
Birds & Worms News

Volume 8 Issue 1

February 2004



2004 Board Standing: *Cindy McReynolds (Secretary), Bob Shanebrook (Laser Fleet Captain), Alan McReynolds (Lightning Fleet Captain), Bob Crum (Harbormaster), Don Taylor (Past Harbormaster), Jim Cuddihee (Past Commodore), Paul Riordan (Assistant Treasurer)* Seated: *Virginia Cumine (Vice Commodore), Eva Smith (Commodore), Jillian Stokes (Treasurer), Howard Stickney (Director)* On Floor: *Andy Smith (Rear Commodore), Maggie Gibbons (Cruising Fleet Captain)* Not pictured: *John Boettcher (Membership Chair), Dean Clayton (Director), Todd Calvin (Snipe Fleet Captain), Kathy Callon (Race Committee Chairman), Bill Vaughn (RC Cochair)*

What's Up?

- April 3 – Porch Work Party #1
- April 10 – Porch Work Party #2
- April 17 – Porch Work Party #3
- April 23 – General Member Mtg
- April 24 – Spring Work Party
 - Porch Work Party #4
- May 1 – Porch Work Party #5
 - (if needed)
- May 2 – Launch Day Breakfast

Since the Last Newsletter

(J. Boettcher)

Thought I'd try a newsletter in the middle of winter. It certainly is

winter! I measured 14 inches of ice on the Bay and 2 feet of snow on top of my Laser. Even though there is no sailing (pardon me, ice boaters) going on, there is a lot of stuff to report. Hence the mid-Winter Birds and Worms. This issue starts with the Cups and Flags of last fall and ends with the current parking lot problems. The commodore introduces the new board of directors, and many other things. Read on.

Cups and Flags Banquet – November 8th

(J. Boettcher, photos by S. Atkins)

The Cups and Flags was a big success thanks to the efforts of lots

of folks. Alan McReynolds headed the committee organizing the event and was superb as the emcee for the night. The hors d'oeuvres selection was planned by Annie Schoenhardt who unfortunately could not attend. The entire McReynolds family took care of the purchase and layout of the food. Ed Bell made punch. The Parkers picked the wine. The Club was spiffed up and decorated by Virginia Cumine, Rosemary Dahl, Eva Smith and a host of others. Thanks to all the folks who helped with the clean up afterward. Apologies to those who contributed to the event but I forgot to mention.



In addition to the festivities inside, many were drawn outside by the lunar eclipse that Alan M. had also arranged. After stuffing ourselves, the attendees listened to fleet reports and awards, the details of which can be found in the fleet sections of this newsletter. Wearing his fleet captain hat, Alan gave out the Lightning awards and presented thank you plaques to all the folks who helped make the Thursday night series such a big success. The year-end review of Snipe racing was presented by fleet captain Todd Calvin.

Retiring Commodore Jim Cuddihee reviewed the past year and thanked the retiring Board for their support during his tenure. Jim then presented the Whittenburg trophy commemorating distinguished service by a non-board member to John Atkins. On behalf of the Club, Alan M. presented Jim with a gift (wooden box with inlaid Celtic knot and commemorative brass plaque) commemorating his service. Jim introduced our new commodore Eva Smith who, in turn, introduced the new members of the board of directors



Commodore's Corner

(Eva Smith)

Welcome to the new season at Newport Yacht Club! What's that you say, there's no sailing going on? Newport is primarily a sailing Club, but most of us are members for the fellowship and social interactions that go on year round, as well as for the sailing. We had a wonderful Cups & Flags celebration in November, a fun and informative dinner and membership meeting in January, a book discussion in February, and I know the various fleets have been having pot luck dinners or meetings during the winter months. So you see, the bay may not be good for soft water sailing at the moment (or hard water sailing for that matter), but the Club members are still enjoying activities at the Club.

Your new board of directors is in place and busy planning for a successful year. Some of the members of the board you will recognize from last year, and some are new. As your commodore, I'm new in the position this year, but have served as commodore twice before, most recently in 1991. Vice commodore Virginia Cumine, a social member who has been crewing on Snipes, did a great job last year, and we are pleased to have her back. Andy Smith, a member of the Lightning Fleet, is your new rear commodore. Andy has served on

the board in various positions, including rear commodore, over the years. Secretary Cindy McReynolds, a Lightning sailor, served as secretary last year and has volunteered to do it again. Jillian Stokes, treasurer, is a social member who is a popular choice among skippers of various fleets as crew. She served as our treasurer last year and we are glad to have her again. Paul Riordan, assistant treasurer, belongs to the Cruising Fleet. He held this position last year as well and we welcome him back. Harbormaster Bob Crum is a Lightning Fleet member, and new to the board this year. Welcome, Bob. Race committee chairman is actually a co-chairman position this year. Bill Vaughn, last year's chairman, originally agreed to help us find a new person, and he did, in the person of Kathy Callon, a member of the Cruising Fleet. He is willing to serve with Kathy as co-chair this year. We also have three directors-at-large: John Boettcher of the Laser Fleet; Dean Clayton, also a Laser sailor, and Howard Stickney, a Lightning Fleet member. In addition, last year's officers not repeating this year also serve on the board. The fleet captains for this year (also board members) are: Lightning Fleet, Al McReynolds; Snipe Fleet, Todd Calvin; Laser Fleet, Bob Shanebrook; and Cruising Fleet, Maggie Gibbons.

