

# BIRDS AND WORMS JUNE 2012

## Upcoming events

- 7/1 - Club Picnic after racing
- 7/4 - Ice Cream Sundaes 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- 7/27 - General Membership Meeting 7:30 p.m.  
– dinner 6:00 p.m. by Lasers fleet
- 8/18, 19 - Briody Regatta
- 9/3 - Brown Jug at NYC
- 9/23 – Pirate Sailing (Adult-Jr. Sail)

## Commodore's Column – John Boettcher

Hooray, it's summer and the sailing season. The Spring Work Party is behind us and clubhouse and grounds are in good shape thanks to our Vice Commodore Lori Foster and Rear Commodore Bill Andrews, respectively. After a lot of hard work and anguish on the part of Harbormaster Peter Allen, the Doc Mac and one whaler are functional. While this was going on, dues were being collected by Jillian Dart (Asst. Treasurer), the Club finances were being managed by Virginia Cumine (Treasurer), and all the minutes and several important insurance issues were addressed by Landy Atkinson (Secretary). Our co-Race Chairmen Charlie Courtsal and Dan Groth are managing the active racing program and found the time to change the service we use to pay our race committee staff which will save some dollars. Fleet activities are in full swing with successful Lightning and Laser regattas behind us and Snipe regatta coming up in August. The Cruising fleet will sail to Pultneyville in July. Elsewhere in this newsletter there will be much detail about the above. My job as Commodore is to bang the drum and get you to join in the happenings.

In March, I mentioned the decline in membership due to resignations for a variety of reasons. Membership Chairman Lynn Bluett has brought in a bunch of new folks to replenish our ranks and he could use your help getting more new members. Along with getting new members, I want to be sure we keep

existing members by providing interesting things to do at the Club. I've suspended Movie Nights for the summer. Attendance at these has been fair to poor and I wonder if it is worthwhile to revive them in the fall (input?). The Launch Breakfast (5/19) and the Club Picnic (5/27) were enjoyed by a few dozen folks. The biggest draw continues to be the regular racing now taking place on Sunday afternoon and Thursday evening. There are opportunities to race your boat, crew on another boat, or watch from shore. I'm in the process of matching up cruising sailors who would like to try racing with racing sailors who would provide help as crew. Interested? Get in touch with me.

## Nominating Committee 2012 – John Boettcher

The following members have agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee for this year: Don Taylor, Steve Leach, Bob Shanebrook, Andy Smith, and Phil Morse. They have been approved by the Board and will be voted on by the membership at the July General Membership meeting. If approved, these folks will determine the slate of officers for the coming year.

## Vice-Commodore – Lori Foster

Thanks to all club members who have cleaned a table, put away dishes, swept the floor and done other housekeeping tasks as they come in and out of the club house. It makes the 'job' of the VC manageable.

Need a nice place to host a work function or large family get together? There are plenty of dates still available. Please visit the club calendar to check date availability. Then send me a note to double check date and time. A reservation for a weekday/weekday evening almost insures you will have the whole club to yourself!

If you are bored doing projects at home, please

consider one of various projects at the club that can only be completed when there are no members around. Please contact me or Bill Andrews and we will let you know what fun projects are on the list.

Final reminders: - Please remember to activate the alarm if you are the last one to leave the Club, and please remember to pay for water, soda, and beer as you consume them, Thanks!

Please contact me with any concerns or suggestions. Lori - 585.244.8386

### **Rear Commodore - Bill Andrews**

Painting Party. Overall the Club grounds are looking pretty good. The flower boxes are all set up and the lawn cutting schedule has been kept up to date by the Fleets. As you know we are hosting the Brown Jug this September and we could use some painting to spruce things up. Specifically, the two blue benches, flower boxes, the Lighthouse, the east side of our large sign next to the ramp, and part of the porch on the west side. I haven't set a date yet for our "Party" but do anticipate our usual good turnout. Thank you all in advance.

Trailers in the Parking Lot. Please try to get your trailer or boat out of the parking lot as soon as possible to give us a clutter free area.

Watch out for deer in the parking lot.



### **Asst. Treasurer – Jillian Dart.**

A big thank you for all of the club members who paid their dues on time.

As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, we had 3 members not pay their dues on time (one owes the entire 2012 dues; one owes the 2<sup>nd</sup> installment along with penalty and one owes the penalty for late payment for the 1<sup>st</sup> dues installment). I have asked the various fleet captains to follow up with the outstanding members. Hopefully we will be at 100% shortly.

