

## STAR

The Star Boat was born in 1911. It developed from a 17 foot gaff rigged sloop called *Bug*. George A. Corry, the "Father of the Class," was active in its early development in that great sailing area the western end of Long Island Sound.

The boat has progressed through two major design changes. A shift from gaff-rig to Marconi-rig was the first. This was followed by a change from an antiquated rig with a short mast and long overhanging boom to the tall rig with a short boom. Rigid adherence to strict measurement rules has been an important reason for the popularity of the class and assures the owner that his equipment will not become rapidly obsolete.

Presently there are 148 active fleets and the newest boat (1976) is numbered 5964.

Star Boats were built in Rochester as long ago as 1916 and the following year RYC skippers won a competition in Stars with Cleveland Yachting Club. One of the strengths of the Star Class is its unique organization which started in 1922 under a plan formed by George Elder which is still followed with much success.

It was in 1936 that the Star Class was again activated at RYC, after almost a 20 year lapse. The fleet numbered seven by season's end. That same year RYC was the Host Club for the Star World Championships which, at the time, was one of yachtings most prestigious events. William S. Calkins of RYC placed 17th in a 35 boat fleet. Through the years Rochester Yacht Club was presented in the Star Worlds by Jermyn Downey (1931), Ed Doyle (1937), Cliff Baker (1938, 1943, and 1947), Harrison Bloomer (1940), Jeff Dale (1942), Bud Rogers (1949), Marsh Tobin (1951), Jack Dengler (1955), and Jerry Castle (1963). The 12th District Star Championships were won four times for RYC by Bill Nevin, Bloomer, Baker, and Castle.

Other active skippers in the early Star years (pre-1950) were Don Dailey, Peck Farley, Phil Farnham, Bob Lawless, Jim McConnell, Lawrence Morrow, Bill Nevin, Roger Patterson, Herb Sinnhofer, Pete Tierney, and John VanVoorhis. Added to this list during the 1950's were Bob Bennett, Jim Burns, Fritz Dasso, Bob Dobbin, Tom Hale, Oscar Marth, and Don Russell.

The 1960's saw Jerry Castle, Ted Goodwin, John Mahon, Buddy Rogers, George Mayer, Frank Montbach, Don Phelps, Art Schuster, Bill Statt, John Tyler, Bill Watson, Russ Weinert, Denis Doyle, John Hayford and Pete Woodams added to the list of Star skippers. Many Star owners sailed as husband and wife teams, including Bill and Betty Statt, Jack and Betty Dengler, Marsh and Joyce Tobin, and Bob and Marion Dobbin. The social life was as active as the sailing.

Presently there are only six Stars remaining at RYC and the fleet is relatively inactive. However, the importance of this Class cannot be overemphasized as it has attracted, through the years, some of the finest racing skippers in the upstate area to some of the most competitive racing in the history of the Club. One adherent to the Star Boat describes it in these words:

All of us who have sailed Stars wish everyone would experience the feel of this boat. She is like a tender woman in her sensitivity. She ghosts like a wisp of smoke in light air. She charges like a war horse in a 25 knot breeze and surges thru the heavy seas with a bone in her teeth — out of control of the skipper! She responds to the delicate touch of an expert helmsman like a trained horse following his rider. Such responsiveness, sensitivity and sheer drive is found only in the Star.

Late in 1976 the Star was again designated an Olympic Class, replacing the Tempest, which may trigger a resurgence of interest.



*Star WINDY, owned by Jack Dengler, in 1953.*