
Birds & Worms News

Volume 8 Issue 3

June 2004



Laser Regatta 2004 – Lots of Capsizes in the 20 Boat Fleet

What's Up

6/27 – Open House (J. Boettcher)

7/17 – Lightning Regatta (A. McReynolds)

7/23 – Dinner and General Membership Meeting

7/24 – Summer Work Party

Since the Last Newsletter - J. Boettcher

The season is now in full swing. Commodore Eva Smith efficiently conducted the April 24th membership meeting (lasted only one hour). The Laser Fleet sponsored a pizza potluck preceding the meeting. Next day was the Spring Work Party where all the usual stuff was done to open the club for the season. Oh yeah, there were a few things to finish off regarding the

porch. The West dock also got some attention (see the rear commodore's report). The annual Launch Breakfast was held the following Sunday (see separate report). Sunday racing started the following week. By the time you get this newsletter, three sessions of Thursday night sailing and the NYC Laser Regatta will have been sailed.

On a sad note, I received word of Ernie Brown's passing. Sterling passed along an obituary which appears elsewhere in this issue.

Race Committee Chairman - Eva Smith

On June 13th, I sent out an e-mail to the membership telling you that Kathy Callon had to resign her position as race committee chairman. I asked for a volunteer to fill this position so that we could continue

our racing program and relieve the Vaughn's from their over 2 year commitment to the job. I had hoped to have the name of a member who is willing to take on this position by this writing. To date, I have had one member say that they would try to fit it into an already full plate if no one else volunteers. Since the main purpose of the Club is to promote small boat racing, I had hoped for a better response. This is a volunteer Club. We cannot have the programs we want without having members who are willing to contribute time. The racing program needs YOU to step up to the plate! Contact me NOW.

Commodore's Corner - Eva Smith

Just thought I'd fill you in on a few things that have happened and a few things that are coming.

Committee Boat Name Some great names were submitted for the Committee Boat. Thanks to all for your contributions. The Board voted at their June meeting and decided on Doc Mac, after Dr. John McIntosh. Doc McIntosh, or "Doc Mac", had been a member of NYC since sometime in the 1930's as a Lightning Sailor. He was a family practitioner, and many of our Club members' children, if not the members themselves, availed themselves of his services. He was also an excellent Lightning sailor and friend to everyone. You may remember seeing him help to distribute trophies at the Brown Jug 50th anniversary race at NYC in 2002. Doc Mac died last year at the age of 100. Naming the boat after him is a fitting tribute to his contributions to NYC over the years.

Why isn't Doc Mac in the water?

Well, for one thing, the name isn't on it yet. But more importantly, we have discovered a leaking problem with the boat. We have had the surveyor who originally looked at the boat prior to our purchasing it take a look at it along with Bob Crum, John Atkins, and Al McReynolds, to name a few. The problem has been identified and a plan for repair is in the works by several members. If you are interested in helping, contact John Atkins. But for the time being, the boat is dry docked so that repair work can be done.

Thursday Night Sailing. Yes, it has begun. The first two nights saw 11-13 boats on the line. The picnics have been well attended and enjoyed by all. Please consider joining in the fun as a sailor, a volunteer, or just for the fellowship after sailing. There are sign-up sheets for volunteers to help with the races and the picnic activities on the large bulletin board near the parking lot door in the club. This can, and should be a club event. *Come join the fun!*

July General Membership Meeting

The next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 23rd. The Cruising Fleet is handling the dinner before the meeting. Details will be in the mailings. Among items to be discussed are new member applications, a report from the Long Range Planning Committee,

and a vote on the candidates for the Nominating Committee. Candidates for the Nominating Committee are posted on the official bulletin board (the one behind glass) at the club. They are: John Boettcher, Howard Stickney, Ted Horvath, and Maggie Gibbons. Remember, you must be present, in person or by proxy, or be liable for a fine. Come for the latest news and fun with your fellow members.

Upcoming Regattas Thanks for your cooperation in removing boats and trailers from the parking lot for the Laser Regatta. We will be having a couple more regattas coming up: Lightning Regatta July 17th & 18th, Snipe Regatta August 28th & 29th. We will need your cooperation again on those dates. The Lightning Fleet is hoping to make the party at their regatta on that Saturday a club event. Look for more details in upcoming mailings and plan to join the Lightnings for a fun evening. I'm sure both fleets will also be looking for volunteers to help with their events. Be part of the fun!