Just as a reminder, throughout the year, should you your address change, please let me know so that we keep the Club's records up to date. I can be reached at [jestokes@frontiernet.net](mailto:jestokes@frontiernet.net) or by phone at 585-388-99502.

### **Capital Planning Committee – Ed Bell**

The next meeting of the Capital Planning Committee will be on Wednesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm at the clubhouse. The committee will meet with the commodores, harbormaster and fleet captains to identify and discuss future needs of the club. Eventual replacement of the clubhouse roof and the race committee boats (or motors) are two identified needs under consideration. Comments and suggestions are welcome from all members and can be directed to Ed Bell at [EdwardBell@Rochester.rr.com](mailto:EdwardBell@Rochester.rr.com) or 271-6497.

### **Membership Committee – Lynn Bluett**

At our July General Membership Meeting we will be voting on six new members. They are: Tayloe Call, Cruising Fleet, Flying Scot; Jack Morrissey, Cruising Fleet/Laser Fleet, Zuma; James Leunk, Lightning Fleet, Lightning; Jill Pavone, Social Member, Kayak; James Miller, Cruising Fleet, Aquarius 23; and Charles Maier, Social Member/Laser Fleet. This is a good start on replacing the twelve members that we have lost due to resignations and deaths.

Now is the time to invite a friend, co-worker, neighbor, etc. to go for a sail and show them our Club. They may catch the 'fever' and want to join our Club. Remember, someone introduced you to sailing. Now is the time to pay it forward to someone else.

### **Snipe Fleet – Tom Lee**

The Snipers are having a spectacular start to the sailing season. We are in the midst of our best Spring Series, that I can remember. As I write this, (on June 10<sup>th</sup>) it will be our 5th day of racing to complete the series. The four days of fleet racing, so far, were comprised of eleven races with seven Snipes participating. In the previous two years, one day of racing, three races and three participants decided the Spring Series.

Charlie Courtsal has a firm grip on the lead with 1638 points. He is probably untouchable, and would need to be DQ'ed the last races to allow an opening for Norm in 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. The rest of the positions are still up for grabs!

Yay!!! TNS began June 7th. We had great air and terrific support from the Race Committee. This year we get to decide the hottest boat and crew in the club with the handicapping system. So, there is no reason to hold back and not join in on all the fun! The Snipes can hardly hold back their enthusiasm, in fact we haven't. The Snipers will be the coordinators of the events this year. It promises to be a good season. If three or more boats of one type show up, The RC 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 grill hamburgs and hots which are sold a bit over cost. 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 at 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!

### **Laser News - Kenny Fourspring**

Fleet racing this year has been very competitive. Griffin Orr is doing a great job of teaching us the proper way sail a laser. He just got back from a year of sailing 420's in college racing and he certainly hasn't forgotten how to sail his laser. He is still unbeaten this year in club racing. Norm Dahl is also running a handicapping series this year, so fleets are all scored against each other. It would be great to see a few more boats out there racing with us. All boats are welcome to race on both Thursdays and Sundays.

On June 9<sup>th</sup> we had our laser annual regatta. The weather forecasted for a 70% chance of rain, which probably hurt our attendance, but it ended up being a great race day. It was a very light and shifty day out of the West, and I have to give Bill Topping a great deal of credit for moving the race course a dozen or so times to get our four races off. The races we had were square and all pretty fair. Thirteen boats raced in the regatta. There was very good competition at this event. Newport represented our club very well, with 6 boats competing. Newport's Griffin Orr placed 4<sup>th</sup> overall. Steve Leach got first in the masters division. The event was won by a Junior Sailor. There was some awesome sailing by everyone at the event. I would like to thank Steve and Sue Leach for helping with breakfast and lunch. Also Landy Atkinson was very helpful during registration, scoring and made sure we had awesome pizza when we got off the water.

### **Lighting Fleet News – Landy Atkinson**

The Celebration of Spring Regatta was held June 2 and 3 at NYC and we had 5 local boats and 5 visitors for a total of 10 racers. The weekend was a little touch and go weather

wise, with rain threatening and a shifty west wind. Bill Topping was the Race Committee Chairman and was able to get off 4 races Saturday south of the 104 bridge. The winds were strong and shifty enough that some chose not to fly their spinnakers in all the races, but everyone seemed to enjoy the challenge.

