

Birds & Worms News

the newsletter of the Newport Yacht Club, Rochester NY



Whoops! (AS photo)

What's Up?

6/21 – Laser Regatta

7/7 - Moonlight sail

7/25 – General Membership Meeting (7:30) with dinner (6:00) hosted by Laser Fleet

7/30 - Moonlight sail

8/2 – Race Committee Regatta

8/16,17 – Snipe Briody Regatta

9/1 – Brown Jug

Since the Last Newsletter – J. Boettcher

The Snipe Fleet provided a great Lasagna dinner preceding the General Membership meeting of April 25th. The Vice and Rear Commodores laid out the jobs to be done at the spring work party the next day. This

was followed by officer and fleet reports. At the time, Thursday night sailing needed someone to coordinate the activities. Lori Foster, chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, gave an update regarding new docks and rescue boats. A recent concern is the condition of the pad surrounding the hoist area. It is suspected that this area has been undermined and may need replacement. The situation will be monitored with any work done in the fall. Replacement cost is estimated at \$6-11,000. Lori then introduced Dan Pope who presented a plan for a revised clubhouse layout which included moving the present stairs and kitchen and rearranging the restroom facilities possibly providing showers and direct access from the outside. Johnny and Mary Fahner-Vihtelic were welcomed as new members of the club. Commodore Cindy McReynolds shared the dramatic increase in the NYC assessment proposed by the Town of Irondequoit and plans to get this reduced. Andy Smith and neighbor Mike Allen reported on the Seneca Road work and the recent meeting dealing with the Irondequoit Bay Harbor Plan.



Dirt Moving at 4/26 Work Party (NL photo)

The work party the next day went great considering that the weather forecast predicted a total rainout. The club boats were uncovered and launched. Several yards of dirt were distributed along the seawall to build up the lawn in that area. The Laser ramps were launched, hoist was put up and with a number of the usual things to get the club ready for the season were done.

The racing season was to have started on May 4th but lack of a quorum and poor weather pushed back the start the start of racing until the Memorial Day weekend. The Lightning Fleet had their regatta on May 31 and June 1, with the sinking of the Doc Mac complicating the second day. Along the way, our Commodore Cindy McReynolds and husband Al saved the club a bunch of money by getting the town to reconsider the big increase in assessment for NYC. Thanks Cindy and Al!

Read about all the above in the articles below.

Commodore's Comments – Cindy McReynolds

The tax assessment for the club has been revised from \$425,000 to \$295,000. I want to personally thank Alan McReynolds for assisting me with going to the informal meeting. The \$295,000 figure is the one we offered to the tax assessor and they apparently agreed.

Rear Commodore Remarks – Steve Leach

The Spring Work Party went very well. Lots of important tasks were accomplished! The weather cooperated giving us a beautiful day and only a few die-hards got caught in the late afternoon hail storm. A special thank you to Marcia Mephram for making the flowers look beautiful once again. You will be missed. ENJOY COLORADO!



Doc Mac Launch at 4/26 Work Party (NL photo)

The mowing season is upon us and hopefully by this publishing the grass will be growing and there will be lots to cut. There is a sign-up sheet on each fleet's bulletin board inside the club so please sign-up on the sheet or through your fleet captain. The mower and gas are located in the snack bar area and are all set to go. The mower is very basic as far as operation goes-if any questions give me a call. Thanks for everyone's hard work and cooperation.

Vice Commodore Notes – A. Smith

Fortunately we have had no additional building disasters during the last month or so. No toilets spring leaks. No additional roof leaks. No door jams to rebuild, etc. Keep our fingers crossed for next month. It appears the gremlins have moved out to the docks. The good news is I have checked the roof leak several times just after a

rain, the last being the morning of 5/31 after the heavy downpour of Friday evening. All is now dry in the ladies changing room. My fix seems to be working. The bad news is; now that we are starting to use the porch again, it was noticed that two of the white plastic tables, and a few of the plastic chairs have disappeared. The reservation for use of the club facilities for private parties of members continue to trickle in. Only one conflict so far to work out. I try to keep the web calendar up to date, so check it out and contact me if you are interested in a date.

