
Birds & Worms News

Volume 6 Issue 1

April 2002



The Lightning Fleet, from humble beginnings in 1946 to hosting the Youth Worlds in 2002

What's Up?

The Club Calendar (mailed with the last meeting notice) gives you the whole year at a glance. What's Up? just gives you a heads up about the next month or so. More information can be found on our website at NewportYC.org.

Friday, April 26th - International dinner hosted by LYWC committee followed by a General Membership meeting. The dinner should be pretty good and the proceeds are being used to support the upcoming LYWC. The meeting will be . . . well, like other General Membership meetings and hopefully brief.

Saturday, April 27th - Spring Work Party starting at 8:30am and probably lasting until about 3:30pm. Bring a lunch.

Sunday, May 5th - Launch Day Breakfast. See what Joanne Vaughn and company have for your delectations. Kickoff time, 10:00 am.

Sunday, May 5th - Racing Season starts. 1:00pm sharp.

Saturday, June 8 - Laser Regatta

Tuesday, June 10th - Sailing Instruction starts. See Sterling Bush.

Sunday, June 23 - Open House #1. First of two open houses. Invite friends and potential members. Contact Pat Wartinger for details.

Sailing Instruction

Are you, your family or friends interested in sailing instruction? Sterling Bush is planning on classes for both older teens and adults this year. Get the word out and tell your friends. She comes with great enthusiasm and U.S. Sailing's Instructor credentials. Last year's adult class got great reviews from the participants.

Adult Lessons:

June 11th – June 27th

Tuesday and Thursday evenings

Each lesson will be approximately 3 hours.

Instruction will take place in a variety of boats.

Cost is \$175.

Sea Scout Lessons

Sterling Bush along with Andy Smith will be getting some small boat practice in with the Sea Scout group. Anyone interested in joining this group may call Andy Smith at 585-482-1467.

Monday late afternoon/evening (times TBA)

June 10 Dry dock lecture on Lasers and their set-ups w/capsizing drills

June 17 Laser sailing

June 24 Laser sailing

Website Reworked

Todd Calvin, our new webmaster, has spent a lot of time giving our website a new look. It now includes a monthly Events Calendar (which we will try to keep up-to-date) and lots of photographs from around the Club. Race scores from the various fleets will be posted throughout the summer, so check back often. Check out the results of Todd's efforts at www.NewportYC.org.

New Members - from October 2001 meeting



Virginia Cumine lives in Rochester and works for the National Kidney foundation. She owned a powerboat at one time but wanted something a little quieter. She connected up with the Snipe Fleet's Wednesday sailing activities last year and was one of the more active skippers. I think she won something at the Cups and Flags. Virginia is one of the star graduates of Sterling Bush's sailing school. She sailed with the Snipes on Wednesdays of last year and was presented with the best new skipper award at the Cups and Flags.



Don Taylor is a salesman for Hillyard, Inc. He and first mate Margaret Gibbons live in Honeoye Falls. Don has a 19' Alacrity docked at the Club and trailers and smaller Alcott Puffer. Both have taken sailing lessons in Ensigns at the Canadagua YC. They were keeping the larger craft in Fair Haven but wanted to be closer to the Rochester area. Don and Margaret are looking forward to learning from and contributing to their membership in NYC.

Since the last Newsletter

Outside beautification of the Club continues. Along with replacing the name and insignias on the south side of the Club, Sterling and Bob Bush along with Howard Stickney painted the woodwork on the lower exterior. Looks a lot better. New, big letters for the east side are being made by John Boettcher. The north side of the Club will also have the Club name along with insignias made by Todd Calvin and John B.

Thanks to the work party efforts of last fall, the upstairs of the Clubhouse looks a lot better. With all the junk gone, the second floor can be used for other things such as a recreation room and a jury room for the LYWC (see separate article). Lots of little jobs (patching, painting, cleaning) need to be done. Some of this can be accomplished at the Spring work party but we will probably need some additional effort. Let the LYWC Committee or the Vice Commodore, Phil Morse know if you can help out.

The 2001 Cups and Flags celebration arranged by rear commodore Al McReynolds was a big success. Preceding the dinner and awards ceremony at the Newport House, a cocktail party was held at the Club. The former worked out so well that having the entire event at the Club is planned for this year.

A small group of folks representing the racing fleets meet in November to discuss what could be done to maintain and improve club racing. The recommendations were to keep racing on one day of the weekend but adjust start times to avoid powerboat traffic. These were incorporated into this year's schedule with all racing to be done on Sundays (1:00pm starts in Spring and fall, 11:00am starts in Summer). For variety, you are encouraged to participate in the Wednesday sailing pioneered by the Snipe Fleet.

