
Birds & Worms News

Volume 5 Issue 1

April 2001

NEWPORT YACHT CLUB

UPDATE

ICE BOATING ON THE BAY



John Atkins sailing his DN Ice boat on Irondequoit Bay

What's Up?

This features events of the next few months and gives you some info. The Club calendar gives you a full listing for the year.

April 27th - General Membership Meeting. One of our four scheduled business meetings for all members. Attendance(or proxy) is mandatory. There will be a dinner preceding the meeting hosted by the Laser Fleet.

April 28th - Spring Work Party
8:30 start time to get the Club ready for the season. Bring yourself and some appropriate tools. See Phil Morse or Alan McReynolds for make up jobs if you cannot attend.

May 5th - Launch Breakfast

How about a hearty breakfast to prepare you for the launch of your

boat (Cruisers, this would be a good time to get your boat in with lots of bodies to help step that mast) and mark the first day of racing. Joanne Vaughn has put on a terrific spread in the past.

May 5th - Racing Season Starts

See individual fleet schedules for number of races

May 19th - NYC Laser Regatta

No regular racing on this day. Want to help? Call Dean Clayton

June 2nd, 3rd - Lightning Regatta

No regular racing this weekend. Want to help? Call John Atkins.

June 9th - East High Sailing Club Fund Raiser

This event will start after Club racing is over. Club members are invited to join in this event with proceeds going to support the high school club. Boat

rides, dinner and live entertainment are planned. Phil Lange is the sponsor.

June 16th - NYC Open House #1

Invite friends and acquaintances who might be interested in sailing and potential membership. Food and boat rides. Call Pat Wartinger for details.

New Members

Welcome to our newest members as of our October General Membership Meeting. Here is some background. See bulletin board for pictures in the near future.

Garrett and Kellie Traver - Garrett and Kellie have two children **Shalyn(4)** and **Bryce(<1)** and live in Webster. They have a **Cal 21**. Garrett is pretty familiar with our area

having vacationed on the shores of Lake Ontario with his family and been a lifeguard on Oneida Lake during his college days. A sailboard was their first boat, but this was traded for more social craft - a canoe and most recently the Cal 21. He looks forward to learning more about cruising and participating in some of the racing opportunities at Newport.

Hank and Suzanne Bonnah - Hank and Suzanne and their son **Ian (1)** live in Rochester and have an **O'Day Javelin**. Hank started sailing when he was in the Navy by racing in 420s. He had some thrilling experiences in Lasers on ocean waves. Recent sailing has been on Lake Macatawa in Michigan in the Javelin. He looks forward to teaching the sport to his son, but this is a few years off.

Paul Riordan and Dorothy Drahzal - Paul and Dorothy live in Rochester and have a **Comet**. They have five children - **Margret(20), Tess(19), Emily(17), Evan(12), and Patrick(10)**. Paul sailed his own boat as a teen and sailed Lasers as an adult. He enjoys the sailing experience, wants to do this as a family activity and teach his boys the sport. He likes the Club atmosphere and feeling.

John Parker and Nancy Brush - John and Nancy live pretty close to the Club in Irondequoit. John has owned several cruising boats, is a 43 year member of RYC, and thoroughly enjoys activities associated with boating. The **Chrysler 17' Buccaneer** is a recent purchase. They look forward to sailing on the Bay and helping with the Club (lots of tools and know how).

Sailing Instruction

Are you, your family or friends interested in sailing instruction? Sterling Bush is planning on classes for both teens and adults this year. She comes with great enthusiasm and U.S. Sailing's Instructor credentials. Last year's adult class got great reviews from the participants. Sterling has conducted sailing classes at the Riverton Yacht Club in N.J. for many years before moving back to Rochester last year.

Teen Lessons:
June 25 th - July 13 th

Classes will start at noon every weekday for four hours in the afternoon. Instruction will take place in Lightnings and Lasers. Cost is \$250 for a three-week period

Adult Lessons:
June 19 th - July 10 th
Tuesday and Thursday evenings
Each lesson will be approx. 3 hours.
Instruction will take place in a variety of boats. Cost is \$175.

Contact: Sterling Bush
716-352-2978
E-mail: Asterlingbush@aol.com

Please ask about sign-up or additional information. Classes will fill up fast when advertising goes out.

Cruising Fleet Info

T. Henderson, Fleet Captain

The Newport Yacht club cruising fleet is a mixture of boats from 16 feet to 25 feet. The fleet tries to build a community among its sailors without destroying the sense of privacy and independence that is also available at the Newport.

Last year's moonlight sail was rained out, so this year we have planned two moonlight sail events, on July 7 and August 4. Hopefully we'll get lucky on one of those days. Members from any fleet are invited to join us and take advantage of larger boat amenities and the more relaxed pleasures of cruising. And if there is no wind, well, we are not above using our motors.

