

Birds & Worms News

the newsletter of the Newport Yacht Club, Rochester NY

Egads! Security has been breached! - Dorothy Drahzal

I think just about all of us have arrived at the Club to find one of these issues:

- A strange car without a Newport Yacht Club sticker
- A stranger on the property
- The ramp gate unlocked (or combination left “unrolled”.)
- One of the dock gates unlocked with no one on dock
- The door to clubhouse unlocked with no one there
- A stranger on the dock with dock locked
- The inside alarm not set when we enter building after unlocking

All of these have occurred during the past two months (and many times before as well.)

There are a number of remedies and we hope you will help us to accomplish each one:

1. **All locks and combinations will be changed this coming month**- you will be alerted via phone and/or letter as to the new passcode (not by email). This password is not to be given to any of your guests at any time- nor to your employer, your carpool buddies, your sewing circle, your bowling league or for that matter your best friend.
2. **Please do not give the passcode to children under 18.**
3. **We require that all members post a Newport Yacht Club sticker on their car.** (If you don't have one, we will get one for you.)
4. As a member, it is your responsibility, as you leave the club for the day, to close all doors and windows, set the inside alarm by punching in the passcode, go out door and set door alarm by punching in passcode and then turning lock to lock it.
5. Also, it is your responsibility to take a look around every time you come down to club to see that all gates are locked and that the combination is “turned” on those gates.
6. If you are docked at East or West dock, we require that you lock the gate behind you if you are going out to sail and of course that you lock it when you return and finish closing up.

So sorry to be so pedantic, but we have had so many “security breaches” that we feel a new system must come into place. We will be instituting a few more security measures this summer and will keep you updated. Please call or email Lynn Bluett, Commodore or Dorothy Drahzal, Vice Commodore if you have further ideas or any questions about security. And thanks so much for being aware of the issue and helping in any way you can!

What's Up?

July 23 - General membership meeting (7:30) with dinner (6:00) hosted by Lasers - BYOM (bring your own meat) and dish to pass.

August 21,22 – Snipe Briody Regatta

September 6 – Brown Jug Regatta

Since the Last Newsletter – J. Boettcher

Before you go any further read Dorothy's article concerning security (above). It is a topic that comes up frequently and needs your attention. Dorothy has done an excellent job of summarizing the problems and what you need to do the help the Club.

Let's start from the 4/30 General Membership Meeting which was preceded by the predictably delicious lasagna dinner put on by the Snipe Fleet. The highlight of the



4/30 GM Meeting Dinner – jb photo

meeting was the vote to approve spending to go ahead with new carpeting immediately instead of waiting until next year. Since then there was an evening work party to remove the old carpeting and new carpeting was installed in early June. It looks great! If you long for the old gray carpeting, you can still see it on the Laser ramps.

The next day was the Spring Work Party. All the usual jobs were performed along with taking care of the last few details from the renovation. There were some jobs that were going to be taken care of at a later date like metal scrap removal (see Norma's article for details). One of the crash boats was found to have a problem that knocked it out for the first month of sailing.

The Cruising Fleet started bringing their boats down pretty early in the season and from what I have heard are getting out quite a bit.

The racing season got off to a slow start due to last minute hoist problems and weather considerations. The first few Sundays were light in attendance with only a few Lightnings and Lasers. Since then, Sundays have had good turnouts of Snipes. The Lasers held their regatta on May 29th and the Lightnings had theirs the following weekend. Thursday Night Sailing (TNS) started in early June and has been pretty well attended by Lightnings and an unexpectedly high turnout of Lasers.

Hope to see all of you at the dinner and meeting next week. Don't forget to bring your meat to grill and also a dish to pass.

Commodore's Report – Lynn Bluett

Summer has finally arrived (sort of). June has been one of the top 10 wettest Junes on record, but Denise and I have gotten out sailing at least once a week. We hope you are all finding your breaks in the clouds to get out on

the water too. The Fourth of July is next week and already our Laser and Lightning fleets have hosted their annual regattas. The sailing season is short, so be sure to take advantage of every good sailing day.