Over the past few years, we've taken to preceding the general membership meetings with dinners hosted by the various fleets. This has been pretty popular as

evidenced by increased attendance at both dinners and meetings. Following the effort of Sterling Bush and the Lightning Fleet at the fall meeting, the bar for these dinners has been raised substantially. This Italian Gala Dinner featured a menu rivaling that of a first class restaurant. The Snipe Fleet rose to the challenge with a repeat of their popular lasagna dinner at the meeting this last January.

The January general membership meeting was a fairly brief affair with the approval of the budget, submitted by Cindy McReynolds Finance chair, being the highlight. One item in the budget was the designation of \$2K for a study of how to accommodate more boats in the Lightning/Cruiser basin. You will be hearing more about this in the coming months. The Long Range Planning Committee (C. Courtset, former chair, E. Bell, current chair) have pointed out that increased membership appears to depend on accommodating more boats in the basin.

NY State wants us to lease the land under our docks (no kidding!). We completed the application and after a few months received a bill for approximately \$3000 for a 10 year lease. Contact with other clubs and marinas revealed that not all are going along with this new money raising scheme by NY. One group actively resisting this underwater lease is the Cross Lake Seneca River Association and, in order to benefit from their advice, the Club has joined this organization for 2002. At the moment, NYC has made no lease payments. Contact John Boettcher for further information.

Sterling and Bob Bush sponsored a Red and White Party on Feb 9th. Turn out was thin, but the people that came had a good time with the red and white food and card and other games.

We had a pretty mild winter with no ice. This was not good for the ice boaters or for the members wanting to work on their docks over the winter by standing on the ice. On the other hand, we don't have to contend with the damage that sometimes accompanies the ice breaking up.

Over the past few months several members have resigned and we will miss them - L. Stephans, B. Lindenfelser, C. Cain, M. Johnson. R. Chapman was expelled at the January General Membership meeting for nonpayment of dues.

Last thing is a plug for the Lightning Youth Worlds Championship July 6-11. The committee has been working hard for nearly a year (see the article by Lori Foster elsewhere in this newsletter). Volunteers will be needed to help with the many tasks. Also, the effort is a little short of funds. If you can make a donation at one of the sponsorship levels, it would be most appreciated.

Looking forward to sailing in just a few short weeks. Yikes! Where did I put the boat. See you at the spring meeting and work party.

Launch Breakfast - May 5th

A tradition for many years this is a good way to officially start the season. Joanne Vaughn will be in charge so the fare should be excellent. Start at 10:00am with a nominal charge. Racing starts at 1:00pm. For the cruising fleet, this is an excellent day to bring down your boat. Lots of hands around to help you get it in the water and set up.

Snipe Fleet Offers Trophies to Entire Club Again in 2002

- Charlie Courtsal

During this 2002 Sailing Season, you may enter the fierce competition for any of two trophies sponsored by the Snipe Fleet. They are the Novice Skipper Trophy and the Wednesday Series Trophy. The skipper does not need to own a Snipe to qualify for either trophy. In order to qualify for the Novice Skipper Trophy, the skipper cannot have skippered a Snipe for more than 4 seasons.

Anyone can participate in the racing for the Wednesday Series Trophy. However, skippers who are not sailing in a Snipe will need to have a handicap agreed upon by the participating skippers before the race is held.

If you are looking for a Snipe to sail, please contact our Fleet Captain

(Charlie Courtsal) so our fleet can share one of our "thoroughbred Snipes" with you.

We look forward to seeing you on the race course this season!

Iceboats & Lightnings

- John Atkins

What's the common thread? Who knows, but three Lightning sailors made the most of what has to be the worst season for ice boating that any of us can remember. The Bay only skimmed over twice and it was questionable if it could support a seagull.

Lucky for members of the Irondequoit Bay Iceboat Club, which meets at the club the first Thursday of the month from November through March, that one of its members has a Camp on Great Sacandaga. Usually we are lucky to get up there once every couple of years, but with the lack of snow this year, we were able to go 3 times. This provided the only sailing this year.

On each of the three weekends we were able to sail one of the days, with the other being literally washed out. Chad Atkins made the trip from Rhode Island twice. On the second trip, no less than 14 of us traveled (including John, Andy and Chad) the 225 miles to sail and spend the weekend.

On the last trip, Dick Doherty, John Atkins and Andy Smith all made the trip. Dick had waited for the whole season to try his new Iceboat (after 40 years of sailing the same boat) and as a last resort decided to join the group. Ask him if it was worth the trip and how about that music.

Lightning Sailing

- John Atkins

As the sailing season nears, its time to get the Lightning out of storage and get it ready. Make those repairs or updates that you've been thinking about doing for the past few years, polish the bottom and get it in the water to join in the Fleet racing. This year we will be sailing the entire season on Sundays, with racing starting at 1 PM for the

Spring and Fall Series and at 11AM for the Summer Series.

