
Birds & Worms News

Volume 9 Issue 2 Page 1

July 2005



What's Up

General Membership Meeting and Dinner – 7/22

Summer Work Party – 7/23

Lightning Regatta – 8/13

Snipe Briody Regatta – 8/20, 21

Brown Jug Race (at RCC) – 9/5

Since the Last Newsletter

The porch has a new roof!!! Eric Schoenhardt's leadership and the dedicated efforts of many members who worked on April and May Saturdays made this happen. There was room for many skills in this endeavor from assembling, moving, and taking down scaffolding to measuring and cutting weird angles and offsets for rafters. We'll finish at the summer work party by sheathing the clubhouse wall under the porch and enclosing the underside of the roof.

The April General Membership meeting (4/22) saw the passage of some significant changes to the constitution

and bylaws. These will have to be ratified at the July meeting in order for them to become effective. The changes affect the term of officers, number of members of the board of directors, and associate membership. These much needed changes were the result of a committee headed by Landy Atkinson. Ed Bell of the Long-Range Planning Committee presented a vision for changing dockage at the club. This was captured in a drawing by Dan Pope which was distributed in the last newsletter. Finalization, permitting and financing remain to be determined. Prior to the meeting a pizza with salad & dessert potluck was sponsored by the Laser Fleet.

The Launch Breakfast (5/15) was a big success with a record turnout of 55. Thanks to Eva Smith, Lori Foster, Norma Platt, Barb Horvath, Joanne and Bill Vaughn for the kitchen and set-up work. Some folks actually used the balance of the day, fortified by the breakfast, to launch their boats as can be seen from the photo below.

Birds & Worms News

Volume 9 Issue 2 Page 2

July 2005



The Snipes started racing Sundays on May 22nd and have been at it since with good turnouts of 5+ boats. The Lightnings raced a few(?) Sundays with low turnouts but tight contests. Thursday Night Racing started on June 2nd with a moderate turnout. Since then the turnouts have been higher but the weather has been uncooperative (rain, thunderstorms, no wind). We will hope for better in the future. The Lasers had a modest regatta on June 11th. Seems we just can't get the wind right. Last year was too much and this year not enough. The Doc Mac has been working great as the committee boat. In severe powerboat chop, like we sometimes have on Sundays on the Bay, the boat simply rides the waves up and down instead of being tossed side to side. This lets the committee tend to their job of supervising races instead of holding on for dear life. The Cruising Fleet had a meeting where a number of activities were suggested for the summer. Included in these was the always popular moonlight cruise.

Make sure to set aside the dates of the July General Membership Meeting and Dinner on the 22nd and the Summer Work Party on the 23rd.

Commodore's Corner – Eva Smith

Sailing season is well underway, the club is bustling with activity, and it's time for a few reminders.

General Membership Meeting - The July General Membership Meeting is coming up on July 22nd, preceded by a "grill your own" potluck. At this meeting we will be conducting the required second vote on the proposed changes to the constitution and bylaws. These changes were voted on and approved at the April General Membership meeting. We will also be electing a nominating committee, approved by the board of directors, consisting of Denise Bluett, Jim Cuddihee, Norm Dahl, Norma Platt, and Howard Stickney. Thanks

to these members for answering my call to volunteer for this job. You should have received your proxy by now. Please remember to vote by proxy if you cannot attend the meeting.

Security of Club Facilities - I can't stress enough that this is YOUR Club, and it is everyone's responsibility to insure that things are left secure. By not paying attention, you are not only jeopardizing your club's property and your property stored at the club, but you are leaving the doors and gates open (literally) for someone to come and do damage to other's property, also. Simple rules:

1 - If you opened it, CLOSE and LOCK it when you leave.

2 - For combination pad locks: when you open it, spin the wheels immediately to change the numbers; when you're through, make sure it is SECURELY CLOSED and the combination does not show.

3 - If using a pad lock with keys, make sure it is SECURELY LOCKED and keys are stored properly in the Club house. The padlock to the ramp gate has been replaced with a combination lock with the same combination as the locks on the dock gates.

4 - If near the end of the day or evening, when there are only a couple of members remaining and you are leaving, speak to them, and decide who will lock up what.

5 - When you leave the clubhouse, check ALL the doors to be sure they are closed and dead bolts are locked, turn off the lights, and SET THE ALARM.

6 - If you took something out of the building or shed, PUT IT AWAY, and lock the doors correctly. If you are having a problem with the locks, or alarm system, call someone, preferably the vice, or rear commodore. Their phone numbers should be posted on the front door. It only takes a few extra minutes before you leave. Please secure the club facilities as you would your own house when you leave it. Also remember, if your car is blocking someone else in, speak to them, or leave your keys in the car.

New Members - There will be no new member open houses at the club this year. However, the Membership Committee is still looking for new members to join. Remember, any guest or member of the public who visits the club is a potential new member. A friendly word can go a long way to show a guest the kind of club we are. First impressions count.

Regattas - Thank you all for your cooperation during the recent Laser Regatta. We have two more regattas coming up in August. Please remember that the parking lot must be kept clear of boats and trailers during the regatta times. Regatta participants and workers have priority use of the parking lot and club facilities during

Birds & Worms News

Volume 9 Issue 2 Page 3

July 2005

the regatta. If you are not participating in the regatta, but are sailing for pleasure, please remember you are welcome to observe the races, but you should stay clear of the racing course and marks so as not to interfere with the racers. Newport Yacht Club is a friendly, active club, and with everyone's help, it will continue to be a secure, friendly, comfortable place to be. Thanks for all your help and consideration of each other.

