

Beginnings... It all Began with a Race

It all began with a race... that, according to our Centennial History book, was what prompted a group of Gentlemen to form the Sodus Bay Yacht Club in 1895! In reflecting on our Club's beginnings, it's nice to know things haven't changed much. The History Book tells us, "one hundred years ago skippers on the Bay were preoccupied with the same things as we are today. They were trying to overtake the boat ahead, or stay ahead of the boat behind." Indeed, racing launched the Club, the earliest record of which was a race among Sodus Point cottagers held on July 4th 1893. The race proved so popular, that on July 26, 1893 the editors of the *Newark Arcadian Weekly Gazette* offered to sponsor a series of races on the Bay, and present a trophy to the yacht winning all three races! The excitement of that series of summer races led to a committee being formed, and in December of 1893, the Club was "informally" organized at the Sodus Bay Shore House, where Krenzer's boat yard now stands. Membership was not limited to yacht owners, "anyone of good standing could join." A.C. Bartle was elected Commodore in 1894. That second year saw additions to the racing fleet with "an assortment of sloops, ketches, and centerboard yawls approximately 26 to 30 feet in length." The Yacht Club was formally incorporated under New York State Law on July 30, 1895. Thirty-five men, whose signatures can be seen in the Historical display case, are recorded as the "Incorporators and Charter Members of the Club."

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