

BIRDS & WORMS – MARCH, 2012



Parking Lot Work Party – February, 2012

Upcoming Events:

March 23 – Club movie night, 7:30 p.m.

April 27 – General Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

April 28 – Club Spring Work Party

Commodore's Column – John Boettcher

NYC is becoming a more intimate sailing club and this is not a good thing. With the resignations received this year we are down to 48 members. Our 2012 budget was not set with this number of members in mind. Maybe we can hope for a bunch of new members and take some steps to make sure this happens. More about membership activities later. There is the expense side of things to work on also. In the past, officers have, in hard times, done a good job of

paring back their expenditures but there are major, fixed costs associated with the Club. Rest assured, this will be a continuing item of discussion at Board meetings.

In the past few months, we received ten resignations. Part of the reason for the flurry of resignations was better communication with the membership. Accompanying the bill for dues that Assistant Treasurer Jillian Dart sent in February, was a paragraph explaining the NYC resignation process which carries no stigma and allows a member to rejoin at a later date. I also addressed this in a recent Commodore's Comments where I likened the resignation to a leave of absence. Apparently this appealed to some folks that

were “on the fence” regarding their 2012 membership.

With our decreased numbers, growing our membership is a high priority. Lynn Bluett, Membership Chairman, is the focus of these efforts but all of us have to get involved. We need ideas and people to work on them. These need not be lofty ideas. How about something as simple as inviting your friends/neighbors down to the Club for a sail or to come down on a Sunday or Thursday to watch/participate in the race? If you know anyone who has expressed any interest in sailing, let's see if they want to join. In the past, I have been impressed by the number of new members that can result from just one member being active in this regard.

Along with getting new members, I want to make sure we keep existing members. Are there programs that would make the Club more attractive to you? Social programs come to mind. I thought the Movie Nights would provide an opportunity for members to socialize, particularly during the off season. The start of the sailing season will bring us together more often and this year there is a particular emphasis on the renewing participation in handicap racing. You don't need a one-design boat in order to enjoy the excitement.

Vice Commodore – Lori Foster

With the many renovations and improvements over the last few years, the clubhouse of Newport Yacht Club is the perfect place for office retreats, club meetings and celebrations of any kind. Please consider the club for your next event. Check the calendar on the NYC website to

see if your date is available. If it is, write a quick email to me LFoster@yahoo.com with your date. I will tentatively save that date until I have received the application with payment and deposit (if needed).

Remember, you must bring your own coffee, beverages and paper products (plates, napkins, cups, eating utensils). You are free to use the coffee pot, serving utensils and platters, etc. You may use dishtowels and tablecloths, but please remember to launder and return these items in a timely manner so others will have them to use. Leaving the clubhouse in better shape than what you found it will insure you will receive your deposit back. Please contact me with your questions: 244.8386.

The spring work party is an exciting time to set up everything for the sailing season. Are you or a family member handy with the sewing machine? We could sure use new cushions for the couch. Do you know a little something about furniture refinishing? The captain's chairs are showing years of wear and many scratches. I am hoping we can make these look better. Is there something you'd like changed or perhaps you'd like to head an easy project? Please contact me before the work party to chat about any of these items: 244.8386 or LFoster@dor.org.

A Salute - John Atkins has recently re-wired the switches and installed new light fixtures in the main meeting room. Note that you can now turn all lights on and off from the switches at the main door. And even better, the main door now easily engages so you can close and lock the door with one hand! He has changed out the old keyed deadbolts in the north and south doors and has

installed 'flip' locks. If you would like a key that works in both new deadbolts, please send me a note LFoster@yahoo.com and I will have a key for you at the next general membership meeting. Thanks, John, for all of your great help with these improvements.

Random reminder - Please be sure the alarm is activated and that all doors and gates are locked before you leave the property. Security is everyone's responsibility.

Rear Commodore – Bill Andrews

It was a very cold, windy, bitter, February day that an extremely brave crew of volunteers showed up to spread two large truckloads of road millings over our largely potholed driveway. This project really started over a year ago when Sealand Construction used our parking lot to store some of their equipment for the 590 project. In return they promised some millings. Fortunately for all of us our neighbor, Mike Allen, also showed up with his backhoe to save our backs. Let us all be reminded that because of these folks our club is a better place for ALL of us. Thank you everyone!

Assistant Treasurer - Jillian Dart

A big thank you to all of the club members who paid their dues on time. This year we only had 9 members not pay their dues on time and currently we only have 8 members who have not paid their dues as of the time I am writing this article. In accordance with the recent Bylaws change, these 9 members will be responsible for the 15% penalty and I will be informing them of the penalty amount.

Throughout the year, should you change your address, please let me know so that we

keep the Club's records up to date. I may be reached either via email at jestokes@frontiernet.net or by phone at 585-388-99502.

The next dues notices will be going out in early May for a due date of June 1st.

Membership Committee – Lynn Bluett

This winter we had 10 member resignations. We also had one new member from last year that passed away in early March. In addition, we had three other members that decided they were not going to keep their boat at the Club this season. Needless to say, this will have a very significant impact on our Club's budget. Interest in sailing worldwide has waned in the last couple of years. There is much debate over why this is so. Time constraints, cost, the economy and other interests are some of the reasons mentioned as the cause of the decline. Many people think they can't afford to join a "Yacht Club". As members of Newport Yacht Club we all know the joys of sailing. Share the news of how sailing makes you feel with friends, relatives and neighbors and bring them down to the Club for a sail. Hopefully they will catch the fever and take up sailing. Even better is if they decide to join NYC. Let them know how much fun they can have and that it can be a great family activity for young and old. No experience necessary. The benefit of our club is that we are all willing to help out fellow sailors and learn from each other. With the resignations we have had there are many open slips that can accommodate boats with up to about an 8 foot beam.

