



Quisset Summer Comes To Quiet End

By JANET BURT CHALMERS

Friday, September 10, 2010

Quisset folks were thankful that Hurricane Earl veered far enough to the east to avoid inflicting any damage on the Cape. Boat owners spent a busy week preparing for the worst before Earl's arrival and trying to return their lives to normal after he blew by. While families enjoyed the peaceful conditions on the harbor beach, boat owners battened down their vessels, most Herreshoff owners removing sails, booms and gaffs. Rick and Weatherly Dorris kept busy at their boat yard hauling out boats and moving others to safer moorings. Groups of members pulled out dinghies and carried them up to the Quisset Harbor House lawn where they placed them under the flag pole and tied their painters to a juniper tree.



Labor Day race committee Ted Burt, Mike Garfield and Ben Morris drift aboard *Cornelia Carey* with Answering Pennant signalling postponement gently waving on the port mast. They got the Handicap Class race off after a 10 minute postponement, but cancelled the Herreshoff 12½ footers' race after about an hour's wait for wind. Photo by Janet Chalmers.

Though the weather was calm Friday morning the race committee cancelled the Robert W. Driscoll "Not All There" Race. Pre-Earl was not a time for elderly sailors missing body parts to venture out of the harbor even if the Herreshoffs and dinghies to get to them were ready for use.

Friday's race cancellation was only the first of the weekend. Though Earl didn't hit hard at Quisset, the front that blew hard Saturday and Sunday kept just about everyone harbor-bound. The days were glorious for just about anything except boating. The races for the magnificent Ames and McCurdy trophies had to go uncontested this year.

Quisset Yacht Club members attended the Annual Meeting in Willett Hall at the Harbor House Sunday afternoon where they enjoyed each other's company and reminisced about hurricanes they remembered: the Great New England Hurricane of 1938, Hurricane Carol in 1954 and Bob in 1991. Though some wished Earl had brought some excitement, everyone was thankful they had dodged a bullet.

As always, the meeting was a special event. A white linen draped table at the head of the room was laden with Quisset Yacht Club's historic Sterling trophies and more modern brass, wooden pewter and crystal ones. Behind the table, flanked by Vice Commodore Kathy Cooper and Rear Commodore Nina Hocker on his left and Treasurer Bill Gindra and Secretary Martha Adams on his right, Commodore Mort Saunders presided at his last meeting, opening with a minute of silence in memory of Joan Wheeler who died in August. Committee chairmen gave their annual reports, culminating in the Race Committee's awarding of the summer's prizes and trophies. As usual, RC co-chairs Janet Chalmers and Carol Reinisch Suitor began with thanking their race committee crews and helpers, then, starting with the Early Bird race winners, called the skippers forward to accept their prizes as members applauded.

Next came the highlight of the meeting, the awarding of the club's special trophies honoring people for excellence in sportsmanship, seamanship, racing prowess, love of sailing, and outstanding contributions to the spirit of Quisset Yacht Club. The members rose with standing ovations as the recipients of each of the special trophies came forward. Carol Suitor presented the newest trophy, an antique Sterling silver loving cup she donated this year in memory of Deirdre D.

Saunders, to Ali Rodin as the top woman skipper. Janet Chalmers followed by presenting the Keith Trophy for Outstanding Junior Sailor to Emma Garfield. Next Rear Commodore Nina Hocker awarded the Buz N. Crain Memorial Trophy for love of sailing and crewing to Hannah Garfield, and Vice Commodore Kathy Cooper awarded the Jedediah Huntington McLane Trophy for excellence in sportsmanship and seamanship to Julia Lord. And finally last year's honoree, Carol Sutor, presented the Paul Lloyd O'Sullivan for outstanding contributions to the existence, sailing and racing spirit and quality of life of the Quissett Yacht Club to Kathy Hemstreet Cooper.

