

Tiller Talk

June 13, 1947

By CLIFF CARPENTER

BECAUSE the 1947 Sodus Bay regatta of the Lake Yacht Racing Association promises to be Ontario's biggest jam-boatoree in history, and because between July 30 and Aug. 1 all honors, dunkings and headlines will go to racing skippers, here's a nod to the unsung heroes — the unacclaimed committeemen who do the work.

Their appointments were announced yesterday by Rochester Yacht Club's Newton B. Castle, who as LYRA secretary-treasurer also is one of the four Regatta Executives. The other three are LYRA President Charles J. Spaulding of Youngstown Yacht Club, Clifford Lunt of the Royal Hamilton, and C. Wesley Gamble of Crescent Yacht Club.

Regatta co-chairmen are Herbert M. Hill Jr. and Walter Heussler, both of Buffalo Canoe Club. They, with the four executives, will run the nautical show.

Notable selections include two RYC members who agreed to shoulder the "headache" jobs whose proper operation can make or break a regatta. William P. Barrows, honorary LYRA president and veteran Canada's Cup and George Cup defender, will chair a Protest Committee of his own choosing; A. H. (Bud) Gorsline, who runs the Saturday-Sunday RYC races off the Port of Rochester, will head the Race Committee, whose other members include James A. McConnell, also of RYC; George White, Youngstown Yacht Club; and E. G. Sorsoleil, Royal Canadian Yacht Club.

Karl Smither of Buffalo Canoe Club will chair a Small Boat Committee of his own selection; Roy D. VanValkenburgh of Olcott Yacht Club will guide the Poyerboat Committee, and according to Castle the entire personnel of the Sodus Bay Yacht Club has constituted itself a committee to whip up the regatta to top all regattas.

LYRA's last pre-war regatta was in '41 at Youngstown. Resuming in '45 at Hamilton and picking up steam in '43 at Kingston, the show this year is expected to break all records in volume and classes of competing boats. Just by way of repetition, the long-distance Freeman Cup race which precedes the



A. P. CROUCHER LES BARTLETT

regatta takes the starting gun July 27 at 3 p. m. in Toronto. VanValkenburgh's powerboat fleet follows the sails a few hours later from the same port on a predicted log race.

Rochester Power Squadron will throttle down to idling speed tonight at Rochester Yacht Club for its annual dinner and to turn over the wheel to a new slate of officers.

Reservations in Secretary Harold Field's office last night stood at 107 for the dinner alone—a turnout expected to swell for the post-dinner talk by one of the genuinely big names in world powerboating, Chief Commander Charles F. Chapman of the United States Power Squadrons, the man responsible for the most widely-used of all texts on seamanship and boat-handling.

A. P. (Tim) Croucher will take over the squadron helm from J. Webb L. Sheehy. Incoming lieutenant commander will be Les Bartlett; first lieutenant, Paul Tschinnis.

HALF HITCHES: Floods and fog permitting, RYC skippers may be able to send a more imposing fleet to the starting line for races tomorrow and Sunday. Three of the international 14-foot dinghies, whose rebirth is being prodded by Henry (Mike) Majgren, are itch-

ing to scrap, on the theory that if they can get started, sideline sailors may pick up a hull and get into the game. Ready to go are Majgren's "Eddystone Light," skippered either by himself or Virginia Cole, the blond tiller artist; John Gottschalk's "Hangover" and young Johnny Heinrich's "Puff."

High Irondequoit Bay waters had no effect on the high-banked Newport Yacht Club moorings or redecorated clubhouse. . . . but unlucky Algonquin on the opposite (east) side of the bay collected water up over the clubhouse floor . . . boners, it would seem, can happen to even the most highly-regarded yacht clubs, as witness last weekend's Stamford Yacht Club regatta. In a lee-rail-down blow, not only did some of the racers break down, but one skipper finally sailed up to the committee boat to report that someone had considered the dory-marker a disabled boat and towed it in. Thus ended the regatta for that day.

Rochester Flotilla, Coast Guard Auxiliary, will go land-lubber for its July 10 meeting . . . A wiener roast at the summer home in Fishers of Training Officer Daniel M. Beach Jr.