

Birds & Worms News

the newsletter of the Newport Yacht Club, Rochester NY



Food and Friends at the 2006 Cups and Flags

What's Up?

1/26 – General Membership Meeting (7:30) proceeded by potluck dinner (6:00) with a Greek flavor hosted by the Lightning Fleet.

Since the Last Newsletter – J. Boettcher

I confess I am a little fuzzy on the end of the sailing season. I seem to remember some pretty crummy weather. This prompted us to get our Lightning home early in November rather than wait for a last good sailing

day. At the general membership meeting in October we voted in two new members (see Membership Committee report) and approved the slate of officers for 2007 proposed by the Nominating Committee. The next newsletter will have a photo of the board. I recall that the weather forecast was so terrible for the next day that the fall work party was postponed to the following Saturday. This coincided with the Cups and Flags preparations but everybody worked together and both jobs got done.

Steve and Sue Leach and a bunch of helpers put on a great Cups and Flags. The food was super as was the companionship. I always enjoy the awards presentations. The Lightnings and Snipes stuck to a pretty serious script but the Lasers and the Cruising Fleet introduced some high comedy. Read the details in the fleet reports below. Bob Shanebrook presented Denise Bluett with the Whittenburg Trophy for outstanding service to the club. Denise has served as principal race committee for Thursday Night Sailing since the very beginning and her presence on the course contributes to the high quality of the racing.



Bob Shanebrook presents Whittenberg Trophy to Denise Bluett

Just after this presentation, Steve presented Bob Shanebrook with a gift for his leadership as commodore in 2006. The gift was a print of a painting depicting a single-handed racer.

After the awards, the big room was cleared for dancing. Turns out that several couples have been meeting on Thursdays to practice swing dancing and this was their chance to show off. Lots of others joined in.

Thanks to Steve and Sue Leach, Lynn and Denise Bluett, Annie and Eric Shoenhardt, Eva Smith, Carol Cuddihee, Norma Platt, Ed and Jeanne Bell, and Sally Atkins for making the 2006 Cups and Flags such a

success. The job was made a lot easier by the notes and records of Eva and Andy Smith from previous Cups and Flags.



Steve Leach present gift to Commodore Bob

Membership Committee Report – John Boettcher

At the fall meeting, we welcomed two new members into the Club.

Charles Roemer learned to sail at NYC many years ago. He sailed cruising boats out of GYC for a number of years and did some boat deliveries. His background also includes a sail crossing of the Atlantic in a 125 ft bark. We should get him to tell us about this sometime. He is without a boat at the moment but is tending toward a sailing kayak. Charles works as a stone carver and lives in Rochester with his wife Helvi.

Michael Trenkler lives in Marion with his wife Kathy and four children. He works as a cabinet maker for Salmon Creek Cabinetry. It's probably not surprising that he has built a number of canoes and ADK guide boats. His sailing background is with a Sunfish as a small child. He is the proud owner of a wooden Lightning (#1361).

Snipe Fleet Summary for 2006 – Ted Horvath

The Snipes had another fun year with good participation in our activities both on and off the water. At the Cups and Flags Banquet, the following trophies were presented: Official (Summer) Series: 1st, Charlie Courtsal and Jay Perena (Fleet Championship); 2nd, Ted and Barb Horvath; 3rd, Matt Disch and Wendy Dannels. Spring Series: 1st, Charlie Courtsal; 2nd, Norm Dahl; 3rd, Ted Horvath. Fall Series: 1st, Matt Disch; 2nd, Norm Dahl; 3rd, Phil Morse.

In addition, there were the following special awards: Thursday Series, Matt Disch; Most Improved, Matt Disch; Most Races, Norm Dahl; Novice Skipper, Tom

Lee; Tip over Trophy, Tom Lee; Masters Champion, Ted Horvath; Grand Masters, Ted and Barb Horvath.



Horvaths take Snipe Grand Masters Trophy

Norm Dahl has been elected as the new Snipe Fleet captain, and he and Rosemary kicked off our off-season social calendar by hosting the Snipe December potluck gathering. We look forward to another good year in 2007.

2006 Lightning Fleet Wrap-up – Lori Foster

Sail-cruising is a pleasure. Sail-racing is a passion. Whatever category our fleet of Lightning sailors fell into, all members had a season that flew past. Of the 19 Lightnings in our fleet, everyone made it out at least once and several sail-cruisers even had their boat (or themselves) on the line for a race or two.

Here are the final results. Our Spring Series placers were: 1st place, John Atkins; 2nd place, Dick Doherty; 3rd place, John Boettcher. In the Fall Series first place was Alan McReynolds, second place was John Atkins and third was Dan Pope. Thursday Night Sailing saw almost every Lightning on the line at least once during the 10 week series. Winners in the TNS series were: 1st place, Alan McReynolds; 2nd place, Don Curran; and 3rd place, Dick Hallagan. Newcomer Mike Trenkler was recognized as a rookie skipper and also as having the youngest crew, his sons. Overall championship, sailing 23 club races was Alan McReynolds with his wife, Cindy, and son, Logan, as crew.

