

BIRDS & WORMS – OCTOBER, 2011

Upcoming Events:

10/28: General Membership Meeting;
Dinner 6:00 p.m., Meeting 7:30 p.m.

10/29: Club Work Party 10:00 a.m.

11/12: Cups & Flags 6:00 p.m.

Commodore's Column – John Boettcher

I hope the sailing season has been good for you. I've had a good time. There are still a few more weeks on the calendar as I write this article.

In the interest of keeping you members informed of the goings on, I started sending out email messages detailing upcoming Club events. I kept these "Commodore's Comments" short so that one could take in all the important information at a glance. Mailed copies were sent to those members not having email. This was not intended to take the place of the more detailed newsletter but rather give a "heads up". I can't say that it improved participation but it seemed worth the small effort on my part. If you have ways to make this better or alternative ways of communication please let me know. I have noticed that the membership generally enjoy each other's company. This was evident during the clubhouse remodeling project. I thought there might be additional ways of bringing the members together outside of our regular meetings, or projects that spend tens of thousands of dollars. "Movie Nights" was what occurred to me and I was encouraged by a few members. The two sessions we had went OK

and you can get details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Much thanks to our Nominating Committee. They got to work shortly after being approved by the membership in July and had the slate done well in advance of the due date. See elsewhere in this newsletter for their report with the slate of officers they propose. Thanks to those individuals who agreed to stand for the various Club positions.

This leads into the subject of the work load associated with some of the offices. In particular, the jobs of Vice Commodore, Rear Commodore, and Harbormaster can be overwhelming at times. I would like to see these officers supported by a committee of a few people that they can call on to help. I recall one week where our poor Harbormaster Bill Vaughn had to cope with a motor repair on one crash boat, fiberglass repair of the other crash boat, and a haulout repair at the same time. No way that Bill could have done this by himself. I sent out a note and got a bunch of folks down to help and everything got done in one day. Maybe Bill and others should have a small group of helpers that they could regularly call on. When you elected me Commodore in January, I said I would need

your help in running the Club. This is one way you can help. Volunteer to help one of these officers.

Rear Commodore – Dave Maier, Al McReynolds

There are a few big events coming up at Newport! The work party and Cups & Flags are two of those. The work party will be the day after the general membership meeting, beginning at 10am and going until the work is done, or around 4pm. Just a reminder, if you haven't attended any work parties this year this will be your last opportunity. An exception can be made if you help out with the repairs to the Laser ramps. The outside tasks are normal for the fall:

- The Doc Mac and crash boats need to be pulled, winterized, and covered.
- Leaves need to be raked and moved.
- Light on the hoist needs to be replaced.
- Picnic tables "stacked" for winter.
- Plastic chairs and tables cleaned and moved inside.
- Water to the outside shut off when no longer needed.

The Cups & Flags will be **Saturday, November 12th**. Snacks and drinks will be served at 6pm followed by dinner and awards. If you would like to help setup or cleanup please let Al, Dave, or Dorothy know. It's been a great year and hopefully we can cap it off in style.

Snipe Fleet – Tom Lee

The Fall Series is underway - Norm has just taken the lead! Bill is only 7 points behind! Ted is doing his best to fend off challengers for the Tip-Over trophy, in the lead with two. He welcomed Dan Groth's assistance untangling his turtled Snipe from the leeward mark. Dan has proved his seamanship and courtesy, once again, above and below a Snipe.

The Summer Championship Series was won by no other than Charlie Courtsal! His tenth win of the series. Charlie also did the club proud winning 3rd place honors at the Briody, among some very competitive sailors. Obviously he's studied up on rules of engagement, tactics and strategy among a crowd of boats! It was a dog fight for 2nd place, with less than 4 points separating John D, Matt and Bill. Best "DOG" in show was John, earning the 2nd Place honors in the Summer Series.

