

Birds & Worms News

the newsletter of the Newport Yacht Club, Rochester NY



NYC Clubhouse Renovation 3/21/09 (VC photo)

What's Up?

4/24 – General Membership Meeting (7:30) with Lasagna dinner (6:00) hosted by Snipe Fleet

4/25 – Spring Work Party

5/3 – Start of Racing

Editor's Comments – J. Boettcher

With the clubhouse renovation in full swing, one might lose sight of the fact that the sailing season is only a few weeks away. Mother Nature as usual has had some interesting weather for us in the past few weeks. Seems as though she wants us to revisit February for a bit before moving on to spring. This will pass. Hope to see

all of you at the general membership meeting preceded by the lasagna dinner by the Snipe Fleet later this month. The spring work party is the following day.

Certainly the big news is the repair and renovation of our clubhouse and there are several references to this in this newsletter giving status, background and commentary. This newsletter also has a review of the business done at the January general membership meeting. You will find a photo of the current Board of Directors and brief descriptions of their duties. Starting with this newsletter, I will be including contact information for the Board members. With this information, you can determine who to call with problems or concerns.

Lori Foster provided an update of the Long Range Planning Committee activities and also found an interesting article in her archives regarding parking etiquette from 1991. Maybe we should abide by these rules currently? Race Chairman Eric Schoenhardt provided a tentative race schedule for the year. Finally, I interviewed several ice boaters from the Club as to "hard water sailing".

Since the Last Newsletter – J. Boettcher

Prior to the January meeting (1/23) the Cruising Fleet provided a wonderful Southwest theme dinner. The meeting that followed was a long one with Commodore Cindy having to wear many hats due to the unavoidable absence of many committee chairs. The most important piece of business was the budget for the coming year. The budget contained funding for clubhouse stabilization and renovation, and saving for a future roof repair. To support this, dues will undergo a 6% increase and boat fees a 10% bump. There was also a positive vote to dissolve the junior sailing fund and sell its assets to pay for a repair of the hoist area. Ellsworth Bahrman is leaving the area and was thanked for his service to the Club as secretary. Rob Rebres was voted in to fill out Ellsworth's term as secretary. In unfinished business from the Cups and Flags, Commodore Cindy presented Bob Shanebrook with the Whittenberg Trophy for his service to the Club in the past year.



Bob Shanebrook receiving the Whittenberg Trophy from Commodore Cindy McReynolds (SA photo)

The big news is the clubhouse repair and renovation. See other articles in this newsletter, and check out the photo collections of Sally Atkins (<http://gallery.me.com/shatkins/100291>) or Virginia Cumine (<http://picasaweb.google.com/Nanapix/NewportYC032109#>).

Vice Commodore Words – Andy Smith

Someone famous once said something about "You have to crack a few eggs to make an omelet." Our reconfigured clubhouse will surely be better when the dust settles, but as of this writing there seem to be egg shells (dust, grit and everything else) all over the place. I am convinced that it will all be worth it in the end.

Sail Lockers: All 12 of the sail lockers have been full for years, and there is a small waiting list. We have thoughts about building more lockers somewhere on the remodeled second floor. If you have any ideas on what might work better than the current design, speak up as the decision of where, locker size, and how many is still in the planning stage.

Microwave: A few months ago our second microwave oven died. It was sad. A second microwave in the kitchen is nice to have for events. The call is out for another used one. If there is a member that is willing to donate a used microwave, it would be greatly appreciated.

NYC Flowers: The NYC flowers are sure spring is here and are in bloom already! For many years, Marsha Mepham has taken care of the flower boxes around the club. They have always added a nice touch. Just before leaving the area she asked Eva Smith to look after them this year. One November Saturday morning,



NYC Flowers under Eva Smith Care 11/08 (AS photo) with prediction of a first frost, Eva moved all the plants

that do not survive the harsh elements to her spare bedroom. They have all been very happy with weekly care in front of the windows, and surely look forward to a return to their view of the Bay.

Clubhouse Renovation Notes – Eric Schoenhardt

Once again I am blown away by the level of volunteerism at NYC. To be able to pull off in 4 weeks what we have is just incredible. In the 4 Saturdays we worked, we averaged 15-20 people each Saturday which is absolutely incredible.

