

Fisher *Trophies, history etc* *10EA*

Ahoy! On New Regattas And Old History

By PAUL TANNER and CLIFF CARPENTER

CONESUS Lake Yacht Club elbows its way into the big time for little boats this year—playing host to the Region VI Territorial Championship for the Comet Class.

Dates are Aug. 7-9, and some 30 champ Comets will represent their fleets in this section of the state. Commodore Ray Elliot and longtime Comet enthusiast Fred Young were principal figures in wrangling the regatta. Tentative plans call for a single race the afternoon of the first day; two scraps the second day, and the third day open as a "spare" for sailoffs or if Conesus Lake gets in a squally mood. Alan Brown now handles club publicity; Harry Essley, entertainment; Bill Meyer, membership, and Meyer and Fred Weider, regattas and awards.

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STILL sailing this particular lake on the typewriter, we find that the Conesus Lake Lightning Fleet will open the season with a Tuneup Series June 8; then the entire fleet will trail to Silver Lake for a regatta the weekend of June 21.

Chuck Doerflinger, fleet captain and skipper of the Lamb Chop, has a season schedule of two series of 10 races each, plus a championship series of eight races. The fleet will send representatives to the Central N. Y. regatta, district eliminations, and Lewis Point regatta.

The fleet, as husky as it is young, shapes up this season with 15 boats. Its one-man race committee, Cliff Dasson, will repeat the Herculean job this year.

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OLD ROCHESTER Canoe Club's brand new Thistle Fleet is legal now—holding fleet charter No. 46. Actual granting of the charter was a nice homey family affair, for the president of the Thistle Class in the U. S. is also a Rochesterian, E. J. Hanna of 84 Alpine Dr.

According to Commodore Dorr A. Phillips of the Canoe Club, the Thistlers held their season-opener last Sunday after a 40-year-old tradition, the firing of a shot from the same starting gun the club has used all those decades. Will Libby has his Thistle in the water; Ray Dudley is awaiting his from the shipbuilder; Mary and Bob Summerhays (he is club purser) have trailed theirs in from Geneva. Enthusiasm is high enough so that the fleet expects to have a pre-season series of races.

Sometime last Autumn we fumbled our good intention to say something about this legend-surrounded little club, which vies with Rochester Yacht Club for sheer length of existence. The Canoe Club was organized 71 years ago with six members; built its first clubhouse 2 years later; built a larger one in 1887 near Newport House. When this last-named burned down, the present location on the west shore of Irondequoit Bay was purchased. And speaking of ancient incorporation, the Canoe Club has been so recognized by the laws of the state since 1893.

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DEPT. OF ANTI-CLIMAXES: Last season, after William A. (Bill) Rix's 6-meter the Jill came down from Youngstown Y. C. and won the Alarm Trophy from RYC, this corner performed what it intended to be a courteous gesture. It bundled up clips and a picture of Rix's victory and sent it along to him in care of Y. Y. C.

There was nary a reply. We sulked during the Winter, and grumbled about thankless sailors. Then in the mail this week, from Rix, this note: "We were Spring-cleaning the Youngstown Y. C. last Sunday, and Bud Doyle found the picture, etc., of the Alarm Trophy. You sent it to me in August of '51 and I just received it. Much thanks for proof of my victory!"

Which, of course, proves the value of Spring cleaning.

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FOR THE LAST quarter century the reputed "oldest yachting trophy on fresh water" has been reposing in the Rochester Yacht Club's trophy case with no mark on it to show who it was that brought it triumphantly back across Lake Ontario from Canada as its last winner.

That long neglect is about to be corrected. One of the three surviving members of the crew of the P Class sloop Alloede, which the late Lorenzo G. (Laurie) Mabbett skippered to victory over the Royal Canadian Yacht Club's Cara Mia in July, 1927, has sent the cup to the engraver.

The trophy is the Fisher Cup. Art Mohr, who was aboard Alloede when she rewon the cup from the Canadians, has been bothered for a long time by the fact that the last engraving on the silver piece told of Alloede in 1925 being defeated in its challenge by the RYC's Bernice at Toronto.

Finally the other day, after talking to Taylor Howard and Harry Glen, the other remaining crewmen, Mohr called Commodore F. Ritter Shumway and got his permission to have the cup properly marked with the date telling of Alloede's victory in 1927. The engraver should have the job done in time to have it back at the RYC for the grand reopening of the reconstructed clubhouse.

Besides Howard, Glen and Mohr, the late John Taylor and Glen Poyzer also were crewmen aboard the Mabbett-skippered racing sloop when they sailed to Toronto in 1927 to challenge for the Fisher Cup, which originally had been presented to the Chicago Yacht Club in 1882 by A. J. Fisher as a "challenge cup for sloops." It isn't clear exactly how it came to Lake Ontario, but presumably was won by one of the racing boats from this lake which raced in the West.

Anyway it was taken from the American shore here by the RYC's Zoraya, which defeated the RYC's Iroquois here in 1906. In 1911 the local club sent over Seneca to challenge for the cup, but the Canadian boat Patricia successfully defended. It wasn't until 1925 when Alloede made its unsuccessful first effort, that the cup was raced for again.

Then came the 1927 series of races at Toronto. Charles A. Rawlings, the writer, was RYC's commodore. Canada's Cara Mia won the first race on July 20 in light weather over a windward-leeward course by a big 6½ minutes. Next day the wind was stronger, favoring Alloede, and the invading boat was victorious by more than 2 minutes in a "piping breeze." July 22, day of the final race dawned rainy and foggy with hardly any breeze.

After a couple of postponements, the boats finally were taken out to the starting line, the gun sounded and the two drifted out of sight in the fog. They moved at a snail's pace throughout the race, but finally out of the fog appeared Alloede, astounding the watchers who thought the light going would bring the Canadian boat home far ahead again. As it was Cara Mia never finished, a power boat having to go out and tow her in from the fog-shrouded waters.

The Fisher Cup was presented to Skipper Mabbett and his crew at a big dinner that night at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club. Then Alloede sailed home with the trophy to a noisy greeting from the home club boats. The cup was placed in the trophy case and there it has remained without any record of that last great victory showing on it.

But they never did bother to do anything about getting that last victory recorded on it until Art Mohr got busy the other day.