

Ahoy!

# Regatta to Mark A Hundred Years

By PAUL TANNER and CLIFF CARPENTER

TWO of Lake Ontario's "big name" yachting organizations—the Lake Yacht Racing Association and Rochester Yacht Club—are squared away for 1952. In each case, the squaring-away process was the annual meeting, in each case harmonious, in each case optimistic.

IT WAS the 68th annual meeting for venerable LYRA, parent body of practically all yacht clubs on Lake Ontario, held this year at Buffalo Canoe Club. Delegates took a look at 1952, and agreed that the annual LYRA regatta shapes up as one of the fanciest in many a year on Lake Ontario.

The host club will be Royal Canadian Yacht Club in Toronto, and the regatta will be a part of RCYC's celebration of its 100th birthday anniversary—a century of sailing. Other Canadian yacht clubs such as Toronto's Queen City and National organizations, along with the nearby Youngstown Y. C. on the U. S. shore, announced that they have made themselves and their facilities available to the Royal Canadian to help stage the big show.

The distance racing classic—the annual pre-LYRA Freeman Cup Race—will start Sunday, Aug. 4, at Sodus Bay and finish at Toronto, nearly 120 miles westward. Course racing for the various classes will begin Tuesday, Aug. 6 and continue through Thursday.

Boosted to presidency of the LYRA for '52 was Gene Sorsolle of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club. He succeeds Wes Gamble of Crescent Y. C. One of the lake's best known Canadian yachtsmen, Sorsolle was second vice-president of LYRA, but was jumped to president with unanimous blessing of the delegates so he could hold office during the RCYC centennial year. Other officers:



NEWTON B. CASTLE begins eighth year

First Vice-president, Cliff Lunt of Royal Hamilton Y. C., who is also president of the Yacht Racing Union of the Great Lakes.

Second Vice-president, Percy Hunt, Youngstown Yacht Club.

Secretary-treasurer Newton B. Castle of Rochester, named to the office for his eighth consecutive year.

The problem of safety aboard racing yachts on long-distance grounds on frisky Lake Ontario was a stickler for delegates. Decision was to stipulate lifelines on boats "where practicable"—the hitch being that lifelines are almost impossible to rig on some racing craft without interfering with sails and gear. At the same time, delegates will investigate the problem further during 1952.

Another major decision spelled the end of port-to-port racing during regatta. In this type of racing, yachts start at the host club and make one-day jumps to several other clubs, returning on the final regatta day to the host organization. The stunt was tried two years ago, discarded last year, and then rumors of friction were heard, so LYRA officers polled skippers of big boats.

The results: 26 out of 28 skippers found course racing satisfactory; of the same total, 7 said they preferred port-to-port racing. A further breakdown of figures showed that the bulk of sentiment for port-to-port racing—six "yesses"—centered at Rochester Yacht Club.

Castle, who doubles as delegate to the North American Yacht Racing Union, reported on the newest twist in yacht racing. The North American Sailing Championships will be held in September of next year, probably at Mystic, Conn. Details still are to be thrashed out, such as the type of boat, but Castle said sentiment was for a different type boat each year. Any club belonging to a NAYRU affiliate such as the LYRA will be eligible to send a contender to this "World Series" of U. S. yacht racing.

**SIDE LIGHTS:** Rochester's George Ford, prime booster of sailing for juniors, gave an optimistic report on plans to launch Junior Races. Dalhousie Yacht Club was accepted into full membership, and filed a bid for the 1953 regatta. Cliff Lunt, Elmer (Bud) Doyle of Youngstown Y. C., and Newton Castle were named delegates to the YRU, and Ray Engstrom of the RCYC to the NAYRU. Inflation hits the cost of signal flags and medals for the regatta is estimated at more than double what it was a short time back. Delegates from Rochester to the meeting included Ken Castle, Rochester Power Squadron official who reported on P. S. plans, A. H. (Bud) Gorsline and Vince Mulvey.

**ROCHESTER** Yacht Club handed a whopping vote of confidence to its 1951 staff and fix-up-the-club program by voting in almost a complete slate of holdovers. The officers for next season:

Commodore, F. Ritter Shumway, who inspired the forceful "SI perking-up" at the club.

Vice Commodore, Samuel W. Townsend.

Rear Commodore, Jonathan M. Heinrich Sr. Ex-Commodore Heinrich, the only newcomer to the staff, replaces busy Roland Roberts who asked to step down from the job.

Secretary, Oscar Marth.

Measurer, the same Oe Marth, inside rule expert of renown, who will be functioning for the 13th year in that job for RYC.



RYC Commodore F. Ritter Shumway, reelected for the '52 season, is shown at wheel of his schooner explaining compass to a youngster from Police Athletic League.

Treasurer, Allen G. Oliver, the ex-state senator.

Directors: Walter L. Todd and Walter J. Holloran, the latter an attorney, both reelected; and two newcomers, Earl C. Esty and Dr. John Remington.

Delegates to the LYRA: Wilmet V. (Rooney) Castle, George E. Ford and A. H. (Bud) Gorsline.

Appointive officers of the club will be named by Commodore Shumway at the new executive committee's meeting this Thursday at the club-house. These include such posts as fleet captain, fleet surgeon, and chairmen of the house, sailing, racing and Rochester Race Committees.

The nominating committee whose choices were given the sweeping endorsement was headed by William H. Calkins.

RYC members have heard unofficially that Royal Canadian Yacht Club in Toronto has decided to accept the RYC challenge for the George Cup, now held by Canada. Formal acceptance, under terms of cup racing, must reach RYC before Jan. 1.

**HALF-HITCHES:** Newport Yacht Clubbers are planning their annual Christmas party for the kids. Members, incidentally, are doing the work of operating the club themselves temporarily, but will have a manager come Spring. That "All-American Boating Family" will be announced at the National Motor Boat Show in New York's Grand Central Palace on Monday evening, Jan. 14. A panel of five prominent men and women in the fields of youth training, education, boating and recreational activities has been named to make the selection from nominations which close a week from tomorrow. W. B. Barron of Memphis, Tenn., and David Livingston of Lake Village, Ark., are 1951 national high-point outboard champions in amateur and professional classifications, respectively, it was announced yesterday by Carl Johnson, secretary of the American Power Boat Association.

Florida will be the scene of three major sailing championships in February and March. First there'll be the annual Connet Class mid-winter championship at Miami Feb. 16-17. Then the Lightnings will have their mid-winter title chase at St. Petersburg Feb. 19-21. Finally the Snipe will stage their mid-winter championships at Clearwater Mar. 4-7.

Ahoy! now will be hauled out and put into winter storage for the next few weeks. But if any of you sailors have anything during that time you want to get off your chest, just stick your head down the hatchway and holler, "Ahoy!" We'll be right up.