

# Birds & Worms News

the newsletter of the Newport Yacht Club, Rochester NY



## What's NEW at Newport

### What's Up?

**April 30** – General Membership Meeting (7:30) with Lasagna Dinner by Snipe Fleet (6:00)

**May 1** – Spring Work Party (9:00 am)

**May 9** – Racing starts

**May 29** – Laser Regatta

**June 5, 6** – Lightning Regatta

### Since the Last Newsletter – J. Boettcher

Prior to the General Membership meeting of January 22<sup>nd</sup> there was a chili banquet hosted by cruisers. In the meeting that followed, Griffin Orr was accepted as an associate member and Lori Foster, chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, gave an update on the hoist

replacement project and the clubhouse renovation. John Atkins presented the details on the hoist project and gave an estimate together with a financing plan. Eric Schoenhardt outlined the next phase of the club renovation. Landy Atkinson presented the proposed budget for the coming year which called for a slight increase in membership (2%) and boat (3%) fees. This budget was approved.

Club renovation Phase II started on 1/23 accompanied by a blizzard of plaster, lath and dust. Saturday work parties under the direction of Eric Schoenhardt became the norm with many members participating. There were also individuals who took care of vital tasks during the

week in order to allow the Saturdays to be most productive. The initial phase was tearing things apart. After a few weeks of this type of work, several problems were uncovered that needed additional funds. Since we were in the midst of things, there was no choice but to make the repairs and petition the club for more money. A special meeting of the club was called for 3/18 to borrow an additional \$4500 from the General Fund to cover the unexpected expenses. This is to be paid back to the GF over time. At present the final stages of the renovation are taking place with the installation of plumbing fixtures, cabinetry and countertops. There is still plenty to do.

While the clubhouse renovation has been going on, there has been considerable progress on the hoist project. John Atkins has had the lead position. The new crane is in position and will be operational this season. The old crane has been removed.

Read more about the above two projects below, along with how our Commodore is a hero. The sailing season at NYC is less than one month away. Hurray! See you at the next meeting on Friday 4/30.

#### **Commodore's Report – Lynn Bluett**

Winter is finally over!! I'm sure you are all as anxious to get your boats in the water as I am. Hopefully by the time you read this article Phase II of the Club remodeling project will be complete and we can start getting our boats ready to launch. We have a busy summer ahead of us. The Laser fleet, Snipe fleet and Lightning fleet are all hosting regattas at our "new" Club. The Cruising Fleet is planning their annual Picture Day and a few other activities. And, it is our turn to host the Brown Jug Regatta. We also have Thursday Night Sailing and our regularly scheduled races on Sunday afternoon. Hopefully we will have much better weather this summer than we did last summer. Fair winds everyone. I hope to see you all out on the water soon.

#### **Race Committee News – Eric Schoenhardt**

Many of the staff will be returning for this season's racing. Best of all, Bill Topping is on board again. A racing schedule is at the back of this newsletter.

#### **Membership Highlights - Andy Smith**

After many long years of service, our trusted **John Boettcher** as Membership Chair asked if there was another that would be willing to try and fill his shoes. He has done a fine job of nurturing the new applicants thru the process and making them feel welcome at the club. I am sure I can speak for the entire club membership that a hardy **THANK YOU** is deserved. I have stepped forward as Chair, but will continue to rely on the Fleet Captains who remain members of the Membership Committee, and of course, each of the club members for the initial leg work. John remains as Chief Editor and bottle washer of this fine publication.

If you were at the January General Membership meeting, you were introduced to our newest member **Griffin Orr**. He is 16 years old and is now an Associate member in NYC (Junior/Beneficiary). At eight years old, he started sailing Optimists and graduated to a Laser. In 2009, Griffin participated in the Laser North Americans. He is a member of the Mercy/McQuaid Sailing team sailing 420's. He has cruised with the family's 32 footer and participated in long distance races. Under Dan Pope's guidance, Griffin has recently started sailing Lightnings and was a member of a winning team at the recent Lightning National event. He likes the informal atmosphere at NYC. With remorse, the resignation of **Chris Ramsey** was accepted by the Board in April. He has a fine Snipe that might be available for purchase. **John Dentinger**, a former member, has expressed interest in returning from Florida with his Snipe to sail with us for the summer.

