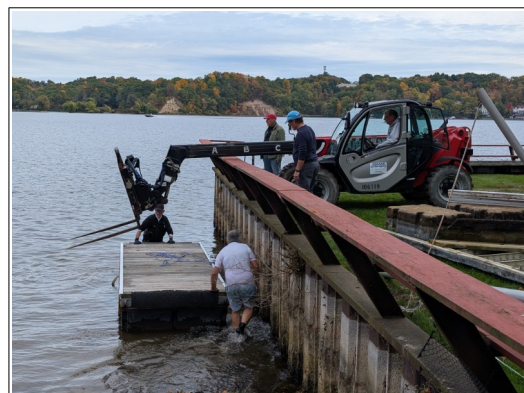




The Jib Sheet

Newsletter of the Rochester Canoe Club



Photos from the successful Fall Work Day – boats are in the clubhouse and docks are out of the water!

Commodore's Report

--- Mary Ellen Ingham, Commodore

As I finish my term as Commodore, I extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who puts their heart, soul and back into making RCC a place we all want to go to sail and hang out with friends. RCC looks great and it's wonderful to see members sailing, racing and enjoying the grounds. We had a nice summer with social events that were well attended, solid Sunday and regatta racing, many folks sailing on our bay and the UofR sailing team practicing.

RCC is fortunate that we have such skill, talent, dedication and fiscally responsible members who keep RCC running and a welcoming place to spend our free time. I'm constantly in awe at the organizational skills, dedication, technical talent and innovative thinking members bring to RCC and the grounds and waterfront reflect your dedication.

Our club on Irondequoit Bay provides quality sailing for our members who have different goals, time commitments and levels of skills. It's an amazing place with opportunity for anyone to achieve what they want to with their days on the water. It's wonderful to see folks at RCC after work and on weekends to connect with each other and to sail.

Deep in our culture is excellence in racing and RCC is well represented at national and world Sunfish and Thistle events as well as in other classes. The ability to practice, learn and grow together pays off with results that aren't often seen at other clubs. We have three sunfish sailors who qualified for and are attending the December 2025 Worlds in Ecuador – Mike Ingham, Dom Simonetti, and Doug Kaukeinen. Mike Ingham, Doug Kaukeinen and Kira Munger have qualified for the St Croix worlds in 2026. Mike Ingham won his 10th Thistle Nationals. Congratulations to all RCC competitors who sail fast and represent us well.

Looking to the future, the RCC Board will continue to build up the financial reserves so we can maintain our assets and keep RCC a place members want to use and contribute to. It's exciting to see more kids at the club and we want to continue working on making RCC safe and fun for families to use. We will host our well-attended social events with members working on new ideas to bring RCC families together and to provide fun activities. Sunday racing and our regattas are very important and will be well run with our excellent RC team and the support of our members. Working with Roc City Sailing, RCC supports the sailing program to promote sailing and racing. The membership committee is working on steps we should take to retain and encourage new members to participate. I'm excited about the possibilities our future brings.

I extend my sorrow to Patty Tompkins, the Gesners and the Gortons for their loss of Jim this season. Jim was a cornerstone of RCC for many years and he will be missed. Enjoy your time on the water sailing and racing – that's what RCC is about. Thank you for a great season!

Vice Commodore

--- Bill Dexter, Vice Commodore

It's been a busy year at RCC so far. We've held a number of well-attended events starting off with the Winter Social in March and the Kickoff Party in May. We had Thursday Night Grilling most weeks in June, July and August, with lots of different volunteers taking a turn at the grill. In September, beside the Famous Clambake, we ran 2 regattas: the Brown Jug with Newport Yacht Club and the Fall Frontier/Turkey Roast.

THANK YOU to all the volunteers who make these events possible.

Racing continues into October with a couple of events still planned: the Don VanVechten Sunfish Regatta on Oct. 11 and the End of Season Party on Oct. 12. After Boats In on Oct 18, Frostbite Sunfish sailing will start.