I hope to see you all out on the water and especially at our July General Meeting. At this meeting we have to vote on the nominating committee, some new members, and additional cost over runs from the renovation project. I know we had a special meeting and voted to spend an additional \$4500 to finish the renovations on the Club house, but the bills have still been trickling in and we find we are an additional \$4800 (approximately) over what we had voted to spend. The Club needed the work done and, unfortunately, we found considerable unknown problems that could have been catastrophic if the work hadn't been undertaken. We are not making any money in interest on the money we have in the General Fund and we have spent the money unknowingly, so we have no choice but to take the money from the General Fund now and pay it back over however many years that the Finance Committee recommends. I think we have a Club house that we can all be proud of and enjoy for many, many years to come. There are a few minor things left to be done to finish the renovations, but it is time to sail. We can finish the little projects after the weather turns cold and we have put our boats away until the next sailing season. Fair winds and good sailing everyone.

Vice Commodore Notes – Dorothy Drahzal

Hopefully all of you have had a chance to see our new facilities this summer and have enjoyed the open space, the great kitchen and the updated bathrooms. The work parties over 17 Saturdays this winter were a volunteer project "above and beyond the call of duty" and once again, I want to thank all of you who took part for that effort. This month I would like to share some tips for using the clubhouse – whether for your own event that you have booked on the calendar or for everyday use. As I share these, keep in mind that we are a volunteer club – we do not have staff other than race committee. Security measures have been addressed in another article, but suffice to say we all have to make sure everything is locked up when we leave the club in our cars or leave the docks on our boats.

As for the building- here are some tips: 1. The kitchen is fairly well equipped now- except for real dishware which is upstairs if needed. It will be put into cupboards soon. Please try to put everything back from whence it came. 2. Tablecloths are for everyone's use – there are cloth ones for inside and plastic red/white check ones for outside on porch. Please wipe the plastic ones down and dry before storing and take the cloth ones home for a washing if needed. 3. The same for dish towels- if you use them for an event, please take home and wash and return as soon as possible. 4. If you use dishwasher, please run and empty it (even if it is next day) so someone else does not need to do it for you. 5. If you see a paper towel/toilet paper rack empty, please refill

before you leave. Rolls are in wooden closet in the women's room and/or in broom closet in hallway. 6. Please vacuum if you see that the rug and floors need it. 7. Please mop the floors with mops and cleansers in broom closet if you think they need it. 8. Please remember to pay for your beverages and ask your guests to do so as well. 9. Please replace tables and chairs to regular configuration if you have moved them during your event.

Most importantly, please call or email me directly if something at the clubhouse is not "up to snuff" or if beverages are low or if you have a suggestion for more improvements – we're always trying to improve our system! If, by some chance, you would like to volunteer some time to finish off our improvements, please email me at and I will let you know some of the projects which are still needed (e.g. finishing some painting, some moulding, some carpentry or making slipcovers for our couch in corner?). Thanks again for all you do to make this a great club and hope you are all getting out there on the water as much as possible this year!!

Membership News – Andy Smith

At the June Board meeting the NYC Board accepted the resignations of Pat Korpar and Andy Hintenach. Both resignations were accepted "In-Good-Standing". Four (4) new members to the Club have been approved by the board, and they will be introduced for a vote of the General Membership at the July 23 meeting. The Membership Committee continues to accept applications for new membership this year with myself as chair, and the fleet captains of all 4 fleets serving on the committee. Feel free to contact any of the 5 with questions or concerns.

Snipe Report – Tom Lee

The Snipe Spring Series has concluded and was won by Skipper Charlie Courtsal. Bill Vaughn was second and Norm Dahl third.

The Summer Championship Series is underway. Through July 4th, the competition is being led by, guess who, Skipper Charlie Courtsal. He may have aspirations of a clean sweep of all the series this year. But, Skipper Bill Vaughn is seriously challenging Charlie's usual dominance. Charlie has achieved three first place finishes. Bill has two first place finishes. This series could be very interesting to follow. The rest of the fleet has been all over the place in finishes allowing our new arrival from Florida, Skipper John Dentinger, to cruise into a 3rd place tie, with Skipper Ted Horvath by his single performance, July 4th.