Doc Mac Lives – Cindy McReynolds

When people arrived this morning (6/1) for the Lightning regatta, it was discovered that the Doc Mac was entirely underwater. The situation looked very bleak. Club members quickly put slings under the boat in an attempt to keep the boat from further sinking. John Atkins put on Logan's wetsuit (previously John's) and entered the water and cleared debris from the entrance of the cabin. We then put in a couple of sump pumps to pump water from the cabin. With help from our out-of-town guests, we were able to get the cabin top clear of the water. It was swamped several times by powerboat waves. After multiple attempts and adding a 3rd pump, we were able to get the forward hatch out of the water. After the forward hatch was out of the water, we were able to get water out of the boat so it could begin to float. The regatta continued while 4 club members elected out of sailing the last day of the regatta. We were able to raise the boat and get in an additional race on Sunday. I want to thank everyone who helped either mentally, physically, whatever to resurrect the Doc Mac. The good news is the sinking was due to either the sink drain being knocked loose or the stopcock being loosed during Saturday's racing by accident. These have been fixed closed and the handles removed. The motor is being serviced by Seager Marine, in Canandaigua. Thanks to Peter Allen for taking care of the motor servicing. Great excitement with a pretty good ending. Thanks to all of the club members that pulled together as a team to get this done!!!

Thursday Night Sailing – Cindy McReynolds and Annie Schoenhardt

It's almost time for Thursday Night Sailing (TNS). TNS starts June 5 and ends August 28. All fleets are invited as this is handicapped racing. As in prior years, we will have a picnic style dinner after racing. Burgers and hot dogs will be available for a small fee (TBD). Please bring a dish to share with all picnickers. Beer will be available for \$1. Please come join us for racing, sailing or dining. For those who don't want to race, you can get

your boats out and watch the action from your own boat or from the clubhouse porch. Lake racing will be considered a bit later in the season. Annie Schoenhardt and Cindy McReynolds are the co-Thursday Night coordinators. We will be looking for volunteers for various roles. Thank you in advance to Lori Foster and Dave Harman who will be picking up the hamburgers and hot dogs each week. Other roles include PRO (Principal Race Officer, picnic set-up, grillmaster, beer duty, etc.). You can volunteer for one week or as many weeks as you want. But PLEASE volunteer.

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Annie Schoenhardt (Co-Thursday Night Coordinator) eschoen2@frontiernet.net (585-381-9076)

Membership Committee Report – J. Boettcher

Join me in welcoming Johnny and Mary Fahner-Vihetlic as new members of NYC. Johnny is an intellectual property manager for the U of R and Mary is a teacher. They live in Irondequoit a stones throw from the club. Johnny grew up in the Travers Bay Michigan area and worked in a marina as a youth. He also sailed and raced a variety of boats in the White Lake YC. While working for the National Institute of Health in Washington DC, he crewed on big boats racing the Potomac. He is a paddler (kayak) and an accomplished woodworker. Johnny and Mary got a beat up O'Day Mariner which Johnny rebuilt. Look for their picture on the bulletin board.

Lightning Regatta Report

Thirteen boats participated in the May 31/June 1 regatta. There were seven NYC members competing and six visitor boats. Dick Hallagan was regatta chairman and Mike Mincher of SBYC ran the races. Shifty, puffy west



Weather Mark at Li Regatta (RS photo)

winds were the norm for Saturday's racing. Day 1 standings had Jed Dodge (SBYC) first with Bob King (SBYC and former junior member of NYC) second and Dick Hallagan third. Day 2 started with the discovery of the Doc Mac sunk at the dock (see Cindy McReynolds' article elsewhere in this newsletter). Four NYC boats chose not to race in order to deal with the emergency. After some delay and scrambling to assemble race marks etc. the fleet got in one more race. Finals standings were Dodge (10.25), Hallagan (16.0) and King (18.75).

