You can’t fault the weather, if you’re not having fun!! The opportunities are pretty far reaching at the club this season, racing, sailing, picnicking, camping, fishing and just observing the activities or the scenic beauty of the bay.

Speaking of observing, you can’t get a better view of some of the best racing by National Champions than from one of the mark-set boats, all the while fulfilling a requirement to support the club’s reason for existence. It’s competitive and thrilling on the starting line and the finishes. I’ve been very fortunate to crew with Mary Ellen, who is incredibly knowledgeable about the nuances of trimming, tactics, picking the correct lines of attack, and how to watch for pressure on the race the course. It is a valuable learning experience.

So, please volunteer to serve on the mark-set boats in support of the competitors on the water. Non racers are more than welcome, no experience necessary. You may end up with the itch to get out there and give it a go.

I needed to replace one of our Board members. Todd Williams, a Directors at Large, has moved to Maine. We were sorry to lose him and his family, who were so involved with activities at the club. I am happy to announce that Bill Culley, a new member will be filling the position for the rest of Todd’s term. Please introduce yourself to Bill, he will be more than happy to provide feed back to the board for any issues or improvements that are important to you.

We are also looking for a replacement for our Jib Sheet editor, Lynda Bryant. Lynda is looking to retire from this position at the end of the year and will be happy to assist with the transition. Please contact me if interested. I’d like to thank Lynda for her contributions over the last several years.

I won’t belabor you with further items or news of the board members efforts, they are varied and many and can speak to them quite eloquently themselves.
Vice Commodore’s Report
Mary Ellen Brown

It’s been a great summer so far at RCC with some nice events and good sailing. I have a few things for members:

Markset/Safety Boat
Please sign up for your Mark/Safety Boat duty. It is considered a job all members need to contribute to as part of being a member. We need 2 experienced drivers and 2 assistants every weekend. You don’t need to have any experience to assist. The role descriptions are at the bottom of this article and on the signup.com website. At this point, we will need members to sign up for 2 Markset/safety boat duties. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me. Any question or concern you have is valid and I’m more than happy to talk it through with you.

The link for signing up is below https://signup.com/go/QwiDARu or send me an email with the date and role you would like, and I can sign you up using your email address.

Brown Jug
Labor Day, Monday September 5, is the Brown Jug which is a very informal single race co-hosted by both Newport Yacht Club and RCC. This year, Newport is hosting this year. We have to Signup at RCC by 12 so we can get the signup sheet to Newport in time for the race. The first warning is 5 min before 1:00. The starting sequence is rolling starts with adjusted times because of the mixed fleet speeds. Newport will get the NOR information out prior to the racing. Newport Yacht Club is hosting the social gathering with beer and soda after the racing. I still need to coordinate with Newport Yacht Club and will send out details.

This is an informal fun race with no spinnakers. Any boat that can be sailed in Irondequoit Bay under 25 feet can participate. Many folks bring their families out for a nice sail on the bay. I am the point of contact until August 30 and then Judy Gesner will take over. As always, Tom Lee can also assist if you have any questions.

Events
We have some upcoming events to put on your calendars.

• The Clam Bake is September 17. Bill Dexter will send out an email with information. You will need to order your clams ahead of time!
• The RCC annual meeting is coming up on Wednesday September 21 at 6:30 at RCC. This meeting is very important to running RCC and to get a sense of what the membership wants going forward. Information will be sent out on details.
• End of season awards/gathering – Your fleet captains and I are working on a more informal approach that is most likely attached to after sailing either on the last day of sailing or the following week on the first day of frostbiting. More to come as we solidify our plans.
Events (continue)......

Many thanks to Andy and the Grillin’ team for the Thursday evening grill events. They are well attended and a very nice relaxing way to spend a mid-week evening on our waterfront property.

We have held a few events which were also very fun including Mother’s Day dinner and the RCC Kickoff Party. We had over 75 people attend the kick off, had a band, a fire in our fire ring, and wonderful food mostly made by our own RCC members. Deirdre Santos-Kaukeinen ran a scavenger hunt and some arts and crafts for the kids. Judy Gesner and her team decorated the club house. And the Events Committee comprised of Andy Heyer, Trish Reinhardt, Ellen Pfeiffer, and Rosemarie Wolf collaborated most excellently to bring some really good food and a stations style buffet to the event. We had additional members who pitched in and cooked – Patty Tompkins, Amy Gorton, Lara Johnson, Jenene Heyer, Johann Wolf and the Grillin team members. Thanks to everyone who helped pull it together and who attended. The events committee is planning on making this event a tradition.

