

Alley!

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Freeman to Start From Presquile!

By
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and
CLIFF CARPENTER

NEWTON B. Castle, the seagoing lawyer (but never a sea lawyer), propped a cracked shin on his desk and brought this department up to date on partial and completed plans for the tradition-soaked Lake Yacht Racing Association's 1951 regatta.

Sodus Bay Yacht Club will be host this season, thus handing the LYRA perhaps the most idyllic regatta setting on Lake Ontario. Sodus is a regatta-promoter's dream, with the big inner bay for small boat course racing and sheltered moorings, and the lake outside for the big 'uns.

The durable Mr. Castle, who went fractureless through years of sailboat racing but finally succumbed to a piece of ice this Winter, shuffled through a foot-deep stack of correspondence for these tidbits anent this season's big yachting show.

With the usual bow to tradition, the long-distance Freeman Cup race will finish at the host club and usher in regatta festivities. This year, the Freeman Cuppers will rendezvous at Presquile across the lake from Rochester, and take the starting gun there at 2 p. m. Sunday, July 15. The racing course will take them eastward up the Canadian shore, dodging Scotch Bonnet Shoals, Main Ducks and Galloo Islands (to name the principal hurdles); then around Stony Island in the St. Lawrence River mouth region, and down to the finish line at Sodus. The thrash figures roughly 140 miles.

Dates of the regatta proper at Sodus are July 18 through the 20th.

The LYRA has held over all 1950 officers for another season. They are: President, C. Wesley Gamble of Crescent Yacht Club, Watertown; first vicepresident, Cliff Lunt, Royal Hamilton Y. C.; second vicepresident, Eugene Sorsoleil, Royal Canadian Yacht Club; secretary-treasurer (going into his 6th year in that job), Newt Castle whose home is Rochester and whose home port is Sodus.

Appointments: Delegate to the North American Yacht Racing Union, Rochester Yacht Club's Bill Barrows; delegates to the Yacht Racing Union of the Great Lakes, Elmer J. (Bud) Doyle, Cliff Lunt, and Castle; measurement and rules committee, Oc Marth of RYC, chairman, abetted by Gordon Reed of RCYC, Tom Braymeier of Youngstown Y. C., and Herb Hill of Buffalo Canoe Club; chairman of the race committee, Sorsoleil of RCYC.

LYRA added another associate member to its fat roster, the Oakville (Ont.) Yacht Squadron.

Two projects are commanding the attention of LYRA executives.

One is the preparation of a history of the association. This could be a gratifying service to the tradition of yachting on Lake Ontario, for ancient LYRA records are chock full of hair-raising finishes, wrecks, laughs — enough material for a truth-is-stranger-than-fiction chronicle. Col. Larry Grant of Kingston Y. C. heads the committee for this task, with a staff including Sorsoleil, Blake Van Winkle of Queen City Y. C. of Toronto, RYC's Barrows, and Tom Wade of the Royal Canadian.

The plan is to have the history done and printed by 1952, when the LYRA regatta probably will go to the Royal Canadian Y. C. as a feature of that fine old Toronto club's centennial celebration.

The second project is the brain child of George Ford of Rochester Yacht Club, last year's Rochester Race winner. It is the creation of a definite program for junior members of LYRA affiliate clubs around Lake Ontario. Generally, the program would call for stimulation of racing interest and regular race series for juniors in the various clubs, then eliminations on both American and Canadian shores of the lake, and finally an international regatta for the winners, Canada vs. U. S.

Ford himself has offered a trophy for the first such regatta; and in recompense for creating the idea, caught the job of chairman of a committee to see if details can be arranged. Among yachtsmen who will work with him are John Mason of RCYC, Al Rae of Queen City, Y. C., Cliff Lunt of Royal Hamilton, Ex-Commodore Rupert of Sodus Bay, Y. Schuyler Adams of Crescent and Lynn Walters of the Royal St. ence.