Snipe Fleet News – Norm Dahl

The Snipe Spring Series was held on May 25. Charlie and Brendan Courtsal finished first in all three races, so they are the winners of the Spring Series. Congratulations to both of them. The wind was perfect, but the water was quite cold and the powerboat wakes were plentiful. Courtsals won the second race by maybe three inches. The third race included heavy blanketing of Courtsal by Dahl, with Vaughn as a growing threat. Nevertheless, Charlie, racing his Persson Snipe for the first time, won them all. The finishes for the other competitors were as follows: Dahl/Cumine 2/2/2, Vaughn/Vaughn 3/3/3, and Lee/Lee 4/4/-. Other Snipe owners showed up, but did not race: Ted Horvath, Ricky Traucht and Katrina Korfmacher, a potential new member for NYC. Such high interest bodes well for the season. We are looking forward to the start of the Official Series, June 8, and to our regatta, August 16-17.

Cruising Fleet News – Paul Riordan

The cruising fleet schedule was set at a meeting of those cruisers who could make it in April. Moonlight sails have been scheduled for June 3, July 7 and July 30. Other club members are welcome to crew with any of us. Just give a call to a skipper and set it up. Dinner will be on board or back at the club, whichever is decided by the individual boat. Remember that these sails, as all sails, are weather permitting, so stay in touch with your email. We had a small Memorial Day pot luck after sailing on Sunday May 25 attended by the Parkers, the Dahls and the Drazzal-Riordans. We had an awesome strawberry and blueberry American Flag cake to mark the occasion. I see that most of our cruisers are in the water. Ellsworth and I had quite the wild sail bringing home his boat a couple of weeks ago from the river. Very happy to have had a south wind or we might have lost our lunches in the process. He's leading the fleet in best anecdote so far. Don't forget that Thursday night sailing starts on June 5 and that regular Sunday sailing at 1pm continues. See you on the water.

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. 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? When were the Lightning docks installed? When were the Snipe haulouts installed? What year did the exterior change to what it looks like now? What year did the bar move from the front room to the back? What year did the new porch get put on?

Sailing Experiences

(This starts a new feature of the Birds and Worms where a member of the club shares a particularly notable sailing experience with some instructional value. If you have such a tale please get in touch with me. editor)

Third Race at 2007 Lightning Worlds in Athens, Greece – Dick Hallagan

The previous two days had been canceled due to the extreme heat (115F) and our boat was in 6th place after the two races sailed on the first day. It was still plenty hot (95-105F) with a north breeze provided by the local wind (Meltemi breeze) from the North. The start would be four miles offshore in Parthenon Bay racing toward the city.

At the start, most of the fleet elected to go left but we chose to go right. This put us off the beach and we anticipated lifts from the blast furnace puffs coming from the city. We made out OK being 5th at the windward mark. We stayed with the leaders on the downwind leg and put some separation between us and the followers. At the gate, the leaders rounded the left mark but we chose the right one in order to not be in a position of following them. After rounding, we got a big lift and pulled away from the leaders so that we actually had trouble reading their sail numbers. We reached the weather mark in first place by a wide margin. On the downwind and final leg, a Swiss boat appeared to be making moves on us from behind but we were certain we could hold him off. More of a concern was a boat to our right who seemed to have much better wind. We had to make a decision as to which boat to cover. We chose the sailor on the right. We reached up and with

some difficulty punched through his wind shadow and parked to windward and ahead of him all the way to finish to take the bullet.

The remaining races saw us finish in the upper part of the 49 boat fleet and we ended up 6th in the final standings. We had a great time competing and credit our early arrival and chance to acclimate to the heat as a major factor in our success. Thanks to my team of Sally Hume, Erick Ten Eyck and Dan Pope. This was the third time I won a race in the Lightning Worlds. The first time was in Ecuador (1975) and the second time was in Chile (1983). Winning this race in the 2007 Worlds twenty-four years later was a triple thrill.

Sailing Humor



Li 11050's Retirement from Regatta (SA photo)

Joke

Q: What do you get when you cross a psychiatrist and a sailboat?

A: A Freudian sloop.

Cartoon – Ruth Sahs



Newsletter Contributions

Thanks to Andy Smith, Nancy Lynn, Bob Shanebrook, and Sally Atkins for the photos. Thanks to the contributors of articles. YOU can write one too, it is YOUR newsletter. Eva Smith 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 August of 2008. Send contributions to J. Boettcher.