

Did you know

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THE DINGHY FLEET

BY JACK BARTLETT

CAT RIGGED DINGHIES were brought into the Rochester Yacht Club in 1927 as a result of a merger with the Genesee Dinghy Club. Four years later, as a result of a defeat at Toronto by the British and Canadians, the local group decided it was time for a new design.

R.I.P., an Uffa Fox designed boat, was brought to the Club from England through the efforts of a few members. This famous dinghy was similar in general outlines both to the English boats which had defeated the Americans in 1931 and also the present-day dinghies.

Mr. Lacey of the Rochester Boat Works built about 15 of these boats with double planked hulls. These boats were so well built that a few are around the area today, including No. 5 Eddystone Light owned by Mike Maijgren, which is still at the club.

In 1939 the International 14 Association was formed at the Rochester Yacht Club and soon spread to the East and West Coasts. This Fleet has had a large part to play not only in the formation of the Seattle Fleet as a result of the efforts of a transplanted member, Norm Cole, but also the nearby Sodus Fleet, as a result of Missionary work done by several present members.

The "14's" have played an important part in the small boat development on the American scene. It was one of, if not the first class, to use a large boat rig, that is an overlapping jib and spinnaker, on a small boat. It was also one of the first to have a planing hull. It is the plane that is a dinghy sailor's ambition throughout the race, and words cannot describe the thrill that comes as the hull lifts out of its normal lines and practically flies over the water at a rate far in excess of the maximum hull speed. To hold a plane for more than a few lengths is a genuine skill that is one of the marks of a top-notch dinghy skipper and crew.

Because the average age of the Fleet Members is in the twenties, the Fleet was hard hit during the war, but bounced back in the years since, following a regatta in Toronto in 1947 and the U.S. National Championship for International 14's here in 1948.

The International 14 Association is probably unique in its physical set-up in that it contains two divisions, the larger one design, and the smaller open or development division. The Association is unified by the President who alternates between the two divisions. The local Fleet has consistently been a one design group. The one design division has profited over the years from the advances that have been tried and proved by the development division and have been adopted by the class as a whole.

The present fleet consists of:

258 Lil' Dipper	John Gottschalk
358 Cobra	David Cunningham
371 Finesse	William Boswell
376 Cut Up	Ted Goodwin
379 Blitz III	Albert Jones
380 Eddystone Light II	Henry Maijgren
382 Stork Too	Eugene Seary
384	Robert Gianinny
385 Touche	Thomas Barry
405 Gadget Jr.	Charles Shumway
	Robert Lawless

The officers of the Rochester Yacht Club Dinghy Division are John Gottschalk, Fleet Captain, and Jack Bartlett, Secretary-Treasurer.

The "Dinghy Fleet" is officially known as Fleet No. 1 of the International 14 Association as a result of the pioneering efforts of various local people to introduce present day dinghy racing into this country.

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