
Birds & Worms News

Volume 7 Issue 2

June 2003



What's Up?

- 6/7 – NYC Laser Regatta
- 6/19 – Start of Thursday Night Racing
- 6/22 - Open House

Open House – June 22

Got friends or acquaintances who have expressed interest in sailing? Invite them to the Open House on June 22nd. There will be opportunities to sail on several different types of boats and meet the NYC members. Lunch will be provided.

Since the Last Newsletter

- J. Boettcher, editor

Hurray, the sailing season is here!
At the general membership

meeting on 4/25, we voted in five member families. More details in an accompanying article. The meeting was preceded by a pizza and salad potluck hosted by the Laser fleet. The Club and grounds were opened for business at the work party the next day (see summary by Vice Commodore Virginia). The Launch Breakfast the following week was well attended (a summary article follows). There have been a few weekends of racing/sailing but the weather has not been entirely cooperative. See the following fleet reports for results.

Commodore's Comments

- J. Cuddihee

Congratulations to all of you for a great job at the Spring Work Party. The club is really looking good. Conditions have been great for spring racing, Norm D and crew have enjoyed an early swim, and with cruising,

picnics and both week-end and week-night racing on the schedule, we are primed for a busy and enjoyable year.

The next time you are at the club, be sure to check out our new flag pole. Many thanks to the "team" that replaced it: to Dorothy Drahzal and Paul Riordan for donating the pole, to Phil Morse for hauling it to the club, and to Dick Doherty, Andy Smith, Bob Hofgren, and Mike Costello for assembling and erecting the pole in its new home on the north lawn.

Vice Commodore Summary

-V. Cumine

In May, Griffith Energy installed a new LP Gas Furnace. The old oil furnace and tank were removed. Many thanks go to the furnace committee – Jim Cuddihee, John Parker and Norm Dahl for their efforts. A special thanks to Norm Dahl for his many trips up

and down those cellar stairs adding enough fuel to the oil tank to heat the clubhouse for member private parties this spring until the new furnace was installed.

The clubhouse and yard were transformed on Saturday, April 26 due to a good turnout of members for the Spring Work Party. Damage from the ice storm was repaired and the clubhouse was thoroughly cleaned and yard raked. Thanks to all of those members who did their part in keeping the clubhouse suitable for our use. The next Work Party is scheduled for Saturday, July 26. Please put this date on your calendar.

Three members held parties in April and five in May. After using the clubhouse for reserved private parties or during individual use, please remember to clean up after yourself, including removing the garbage to the dumpster. Many members leave the clubhouse cleaner than they found it. Thanks to the Dahl's who had the piano tuned prior to their party. Thank you.

Please note the installation of the new flag pole, coordinated by Dick Doherty. The pole formerly resided in the Drazhal-Riordan back yard and was removed and relocated by Dick and his crew consisting of Bob Hofgren, Mike Costello, and Andy Smith. Old Glory was waving proudly on Memorial Day weekend.

Membership Committee Report

- J. Boettcher

At the April general membership meeting, we voted in five new member families. You can find their pictures on the bulletin board just inside the clubhouse.

Lynn and Denise Bluett were recommended for membership by Bob Shanebrook. They live in Irondequoit and Lynn works for Xerox. They have a Catalina Capri 16.5 and were looking for a place to keep it where they could get more use from the boat.

Todd and Andrea Butler have a Rhodes 19 which can be accommodated by a Lightning haulout. They had been members of the Canandaigua YC but were looking for something closer to home. Todd works for the Genesee Country Museum. The Butlers were sponsored by Jim Cuddihee who is a neighbor in Irondequoit.

Eric and Annie Schoenhardt live in East Rochester and come with not one but two boats – a Flying Dutchman and a Handi-Cat 14. Eric did a lot of work on old haulouts over the winter in order to get them ready for these boats. Members should check out the unusual Handicat which sports a lot of old fixtures such as a wooden mast with sail hoops and brass fittings. Eric is a carpenter who works for The Nichols Team.