2022 Sunfish North American Championship Regatta

The Sunfish NAs were held in Hyannis, MA, June 15-18.
Pictured: Dan Hesse from Saratoga Lake Sailing Club (6th overall and top American), Doug Kaukeinen from RCC (8th overall and Top Master), and Mike Ingham from RCC (10th overall).
Click on link for overall results: https://www.regattanetwork.com/clubmgmt/applet_regatta_results.php?regatta_id=24171

Photo submitted by Deirdre Santos-Kaukeinen
Rear Commodore’s Report

Andy Heyer

This has been quite the learning experience for me so far this season. We have a beautiful piece of property but we are now seeing the age of the infrastructure starting to affect us more. We started the season back in March building our new utility shed to house all of the equipment and tools. Jim Hauck took the lead and with the help of several others we got it done pretty quickly. In hind sight we should have built it bigger but we were trying to keep the expense down. The old shed will be dedicated to sailing only items. We still need to organize and clean up a lot of stuff in there but for now we are in good shape. We finally added the last piece of metal fencing along the new break wall which is a welcome sight. Ideally, we would continue with this fence on the other side of the south beach but the expense has more than doubled since we first installed those sections. All were donated so no expense to the club. We will continue to add plants, etc. along the waterfront to enhance our erosion control as well as establish a natural, aesthetically pleasing border to hopefully deter the geese. Again, many of the plants have been donated. I hope to address some of the interior with repairs to walls and a fresh coat of paint where needed. We have already maxed out the 2022 budget so many of the projects I wanted to get done this year will have to be put on hold.

One area of concern is our septic system. Our current building was erected in the early fifties and it’s starting to show its age. Our drains are slow and we are trying to determine the cause. This issue has become the number one priority and hopefully we can resolve the problem with out digging up the yard and replacing the system. As you can imagine that will be a huge capital expense with all sorts of obstacles to the permit process if we are forced down that road. This is just one example due to the age of our clubhouse. We also had a water pipe failure leading into the club house. Again Jim Hauck and Bill Bradburn came to the rescue. It took a day to resolve but those two were amazing and helped get the club running for sailing school and a private party that was happening that night. I cannot thank them enough for their efforts.

I want to remind everyone that we are all equal members in the club. Although I am the figure head for the club grounds, EVERYONES help is needed. If you see something that needs to be addressed and it’s within your skill set go ahead and fix it. Your expenses will be reimbursed. This also applies to the weekly tasks. Any of us can keep the bathrooms stocked and cleaned, the kitchen orderly with dishes, etc. put away and emptying the garbage when needed. The beach needs to be cleaned constantly as well as keeping the boat yard mowed. We are an all volunteer organization and it’s imperative that we all contribute to maintain the club grounds. Lets work together to keep the club looking its best!
I agreed at the start of the season to continue on as the Membership Chairperson role for the club. I’ve been doing it for approximately seven years and wanted to pass this role to someone but we have struggled to find a replacement. I agreed to continue until we do but hopefully one of you might be interested assuming that responsibility. Let us know!

We have hovered around 95 memberships the last several years. Each year we gain and lose several but on average it remains similar. It’s the common theme since I started helping in this role. The attrition is usually the newer member. They are excited to join at first but never find their way to be a part of the club. Somehow we need to come together and create pathways for these people to get comfortable and participating in the functioning of the club. Thursday Nights is one avenue that has been successful. There also has been a revival of Sunday Pot Luck Dinner. Happy hour after racing is another excellent time to visit. If you are new to the club please consider joining us for any of these activities.

There is a slight concern of our long term members starting to resign. Since we are not retaining newer memberships losing our base could pose a financial strain. It looks like we will add three to four memberships from the sail school this season. This has always been a great feeder program to membership. Hopefully, we can encourage the newer members to become more active.

I want to reach out to all of you who we don’t normally see on Sundays or Thursday nights. We need your participation! Lots of opportunities to help support weekly racing as well as any Regattas we may host. We also need your help to maintain the facilities. We are all equal share members with no paid employees and the club needs everyone to contribute. When you joined we conveyed that we are a “do it yourself” club. Opening and closing are the most important days but the club needs attention throughout the season. We also need at least one person from a household to get their boating certificate to be able to pilot our safety boats.