I wanted to make mention of several faithful ones who are by no means the only ones with wonderful stories of diligence. I wanted to mention Jillian who came dressed for cleaner work who without any complaint or trepidation accepted the task of digging the SE footing which means she had to crawl way back under the floor through cobwebs under ductwork and behind columns to get there and did a great job. And big Jack did the same digging the northeast footing and the northwest footing. Andrew Hintenach crawled behind ductwork and into dark corners to repoint the foundation at the southwest bearing point. We had a great crew who bucketed in all the concrete 5 gallons at a time. My thanks to everyone who without complaining and with speed and diligence cleaned up debris off the porch they had no part in generating. Thanks to John Atkins who put more time in than anyone working every Saturday and several days during the weeks wiring and demoing floors. Landy and his son tore out plaster ceilings and mixed concrete. Paul Riordan who learned the fine art of demoing plaster with a shovel which is quite a jump for a lawyer. The stories go on and on and, while pointing these out, I want to in no way take away from all the faithful ones not mentioned whose efforts are in no way any less notable or important. I have led many volunteer efforts doing construction projects over the last 30 years and I tell you with no exaggeration the volunteerism and faithfulness of the members of NYC are the best and most faithful I have worked with. I believe there is little we cannot do with the combined talents and faithfulness represented in this club.

Harbormaster News – Larry Hill

I am looking for a trainee for the Harbormaster job for next year. This position is responsible for the maintenance of the club boats and docks. You could work with me this year and learn the ropes rather than be thrust into the job with no experience. Serving as Harbormaster would be a good way to contribute to operation of the Club. Please get in touch with me.

Race Chairman – Eric Schoenhardt

Appended to the end of this newsletter is a tentative schedule of race activities at NYC. See me if you have additions or corrections.

I am looking for race committee workers. If you know of responsible young adults 14+ years of age that would be interested in such a part time job, have them get in touch with me.

Membership Committee Report – J. Boettcher

At the January meeting two new members were welcomed to the Club. Below is some information from their applications. Check out their photos on the Club bulletin board.

Vadim Rabovsky is a computer programmer working for Verizon. He and his wife Yevgeniya live in Pittsford. Vadim recently completed two sailing courses at RYC and has a basic keelboat certificate. He writes "I would like to have enough experience to sail with my wife on different types of boats and be able to handle different situations confidently" He has no boat at present.

John Kislinger recently bought a Snipe. He has quite a bit of sailing experience having taught himself how to sail at age 9. As a teenager, he worked at a YMCA camp teaching sailing. In 2004, he worked at the Canandaigua YC in the junior sailing program and driving committee boats. He is a founding member of the RIT sailing team and participated in MAISA regattas until his graduation in 2008. John is a field service engineer for Gleason and lives in Rochester.

On the sad side, we received a resignation from Jim Cuddihee. Jim was twice Commodore and many years Laser Fleet Captain. He and Carol are moving to Austin TX. We will miss them and wish them the best.

Snipe Stuff – Tom Lee

Our off season is once again high-lighted by the Snipes and Friends Potluck Brunches hosted by various members of the Snipe and Cruising Fleets. Norm and Rosemary Dahl opened their home to host the December event. One of the highlights was the group welcomed our newest members John Kislinger and Lindsey Rima. Some time was devoted to discussing the latest release of the Racing Rules for 2009 – 2012.

Virginia Cumine opened her doors for the February Potluck on Valentine's Day. Attendance was low due to other activities, such as, ski trips and other travels, but

the food and conversation was too much fun. Paul and Dorothy Riordon hosted a March Potluck evening soiree. I was not able to attend, but based on past experience, a terrific time was had by all. Barb and Ted Horvath will be winding up the season with a Potluck Brunch April 19th. We will be greeting a potential new member, Stan Marshall.

Plans are already under way for the Briody Regatta. The event will simultaneously host District One's Championship.