"Most Improved," one of our more sought after trophies, has Ted Horvath in the lead (congratulations Ted!), followed by Rick and Dan. Keep it up Rick and Dan, though back to back Most Improved is very difficult to accomplish, 2nd place is impressive, with a few weeks left, and it could still be a 1st. John D. is the only other Sniper above water; all other sailors had lower scores this year. This is an affect of the higher number of boats on the line this year. At least, I won't have to award the least suckiest sailor, as I did in 2009. But, I'll get fewer laughs at the Cups & Flags.

Laser Fleet - Kenny Fourspring

Your help is needed! The laser ramp launch area is in need of repair. A plan is underway to repair the ramps the weekend after the fall work party (Saturday November 4th). The goal is to fix the dock, which has become a safety hazard and to reuse as many of the current materials as possible. Over time, the posts have sunk and caused the main header supports to split. We will need at least 10 – 12 volunteers to help with the repairs and lifting of the ramps. More information will come to you in the future. If you are interested in helping

out please contact me via email (kdf5036@rit.edu).

The lasers planned the dinner at the previous general membership meeting. Overall, the "bring your own item to grill" BBQ was a success. Several folks have also taken advantage of the loaner laser this year; Steve Bluett, John Handle, and Chappy Sullivan were some of the lucky folks to take the laser for a spin on race nights. The club boat is a great resource to get more folks out on the water.

Rochester Canoe Club hosted the Brown Jug Regatta this year. Several lasers competed. This was certainly one of the wettest races I have sailed in. The breeze came in from the north and just after the start on the first windward leg the rain came. Several folks from RCC started but called it quits because the rain was coming down in buckets. The race was a twice around triangle that finished at RCC. John Boettcher came in first, and represented the laser fleet well. Paraphrasing John, "The wind picked up while I was going downwind and the bridge shot me out like a cannon." David Maier came in second and was the center of attention due to his "wardrobe malfunction". Fortunately, with a bit of duct tape David was able to mend his shorts. I came in third. After the race finished everyone went over to RCC to enjoy the after race refreshments.

Nominating Committee Report

Pursuant to By-Law 2.3.1 the Nominating Committee of the Newport Yacht Club has provided the undersigned list of Nominees for election at the annual meeting of the general membership of the

Newport Yacht Club on October 28, 2011.

The list is as follows:

Vice Commodore – Lori Foster

Rear Commodore – Bill Andrews (one year term)

Secretary – Landy Atkinson

Treasurer – Virginia Cumine (one year term)

Assistant Treasurer – Jillian Dart

Harbormaster – Peter Allen

Director at-large (one year terms)

Paul Elli

Jack Finear

Howard Stickney

Landy Atkinson

Finance Committee (elected annually)

Lynn Bluett

Ted Horvath

Capital Planning Committee – Mary

McCarthy (vacancy, one year term)

Capital Planning Committee – Ed Bell

The Capital Planning Committee will be meeting with the commodores, harbormaster and fleet captains after the beginning of the club year to discuss planning and funding for future club maintenance and improvements. We will then coordinate with the finance committee to address needs (if any) that might affect the budget for the coming year and will provide a report to the membership regarding planning for future years. Any comments or questions can be directed to Ed Bell, the committee chairman.

Membership Committee – Andy Smith

We will have one new member welcome at the October General Membership meeting;

John Wiesenthal comes to us with his Pearson Ensign. He is no stranger to NYC as he sailed with former members Paul

& Marie Nasipak in the 1980's and 90's. John's sailing experience dates back to his youth the 60's. John is a Musician and Music Teacher at the Hochstein School of Music & Dance.

This year we have previously welcomed 7 new members: **Michael & Laura Seppala, David & Nancy Hennelly, Justin Arcangeli & Melissa Kraemer**, with cruising boats; **Shawn Patrick McDonald, Mathew & Jennifer Disch and John Dentinger** with Snipe sailboats; and **Robert Mevorach** with a kayak for now.

Five members resigned this past spring, and two were expelled by the membership at the July General Membership meeting for nonpayment.

