

In 1967, 24 boats competed in a rare light air race with only three arriving in time for the Awards Banquet. Herb Wahl's Cal-48 *Ayasha* won. The first RYC boat to finish was Bernie Wahl's *Ballerina*.

The 1968 race was won again by *Red Jacket*; however, the U.S. regained the team title with John Odenbach's *Rampage* and Bob Strassenburgh's *Capsule* taking 2nd and 3rd in Div. I, and Helen and Joe Ingerson's *Zest* and Ted Roth's *Allene* taking 1st and 3rd in Div. II.

The following year saw an RYC boat return to the winner's column with a victory by Alan Goldstein in his new 40 foot, Derecktor designed *Madame X. Rampage, Mallard, and Zest* all placed in division.

Bernie Herman won in 1970 and 1971 in *Bonaventure IV* and *Bonaventure V* with Frank Shumway, Henry Williams, Erv Lyke, and John Odenbach among flag winners.

An ever growing fleet of 26 boats started the 1972 race. Frank Shumway in the outdated Columbia 50 *Volante* won by an incredible five hour margin. This was Shumway's third victory in Rochester/Barrows/LOI races.

The 1973 through 1976 races were won, respectively by Bernie Herman's *Bonaventure V*, Al Bernel's *Abino Robin*, Peter Blacklock in *Sunshine*, and Gordon Fisher's *Terrier*. Shumway and Odenbach placed well each year.

Other fine RYC performances were Rolf Armer's 3rd in Division in *Wotan* in 1974, and Ervin Lyke's similar finish in *Audacity* in 1975. The 1975 race also saw RYC's new racing skipper Jonah Pruitt win the Peck Farley Trophy for first Rochester boat with a fine 2nd overall finish in *Jeremiah*. Henry Williams' *Susan B. Anthony* and James Robfogel's *Ping* led the RYC fleet in 1976.

So, while this somewhat lengthy recount of the history of this famous RYC sponsored Lake Ontario long distance race comes to an end, the race itself continues to grow in popularity. Year after year the entry list increases as does the competitiveness of the fleet.

Despite the physical demands of the 218 mile race and the high probability of bad weather somewhere along the course, the "test of men and gear" continues to be one of the premier long distance events in yacht racing.

Freeman Cup - LYRA Regatta

The Lake Yacht Racing Association (LYRA) is believed to be the first association of yacht clubs of its type in the nation. Formed in 1884, with an original membership consisting of Toronto Yacht Club, Royal Canadian Yacht Club, Oswego Yacht Club, and Bay of Quinte Yacht Club, the goals of LYRA as stated in the minutes of its first meeting are these:

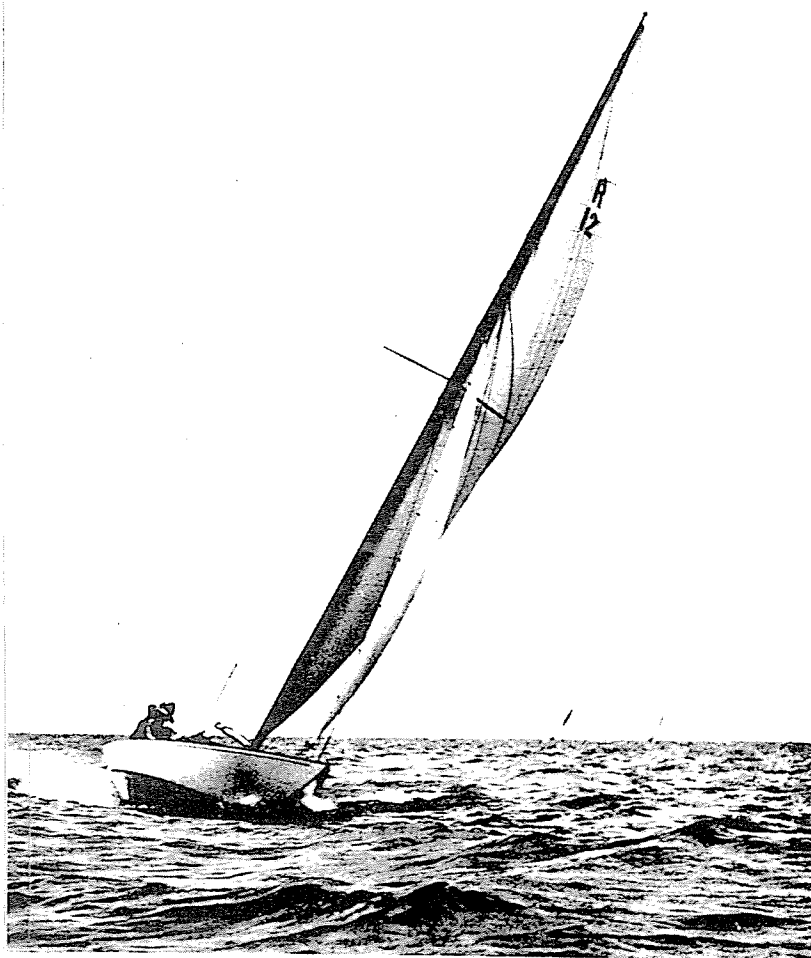
The object of the association shall be to encourage yacht building and yacht racing, and to establish and enforce uniform rules for the government of all races in which the yachts of two or more clubs compete.