Parking Rules from 1991 – Lori Foster

I saw in the 1991 handbook that there were parking rules during scheduled racing times. The rules were: 1. Don't leave your boat and trailer in the parking lot. 2. One car per boat or family. 3. Leave your keys in the ignition so your car can be moved, if necessary. 4. Maintain a 20-foot right-of-way through the lot. 5. Park only on Club property. Most of these still seem to make sense. Something to think about.

Optimists for Sale – Al McReynolds

NYC has three (3) used Optimists for sale at a price of about \$800-\$1000, depending on condition and accessories. Great for the beginner junior sailor. There is space available for NYC members to rack the boat. OR, invite a young family you know to check out this opportunity of boat and membership with one call. Contact Al McReynolds for boat details: 425-7715 or alanmc@frontiernet.net.

Long Range Planning Committee – Lori Foster

If you haven't been to the club recently you are in for a pleasant surprise. Phase I of the club house renovations has begun and should be almost complete by the time this newsletter is read. This 1st Phase includes stabilizing the existing structure and removing some of the settling that has occurred over time. This also involves moving the stairs from the center of the room to the West wall, thus creating one huge room! Since March 14 the work team, headed by Eric Schoenhardt, has spent Saturdays methodically executing this huge undertaking. Dan Pope drew up the renovation plans. Financing for Phase 1 was approved at the January 2009 General Membership Meeting. Subsequent phases will be voted on as well. Next for consideration will be the relocation of the kitchen to the bar area, followed by the moving of the restrooms to the kitchen and, finally, the relocation of the bar to the North area of the meeting room. Showers could be installed in whatever phase is best suited for construction. The overall goal is

to improve our facilities without disrupting the sailing season. We hope the membership will continue to support these efforts by their positive vote, by their positive verbal comments and by the offering of innovative ideas.

At the January meeting, the membership also approved moving the Junior sailing funds to the general fund. This transfer is earmarked to cover as much of the cost of the new hoist pad as possible. The LRP committee had hoped to start and complete the hoist project this Spring. However, more research needs to go into the execution of this project. It may be happening this Fall or next Spring.

Roof replacement will need to happen around 2013. As approved, beginning with the '09 budget approx. \$2,000 per year will be set aside towards the estimated total cost of \$23,000 for the roof. Thanks to John Boettcher who obtained three quotes.

The LRP committee has an annual review of the following in no particular order: Additional Docks - a cost analysis needs to be made for this project. The Capital Planning committee will work on it. Internet Camera - several members of the committee are working with our neighbor, Mike Allen, to see how this can benefit both of us and increase security. Signage - an additional sign has been produced and will be posted at the entrance to the club, creating a clearer message that this is a private club. The orange POSTED signs are our legal coverage, but often ignored. Rescue Boats - at present the committee feels that the boats are adequate. In the future it would be good to get a zodiac-type of rescue boat. No year has been set for acquisitions. Launch ramp - we will look at a repair in 2010 or 2011.

The Long Range Planning committee meets approximately 9 times a year. If you have questions or concerns, I urge you to contact me or any member of the committee. My thanks to the following committee members who each give 110% at every turn: John Atkins, John Boettcher, Al McReynolds, Cindy McReynolds, Dan Pope, Eric Schoenhardt, Robert Shanebrook and Andy Smith.

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)

Ice Boating - OK, so winter is over and most of us are glad it is gone. But there are some who enjoy sailing on hard water. Maybe this will peek your interest and you'll give it a try next year. To find out more about the sport I

got in touch with several enthusiasts who are also members of NYC: Dick Doherty, Andy Smith and John Atkins. I hope I do justice to their comments. I'm sure they would be willing to answer any questions you might have.

Dick was shown the ropes of ice boating by his brothers and bought his first ice boat (Wind Whistler) for \$10 from one of his newspaper delivery stops when he was 14. Doing the math for you that would make the year 1946. At the time, there was a club on the Bay racing Wind Whistlers but Dick did not join them. The photo below is from a 1969 D&C and shows Dick on a Class E Skeeter ice boat. If you are interested in something more current check out the video that Bob Crum (former NYC member) took of Dick ice boating on Sodus Bay last year and posted on youtube.com.



