

Birds & Worms News

the newsletter of the Newport Yacht Club, Rochester NY



Food and Friends at the 2007 Cups and Flags

What's Up?

- 1/19 – Sailing Seminar at Haarstick (see article)
- 1/25 – **General Membership Meeting** (7:30) with Southwestern-theme Dinner (6:00) hosted by Lightning Fleet
- 2/27 – Bald Eagles on Irondequoit Bay Talk (see article)

Since the Last Newsletter – J. Boettcher

We got a new septic system in October. With our proximity to the water, the new one had to conform to a more stringent code than the previous. This aerobic system has a mixer and bubbler in the tank to hasten breakdown. The leach field is smaller because of the more efficient tank process. The work was done by

Chamberlain over a period of three days. Several folks volunteered to babysit the Club while the installation was going on and Norm Dahl took some photos of the work in progress. The first shows the installed tank (green cone in upper right), distribution box and leach field lines.



The next photo shows the backhoe covering the leach field with stone.



At the October meeting (10/26), we voted in a new Board with the changes from the old being Andy Smith taking over for Lynn Bluett (Vice Commodore), Ellsworth Bahrman replacing Tom Lee (Secretary) and Peggy Crevey succeeding Norma Platt (Asst. Treas.). We also voted in three new members (see article below). Prior to the meeting, the Laser Fleet hosted a pizza dinner with a salad and dessert potluck.

The next day (10/27) was the fall work party with terrible weather in the forecast. The rain and big wind held off and, with everybody pitching in, all of the necessary jobs

got done along with the new septic area getting graded with topsoil and seeded. I'm still tired.

A good time was had by all who attended the Cups and Flags (11/10) as might be gathered from the photos on the front of this newsletter. Turn out was lighter than years past due to competing events. Thanks to the efforts of Rear Commodore Steve Leach and wife Sue for all the work. Read the fleet reports in this newsletter to find out who got what and what for. Commodore Cindy McReynolds presented the to John Atkins for his



contributions to the Club over the years.

November saw the start of the first phase of the Seneca Road project which will continue through December. Check out Norm Dahl's article and pictures in this issue.

The website is back up and running thanks to the efforts of Landy Atkinson. However the email distribution lists still do not work.

See you at the meeting/dinner on the 25th.

Rear Commodore's Report – Steve Leach

There was a lot of work accomplished at the Fall Work Party. The "gods" shined upon us for a fabulous day to work at the club - foul weather had been predicted but the weather held out for us to accomplish our many, many tasks. The North lawn was both graded, topsoiled and seeded, so please keep your fingers crossed for more grass than weeds in the spring! All of the club boats were pulled out, winterized and covered. The windows were washed and there was some general outside clean-up of the grounds. Many of the leaves were still on the trees so I'm sure there will be many waiting for us to rake up in April. The hoist has been removed for the

season. Thanks to all for your hard work and dedication.

The Cups and Flags Banquet was held at Newport YC on November 10th. There were 43 people who attended this annual event. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food and camaraderie with fellow members and friends before we all begin the long, sailing-less winter. As always, the awards presentation was very entertaining. A big thank you goes out to Lynn and Denise Bluett who helped with both all the preparation and clean-up. Once again, Ed Bell served as punch master extraordinaire and served up some very fine beverages. Thanks also to Carol Cuddihee, Barb Horvath, and John Boettcher who helped with clean-up.

Treasurer's Report – Ted Horvath

As of January 4, 2008 we have \$14,127 in our Checking Account, \$9,485 in the General Fund, \$6,857 in the Junior Sailing Fund, and \$1,812 in the South Dock Fund.

To date we have collected \$6,091 from the membership for the Septic System Assessment, which is a good start on repaying the \$15,000 which was borrowed from the General Fund to pay for the Septic Project.

