

## **Beginnings: Club Rescued**

A funny thing happened on the way to the forum, or as in this case, at the Annual Meeting of March 15, 1923. This meeting had been agreed to at the “dissolution” meeting of December 14, 1922. Six members attended the March meeting to elect new officers and propose changes to the by-laws. Commodore Brewster resigned shortly after. Two months later at a very important meeting in our Club’s history, new Commodore, R.A.S. Bloomer along with officers, H.B. Rodgers, C.T. Bloomer, S.E. Comstock and founding member, Calvin P.H. Vary, each contributed \$100 to fund the Club’s operating expenses bringing the Club back to life. Later referred to by Secretary Vary as, “the five patriots who rescued the Club from oblivion,” these men, who were the ONLY club members at that time, ensured the Club’s survival and thus our Club’s charter was maintained.

The meeting described above was held two miles off Pultneyville aboard the ship, *LOTUS*, owned at that time by S.E. Comstock who was Commodore in 1913 and again in 1924. The schooner built some years before near Cleveland Ohio, has undergone extensive restoration over the years. She continues to be the pride and joy of Sodus Bay and our Sea Scouts, and certainly has an honored place in our Club’s history.

During the remainder of the 1920s, membership slowly rose from five in 1923 to fifteen in 1934. As the Club did not own the Clubhouse property (remember it had been purchased by former Vice Commodore, Chamberlain, and resold for a “tidy profit” to the State) meetings were held at various places around the Bay. Annual meetings were held at a residence called “YABS” a summer residence owned by the Bloomer family, or at the *LARKSPUR*, which was next door to the old clubhouse.

In 1934, through the efforts of Harrison Bloomer and his associates, a new class of race boat was designed and developed especially for Sodus Bay. Enter the *Robin Class*, seen as an opportunity to attract younger members. With a new racing class on the horizon, Junior and Associate memberships were initiated in 1934, and with that growth in membership the Club joined the Central New York Yacht Racing Association. Things were looking up indeed, and sights were set on making an important purchase.

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