Looking towards next year, we'd like hold Funfish Day again, probably in July, maybe combined with other games for families. We'd love to hear members' ideas about other events or activities they'd like to have happening at RCC.

Rear Commodore

--- Mark Weider, Rear Commodore

2025 – The year of the falling trees. One in the parking lot and one across the road. Thanks to Jason McCaffery and Jim Hauck for cutting them up.

Projects completed this year:

- Replaced fabric on over half the chairs at the club
- Painted all tables and benches.
- New Trash Service with Suburban Disposal.
- Load of dirt to level the lawn.
- Replaced the Mower.
- North windows trim repairs.
- Two new interior doors.

- Continue cutting Phragmites.
- Some patio step repairs.
- Gas Grill repairs.
- New lights upstairs.
- General cleaning and stocking supplies.

People to thank:

Judy Gesner – Chair repair.

Bill Bradburn – Groundskeeper, dirt mover, trim work, chair repair.

Doug Kaukeinen, Andy Heyer, Johann Wolf – Table painting.

Jim Hauck -Lights, trim work and chair repair.

George and Diane – General housekeeping to keep the club looking good.

All those who contribute to a nicer place.

Please feel free to suggest any future projects.

September Purser Update

--- Diane Ahlman, Purser

DUES AND FEES:

Club income primarily consists of dues and fees. Per our bylaws dues notices go out by March first and are due by May first. Special thanks to John Gorton who generated the individual dues payment pages that were linked to my email from the database. This year we added an option to pay by Zelle transfer as well as by check.

This year we collected \$63,475 -- down about \$2000 from 2024 -- related to resignations. Income from dues and fees are subject to 8% NYS sales tax.

MOST SIGNIFICANT EXPENSES:

- Property taxes \$21,254
- Sales tax \$4,241
- Insurance \$9,701
- Harbor Master \$7,430 to date
- Rear Commodore \$3978 to date (including tree removal early in season)
- Unanticipated capital expense \$6000 for lawn mower
- Utilities to date (RGE, waste management and internet) \$1,977

Bank balance 12/31/2024	\$46,436
Dues income to 9/9/2025	\$63,475
Projected expense 2025	\$58,800
Expense to 9/12/2025	\$56,967
Bank balance 9/12/2025	\$54,230
Rough estimate projected balance 12/31/25	\$48,000

DUES HISTORY:

No increase in dues from 2010 – 2017. Dues increased by approximately 10% in 2018. No dues increase from 2018 – 2022. Dues increased 5% in 2023. Dues increased 10% in 2024. No dues increase in 2025.

Our bylaws set a reserve target of \$40,000 in 2012 dollars. This is \$56,000 in 2025 dollars. The board is tasked with setting a surplus generating budget if we are more than 10% below that target (\$50,400) and a loss generating budget if we are more than 10% above that target (61,600). The board

reviews finances and expected expenses at the January meeting to set dues and fees in February and get the dues notices out by March first. We will most likely need to set a surplus generating budget for 2026.

Thanks to all who contribute their time and talent to the club. We would not be able to operate with dues anywhere near the current level without the generous contributions of time and talent made by many members on an ongoing basis.

RC Laser racing at RCC



Left: RC Laser racing on a recent Wednesday evening

Right: Steve Powers rowing the punt among the little boats

Photos by Jackie Ingham



Membership Committee Report – 2025 (from Annual Meeting)

(Sharon Mattsson, chair; Barb Harmer, George Smith)