Please reach out to me or anyone on the Board if you have questions or don’t know where to start. The most important thing is to come down and be part of this incredible club.
What a wonderful time I had on my adventure to the Clearwater Community Sailing Center (CCSC) to compete in these regattas. Click on each individual link above to get addition information including the final results. I’m sure some of you followed the action with Emily Wagner and Lee Montes, who both do an amazing job with the on water/shore Facebook Live thing. It was so nice to see familiar faces of friends from around the nation and to meet many new people as well. For example I met and hung out with Chris Carroll and Andy Beeckman a bit, who are new to the class but come in with a vast wealth of sailing experience. Both were accomplished collegiate sailors as well as in the Laser and 505 classes. In addition to the top-notch competition, there are other reasons to attend these events. You always learn the latest ways people are rigging their boats and other potential go-fast techniques, all the while soaking in the fine Florida sun and warmth. So warm that even the ice cream tastes better. It was wonderful to be in 70-80 degree temps for 8 days, although the first morning of competition it was in the upper 30’s. The Floridian’s didn’t like that too much! I was glad that I packed the all-weather sailing gear including my fleece-lined Rooster spray top. Fellow RCC members Mike Fortner, Mike Ingham, Kira Munger, Phil Lang, and Dom Simonetti also participated in one or both events, so RCC was well represented. It was nice to spend time together. Can we get 10 RCC members to go on the adventure next year? Seriously, if you can afford the time, come check out the action down south. A special thank you to my wife Deirdre for all her continued support.

Here’s a snapshot of the trip.

- Wed. 3/9 The adventure begins! Left home at 4 AM, made it to 60 miles north of Jacksonville by 8 PM.
- Thurs. 3/10 Finished trip to Sarasota Sailing Squadron. Sailed with Mike I., Chris, and Dom. Stayed at Mary Ellen’s pad. Thanks ME and Roy!
- Fri. 3/11 Storms derailed our planned morning practice. Instead we used the time to pack up the boats and get them to CCSC in Clearwater. There was a high wind watch as we crossed the bridges to get to the regatta site so the van and trailer had quite the cross wind. Unloaded boats at CCSC. Promptly tied boat tightly to dolly! Arriving early at a regatta site is never a bad thing. For starters, you get prime parking for your boat and dolly for easy launching.
• Sat. 3/12 The practice race was cancelled so I spent most of the day prepping the boat, rig and blades along with Mike I. Did happy hour aboard Mike’s housing for the week- a yacht docked at the Clearwater Yacht Club. Dinner was tacos at the club, a mere dock-walk away from the happy hour site.

• Sun. 3/13 The International Masters begins. After a long, but beautiful sail out to the Gulf of Mexico, we completed 3 races in large waves/chop and breeze.

• Mon. 3/14 The Masters continues. We sailed 4 races in a shifty and puffy easterly. Similar to the Bay with a westerly wind but in a larger venue.

• Tues. 3/15 The first regatta concludes with 2 races in a breezy easterly. Awards after racing.

• Wed. 3/16 Lay day. Went for a walk on Clearwater beach for a bit and then tried to photograph the sunset over Clearwater Beach Island.

• Thurs. 3/17 US National TEAM Race was cancelled due to not enough teams signed up so ho hum, another vacation day. I spent part of the day going over the boat, rig and blades again along with Kira Munger.

• Fri. 3/18 The US Nationals at the Midwinters begins. We sailed 4 races in a medium S to SE breeze with plenty of chop I seem to recall.

• Sat. 3/19 The US Nationals continues. We raced 4 races in a veering SE breeze. Caroline Young (all 100 lbs of her) dominated the day creating a competitor’s worst nightmare- the dreaded picket fence! She led the regatta going into the last day.

• Sun. 3/20 The Nationals concludes with a single race in a nasty northerly with huge waves. Unfortunately for me they only did one race. I somehow excelled in the big breeze! Awards after we packed up the boats.

• Mon. 3/21 I left Clearwater at 4 AM and drove all the way to Petersburg, VA by 6 PM. I missed my dad’s 86th birthday while on the road. Sorry dad!

• Tues. 3/22 Finished the road trip home! Layla was a happy dog!