If anyone has ideas on how we can get new members, please let me or your fleet captain know, as they are the other members of the Membership Committee. We are currently contemplating an open house get together. If you would like to help with the organization of the open house, please let me know.

Snipe Report – Tom Lee

There was a well-attended meeting regarding Thursday Night Sailing (TNS) on Sunday March 4th. The Snipes can hardly hold back their enthusiasm, in fact we haven't. The Snipers will be the coordinators of the event this year giving our Commodore a break. It promises to be a good season. We're planning to make it as fun as possible for all the fleets. (Even if we have to commandeer your boat and staff it with crew.) If three or more boats of one type show up, we will provide a separate start. Everybody else gets lumped into the handicap fleet. Norm Dahl has the handicap formulas for every sailboat on earth and will work out the finishes and get the results posted the next day. Bill Topping will be running the races as in years past. The tentative TNS schedule for 2012 runs from June 7 until August 30.

Following the racing, we adjourn to the Club for food, beer and cheer (not necessarily, in that order). A rotation of volunteers will grill hamburgs and hots which are sold a bit over cost. Maybe we can have a special night with BBQ chicken or something. Each boat is expected to bring a dish to pass. It's usually pretty tasty! Volunteers clean up the place afterward. Oh, by the way, the regulars can expect to get tapped on the shoulder sometimes to be volunteers, that's my job! Pretty simple. We generally generate a little money for the club, from the beer sales, which goes to the Vice Commodore's budget, a gift for Bill, some awards, the rest to the general fund. Last year about \$200 went there. So, even if a member is not a racing buff, please join us

for a pleasant evening, sipping your wine on the deck. Sometimes the racers can provide some real entertainment, drama, tragedy, but generally a good laugh!

The Snipers and Friends have been enjoying a partying off season. These are generally held at members' homes. The off season began at Susan Hills for a cocktail soiree, followed by Phil and Carol's, then Norm and Rosemary's Pot Lucks. Coming up is Paul and Dorothy's dinner. Morocco is the theme. WOW!

Briody Regatta – Norm Dahl

Our Snipe regatta is scheduled for August 18-19. In addition to the usual attractions of Dinosaur Barbeque and great racing, we are investigating the possibilities for live music.

Talk Like a Pirate Day - NYC Annual Adult-Junior Sail - Virginia Cumine

Talk Like a Pirate Day occurs on September 19 every year. Therefore, we will be hosting our annual event either Sunday September 16 or 23 - to be determined. This notice is a reminder to members to begin searching for novice youth crew to participate in the 2012 event. The Bluett photo is below. See if you can top their enthusiasm! Perhaps we need to add a prize for the "Best Decorated" boat this year. Here is the link to the Pirate website:

<http://www.talklikeapirate.com/piratehome.html>



If anyone is interested in being on a committee to ramp up this event, please call Virginia at 544-3206.

Laser Fleet – Kenny Fourspring

Lasers, Polish up your lasers for this spring. As this year's mild winter recedes, I hope to get out on the water early. However, I was not the first one on the water this year. I was down at the club on March 11, 2012 and a laser was already out on the water. Steve Leach has beaten everyone else to the water again. He was also the first laser to capsize in 2012 (see the photo below).



We need some folks to help us put the docks in this spring at the work party (April 28th). Last fall we repaired the fixed portion of laser ramp, and measured the hinge locations very carefully.

Thursday night sailing will start June 7th. Norm Dahl will also be doing a handicap racing series this year, more details for this in the future (See also Tom Lee's Snipe Report). The 2012 Newport Laser Regatta is set for Saturday June 9th. Last year we had 11 boats show up and it was a great time. Bill Topping will be doing the race committee again this year for the Regatta. I would like to thank everyone who made this event possible last year.

We would like to get more folks involved in the laser fleet, especially younger members. If you know folks who are in the area for the summer, we have a loaner laser that we lend out. If you are interested in using the loaner laser just let me know ahead of time (or even on race day if no one has claimed it), and I'll make arrangements to get you on the water. I look forward to seeing you out on the water.

Cruising Fleet – Ed Bell

The Cruising Fleet met on Thursday, January 19th at the clubhouse. John Boettcher gave a brief introduction on the importance of the fleet and its activities and leadership to the club, as with all fleets. A variety of activities for the coming sailing season were discussed, including:

- Moonlight cruises
- Picture day
- Weekend cruise to Pultneyville
- Assembling a picture directory

- Having meetings on specific topics and upgrades

Some of the fleet needs were considered and will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Among them are:

- Dock security
- Dock lighting
- Use of radios and lights
- Help on upgrades
- Boat spacing and tying up
- Slip measurements and pole placement
- The fleet hosted the dinner prior to the January membership meeting with eleven varieties of chili and lots of bread (particularly corn bread) and salad.

The next fleet meeting will be at the end of March with another anticipated for late April-early May, around launch time! Plans for the sailing season and the lack of ice for dock work and what can be done in the spring will be on the agendas.

Pictures from Cups & Flags, 2011



Commodore John Boettcher presents the Wittenberg Trophy to Peter Allen



John Weisenthal provided entertainment



Snipe Fleet Capt. Tom Lee presents trophies to Ted Horvath



Lightning Fleet Capt. Dan Pope presents a special award to Howard Stickney



Charlie Courtsal presents thank you gifts to Bill Topping for his work as PRO for TNS

From the Editor:

Thanks to all who contributed articles.
Photos contributed by Bill Andrews, Lynn
Bluett, and Kenny Fourspring