Thanks again, to those who helped with our regatta. We salute Howard Stickney as fleet treasurer and manager of the east and west docks. We are grateful to his 'git'er done' energy with the dock repairs last spring.



Logan, Al and Cindy of Team McReynolds

My favorite memory this year was a race in which newcomer Mike Trenkler and his sons competed in their wooden Lightning. Picture this: a beautiful day on the bay, winds enough to have one or two on the windward side. Here it is, coming into the windward mark. Boats approaching from starboard. Boats approaching from port. Boats coming up the center. Tension mounts. Who has right-of-way? Will we have to tack? On the Trenkler boat . . . no sweat! One of Mike's young sons is leaning lazily over the starboard side, hand dipped into the water to feel its power, its tranquility. It would be nice to have a carefree moment like that now and then – a reconnection to the beauty and peacefulness of sailing.

Cruising Fleet Awards for 2006 – Ed Bell

If you were not able to join us at the Cups & Flags banquet, we presented flags for four categories. The first place NYC 2006 flag is gold; second place, red. (Third place is blue. If we have enough entries, we might have 3rd place next year.) Most times sailing, any boat, skipper or crew: first, Steve Leach; second, Lynn Bluett. Most times sailing, skippering own boat: first, Dorothy Drazal & Paul Riordan; second, Eric Schoenhardt. Furthest distance: first, Peter Allen, Sodus Bay, approx. 28 nm; tie for second, Lynn & Denise Bluett and Steve & Sue Leach (perpendicular to Brockport, approx 18 nm, both boats in tandem). Fleet Captain's "I Won't Do That Again" Award (Shortest Voyage): Dorothy & Paul (with Ellsworth's assistance): Don't Sail in a Gale.

Peter Allen has donated a half-hull of a keel boat mounted on a wood plaque to use for a permanent trophy board. We will have it mounted on a larger board so that brass plates can be added each year. At the

next fleet meeting we will decide which categories to list on the board that will be displayed at the club.

The couple who made the flags for us (Julie & Bob Blakely, GYC members), provided several extra at no additional charge. So, I was able to provide a second flag of each color earned to the recipients. They will have one for the den at home in addition to flying one on the boat. I still had one gold and one red left. They are hanging above our bulletin board at the club.



Ed Bell gives award to Paul and Dorothy

Paul Riordan will assume the Cruising Fleet captain duties for 2007.

Laser Summary for 2006 – Jim Cuddihee

For a small fleet, we had a pretty good year!

Dave Marshall followed up a great Spring Work Party with a "little crazy" summer and then getting married in October. He actually plans to sail next year! Dean Clayton wasn't able to sail early in the year, but contributed by manning a safety & mark boat in our very windy & lumpy spring regatta. We will eventually forgive him for opting to crew on a Snipe rather than race his Laser later in the season. Bob Shanebrook provided the spark to get and keep the fleet on the water. While he has always sailed a lot, he did more racing this summer than he's done over the previous 14 years. John Boettcher managed to break free from the Lightning Fleet to sail in our regatta and several Saturday sessions. It didn't appear that his "big boat" experience detracted from his Laser skills.

Steve Leach tried out the club loaner one cool spring day, and liked it so much he went out and bought a brand new Laser. He proved to be a quick learner, and ended the year by winning the Apprentice Master category at the Willow Bank Regatta this fall. Steve also

served on the Race Committee for our Spring Regatta. Mark Sertl put his boat in the water for our regatta, and proved again that if you stay in shape and really know how to sail, it doesn't matter that you spend most of your time in big boats. Andy Smith reluctantly gave up his chance to sail in our regatta to man a safety boat. While doing this he found time to capture a great deal of the action on his digital camera. His pictures have been enjoyed by Laser sailors from Jamestown to Saratoga.



Jim Cuddihee presents Laser Cup to Bob Shanebrook

Special thanks to Al McReynolds for being PRO for our regatta, and to him and son Logan for taking the time to help an individual learn to rig and begin sailing a Laser II. Also, thanks to Carol, Eva, Sue, Norma for registering contestants and preparing the food for our regatta. Thanks to Ed Bell for managing the parking lot.

As for your Fleet Captain, Andy Smith captured it all in pixels as I was dragging myself back into my boat - "I'm getting too old for this sh**."

Newsletter Contributions

Thanks to Sally Atkins and Norma Platt for the photos in this newsletter. Norma Platt and Ed Bell are responsible for turning the draft of the newsletter into proper English. Ed Bell also provides color copies of the newsletter which are mailed to members not having e-mail. John Boettcher is the editor. Next issue will be in April of 2007. Send contributions to J. Boettcher.