I sailed 2 very consistent regattas so I was very pleased with results. Much better speed both up and down wind compared to last year. It felt great. But this trip was more than a sailing competition. For me, it was a much needed vacation away from the cold up north!

Highlights include:
• Rita’s Italian Ice—Awesome ice and ice cream
• Spectacular Breakfast & Lunch—The Acai Bowls started each day off in the right direction.
• Sailing on the Gulf of Mexico for the first time
• The dolphins and pelicans
• Dinner at Jack’s Crab Shack with my buddy Mike Fortner
• The ribs at SandShaker’s restaurant.

Lessons learned:
• Don’t leave both pair of hikers on top of the van to dry. I lost both pair mid-week. It was a costly and rookie mistake.
• Surround yourself with a core team of fellow sailors! Practicing with, sharing ideas with and having your team at the regatta site for support is priceless.
• Fill up your gas tank in Maryland….“cheap” gas.
• Pay attention sailing out to the Gulf and look out for those channel markers!! I hit one at full speed and promptly capsized all before the daily racing.
But wait, I almost forgot!

This regatta adventure would not have happened without a little help from my friends. A HUGE THANK YOU TO Chris Connelly, Andy Heyer, and Jim Hauck for helping to rescue the Sunfish hull I raced with and its dolly from RCC. We had to pull them through 1.5-2 foot snow/ice up the RCC hill! Fortunately, we all survived the ordeal. I used IPA in the van at the top of the hill as a motivating factor for completing the task at hand.
In 2015, the Rochester Canoe Club renamed its annual Sunfish regatta, to honor a wonderful man, Don VanVechten. Using a wooden daggerboard trophy from his past, Doug Kaukeinen created a new trophy, and included these words: “This perpetual trophy is awarded to the top RCC skipper in honor of Don. “Van” was a teacher, mentor, coach, friend, and a top notch Sunfish sailor who shared his knowledge and inspired a multitude of future sailors. A former Commodore, he has left a lasting imprint on the Rochester Canoe Club and its members. Van was a driving force for promoting one-design sailboat racing and his unselfish commitment to the sport will never be forgotten.”

This year, our “Don V” regatta was combined with the 2022 NY Upstate Sunfish Regional Championship on June 11 and 12.

The wind Saturday started off light from the south. Over the next few hours, the wind spent at least half an hour blowing from each cardinal direction. Throughout the day, the very patient Race Committee was able to get off three races, one with the course set to the south, one south-west, and one north. By the end of Saturday’s races only 2 of the 32 competitors had all single digit finishes. Dan Hesse was leading the regatta with John Barrere in second.

In contrast to the less-than-ideal wind of the previous day, Sunday the wind was in the low teens from the south (a fairly steady direction for Irondequoit Bay). Four races were held prior to impending thunderstorms which came midday. Dan Hesse held on to the lead through Sunday and won the event. Mike Ingham was second overall and won the Don VanVechten trophy for the highest finishing Rochester Canoe Club skipper. Doug Kaukeinen finished 3rd, Dom Simonetti 4th, and Chris Carroll rounded out the top 5. RCC member Bill Dexter created the graphic prints which were framed and awarded to the top five finishers, with generic copies given to all competitors and volunteers.

For Race Results - click on link below, then click on Race Results. Results for 2022 Don Van Vechten Regatta
RC Laser Racing on Twitchell Lake, NY

Delia Ingham

Twitchell Lake is located northeast of Big Moose, New York in Adirondacks Park. The lake has a shoreline length of 3.8 miles, max depth is 38 feet, mean depth 10 feet. There are many private camps along Twitchell lake with very little state owned land.

The Inghams used their camp as a base along with Dexter/Reinhardt and took the RC Laser racing to Twitchell Lake. Tricia Reinhardt and Mary Ellen Brown were judges and Delia was mark set/ safety boat. Mike was leading until he drove his boat right on top of Bill's. Of course…fun was had by all.
From the Editor ~

RCC is looking for another editor for The Jib Sheet. As much as I’ve enjoyed publishing The Jib Sheet, I will be retiring this post by the end of this year. I find that doing this task has been both inspiring and creative. It has brought forth skills I never knew I had. A special thank you to all the members who have contributed many interesting articles for all of the membership to enjoy.

The Jib Sheet is published in April, August and December of each year. I’d be happy to speak with anyone that may have interest in doing this and will help with the transition. Let Tom Lee know if you are interested.

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

Lynda Bryant