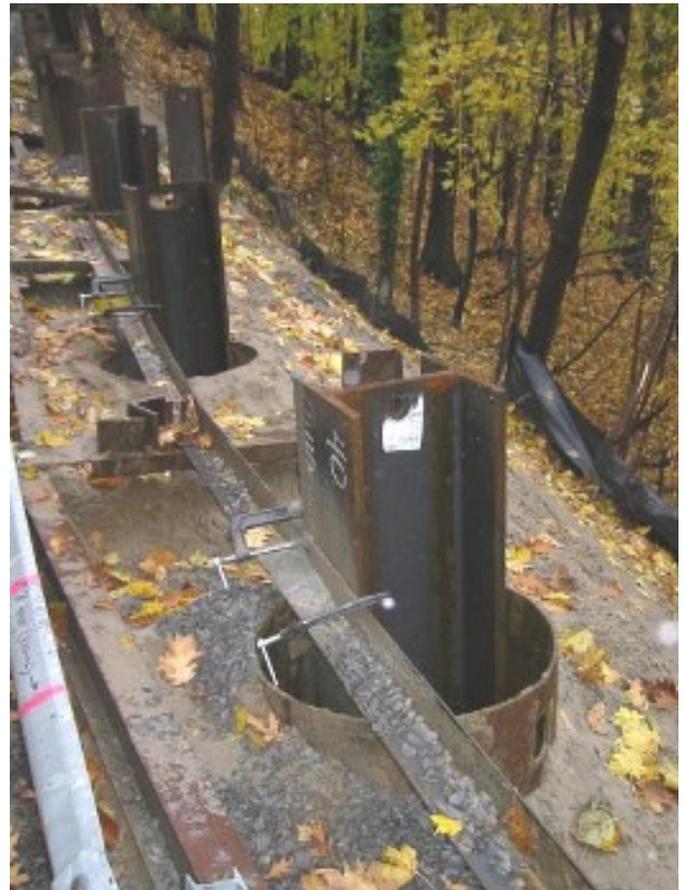
Construction on Seneca Road – Norm Dahl

Imagine the disruption if the route to our club were closed because of erosion undermining the road. Considering the steepness of the slope below the road, this threat was very real.



Fortunately, the Town of Irondequoit exercised foresight and is installing structures to prevent such a failure. Phase 1, for the upper part of Seneca Road, is well under way (See photos). Phase 2, for the lower part, may happen this spring. For both parts, the general idea is to install two courses of concrete panels along the downhill side of the road. H-beams dug vertically into the ground and tenons drilled under the road and into the hill will keep the panels in place. The total cost will approach \$2M, \$600K of which will be paid by the state.

Ted Horvath just passed along some late breaking news



from the Town. During construction a water main that was supposed to be on the other side of the road was breached and further work has to be done much more carefully than originally planned. The scheduled work was not completed and a new timetable is being developed. Road closures will continue. - editor

Membership Committee Report – J. Boettcher

At the October General Membership Meeting, we welcomed in three new families. Below are some details. See the bulletin board for photos.

Chris Ramsey is a new Snipe sailor. He has been regular crew for Tom Lee in the last few weeks and purchased Tom's old boat. He learned to sail at the age of 13. He wants to get his children (17,14,12) and wife (Kathryn O'Neil) in the sport. Tom works for Castel Assoc. as an engineer (lists welding among his skills) and lives in Irondequoit. Sponsored by Tom Lee and Norm Dahl.

Ricky Trauscht is also a Snipe sailor and is so impressed with NYC that he is willing to make the commute from Attica. He began sailing this past summer after being given an old Snipe with a wood mast. After figuring out where all the parts went he had some spotty sailing outings including capsizing once and being towed 3 times. Has purchased a new boat? Ricky is a carpenter and works for BVR Construction Company. He mentions equipment at his disposal when not in use. As mentioned above, Ricky and wife Sharon live in Attica. Sponsored by Norm Dahl and Phil Morse.