Skipper Todd Calvin has a firm hold of the Special Series. He is the top Sniper at TNS.

Below is a photo from the Snipe Pot Luck of April 11 at the Horvaths. The theme was "Think Spring" and everyone was asked to wear a Spring Bonnett.



4/11 Snipe Pot Luck – th photo

Briody Regatta Coming Up – Norm Dahl

The Snipe Fleet will host its annual Briody Regatta on August 21,22. Twelve competitors are expected and racing will be on the Bay. Bill Topping will be the PRO. The Club should make a good vantage point to view the competition. Following racing on Saturday, there will be a dinner which NYC members are invited to attend for a nominal fee. Contact me for details.

Laser Fleet – John Boettcher

The fleet has grown by three since the start of the year. At a recent TNS outing there were 6 boats on the line. Enthusiasm is high and it's a pleasure to serve as fleet captain.

We held our annual regatta on Sat. 5/29. It was a beautiful day with clear skies and N-NW winds of 8-12 mph. Turnout was light with only 11 boats showing. Five competitors were NYC Lasers. Bill Topping generously acted as PRO with Dean Clayton and Matt Lawless helping with mark sets. We had 5 windward-leeward, mostly two lap races most lasting in the neighborhood of 40 minutes. There was some powerboat traffic to contend with but the bigger problem was the barge that showed up at inconvenient times at the leeward mark. There was no question of right-of-way.



5/29 Laser Regatta – ja photo

A light breakfast was provided along with an on-the-water snack midway through the races. Dan Groth and Bob Shanebrook handled the registration and parking lot responsibilities. Following the racing, Sue Leach served pulled pork sandwiches which were a big hit. Sue also brought some yummy cookies. Norma Platt rounded out the meal with a salad selection. While digesting this meal, the awards were given out. Bob Bryant of RYC took first place in the 5 race, 1 throw out regatta with no finish worse than third. Newport sailors Griffin Orr took 2nd and Steve Leach 4th. Bob S. provided souvenir photos of one of the starts to all participants. Gifts of appreciation were given to the PRO Bill Topping and helpers along with the wonderful meal providers Sue and Norma. Because of the low turnout, the regatta lost \$60 which the fleet will absorb.

I have two more pieces of fleet news. The first is the sale of one of our loaner lasers. This one was in pretty bad shape but one of the regatta visitors made an offer of \$500 and off she went. The second item was the polling of the fleet as to having NYC Laser regattas in the future. I felt the need to bring this up because the fleet is small and the amount of work associated with even a one day regatta is large. The results were unanimous that the Fleet should host regattas in the future and all will pitch in. This sort of response makes leadership pretty easy. All I have to do is get out of the way. Bye for now.

Lightning Fleet Report

The Fleet had it's regatta on June 5,6 with fifteen boats participating. Saturday's races (3) were sailed in shifty ,puffy, west winds on the Bay. No races were sailed on Sunday due to high winds. Dave Starck of



6/5,6 – Lightning Regatta – dp photo

Buffalo won the regatta with 7 points followed closely by NYC sailors Mark Sertl (8 pts) and Dick Hallagan (10 pts) in second and third, respectively. Racing was tight with the top five finishers separated by only 5 points. Full results are posted on the bulletin board and the NYC website.

Dockmaster Data – Howard Stickney

There are openings in both the cruising area and the lightning area of the basin for the first time in several years. Thanks much to Andy Smith who singlehandedly extended three finger pier posts which made several of the slips useable.

Long Range Planning Committee/Capital Planning Committee Update – Lori Foster

TWO HATS – A report for both committees hence the two hats.

It is no secret that sometime in the not so distant future, we will need/want a new rescue boat. Our challenge as a club is to determine what we need/want...and what we can afford...and when this should happen. Capital Planning needs to plan how to fund this while taking into account how to fund other projects that will demand our attention over the next 1-3-5-10 years and beyond.

