

Birds & Worms News

the newsletter of the Newport Yacht Club, Rochester NY



Briody Regatta Start (RS photo)

What's Up?

10/12 – Last Racing Day

10/24 – General Membership Meeting (7:30) with dinner (6:00) hosted by Lightning Fleet

10/25 – Fall Work Party

11/15 – Cups and Flags Celebration

Since the Last Newsletter – J. Boettcher

Missed the Briody Regatta but had a great time at the Brown Jug. Nice day with a gentle wind, lots of boats, good food and friends. See reports on both events in this newsletter.

The end of the racing season is rapidly approaching. As I write this only two weeks remain. The work on Seneca Road complicates (or eliminates) day sailing during the week. I hope they get finished with it this time around.

The upcoming meeting is when we elect some officers and board members. See below for the nominees. I'd to thank all the retiring folks for their efforts over the past two years and to thank those that came forward to fill the vacant posts. Also, thanks to the Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee for this year (Tom Lee, Bob Shanebrook, Paul Riordan, Alan McReynolds, and Dan Pope) is proud to present the following slate of candidates to be voted upon at the October 24th meeting. Commodore: Cindy McReynolds (2), Rear Commodore: TBA (2), Race Committee: Eric Schoenhardt (2), Treasurer: Don Curran (2), Director at Large: Bill Andrews (1). The number in parentheses is the years of the term.

Rear Commodore Remarks – Steve Leach

Just a reminder about the Cups and Flags Celebration on Saturday November 15th. See notice at the back of this newsletter.

Harbormaster Report

Many hands will be needed for taking the 3 club boats out of the water, breaking them down, and covering them. That's the majority of the Harbormaster tasks.

Brown Jug Report

It was NYC's turn to host this annual event open to RCC and any other sailboat on the Bay. The day was

beautiful but the north wind was on the light side and got lighter as the race progressed. Wisely, Peter Allen, the race chair assisted by Peggy Crevey, decided to go for a once around rather than the usual two laps. A JY from RCC skippered by Estella Offtus took 1st overall in the 42 boat fleet and 1st in her fleet along with 1st junior. Per Stampe also from RCC and sailing a Sunfish took 2nd overall. Finishing off the RCC fleets was Stehle who took first in the Thistle fleet. First place finishers in the NYC fleets were Dan Pope (Lightning), Tom Lee (Snipe), Matt Lawless (Laser) and Logan McReynolds (Cruising). Following racing, the participants and many others retired to NYC for a wonderful snack table organized by Steve and Sue Leach and provided by the NYC members. Steve Leach and Cindy McReynolds presided over the awards ceremony.



Brown Jug Festivities (SA photo)

Snipe Stuff – Norm Dahl

Congratulations to Charlie Courtsal, our Snipe Fleet Champion for 2008! Charlie also won our Spring Series. Bill Vaughn and Samir Dixit, having won the Most Improved Trophy for 2007, topped that by finishing in second place for the 2008 Official Series. Official Series Final Standings: *(Place Skipper Races Points)*
 1st Courtsal 13 1700, 2nd Vaughn 17 1640, 3rd Dahl 15 1631, 4th Lee 14 1580, 5th Horvath 9 1578, 6th Trauscht 11 1450.

Korkosz Team Wins 2008 Briody Memorial Snipe Regatta – N. Dahl

John and Adrienne Korkosz, last year's winners of the Briody Memorial Snipe regatta, did it again in '08. Competition among the top three boats was very close, with the champion decided in the last race. Jno and

Karen Disch were second and Harri Palm and Molly Kurvink finished third.

Host Newport YC was delighted to welcome 16 boats to the August 16-17 event and to treat them to a break in our season of weekend thunderstorms. PRO Peter Allen, who must have controlled the weather, started us in six races: three in challenging west winds and three in choppy northerlies.

Olympic-style medallions were hung around the necks of the top five skippers and crews. Chris Hains and Dean Clayton got fourth place and locals Matt Disch and Wendy Dannels were fifth. Charlie Courtsal, with Saturday crew Julie Clayton and Sunday crew Jennifer Perena, was the highest finishing Newport skipper in seventh place.

Novice sailor Rick Trauscht joined the Newport fleet this year and has already established a solid lead in the competition for the Tip-Over Trophy. His crew having come down sick, we brought in a ringer and Rick crewed for him. It was Guy Lovejoy, who used to win Snipe junior regattas twenty-five years ago. Aggressive starts in a big fleet were a new experience for Rick and he loved it. They finished eighth.

Food guru Rosemary Dahl arranged for Saturday pizza lunch and Dinosaur Barbeque Saturday night -- and for a lovely full moon rise over the bay after supper. Food and cleanup helpers included the Horvaths, Sharon Trauscht, Virginia Cumine, Cindy McReynolds, Carol Morse, and Denise Bluett. Charlie Courtsal and Tom Lee wrangled the beer and soda.

Peggy Crevey and Lynne Bluett helped Peter run the races. Eric Schoenhardt lined up the paid race committee and Larry Hill furnished the powerboats and equipment. Phil Morse and Bill Vaughn did registration and scoring.

Turnout was a record for recent years: five boats from Canada, five Newporters, two non-Newporters from NY and one each from PA, CT, MI and OH.

Cruising Fleet Report

Seven boats participated in picture day on July 12th. The idea was to sail around and take photos of one another. The day started light with very light winds but then a front came through and the winds picked up. See photos of the happy group and the participating boats on the back page of the newsletter.