Since I'm a relatively new boat owner, I don't have any dynamic photos of "Serenity" under sail. It'd be great to prove to all my friends across the country that I am a real sailor with a boat of grace and beauty. So if I'm lucky, something like that may actually show up on film during our planned photo days. Again, since the weather is not to be trusted, we have chosen the afternoons of our July and August open house to gather and sail close enough to each other to get some good pictures.

In general, we're trying to institute a vague schedule for group sailing. If the weekend looks good and plans are

being made, consider sailing on Saturday at 11 AM for some companionship on the water. Maybe strength in numbers will keep arrogant motor boaters at a comfortable distance. On the other hand, be sure to avoid this time if the other great benefit of the Newport Club is desired: a certain measure of privacy and solitude. I've been especially impressed during the week when I've often felt as if I was the private owner of the whole property. Why sometimes the water is calm and there is scarcely a single roaring motor boat to disturb the peace.

Here's hoping for a great new summer season.

Laser Fleet News

On the best of days, we are the wet bottom fleet. On windier days, the immersion in the sport can be near total. The Fleet is over 20 years old. At one time, we counted over 30 members, but there aren't very many of us now. Even with the diminished numbers, racing can still be an exciting experience with the Laser demanding constant physical and mental attention in order to be sailed well.

The Fleet is fortunate to have two loaner boats which can be made available to members of other fleets and guests who wish to join us on the course. Dean Clayton is the Fleet Captain and 2000 fleet champ was John Boettcher.

Snipe Fleet Extra

C. Courtsal, Fleet Captain

Here are some ideas that the Snipe Fleet is working on for the newsletter. Feel free to edit freely as I am writing them quickly in the hopes of hitting the pillow soon! Enjoy!

A) The Snipe Fleet is working feverishly to get Greg Fisher to Newport Yacht Club for a racing instruction seminar. More news at the April General Membership Meeting.

B) The Snipe Fleet held monthly pot-luck meetings through the winter with seminars to sharpen our sailing and racing skills. We learned more about

"Strategies at the Start" (Kevin Haller) and the "Revised Rules of Racing" (Norm Dahl).

C) Here are some new trophies (or recycled trophies) for 2001. The goal of these trophies is to provide incentives for sailors unfamiliar with Snipes to learn more about our great boat.

NEW TROPHIES FOR 2001

1) INEXPERIENCED SNIPE SKIPPER TROPHY (previous "B" fleet trophy) *Open to the entire club (Although the race is sailed in a Snipe, the skipper does not need to be a member of the Snipe Fleet). No age restriction. *Eligible if the individual has sailed a Snipe as a skipper for 4 years or less. *Races of the Spring, Summer and Fall Series will count toward this trophy.

2) MASTERS SNIPE Trophy: (previous "C" fleet trophy)*Open to members of Snipe Fleet #103. *Eligible if the skipper has a Medicare card with their name on it. Races of the Spring, Summer and Fall Series will count toward this trophy.

3) WEDNESDAY SNIPE SERIES Trophy: (previous Special Series trophy) *Open to the entire club (Although the race is sailed in a Snipe, the skipper does not need to be a member of the Snipe Fleet). No age restriction. *Races of the Wednesday sailing series will count toward this trophy.

4) JUNIOR SNIPE Trophy: (previous Junior Fall Series trophy) *Open to entire club (Although the race is sailed in a Snipe, the skipper does not need to be a member of the Snipe Fleet) *Eligible if age under 19 *Races of the Spring, Summer, Fall and Wednesday Series will count toward this trophy.

Lightning Fleet 77 Members head South for the Southern Circuit.
J. Atkins, Fleet Captain

During the second week of March this year, five Newport members packed boats and/or sailing gear along with some warm weather clothes, and headed south to

Savannah, Ga. Dick Hallagan and Sterling Bush (Bob flew into St Pete. later) towed their boats. Jillian Stokes and John Atkins drove to Binghamton where we joined with Ed Seyerling of the Ithaca fleet and drove to Savannah.

Sterling, Jillian and John each crewed for a different skipper at Savannah. After Savannah, Jillian and Sterling did some sightseeing for a few days and met up with us at St. Pete where they sailed with Bob. The rest of us headed south to Miami. Ask Dick why he stops at Daytona each year. It couldn't be that it is the end of Bikers week or has Dick just run out of toothpicks to keep his eyes open?

Overall the circuit was good, we sailed all scheduled races for each regatta. The weather allowed us to thaw out from the north, with little rain and no snow or ice and everyone made it down and back safely. Each year in March the Lightning Class holds what is known as the "Southern Circuit". This is a three regatta series held over two weekends and the week between.