Dinner was steak, potatoes and salad with ice cream and brownies for dessert. I don't think anyone left hungry! Thanks to Rick Ten Eyck for taking care of the steak, Eva Smith and Andy Smith for taking care of the potatoes, Sally Hume for creating a great salad and Lori Foster and Jillian Dart for a great dessert. By the way, Jillian also took care of a continental breakfast both days.

Sunday, the day started out with a rainstorm that cleared in time for racing. The winds shifted between west and north and Bill managed to get off 2 more races, this time north of the 104 bridge.

Jed Doge (Sodus) won the regatta with 7 points followed by Dick Hallagan (NYC) with 12 and Bob Wardwell (Chaumont) with 19 points. Kenny Fourspring (NYC) skippered his first Lightning Regatta using the Fleet Lightning and received the Rookie Trophy. Dave Sprague from Toronto Canada was the top (and in this case only) Canadian and received the traditional 6 pack of Genesee Beer.

Thanks to Vadim Rabovsky for help with launching and hauling boats and to all the others who helped out in any way to make this an easy event to put on.



The Fleet



Rookie Award to Kenny and crew



2nd place Dick Hallagan



Winner Jed Doge and crew

### **Cruising Fleet –Ed Bell**

The Cruising Fleet had a successful series of spring fleet meetings and planned several activities. Conscious collaboration to commence cruising (helping each other get them in the water!) proved worthwhile. On one Saturday in May about eight of us launched

four boats, and members have assisted each other throughout the season so far. At this writing almost all have splashed.

Fleet activities planned for the season include: Picture Day is now scheduled for Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> (rescheduled from June 23<sup>rd</sup>; rain date July 28<sup>th</sup>). Participants will set sail at 1:00 pm and take pictures of each other. After sailing there will be a potluck dinner and picture exchange. Lynn Bluett will assist with swapping pictures and burning CDs. Please send questions, comments and suggestions to Lynn. All club members are welcome to participate.

Moonlight Sails will be held on an appropriate evening (weekend, holiday) close to the date of each full moon. The full moons are July 3<sup>rd</sup>, August 1<sup>st</sup>, August 31<sup>st</sup> and September 29<sup>th</sup>. Mike Seppala will be sending reminders with the specific date as each full moon comes up. Cruising boats participating may have space for guests - contact Mike.

Weekend Cruise to Pultneyville – Dorothy Drazhal and John Wiesenthal are planning a weekend cruise to Pultneyville for July 21-22. Sail over on Saturday; back on Sunday. That weekend is Pultneyville Homecoming. There are several planned activities sponsored by the hamlet, the Yacht Club and the Mariners. A dinner will be planned and members can join us; whether arriving by land or by sea! If by sea, stay there overnight or shuttle a car to return to Rochester. More to come; watch for details.

Handicap Racing – a few brave cruising sailors have ventured into the cut-throat realm of racing at NYC. So far all have lived to tell about it although it is rumored some have been boarded by pirates from the other fleets. Interested in participating? Or even just giving it a shot? John Boettcher will arrange for an experienced racer to come on board for your first time around the course. No charge! But if you win (or come in last, or at least get back to your slip) you could buy them a refreshing beverage!! Thanks to Norm Dahl for

encouraging participation and pulling together the handicaps and the scoring system; a lot of work and much appreciated.

### **Launch Breakfast – J. Boettcher**

About 20 folks enjoyed a breakfast of bacon, eggs, pancakes and fruit salad, all for \$3 on Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup>. The kitchen was staffed by salad queen Jeanne Bell, pancake master Brian Dart, and bacon chief John Boettcher with Jillian Dart doing everything else. We had a lot of fun. The breakfast was planned to coincide with one of the Launch Days of the Cruising Fleet. The event did a bit better than break even and the profits were given to the Vice Commodore to defray the cost of the paper goods and coffee.



The cooking crew



Enjoying Breakfast

## Memories of Howard – Norma Platt/John Boettcher



Howard, Marion & granddaughter at her wedding

Howard Stickney died in May. He was a member of NYC for 40 years and served the Club in many capacities. He was dedicated to the Club and took his responsibilities very seriously. Howard would often be the last person to leave on work party days. He touched many of us with his kindness and decency – a truly nice man. We will miss him.

We have two memories of Howard to share with you.

