

# Birds & Worms News

the newsletter of the Newport Yacht Club, Rochester NY



## NYC Board 2008

Standing (l to r): Ted Horvath (Treasurer), Andy Smith (Vice Commodore), Jim Cuddihee, Norm Dahl (Snipe Fleet Captain), Steve Leach (Rear Commodore), Eric Schoenhardt (Race Chairman)  
Seated (l to r): Howard Stickney (Director), Peggy Crevey (Asst. Treas.), Cindy McReynolds (Commodore), Lori Foster, Ellsworth Bahrman (Secretary)  
Not Picture: Dean Clayton (Laser Fleet Captain), Dan Pope (Lightning Fleet Captain), Paul Riordan (Cruising Fleet Captain), Larry Hill (Harbormaster)

## What's Up?

4/25 - General Membership Meeting (7:30) with Lasagna Dinner (6:00) hosted by Snipe Fleet

4/26 – Spring Work Party  
5/4 – Racing Starts

**Since the Last Newsletter – J. Boettcher**

The January general membership meeting was preceded by an excellent dinner with a southwestern theme that was sponsored by the Lightning Fleet. Thanks to Reynolds Hahn for organizing the meal. The meeting was fairly short with the highlight being the report of the Landy Atkinson, Finance Committee Chair. Landy then presented the budget for the coming year recommending a 3% in all fees. This was approved by the membership. Lori Foster reviewed the activities of the Long Range Planning Committee and introduced Eric Schoenhardt who presented the designs of the marine architect for dock/wave abatement.

Didn't notice any ice boating on the Bay this winter. I think the hard water sailors have given up on the Bay. There was good ice for the South docks work party on February 23rd. Read Howard's summary. It's probably obvious to you that the scheduled work on Seneca Road was not completed. To date, the Club has not received an updated completion date. What we did get was a reassessment from the Town of Irondequoit. Commodore Cindy McReynolds has been the point person on this. Read her summary below.

Only a few more weeks to the start of racing. See Race Chairman Eric Schoenhardt's article and the attached race schedule. Thursday Night Sailing is due to resume June 5th but a coordinator(s) is desperately needed. See the article by Sally Atkins and Eva Smith.

Lots of information from our busy Vice Commodore Andy Smith. The winter has kept him hopping with repairs. See his summary below along with a long list of items for the Spring Work Party. Andy also gives us an interesting piece of sailing archeology (see From the Depths . . .). Finally, Andy forwarded an update on the dredging of the outlet channel scheduled for October (just kidding, folks).

The response to the NYC history questions posed by Lori Foster has been great. Attached are answers, comments, and general musings from the membership along with more questions from Lori.

See you at the meeting/dinner on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**NYC Taxes – C. McReynolds (Commodore)**

The Town of Irondequoit has completed a reassessment of all commercial and residential properties. Our new preliminary assessment is as follows:

2007 Assessment	\$253,500 (88%);	\$288,068 (100%)
2008 Assessment		\$425,000 (100%)

This represents an increase of \$171,500 based upon

100% or an approximate 60% increase. Alan and I went to the informal hearing on March 29 to provide some additional information to the assessors. Based upon this hearing, a new assessment will be sent out in 2 - 4 weeks. Everyone should keep their fingers crossed. We described the condition of the clubhouse including the need for a new roof, that the upstairs is used for storage and is not in good repair, the clubhouse was remodeled in the late 70's or early 80's, the dirt partial basement, etc. Their preliminary assessment was based solely on an exterior appearance. Since the porch is in such great shape, the assumption was the remainder of the clubhouse was in the same type of shape.

Next Steps: I will be going to the Assessor's office in Irondequoit to look at comparable marina properties that have sold. If we want to, we can provide pictures to the assessor although he didn't think that was necessary. Once the new assessment comes out, if it is reasonable, we don't need to do anything further. If it is unreasonable, we can then submit for a Formal Hearing in May. My hope is that we have provided sufficient information to reduce the assessment considerably. We'll keep everyone posted as to the progress on this issue.

**Vice Commodore Notes – A. Smith**

The clubhouse is still available for use by club members at the same nominal charge as in previous years, plus a refundable cleanup deposit. After clearing a date for conflicts, turn in your reservation form to the Vice Commodore to reserve a date. I'll try to keep the web page calendar current with the planned activities.