The membership remains open to new members. Our best advertising is word of mouth spread by our current members. Talk about your good sailing experiences at Newport to all your friends and acquaintances.

Membership questions or concerns can be directed to the membership committee, which includes the 4 Fleet Captains, and me.

Thursday Night Sailing Wrap Up – John Boettcher

To give a little background for new members, any boat in the Club can come down and race on Thursday night. We have had Cruisers participate in the past. Following racing, we fire up the grill for hamburgs and hots at low cost and share the salads and desserts that all participants should bring. Oh yeah, we might have a beer or two.

This year the weather was pretty good. I can recall only one time we

canceled. Participation was mostly from the Snipe and Laser fleets. There were one or two Lightnings a few times and no Cruisers that I can recall. I took care of the food restocking and income. Bill Topping, once again, was PRO most times and gave us excellent lines and courses. It was mid-season before I gave any thought to the race results and handicapping. The Laser and Snipe fleet captains were OK using their finish results and had no interest in handicap results so I simply let it go. Trophies and awards for TNS will be handled by the fleets.

Even with the nominal charges for hots (\$2) and hamburgs (\$3) and buying all the liquids from the Club refrigerator, we managed to accumulate nearly \$210 in profits. I surveyed the participants and they were OK with giving most of it back to the Club which supports the boats and paid staff, and reserving a small portion to do something for Bill Topping. I will be giving the Club a check for about \$160.

Movie Night I and II – John Boettcher

The idea here is to get NYC members together socially for a sailing (sort of) related event. I pitched this to a couple of folks and turns out they had movies to suggest. Most important Kenny Fourspring had a digital projector that we could use to show them.

Movie Night I featured "Wind" which was terrific. I've seen it but Steve and Sue Leach have their own DVD which they let us use. I did some publicity using email and we got around two dozen folks for the 8/26 show. There was popcorn and some folks brought wine. We never got around to discussing the fact that some racing rules

were violated but the action shots; sounds and scenery were great.

Movie Night II featured “Master and Commander” which was nominated by Jillian Dart but husband Brian had cleverly gotten rid of it at a garage sale the previous year. Turns out Reynolds Hahn had a copy he provided. This movie was a little deeper than “Wind” which may account for the lower attendance (14) at the 9/30 event.

With the upcoming October General Membership meeting, Cups and Flags, holiday season, and January General Membership meeting, the next Movie Night will probably be sometime in February. The movie is still to be named. Contact me with suggestions. Also, if someone would like to sponsor these in the future, I would gladly turn over the reins.

Brown Jug – John Boettcher

The Rochester Canoe Club hosted “the Jug” this year on Labor Day Sept 5th. Four Lasers (Fourspring, Maier, Morse, Boettcher), one Snipe (Morse), one Lightning (Rabovsky) and a bunch of Cruisers (Drazal, Bluett, Allen, Balandis, Wiesenthal) started the long, twice around course extending from Stoney Point to slightly south of the Dinsmore Creek inflow. The RCC folks fielded a bunch of Sunfish and some Thistles and JY15s. A squall came through shortly after the start with much rain and strong wind. The NYC Cruisers bailed out (no pun intended) but the rest of the folk finished. Morse and Boettcher took the awards for Snipe and Laser at the festivities inside the RCC clubhouse. Everyone had a good time. NYC will host this event in 2012.

Adult-Junior Sail – Virginia Cumine



Participants

The second annual Adult-Junior Sail racers and families once again enjoyed a delightful fall day at Newport on September 18th – International Talk Like a Pirate Day. Pirate hats, eye patches, bandanas, super squirt guns, swords and other pirate accessories adorned both skippers & crew (including other NYC sailors with no youth aboard but who enthusiastically supported the event).

The Bluetts and grandchildren even loaded a homemade cannon on board their cruiser, complete with recorded sound effects.



