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# Birds & Worms News

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Volume 8 Issue 5

November 2004

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**Some of the happy sailors at Cups & Flags 2004**

## **What's Up**

1/22 - Book Group meeting

1/28 - General membership meeting and dinner

## **Since the Last Newsletter**

The sailing season came to an end on October 17<sup>th</sup> with the Snipe fleet having good turnouts throughout the fall. The weather was moderately cooperative with mild temperatures but shifty west winds.

The annual meeting was held on October 22<sup>nd</sup> with the high point being the election of the new board. Maggie Gibbons presented the slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Committee (Gibbons, Horvath, Boettcher, Stickney). The slate was approved by the membership. See article below for

details about the new board. Four new members were also voted into the club at this meeting (see Membership Report). Preceding the meeting was a chili and soup pot luck hosted by the Lightning Fleet. The following day was the fall work party and a summary can be found in the vice commodore's report below.

Eva does a nice job of summarizing the End of Season Celebration in her Commodore's Corner.

## **Meet the New Board**

Eva Smith will lead the club as commodore for a second term. Also serving a second term are Andy Smith (rear commodore), Jillian Stokes (treasurer) and Bob Crum (harbormaster). Lynn Bluett will take over the vice commodore duties

from Virginia Cumine. Tom Lee will replace Cindy McReynolds as secretary. The assistant treasurer will be Ellsworth Barhman who takes over from Paul Riordan. Race chairman duties will be assumed by Eric Schoenhardt, who replaces Bill Vaughn. The retired officers will still be members of the board. To fill out the board, three directors were required with Howard Stickney, Rosemary Dahl, and Rick Gammons agreeing to serve. The above folks plus the four fleet captains comprise the Board of Directors for 2005.

## **Commodore's Corner – Eva Smith**

Our End of the Season Celebration was held on Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at the club. It was well attended by 64 guests. Everyone was stunned by the appearance of the club

thanks to the decorating talents of Annie Schoenhardt, assisted by Sally Atkins, Rosemary Dahl, Carol Cuddihee, Norma Platt, and Cindy, Erin and Al McReynolds, who also helped with the preparation and presentation of some of the edibles. Ed Bell handled the Commodore's

Punch Bowl with the same finesse as last year. Thank you all. And, of course, thank you to Rear Commodore Andy Smith for his organization of the party. I hope everyone enjoyed the festivities.

Congratulations to all who received racing awards. My thanks to the outgoing Board of Directors who did an excellent job. I also appreciate those members who have volunteered to be on this year's board and look forward to another good year.





The entire membership had a lot to celebrate at this party. With your help and hard work we have a wonderful new front porch and grilling hut. You helped with race committee duties, shared the lawn mowing for the year, helped out with the Thursday night sailing program by loaning your boats for committee boats and shared the duties of race committee, made dock repairs, just to name a few. When this club works together, there's almost nothing we can't accomplish. You should all be very proud, and I thank you for your dedication.

Some special efforts that you may or may not know about that I'd like to acknowledge include: John

#### Rear Commodore – Andy Smith

Andy says Virginia's report (see below) sums things up pretty well.

#### Vice Commodore's Report – Virginia Cumine

Why do we always have beautiful weather on the work party days? October was another lovely day to spend on the bay winterizing and repairing the clubhouse. Many thanks to all of those who participated. The clubhouse always shows great improvement after the work of so many members. Andy

Smith's team worked on the drainage for the soon-to-be new gutter installation. All the rain will actually have some place to go now except into the basement.



Atkins and Al McReynolds, for their extensive work on the *Doc Mac*; Landy Atkinson and John Boettcher, without whom we wouldn't have a newsletter; Lynne and Denise Bluett, who worked almost every Thursday night on race committee; Todd Calvin, our webmaster, and Dick Doherty, who is responsible for the new flag pole at the south end of the property. Also, the flowers around the Club property and porch were bought and planted by Marcia Mepham; the *Doc Mac* has its name proudly displayed because of Norma Platt and John Boettcher; the new porch and grilling hut were planned and headed up by Eric Schoenhardt; Bob Shanebrook did extra work on the club grounds, "spiffed" up the inside of the club, and did some little extras on the porch; and Howard Stickney put in extra time on painting and staining on the porch. I'm sure there are others – a big thanks to you all.

