



# The *Jib Sheet*

December 2021

Newsletter of the Rochester Canoe



## Commodore's Column

*John Powers*

Time's up! My time as RCC commodore that is. Any grand plans I may have had two years ago were dashed and overwhelmed by global circumstances. My philosophy quickly morphed into this: Say yes as often as possible and when the appropriate office holder could be clearly identified, delegate authority. Take responsibility for the remainder myself. I couldn't please all of

the people all of the time. Sorry, that's life. But the club is in pretty good shape, especially considering the global context. At last count we have 101 memberships, which is only a couple shy of the record. I'm not taking credit for that. That goes to our membership directors, Andy Heyer and Mary Ellen Brown, and everyone that has helped improve the clubhouse and grounds. There are so many people to thank. Everyone, really, for making my job easy. It was a rare thing indeed that anyone said no when asked to help. Many times, I didn't even have to ask. At the risk of missing someone, there are several people that I would like to specifically thank for their contributions during my time:

- Diane Ahlman for keeping the money well accounted for and reimbursing members quickly for expenses.
- Jim Hauck for being available at a moment's notice to fix clubhouse and grounds issues, often working behind the scenes and of his own initiative.
- Tom Lee for keeping the crash boats staffed, the schedule straight, and meeting people at the club when I couldn't.
- Chris Connelly, for keeping the power boats going, putting the docks in and out, helping Jim with his projects, and just being fun to work with.
- Mark Weider for getting all of the agencies to allow us to build the retaining rock wall and for help with other projects.



- Doug and Deirdre Kaukeinen for organizing a couple of regattas during a pandemic.
- John Gorton, for keeping meticulous minutes and improving the dues notification system.
- The fleet captains: Adam Gesner, Steve Powers, Jean Blasdell for running or supporting regattas and for keeping the boat yard organized enough that everyone had good access.
- The Race Committees: Jim and Patty Tompkins, Jackie Ingham, Sarah Gesner, Bill Dexter and Tricia Reinhardt for keeping us racing in and out of season, even when it was only one fleet. And yes, that's committees, plural, because we can't forget the RC Laser fleet on Thursday nights.
- John Eberhardt and Jim Melecki for their help with repairing Whaler #1. I'm not sure we would have ever gotten that motor back up and running without them.
- Mary Ellen Brown, George Smith, Diane Ahlman and everyone that helped clean up the trailer yard and remove junk from protected wetland area.
- Lynda Bryant for putting together this newsletter and hounding us to write.
- And finally, everyone who took on a project of their own initiative or said yes when asked to help or volunteered more than their share in a crash boat...and that's just about everyone.

When the world and Club returns to normal, whatever and whenever that turns out to be, one thing I think we need to deal with is the slow but inevitable demise of the JY-15 fleet. The Sunfish is a friendly single-handed boat. The Thistle is a three-handed technical racing machine. I believe we need a friendly two-handed boat suitable for an aging membership. The JY-15's continuing availability is in serious question. Older boats made of ACP cannot be repaired. It's "friendliness" is debatable. Moving to a different class is a path I would have liked to have started on, but got pushed aside. I am happy that Jean reports that although the JY's have not raced recently, they are still being used for cruising.

Lastly, I have every confidence that the Club is in good hands with Tom Lee and Mary Ellen in the lead roles. I'm sure you will support them as you have me.



## Vice Commodore's Report

*Tom Lee*



Soon to become Commodore and musing about all the responsibilities that come with the job, I began to consider all our previous Commodores, while scanning the long list of them. I am humbled by the great examples of leadership and abilities these individuals provided to our club. I will try my best to deserve to serve the membership in the same manner.