The present Circuit starts on Saturday in Savannah, Ga., sailing three races over two days in the confluence of the Wilmington and the Skidway Rivers. The course is more Y shaped than triangular and has the added benefit of a strong tide. Monday is a travel day, as the next stop is in Miami for a two day 5 race series on Biscay Bay. Added to the normal challenges of sailing on a large bay, are salt water, dolphins and an occasional Manatee (if your lucky). In the past three years Biscay Bay has provided some great sailing (albeit heavy air much of the time). Thursday is another travel day, as the caravan heads west across gaiter ally and north to St Petersburg for a three-day five race series Winter Championship regatta. Included along with this is a Masters Championship (first race of each day) for those skippers 55 and older and with a total crew age of 130. Over the last few years this regatta has been the most popular of thee, drawing 60 - 70 boats.

**From Your Lightning
Fleet Captain: J. Atkins**

After missing most of last summer recuperating from rotator cuff surgery, I was hoping that this year would start a little better than last, but no such luck. I have just had rotator cuff surgery on the other shoulder (am I glad we only have 2 shoulders). If recovery goes well I should be sailing by July 4th.

I want to thank all those that took time to respond to my questionnaire on sailing preferences as the sailing schedule is being worked out now. As normal with any group, there was no real consensus on which day or what time to start, so what works best for all the fleets will be the driving force. One thing I do want to strive for is to get a few days of lake sailing on the calendar. Whether these are part of the championships races or just in combination with the cruising fleet, still needs to be worked out.

There are many things happening at the Class level and I have been trying to keep abreast of these, the class dues structure is one that has been tabled till August. Please take time to read your flashes. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any issue with the fleet or class that you may have. At least if I can't sail, I can listen.

Since you pulled your boat . . .

Welcome back! In just a few weeks we will all be back on the water with the winter a fading memory. The following paragraphs to bring you up to date on the few things that transpired during the last few months.

The January General Membership Meeting was noteworthy. Preceded by the lasagna dinner hosted by the Snipe Fleet, the membership was too logy to oppose the dues increase accompanying the 2001 budget. Also, passed was the first of two votes to set up a new class of membership called associate which will apply to folks taking our sailing courses (see elsewhere in this newsletter) or needing Club affiliation to participate in nationwide competition.

The ice boaters had a great time on the Bay in January and Feb. Best ice in years. The place to be in terms of ice boating. There is a collection of photos in bar area. For more details contact John Atkins, Andy Smith, George Sereno, or Dick Dougherty.



We had a series of work parties during the winter to correct problems on the waterfront. The first of these was to address a sag in the east dock headed up by Tom Henderson which took place in mid Jan.



Inspection of the west dock by Andy Smith and Howard Stickney revealed some really bad things going on - like the dock moving south while the pilings stayed in place. The two of them organized a work party to repair the damage on March 4th. A fair crowd of folks showed up to help including Bob and Sterling Bush, Dale Hamilton, John Boettcher, Jim Cuddihee, Ernie Schmidt, Dave Walsh, Landy Atkinson, Dave Skolnick, Tim Collins, and a whole crowd of Wartingers. In spite of a driving snowstorm, much of the repair was accomplished. Andy and Howard finished with some heroics the following weekend.

In the course of the east dock repair, it was noted that the walkway supporting the Laser ramps needed

some help also. Sometime during last season one of the pilings supporting the outboard end of the walkway was broken and another found rotted through. The weight of the ramps left on the walkway after pulling them from the water had caused the walkway to sag noticeably in the area of the damaged pilings. A smaller work party of Jim Cuddihee, Dean Clayton and John Boettcher drove new pilings and jacked up the walkway.

We are lucky to have members who keep looking out for the Club in the off season. Norm Dahl is one such member. Facing down a crowd of angry ice fisherman illegally parked in our lot, he shagged them out with threats of calling the police and photographing license plates. Very creative, Norm.

On a very sad note, we lost one of our newer and more active members: Dave Best. Dave died in a car accident on a snowy evening February 14th. Dave was captain of the newly formed Cruising Fleet. His loss was felt by members of that Fleet and the Club as a whole.

Our "on-again, off-again light situation" in the parking lot has been fixed. Bob LaDuca a former member and friend of several current members was consulted and found the problem to be bulbs, sensors or just plain bad fixture. Bob said all these repairs were actually quite easy once you had access to the fixture - like bucket truck or in Bob's case 14 ft step ladder.

The Lightning Fleet was approached regarding hosting the 2002 Youth Worlds. A committee of John Atkins, Sterling Bush, Lori Foster and Landy Atkinson put together a really slick brochure and did fair bit of publicizing the NYC bid. A few weeks ago, NYC got the nod for this event. Look for much more about this in the months to come.

