



Rockland Yacht Club Newsletter

June 2011

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From the Commodore:

The Spring Meeting of The Rockland Yacht Club was held on May 21st 2011. at 4:00 PM. We were happy to welcome the following new members: Sarah and Drew Moore, Tom Hepp, Jim and Lolly Mitchell, Kristen and Jeff Blake, Mary and Randy Mraz, and Karen and Jim Simpson. Highlights of the meeting included reports about the RYC dock, and various committee reports to follow.



The evening's Italian dinner party was a huge success! Dinner was followed by a really fun game, as evidenced by the faces in the pictures! The cost of the entertainment was \$3.00, and for that there was lots of laughter. The winner at each table got to take home the pot for that table. Pictured above are Drew and Sarah Moore, Kristine and Jeff Blake, Bill Vanderslice and Dave Shiverick. In the middle picture are Randy and Mary Mraz,, and Rick and Julie Palm.

On the water activities begin with the Icebreaker Cruise, **June 4th and 5th**. Contact **Steve Pierce at 207-975-2833** to let him know you plan to cruise, and for the planned destination. The thought is to go where the wind blows. It will be an easy destination. A Friday evening rendezvous at the club is planned for 5:00 PM. This has been a fun cruise in the past and a good season opener.

The race committee has planned a dynamite season with opportunities for both beginning and experienced sailors. There are opportunities for those who do not own boats, but wish to participate. They are starting off their season on Tuesday, **June 7th, at 5:00PM** with a session at the yacht club by Carter White, on the finer points of racing, with updates and a Q&A session. All members, racers and cruisers are encouraged to attend. Donations will be accepted at the door. Here is a chance to become more informed and to get in on the racing program. The Tuesday evening racing series begins on **Tuesday, June 14th**.

Solstice Saturday on June 18th starts with a race outside the breaker for all interested members. It is not necessary to be a seasoned racer to participate. That evening will be a Solstice dinner for racers and all club members.. This is a chance for the cruisers to get to know some of the racers. Awards for the day will be presented. This is the first race of the West Bay Trophy.

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Pictured at left are Sharon Stedman, Doris Smart, Chairman, and Aleta Kilborn, Dinner/Entertainment Committee. Missing is Karen Simpson.

The yacht club dock will be placed to the left of the harbor and will be marked with "Compliments of the Rockland Yacht Club. Our members are encouraged to use it. One side will be for dinghies with City of Rockland permits, and the other side will be for transient dinghies. It is not to be exclusively for RYC members, as Rockland is a welcoming harbor! The Harbor Master will provide care and upkeep.

Guest Mooring: Moira and Dick Bentzel have graciously given RYC the opportunity to use their mooring for this season. **It's use is to be limited to yachts no heavier than 16,000# and 35 ' long, and be used for short one or two days.** It is located in the Southern section of the harbor at Latitude: 44 05. 922, Longitude: 069 06. 103 and marked "Bentzel." With this writing, the Bentzel's are in Bermuda, soon to be heading across the pond to the Azores.

For yacht club logo clothing, contact **Barbara Klapprodt at 594 7474**. Order forms are available on the Website: **Rocklandyc.org**.

Paul White and his Publicity Committee are taking pictures for the Members book at the club. Please send him pictures of your boat for the book.

At the Spring meeting, KC presented the story of the **Red Jacket Regatta**, held at the Apprenticeshop on the last Sunday of July, now in its 7th year. It is for youth sailing clubs, 10 this year, coming from as far away as Small Point, Boothbay, and Castine. For the past two years RYC has provided the committee boat for the race. It is a prime opportunity for members of our club to contribute to youth sailing, either on the committee boat, or volunteering elsewhere!

The regatta was named after a famous Clipper ship, *Red Jacket*, which was built in Rockland and launched in 1853. It was one of the largest and fastest ever built. On her first voyage she set the speed record for sailing ship-s crossing the Atlantic by traveling from New York to Liverpool in 13 days, 1 hour, 25 minutes, dock to dock. She was involved in the Australian immigrant trade until 1861, later carried lumber, then coal until she was destroyed in a gale in 1885.

The ship was named after Sagoyewatha, a famous Seneca Indian chief, called, "Red Jacket" by settlers. His name, pronounced: Sa-Go-Ye-Wat-Ha, means "he keeps them awake". He was well known for religious tolerance, and for resolving disputes amicably.



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Member Profile: Ruth “Woofie” Parker

Never have I seen this lady when she hasn't had a smile! She loves sailing, being around the water, and working with kids. During our visit to her home, she made sure we sat where we had a view across the harbor towards Owl's Head.