- **New Members (2025):** 4 Individual, 6 Regular/Family in 2025
- **Compared to last year:** 5 Individual, 9 Regular/Family in 2024
(1 Individual and 2 Regular did not renew for 2025)
- **Membership “season”** started in January and goes to present time – the most-recent members (2 families) voted in mid-September.
- **Safety Boat/Mark-Set Boat Training – 2025 Membership Committee initiative:**
 - 4 sessions were offered: Sat May 31, Sat June 7, Tues June 17, Sat Aug 16th
 - Enrollment: 4-5 people per session (19 total)
 - 16 were new members (last 1-3 years), 3 were “old” members
 - Worked with Race Committee and Harbormaster to develop training curriculum
 - Goal was to boost new member engagement and support RCC’s racing program
 - Training emphasized safety protocols and RCC power boat operation
 - Training sessions will be offered again next year
- **Primary goals of the Membership Committee** – to engage new members by learning their interests, talking with them about the obligations and benefits of RCC membership, and teaching them how to operate Safety/Mark-Set Boats in support of the race program.
- **What can you do?** – New Member pictures are posted on the Membership bulletin board to the left of the kitchen pass-through, starting with the 2023 new members. Please take a look and see how many of them you can meet. New Members span the entire spectrum of RCC backgrounds and interests: avid racers, brand-new beginner sailors, families, singles, old, and young. *Ask them about themselves!* What attracted them to RCC? Which aspects of RCC activities interest them the most? Are they aware of upcoming social events, training sessions, work days, race days and regattas?
- **Please direct any membership-related questions or suggestions to one of us: Sharon, Barb, George – thanks!**

2025 Sunfish Women's NAs

--- Mary Ellen Ingham

Just before I packed up my gear to head to the USSCA Sunfish Women's North American's in Lake Wawasee, Indiana, I put a new sail on. My plan was to spend Friday shaking the rig out and getting a feel for sailing on the lake. The best laid plans...It blew...hard, No one left the shore. On Saturday, as I started my preparation after checking in, I realized I had no tell tails on my sail. I spent the first 2 races continuing my quest to read the luff of the sail without tell tails. Life is better with tell tails.

The Women's NAs is a very special event for me as it is a once a year opportunity to sail against strong, capable, fast competitors with similar physical capabilities as mine. We talk about how we most of us start hiking hard earlier in the wind range than the larger, heavier men who carry their weight in their shoulders. Every year women who have not competed or don't typically compete at larger events attend this regatta for the comrade, to glean a few hints and to enjoy each others company. It's a big achievement for some women to load trailers and drive by themselves or with a friend to this event.

Lake Wawasee is a little bigger than Irondequoit Bay with many summer and year round homes. After Labor Day, the powerboat traffic drops off considerably making it a nice venue to race. The lakeside homes are beautiful with views, docks and even lifts for sunfish and M15s. I definitely had dock and lift envy. In the winter, they can ice boat. My hosts were great and housed 3 of us in their fabulous home.

On Saturday, the breeze started out light and shifty which proved to be a challenge for my tell tailless brain. As the day progressed, the breeze settled in, I got better at reading the sail and understanding which side of the course was paying off. Most of the day hitting the left was key as there was better pressure along that shore and a pressure line lift coming into the mark on port. It was easy to end up in the middle of the lake where there just wasn't as much breeze especially in the lulls and the direction was swinging 20-30 degrees. Pressure was king and those who connected the dots well, were the winners. My goal was to stick to my plan. It took a while to refine the plan and then keep myself from being blocked and pinned by someone who wasn't looking around. My scores reflect steady improvement all day.

On Sunday, the direction was rotated to the right some which meant the left wasn't as compelling as it was Saturday and the fleet could spread out looking for pressure and playing some shifts. The velocity was a little more than Saturday needing me to do some hiking as the day progressed. It was a pleasure to have manageable breeze. Most of my 2024 and spring 2025 regattas were heavy air and I was always hiking early and often (hence why I needed a new sail!). The day was a pressure day again and I sailed through many headers with the goal of catching the next available pressure. This approach vastly improved my speed resulting in some good finishes. I can't blame lack of tell tails for my first race – it was light and I committed to the wrong side by allowing myself to be blocked and not chasing pressure as diligently as I should have.

I had a really nice port tack start at the boat and won that race by quite a bit. The photographer caught the start with drone footage and I keep watching it with wonder that I actually pulled it off! I also won the last race after being a bit buried at the start and scrabbling my way to the win through 3 windward legs. This was one of the first regattas where I could clearly see how important it was to prioritize pressure over shifts.