The Long Range Planning Committee headed by Charlie Courtsal sent out a questionnaire probing the membership as to feelings about and future direction of the Club. There were a number of fairly provocative questions. Results are being digested

and will be available to members shortly.

Each month was heralded by a Board meeting on the first Monday. Attendance has been excellent even on those nights when the weather has been awful. The Commodore is still in search of a meeting which will be shorter than 90 minutes. Where is that damn gavel?

History of NYC 1979 Remodeling of Clubhouse N. Dahl, NYC Historian

With so many enthusiastic new members and with clubhouse improvements under discussion, it seems timely to review our biggest remodeling project. Newport replaced most of the old first story with brand new construction in 1979.

Before this project, the first story was basically in the state of the second story today: unsound structure, un-insulated lath and plaster walls, unsightly wall and ceiling surfaces, leaky old double-hung windows, out-of-date wiring, closed-in floor plan, poor plumbing, and so on. The whole club threw itself into the project and truly transformed the first floor.

First we tore out the interior plaster and the old bar. We filled a 40 cubic yard dumpster so heavily that the prime mover couldn't budge it; they had to send for a stronger one. Some people insulated the walls and installed 100 eight-foot 2x4's to strengthen the structure. Others rewired the first story and installed a dropped ceiling with built-in lighting.

The carpenters replaced the double-hung windows with picture windows to open up the view and widened the openings between rooms to free up the floor plan. They paneled the inside walls and made new inside doors to match. They paneled the south and east sides of the outside and replaced the wooden outside doors with new steel ones. They built a new bar. They installed new sinks and plumbing in the kitchen and bar.

This was a major project, costing \$13,000 for materials plus well over two thousand hours of volunteer

labor. Jim McIntosh and George Sereno were the project leaders, but everybody pitched in. Jim and George put in at least 500 hours apiece and Jamie McIntosh, Dick Doherty, and Mike Fellows each put in 200 hours. They were the skilled workers. Dozens of club members put in 50 hours or more of unskilled labor.

The clubhouse still had significant shortcomings, a few of which have since been corrected. I hope the membership will discuss the many ways the clubhouse can be improved and will execute a series of small and medium sized projects. As we plan, keep in mind that the first story is fundamentally different from the second or the basement: most of it is new construction as of 1979. And we should be inspired by the efforts of the earlier membership, which provided the valuable features we continue to enjoy.

Getting to Know You

This column will feature our "veteran" members, since the Membership committee will cover getting to know you, information on new members.

Eva & Neal



If you look up in the dictionary the word for commitment, dedication or passion, you will likely find any of these two names: Neal Smith and Eva Wheeler Smith. Their combined years as members totals almost 60 years and between the two of them they have served every position on and off the Board.

Eva joined Newport Yacht Club with her first husband, Gene, in 1972. They discovered Newport Yacht Club and bought a blue wood Lightning, #8322 and later a mint green fiberglass boat, #12924. But soon work overthrew sailing and they stayed with the Club as social members. Gene passed away a short while later.

Neal joined the Club in 1974 being heavily influenced by his brother, Don, who had a Comet in the 1950's. Neal liked Newport Yacht Club because the membership had "pretty girls", Neal says. "Still does!"

His first Lightning, #4874, was wood. Later he bought a yellow boat, #13191, then a light green Lightning. #13082 was one of 13 numbers in a row bought by Newport Yacht Club members. I remember we all drove in a January snow storm to pickup our boats from Allen Boatworks, Neal recalls.

In 1991, Neal and Eva were married. Eva says, "I only marry men with green boats."

In the *I-bet-you-didn't-know*, category are these:

🍏 That Eva and Gene were instrumental in establishing the Family Membership, thus allowing 1 vote per family vs. permitting only the said member a vote.

🍏 Eva also was the first woman Commodore of the Club in 1990, the same year Newport Yacht Club in Rhode Island elected their first. Besides serving two times as Commodore, she has also been Vice Commodore and Secretary.

🍏 The *hats*, Neal has worn, amongst others, are: Harbor Master, Rear Commodore and RC Chair.

🍏 Neal reports, "there have not been any rats in the basement for 20 years!"

When not involved in NYC activities, Neal and Eva enjoy traveling, camping, and reading. Eva likes playing her flute and Neal enjoys rebuilding things.

-Lori Foster

Alumni Member Milestone

Recently, Cathy and Ernie Brown celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. The couple went to Callaway Gardens in Georgia for a warmer climate rather than their first honeymoon skiing at Tuckerman's Ravine in New England. They wish all the members a warm hello and best of health.

Info for Next Newsletter

The next newsletter should be hitting the presses in early June. Get any information or ideas for the next edition to John Boettcher by mid-May. Thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter

