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Ahoy! 5 New Dragons To Follow First

By PAUL TANNER

DRAGONS definitely will race on Lake Ontario off the Summerville piers this summer. And there will be not only one embryo fleet—there will be two.

Rochester Yacht Club, whose Executive Committee Thursday night formally approved the Dragons as a new racing class at the club, first new class approved in a long time, will have at least four of the little 29-foot foreign-built English Channel cabin sloops which have become so popular in the last year or so on the Canadian side of the lake.

And the Genesee Yacht Club, up the river a short stone-skip from the RYC Basin, will have at least two and maybe three.

Pretty sold on Dr. Ralph Alexander's "sample," the Vixen, which he sailed over from Toronto after it was unloaded there last fall, Bernie Wahl was next to sign for one, the Katinka. With a deal in the works whereby a freighter would bring the boats direct to Rochester from Norway and Denmark if at least three were shipped, Wahl and Alexander got busy.

In the last few days Arden Poulsen of the RYC has had word that his offer was accepted for Yvonne, built in 1945 in Denmark; Bill Statt, the Star sailor, has bought Number DN179 in Oslo, Norway; Charles (Bud) Strobel of Genesee YC has tied down Tabu, built in '46, to replace his Comet; and Clarence (Barney) Wilson, the Genesee YC Lightning skipper, has just received word from Denmark that he has himself a Dragon.

The five boats are expected to arrive in Rochester and be unloaded at the respective clubs early in May.

Meanwhile Vin Palmer of the RYC has offers out across the ocean for a Dragon and GYC's Nick Youtchas is showing a bit more than just enthusiastic interest.

INTRODUCTION of the new class into the Genesee Yacht Club will mean that club members will take an increasing part in the annual Lake Yacht Racing Association regattas, as well as the LYRA-sponsored Freeman Cup Race. The club is an associate member of LYRA.

But it won't mean that the club's Lightning Class won't be active. It is expected that at least six or seven Lightnings still will be racing, competing in the several Lightning regattas conducted each season in the area.

Jack Fogg is the new club commodore. He sails a 29-foot auxiliary, the Tern. Vice commodore is Barney Wilson, with George Giles as secretary and Ernie Butler as treasurer. At the annual meeting Bud Strobel was presented the new Open Class Trophy.

ALL YOU FOLKS who are champing at the anchor line, waiting for spring, can get a head start on the boating season by taking in the new course in Safe Boating that the Coast Guard Auxiliary is launching at East High School tomorrow night. It should be useful both to the old-time sailor and the beginner.

First of the eight Monday night classes, open at no cost to everyone who wants to attend, will be on "The Sea and the Coast Guard," with Warrant Officer Walter Czechanski, commander of the U.S. Coast Guard station at Summerville, and Commodore J. Webb L. Sheehy of the CGA as the instructors. Sheehy is just back from a national conference of Commodores in Philadelphia. The school bell will ring at 7:30 p.m. and the class will last until 9:30. Registration will be at this first class. Second class, next week, will be on "Nautical Language."

Starting of the course comes at an appropriate time, what with Marine Week opening today at showrooms of Rochester boat dealers. It is hoped that many outboarders especially will take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about safe boating.

ROCHESTER POWER Squadron, which a week ago presented certificates to 29 new members who successfully passed its elementary piloting course conducted during the fall and early winter, will start a new sailing course Tuesday night, Feb. 23, for a selected group of members who later will teach it. Ken Castle is in charge.

The squadron already is giving a seamanship course, started a week or two ago, as well as its Advanced Piloting, Junior Navigator and Navigator courses. All these classes are held at the University of Rochester River Campus Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

The Power Squadron has set its annual meeting for Saturday, Mar. 20, at the Rochester Yacht Club, when new officers will be elected to succeed Commander Bill Woodbury and his staff.

HALF-HITCHES—Bob Paige of Genesee Yacht Club, one of only two Rochester Power Squadron members ever to get a perfect mark in the tough Navigator test, will marry his Lightning crew, Eleanor Moser, on the last Saturday of February. Which will give Bauble two skippers for the new season.

You've probably seen people standing up in the stern of an outboard motor boat while they yank a cord to start the motor. That soon will be a thing of the past. Newest development is a push-button electric starting outboard motor. All you do is climb behind the wheel of the boat, push a button on the dash, causing a solenoid to operate the choke for starting. Then you press another button and the motor starts. Throttle and shift control also are at the operator's finger tips. It's a boon especially for the newly-popular outboard cruising craft.

The biennial 675-mile Bermuda Race will start this year off Brenton Reef Lightship, Newport, R.I., on Saturday, June 19, according to word from Walter H. Wheeler Jr., Stamford, Conn., chairman of the Sailing Committee of the Cruising Club of America. The 1952 race was won by Richard Nye's 46-foot yawl Carina, first Class C boat ever to take the victory.

U.S. Power Squadrons took in three new squadrons the past week, bringing the total to 151 and the membership to 22,783. New squadrons are Kennebec River at Bath, Me.; the Monongahela River at Fairmont, W.Va., and at Darien, Conn.

Sal Bereza, the Genesee YC Lightning sailor, is hunting around for a sailing cruiser . . . And our old buddy on the "Great Northern" watch, Tim Croucher, who recently sold his sloop Yankee, is reported putting away his fishing tackle catalogues and thumbing through the "Marine Trader's" boats-for-sale want ads.

If a new Jenny can do it, Ray Field's Alden sloop Escape will be sliding out the Genesee River with a new lift come May.

Robert Marx of Cohoes, who is new chairman of Region 2 of the American Power Boat Association succeeding Rochester's Don Guerin who moved up to a national vice presidency, has called a regional meeting for Feb. 28 at Liverpool to fix regatta dates for 1954.

Rochester Yacht Club will have its annual Boating Album Night next Saturday at 8:30 p.m. at its clubhouse. Members have been invited to bring 10 of their best boating slides or 16 mm movies. Walt Chappelle Jr., official RYC photographer, will be the host and projectionist.