We also have three standing committees. The Finance Committee, who prepared our budget and will keep an eye on the Club finances during the year, is composed of Landy Atkinson, Ed Bell, and George Hock. The Membership Committee, looking for new members, is headed up by John Boettcher. The Long-Range Planning Committee, which addresses solutions for ongoing issues, is chaired by Ed Bell.

Our special thanks to the editors and publishers of the Newsletter: John Boettcher, Ed Bell and Landy Atkinson.

There is much to look forward to in the coming months. We will be replacing the front porch during the month of April. There will also be a dinner and membership meeting in

that month and the Spring work party. Racing will also be beginning, and maybe a Launch Breakfast again this year? The popular Thursday Night Sailing will be back again. The Laser, Snipe, and Lightning Fleets are all planning regattas at the Club. The Cruising Fleet is hoping for Moonlight Sailing opportunities for members. There will be the usual summer holiday celebrations and membership meetings in July and October. Newport also hosts the Brown Jug Race on Labor Day this year.

This is your club. Feel free to offer suggestions and comments to any board member. Meanwhile, think Spring! It's really only just around the corner.

Jan 23 General Membership Meeting

(A. Smith, E. Smith photos-S. Atkins)

If you weren't there you missed a very good membership meeting. As always, a great group of people can rise to any occasion. The first challenge was to get the door to the second floor unlocked so we could get upstairs to get the beer. The two cases were upstairs. There was a problem with the lock to the second floor. It had fallen apart in Bob Shanebrook's hand a few days earlier, and he tightened the screws. It just wouldn't open. John Atkins and I got it open, and we reinstalled the moldings. Not a problem. Bob fixed it properly over the weekend.

As always, the food (lasagna, etc.) was great. Thanks to the Snipe Fleet and other members who contributed salads and desserts. Eric Schoenhardt gave the members an idea of what the porch renovation project would consist of, including four work parties on the Saturdays in April. Members were very receptive to the plan. Thank you, Eric. The Finance Committee presented the proposed 2004 operating budget, with a modest dues increase. The budget passed easily. The members then voted to take the needed \$2,800 from the General Fund to complete the porch project. Many thanks to the Finance Committee - Landy Atkinson, George Hock, and Ed Bell for all their hard work!

There was a good discussion about the problem with the ice fishermen filling up the parking lot. We had an eyewitness report from one of the new members, Lynn Bluett, that it was full again, just the weekend before the membership meeting. The message went out to all in attendance that this is our club, and those few that say it is "OK for a few fisher guys to park" are way out of line. Now how to still be a "Friendly Club" where new members will want to join? This has always been a fine line. There are several ideas floating around (new signs, fliers on the windshields, etc.) The board will be following up on these ideas. Thanks to all who participated in the discussions at the meeting. Remember, this is your club, and you are required to attend all four membership meetings, either in person or by proxy, and it's always a great time!



Security and Trespassing Issues

(Andy Smith, Rear Commodore)

It seems the word is out in the fishing community as to the combination of the locks for the East and West dock gates. One fisherman told a member that a "friend" told him that it is OK to use the docks for fishing: "The guy that owns that power boat over there told me the combination" - pointing to the club owned boats in the parking lot. The two combination pad locks to the East & West docks were changed. The new numbers are posted at the end of the bar. (Thanks, Peter Allen). They will likely change again in the spring. Stayed tuned.

Clearly, we have a problem of uninvited guests using the club facilities as a public fishing access

site, both regular fishing during warmer weather, and ice fishing. This can cause a major liability problem if someone gets hurt and decides to sue. I'm sure all of you have heard stories of the generous decisions that have come out of the courts lately. How do you think we would fare? (Those rich "Yacht Club" people can afford it!) Our parking lot should be available for all the members to use, and not be already full of other vehicles. With the reduced parking in the winter, it only takes a few cars and pickups to fill our lot.

The fencing and gates to the docks were first installed in response to a vandalism and smoking carelessness issue when a Lightning burned at the end of the West dock. We have since lost another Lightning that burned in the parking lot. Both members have since dropped out - wonder why? And besides the legal issues, we own the Club. We pay for it. It should be available for us. There are public fishing access sites at both the North and South end of the Bay. We do not have to share. All members should actively discourage any uninvited guests from using the Club property for any reason.