Even though the Lightning/Cruising docks are full, or nearly full, we can still welcome new members. Spaces will open up as they always do, and we have no waiting list. If you as a member have acquaintances that are on the fence about joining, there is no time like now to buy a boat with the economy as it is. Dry sailing is preferred by a few current members, and readily available to all. There is also ample space in the front Snipe area, and Laser rack areas.

#### **Clubhouse Renovation Report – Eric Schoenhardt**

We were prepared for some setbacks but not as many as encountered. Old circuitry was found to be dangerous in several locations. In the interest of safety, it was decided to start over with a new installation and panel which required professional help. The floors in the old bathrooms were rotted out and needed to be completely replaced. We knew the window on the west wall needed replacing but we had not figured that the entire wall was gone. Fixtures for the new bathrooms had been secured from salvage but it was found that the water service to the club would not support them and new fixtures had to be purchased. With these setbacks, it was necessary to go back to the Club for more money and hence the special meeting on 3/18.

With the setbacks behind us, we have completed wall framing, insulation and dry wall installation. Ceilings have been hung, flooring put down and fixtures installed.. Kitchen cabinetry has been placed and secured. Final plumbing connections have been made except for the kitchen connections. Along the way, the facilities formerly in the basement have been relocated to the first floor and the old chimney removed. Still lots to do. The last major item to resolve is the new lighting that we have opportunity to acquire. We expect to have this resolved in May but the price is worth the wait. The good news is we can call for a final Saturday on April 17 to do the last of the work, clean up and hang pictures. We have functional toilets and kitchen. The details remaining we will work out over the course of the year; things like toe-kicks in the kitchen completion of base at

the floor, shower curtains, mirrors, accessories.

For Sale - The 2 stainless sinks from the old kitchen are food certified, in good shape, and available to anyone for a reasonable donation to the club. Each has one large basin. If interested, please contact me.

### **Hoist Area Update – John Atkins**

In fall, the area for the new hoist was excavated and prepared to accept the new crane. The new crane has been purchased, delivered and installed. The hoist has been installed on the crane with the help of Paul Elli, Al McReynolds, and Andy Smith. The old crane has been removed. There remains the leveling of the area around the new hoist but this can be done at a later date. The positioning of the hoist allows boats to be launched on either side which should speed up the process. Along the way, electric has been routed to include a possible connection to the west dock. Funds for this project have been provided by the Junior Sailing program, sale of the NYC Optimists, and donations from the Snipe and Lightning Fleets.

### **“How many sailors does it take to....” - Lori Foster**

Long Range Planning Committee Update – Before you read this, please take a look at the photos of the remodel. Take a glance at Eric’s and John’s articles. All I can think of is “WOW!” Both Eric and John have spent ENORMOUS amounts of time charting the course for the club renovations and the hoist reconfiguration. They have contributed many working hours outside of the Saturday work parties to insure that a given space is ready for that Saturday’s work crew. I’m sure we can all agree that any surprises along the way were blessings in disguise. And now we will not have to worry or deal with some of these potential dangerous situations. It’s done.

And the Saturday work crew was amazing. There is so much enthusiasm AND talent in our club. Thank you to each and every one of you who has helped with this renovation. I know we all feel a sense of accomplishment that comes from knowing we are making things better. If you have been unable to assist during these many weeks, there is plenty that can be done on your own time. Please contact Eric. Some tasks are short and sweet while others may take a little longer.

### **News Flash from Your Lightning Fleet Captain – Dan Pope**

The NYC Lightning Regatta will be Saturday and Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Last year had 21 boats participating. The food theme for the event will be Tex-Mex. Venue and regatta specifics are still being worked out.

