



Cliff Baker's *MARS* to leeward of Jonathan H. Heinrich's *METEOR* in 1946.

SIX METERS

When one lists the names of the skippers who sailed 6's at RYC, past glories and current history are brought to mind. Those who sailed in fame in years past — Bill Barrows, Rooney Castle, Jonathan H. Heinrich, Sr., Bill Calkins, Howard Klitgord, Arnold Schmidt, Earl Snyder, Otis Nagle, Marsh Tobin, Cliff Baker, Bob Cumming, Herb Wahl — and those who now drive their boats around triangles and on long distance races — John Odenbach, Frank Shumway, Bruce Cameron, Helen Ingerson, Jerry Castle, Gene Van Voorhis — and still those who have dropped from the active racing scene — Bob Lawless, Rich Hoard, Bud Gorsline, Mike Doyle — were all participants in the "Golden Years" of the 6's on Lake Ontario.

As he did for so many fleets, Bill Barrows introduced the 6 Meter to RYC with his purchase of Briggs Cunningham's *Lucy* renamed *Thisbe II* and later *Stork*. With this introduction in the mid-thirties there followed many of the most famous 6's in the world — *Djinn*, *Viking*, *Jill*, *Mist*, *Apache*, *Star Wagon*, *Circe*, *Fun*, *Meteor*, *Wolesta*, *Why Not*, *Gamin*, and *Goose*.

As the RYC Fleet grew so did those in Youngstown, Hamilton, and Toronto. By 1957 there were twenty-one 6's sailing in the first Lake Ontario 6 Meter Association Race

Week. The races were held at RYC and proved to be the most exhausting series of races held, before or since. A listing of the events proves the point. The three day George Cup, often called the Little Canada Cup, was followed by the two day Alarm Cup Series, the two day Colbert Cup Team Races, the three day LYRA Regatta Castle Cup, and the two day Freeman Cup Race.

It was at this first Race Week that the Lake Ontario Rope Pullers Union, Local 832, was established and crew members held their first grievance strike, ably negotiated by Judge John VanVoorhis. The union was organized by the ever resourceful Mike Doyle who, over a long period of time, baffled not only the opposition with his light canvas ability aboard *Stork* but also many a club manager and the local constabulary with his after hours endeavors.

There probably was no class that exceeded the 6's in racing skills and competition during this period. Starting with Bill Barrows' winning of the George Cup in *Thisbe II*'s first year, there followed a continuing list of George Cup, Alarm Cup, Colbert Cup, LYRA Castle Cup, and occasional Freeman Cup winners. In the early 1940's Bob Cumming sailed *Djinn* to numerous championships and was followed in the mid-40's by John Odenbach sailing