Please send me your idea(s) ASAP of what kind (brand, size, etc.) of rescue boat we should consider and why, the cost of a new one, the cost of a gently used one and a photo of the boat if you can find one from a catalog or website. Feel free to quiz other clubs or seasoned race committees. Here are some guidelines to keep in mind when sending me your ideas: ease of getting someone into the boat, ease of dropping anchor and markers, good for bay and lake use (keep in mind choppy 3' waves), appropriate motor strength for towing up to 8 boats, ease of use, ease of maintenance, durability, cost of upkeep, must come with a trailer, other? Please send boat suggestions asap to: LF348@yahoo.com. Thank you and I look forward to your ideas.

A Farewell to Newport House on Irondequoit Bay - Leo Balandis

Newport House, the oldest business in Monroe County NY dating from 1840, will be razed in the near future to make way for a new residential, marina, and clubhouse complex to be known as Newport Marine Club. Once known as New-Port House, it and former owner William H. Sours are a part of Rochester Canoe Club's early history between 1881-1914. Sours was a member of RCC and built its first two clubhouses on the Bay in 1884 and 1886, the latter burning in 1913. He then turned over the business to his brother-in-law and son-in-law, Frederick and Warren Frost. RCC continues as the oldest continuous sailing club in the area (now without canoes) for 129 years.

Sours acquired Newport House at the age of 30 from his uncle Henry Walzer, who fell through the ice and died in December 1880 while walking home from Newport House. Sours recognized the opportunity presented by the new railroad from Rochester to Sea Breeze built in 1879 with stops at hotels along the west side of Irondequoit Bay, and the clubs and groups that were building cottages to enjoy summers on the Bay. There were the Point Lookout Club (1868), with famed member Seth Green, Dodge Club (1871), Old Star (1872), and

Birds & Worms (1872). Space was in demand for convenient and desirable shore side locations for new groups, so Sours bought an additional ten acres adjacent to and north of Newport House on Newport Point from the farm of uncle Joseph Walzer, and proceeded to build ten houses to the specifications of interested groups, and give them annual leases. Remus



Clubs on the Bay 1903 - lb photo

Club was the first in 1884 with RCC, and the two merged in a new clubhouse in 1886. Some others were: Undia, Onoko, and Yonnondio; a Masonic Lodge to which Sours belonged. The Manhattan Canoe Club took over Yonnondio in 1898, but it burned down in 1900; it was promptly rebuilt. That clubhouse became the first location of Newport Yacht Club in 1936 until 1943, when it moved to its present location at the old Birds & Worms Hotel. A significant innovation was the flush toilet which made its appearance around this time, but Bay water suffered the consequences, all buildings were removed when NY State took over the land to build the Route 104 Bridge. The only traces remaining on Newport Point are four substantial I-beams, doubled up at what were the landside corner anchors of a pier at RCC where steamboats landed passengers.

When shoreline space became tight for new clubs, one interesting solution was devised by a splinter group of RCC members who started the Irondequoit Canoe Club in 1895 across the Bay in Webster. They got there from Newport House by ringing a bell to retrieve a launch. You can dimly see the place across the Bay (where the flagpole is) in the attached photo of New-Port House around 1900. After a fire, it was rebuilt to a splendid design by renowned architect Claude Bragdon; those plans can be found in the UR Dept. of Rare Books and Manuscripts. Unfortunately, the land chosen at the foot

of Inspiration Point was only about 18 inches above the average water level as they knew it; floods would eventually rise six feet above that. All traces of ICC have disappeared after repeated flooding, a fire in the abandoned building in 1954, and finally the devastating high water and storm of 1973.



Newport House 1900 - lb photo

Sours further expanded his business with horse barns and stables, a large bayside double-deck pavilion, large docks to land steamboats, a 30 Ft. square screened building with a screened tank to stock minnows, and a fleet of rowboats for visiting fishermen. He also owned three gasoline launches, about 50 Ft. long, holding 50 or 60 passengers, for transporting people between Bay resorts and entertainments. These were built on the Bay, since the outlet was closed by a railroad bridge until 1985. Outside the Bay, he was a founder of the Lake Ontario Navigation Co. operating between Sea Breeze and Charlotte. He was Irondequoit Town Supervisor 1885-1891, and active in ice yachting during the winter.

