
Birds & Worms News

Volume 7 Issue 1

April 2003



77 Snipes (including Norm Dahl) Sail in the Halloween Regatta – Atlanta YC

What's Up?

- 4/25 GM meeting with Laser dinner
- 4/26 Spring Work Party – 9:00
- 5/4 Launch Breakfast – 10:00
- 5/4 Racing starts - 1:00pm
- 6/7 NYC Laser Regatta
- 6/22 Open House

Since the last newsletter . . .

Well, I've had enough winter, haven't you? It will be nice for the water to get a little softer and let us enjoy the wonderful hobby that binds us together. Just a few weeks away.

Norma and I were in Hawaii for nearly the entire month of November (well, someone has to do it) and missed the Cups and Flags. We heard that AlMac did a wonderful job with the arrangements and everyone attending had a good time. I have not seen any pictures. Rumor has it no one brought a camera.

A few of our members did some traveling during the fall and early winter to participate in regattas.

See articles in this newsletter by Logan McReynolds and Norm Dahl.

The January general membership meeting was preceded by a great lasagna dinner hosted by the Snipe Fleet. A new budget was passed reflecting some changes in dues structure. (See commodore J. Cuddihee's comments in this newsletter.) At the meeting, we also voted in the Bahrman's and Mulherin's as new members. (See article for more detail.) The furnace has been giving vice commodore Virginia Cumine lots of trouble. (See her summary.)

The Birds and Worms is your newsletter. If you have any articles or things that might be of interest to the Club, please let me know and I will be happy to include them in the next issue due sometime in June. You can send them to me via snail or e-mail (platt@eznet.net). The more articles I get the less pestering I have to do to fill the pages. Photos are especially welcome. As I mentioned, pestering is my chief role in putting together the newsletter. Landy Atkinson makes a far more creative contribution by doing the layout of the newsletter in a pleasing fashion and putting it in the format that he then distributes electronically to most of the membership. I also would like to acknowledge the help of Ed Bell and Norma Platt in proofing the drafts.

I was invited to sail in Ecuador - Logan McReynolds



Team McReynolds sailing in Ecuador

This summer during the Lightning Junior Worlds some of the Ecuadorians were staying at our house. While they were here they invited me and my junior crew down to sail in Salinas, Ecuador, for the Copa del Pacifica (The Pacific Cup). Of course, while they were here I didn't think that this offer was even feasible. They insisted that their club would pay for all of the rooming and food for the participants while we were there.



McReynolds Team on the plane to Ecuador

John Atkins and my dad were able to get a spot in the regatta. They all worked on plane tickets. We all helped with fund risers to help pay for me and my crew's tickets, the participants only expenses (other than purchases in the markets).

When we got in the plane we still didn't feel like this was really happening. We flew out of New Jersey to Panama then to Ecuador. We arrived to the heat of the equator. Everything was much different than all my travels in America - wild trees, birds of song, wind of god, water of the deep. The people were also beautiful not only with the glow from their smiles, but the way they carry life. They are filled, true and are understanding. For example, Joe and some of the local boys and I were at a "café" when we were short a few bucks; the owner simply said pay tomorrow. We paid the next day.



View from Hotel in Salinas

The sailing in Ecuador was a song written by the hand of God. It was absolutely the best I have experienced. Wind was always perfect, not too much, not too little. The courses were set beautifully. It was never a fetch to

the mark. The food at the club and everywhere was a dream.

So if you ever get a chance to sail in Ecuador or live there don't pass it up. It might be the best place in the world. It was simply gorgeous sailing, simply wonderful people, wonderful beer, no drinking age. I can't wait to be there again, it owns a "peace" of my soul.

Thanks to all those that helped make this possible.

Commodore's Comments - J. Cuddihee

Welcome to Spring! The work party and start of sailing are just a month away. How could such a miserable winter have gone by so quickly? Anyway, I think our most important goal this year is to really enjoy the club - the racing, day sailing, canoeing, picnicking and just plain relaxing. Secondary goals are to bolster our membership, continue to maintain our property, and reach a consensus on a plan to replace or refurbish the haulouts along the seawall.