Rochester Yacht Club became a member in 1887 and Commodore George H. Newell became vice president and, in 1888, president of LYRA.

RYC has continued its association with LYRA for 90 years. This is exceeded only by RCYC which is the only survivor of the founding clubs that has maintained its LYRA membership without a break

Lieutenant Colonel L. F. Grant, in his book entitled *History of the Lake Yacht Racing Association* published in 1963, describes in detail the early years of the organization. Among the first actions was the adoption of the Seawanhaka Rule under which regattas were raced and which was subsequently adopted by most other clubs on the lake. This rule is described in this way:

Simply, the rule was that racing length was half the sum of water-line length and the square root of the sail area. The rule obviously encouraged long overhangs and, as there were no scantling restrictions, some very flimsy boats were built under its influence.



W. Peck Farley's *ROGUE*, RYC's first Freeman Cup Winner in 1925.



Crew of LORELEI, 1949 Freeman Winner. Top- Skipper Herb Wahl, Mildred Wahl, John Remington, Chuck Lee, Chuck Speidel, Bottom- Jo Ingerson, Helen Griffith Ingerson, Jack Davis.



Rooney Castle presenting Lipton Cup and Mabbett Cup to Newton Castle at 1939 LYRA Regatta for his victories in SHADOW.

Through the years regattas sponsored by LYRA took several forms. The first regattas were of the "port-to-port" type. Boats would rendezvous at one port, race to another, where a one or two day regatta would be held, and then race to another port, and so on through perhaps four or six weeks.

At other times "circuit" type regattas were sailed. That is, the fleet raced at one port, cruised to another port where they raced again, and so on. During the early days of LYRA these "port-to-port" and "circuit" regattas were frequently of several weeks' duration and were apparently quite grand affairs.

In 1908 a 190 mile race was held from Hamilton to Chaumont for the Rudder Cup which was won by Eric C. Moore of RYC. This race, described in more detail in another chapter, is important inasmuch as it was the forerunner of the Freeman Cup Race which officially began in 1921 and, with the exception of three years during World War II, has been sailed continuously ever since.

Mr. Charles S. Freeman, of Toronto, donated the trophy bearing his name to LYRA in 1921 for long distance racing. In his book, Lt. Col. Grant writes the following about this event.

The meeting set the course for the first race from Hamilton to Kingston, starting on the evening of July 30, 1921. Thus was inaugurated an event which has become increasingly important in the Lake Yacht Racing Association, and the Freeman Cup has become its most coveted trophy. Men who have sailed in many regattas will say that the greatest yachting thrill of the year is day-break on the morning following the start of "the Freeman." As sail after sail shows up, all hands try to identify each new appearance. "How did that little fellow get up here?" "We're well up, there are three in our class that owe us time all behind us." "if that is so-and-so we ought to win our class at least, but if it's someone else, we're licked." Those are some of the remarks one may hear.