### **Laser Fleet Update– John Boettcher**

The Fleet will be host the NYC Laser Regatta on Saturday May 29<sup>th</sup>. It is open to all Lasers. We usually draw about 12 boats with most coming from the local area. Entry fee will be \$20 with competitors getting breakfast, on-the-water-snack, and a late lunch. Sailing will probably be on the Bay due to the early date and the

likely very cold lake water.

### **Cruising Fleet News – Peter Allen**

Let’s get organized! There will be a meeting of the members of Newport’s cruising fleet on Sunday, May 2, 2:00 P. M. at the clubhouse. Light snacks and soft drinks will be available, and there will probably be some beer in the cooler.

We will review plans for the season. We would really like to get your ideas for what you would like to get out of your fleet and your club. Otherwise, here are the thoughts we have had so far: Tune-up day - We will look at the boats in our fleet that have been launched, check their rigging, inspect their sails (if not on the boat) on the lawn, and discuss our findings. Picture Day - Picture Day was very successful last July and we’d like to repeat it again this summer. All that’s needed is for each member to bring a camera and take pictures of the boats of the other members under sail. Digital cameras are best, so that we can share files. Thursday Night Sailing and Cookout Even if you don’t race, come out for a sail on the Bay, followed by a cookout. At our organizing meeting we can select a date or two to do this, or just urge members to come out every (or any) Thursday night. You don’t have to be a champion racer, but racing does help you understand how to better sail your boat.

Other Ideas? - This is your opportunity to tell us what you would like to gain from our fleet and your club. Would you like the fleet to organize a club cruise to a nearby port? Should we try to get fleet members to plan on going to the Genesee River for a raft-up? Would you like to go up to watch a regatta of cruising boats? Boat Work - Are you interested in discussing how to repair or improve your boat? There’s a lot of talent in our fleet. Let us help you!

### **Our Commodore is a Hero – Lynn Bluett**

I went down to the Club after lunch (3/21) to see what I could do because I couldn’t be there the day before. Denise was following me down in her car because she wanted to see how things were going and then she was going to go shopping while I worked at the Club. As I was pulling into the parking lot I saw a fisherman about 30 yards off the east dock jumping from his boat (we later found out it was a canoe) into the Bay as his boat was sinking. I jumped out of my car and as I was running toward the east dock I could see the guy backstroking toward the dock windmill style. I had to look down to do the combination on the gate lock and when I got it opened I looked up and couldn’t see him anymore. I ran down the dock shouting and looking for him but he was gone. I thought he had gone down. Denise was just pulling into the parking lot, so I ran back to the parking lot and told her to call 911 on her cell phone. I ran back out onto the dock and shouted for the guy again and he shouted back, which made me jump a foot in the air because he was right under me hanging onto a rope that was hanging from the dock in the slip

just north of Al Mac's slip. I asked him if he could hang on so I could get a rope from the Club to pull him out and he said yes. So I ran toward the Club and shouted to Denise to go in the Club and get a rope from the Harbor Master's room.

I ran back out onto the dock and when I looked down the guy was gone! I thought he had slipped under the water, but then I heard splashing under the main dock by the launch area. As I was running over there he got himself onto the ramp and collapsed in the shallow water. I ran down the ramp and grabbed him by the collar of his jacket and dragged him out of the water onto the ramp. I asked him if he could move and he said no. He had on a very heavy Carhart jacket that was waterlogged, so I took it off him and found that he had another heavy jacket on under it. I got that one off him and asked him if he could move and he said "Maybe". I unlocked the gate on the ramp and got him up with his arm around my shoulders. I was going to take him into the Club to warm him up while we waited for the ambulance, but he said, "That is my red truck by the gate, put me in and I'll run the engine to get warm." It was closer than the Club and he was pretty heavy, so we went to his truck. As we were getting in the truck Denise ran over and said the 911 people wanted to talk to me. They wanted to know what his condition was because an ambulance was on the way. A minute or two later three SUV type rescue vehicles came and took over.