After an interim ownership by George and Julia Henner, the property passed in 1947 to Buster F. and Florence Cross with M. Hazel Tiefel, and fell into a long period of neglect and deterioration, which can be seen in the attached 1984 photo of a house adjoining Newport House. Buster was reputedly more interested in running



Newport House in 1984 - lb photo

a horse than a restaurant. With the opening of the Bay, Newport House became a new opportunity as a location for a marina, bar, and party house, this time by Dan Cappa. All of the accumulated structures were demolished, utilities upgraded, and a marina established. The new 12,110 SF Newport House built in 1989 is shown as it appeared in the attached 1997 photo.(not shown - ed)

Once more, changing times have resulted in a transfer of restaurant ownership, and finally in its closing and abandonment, though the marina flourished. The 5.83 acre property was sold to RSM Development in August 2006 for \$3,715,000 and Town approval obtained for the new plan in March 2010. The building will now be demolished, and Newport House will disappear forever after 170 years on Irondequoit Bay.

A Trip to Krieger's: Don, John and Norma's Excellent Adventure – Norma Platt

Sometimes the best of times start with an odd mixture. Take the NYC remodel and replacing all the old copper pipes and storing them in the basement with a pile of other metal scrap. Add two thrifty guys with a plan: 'Let's take that metal stuff to Krieger's scrap metal yard and get money for it.'

We met at NYC and moved all the scrap metal out of the

basement, sorting it into three piles: 'copper', the old "Snipe haul-out 'pieces and 'pot'. After removing non-copper fittings from the copper pile, we loaded up the truck and headed for the 'interesting' part of town where Portland Ave. meets the Inner Loop.

At Krieger's the more valuable copper gets dealt with separately, so after we hauled up and parked, we sent John inside for a cart. We loaded up the cart and started pushing it in, when a guy (honest, he looked like Johnny Dep with a "bod") comes up to John and offers him \$400 for the contents. John says 'Deal,' and we had \$400 right off the bat.

The rest of the metal fetched \$23. (Weigh the truck-plus-metal, off-load the metal, weigh the truck-no-metal.) We beat a fast retreat to Don's Original (where else?) for lunch and declared ourselves a success with \$423 for the club. JB took the money to the bank right away; just to be sure it was good.

Newsletter Contributions

Thanks to Ted Horvath, John Atkins and Dan Pope for the photos and Leo Balandis for the Newport House history article. Eva Smith turned what was submitted into proper English. Next issue of the newsletter will be in September. Send contributions to J. Boettcher, editor.

2010 NYC Officers and Board

Office	name	phone	email
Commodore	Lynn Bluett	266-5384	lbluett@frontiernet.net
Vice Commodore	Dorothy Drazhal	461-9531	ddrazhal@rochester.rr.com
Rear Commodore	Dave Skolnik	388-2821	dskolnik@rochester.rr.com
Treasurer	Don Curran	314-3805	fdcurran@fastmail.fm
Assistant Treasurer	Peggy Crevey	259-9402	PCrevey@empireval.com
Secretary	Rob Rebres	787-4355	rebresrpr@aol.com
Harbormaster	Bill Vaughn	271-7246	wvaughn@cvs.rochester.edu
Race Chairman	Eric Schoenhardt	381-9076	eschoen2@frontiernet.net
Cruising Fleet Captain	Peter Allen	469-1007	pquorum@aol.com
Laser Fleet Captain	John Boettcher	671-9639	johnwb2@rochester.rr.com
Lightning Fleet Captain	Dan Pope	737-0798	dpope15250@gmail.com
Snipe Fleet Captain	Tom Lee	544-9601	tle2@rochester.rr.com
Director	Bill Andrews	377-4654	billandgail1976@yahoo.com
Director	Howard Stickney	467-2161	no email