makes the longest one day sail (distance, not time). Mark your calendars for these upcoming events and let's hope for plenty of southerly winds and lots of smooth sailing!

Laser Fleet News – Jim Cuddihee

Great news, all of last year's fleet is back this year, and it appears we will gain a new member. We will also have another four or five boats using the racks and ramps, so the North lawn should be a fairly busy area this summer.

The Empire State Games Qualifying regattas are in place and promise a busy spring season: May 26 at Ithaca, June 2 at Willow Bank, June 9 at Newport, June 16 at Saratoga, and June 23 at Chautauqua. We will be on the lake for our regatta, and need a lot of help to make it fun and successful affair. Give me a call if you can sail, or are available to help out ashore or on the water.

I hope to see all of us out for Thursday night racing as well as continuing informal sailing and racing on weekends as our needs and availability allow. Both cruising the bay and sessions of short, quick races are great ways to help sailors get comfortable with the boat and the basics of racing. Remember, we have a club Laser for members interested in a test drive or an occasional sail. With some fiberglass work, we can make a second boat available.

Remember the spring work party. Come early to help prepare the ramps for launching. Stay late to help test and replace 2x6's on the stationary dock and do minor repairs to our racks.

The ice is out of the Bay, its darn near time to go sailing!

TNS Tidings – S. Atkins and E. Smith

We would like to remind everyone that Thursday Night Sailing begins May 31st and is open to everyone, all classes of boats at the club even if you don't typically race. The past couple of years have been a huge success with good turn-outs. Following sailing, we grill outside and share our pot-luck specialties. This has been a fun opportunity to get to know fellow members.

There are a few jobs that need to be shared to accomplish TNS each week from PRO to set-up for the meal, grill-master, clean-up etc. We will provide sign-up opportunities so check your calendar by the next general membership meeting and pick the week(s) you are will to help out - job descriptions and further information will be distributed later. We hope the weather cooperates this year so we can go to the lake when the water warms up. Early season races will be on the bay.

ADK Waterways Group – J. Atkins

As a retirement project, I built a tandem cedar-strip kayak. Shortly after completing the project I found that the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) has a Waterways group that sponsors various paddles. After paddling with the group on a few Tuesday evenings, we joined the ADK and have been paddling with them for the past 2 years. Each year, the Adirondack Mountain Club sponsors the **ADK Expo (June 9, this year)** at Mendon Ponds Park. The Expo is open to any non-motorized outdoor group or activity free of charge. Ski clubs, biking clubs as well as hiking, canoeing and kayaking all typically participate. Newport was asked if we would like to participate last year, but the date conflicted with the Laser Regatta. This year, however, with the both the Laser and Lightning Regattas scheduled for the following week, Newport, or at least the Lightning Fleet, has decided to participate. Throughout the day there are various workshops planned. Last year, I participated in a build your own kayak workshop. The Lightning fleet has signed up for a workshop with a racing and crewing theme toward sailing. All fleets are welcome and

encouraged to attend. Even with the poor weather last year over 400 came though the beach area to try various canoes and kayaks. The year before the number was closer to 700. This should be a good opportunity to showcase both our club and our class boats. It would be great to have all three class boats on display. Note: the pond is not sailable due to the depth and the weeds. Let me know if you wish to help or would like to bring a boat.

The Waterways group meets monthly, usually at someone's home to plan for future paddles. Sally and I have reserved **NYC for the May 16 meeting of the Waterways Group**. As part of this meeting, we are planning on doing some paddling prior to the meeting. If anyone is interested in learning more about what the group has to offer or would just like to join us for a paddle, you would be most welcome. Also the final planning for the Expo will be part of the meeting and this would be a great opportunity for those involved to learn

more. Let me know if you think you might join us as we typically have pizza as part of the meeting.

For more information on the waterways activities and the Expo check out the website at <http://www.gvc-adk.org/outings/paddling/paddling.php>. Click on "Events" to see more on the Expo.

Newsletter Contributions

Thanks to Rosemary Dahl and Norma Platt for some of the the photos in this newsletter but I will take the blame for the poor portrait of the Board. Norma Platt and Ed Bell are responsible for turning the draft of the newsletter into proper English. Ed Bell also provides color copies of the newsletter which are mailed to members not having e-mail. John Boettcher is the editor. Next issue will be in June of 2007. Send contributions to J. Boettcher.

2007 Newport Yacht Club Race Schedule (draft 3-21-07)

	DATE	TIME		Lightnings	Snipes	Lasers	Handicap	
1	6-May	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
2	13-May	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
3	20-May	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
4	27-May	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
5	28-May	1:00 PM	Mon	X	X	X	X	CLUB HANDICAP RACE
6	31-May	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
7	2-Jun	10:00 AM	Sat	X				LIGHTNING REGATTA
8	3-Jun	10:00 AM	Sun	X				LIGHTNING REGATTA
9	7-Jun	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
10	9-Jun	10:00 AM	Sat			X		LASER REGATTA
11	10-Jun	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
12	14-Jun	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
13	16-Jun	1:00 PM	Sat	X	X			
14	21-Jun	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
15	28-Jun	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
16	30-Jun	1:00 PM	Sat	X	X			
17	4-Jul	1:00 PM	Wed	X	X	X	X	CLUB HANDICAP RACE
18	5-Jul	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
19	7-Jul	1:00 PM	Sat	X	X			
20	12-Jul	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
21	14-Jul	1:00 PM	Sat	X	X			
22	19-Jul	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
23	21-Jul	1:00 PM	Sat	X	X			
24	26-Jul	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
25	28-Jul	1:00 PM	Sat	X	X			
26	2-Aug	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
27	4-Aug	1:00 PM	Sat		X			
28	9-Aug	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
29	11-Aug	1:00 PM	Sat	X	X			
30	16-Aug	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
31	18-Aug	10:00 AM	Sat		X			BRIODY SNIPE REGATTA
32	19-Aug	10:00 AM	Sun		X			BRIODY SNIPE REGATTA
33	23-Aug	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
34	26-Aug	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
35	30-Aug	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
36	2-Sep	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
37	3-Sep	2:00 PM	Mon	X	X	X	X	BROWN JUG
38	9-Sep	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
39	16-Sep	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
40	23-Sep	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
41	30-Sep	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
42	7-Oct	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
43	14-Oct	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			