The first Freeman was sailed over virtually the longest direct course possible (Hamilton to Kingston) on Lake Ontario - from end to end. The weather included a severe thunderstorm which scattered the fleet and forced many to take shelter and was followed by 20-30 north-westerly winds. The schooner *Haswell* skippered by Aemilius Jarvis of RCYC was winner.

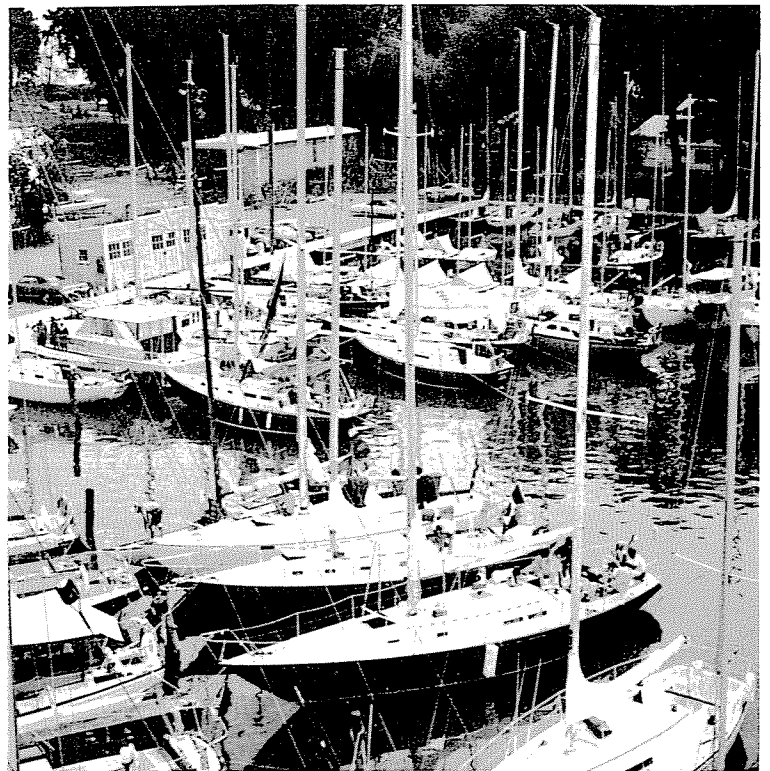
Not much later the Freeman Cup long distance race was integrated with the annual LYRA regatta, either immediately preceding or following the other races.

The minutes of the 1925 meeting of LYRA shows that a new regulation, long since cancelled, was adopted which stated "that in order not to obscure navigation lights, yachts could not use light headsails, spinnakers, balloon jibs, reaching jibs, or spinnaker booms between the hours of 7:00 P. M. and 5:00 A. M. E.S.T." Also during this meeting, as it had in 1907, LYRA discussed the age old question of "how to handle older or veteran boats in order to handicap them fairly with more modern boats."

In 1931 the original Freeman Cup was destroyed by fire and a replica of the cup was ordered from England.



Bill Stolze's SIDEBAND, 1970 Freeman Cup Winner.



RYC Basin before start of 1971 Freeman Race.

In 1937 Charles Freeman, who often spoke of the unity of yachtsmen on the lake and the fraternity of the two countries, offered another trophy - to be called the Louise Freeman Cup. He gave LYRA a free hand but hoped the trophy would be awarded to a yacht which had no chance of winning the Freeman Cup. Initially the Louise Freeman Cup was given to smaller boats (20 foot rating). Later the

use of the cup changed several times but in recent years it has been awarded to the 8 Meter Class while the Charles Freeman Cup is awarded to Cruising Class boats.