I looked back at the bay and the bow of his boat (canoe) was sticking up about 18 inches out of the water. I told the Point Pleasant Chief about it and he called the Coast Guard. They drove over in a big truck, looked the situation over and said it wasn't impeding boat traffic, wasn't losing any fuel so it wasn't an environmental issue and said they couldn't do anything. It was a salvage operation and whoever pulled it out of the Bay was the new owner. Then they left. The Point Pleasant Chief called the West Webster fire department and they said they would come and pull it out. I told Denise she might as well do the shopping she had planned and she left. An ambulance had already arrived and they had the guy in it. The ambulance and two of the SUV rescue vehicles left and the Ambulance followed them. Only the Point Pleasant Chief's SUV remained. I called Bob Shanebrook and asked him if he would come down and take a picture of the boat sticking up out of the water. He came down and just then the West Webster rescue boat was coming down the Bay. He got some pictures as they came over and pulled on the bow of the boat and it came right up out of the water. They pumped out some water and towed it over to our ramp. Bob, the Point Pleasant Chief and I dragged it up the ramp and dumped the rest of the water out of it. It had an electric trolling motor on the back and the guy's anchor line was wrapped around the propeller. I went to unwrap the rope and the prop started to spin. Bob quickly switched off the motor and unhooked the battery. We carried the canoe over to the guy's truck and stuck it in the back partially hanging off the tailgate. One of the paddles, his

fishing pole and the bucket of minnows he was using for bait were still in the canoe. I never did get a chance to do any work on the Club.

### A New Bay Boating Tradition - Leo Balandis

A new tradition may be in the making on Irondequoit Bay between the Newport YC and Rochester Canoe Club to complement the Brown Jug Race that has been held between the clubs since 1952. In 1981, the 100 year anniversary of RCC, that club's committee boat sank. Older members say that this event will likely be repeated in the next 100 years in the course of ups and downs on the Bay. It is hoped that the committee boat will not have to be replaced again as it was in 1981.



Not to be outdone, Newport YC sank its committee boat, a 25 Ft. sailboat dubbed "Doc Mac", in 2008. However, the Newport event was conducted cautiously at its launching ramp rather than in the middle of the Bay as RCC did, and only as a warm-up to its 100 year anniversary anticipated in 2036. "That gives us plenty of time to do this right, and to dry out the boat" say Newport officials.



Names for the new tradition are being tossed around at the two clubs, with "Bay Bottoms Up" favored over the "Bay Scuttle Series". A permanent trophy will be established, after the divers recover it.

No agreement has been reached on the rules, or how to get any permits that may be required from the Coast

Guard, Sheriff, and other Monroe County regulators on the Bay. It has been stated that although the usual sailboat race permit may not apply, NY State's DEC may find something to regulate on their books. Since neither club intends to abandon ship, salvage rights will not be available. Both clubs strongly aver that any committee boat of theirs that goes to the bottom of the Bay will not be left there indefinitely, and will be clearly marked with a red flag and on navigation maps as a historic shipwreck until removed.

#### **Who is the Doc Mac Named After? - Andy Smith**

While previewing THE JIB SHEET, of June 1947 I came across this article about one of the most fondly remembered members of NYC. Our largest club owned boat is named after him for all the work he did in promoting small boat sailing. The JIB SHEET was at one time a monthly newsletter published here in Rochester. On the cover is an article about our own John McIntosh of the former Algonquin Yacht Club. Some remember that when the high water hit years ago, all the Algonquin folks came across the bay to NYC

**PERSONALITIES IN SAILING - John S. McIntosh, M.D.**  
Any professional man be it a Doctor, Lawyer or what have you, is constantly the slave of that jangling thing with two bells, the telephone, and anything that can completely sever a man or woman from that, for a few hours each week, is a very worth-while hobby. One of the discoverers of this basic fact is Dr. John S. McIntosh, who finds that, with this wife, and his son, he can go out for a few hours sailing and can completely relax from a busy practice. He also will take his crew, Herb Mylacraine and Arnie Sahs and enter the Lightning races at his home club, Algonquin Yacht Club on beautiful Irondequoit Bay near Rochester, New York, and come through with flying colors.