I, also, in my musing realized that I may be the oldest person to act as Commodore. Oh, shades of Joe Biden! I then realized, that on a much smaller scale, I need to help steer the club to provide an enjoyable, fun and interesting atmosphere while helping to insure the health and safety of our fine members. If I begin to display notable signs of early dementia and / or infirmities that may affect the success of the club... let me know? We have very capable back-up. No Commodore could be more pleased than I with all the members of the Board of Governors, they all are exceptional people and the club is in great hands. I'll list them here:

Commodore: Tom Lee  
Vice Commodore: Mary Ellen Brown  
Rear Commodore: Andrew Heyer  
Purser: Diane Ahlman  
Director: Kira Munger  
Director: Todd Williams  
Director: Heidi Riegel

Director: Graham Leonard  
Secretary: John Gorton  
Harbor Master: Chris Connelly  
JY15 Fleet Captain: tbd  
Sunfish Fleet Captain: tbd  
Thistle Fleet Captain: tbd  
Past Commodore: John Powers

In my opinion our predecessors (all Board Members serving as well as past) have kept this sailing club in an excellent atmosphere, camaraderie and the physical grounds to be enjoyed by us all. The BoG will continue to promote one design dinghy sailing to the best of our ability, perchance to enhance the environment.



## An Epic RCC Event! The 2021 Sunfish United States Masters Championship

October 8-10, 2021

Sponsored by Shoreline Sailboats

*by Ralph Simpson*

*Photos by Natalie Hammer*

RCC hosted fifty-three Sunfish competitors from 32 different sailing clubs and 13 different states for this major championship. The Master's profile: Four Apprentice Masters (age 40-49), Twenty Masters (50-59), Twenty-one Grand Masters (60-69), Seven Great Grand Masters (70-79), One Senior Grand Master (80+, Congrats to George Sechrist from Blackbeard Sailing Club). Sixteen (30%) of the competitors were from our own "Heaven on the Bay" Rochester Canoe Club. Go RCC!

The Planning and Preparations ... and more planning and preparations: Co-Regatta Chairs and primary event organizers, Deirdre Santos-Kaukeinen and Doug Kaukeinen did a supercalifragilisticexpialidocious job planning every aspect of the event and mobilizing the volunteer RCC member network to execute all the myriad preparations required to run a successful regatta. Race documents, registration, club clean up and spruce up, RC flags, race officials, mark set boats, race committee, meals, refreshments, scoring, communications and housing. It's a long list of stuff that needs to happen and WOW - Deirdre, Doug and all the volunteers involved did RCC proud! The regatta organizers would like to thank ALL of you who helped with the event and did outstanding work! Volunteers included: Judy Gesner, Bruce Gelletly, Chris Connelly, Ellen Pfeiffer, Lyn Parsons, Sara Gesner, Lynda Bryant, Bobby Bryant, Pat Tompkins, Tricia Reinhardt, Alissa, Paul, and Sammie Owens, Jackie Ingham, Mary Ellen Brown, Bill Dexter, Aimee Fien, Steve Powers, and Amy Gorton. Special thanks to Jim Hauck and Andy Heyer, who took care of many facility improvements that impressed our out of town guests. No doubt there were stealthy volunteers who cleaned up or did their work unseen, and we appreciate them just as much!

RCC friend Joy Martin of Seneca Yacht Club volunteered her time and expertise in the planning stages and for the entire long weekend as Principal Race Officer.



Her esteemed Race Committee crew: Pat Tompkins, Jackie Ingham, Tricia Reinhardt, and Sara Gesner. Mark Set Boats were staffed by John Baker (Seneca Yacht Club), Jim Tompkins, Tom Lee, Steve and Abby Powers, and Natalie Hammer, who also served as regatta photographer. Thank you to our on the water team! They had their hands full all weekend, and we are so grateful to have had these competent volunteers looking out for the fleet.

### **Day 1 (Friday October 8):**

The highlight Friday was an informative clinic by Mike Ingham (9 time Thistle National Champion and US Sailing Champion of Champions in 2005 and 2014) and Doug Kaukeinen (2008 Sunfish North American Champion and 2008 US Sailing Champion of Champions) on how to rig and use a two halyard system on a Sunfish. "You can do this and you can do that and watch what happens to the upper spar bend when you sheet in, oh; and this is another way to rig it." Great stuff!

The clinic was followed by Doug and Mike helping sailors implement the two halyard system on their boats and answer a host of other Sunfish related questions before we hit the water for a light wind practice race. I'm still trying to figure out how Mike and Doug and other top sailors do what they do. A little bit sinks in and starts to make sense each regatta. Practice makes for improvement.