We have had a busy couple of months with minor building repairs. These things happen in threes: The front door was rebuilt after someone tried to kick it in. The water system sprung a leak in the basement under the Buoys room. (Thanks to Dan Pope for turning it off while he was snaking around in the cobwebs drawing up building plans.) New pipes and shut offs are now in place. The third event was an exhaust fan in the Gulls room that seized up, and refused to run. I was contemplating buying a whole new fan and dreading installing the housing with the ceiling alterations when John Atkins volunteered to rebuild the fan with a new motor. It is all fixed now at about a third the cost. Thanks John. Also, most of the bad stains in the carpeting were removed thanks to the efforts of Lori Foster.

The Spring Work Party is scheduled for April 26th, and I have another list of projects waiting for a project captain

to take them on. If one of these jobs interests you, feel free to contact me and volunteer to be in charge of it. This way you could get it done your way. A project captain would take charge of a particular job, and arrange for materials, tools, & necessary helpers. We already have some of the materials. Following are the jobs in no particular order: Install molding on the interior side of the kitchen door casing, Install electrical outlets on the north end of the Bar for coffee pots, Install ground fault type 3 prong receptacles on both outlets near kitchen sink, Build shelves / cabinet in phone booth for the computer. (We have materials), Repair/reinstall metal frame under one of the 4 long tables. (someone sat on it?), Replace 3/4" strike plate screws with 4" screws on the other 3 exterior doors, Install "694" house numbers on outside of building. (South side), Front porch pew: Join sections together, shim to level, and secure to wall so it won't tip again, Rewire outside light at NE corner of building and remove the interior wire from west soffit, Relocate exterior light to pole at East side of parking lot, Install towel racks in kitchen, Glue down some new floor tiles near drinking fountain, Build plexiglas splash guard on drinking fountain. (to keep the floor dry), Build exterior storage location for lawnmower, Install hasp on small refrigerator, Stain the sun bleached window sills to match the other trim, and The other thing you know needs doing. The hope is that when Saturday morning shows up, the workers will be able to plan ahead and be ready for a particular job. (or complete your work party obligation ahead of time) Contact Andy Smith to sign up prior to the General Membership meeting.

#### **Race Chairman – Eric Schoenhardt**

Attached is a racing schedule for the year. Racing starts on May 4th. Notice the Club Handicap races on the Memorial Day and July 4<sup>th</sup> holidays. Also, notice the Race Committee Regatta on August 2<sup>nd</sup> where we give the race committee personnel the chance to race boats with club members serving as the race committee. More about this later. Let me know if you would like to help.

#### **Winter Work Party – Howard Stickney**

On Saturday Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> about twenty folks showed up for work party on the south docks. People having docks or haul outs were invited to attend. We had good ice to work on and the weather was not too cold. First order of business was to relocate two haulouts from the outside (east) of the east dock. This makes room for two cruising boats since we can't put these on the inside of the dock. The haulouts were used to replace broken or non-functional haulouts. In addition, the party finished replacing the chains to all finger piers and repositioning

the piers. Finally, the flotation barrels on the Laser ramps were reattached. We got a lot done in a short period of time. While the outside stuff was going on, Lori Foster gave the carpet inside the clubhouse a shampoo with help from Peter Stickney in moving furniture. Thanks to all who participated.



#### **Membership Committee Report – J. Boettcher**

A couple of nibbles and one almost in the boat. More news on this at the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Also, I need help with publicity. The Adirondack Mountain Club Outdoor Expo (June 14th) is an excellent chance for us to promote the club. If you've got a boat we can display (Snipe, Laser) or some time to man the booth get in touch with me.

#### **Thursday Night Sailing – Eva Smith and Sally Atkins**

**HELP IS NEEDED!** Sailing season is nearly here and we hope to continue the Thursday night sailing activities starting on Thursday, June 5th. This popular series is open to all sailors at Newport and is scored on a handicap basis. A picnic of grilled hamburgs & hot dogs at cost supplemented by potluck dishes follows the sailing every week.