Many new skippers wonder if they should start in racing at once. John is a strong believer that they should. For that is the best way to learn to sail and to race. As he is fairly new at the game, he is an excellent example of how a man can be a winner in a short space of time. He first became interested in sailing the latter part of the summer of 1941. He crewed for Bill Straub in his Lightning in 1942; bought a Lightning – Blue Jacket, in the Spring of 1943; and joined Algonquin yacht Club on Irondequoit Bay. In 1944 he won the club championship and represented the club at Lightning Nationals at Buffalo Canoe Club and finished third. In 1945 he led Algonquin Club to victory over Pultneyville fleet at Pultneyville with two firsts. He won the Central New York District Lightning class championship at Canandaigua for which the Skaneateles Trophy was given by George Barnes. In 1946, John regained the Club championship winning the Spring, Summer and Fall Series with Arnie Sahs and Herb Mylacraine as crew; successfully defended the Skaneateles Trophy; and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in Central New York Yachting Association regatta for Lightnings.

John represented his Club at Skaneateles in the International Lightning Championship with 54 boats competing. In the 1<sup>st</sup> race he was disqualified because of bumping a boat in a jam at one of the buoys. The second race was sailed in heavy wind, he and supposedly light weather crew were surprised by bringing the boat in 3<sup>rd</sup>. The 3<sup>rd</sup> race he came in 9<sup>th</sup>. Despite no points for the 1<sup>st</sup> race they finished in 21<sup>st</sup> position. He has always been interested in competitive sports and thinks that sailboat racing is one of the best.

#### **Member News**

Congrats to Sally and John Atkins. They are grandparents. Son Chad is the daddy.

Rob and Eugenie Rebres (1/24) Hi, we are enjoying the weather here in Key Largo, FL. Picture was taken from the boat, floating in the ocean, protected by Mangrove Islands. What a life.



John Boettcher (2/9) - Anchored somewhere in Sea of Cortez near La Paz, MX. Life is good.



#### **Newsletter Contributions**

Thanks to Sally Atkins for her photos of the renovation. As always thanks to Eva Smith for proofing my draft and changing it into English. Next issue will be in July of 2010. Send contributions to J. Boettcher, editor.

2010 Newport Yacht Club Sailing Schedule

	DATE	TIME		Lightnings	Snipes	Lasers	Handicap		
1	9-May	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X				S P R
2	16-May	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X				
3	23-May	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X				
5	29-May	10:00 AM	Sat			X		LASER REGATTA	I N
6	30-May	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X				
7	5-Jun	10:00 AM	Sat	X				LIGHTNING REGATTA	G
8	6-Jun	10:00 AM	Sun	X				LIGHTNING REGATTA	
9	10-Jun	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X		
10	13-Jun	1:00 PM	Sun		X				
11	17-Jun	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X		
12	20-Jun	1:00 PM	Sun		X				
13	24-Jun	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X		
14	27-Jun	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			Lightning single handed	
15	1-Jul	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X		
16	4-Jul	1:00 PM	Sun		X				S U
17	8-Jul	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X		
18	11-Jul	1:00 PM	Sun		X				M E
19	15-Jul	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X		
20	18-Jul	1:00 PM	Sun		X				R
21	22-Jul	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X		
22	25-Jul	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X			Lightning single handed	
23	29-Jul	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X		
24	1-Aug	1:00 PM	Sun		X				
25	5-Aug	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X		
26	8-Aug	1:00 PM	Sun		X				
27	12-Aug	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X		
28	15-Aug	1:00 PM	Sun		X				
29	19-Aug	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X		
30	21-Aug	10:00 AM	Sat		X			BRIODY SNIPE REGATTA	
31	22-Aug	10:00 AM	Sun		X			BRIODY SNIPE REGATTA	
32	26-Aug	5:20 PM	Thu	X	X	X	X		
33	29-Aug	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X				
34	6-Sep	1:00 PM	Mon	X	X	X	X	BROWN JUG	
35	5-Sep	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X				F A L L
36	12-Sep	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X				
37	19-Sep	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X				
38	26-Sep	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X				
39	3-Oct	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X				
40	10-Oct	1:00 PM	Sun	X	X				

## 2010 NYC Officers and Board

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