Robert Rebres and wife Eugenie live in Webster. Rob has several years of sailing experience including racing Stars and having owned two cruising boats of the 25+ ft size. He is currently retired but worked as a mechanical engineer. He currently has no boat at NYC but will bring a Catalina '22 in 2008. Sponsored by Lynn Bluett and Tom Lee.

TNS Wrap-up – Eva Smith and Sally Atkins

Scores from the TNS series were used to compute the handicap winners with the 1st place finishers being Eric Schoenhardt and Morgan Smith (Cruising), Norm Dahl and Virginia Cumine (Snipe), Jim Cuddihee (Laser), and the McReynolds bunch (Lightning). The holiday handicap award went to Steve Leach. The Lightning handicap series awards went to Alan McReynolds (1st), Dan Pope (2nd) and Chris Reynolds (3rd). The awards were cutting boards or wine holders fashioned by John Atkins.

Laser Fleet Report – J. Cuddihee

Since we didn't have a club race program beyond Wednesday night sailing, I've chosen to recognize the individual exploits of fleet members and supporters. Bob Shanebrook: New grandparent: Annie, parents and grandparents are all doing well. Dean Clayton: He spent most of the season crewing in a Snipe. But still, he did more than his share of Laser work parties. Dave Marshall: We didn't see him all year, but then our history is that Laser sailors disappear for some time after getting married. We have hopes that he will turn up next year. Matt Lawless: New member who sailed only once or twice this summer. He does have a point though, just once is infinitely better than not at all. Mike

Flowerday: New member who bought Rick Gammons' Laser and sailed quite a bit this fall. He also knows about building and maintaining docks. Steve Leach: Our most enthusiastic sailor, who has suffered through some hard lessons – like being aware that a teeny nail sticking up just a little bit can and will snag a mainsheet and cause a capsize in cool April water. John Boettcher: A senior member who has taken to sailing a Lightning. He is also an astute student of the sport who concluded that the reason the Lasers were late getting in from the lake one night was my decision to refuse a tow to the lake. Charles Roemer: Sails a trimaran, but acts like a Laser guy. After a messy capsize he swam his boat to shallow water where he sorted his rig out and went sailing again. Andy Smith He stepped up to be the PRO for the Laser Regatta, and did a super job! I'd have given him a flashlight, but he probably carries two with him at all times. Larry Hill: Special thanks for learning of a problem on Thursday night and giving up his Friday afternoon to get safety boats running for the Saturday Laser regatta. Finally Jim Cuddihee: A floating disaster, and no better on shore. In a one day regatta I locked myself out of my car, blew and replaced a catalytic converter, lost control of the mainsheet on a gibe (and helplessly watched the sheet unthread itself and dangle in the water off the bow), and in the next race, snapped the tiller extension while rounding the windward mark. I skipped the last three races.

Lightning Fleet Report – Lori Foster

The fleet has three seasons and an overall championship. John Atkins took 1st in the Spring series followed by rookie Chris Reynolds and John Boettcher. The summer series consisted of the TNS racing with Alan McReynolds being 1st followed by Dick Hallagan and John Boettcher. Alan McReynolds took 1st in the fall series with John Boettcher and Mike Trenkler getting 2nd and 3rd. The fleet champion was Alan McReynolds with John Boettcher taking 2nd and Dick Hallagan getting 3rd. Special awards went to Dylan Trenkler (youngest skipper), Gregory Trenkler and Nick Sertl (youngest crew), Chris Reynolds (rookie or the year) and Alan McReynolds (most races sailed). Along with the perpetual trophies, winners got Lightning logo martini glasses or travel mugs.

The Lightning Fleet will be hosting the dinner before the meeting on January 25th. Reynolds Hahn is in charge of this and has determined that the dinner will have a Southwestern theme. Members of the fleet should figure on bringing a dish in keeping with the theme while other folks will provide complimentary food. See meeting notice to come.