Dogs - No dogs are allowed in the clubhouse at any time. If you want to bring your dog to the club it must be leashed AT ALL TIMES. And, of course, if your dog leaves a deposit on club property (including docks), you must pick it up and dispose of it properly. For your dog's comfort, and the comfort of other members, please do not bring your dog to the club when you know there will be a lot of activity (racing days, meeting days, regattas). When in doubt, leave your pet at home. Remember, as much as you love your dog (I know, I have one), not every member is as fond of dogs as you are and may not appreciate having a dog around the facilities. Please be considerate of other members.

Membership Committee Report – John Boettcher

The Board has received and accepted the resignations of Ed Doyle and Dave Walsh. Ed was a recent member sailing a very small cruising boat. Dave was a member of many years originally sailing a Lightning but later having a cruising boat.

Sandy Orlen passed away a few weeks back. She was a long time member of NYC and voted an honorary member in 2003.

Lightning Fleet News – Lori Foster

Nail-biting races at every tack! The final race results of each race don't show the excitement (frustration?) of Lightning racing this season. The Fleet is tight and Irondequoit Bay works its magic – making you feel like a rocket scientist one second and the next tempting you to dig out a paddle.

Every race this season has had each racer competing right up to the finish line with photo finishes even at the 3rd, 4th and 5th place! The RC is good and we are pleased with the efforts by all involved. If you haven't been out yet, come on down to NYC and create some fine sailing memories this summer. Thursday Night Sailing is a blast.

The Newport Lightning One-Day Regatta is Saturday, August 13. Phil Lange is regatta chair and Jim Cuddihee is PRO. Thanks to both of them for volunteering for these positions. Even though it is just a one-day regatta, we will need to do some planning and plenty of

promotion. (NYC regatta travelers are encouraged to announce our regatta and to pass out flyers.) We welcome and will host Friday night arrivals – contact Eva Smith if you have space for 3 people.

Snipe Fleet Report – Ted Horvath

Although the weather reduced the number of race days so far, when we did race, the Snipe Fleet had a very good turnout. Charlie Courtsal won the Spring Series, followed closely by Norm Dahl and Phil Morse. We started our Summer Series with all but one of the Snipes competing. It looks like it's going to be a good year.

The Briody Memorial Snipe Regatta is scheduled for August 20-21 at our own Newport Yacht Club. So far, we expect competitors from Michigan, Ohio, and Massachusetts, as well as Canada and other New York fleets – all coming to savor the eleven o'clock thermal, admire our new porch, and curse the seaweed and powerboat wakes. Norm Dahl will chair the regatta, Peter Allen will run the races and Rosemary Dahl will manage the food. Everyone in the Snipe Fleet will have some task, but we could use a couple of adult volunteers to beef up the race committee.

Laser Fleet Report – J. Boettcher

NYC hosted 14 boats at the June 11th regatta. The fleet competed on the lake with very light winds in contrast to the strong winds of last year. Jake Muhleman of RYC won the event with Charles Williamson (Ithaca YC) and Andrew Zuber (RYC) taking top master and junior, respectively. The NYC entries finished well back in the fleet. John Atkins served as PRO assisted by Alan



McReynolds, Andy Smith, and Bob Crum. The on-shore committee had Bob Shanebrook, Carol Cuddihee, Eva Smith and Ed Bell. Jim Cuddihee was the regatta chairman.

Birds & Worms News

Volume 9 Issue 2 Page 4

July 2005

Launch Breakfast Report - Joanne Vaughn & John Boettcher

May 15th was a beautiful day for the breakfast – mid 50's, bright sunshine, and light winds. This might have accounted for some of the record attendance (55). The



date was later this year than in years past to avoid having it on Mother's Day or too early in the season for people to be thinking about boat launching. Also different this year was the use of reservations and the payment of \$2/person to defray expenses. Details of affair include 55 attending, 44 rsvp, \$104 income, \$86 expenses with the profit (\$18) turned over the VC for replenishment of paper goods and other supplies. It turns out that a few folks actually did put boats in the water on the 15th. Thanks to Eva Smith, Lori Foster, Norma Platt, Barb Horvath, Joanne and Bill Vaughn for the kitchen and set-up work.

Flotsam and Jetsom

If you are looking for summer reading with a nautical relevance you might try *Defining the Wind*, *The Beaufort*

Scale and How a Nineteenth-Century Admiral Turned Science into Poetry by Scott Huler (Crown Publishers). It is available through the Webster (and presumably other) libraries. The scale is reproduced elsewhere in the newsletter.

Norma Platt found this interesting quote from *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame. "Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing - absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats."

Rosemary and Norm Dahl found a fawn in their yard one morning and sent along a picture. Not particularly nautical but cute.



Newsletter Contributions

Photos were from Landy Atkinson (launch breakfast), Andy Smith (Laser regatta), Sally Atkins (Porch and Grill). Thanks to Norma Platt and Ed Bell for proofreading the copy. Landy Atkinson provided encouragement and formatted copy from previous issues. John Boettcher is the editor. Next issue will be in Sept of 2005. Send contributions to J. Boettcher.