Our Race Chairman, Bill Vaughn, and Lightning Fleet Captain, Al McReynolds, are leading an effort to develop a Thursday night Lake racing program to supplement regular Sunday racing. The plans are still being drawn, but the idea is great. By side-stepping the conflicts many have with weekend regattas, we should have increased fleet participation, and also an attractive opportunity for many of the cruising fleet to get into racing. This, with the boat fee reduction for rackable boats, should really boost our activity during the week.

Our Vice and Rear Commodores, Virginia Cumine and Chris Schwenker, have plans to assure the clubhouse and grounds remain attractive and well kept throughout the season. Harbormaster Don Taylor, with some help from John Atkins, will have our two Race Committee boats in shape for the season. Peter Allen has agreed to help us locate a suitable replacement for the Penn Yan.

New Dues Structure

- J. Cuddihee

Our new boat fee structure stemmed from discussions at both the board and

membership meetings last year seeking ways to encourage more use of the club and attract new members. One clear opportunity was to increase use of available capacity in the Laser, Sunfish and Optimist area. Usage had declined to just three full and two half boat fees, and several prospective members told us our fees were out of line with other clubs. The bay is a great place to sail these boats in the spring, fall and week days during the summer. Hopefully the lower fees will encourage current members to bring their boat or second boat down to the club, and will help us attract some new members. We also are hopeful that some members will store their kayaks and canoes on a space available basis in the area.

This year's boat fees*:

Slip or Haulout

First Boat	\$390
Second Boat	\$195

Rackable

First Boat	\$210
Second Boat	\$105
Optimist	\$90
Canoe or Kayak	\$90

*For those with a slip or haul out boat and a rackable boat, the slip or haulout boat is considered the first boat.

Vice Commodore Summary - V. Cumine

There have been 14 Clubhouse reservations by members since November 2002. Thanks to all for leaving the clubhouse in excellent condition following their private parties.

As a result of both the furnace and the oil tank having reached a state of very poor health (red tagged), a committee of four, including Jim Cuddihee, Norm Dahl, John Parker and the vice commodore, received numerous proposals from both oil and LP gas furnace contractors. A natural gas line installation is still too costly to consider at this time. The committee, after much deliberation and research, recommended to the board of directors that an LP gas furnace be purchased from Griffith Energy, our current fuel and furnace repair provider. A contract has been signed and installation will take place this spring.

Thanks to member Don Taylor and friend, Mike Ingle, the kitchen sink plumbing is a beautiful sight to behold. In addition to two 2 new faucets, we now have a faucet under the sink for mop buckets and a new outside faucet with a seasonal shutoff valve under the sink. We really appreciate all of your time and hard work. Cost to the club was to purchase parts only.

Thanks to Eva Smith who donated a used microwave oven for our kitchen.

Dining with Dorothy

- V. Cumine

NYC members who attended the Dining with Dorothy cooking seminar on Saturday evening, March 22, enjoyed a superb, seven-course French gourmet dinner. Only twelve members attended so Dorothy Drahzal & Paul Riordan hosted the event at their lovely home.

All of those who attended donned aprons and prepared the meal under the direction of Dorothy, former owner of Dorothy's Café. It is amazing how many people can work in one well-organized kitchen. We all learned helpful cooking hints and how to operate a multitude of special (and dangerous appearing) cooking tools. Everyone was relieved that not one amateur chef sustained injuries during the preparation.

After several hours of work, we enjoyed the fruits (and vegetables) of our labors, and delighted in exquisite tastes including Phil's sorbet and Rosemary's crème Brule. We all decided we were not going to be able to eat again for a week.

Many thanks to Dorothy Drahzal for all of her hard work and for sharing her great culinary talents with us.

Membership Committee Report

- J. Boettcher

Based on the last few years, I was expecting very little new member

activity. I am pleased to report otherwise. Pat Wartinger, the outgoing chair of the membership committee gave us a good start this year. At the January General Membership meeting we voted in the Mulherins and the Barhmans as new members.

Tim and Kelly Mulherin live in Rochester and have a Cal 25. They had been keeping it at the Newport Marina for the last few years, but were curious about our Club and what we could offer. They have been sailing for a few years and are interested in casual day cruising.

Ellsworth and Jean Bahrman live in Rochester and have a Precision 15.

Ellsworth is a writer employed by Roberts Communication. Ellsworth writes "I grew up on the water and always enjoyed watching sailboats. Having come to sailing at a late age, I was looking for a place where I could feel comfortable with like-minded people who don't take themselves too seriously."