Besides the Lake Wawasee club members several of our regular sunfish men competitors were out on support boats. It was fun having their competent and knowledgeable support and observations. I'm sure they will be back in future years.

Gail Housler, a multi-year Women's NA champion was able to race every race. Gail has pancreatic cancer that was diagnosed just after her consistent sailing placed her first at last year's women's. Sailing at this year's women's was a goal for her. She even gave a shore talk about starts. Cheers to Gail and to many more races.

As always after a regatta, I reflect on my performance, goals and why I keep at it. With many things to work on as part of my improvement plans, I'm going to prioritize starting, keeping my fitness up and working on boat handling. I'm looking forward to practicing with Mike and friends as they get ready to race at the worlds in Ecuador. While I wish I could go, I have no regrets about declining my slot because my family is also changing. My daughter Rena is expecting a daughter of her own in December. I'm going to be the adventure grandma!

Goose Committee Report – 2025 (from Annual Meeting)

--- George Smith and Diane Ahlman

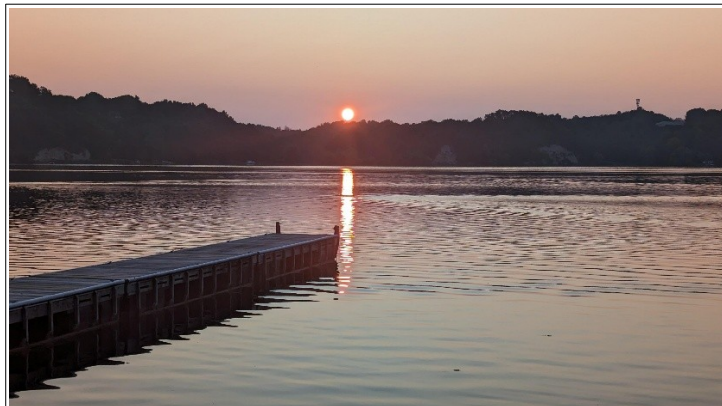
- **Contrary to rumor**, we still have a nuisance Canada goose problem!
- **Geese prefer to walk onto land from the water.** Fences deter them but do not stop them completely. Please reinstall the fences when you are through with waterfront activities. Check around for any spots that have been left open by mistake.
- **Geese eat grass** – a lot of grass – and they produce a lot of poop.
- **Please chase the geese off our property.**
- **Never – ever – feed any of our wildlife:** Canada geese, mallard ducks, songbirds, raccoons, skunks, deer, opossums, mink, or any of our rodents (mice, chipmunks, squirrels, and beavers).
- **Please don't leave food out on the counters in the kitchen (deer mice).**
- **Please don't leave food out on the picnic tables (chipmunks).**

Special wildlife note:

- **When you take out the garbage (which you should do anytime that it contains food waste) please make sure that the garbage can lids are completely closed on the blue “Suburban Disposal” totes (raccoons). We have a family of raccoons the lives uphill from RCC. They like to climb the trees, jump onto the blue totes, and pull out garbage if the lids are left open – even just a little bit.**

Your Goose Committee on “Dawn Patrol.”

(Photo courtesy of Chris Connelly.)



Mid-20th Century engineering structure
(curb & gutter) helping keep boat parking area dry.



Millenia-old “lashing” technology –
making goose fences more flexible and resilient!



1400 is Back!

by Bill Dexter

My father started sailing in college when he was a lifeguard at Pocono Lake. He met my mom, who had a summer house there and sailed a Comet. Dad began racing Snipes, going to regattas around Long Island Sound with his brother Bob. He joined Nyack Boat Club in 1962 and began crewing on Lightnings. Nyack also had Thistles and he was drawn to the simplicity of the boat. He called the Lightning “a floating hardware store”. In 1964, Dad bought Thistle 1400. I started crewing for him, doing forward. When my brother Rob got old enough, he joined us and I moved to middle.