The Club provides a race committee boat and crash boats with drivers for this series. All other duties are filled on a volunteer basis. We need a principal race officer (PRO) to make race decisions (where, when) and a race committee volunteer to help on the Doc Mac, people to purchase meat and rolls, someone to purchase beer and pop, a person to help set up for the picnic, a grill master, people to help clean up, a scorekeeper, and a treasurer. The good news is that some of these positions have already been filled. Lori Foster has volunteered to purchase meat and rolls for the season. Al McReynolds has agreed to be the

treasurer and the scorekeeper. **We need coordinator(s) to solicit the other volunteers on a weekly basis.**

Here's how we see the coordinator(s) responsibilities: The coordinator(s) are NOT expected to fill any job on a given week when members fail to volunteer. If no volunteers come forward, that job is simply not done. Being a coordinator does not mean one has to give up sailing. Sign-up sheets should be posted on the TNS bulletin board and members encouraged to sign-up. The coordinator(s) should recruit volunteers as necessary. E-mails should be sent to thank people for the current week and remind people who signed up for the following week. Attend Board meetings if possible, and especially if TNS is on the agenda. Arrange for trophies/awards for Cups and Flags, checking with the treasurer for funds to pay for the same. Touch base with the scorekeeper and treasurer throughout the season.

Here's your chance to make sure the Thursday night activities continue. Contact Sally Atkins (467-6934; [shAtkins@mac.com](mailto:shAtkins@mac.com)) or Eva Smith (544-7397, [elsmith@rochester.rr.com](mailto:elsmith@rochester.rr.com)) and volunteer to coordinate the fun. We have job descriptions available for all the volunteer positions and sample sign up sheets posted at the Club.

**Please respond to Sally or Eva ASAP if you are interested in coordinating these activities. We will NOT be repeating as coordinators. Remember, if no one volunteers, it doesn't happen.**

General expectations for TNS are as follows: We will sail on the lake whenever possible, but we will sail on the bay if conditions dictate it. As many races as can be fit in will be sailed each week, but only the first 2 races will be scored for the Club Championship. Each participating skipper is to take a turn as PRO. Volunteers for PRO **do** receive points for scoring purposes and may, in some situations, sail as well. Volunteers who purchase meat, rolls, beer, and pop give their receipts to the treasurer on the night of sailing and are reimbursed at that time, or ASAP. As in the past, a picnic will follow the racing activities. Every boat sailing is asked to bring a dish to pass for the picnic; hamburgers and hot dogs will be grilled and offered at a more than reasonable price. Beer will be offered for a nominal donation, and pop is free. Any member of the Club is invited to join for just the picnic activities, and is asked to bring a dish to pass as well. Leftover meat and rolls should be inventoried and reported to Lori, labeled, and stored in the freezer for the next week. Other groups should not "borrow" from this supply unless they restock in time for the next week – we count on this inventory. We hope to have a lock on the extra

refrigerator, located in the snack bar. If so, extra beer can be locked up there. If there is no lock, beer must be taken home and returned the following week. Hope to hear from you soon and see you at Thursday Night Sailing.

We need one or two people who are willing to coordinate getting these volunteers each week.

#### **Laser Fleet Report – Dean Clayton**

A fleet meeting was held after the October membership meeting. It was decided to launch all four Laser ramps at the Spring work party. There was some discussion of only using two but the fleet favored using all of them. A fixture will be devised to secure boats that are kept on trailers in the Laser area. One of the racks taken apart to accomplish the septic system installation will be put back in place at a work party. Since this fleet meeting the date of NYC Laser regatta has been fixed at June 21st.

#### **Lightning Fleet Report – Dan Pope**

The NYC Lightning Regatta will be the May 31st, June 1st weekend.

#### **Snipe Fleet News – Norm Dahl**

There is plenty of sailing planned for our Snipe fleet. Our Spring Series begins on Sunday, May 4. We plan to sail almost every Sunday from then to October 12.

We look forward to seeing our new fleet members on the starting line. As for the old fleet members, we wish them speedy recovery from assorted joint surgeries, a knee replacement in one case. As for the boats, some have had sail replacement operations and Charlie Courtsal has replaced his entire boat. All these replacements should make for faster sailing.