Labor Day Brown Jug Race NYC will be hosting the Brown Jug Race on Labor Day this year. This is always a good chance to meet and mingle with other sailors on the Bay. We will be providing the food and drink. Everyone will be providing the fun. Look for more details as the date gets closer. We will need the help of the whole club to make this a successful event.

Membership Committee Report

Tom and Terrie Lee were inducted as new NYC members at the April General Membership Meeting. Both Tom and Terrie work for Kodak and live in Irondequoit. They have two grown children – Casey and Clifford. In his application, Tom mentions growing up near the Lake and has experience racing on GYC and RYC boats. Currently he crews on the Boettcher-Platt Lightning. Late breaking news is his purchase of a Snipe in cooperation with Pam Warner, a prospective member.

Launch Breakfast - May 2, 2004

A sunny, warm, spring morning brought out a good crowd for the

annual Launch Breakfast. Thirty folks showed up for the free meal and fellowship. We also tried out the new porch. Doing the cooking were Virginia Cumine, Joanne Vaughn, Peter Allen, Peggy Crevey, Ed and Jeanne Bell, John Boettcher, Norma Platt, and the pancake queen, our own commodore Eva Smith.



Rear Commodore Report - J. Boettcher for Andy Smith

Much of the effort of the Club this spring focused on the new porch but other things were also happening. The hoist appears to be leaning more each year. Andy attached a cable to a pre-existing connection in the footing in order to provide some support. Watch out for this new obstacle. The West dock continues to settle and a Winter work party to do a repair was frustrated by the high water level and ice and snow pack. At the Spring Work Party, a small group corrected three or four of the lowest sections of the dock. Since that time, even higher water has prompted continued repair. An entire section of dock closest the seawall was overrun by water. This was fixed single handedly by Andy on 6/1 (a 45 minute repair we are told). The following Saturday a work party of West dock residents (Doyle, Hill, Leary, Curran, Taylor, Bell, Skolnick, Boettcher, Atkins) rendered the repair more permanent and raised a large finger pier.

Vice Commodore News - V. Cumine

There are eleven club reservations for May, June & July. I'm sure everyone has been hearing all the very positive comments about the porch renovations & new grilling shelter. Many thanks to all the

workers for their skill and effort on the porch project.

Howard Stickney and Bob Shanebrook finished painting the porch eaves and staining picnic tables. Bob is particularly motivated since his daughter's wedding is being held at the club. Please note the new nautical curtains in the ladies restroom, created by Lynne Shanebrook.

Vice commodore expenses so far this fiscal year are \$4,585.61. The demolition dumpster, alone, was \$600. Amount budgeted was \$5,729. Barring any disasters, it looks like we will be pretty close to budget. Last year at 5/29/03, expenses were \$4,244.

Many thanks to Don Taylor and Maggie Gibbons who have generously taken on the responsibility of returning empty soda & beer cans for return deposits this summer. (Not a pleasant job in the heat of summer).

Please be sure to mark your calendars for the Summer Work Party on Sat, July 24 at 9 AM. Perhaps that would be a good time to resurrect the children's play area?

Commodore's Punch Recipe - Ed Bell

I received a lot of compliments and questions about the commodore's punch at and after the 2003 Cups & Flags Banquet so I decided to give up the secret and publish the recipe. Actually, there are two recipes. I used the first one. If I am invited back this year, I'll try the second. So, make you own or plan to come to the Cups & Flags and drink at the commodore's expense.

White Wine Punch

White wine, 3 liters (4 bottles) - ask your wine shop; a medium-dry to dry is good; definitely not sweet

Ginger Ale, 1 qt.

Club soda, 1 qt.

Orange Curacao, 12 oz.

Brandy, 16 oz.

Chill all ingredients and combine in a punch bowl. Ice and garnish can be added. I prefer to add just a small

ice ring (to keep the punch cold without too much dilution) and have an ice bucket on the side.

Alternative recipe: wine, Champagne, no ginger ale

White wine, 1.5 liters (2 bottles)

Champagne, 1.5 liters (2 bottles)

Club soda, 1 qt.

Orange Curacao, 12 oz.

Brandy, 16 oz.

Directions as above.

Cruising Fleet Report - M. Gibbons

It was a cold, rainy Sunday on April 25 but there was plenty of warmth at the Cruising Fleet meeting held at the club. Sixteen folks came to enjoy food and fellowship and get words of wisdom from experienced cruiser Peter Allen following brief self-introductions. Hats off to Fleet Captain Maggie Gibbons for organizing what will no doubt be the first of many successful gatherings of the Fleet.