Matt Disch is a very active and accomplished Snipe sailor. He sailed with the Snipes at the end of the last year as a student but this year joins us as a full member. A few weekends ago Matt brought down some of his family (with two additional Snipes) for a visit.

Rejoining the Club after a few years of absence is Dan Pope. Dan has a Lightning and has been campaigning the boat at local regattas in last few years along with crewing for others. He is drawn back to the Club by the proposal of Thursday night racing. Dan is an architect and pretty handy fellow. In years passed, he has headed the efforts to replace the kitchen floor and build lockers on the second floor.

In January, we voted in Tim and Kelly Mulherin as new members. Just recently Kelly has been reassigned to Utah and they moved, sold their boat, and resigned from the Club. The new owner, Kathy Clack, has applied for NYC membership and has been approved by the Board. Her boat is now on the East pier.

Farewell to Dr. McIntosh

The Club has lost its oldest member. Dr. John McIntosh passed away in May at the age of 101. He had been an honorary member at NYC in recent years and, for many years before that, a very active and accomplished Lightning sailor. Members may recall that last September, Dr. McIntosh

(then 100 years old) helped celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Brown Jug Regatta at NYC by passing out the trophies at the awards ceremony. He continued to practice medicine until age 86.

“A pleasure to crew for and a real sailor” Dick Doherty recalls. As a young man Dick was Lightning crew for Dr. McIntosh at the Algonquin YC which later merged with NYC. Dick also remembers a regatta race on Sodus Bay which was interrupted by a launch coming to take Dr. McIntosh away so that he could deliver a baby.

Howard Stickney recollects that Dr. McIntosh was a local Lightning champion for many years and attended many national competitions. Both Howard and Dick served as crew for Dr. McIntosh several times in the 70's at the Old Salts Regatta in Buffalo.

Marion Stickney told me of a recent article in the D & C written by Carol Ritter upon hearing of Dr. McIntosh's passing. Ms. Ritter, who interviewed Dr. McIntosh last year on his 100th birthday, was impressed by the modesty and humility of the man. During the interview, he mentioned something to Ms. Ritter about doing a little sailing -- only to later show her a trophy case packed with awards.

It will probably not surprise those who knew him that Dr. McIntosh's gravestone is decorated with a Lightning silhouette.



Penn Yan

By the time you read this, the boat should be gone from the parking lot. It was purchased as a committee boat for the Club in 1984. Over the years, it has served us pretty well although there were a couple of rather costly repairs. It has been out of commission the last few years with a cracked engine block. Rather than repair the boat, it was decided to sell it and a buyer was finally located.



Launch Breakfast Report

-N. Platt

A lovely May morning greeted those on their way to the 2003 launch breakfast. The 30 (or so) people who attended were treated to pancakes, scrambled eggs, juice, fruit salad and breakfast meats.



The cooks – John Boettcher, Ed Bell, Norma Platt and Eva Smith – drew light duty owing to an elegant set of leftovers from a brunch held at the club on Saturday. ("Thank you," Norm and Rosemary Dahl.) Many attendees pitched in to help set up, serve and clean up. "Many hands make light work!"



Lightning Fleet News

-Alan McReynolds

Hey guys and gals its time to get those boats out if you haven't already done so. The racing has started and while the numbers have been up and down, we had 9 boats show up for Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. It was great racing. If you need any help getting the boat out let me know, and we will see about getting you some help. Hope to see you all on the race course.

Thursday Night Sailing - We will be having an information and question and answer picnic on Thursday evening June 12th at 6:30 (Please bring a dish to pass and I will bring hamburgers, hots, and beer). I will have guidelines and procedures for the races. We can discuss those and make any modifications that are deemed necessary. If there are any rules or racing questions we will discuss them as well. Please, if you can send me questions or areas of discussion before the picnic and I will try to organize a presentation.

Important points - Safety - The safety equipment is mandatory and I will be surveying boats throughout the season. That full list will be available at the meeting, but includes: working compass, PFD's for everyone on board, an additional floating cushion w/ whistle, bailing bucket, anchor, 50 feet of line (for tow and/or anchor), working running lights (boats under 20 feet need only a working flashlight). Courtesy - Let's make this as much fun as we can for everyone. Involvement - Let's get everyone involved. Can you give someone a tow? Can you help with the picnics while folks are racing? Can you help man/woman the safety or committee boats? Can you help set up beforehand?