With all the exceptional things done at the club this year, choosing a recipient for the Wittenberg Trophy was not easy. This trophy is given to a member who is not on the board of directors and who, in the commodore's opinion, has gone above and beyond the regular responsibilities of a member. I looked at the purpose of the club as stated in the constitution, which is to promote small boat racing and sailing. As you know, we had to handle the race chairman position a little differently this year. Many of you stepped up to volunteer (after some prodding) for the weekly duty of helping with the running of races. However, without the organizational skills, determination, and constant help of one person, Joanne Vaughn, racing would not have been accomplished. Behind the scenes she tirelessly found personnel to work, made sure the volunteer PROs knew who was working, worked up a list of duties for the PROs, handled any problems with personnel, and kept me informed of every detail. I was pleased to present Joanne Vaughn with the Wittenberg Trophy for 2004. Thank you, Joanne.

So, celebrate our past year, take a bow, all of you, and get ready for 2005!

One job that still needs completion is the hole in the northeast corner of the clubhouse just under the roof. Someone who enjoys getting on the roof will find this an interesting job.

This past year there were over 30 member clubhouse reservations for private parties. It was a busy place this summer along with all the sailing. Most members especially enjoyed the use of the new expanded porch. Next spring, the porch gets a new roof under the capable leadership of Eric Schoenhardt. Be prepared to sign

up for demolishing and replacing next spring



It is nice to know that we have two more years of a three-year contract with our snowplower. Two companies that I requested estimates from did not want the job.



Your new vice commodore is Lynn Bluett who now has ALL the historical notebooks of each vice commodore. I certainly appreciate all the assistance I had to keep the clubhouse running smoothly.



Whenever I sent out an e-mail SOS, several members quickly responded each time and solved any

problem that arose. It has been a pleasure working with all these helpful people.

As vice commodore, a person has a great opportunity to meet most of the members so it has been a good experience for me. It just proves - you don't have to own a boat to get to know people.

### Membership Committee Report

Below is some background on the four members that were voted in at the October meeting. Look for their pictures on the South bulletin board.

**Billy Healy** is an associate member who lives in Newark but is currently a student at Hobart. He is also a member of their sailing team. Billy raced a Lightning in several of the TNS outings.

**Andrew Kaltenbach** is a welcome addition to the Laser fleet. He is a salesperson for Patterson Dental Supply. Andrew, his wife Lisa, and their one year old son Matthew live in Pittsford.

**Reynolds Hahn** is a Lightning sailor with a new (to him) boat. He crewed for Andy Smith in several of the TNS races. He is a lawyer in the NYS attorney general's office. He and wife Sandra live in Fairport. They have two grown children.

**Bruce Shierloh** and wife Mary have a company that installs wireless nodes along the canal for the convenience of boaters (I hope I got this right). They live in Rochester and have a son Christopher who is eight. Bruce and Mary are cruising sailors with a 26' MacGregor.

On a sad note **Barb Platt** has submitted a letter of resignation from the club that was accepted by the board. She had been a member for many years and we will miss her.

### Book Review Evening at Newport – Rosemary Dahl

Save Saturday, January 22, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. for a hearty supper of chili and soups, good breads, and desserts before a discussion of *Servants of the Map* by National Book Award-winning Rochester author Andrea Barrett. The book has been chosen by Writers and Books as the "If All of Rochester Read the Same Book," choice for

2005. The author was awarded a McArthur prize two or three years ago. The book includes two novellas and four short stories. Some of the characters have appeared in her other books, but it's not necessary to have read her before to appreciate *Servants of the Map*. Rosemary Dahl will lead the discussion.