Look for the pictures of these new families on the bulletin board and join me in welcoming them to the Club.

I am also pleased to report that there are four other applications pending. I don't know where the new members are coming from (parallel universe?) and certainly can't take any credit for getting them but you can be sure I will do my best to see that they become members.

The downside of this report is that Paul and Marie Nasipak have decided to resign in good standing from the Club. Paul has served in several offices most recently as Commodore in 2000. Also resigning are Ernie and Audrey Schmidt. Ernie just completed two years of serving as harbormaster. We will miss them.

Clubhouse Security

This is always something to be concerned about. Let's make sure that the Club is buttoned up and locked when you leave. Following is a report from Andy Smith:

Yesterday afternoon (Sunday 3/16 at 1:30pm) I went down to the club to do some work on my haulout. **I found the front door open!** The storm was closed, but the inside one was open. Yes and unlocked. No one else was

around. (Except for 5 fisherman guys on the ice) I checked around, and everything seemed fine, so I locked up and set the alarm.

Launch Breakfast May 4th - J. Boettcher

Norma (my better half) and I are hosting this with help from several others. We hope to repeat some of the successes of Joanne Vaughn. Come on down and get some grub before the first race. We are aiming for food at 10:00. Cruisers, this would be an excellent day to get help with getting your mast stepped and boat in the water.

Educational Opportunities at Merchant Marine Academy - J. Boettcher

The Club was approached for a burgee to decorate the Kings Point NY academy and in the process of honoring this request I found some information that I thought I'd pass along to members having children approaching college age.

The Merchant Marine Academy offers Bachelor of Science degrees along with a merchant marine license as a third mate or third assistant engineer and a commission as an ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve. There are six programs to choose from. All costs are covered by the U.S. government and the student receives a \$550/month during on-board training. I bet there are some people reading this more closely now! Candidates must be nominated by a U.S. representative or senator and must compete for vacancies with other nominees.

I have some brochures and information but I would encourage interested parties to contact the local field representative, Commander Thomas P. Maloney at (585) 244-0998.

Cruising Fleet Update

- Ray Wartinger, Fleet Captain

It's amazing what a little warm weather can do to pick up your spirits. After 6 months of sailing the "Lazy Bouy II" in the living room, it's finally

beginning to look and feel a little like spring. Of course, there's still the not-so-small issue of 6" of ice on the bay, so the best we can do right now is make plans and anticipate all the fun we're going to have. For example, three moonlight cruises are in the works: June 14, July 12 and August 9. Also, Thursday night racing is being planned for all NYC boats. This gives us cruisers numerous opportunities to participate as either racers, committee boat, tow boats or picture takers. Other ideas I'm kicking around include getting a few boats together and sailing over to the Pelican's Nest for dinner, or a group sail to Pultneyville (overnight?), trying to get more participation in the Brown Jug, <insert your good ideas here>.

Welcome to our new Cruising Fleet members, Tim and Kelly Mulherin, and Ellsworth and Jean Bahrman! We look forward to getting to know you and sailing with you this season.

See you all at the club!

Thursday Evening Racing Sponsored by Lightning Fleet

- Alan McReynolds

In my opinion, sailing on the weekend days at Newport Yacht Club is not as enjoyable in the months of July and August as it used to be. The conditions also make it difficult for novice sailors to learn to sail while on the racing venue. In the past we have tried various combinations of weekend days for sailing at Newport. These have included various start times, different days, and trips to the lake and the south end of the bay. And while some of these variations were moderately successful the powerboat traffic has continued to grow and disrupt our sailing. We have also attempted to run a junior sailing program in the evenings on the bay. That experience taught us that the wind on the bay is not reliable after about 6:00 p.m. Many of the Newport sailors have participated in the evening sailing programs on the lake through RYC

and GYC and have found it to be very rewarding and enjoyable.

The Lightning fleet would like to start a Thursday night sailing schedule beginning in mid-June and continuing through mid-August. All of the other fleets are invited to join us. We will organize a tow from the dock at 5:20 p.m. The starting sequence for the first race would be at 6:20 p.m. These start times are very important to insure we will get the maximum amount of race time. We will require a minimum of three boats to tow to the lake. Depending on interest, we will try a mixture of one-design and handicapped racing. The Portsmouth rating system incorporates a wide range of vessels and is suggested as the rating system to be used. We will use a windward/leeward course (usually twice around) with a downwind finish. (This course facilitates rapid turnarounds between races.) We will try to hold two or more 40-minute races for each of the fleets. After racing the boats would be towed back to Newport and a picnic with the fleets would commence back at the club.