Regatta registration included a warm winter touque (as we call them in Canada) and neck gaiter so we can keep sailing comfortably in the RCC Sunfish Frostbite Series and on through the winter with the Rochester Frostbite Association out of the Rochester Yacht Club. Yeah, another 6 months of racing!

### **Day 2 (Saturday October 9):**

Let the racing begin! No light winds this day. The wind was out of the SSE blowing 13-17 mph in the morning. Dropping the rig down to the lower halyard was the operating mode for most along with some serious hiking. The wind piped up to 18-22 mph before the second race, with several gusts over 25. With many boats capsized and several sailors requiring assistance, the race was ultimately abandoned and the fleet sent in for lunch. This was a good safety call by the PRO with too many boats capsized and all the powerboats engaged in rescues.



The wind abated to a more manageable level after lunch with two more races completed in somewhat less demanding conditions. A highlight for the shore spectators was that the starting area and leeward gates were right in front of the club! After racing, we were treated to a spectacular assortment of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and refreshments served on shore. Happy hour was followed by a scrumptious "Friends over 40 in Flannel" taco dinner and dessert with live music by the rock duo "Men Behaving Badly".

The clubhouse and event tent looked great, having been decked out in flannel and flowers by Judy, Deirdre, and helpers. Some pretty wild flannel attire was on display! The evening was capped off by fabulous door prizes provided by Shoreline Sailboats of Avon, NY (the event sponsor). The top prizes included a tiller extension, Harken Hexaratchet, Nautalytics digital compass, and Harken deck cover for the lucky winners!

### **Day 3 (Sunday October 10):**

Winds were from the SSE again but this time starting around 7–8 mph and building through the day to 10- 12mph at the end of competition. The Race Committee gave us four more races between 10 am and 2 pm, at which point most of the fleet was pretty tired out. Mike Ingham pulled ahead of Paul-Jon with better consistency. Rich Chapman, Doug Kaukeinen and Dan Norton (Devils Lake Yacht Club) had consistently good results. Race wins for the entire series were spread across several sailors: Doug Kaukeinen and Rich Chapman had two bullets each, with Mike Ingham, Paul-Jon Patin and Eric Gesner winning one race apiece.



Great sailing by all especially since most of us are not used to racing with 52 other boats on the race course!



Doug and Deirdre thanked the many RCC volunteers and recognized the US Sailing Certified Judges on hand for protest hearings: Nancy Zangerle (Chief Judge), Rob Markwick, Katie Nicoll, and Joe Jospe. The following trophies (beautiful ceramic candleholders made by Lyn Parsons) were awarded:

- Top Senior Grand Master: George Sechrist
- Top Great Grand Masters: 1) Ronald McHenry 2) John Barrere 3) Judy Lazo
- Top Grand Masters: 1) Eric Gesner 2) Mark Weider 3) Greg Eiffert
- Top Apprentice Masters: 1) Erich Estes 2) Geoff Stucke 3) Michael Troxler
- Top Female Finisher: Mary Ellen Brown

Finally, the **top three Overall Finishers of the regatta** were all in the Masters division:

1. Mike Ingham
2. Paul-Jon Patin
3. Richard Chapman.

**Congratulations to Mike Ingham  
the Sunfish U.S. Masters  
Champion of 2021!**

Yes, an epic regatta for the Rochester Canoe Club, US Sunfish Class Association and US Sailing record books! Many thanks to all that contributed! Several attendees expressed their appreciation both during and after the event. Deirdre and Doug received this message from a Rehoboth Bay sailor, “Thanks again to you both and all the RCC members who put on a terrific event. I've never been to a regatta with warmer hospitality!”

