

March 1983

DID YOU KNOW?

Article from R.Y.C. Running Lights - 1952

THE DINGHY FLEET

The Rochester Yacht Club International 14 Fleet more familiarly referred to as "The Dinghy Fleet," may well be called the Yacht Club's own contribution to America's fast One Design yachts, for it was through members of this club that the present day 14 foot "One Design" dinghies were introduced to the United States.

In 1927 the Genesee Dinghy Club, which was located on the Summerville Beach next to the former Popp's Inn, merged with the Rochester Yacht Club and brought into it a fleet of Cat Rigged Dinghies.

Four years later, in 1931, at a Tri-Country Regatta held in Toronto, the R.Y.C., representing the United States, sailed these cat-rigged dinghies in competition with Great Britain and the R.C.Y.C. of Canada. The English won the Regatta in sloop-rigged boats very similar to the present day dinghies, and the Canadians did well sailing sloop-rigged dinghies designed by Charley Bourke of Toronto. The Americans, in their cat-rigged dinghies finished last. It was then that the local fleet felt the need for a new design. Through the efforts of a few members of the Rochester Yacht Club, the "R.I.P.," an Uffa Fox designed boat, was purchased and brought over to the club from England. Using this English import as a model, Mr. Lacey of the Rochester Boat Works laid down about 15 of these "One Design" boats and thereby introduced into this country the present International 14. These were double planked boats and were one of the first fast planing classes to make their appearance in America.

With these newly designed boats three crews from the R.Y.C. barnstormed England, Norway and Sweden leaving very successful sailing records behind them... while back in the States, the local fleet got to 20 or more boats.

The International 14 Association was formed at the Rochester Yacht Club in 1939 and soon spread to other parts of the United States. The present fleet holds Charter #1 from the Association. The Seattle fleet owes its beginning directly to the local fleet as it was started by an enthusiastic transplanted member.

During the war the fleet dwindled down to three boats. Then in 1947 this small contingent attended a Regatta in Toronto and came back with enthusiasm so contagious that the fleet was built up once more to twelve boats. At present, the fleet numbers 11 boats and races for the following trophies:

The Field Trophy donated by Harold Field.

The Baker Trophy donated by Dr. Harold Baker.

The Eastwood Trophy donated by Albert B. Eastwood.

The Baker and Field Trophies are awarded for Intra-Fleet competition and the Eastwood Trophy for Team Race competition between the Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club of Montreal and the Rochester Yacht Club. The Eastwood Series started in 1938 and at present its trophy has been held an equal number of times by each club, a situation which would make this season's event a particularly competitive one.

During the past season Peter Gales made an outstanding record placing second in the Canadian Dinghy Association Regatta and winning all of the local series.

Historical Committee Continued...

At present two members of the fleet, Robert Lawless and William Boswell are in the United States Army and their boats are sailed by Cameron Jameson and Jack Bartlett. Last season Alice Barrows sailed Stork Too. Present boats in the fleet are:

<u>Boat</u>	<u>Owner</u>
Touche'	Thomas Barry
Lil' Dipper	John Gottschalk
Eddystone Light II	Henry Maijgren
Stork Too	Eugene Seary
Gadget Jr.	Frank Shumway
Finesse	William Boswell
Satan's Mate	Robert Lawless
Spunky	Ronald De Blase
Blitz III	Albert Jones
Cobra	Davis Cunningham
U.S. 384	Robert Gianniny & Jack Koerner

From the HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

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