It is my hope that this activity will foster more cooperation and interactivity among the various fleets. I see it as an opportunity to teach new sailors about racing, free up busy weekends, and make more use of our facilities during the week. I would like to get a guest speaker to discuss rules, weather, boat handling, etc. I hope for this to become a learning experience for all. There will be more details as we approach the sailing season. See you soon. If you have any questions, give me a call at 425-7715 (H) or 734-8742 (C).

Lightning Fleet News

-Alan McReynolds

Well, the big news – the Lightning fleet is not holding a regatta this year. At the district winter meeting there was a call to reduce the number of regattas on the schedule for Central New York. We had hoped to move our regatta to a later date in the season so that we would have warmer water to go to the lake. That just did not look feasible. We also knew that some the members were getting weary from the many events that we supported over the last few years. So, John Atkins and I made

the decision to set up a situation where we alternate our regatta every other year with Henderson Harbor. Henderson will hold their regatta (2003 CNY Districts) this year in late July and we will get that date next year. I hope this works out.

Dick Hallagan just returned from the Lightning Southern Circuit regatta. This is actually a three regatta series with an overall scoring. I think there were over 80 boats that participated in the 3 regattas. He finished 2nd in Savanna, 13th in Miami, and 8th in St. Petersburg. At St. Pete there is also a Masters Championship (for the really old guys - just kidding, Dick) and he took 2nd. He place fourth overall for the Southern Circuit Championship. Congratulations Dick! (For more info see www.lightningclass.org/results/.)

Other news – Dan Pope is rejoining the fleet. He purchased Jean Hallagan's boat and is busy tuning it up. Welcome back, Dan! Also, be sure to read about Thursday night sailing – I think it will be a lot of fun. See you there.

Snipe Fleet Report

- J. Boettcher for Todd Calvin

I did not receive anything from Todd. He did tell me he was very busy at work. In his defense, he is doing a great job on the Club website. I know the Snipes have wonderful pot luck luncheons during the winter. Norma and I took in one at the Morse's a few weeks back. Phil can play a wicked ukulele and has a considerable repertoire.

Laser Fleet Report

- Jim Cuddihee

Last year a few of us met informally some evenings to do whatever sailing stuck our fancy - touring the bay, going out to the lake to work in the waves, doing short course skill training, or just sailing by ourselves. It was great way to develop confidence in new techniques or just relax. Please give me a call (266-8686) if you are interested in getting a rack assignment.

This year's Laser regatta is June 7.



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Snipe World Masters Championship and Halloween Regatta

-Norm Dahl

On the hot Monday afternoon of October 21, sixty-two Snipes hit the starting line together – well, almost together – for the first race of the Snipe World Masters Championship on Tampa Bay. Fifty-six of them beat your correspondent and crew John Dentinger to the finish line. Oh well.



We did about as well in the Halloween Regatta, held the following weekend near Atlanta. Seventy-seven Snipes turned out for that one. Fortunately, they split the fleet into three starts.

We had lots of new experiences: being yelled at in Portuguese, watching porpoises on the race course, and being swept below the windward mark by a tidal current. Lots of old experiences, too - picking the wrong end of the starting line, sailing into a vacuum, and plodding slowly up the wrong side of the course.



St. Petersburg Yacht Club did a great job running the Masters, very systematic. They even issued Rosemary a photo ID badge as a Team Support person. The nearby Sailing Center has several hoists and ramps. They also have fresh water hoses, because you have to wash your boat each time you pull it out of the salt water. Otherwise, the board and hull get very rough and everything corrodes. We are so lucky to be sailing in fresh water at Newport.

Atlanta Yacht Club also did well with the Halloween Regatta, too, despite the meager wind. Great party Saturday night.

It was a long trip (3000 miles), but an unforgettable experience. We're glad we did it.

Next Newsletter

Landy Atkinson publishes and electronically distributes the Newsletter. John Boettcher is editor. Next issue will be in June. Send contributions to J. Boettcher (platt@eznet.net).