Following on the success of the first potluck, the Cruising Fleet got together again on Sunday June 13th. Attendance surpassed the first gathering. Ellsworth and Jean Bahrman provided chicken and sausage from the grill with side dishes provided by the attendees. Peter Allen addressed the group on several topics including beginning racing, navigation marks, and safety equipment and procedures.

Laser Fleet Report - J. Boettcher

In case you are wondering, the yellow rope bordering the Laser ramps is a goose guard. Our fleet captain Bob Shanebrook came up with this after tiring of mowing the

droppings. I'm told it works quite well. Keeps the stuff off the ramps also.

Jim Cuddihee organized the annual Newport Laser Regatta on June 19th. I don't have complete details but around 20 boats participated. Peter Allen was race committee and operated from the boat generously donated by Don Taylor and Maggie Gibbons. Andy Smith and Bob Crum manned the crash boats. Carol Cuddihee, Ed Bell and Bob Shanebrook took care of the many shore duties. As the below picture from Andy might indicate, it was pretty interesting sailing. I will pass along the results when they become available.



Snipe Fleet Report - Norm Dahl

We made our annual pilgrimage to the Snipe regatta in Guelph. The photo by Rosemary shows how close the overlook is to the race course on Guelph Lake. John and I finished sixth out of eight. Doug and Marnie Folsetter won the regatta.



The Briody Memorial Snipe Regatta will be held August 28-29 at our own wonderful club. We expect boats from Canada, Michigan, Ohio and maybe Massachusetts. Unfortunately, these out-of-town hotshots usually trample us locals, but we learn a lot from them and

have a great time. Peter Allen will again serve as PRO. Rosemary Dahl is arranging for the Dinosaur Barbeque to feed us. Regatta chair Norm Dahl is looking for a few volunteers to help on the race committee.

Deb Wight Elected Chairwoman of The Cobblestone School Board

Andy Smith brought this to our attention. Deb Wight is the wife of Landy Atkinson.

The Cobblestone School board of trustees has elected the following: Deb Wight, Xerox Capital Services, chairwoman; . . . (*published in the Democrat and Chronicle on 6/7/04*)

Farewell to Ernie Brown (from Sterling Bush)

Ernest Lancaster Brown, Jr., a resident of Sunnyside 4339 Locust Circle, Harrisonburg, Va., passed away on April 30, 2004.

He was born July 15, 1926 in Philadelphia, Pa. He served in the US Army Signal Corps as a cryptographer in the Philippines and Japan. Mr. Brown attended the University of Pennsylvania and the

University of Connecticut (UConn) and graduated from the University of Hartford. He worked in Hartford, Conn. for Dunham-Bush and for the Webster, N.Y.-based Xerox Corp. as a senior industrial manager prior to his retirement in 1986.

He actively participated in Lightning sailing at Newport Yacht Club in Rochester, New York. He served as the commodore and on the board of directors for many years. He was a member for over 25 years with the National Ski Patrol, receiving national honors. He joined the Canton, CT ski patrol in 1968 and then in 1982 he became patrol leader at Swain Ski Area in southern New York and later patrolled at Massanutten Ski Area into his seventies.

The Shenandoah Valley of Virginia became his home in his retirement years. He enjoyed gardening, hiking, canoeing and skiing. The home was featured in Virginia's house and garden tours in Massanutten. He was a member of the Board of Directors at the Massanutten Property Owners Association for six years. He started

the Massanutten Arboretum in 1991 and was president of Rockingham Springs Arboretum from 1991-1997 to preserve nature. Recently, he was the treasurer of the Shenandoah Valley Sierra Club chapter until the time of his death.

As a long-time member of the Appalachian Mountain Club he hiked and canoed in various areas of the United States. He was also president of the Weyers Cave Ruritans from 2000-2001.

He is preceded in death by his son, Geoffrey, in August of 1988. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Catharine; his daughter, Sterling, of Amherst, Mass.; his son, Henry, and one grandchild, Christopher T. Brown of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Newsletter Contributions

Landy Atkinson publishes and electronically distributes the Newsletter. John Boettcher is the editor. Thanks to Norma Platt and Ed Bell for proofreading. Next issue will be in June of 2004. Send contributions to John Boettcher. (johnwb1@bluefrog.com)