The Joys of Being - Newport Yacht Club Style - Peter Allen and Peggy Crevey

If running a yacht race can be defined as moments of excitement separated by long periods of boredom, then running a Snipe regatta could be viewed much as above, times six races. But Sunday morning Peggy found a new reason to glory in participating in the activities of Newport Yacht Club and being out on the Bay.

It was around 11:00 A.M. We had just started the second and last race of the regatta when Peggy said that she thought the big bird in the air more or less above the clubhouse was a bald eagle. Yeah, sure, dear. Actually, once I spotted what she was talking about, I had to admit that it certainly seemed to be a large bird. It continued to circle, rising and soaring without much effort, gradually moving east out over the bay as it rose on wind currents we could only assume were there.

We hailed the other members of the race committee, alerting them to the possibility that this was a bald eagle. We had never seen one in the wild and we were pumped! One of the committee members asked over the radio if it wasn't really an osprey. Maybe, if an osprey could look like a Boeing 747 with feathers. By now that bird was nearly above us, with its wings extended at full spread, its white head and neck proudly out, presumably searching for brunch. No, even to my untrained eyes, it seemed likely that this glorious bird was one of the pair of bald eagles nesting on the shores of Irondequoit Bay. Among other things, it was just plain huge! And beautiful! Where was my camera? Not on the boat.

The regatta was great fun. We had a recent-years record turnout of 16 Snipes, with many friends from past events. But the impromptu air show was sublime.

Sailing Experiences

(This is 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)

Bareboating in the BVI – Phil Morse

Phil has repeatedly mentioned bareboating in the British Virgin Islands (BVI). I decided to corner him to get more information and thought there might be NYC members also interested. This is the first of two installments.

Words from Phil as to why he does this. Charter sailing in the British Virgin Islands (BVI) is one of the most idyllic vacations you can experience. Sweet sailing with a steady 8 to 12 knot breeze, crystal clear water, living

on board a 38 to 42 ft sloop rigged boat, snorkeling on stunning beautiful coral reefs, very little tide (say 6"), exploring deserted keys (small islands), sandy beaches, eating (& drinking) at quirky beach restaurants, friendly people, beautiful weather, no navigating skills required and no bugs are all part of the bareboat (w/o skipper or cook) sailing vacation.

The first thing that Phil did was to allay some of my fears about being responsible for a large boat for a week or so. He said the boats are set up for chartering. Rigging is simple and straightforward with roller furling jibs so the sailing part of things should be little problem for any member of NYC. The boats are designed for comfort and not speed with some specifically built for charters. It is the engine part of things that might cause trouble. You need this for docking, capturing moorings and when the wind doesn't blow. The charter company will check you out with the engine and provide a simplified manual. If you are really inexperienced they may suggest hiring a captain for a few days. Phil emphasized that one does need to exercise some common sense with regard to all the operations.

As mentioned above, Phil is partial to the BVI and his comments were specific to that area but probably apply elsewhere also. Finding a charter company can be done on the internet with boats and prices listed. Most of the companies have toll free numbers in the US where you can get additional information. There are two valuable books about chartering in BVI that are put out by Cruising Guide Publications. The first is The 2007-8 Cruising Guide to the Virgin Islands by Nancy and Simon Scott. The second which describes anchorages and good navigation information is Virgin Anchorages. High season for charters is December through March. The rates drop significantly in April and this is when Phil likes to go.

A typical charter boat will be on the order of 40 ft. This can accommodate 6 people or more but Phil has had the best experiences with only 4. It costs more, but the added space eliminates a lot of potential conflict. Make sure the boat has two actual cabins to allow for some privacy. Even with the added space, Phil suggests you carefully pick your traveling companions and have some previous knowledge of how you will get along.

Phil says the typical day will involve a sailing time of 2-3 hours to the next anchorage. This means that the next place will probably be in sight. No need for advanced navigation skills. There is no sailing allowed at night. Sometimes an anchor will be required but lots of times moorings are available for rent from an adjacent restaurant. All the boats are supplied with a zodiac with

an outboard. This is how you get ashore and access some of the reef areas for snorkeling.

The charters originate in Tortola which you fly to by way of Puerto Rico. The charter company will pick you up at the airport in mid to late afternoon. Your charter will start the next day. You can stay at a hotel but Phil recommends staying on board the boat. You will get charged for this additional overnight stay but it will save you the trouble of unpacking and repacking the next day and give you more time to settle in on the boat. The next morning the charter company will give you a briefing on the boat and after that you will be on your way.

In the next article, Phil will go over provisioning, cooking on board, snorkeling and some good destinations in the BVI.

Newsletter Contributions

Thanks to Sally Akins, Bob Shanebrook and the members of the Cruising Fleet for the photos and Lynn Bluett for making me CD of them. Eva Smith is responsible for turning the draft of the newsletter into proper English. John Boettcher is the editor. Next issue will be in January of 2009. Send contributions to J. Boettcher.



Commodore Cindy McReynolds
and the Officers of Newport Yacht Club
Cordially Invite You, Your Family & Crew
to the

Cups and Flags Banquet

Saturday, November 15, 2008

6:30PM

At the Newport Yacht Club

Featuring a wide assortment of hors d'oeuvres, desserts, the Commodore's Punch Bowl, non-alcoholic punch bowl, and soda. (Wine and beer available for a nominal donation.)

Come and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow members. Recognition of sailing and non-sailing participation will also be part of the evening.

Price:- \$15.00 per person

RSVP: to Steve Leach (Sleach4586@aol.com) or call 323-9532 by no later than Wednesday, November 5th. *Advance payment appreciated. Please send checks payable to Newport Yacht Club to Steve Leach, 132 Garford Rd., Rochester, NY 14622.

Hope to see you there !