### Famous Author Sails out of Newport Yacht Club

Brendan Courtsal, 3rd grade student at Cobblestone School, has written an essay in the newly published book called "The Plot Thickens... Harry Potter Investigated by Fans for Fans." He is the youngest contributor in this book by authors from all over the world. The book will be available at Barnes and Noble and Amazon.com within the next two-to-three weeks. This would be a great book for anyone who likes Harry Potter. Brendan is handling his new found "fame" with an aplomb bordering on disinterest but would probably sign your book if you asked. Submitted by his proud parents - Charlie Courtsal and Lisa Gwinner

### Lightning Fleet Report and Thursday Night Sailing – Alan McReynolds

We had 15 different Lightnings race during the season which is very good. We had 5 sailors with more than 25 races with John Boettcher ringing up 32 (this include PRO duties on Thursdays). This is up from last year when Logan had the most at 20 (although on the trophy it says 12, TNS was not counted). I think that Thursday night sailing has proved very successful for the Lightning fleet and the whole club, as well. We are looking to extend the TNS season for next year, adding more races in spring and fall that will be held on the bay. I have also had an interest from the Cruising Fleet in extending handicap racing into Sundays. I will work to get more complete season results posted on the website. Until then, see the details below.

We are still looking for a new fleet captain, so please let me know if you are interested. I will help find the PRO for the regatta and still take

care of TNS for one more year. BTW, I hear that Bob Jamison's boat may be for sale, if you or anyone you know are interested in moving up to a modern and fast Lightning this would be the boat!!! It has been well cared for and is in great shape. Let's try to keep it in the fleet!!!

Have a great snow season and see you next spring!!

Spring Series – McReynolds family, Doherty, Jamison

Summer Series – Hallagan, Pope, McReynolds family

Fall Series – Boettcher, Pope, Atkins

Championship Series – McReynolds family, Pope, Doherty, Hallagan, Boettcher

Most Races Sailed – Boettcher

Rookie Skipper – King

Youngest Skipper – Ryan Atkinson

Special Thanks – Howard Stickney (for all the scoring), John Fields (Spanish cedar for trophies)

TNS Lightning Series – Hallagan, Pope, McReynolds family, Doherty, Boettcher

TNS Tip over – Bluett

TNS 1<sup>st</sup> Cruiser – Bluett

TNS 1<sup>st</sup> Snipe – Dahl

TNS Special Thanks – Hill, Henderson, Bell, Taylor, and especially Denise Bluett

### **Snipe Fleet Report – Todd Calvin & Ted Horvath**

Todd is the retiring as Snipe Fleet captain after a two-year stint. Ted will take over in 2005. The Snipe Fleet is again planning its winter series of pot luck meetings beginning in December (19<sup>th</sup>) at Carol and Phil Morse's and in January (9<sup>th</sup>) at Rosemary and Norm Dahl's house.

The big winner of 2004 awards was Charlie Courtsal who captured first in the Spring and Summer series. Phil Morse took first in the Fall series. Todd Calvin got most improved with Norm Dahl and Bill Vaughn tied for most races sailed. Tom Lee got the novice racer and tip over trophy. More details are below.

Koker Brothers (Spring Series) – Courtsal, Horvath, Dahl

Webster Trophy (Summer Series) – Courtsal, Horvath, Dahl

Hanna Bowl (Summer Series – 2) – Horvath

Lindquist Bowl (Fall Series) – Morse, Courtsal, Vaughn

Herb Wahl Trophy (Most Improved) – Calvin

Hanna Trophy (Most Races) – Dahl and Vaughn (tie)

Ford Fisher Trophy (Tip over) – Lee

Master (Skipper carries medicare card) – Horvath

Grand Master (Skipper and crew carry medicare card) – Horvath

Tom Moose Trophy (Novice) – Lee

### **The Newport Yacht Club Seawall – Norm Dahl**

A report detailing the history, status and recommendations regarding our seawall will be available on our website. Members are encouraged to give it a read. Functioning seawalls are essential to NYC. Without them, the property will simply wash away.

### **Newsletter Contributions**

Landy Atkinson publishes and electronically distributes the newsletter. John Boettcher is the editor. Thanks to Norma Platt, Eva Smith, and Ed Bell for proofreading. Sally Atkins provided most of the digital photos. Next issue will be in April of 2005. Send contributions to J. Boettcher.

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