Dick Doherty in Ice Boat (1969 D&C)

Why do this? Dick said he is drawn to the sport by the acceleration (no drag) and speed (70 mph). He has also formed some close friendships with fellow ice boaters reinforced by the monthly meetings of the local ice boating club at NYC. Dick mentions the Bay, Sodus, Canandaigua and Sacandaga reservoir near Albany as good spots for ice boating. Dick currently has three ice boats. Actually some belong to his son and others but

Dick stores them. All are DN's (which stands for Detroit News, more about that later) and have standards similar to conventional one-design sailboats. New boats can be had for \$2-3K and used boats for less than \$1K.

We next turn to Andy Smith and John Atkins for comments. Sometime in late February this year these two drove something like 2800 miles to Wisconsin and vicinity to help put on the DN North American and World competition. I think you have to like driving in order to appreciate this part of the sport. John and Andy have been doing this since 1995. The competition takes place over several days and may change location depending on ice conditions. The US and EU alternate hosting the "Worlds". The "NAs" are a yearly event and this year John's son Chad was a competitor. John and Andy help with the running of the races.

Like Dick, Andy enjoys the acceleration and speed and also the rumble of the runners on the ice. He also likes the social opportunities. The ability to park the boat and walk around talking to fellow sailors between races in the middle of the lake is something soft water sailors can't do.

Andy provided some background on the DN design. Turns out this was the result of a contest by the Detroit News newspaper. The boat is economical, easily transported, and was designed be hand built in the basement. The class regulations strive to keep the design changes to a minimum so the older boats can be competitive. Check the paper or online if in the market for one.

Andy provides some explanation of the sport and "On the Wind". The iceboat will literally make its own wind. Consider an example of a boat being on a broad reach with a moderate 10 knot breeze. One would expect a top boat speed through the water in the summer of about 5 to 8 knots. An iceboat, because of the extremely low drag will move along considerably faster. Now consider the wind on the sails while moving. The boat speed and apparent wind combine, and shift forward. More wind! Now the boat (still going the same direction) is on a tighter reach with a greatly increased apparent wind speed. This multiplying effect continues to combine until the boat speed gets up to a maximum over 4 times the actual wind speed. Going downwind requires tacking back and forth, just like upwind. If you try to head directly downwind the boat will slow right down to only a little less than the apparent. On light air days it is necessary to push the boat to running speed to get started towards "on the wind." Stopping an iceboat is simple. Just head directly upwind. No brakes needed.

Andy does admit it can get cold. Out in the middle of the ice with nothing to hide behind, the wind can cut through you. However, with a little planning ahead using several layers of the right clothes you can be warm and toasty all day.

A few words about safety. No one should ever go out alone. This is why ice boat clubs are so popular. The phone tree, or email gets all those interested for the day to the same body of water. If there is a problem, other sailors (with their safety equipment) are there to help. We have heard all kinds of sad stories where ice fisherman and snowmobilers have had problems over the years. Any thin ice is unsafe but even when the whole Bay is several inches thick there can be thin spots. Areas several hundred feet from moving water caused by streams or outlets, dock bubblers, natural gas bubbles, fishing holes, etc. all need to be respected. The entire sailing area needs to be checked, and any pressure ridges or other hazards marked. Helmets are always required. Collisions with other boats, although rare, do happen during competition. A fall while walking around setting up can be very serious. Andy always wears a good helmet, if for no other reason, it is warm, comfortable, and on his head in case he falls while walking around. All the scratches on his are from the boom hitting it.

Where is a good place to sail? With the weather we have had the past few years, anywhere there is smooth thick ice with no snow on it is the right place to go. Sometimes finding a parking/launch site can be a problem. Last year there was snow cover on Irondequoit Bay all season. This year the snow melted

enough to allow good enough conditions for only a couple days. Unfortunately this was during mid-week while some of the sailors were at work. John A. takes care of a telephone hotline which provides recorded updates on local ice conditions and where the enthusiasts are likely to meet for ice boating on the weekend.