Having said all of the above, we have to leave the gate open to maintain the right-of-way for our next door neighbors, and the ramp gate is left open during the winter season for the fire department to launch their hovercraft if needed. It's not easy to keep 'em out.

The police have been called and they have responded. But they can't continually be coming down. We all have to do our part. Tell the trespassers that they have to leave. If you have a personal problem with confronting some of the larger ones, there is a stack of NO PARKING fliers inside the Club. I ask the assistance of all members to slide one under the windshield wiper of any offending vehicle. The board will continue to work on this problem. We're open to ideas.

Vice Commodore News

(V. Cumine)

Many thanks to Rosemary Dahl for leading the book discussion of *Peace Like A River* on Saturday, February 7, 2004. Maybe some of you already know that this book is the subject of "If all of Rochester read the same book" Rosemary was very well prepared and we learned a lot, discussed everyone's varying opinions about the book, and enjoyed great food, as usual. Eleven people attended and enjoyed homemade soups, chili & bread. Congratulations to Jean and Ellsworth Bahrman who won the trivia quiz. And they hadn't even finished the book. Norma Platt came in second. Thanks again to all who attended.

Exciting plans have been made for the clubhouse to have a renovated front porch that will surely improve appearance and function. The membership voted at the January meeting to approve the expenditures, and we are fortunate that Eric Schoenhardt volunteered to lead this major project. Many members have committed to working on various Saturdays beginning April 3rd. With this dedicated and enthusiastic workforce, Eric's plans call for the porch to be completed in four Saturdays. Please join us in this rewarding endeavor.

Club Buys New Committee Boat

(P. Allen)

For several years the Club has been without a committee boat, relying instead upon members with larger cruising sailboats to volunteer them for regatta duties. This has worked out pretty well. As expected, a sailboat turns out to be a much better platform for race management (stability, deck height) than most power boats and especially our old Penn Yan. I've had my ear to the ground (water?) regarding a suitable sailboat for the Club to purchase for over a year. Toward the end of the season, Ernie and Audrey Schmidt (former members) informed us that they were interested in selling their boat. A deal was struck, and you can

once again look forward to this boat being back in the Newport basin.



Challenge from Ruth Sahs-Thomas

One of our most remote honorary members and an avid Birds and Worms reader throws down a challenge. Ruth made a donation to the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. The funds were used to purchase chairs which were inscribed with "Lightning Fleet 77". Ruth will buy you a drink if you visit the Club and find the chairs. It's a long way to go for a drink, but if you're in the neighborhood?

Lightning Fleet Report

(Alan McReynolds, fleet captain and Howard Stickney, scorer)

The order of finish for the 2003 Spring series was McReynolds, Jamison, Pope. For the Fall series, the order was Doherty, Atkins, Jamison. The Thursday night series results were Pope, Hallagan, Atkins. These results were combined for the Championship series in which Logan McReynolds was first; Bob Jamison, second and Dan Pope, third. Special Fleet awards were rookie of the year (Marc Schieber), tip over trophy (Logan M.) and youngest skipper (Ryan Atkinson). Howard Stickney was presented with a special recognition award for keeping track and working up the race results for the Fleet.

Snipe Fleet Report

(Todd Calvin)

Boats and crews were evenly matched for the 2003 season judging by the way the places shifted from one series to another. For the Spring series the order of finish was Dahl (1603), Courtsal (1577), Horvath (1542). For the Summer series, we have the same competitors but a much different order and much closer in points Courtsal (1670), Horvath (1661), Dahl (1656). Courtsal maintained his dominance in the Fall series with Vaughn coming on strong: Courtsal (1681), Vaughn (1610), Dahl (1591). Overall, Courtsal took top honors followed by Horvath and then Dahl.

Snipe Pot Luck in January

(Joanne Vaughn)

The Snipe Fleet held their annual January Potluck at the Vaughn's house. It was a dark and snowy day but the fleet gathered around the wood stove to enjoy some spirits, a tasty brunch, some billiards and air hockey and lots of conversation. The business portion took about 2.5 minutes so there was lots of time to eat and enjoy. Attendees included: Drazzel-Riordins, Courtsals, Morse's, Horvath's, Todd Calvin, Virginia Cumine and Margaret Gibbons. (I hope I did not leave anyone out)



Newsletter Contributions

Landy Atkinson publishes and electronically distributes the Newsletter. John Boettcher is the editor. Ed Bell, Eva Smith and Norma Platt proofreading. Next issue April of 2004. Send contributions to J. Boettcher (johnwb1@bluefrog.com)