Rochester Yacht Club boats have performed well in the Freeman Cup racing, winning the trophy 13 times in the total of 53 races. The following is a list of RYC winners:

ROCHESTER YACHT CLUB CHARLES FREEMAN CUP WINNERS

YEAR	YACHT	OWNER	COURSE
1925	Rogue	W. P. Farley	Toronto-Presqu'ile
1929	Safara	W. V. Castle	Big Sodus - Toronto
1930	Safara	W. P. Farley	Rochester - Burlington
1932	Cayuga	J. VanVoorhis	Rochester - Cobourg
1934	Cayuga	J. VanVoorhis	Rochester - Toronto
1935	Conewago	W. V. Castle	Big Sodus - Kingston
1937	Cayuga	J. VanVoorhis	Cobourg - Rochester
1949	Lorelei	H. Wahl	Rochester - Toronto
1951	Venture III	G. Ford	Presqu'ile - Chaumont
1963	Zest	E. VanVoorhis	Toronto - Rochester
1968	Capsule	R. Strassenburgh	Rochester - Chaumont
1969	Madame X	A. Goldstein	Sodus - Toronto
1970	Sideband	W. J. Stolze	Youngstown - Chaumont

Note that John VanVoorhis was a three time winner, Peck Farley and Rooney Castle were two time winners, and that RYC boats won three consecutive years—from 1968 through 1970. In fact, in 1970 RYC boats took first three overall positions and first place in all three divisions with John Odenbach's *Rampage* being 1st in Div. I and 2nd overall; Bill Stolze's *Sideband* being 1st in Div. II and 1st overall and Henry Williams' *Daniel Hand* being 1st in Div. III and 3rd overall.

In addition, RYC boats have consistently placed well in their respective classes in the Long Distance race. Records are far from complete; however, some recent winners include Douglas Buckholz, Tarry Polidor, Eugene VanVoorhis, Chester Clarridge, Rolf Armer, John Odenbach, Alan Goldstein, Jonathan Heinrich, Robb Holt, and Bill Statt. Going back a few years further *Shadow* under Newton and Kendall Castle won the Mabbett Cup (R Boat Long Distance Race) an incredible 13 times.

An indication of the active racing support which RYC has given the three race LYRA Regattas, that preceded or followed the Long Distance Race, can be seen from the July 3, 1947 edition of the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle which tells about that year's series:

John Odenbach, a single minded guy if there ever was one, took his RYC 6 Meter ace, *Circe*, over the finish line first by the same embarrassingly huge margin as he did Monday. Newt and Ken Castle, another pair of single minded RYC guys, took their crack R Boat *Shadow* over the finish line first by a

margin as amazing as *Circe's*.

In LYRA Course Racing Regatta RYC skippers have also built up a creditable list of wins. Eugene VanVoorhis' *Iroquois* was six times winner of the Gooderham Cup, Newton and Kendall Castle's *Shadow* was 14 times winner of the Lipton Cup, John Odenbach's *Rampage* was four times winner of the Lake Ontario Trophy as was Frank R. Shumway's *Mallard* on two occasions. Other recent winners of LYRA events include Jonathan Heinrich, Chester Clarridge, Helen Ingerson, and Bill Statt.

The Lake Yacht Racing Association has grown continually through the years and today includes in its membership almost every yacht club and yachting organization on Lake Ontario. Currently, it has 24 regular and 28 associate members.

In addition to racing, Rochester Yacht Club members have participated actively in the administration of LYRA affairs. George H. Newell, Mathew Cartwright, T. B. Pritchard, W. V. (Rooney) Castle, Sr., W. P. Barrows, and Frank R. Shumway have all served as president of LYRA. J. E. Burroughs, Charles VanVoorhis, W. V. (Jerry) Castle, Jr., Newton Castle, and W. J. Stolze have been vice presidents. George Culp was secretary for four years, Newton B. Castle for 16 years, Alan Goldstein for three years, W. J. Stolze for four years, and Helen Ingerson for two years. Kelsey Scott is currently treasurer.

In 1975, Newton B. Castle was awarded the Blake Van Winkle Trophy by LYRA for extraordinary contribution to yachting on Lake Ontario.