In addition, we are going to attempt a Wednesday Afternoon series, so if you can't make Sundays there is an alternative. The Snipe Fleet has been very successful in racing on Wednesdays, so we are going to join them. Also we have put on the calendar a couple of Saturdays for Lake Racing.

With the Youth Worlds being held right after the 4th of July, we have switched our regatta dates with Keuka. The Champagne Regatta at Keuka is June 1 and 2 and the Newport Invitational, which is also the CNY Districts, is June 29 & 30.

I ask that if you are considering going to an away regatta you consider the Champagne Regatta. Also we can use your help at the Youth Worlds. This is a great opportunity for the Club and your help is greatly needed. See you on the water.

Lightning Youth World Championship 2002 UPDATE

- Lori Foster

For starters, circle these dates on your calendar: July 6-11.

Like team work on a boat, each LYWC Committee member is contributing 110% to their charge. Here is a brief list of accomplishments to date:

We have commitments of 15 Lightnings that are being loaned by regional boat owners. Six more are needed for a total of 21.

The Sailing Instructions are in a final review by the Jury before going to the International Lightning Class Association (ILCA) for approval.

We have engaged 5 judges, one coming from Ecuador, two from Canada and two from the US including George Hock of Newport Yacht Club.

We have a \$1500 gift certificate from Wegman's.

We have a \$1000 donation from Hatch Leonard Naples, Inc. (Thanks to Paul N!)

American Airline's has given us 75% off the air ticket for the Ecuadorian

judge (it's true... LYWC provides transportation, meals and lodging for the free services of the judges).

We have 'welcome bag' goodies from Louise Slaughter's Office (Capitol calendars), "I Love New York" buttons, and some give-aways from West Marine, North Sails and others we've contacted, but haven't yet received goods from.

Food donations from Keenan's Restaurant, and from Romeo's Restaurant (both in Irondequoit) for our 'Flavors of Rochester' buffet for opening ceremonies.

Arranged a discount for evening at Seabreeze Amusement Park

T-shirt has been designed and will soon be available for purchase.

Genesee Yacht Club has extended us use of their club house for the banquet.

Watch WXXI Auction (April 20-XXX) to bid for 2 seats on a spectator boat. (Sterling entered 2 slots for the Adult Sailing Class for bidding).

Many other things! Check the LYWC website for details:
www.ilcaYouthWorlds.org

Despite our gifts so far, we are still in need of monetary and product donations. Anyone on the Committee can give you an idea of what is needed. See the bulletin board at the Club, too. The Committee for this event is: John Atkins and Bob Bush (co-chairs); Sterling Bush (Off-the-Water Activities), Landy Atkinson (Finance); Lori Foster (Publicity/Promotions). Others are: Ed Bell (Liaison between NYC and LYWC Committee); Eva Smith (Housing); Bill Farmer (Race Committee) and Howard Stickney (Treasurer).

We have many volunteer positions to be filled and tasks to be done. Some only require an hour or two. Others require more commitment. If you will be out-of-town during the regatta there are some items we could use your help with right now. Swamped at work? Take your vacation during the Youth Worlds and travel vicariously through these young souls from USA, Canada, Europe and South America.

You should be receiving (or pick one up at NYC) a Team Newport YC Volunteer Form. Please feel free to pass one onto your neighbors and

co-workers. Everyone can have fun during this special regatta. Have a great idea, or service you can offer? Email us at:
youthworlds@lightningclass.org

Laser Fleet News

- J. Cuddihee

Thursday evening recreational skill-building sessions will be the Laser fleet's focus for this summer. The goal is to increase participation in the both the fleet and club by using the bay when it's the most attractive. The area regatta schedule provides a nearly full summer of excellent Laser racing, and Thursday evening resolves conflicts many of us have with other fleets and events. A side benefit will be a few more sailors available for the Sunday Lightning and Snipe races.

The intent of the evening sessions is to have fun developing sailing skills. The combination of little power boat traffic and late afternoon/early evening winds will provide an excellent training environment for people who have completed an adult or junior sailing course, and other sailors who simply want "stick time" in a small boat.

Activity on any given evening will depend on the participants. Some possibilities are:

Basic Laser rigging and sailing back and forth in front of the Club to get the feel of the boat.

- Touring the bay to see what our neighbors are up to.
- Working on the mechanics of the tack and gibe.
- Recognizing and responding to right of way situations.
- Boat handling skills for the starting line and mark roundings.
- Tactics for starting and rounding.
- Recognizing and reacting to wind shifts.
- Trimming the sail and boat.
- Learning to love sailing by the lee.

Our first hope is that the Thursday activity will encourage a few Laser owners to get their boats out of the garage and down to the Club. Our second is that after some use of our loaners, sailing lesson associates and

other members will choose to buy a Laser as a first or second boat.