Full race results are available at <https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/22101>

2nd - Paul John Patin



1st - Mike Ingham



3rd - Rich Chapman





# How Did We Go from an Easy, Breezy Summer Home to a Metal Warehouse?

*By Mark Weider*



Thistle Regatta 1954



New Building Summer 1958



Big changes were happening at the Canoe Club in the 1950s. In the early part of that decade we were operating out of the third clubhouse, what I like to refer to as Mayor Edgerton's cottage. There were 10 rooms in the building that could be rented out for the season, the 4 corner rooms had porches and cost a little extra. There was usually a caretaker on site for the season and there was a meal provided on Sundays. In 1951, Thistle Fleet #46 was formed at the club with David Allyn, Charles Angle and Marsden Tuthill, that would explode into one of the largest fleets in the country. There were issues at the clubhouse with proper refrigeration and water pressure. The water supply came from a spring across the creek, north of the building. There is reference to getting on "city water" in 1953, but it would take a few years.

Bud Tuthill began negotiation with Ward's Natural Science in 1951 to acquire the north boat yard, which was referred to as the "swamp". Getting this property would also take years. Also, in 1955, there was talk of opening the Bay. There was a survey of club members about the opening, with 18 members voting for and 20 voting against.

It seemed that the clubhouse was taking a beating every winter. In the spring of '54 there were broken windows, the place needed paint and there were plans to replace the building supports one at a time. It seemed there was a lack of interest in renting the rooms, and the club Board tried letting the rooms go for free, if the member would promise to improve its condition. Of the few pictures I've seen of the insides, it was not a gorgeous, old classic. In '55 the building was broken into and ransacked. The roof leaked and there was talk of modernizing the lady's room (I can only imagine). A hoist for dipping boats was mentioned for the first time. Taxes were \$130 and Insurance was \$177 a year. By the way, 1955 also saw RCC hosting the first Great Lakes Championship on Lake Ontario with 38 boats.

In spring of '56, with 68 members, it was determined by the Board, that "the present structure was a fire trap and probably could not be remodeled for a reasonable sum". The decision on the hoist was deferred and a long-range planning group proposed a new clubhouse. They recommended a 1 story concrete block building with the potential to add a second floor later. The board passed a motion to look into raising funds. The members voted by mail with 51 favorable votes. Pledges were solicited for \$100 per year for 3 years. The pledges were to be considered as gifts and kept confidential. By June '56, \$9,000 had been pledged.

There were several things that were to be covered by these funds. There was an existing mortgage, a hoist pad, getting city water, acquiring the north boat yard which



was estimated at \$1500, demolition of the old building, construction of the new building and normal activities.

Early in '57 sounded like the death knell for the old building. Reports state that scarcely a pane of glass remained, the frames were also damaged. The refrigerator door was ripped off, furniture was broken and 2 canoes and 2 boats were damaged. Plans were to make it usable for the summer and have a new building by winter.

The first discussion of a metal building appears in Feb. 1957. The one-story block building would be 28 ft. by 60 ft. and cost \$4,700. Someone found a steel building with higher ceilings and was 40 ft. by 60 ft. for less than \$4,700. The board discussed possible objections to the steel building based on appearance and acoustic and thermal insulation. Some people still discuss those issues. It was referred to as a WAREHOUSE. A unanimous vote was taken by the Board, that was led by Commodore Robert Johnson, to proceed with the metal building. This was rather amazing, because this was decided by the board without input from the members.

Meanwhile, Tuthill had acquired an oral agreement to use the north triangle parcel. The land was transferred to RCC on July 3, 1957. A hoist was approved to be capable of lifting boats as big as Lightnings (what?). Membership had been raised to 100.

The basic steel structure was erected by a contractor sometime in mid-1957, and can be seen just south of the old clubhouse in the photograph below. However, the building needed plumbing, septic system, electrical, floors, interior walls, grading, etc. At the annual meeting in Nov. '57, it was acknowledged that there were cost overruns and a motion was passed to arrange for a mortgage to cover the old mortgage and the remaining work. The cost to remove the old building was \$1,100 and it was hoped that it could be completed by Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. In the discussion on the \$7,000 mortgage there was a strange reference to consideration of a future swimming pool. Genesee Valley Union Trust gave us a \$7,000 mortgage at 6% for 10 years with 13 members signing on.

1958 was a very big year for the completion of the new building. The old clubhouse was down and the scrap was burned, the old foundation hole was filled in and rough graded. The interior of the new clubhouse was designed and numerous foremen or committee chairmen were assigned to complete specific projects. It appears that almost all members were assigned to a construction crew for one or



two weeks of nights and weekends. Framing, flooring, electrical, wallboards, kitchen cabinets, windows, painting and landscaping crews were formed with a specific schedule. The “working club” concept was fully engaged.