The Snipe fleet traditionally holds pot luck events in the off season and is very appreciative of the efforts of the hosts. Dorothy Drahzal and Paul Riordan hosted the first; Virginia Cumine, the second; the Morses, the third; and the Horvaths will host the last one. Norm Dahl provided some novice-level rules training at the Morses' and George Hock will cover the expert-level rules at the Horvaths'. This may sound serious, but actually we spend most of the time telling stories, singing songs and having a lot of laughs. It gets noisy sometimes.

We are glad to report that Peter Allen has volunteered to run the races for the Briody Memorial Snipe Regatta again this summer. He does such a great job. It is

scheduled for August 16-17. We expect boats from Canada, Michigan, Ohio and Massachusetts, as well as from elsewhere in New York.

Nearby regattas of special note include the Palm D'Or on May 31 - June 1 and the Canadian Open Nationals on July 5-6. Both will be sailed on Guelph Lake, which is about an hour northwest of Hamilton, Ontario.

### **Parking Lot Courtesy**

We've got limited parking space so a little extra time and thought could make life easier for all. Park as close as possible to the next car but avoid damage and be careful exiting your car. If you park someone in, make sure you leave your keys in the car. If you can car pool to NYC, do so. Sometimes I think we have four cars for every Lightning and three for every Snipe.

### **Funding to Dredge Outlet is on the Way**

This was the title of the Irondequoit Post article (Jan 31<sup>st</sup>) that Andy Smith provided. Part of the Omnibus Appropriation Bill included \$394,000 to dredge the Irondequoit Bay outlet channel. The sponsor was Congressman Walsh. The Army Corps will award the contract by April 1<sup>st</sup> with the work to be done between July 1<sup>st</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup>. The article contains interviews with Kevin Klee (Vic and Irv's owner) and Vic Ciaccia (Irondequoit resident) as to the maintenance of the channel.

### **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 new members each year, over a period of 5 years we replace a good portion of our membership. Here are the questions that were not answered in the last newsletter and the new question from Lori. See the following articles by the Shanebrooks and Ruth Sahs for more history. Send me the answers if you know them and any new questions you might have.

What year did the Birds and Worms start?

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?

Was the upstairs ever used for anything besides storage? See Lynne Shanebrook's article.

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

Here are some new questions from Lori. What year did the bar move from the front room to the back? What year did the Lightning docks get installed? What year did the Snipe docks get installed? What year did the new porch get put on?

### **NYC History Musings – Ruth Sahs**

*(Ruth is an honorary member writing us from St. Petersburg FL - ed)*

Remember when . . . . The bar was in the front room, and the bartender had the best view of the bay. You had to get to the club early on a Friday night to get a seat at the bar to watch the fights on TV. A tuxedoed skipper and crew sailed on Sunday morning after a wild Saturday night wedding. The brass ring toss to a coat hook on the wall near the men's room spawned many a bet. Three wives took over the steward's job one summer tending bar, cooking hots and hamburgs and cleaning the club. Many sailors turned spectators in a courtroom when several former members sued the club. (The club won but paid their court costs in an effort to minimize any hard feelings.) A skipper stood still a bit too long in the parking lot and a friendly hound peed on his leg. Two couples actually "traded" spouses. We sailed from the east shore of the bay near the Webster end of the bridge before moving to Seneca Road. There was a Lightning painted like a zebra. There were as many Comets as Snipes. DDT was hard to beat (Doc, Dick, and Tony).

There was a concrete step on the north end of the porch with a long ago date etched in it. Could this be the start date of the Birds and Worms?

### **More NYC History – Lynne Shanebrook**

The Algonquin Yacht Club had a building at Inspiration Point in Webster immediately south of the present 104 bridge. Because of high water, they abandoned the site and the Lightnings (Doherty, Sahs, etc.) moved to NYC. The Comets of Algonquin moved to Glen Edith and the next year moved to NYC. My dad, honorary member Richard Claver, joined the club in 1954. Not too much later the Algonquin building burned down.

In the late 50's, the club steward lived upstairs with his wife and two boys. His name was Ted Singh and he was from India. He served lunch on the weekends and Friday night fish fries.

