

Dedication

One hundred years of yachting! Of course I cannot remember that far back, but I can remember very vividly more than 50 years of yachting and its traditions because I spent my summers as a boy at the Thousand Islands. There I watched the magnificent steam yachts of that day "all spit and polish" gliding majestically up and down the St. Lawrence River, with their large professional crews from captain to deckhands to boiler stokers.

Of course 50 years ago there were smaller "yachts" or runabouts - powered with the new-fangled and unreliable naphtha and gasoline engines. But these launches were still maintained in the best of yachting tradition with their mahogany foredecks so perfectly finished and polished that you could see yourself in them.

In wider waters, such as Lake Ontario, the scene at the Rochester Yacht Club was slightly different 50 to 100 years ago. Sailing yachts of all sizes and classical designs reigned supreme, except for a very few large steam yachts. After the turn of the century a few power boats appeared that, by today's standards, would be considered large. Of course, all (or almost all) of the true sailors of 50 to 100 years ago completely disdained mechanical power of any sort or description. If they were becalmed, they were becalmed and a day's sail often ended in a night on the lake as well. And all of these yachts scrupulously followed the tradition of yachting in the trimness of their vessels, in "making morning and evening colors" on the dot of 8:00 a.m. and precisely when the sun went below the western horizon.

Times have changed, but at the Rochester Yacht Club the basic traditions of yachting are alive and healthy. To be sure, the ladies are much more active sailors today than were their grandmothers in their long dresses, choker collars, and large floppy hats. Even more than 50 years ago, RYC was considered progressive because it admitted women to at least sections of the clubhouse though sailboat racing was at that time still strictly for men (and only very seldom for boys).

Though times have changed, the Rochester Yacht Club has kept up with the times with our modernized clubhouse, excellent mooring and boat storage facilities and other fine amenities of which we can all be justly proud. However, we still cling to the best of yachting traditions — with our Fleet Review at the opening of each boating season, with the Commodore and Officers in proper formal yachting uniform, with flying our colors in proper yachting etiquette, and with the maintenance of our fleet by each member in shipshape and Bristol fashion.

And so, on behalf of all members, I doff my cap in salute to the many officers, committee chairmen, and members who first founded the Rochester Yacht Club 100 years ago in the finest and enduring traditions, and to those who have carried on to this our Hundredth Anniversary.

To these, this Centennial Book is dedicated.

May our burgee ever fly proudly!

F. Ritter Shumway
Commodore 1951,
1952, 1953

January 1977

Right
SKOOKUM under full sail
Owner F. Ritter Shumway, 1955