Over the course of the last few weeks several folks have offered to help in some capacity or other and this is wonderful. Unfortunately, I did not write any of those names down and can't remember all of them, so it you have volunteered and I have not contacted you please call or email me and let me know how you can help. email: almac@rohcester.rr.com Phone: 585/425-7715 cell: 585/734-8742. Please RSVP by June 10th about the picnic.

The Central New York Lightning District now has its own web site thanks to Landy Atkinson. Check out cnyLightnings.org to find the 2003 regatta schedule, regatta results and news from around the CNY District. There is even a picture of Elizabeth Fox Dodge's baby boy on the site.

Laser Fleet Report

-Jim Cuddihee

The Laser fleet is hosting an Empire State Games qualifying regatta Saturday, June 7. between 15 and 25 boats are expected to compete in the racing on the lake. The fleet will resume its normal Thursday evening sailing in mid June, where the emphasis is on both helping people become comfortable in the boat, and on developing more advanced racing skills. We have two club owned boats which are available to members for introductory or occasional sails. Please contact me if you would like some help getting rigged and through some early sails.

NYC Parking Lot Rules

It's nice to see the parking lot bustling but maybe we should review a few of the rules. Our Commodore Jim Cuddihee says these are simple common sense and courtesy. First off, if you park behind someone, blocking them in, you MUST leave the keys in your ignition so that they can get out if need be. Second, don't park in the roadway leading to the Allen's property to the North. They are good neighbors and we should do everything we can to keep them happy. The prohibited areas are clearly marked by signs. Third, if you pull in with a boat on a trailer, get it detached from your car, the car parked, and the boat and trailer in

some out of the way place before you start setting up the boat. Fourth, if you are one of several boats using the hoist, try to get the launch done and your boat out of the way as quickly as possible so that others can use the facility.

History of Irondequoit Bay

-Norm Dahl

An interesting article titled Irondequoit Bay – The Business of Pleasure by Florence C. Smith was discovered in an issue of Rochester History (1994, Vol. LVI, No. 1) edited by Ruth Rosenberg-Naparsteck. It details the early history of the Bay and has many interesting gems such as the origin of the name Birds and Worms, the many amusement areas that existed around the Bay, and the building of bridges across the mouth of the Bay by private individuals. A copy is in the clubhouse.

The Deputy Fire Marshall who inspected our furnace is also a Rochester history buff. He said the

Monroe County Library has photos of Irondequoit Bay on their web site. Many are of old-fashioned iceboats, so you may be interested. One was even propeller-driven.

Go to <http://mcls.rochester.lib.ny.us/> , click on Rochester Images and search for Irondequoit Bay.

The Practical Mariner's Book of Knowledge

This is an interesting book by John Vigor (1994 International Marine Camden Maine) that I found at the library. It is organized like a dictionary with history of terms, useful information and humor. A few excerpts follow.

Horsepower, Generated by Sail– In a Force 4 breeze (11 to 16 knots) 500 square feet of sail generates roughly 10 h.p. That's about 1 horsepower for every 50 square feet. Thus a dinghy sail of 75 square feet generates about 1.5 h.p. Note, however, that if the wind speed doubles, horsepower is increased four times, not two times.

Jib Sheet, Strain on– To find the force applied to the sheet by a jib or forestaysail, multiply the sail area in square feet by the wind speed (in knots) squared. Divide the answer by 232. This will give you the approximate pull on the sheet in pounds. For example 100 ft² jib in 20 knots of breeze gives 172 lbs of pull. See below for consequences.

Pull, Maximum by One Person– The maximum horizontal pull a person can exert on a line, given a good foothold, is about 150 pounds. When pulling downward, of course, maximum pull equals the weight of the person pulling.

Newsletter Contributions

Landy Atkinson publishes and electronically distributes the Newsletter. John Boettcher is editor.

Next issue will be in August. Send contributions to J. Boettcher (platt@eznet.net).