In 1959, there were still projects to be completed such as walkways, patio, steps, play areas, but we were well on our way to the club we know today.



Summer 1957 with both clubhouses. Note north boatyard swamp and 2 cottages to the south.



Spring 1958 after 3<sup>rd</sup> Clubhouse removed. Note the first hoist, the cut bank behind the building and the lack of fill for the septic system leach field.



# University of Rochester Sailing

*By Hugh Rider*

This has been a very exciting semester for University of Rochester Sailing with a busy fall regatta schedule, many new developments for the team, and a trip to Maryland for the Luce Trophy qualifier.

This semester we were very fortunate to be able to attend numerous competitive regattas, including “The Jack Boehringer Memorial” hosted by Cornell, “The Battle of Lake Erie” hosted by Gannon, and “Cazenovia Fall Open” hosted by Syracuse. Our strong performance over the course of the fall earned us a berth at the “Luce Trophy Regatta” hosted by Washington College in Maryland. This was an incredible opportunity for our sailors to race against the best our region has to offer. We are looking forward to an even more competitive season of spring sailing.

Back in Rochester we are happy to report one of the largest groups of new recruits in the team’s history. After a tough year due to COVID-19 restrictions, our team has bounced back. We now boast almost 50 active members across all grades, backgrounds, and skill levels. A large majority of our members joined this Fall, and we ran a highly successful beginner sailing program. To accommodate our larger team we added practices and were able to get all 6 of our 420’s into working order. In addition, RCC generously helped us both with boats and teaching our new sailors. After many great years working with Roy we have begun the process of looking for a new coach, as he started a new job. This fall he helped us when available, along with RCC members, notably Kevin Lofftus. Kevin was invaluable to us filling in as a coach, helping us with repairs, and organizing drills to help us sharpen our skills. Both Kevin and Roy’s extensive knowledge was invaluable to us as we strive to become a stronger team.

We are very proud of our successful fall season and look forward to continuing to raise the bar in the Spring and beyond.





## Our Successful Sunfish Frostbite Series

*By Jim Tompkins*

We raced 4 out of 5 scheduled days with pretty good weather. It was great to often have several U of R racers using club Sunfish.

I want to thank a number of people who helped along the way: Jackie Ingham and Patty Tompkins for running & recording the races.

John Powers, Chris Connelly and others who dealt with the RC boat & whaler.

John Baker, Joy Martin, Roy Ingham and U of R sailors who did RC duty.

Tim Hammer for weekly scoring.

As I have said before, we like to run many relatively small and quick frostbite races.

I believe this has many positive aspects:

- It keeps the fleet together for safety.
- It minimizes the time between the first and last finishers.
- It emphasizes the importance of getting a good start while providing many opportunities to do so.
- It necessitates much boat-to-boat interaction especially during multiple mark roundings.
- It does all this in a serious but fun environment.
- It provides more action & entertainment for the race committee,

Experience shows frostbiting can definitely improve your "normal" racing performance.

Free-to-all, Sunfish Frostbiting is a long RCC tradition that will live on and on. It reinforces that RCC is dedicated to competitive sailboat racing.

### Cumulative Scores

Sailed: 26,  
Discards: 0,  
To count: 26,  
To qualify: 16,  
Entries: 27,  
Scoring system: Percentage Scoring

Rank	Sailor	Score
1st	Steve Powers	0.780
2nd	Mark Weider	0.759
3rd	Graham Leonard	0.697
4th	Ralph Simpson	0.665
5th	Roy Ingham	0.653
6th	Judy Gesner	0.644
7th	Kevin Lofftus	0.603
8th	Kira Mungar	0.572
9th	John Powers	0.410



## From the Editor ~

*Thank you to the many that contributed to this edition. All of us at RCC appreciate your time and effort in making The Jib Sheet engaging and fun to read!*

*The next publication will be in April. Please keep the articles coming. Submissions are due by **April 1***

*Lynda Bryant*