Woofie acquired her nick name with a group of school friends from her home town North of Boston, when she was 11 or 12. They all decided they needed a nickname, and her's stuck! She attended a prep school in New York and while on vacation visiting her roommate's home on North Haven, she met her future husband, her roommate's older brother, Harry Parker. When asked how she got into sailing, she says “she married into it.” She was married in 1940 at the age of 20. Harry had been in the Naval ROTC at Harvard and with the pending war, was sent, with Woofie, to Pearl Harbor. His squadron, on the Southwest side of the island, was the only one spared in the attack on December 7, 1941. While all wives with children were sent home, Woofie stayed on to work with the Woman's defense in the 7th fighter command, a most valued position, as a person who could be trusted. It was a frightening time as Harry, who served on a PT boat was often away. He fought in the battle of Midway, a turning point of the war. After the war, Harry returned briefly to his former job with Shell oil, but soon realized that was not for him. He had taught sailing on Long Island, growing up, and with a desire to return to his love, bought a marina in South Freeport, ME. There, he designed and built 2 or 3, 33' sailboats and was an agent for Camper Nicolson sailboats.

The couple had four children, the oldest two boys both served in Viet Nam. Hank has two boys. Tony, her second son, lives in DC and is a top notch sailor. (See Fred Kellog's Profile in the November Newsletter.) Tony crewed on one of the America's Cup boats. Ann, her only girl, lives in England, and had three boys and a girl. Ann's daughter is the only grandchild who is married, and Woofie hopes she will someday be a Great Grandmother! Her youngest son Steve, is a lawyer in DC, and has two boys.

While in South Freeport, the family was very active in competitive sailing. Both Woofie and Harry sailed on major teams, and one year in the 60's Woofie was a member of one of the eight crews who competed in the Nationals in Houston Texas. Her team came in 4th in the country!

In 1990, Woofie and her husband, who was in failing health, moved to their current location on Jameson Point. They then had her current boat, FINEST KIND, a Parker Dawson 26. After her husband died in 1995, Woofie joined the Rockland Yacht Club, and about that time, she, with Frank Wheelock, started the Community Sailing Program at what was then Atlantic Challenge. She has remained involved with the program and is now a Director Emeritus of The Apprenticeship. She is also on the Board of The Camden Yacht Club.

Woofie continues to be a most competent sailor and enjoys taking out her boat, however she recognizes that it is not wise to go out alone., and is very glad to have people go out with her.

So look for this lovely lady at meetings or out on the water and say “hi”! You surely will get a smile!



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More about Woofie:

Once I learned about Woofie's involvement with the Community Sailing Program, I asked KC Heyinger, director of the program, about his working with her. I was delighted to get the following response:

"Ruth "Woofie" Parker is the heart and soul of youth sailing in Rockland. Woofie will tell you all about the other great people who also helped make the Rockland Community Sailing program possible, but every one of those other folks (me included) will tell you she is the inspiration, the vision, the enthusiasm, and the action that fostered and brought the program to what it is today.

Working with Woofie on the youth sailing program has been an amazing experience for me. Her dedication and care for getting kids in Rockland sailing is infectious. But along with her vision, Woofie puts in the hard work at all levels to create opportunities to get kids on the water. You can find her on the docks where the action is. She lends a hand with gear, encourages new sailors, welcomes parents, thanks the instructors for their hard work, finds out what they might need, and then goes out and gets it. Woofie shares her vision with numerous local schools, teachers, businesses, civic groups, and friends and brings these people together to help the program grow and mature. And she is a tireless Board Member at the Apprenticeshop. She has consistently kept the community sailing program a major focus of the organization while still having a deep respect and appreciation of the Apprentices, their skills, and their boat-building craftsmanship.

In 2001, Woofie actually made the first presentation in what has evolved into the current "2nd Thursdays" monthly lecture series at the Apprenticeshop. For me, this was an eye-opening window into where and how Woofie developed her own appreciation of sailing, the sea, and its ability to bring out self-confidence, leadership, teamwork, and character in kids of all ages. Woofie told how she and her late husband Harry Parker were a young Navy couple at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and lived through the Japanese surprise attack on December 7 and all the subsequent struggles of WW2 together. They are another example of the "greatest generation" that did what they had to do to serve their country and community. After the war, they ran a yacht service yard and charter business while raising their four children in Maine.

Along with her passion for youth sailing, for me the history and perspectives she experienced, and has brought to those of us around her, is another layer of inspiration and respect. She knows what it takes to get something challenging accomplished and knows that learning to master the winds and waves in a boat gives kids the skills for life to face their own challenges. Woofie also knows what its like to have a deadline to get a wooden boat fixed and sailing and understands what Apprentices are learning as they build and launch their boats at the A 'shop.

And mixed throughout all these characteristics of Woofie is her amazing warmth, humor, up beat attitude, and high energy that keeps all those involved in her vision enjoying the process. I know I am not alone in saying I can never do enough to help her out. She is constantly encouraging and positive thorough thick and thin and never stops thinking about how to move forward. I've never felt her try to drive me or anyone to do something, but rather say "Hey let's go do it" and the next thing you know you're off! And the Rockland Community Sailing program, the Apprenticeshop, the midcoast area, and thousands of young sailors, instructors, parents, and untold others are all the better for it."

Woofie's attitude: "I'm so dam lucky!"