The Bluett Ship

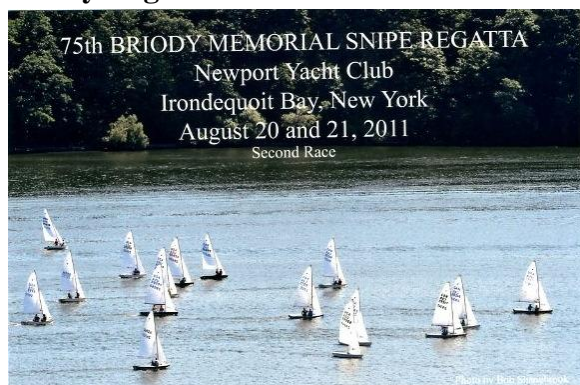
Dan Groth hosted the greatest number of youths - five (but, wisely, not all at the same time) on his Zuma.

All youth participants received a certificate and ribbon. Fair winds allowed three races. Overall champion once again was Leah Cooney on Norm Dahl's Snipe. Sonali Dixit (and Samir Dixit) with Bill Vaughn placed second. Brendan Courtsal with dad Charlie Courtsal placed third. Jake Morse with granddad Phil Morse won fourth place.

Thanks to Dan Groth for printing the certificates (signed by Snipe Fleet Captain Tom Lee – AARGH!!) in color and to all the supporters who supplied snacks after the races. We appreciate the regular racers who shared the race-course with the youth again this year and the race committee, led by Cameron Horvath, for officiating this event.

There is now a perpetual plaque for this event so NYC members should begin thinking about next year and looking for youth 16 and under who would enjoy sporting pirate gear (or not) and giving casual sailboat racing a try.

Briody Regatta – Norm Dahl



Seventy-five years ago, the first Briody Memorial Regatta was held at Olcott Yacht Club. During the previous year, Francis M. Briody had died of spinal meningitis at the age of 43, and his fellow Snipe sailors dedicated this regatta to his

memory. His son James and grandson Tom and their wives honored us with their presence at the 2011 Briody Memorial Regatta, held at Newport Yacht Club in Rochester, NY, on August 20-21.

Jno and Karen Disch won the regatta conclusively, finishing first in four of the races. Chris Hains and John Kislinger were second. Charlie Courtsal and Jay Perena were third and the highest finishing local team. Sixteen boats competed; seven from the host club, six from Canada, and one each from Pennsylvania, Michigan and Ohio. Two of the competitors were fresh from the Snipe World Championship in Denmark, Harri Palm and Chris Hains.

Saturday morning we had two races in a shifty southerly, then our trademark thermal came in for two more races in the afternoon, a nice, steady northerly. Sunday our expert Principal Race Officer squeezed in two races before thunder chased us to shore.

Luck and skill determined the results, as they always do. For example, just after Jno and Karen rounded the first windward mark, a big power boat wake boosted them from behind and hit everyone else head-on, virtually stopping them. They won the race by 45 seconds. Of course, such luck only helps if you have the skill to get to the mark first.



Essentially everyone in the Snipe fleet contributed to the success of the event, but five people merit special thanks; PRO Bill Topping, Harbormaster Bill Vaughn, Race Chairs Charlie Courtsal and Dan Groth, and Food Chair Rosemary Dahl.

Lynn Bluett took still photos of Saturday's races and set up his laptop to display them that evening. Bob Shanebrook took an aerial photo of the start of the second race and furnished prints of it to each of the sailors, plus an enlargement you can see on the Snipe bulletin board.

Lots of others helped; Delon Sheeler on the race committee, Tom Lee on registration and finances, Matt Disch and Wendy Dannels on breakfasts, Ricky Trauscht and family on beverages, John Dentinger on scorekeeping and cleanup, Sharon Trauscht and Donna McBride on lunches, and Virginia Cumine on dinner and clean-up before and after the event.

Membership News

Matt Atkins, son of John and Sally, was married 9/24/11 on Cannon Beach in Oregon. They live in Portland.



Thanks to all who contributed articles. Special thanks to Sally Atkins, Lynn Bluett, Virginia Cumine, and Bob Shanebrook for pictures.

Eva Smith, Editor