Snipe Fleet News – Norm Dahl

Here is the Snipe trophy line-up for the 2007 season. Fleet Champion – Charlie Courtsal and Dean Clayton. Second Place, Official Series – Norm Dahl and Virginia Cumine. First Place, Spring Series – Norm Dahl and Virginia Cumine. First Place, Fall Series – Charlie and Brendan Courtsal. Best Novice Sailors – Tom Lee and Lynne Bluett. Masters Champions – Phil and Carol Morse. Thursday Snipe Champions – Norm Dahl and Virginia Cumine. Most Improved – Bill Vaughn and Samir Dixit. Most Races – Tom Lee and Lynne Bluett. Tip-over Champions – Tom Lee and Lynne Bluett.

Congratulations to Charlie for winning the fleet championship for the seventh time in a row. Speaking of consistency, Tom has won the tip-over trophy three times and Bill Vaughn has been Most Improved four times. Bill is getting to be really good. We sailed a lot of races this year. In the most races competition, even the fifth most active boat had sailed 25. Finally, at least four good used Snipes are for sale within a reasonable distance of Rochester: Contact me for details.

Questions from Lori – J. Boettcher

Lori Foster thought that a review of some of the Club's history might be good for new members. Since we get about 10 members each year, over a period of 5 years we replace a good portion of our membership. I can answer a few myself (see italics) but need help with the others. Next newsletter will have an update.

What year did the Birds and Worms start?

What year did it become the Newport Yacht Club? *The membership booklet says NYC was organized in 1946.*

Why is it called the Newport Yacht Club?

How high was the water after hurricane Agnes (1972)? *Not sure but there is an aerial photo opposite the bar of the Club taken before the hurricane and Lori writes that there is a paint mark on the launch wall somewhere. Can anyone provide better directions?*

When were the Lightning docks installed?

When were the Snipe haulouts installed?

How many Commodores have there been? *Counting the names on the plaques in the clubhouse gives 59.*

Was the upstairs ever used for anything besides storage? *The Clubhouse used to be a hotel. We used to have a neighbor who was born in the Club. The*

upstairs appears to be bedroom area with a central, common bath with tub. Check it out.

What year did the exterior change to what it looks like now?

What sailor has been a member of NYC the longest? *Dick Doherty was voted in as a junior member in 1953. Richard Claver joined the next year.*

Sailing Seminars at Haarstick - 1/19

Norm Dahl passed this on to me. Sorry for the short notice. Jon Faudree will be giving a seminar on racing strategy (race prep., starting line and upwind) on Saturday, January 19th (10-12). Call for reservation or email sales@haarsticksailmakers.com. Other seminar dates in 2008 are 2/9, 3/8 and 4/12. Don't know the topics.

Bald Eagles on the Bay - 2/27

Friends of Irondequoit Bay and the Sierra Club are proud to co-sponsor an educational presentation, "*The Return of the Bald Eagle to Irondequoit Bay*". The presenter, Mike Allen, Sr. Wildlife Technician at the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), has been instrumental in the effort to restore the bald eagle to Upstate New York. There will also be a captive bald eagle at the presentation to give the public a chance to see this majestic bird up close.

Mr. Allen will give a dynamic presentation about the successes and setbacks the NYSDEC has experienced reviving the bald eagle population in New York State, from just one pair of nesting Bald Eagles in 1960, to a much healthier population of more than 80 nesting pairs. The focus of this discussion will be on the pair of Bald Eagles located on Irondequoit Bay and the policies and procedures that the NYSDEC uses to protect of the birds and their sensitive nesting site. This event is free and open to the public. It takes place February 27, 2008, 7 pm at the Irondequoit Town Hall, 1280 Titus Ave.

Newsletter Contributions

Thanks to Sally Atkins for the Cups and Flags photos and Norm Dahl for the shots of the septic installation and the Seneca Road project. 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 April of 2008. Send contributions to J. Boettcher.