

Beginnings: Anecdotes From the Past

The following is a summary of minutes prepared in August of 1988 by Henry B. Nesbitt, for the then SBYC Historical Committee. Since we have been chronicling a number of these events, I thought it might provide an interesting read.

September 25, 1903: The minutes recite that it is the 10th Annual Meeting held at the Clubhouse. The Commodore is Sheffield. Associate membership costs \$2.00. A \$50 prize was offered for the winner of the races in the Lark class.

September 30, 1904: Annual Meeting... Commodore is LeFebre... Officers elected. Club grounds are in need of repair. Ladies over the age of 21 can now be admitted for membership as associates upon payment of \$2.00.

September 4, 1907: Annual Meeting at the Club... Commodore Wilson presiding. Several members dropped for non- payment of dues... Club joins LYRA. Annual dues are \$10.00

September 2, 1907: Meeting at the Club... Commodore Wilson presiding. SBYC accepted for membership by LYRA. More yachting magazines ordered and date for Clambake set. Trophies for motorboat races authorized. Bloomer brothers offer cup for races. Membership is at 124.

March 27, 1907: Annual Clambake held... 75 members in attendance. Awards announced for the following racing classes: Larks, the 35ft. class, and powerboats division. Helen Doty presents the Club with a saluting cannon. A Club uniform is selected. Membership is at 120.

September 7, 1908: Annual Meeting... Commodore Wilson presiding. The Club uniform will be khaki suits. Moved and carried that the flag officers adopt the regulation cap. Motorboat handicapper appointed, another clambake recommended.

September 16, 1909: Annual Meeting... Trophy to be awarded to motorboats instead of Lark class. LYRA cap adopted by club.

May 29, 1910: Meeting of Regatta and Powerboat committees at the Club... powerboat races begin July 4th and are held every Saturday at 4:30 PM. Other races to be held at 2:30 PM with a \$25 prize awarded. Water sports available for Jr. members include bow-paddling and swimming races.

September 4, 1911: Commodore Doubleday presiding.... Parking lot committee recommends the building of 10 stalls to lease to members. Mrs. Kemper expresses appreciation to members of the Club who searched for her late husband, Peter Kemper Jr. lost in a boating accident on the Bay. The Club sends their thanks to the Pennsylvania Railroad for helping in the search.

September 21, 1912: Annual Meeting... Commodore Bloomer presiding. Mr. Wilson reported that he was ready to race his powerboat but no one showed up. Yacht racing seems to be a dead issue at this time but sailing races should still be scheduled. Dock repairs were reported. A piano has been purchased for weekly Saturday entertainment. Annual dues are now \$5.00.

September 1, 1913: Annual Meeting... Commodore Comstock presiding. A motion was made to sell the parking lot for \$450. E.R. Porter was hired as Club Steward for \$240. A refrigerator was purchased for \$5.00. Fence, bathrooms and cesspool built. A complaint was aired that the entertainment is focused on "young" people, need to have "old-fashioned" dances. Annual repairs to club and dock were made. The Club has a debt of \$1,505. There should be at least one Ladies Day next year. A claim was filed against the U.S. Government for damage to the club dock by a dredge.

And so it goes...

(Thank you to Tom Knapp for locating this bit of History and returning it to the Club.)

Rosemary Willette