The first is of a cross-Bay swim in 2001, when he swam across the bay with his granddaughter. Howard was 75 at the time. A small flotilla accompanied the swimmers: Howard was accompanied by a daughter and granddaughter in a rowboat. John Boettcher (55) also did the swim and was accompanied by Norma in a rowboat. Howard mostly did the backstroke and did not swim straight, repeatedly bumping into John. Howard and his granddaughter were triumphant on reaching land! John can only hope that he'll be able to swim across the Bay at age 75.

The second memory is of a time that we asked Howard to race with us on our Lightning. We didn't think he was up to the foredeck responsibilities and thought he would handle the main. Howard had other ideas and commandeered the tiller. OK, slight change in plans, no problem. He also had the last word when it came to strategy and tactics and really

didn't believe in democracy. In the end, we were reasonable. We did it his way.

## Lightning Regatta Thoughts – Kenny Fourspring

I would like to thank those folks in the Lightning fleet that let me race the fleet Lightning during the annual Newport regatta. I would like to especially thank Dick Hallagan for letting me borrow a decent set of sails to use for the regatta and Andy Smith who helped get the boat down to the club this year. This being the first event where I have had crew, it was interesting to say the least. I had my original crew a month or so prior to the event and then just a week before the event I found out that both my crew could not make the dates. If I were just sailing my laser this would not be an issue. Anyway, I talked some folks at GYC into crewing with me for the regatta. These two individuals were new to Lightning sailing. We had a chance to get the boat out once before the regatta to see where all of the control lines were.

Saturday morning came and with it a huge weather front was rolling through the area. It was a gusty day from the west, probably blowing more than 20 knots at points. By the second race, I was starting to get tired from the entire main sheet easing and trimming in the gusts just to keep the boat level. Finally on the third race I decided it might not be such a bad idea to drop the traveler down a bit, in addition to the other adjustments I made to depower the rig. Saturday when we were going downwind sometimes there were lulls that would last for half of the downwind leg and I figured the next run we'd put up the kite. However, just before we rounded the leeward mark the air would be back up and we got up on plane as we were sheeting in to go upwind again.

We had a blast on the racecourse, some pretty decent starts, didn't foul any boats, and kept the mast pointed upright all day, which was easier said than done. During the fourth and final race on Sunday the lead boat put up their kite on the last downwind leg only to be hit by a gust, rounded up and capsized. Sunday was a much

more laid back day, we tried to fly the spinnaker on each downwind leg. My crew even had a new nickname for me “straggler” as I fell way behind in one of the races.

Lightning Sailing is a simply a blast. It is great to have two other crewmembers on your boat. It takes a real team effort to make the boat go around the course fast. Lightning sailing is how I found out about Newport Yacht Club about five years ago. I came down and crewed on John Atkins boat for several years before I bought my first laser. Thursday Night Sailing on Lightnings was great for learning how to fly a spinnaker or do foredeck on a boat. We as a Club/Fleet need to do what we can to get more Lightnings back on the water and fill some of the empty haul outs.

#### **Call for a Newport Book Club – Jillian Dart**

Read any good books lately? I love to read and I’m looking for a group of folks who would like to start a book club at the yacht club. What better location for discussing a book than down at the club.

I have several books in mind so once I hear from folks, we can decide what book to read. Please email me if you are interested - [jestokes@frontiernet.net](mailto:jestokes@frontiernet.net) or by phone at 585-388-9502.

#### **New Families Join the Club – Sally Atkins**



Watch where you fold your sails

#### **Adult-Junior Sail - Pirate Day – Sunday, September 23 – Virginia Cumine**

Save the Afternoon and start your search for a Junior Pirate(s) to crew on your boat. All participants receive a certificate and ribbon.

Lori Foster has donated a Pirate Music CD for entertainment while the pirates prepare to set sail. It is a relaxed and fun afternoon for all. Each family is asked to bring food for lunch after the event. Please contact Virginia at [vcumine@rochester.rr.com](mailto:vcumine@rochester.rr.com) to help prepare for the event.

#### **Paul Riordan and Dorothy Drahzal hosted a Moroccan Feast for the cruising and snipe fleets**



The Feast



The guests

#### **Editor’s Note – Eva Smith**

Thanks to all who contributed to this edition of the newsletter. Special thanks to those who contributed photos: Sally Atkins, Bill Andrews, John Boettcher, Dorothy Drahzal, and Bob Shanebrook.