Upper: 1400 back on
Irondequoit Bay this
summer, with Bill, Mary
Ellen Ingham and Don
Stehle

Left: My brothers Rob and
Don at the Sandusky
Nationals, 1981

Right: Racing at Nyack on
the Hudson



Dad eventually bought an Ensign and handed the Thistle down to Rob. My brother Don started crewing for Rob and they raced together in the 70's and 80's. When Rob bought 3721, he handed 1400 over to Don. He repaired, glassed and painted the hull, replaced gratings, stripped and varnished the mahogany interior.

Woodies are lot to maintain so Don bought 3673 (fiberglass) and 1400 went to the top of Dad's garage. When Rob bought 1801 (woodie), Don feared he'd scavenge parts from 1400 so he brought it to Rochester in 1998. I joined the Canoe Club in 2001 and sailed it for about 10 years. By then it needed too much work.

I worked on 1400 off and on for 10 years. I removed, repaired and replaced the centerboard trunk, stanchions and thwart and fixed the hole made by a Sunfish. I stripped, sanded and varnished the interior. I repaired, sanded and painted the hull. It needed all new rigging. This summer, 2025, I finally finished the boat, with mostly donated parts and help from Rob Dexter, Mike, Mary Ellen and Jackie Ingham, Eric Gesner, Mark Weider, Doug Kaukeinen and Don Stehle. Jim Tompkins donated his trailer which I spent some time fixing. My mother bought me a set of sails.

Rob and I took it to Nationals with Mary Ellen.

I can't wait until my granddaughter Jane can start crewing for me and maybe she'll skipper 1400, making it generation 4.

Right: Bill and granddaughter Jane ready to sail 1400 this summer.



My brother Don and my father at Lake George.





Above: 1400 joined us on many summer vacations at Lake George.



Upper Left: Reinstalling centerboard trunk

Upper Right: Hole made by Sunfish

Lower Left: Libby painting the graphic for the transom

Lower Right: Fully restored and ready to race





Jim Tompkins and Jackie Ingham on the RC boat in July



Thistle spinnakers at the Fall Frontier regatta



Halloween movie time on the RCC patio!

The Story of The Ballad of Thistle 257

by Bill Bradburn

A little club history from my perspective. We lived off of Newport Road, at the top of the hill. My family joined RCC when I was 12. My brother Rich and I crewed for my dad on Thistle 477.

For you "new" members, meaning less than, say, 30 years, a Jim Tompkins skippered Thistle was hard to beat. From the late 60's to probably the 90's he was top of the fleet. He was known for being frugal. He didn't need new. He beat you with older sails and equipment. This was before Eric Gesner and Mike Ingham. Doug was a youngster. As teenagers, one day when we were crewing we came up with lyrics to the tune of the Beverly Hillbillies theme song. As with most ballads (ie Davey Crockett) the truth may be stretched a little. I sang this at a regatta I ran many years ago. Jim got a big kick out of it. Oh, by the way his first Thistle was #257. All his Thistles were named Fred....

The Ballad of Thistle 257

Want to tell you the story about a boat named Fred
Jim Tompkins bought it, it had been given up as dead.
Then one day he was looking for a crew,
and that's when Patty said "I do."
Next thing you know old Fred was sailing fast
Kin folk said "Jim if you want this to last,
Thistle racing is where you ought to be"
So he loaded up the boat and he went to RCC.
He shaped a centerboard from an old door.
and the sails that he used were vintage 1954.
Many of the races he began to win
and at the end of the day he drank tonic and gin.

He is missed.

Bless all you Tompkins, Gesners, and Gortons

Note from the Editor:

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue. As always, lots happened during our 2025 sailing season both on the water and off, and it's good to chronicle it for everyone to learn and enjoy! Please think about what you would like to see in future Jib Sheets and feel free to contact me with articles and/or ideas at: jtgesner@gmail.com.

Thank you Judy Gesner, RCC Jib Sheet Editor

PS. On a personal note, a heartfelt thank you on behalf of my family for all the condolences, warm hugs and kind gestures from our Canoe Club family this fall.