Current NYC Board and Officer Duties

Below is a photo of the current NYC Board as well as contact information. What follows is an abbreviated description of officer/board member duties. The Commodore is to preside at Club and Board meetings. The Vice Commodore takes care of the clubhouse and interior. The Rear Commodore has responsibility for the grounds and waterfront. The running of races is the province of the Race Chairman. Maintenance of the Club boats/equipment and assignment of docks is the Harbormaster's job. The Treasurer keeps the Club's accounts and pays bills. The Assistant Treasurer collects dues. The Secretary keeps minutes of the Club and Board meetings. Each of the Fleet captains has a position on the Board. There is also a number (this year, two) of at large Directors on the Board. Total number of Board members this year is 14.

Newsletter Contributions

Thanks to Virginia Cumine, Sally Akins and Andy Smith for the photos in this newsletter. Eva Smith is responsible for turning the draft of the newsletter into proper English. John Boettcher is the editor. Next issue will be in June of 2009. Send contributions to J. Boettcher.

2009 NYC Board of Directors (JB photo)



Standing (l to r): Howard Stickney (Director at Large), Don Curran (Treasurer), Larry Hill (Harbormaster), Peggy Crevey (Asst. Treasurer), Tom Lee (Snipe Fleet Captain), Rob Rebres (Secretary)

Seated (l to r): Andy Smith (Vice Commodore), Paul Riordan (Cruising Fleet Captain), Dean Clayton (Laser Fleet Captain), Cindy McReynolds (Commodore), Dave Skolnik (Rear Commodore), Eric Schoenhardt (Race Chairman)

Not Pictured: Bill Andrews (Director at Large), Dan Pope (Lightning Fleet Captain)

Office	name	phone	email
Commodore	Cindy McReynolds	425-7715	cindymc@frontiernet.net
Vice Commodore	Andy Smith	482-1467	apsmith@rochester.rr.com
Rear Commodore	Dave Skolnik	388-2821	dskolnik@rochester.rr.com
Treasurer	Don Curran	227-1855	fdcurran@fastmail.fm
Assistant Treasurer	Peggy Crevey	342-9402	PCrevey@empireval.com
Secretary	Rob Rebres	787-4355	rebresrpr@aol.com
Harbormaster	Larry Hill	334-8185	Lawrence.Hill@rit.edu
Race Chairman	Eric Schoenhardt	381-9076	eschoen2@frontiernet.net
Cruising Fleet Captain	Paul Riordan	461-9531	paulriordan@rochester.rr.com
Laser Fleet Captain	Dean Clayton	249-9489	dclayton@rochester.rr.com
Lightning Fleet Captain	Dan Pope	223-5925	dpope15250@gmail.com
Snipe Fleet Captain	Tom Lee	544-9601	tlee2@rochester.rr.com
Director	Bill Andrews	377-4654	billandgail1976@yahoo.com
Director	Howard Stickney	467-2161	no email

2009 Newport Yacht Club Race Schedule Proposed

Draft 2-17-09

DATE	TIME		Lightnings	Snipes	Lasers	Handicap	
3-May	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
10-May	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
17-May	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
24-May	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
25-May	1:00 PM	Mon	X	X	X	X	CLUB HANDICAP RACE
31-May	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
6-Jun	10:00 AM	Sat	X				LIGHTNING REGATTA
7-Jun	10:00 AM	Sun	X				LIGHTNING REGATTA
11-Jun	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
13-Jun	1:00 PM	Sat			X		LASER REGATTA
14-Jun	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
18-Jun	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
21-Jun	10:00 AM	Sun	X	X			
25-Jun	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
28-Jun	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
2-Jul	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
4-Jul	1:00 PM	Sat	X	X	X	X	CLUB HANDICAP RACE
5-Jul	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
9-Jul	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
12-Jul	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
16-Jul	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
19-Jul	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
23-Jul	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
26-Jul	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
30-Jul	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
2-Aug	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
6-Aug	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
9-Aug	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
13-Aug	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
16-Aug	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
20-Aug	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X	
22-Aug	10:00 AM	Sat		X			BRIODY SNIPE REGATTA
23-Aug	10:00 AM	Sun		X			BRIODY SNIPE REGATTA
30-Aug	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
6-Sep	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
7-Sep	1:00 PM	Mon	X	X	X	X	BROWN JUG
13-Sep	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
20-Sep	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
27-Sep	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
4-Oct	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			
11-Oct	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			