The Thursday sessions will begin the Thursday, May 9. We will use a "flex time" schedule with core time between 5 and 7 pm. Some of us will try to be on the water by 4 pm for extra work and will stay to sail with the main group. While some will occasionally stay on the water beyond 7pm, the plan is a BYO hotdog and beverage session around 7 to talk about the day and sailing in general. Call Jim Cuddihee or Dean Clayton if you are interested in participating.

This year's Newport Laser regatta will be Saturday, June 8. We expect to be on the bay and again are one of the qualifying regattas for the Empire State Games. The Skippers meeting is at 9:30 am, the first race at 10:30, and home by 4:00. As usual, we welcome help with jobs ashore and on the water. Please give Jim Cuddihee a call at 266-8686 if you are interested in helping.

Getting to know you

- Lori Foster

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



Howard Stickney w/ Marion & Peter

Talking with Howard is a little like a conversation with Garrison Keillor and his 'News from Lake Wobegon'. Howard knows so many people and has had so many wonderful experiences that my question of 'how did you come to belong to Newport Yacht Club' was not a single word answer.

Howard paints the picture of boyhood summers spent on the

Canadian shores of the St. Lawrence, learning how to right a canoe in deep waters before permission was given to discover other water crafts. One such boat was a Skimmer "about 13 feet long, built by a son whose father had a International 14... a beautiful mahogany boat". On the Skimmer they would sail 9 miles down the St. Lawrence, do the races, then fight the strong current back home. "If we were lucky his father would tow us behind the International 14...it had a motor!"

On return from a two year gig with the air force ('44-'46), Howard jumped on deck and helped his uncle move a 30-something foot boat from Windsor to Buffalo. "But just this side of Cleveland a summer squall kicked up. We dropped the sails, turned on the motor. Then waves came over the side. Then the motor stopped working. A woman on shore saw our problem and called the coast guard, but the conditions were too dangerous for a rescue. It was the worst storm of my life...and it came and went in thirty minutes. We slept at the coast guard station that night."

Howard met Marion in Plattsburg while they were both going to college.

They have now been married 52 years! Before relocating to Rochester in 1959 they lived in Hamburg with their two children, David and Anne. A few years later, after moving to Rochester, Peter was born.

Howard discovered Newport Yacht Club by just driving around. "We liked to see where roads went." He crewed for Warren Duerr the first few years. In 1966 Howard announced David (now age 10) was old enough to crew. So Howard bought #8322, a fast wood Lippencott, from Bob Jamison. That boat was later sold to Gene and Eva Wheeler in 1972 when Howard decided to buy #11074, a 1969 built Allen. But there was a small problem about buying the boat, a problem one wouldn't really think about. The boat was the same color as Dick Doherty's boat; coveted shamrock green. Howard's boat was named "Copycat" a few years later. It has been more recently renamed "Cookie Boat" by Sally Atkins because of the snacks offered on the boat.

Howard retired in 1988 from Moore Business Forms. He is busier than ever with the 6 nearby grandchildren.

When asked what his hobbies are Howard answers sailing, sailing, sailing..."and looking out for the Yacht Club. That's what Neal Smith and I would do after he retired, even before that." Another passion is the baseball series tour he, Marion and Peter go on each year.

And Howard's most recent accomplishment? Last year he participated in the Across the Bay Swim with his 10 year old granddaughter, Kelly.

See you on the water!

Newsletter Contributions

Next newsletter will be sometime early June. Got something of Club interest? Send your contributions to J. Boettcher (platt@eznet.net).

Newport Yacht Club Open House

Sunday, June 23rd
1:30pm – 4:00pm

694 Seneca Road
west side of Irondequoit Bay

Come learn about sailing, the five different fleets (Lasers, Lightnings, Snipes, cruising and Optimists) and membership in our club!

1:30am Watch the sailboat races, talk with members, and
 enjoy refreshments sitting beside the beautiful bay

3:00pm Go for a sail with one of our members

Please call Pat Wartinger at 216-9637 or e-mail pwartinger@juno.com if you can join us for the picnic and/or to reserve a place to sail on one of our member's boats.

We look forward to seeing you at Newport Yacht Club soon!

For more information, check the NYC website at www.newportYC.org

Laser Regatta

Newport Yacht Club

(694 Seneca Rd, Irondequoit, NY)

Saturday, June 8, 2002

7:30 – 9:30 Registration (coffee, bagels, donuts and juice)

9:30 – 9:45 Skippers' meeting

10:00 Harbor gun (signal)

10:30 Warning, first race

Maximum of 5 back to back, with one throw out if 5 races sailed. One race minimum to count.
Low point scoring.

Awards: Top five overall
 Top remaining junior
 Top remaining master
 Top remaining woman

Fee: \$20, includes breakfast, snacks, lunch and racing. Additional lunches available at cost.

For additional information, call: Jim Cuddihee at (716) 266-8686