#### Yet More NYC History – Bob Shanebrook

I remember reading some NYC information about the “new” breakwall that was incorrect. During the high water in the early 70's, the Comets used the area that is now occupied by the Laser ramps. The walkway was about 3 ft. wider than the current walkway. The Comets had individual haulouts similar to those currently used for power boats (rectangular cage, big wheel for leverage). After the metal break wall was installed the decking of the walkway was narrowed to the present dimension and attached to the breakwall. During the breakwall construction, we walked long planks from shore out to our Comets.

#### From the Depths of the Bay - Andy Smith

To retrieve the DocMac this past Fall it was necessary to add some gravel at the bottom of the concrete launch ramp. There was a half foot vertical drop which would have made it hard on the tires when fully loaded with a boat. So I put on the waders for a simple job with a shovel. It was completed in only a few minutes.

While I had the waders on, I remembered that while hauling the Lightning this Fall I had noticed a concrete block in the water near the hoist. As the water was low, I thought it best to retrieve it. It came out all covered with zebras.

Nearby, about 10 feet out from the retaining wall, I found something sticking out of the mud maybe a foot and a half. The top was less than a foot below the surface, a clear hazard to navigation for any boat. And it was right behind where the Safety Boats are kept. A klunk with a shovel revealed it was something metal. Maybe it was an old section of angle iron. I kicked it, and soon determined that you can not kick under water. So I dug around some with the shovel. Mike Trenkler was on the shore watching, so I asked him to retrieve a long chain from my van. I wrapped an end around it a few times,

and wiggled as he and a few others pulled. It came out.

Dick Doherty immediately recognized it as a runner blade from an old **stern steerer ice boat**. This runner is five feet long, with a 2 inch wide metal blade that tapers to a once sharp edge. The top portion is wood, all bolted on. After cleaning, and drying, I weighed it at 65 pounds.

Now, what to do with it? My garage already has enough stuff in it, and we do not have the rest of the ice boat? My ice boating friends in the Sodus Bay Ice Boat club have put me in contact with the Sodus Point Lighthouse Museum. They have a few old ice boating articles and are trying to gather additional material for an exhibit.

A perfect match! And there is one less thing to



damage our boats on in the bottom of Irondequoit Bay.

#### Newsletter Contributions

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 2008. Send contributions to J. Boettcher.

# 2008 Newport Yacht Club Race Schedule Master

Draft 4-8-08 Final

DATE	TIME		Lightnings	Snipes	Lasers	Handicap	
4-May	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
11-May	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
18-May	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
25-May	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
26-May	1:00 PM	Mon	X	X	X	X	<b>CLUB HANDICAP RACE</b>
31-May	10:00 AM	Sat	X				<b>LIGHTNING REGATTA</b>
1-Jun	10:00 AM	Sun	X				<b>LIGHTNING REGATTA</b>
5-Jun	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
8-Jun	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
12-Jun	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
15-Jun	10:00 AM	Sun	X	X			
19-Jun	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
21-Jun	1:00 PM	Sat			X		<b>LASER REGATTA</b>
23-Jun	1:00 PM	Mon	X	X			
26-Jun	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
29-Jun	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			<b>Lightning single handed</b>
3-Jul	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
6-Jul	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
10-Jul	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
13-Jul	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
17-Jul	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
20-Jul	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
24-Jul	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
27-Jul	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			<b>Lightning single handed</b>
31-Jul	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
2-Aug	1:00 PM	Sat	X	X	X	X	<b>Race Committee Regatta?</b>
3-Aug	1:00 PM	Sun		X			
7-Aug	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
10-Aug	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
14-Aug	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
16-Aug	10:00 AM	Sat		X			<b>BRIODY SNIPE REGATTA</b>
17-Aug	10:00 AM	Sun		X			<b>BRIODY SNIPE REGATTA</b>
21-Aug	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
24-Aug	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			<b>Lightning single handed</b>
28-Aug	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
31-Aug	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
1-Sep	1:00 PM	Mon	X	X	X	X	<b>BROWN JUG</b>
7-Sep	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
14-Sep	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
21-Sep	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
28-Sep	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
5-Oct	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
12-Oct	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			