Following the awards, Nominating Committee Chairman Alan Haig presented and the membership elected the following slate of officers: Commodore, Katherine Cooper; Vice Commodore, Nina Hocker; Rear Commodore, Randy Evans; Treasurer, Bill Gindra; Secretary, Alison C. Smith; directors through 2011, Jeremy Chalmers and Carol Sutor; through 2012, Ben Coffin and Sia Karplus; and through 2013, Maureen Lynch and Ben Morris. Flag officers handed their flags to their successors, and after a standing ovation thanking outgoing Commodore Mort Saunders the meeting was adjourned. Members enjoyed a friendly social hour before heading home, looking forward to the final races of the season the next morning.

Labor Day Races

by TED BURT and JANET BURT CHALMERS

Labor Day morning is a chancy time to hold a race, and this year the roll of the wind dice came up light, so light, in fact, that the Herreshoff 12 ½ fleet had to be sent home after waiting for almost an hour for some zephyr to materialize. The larger boats fared better, getting just enough of the dying northerly breeze to cross the starting line. Four seasoned S Class sloops were challenged by two smaller handicap class boats sailed by Hilary Davis and Dan Robb, neither of which could keep up the pace set by the taller and speedier S Boats. Despite the best efforts of the Race Committee to conjure up some kind of air, the first leg was a painfully slow beat out into the bay to mark D. It was there that the race really began and finished on an exciting note. The second leg was intended to be a spinnaker reach to mark H, off Racing Beach. Alan Haigh led in Teaticket around D, but Eric Karplus put on steady pressure in Coyote to eventually reel in and pass her to leeward, taking a lead of about five boat lengths with less than a quarter mile to go. At this point the Race Committee brought joy to the stout hearts of Coyote's crew by deciding to shorten the course and finish at mark H. Alas for Coyote, Teaticket began to creep back from astern, stealing the leader's wind and advancing to a position just astern of Coyote as she ghosted into the three boat length circle at the finish mark. Teaticket's momentum carried her just inside and ahead of Coyote as they crossed the finish line, earning yet another well-deserved trophy for Alan Haigh and his fine crew.

The eight Herreshoff 12½ footers that drifted around before their cancellation comprised a small group of a much larger fleet that competed during the summer. With several boats pulled out or unrigged in anticipation of Hurricane Earl or just because it was back-to-school time, fewer than usual made their way to the starting area. Weatherly Dorris teamed up with Mort Saunders in Found It, Nina Hocker with Carol Sutor in Will O' The Wisp, Elizabeth Clark with Chuck First in Allie Rose, Bill and George Armstrong in Adajio, Rebecca and Jessica Hunnewell in Buddy, Tommy, Olivia and Timothy First in Olivia, David Burt and Alec Lengyel in Tag Along, and Janet and Steve Chalmers in Sea Breeze.

And so, the final weekend of racing at Quissett is upon us with the 58th Annual Round the Bay Race for cruising and racing handicap class boats starting tomorrow at noon. Steve Chalmers is still taking registrations from boat owners who waited to see the results of Hurricane Earl before making their decisions to race. Darryl and Janet Buckingham will be hosts to the race committee in their beautiful Mulberry Canyon once again. Round the Bay Race veteran RC members Dwight and Ginny Williams and Ali and Dana Rodin will join the Buckinghams, Steve and me for the event. We hope for great weather.

Robert W. Driscoll Not All There Race
Herreshoff 12½ footers – Sept. 3
RC: Janet Chalmers, Kathy Cooper
Cancelled – Battening down for Hurricane Earl

McCurdy & Ames Trophies – Sept. 4
RC: Janet Chalmers, Anne Dyer, Nina Hocker, Sheila Gordon
S Class and Herreshoff 12½ footers
Cancelled – Heavy wind day after Hurricane Earl

Labor Day Trophies – Mon., Sept. 6
RC: Ted Burt, Mike Garfield, Ben Morris
Handicap Class
Course: DHE shortened to finish at H
Elapsed Time:
1. Teaticket, Alan Haigh, Doug Jones, Ham Lord, 1:28:22
2. Coyote, Eric, Sia & Christos Karplus, Ed Brakeman, 1:28:26
3. Radiant, Doug & Kathy Cooper, Gaylor Conlin, 1:32:10
4. Volante, Rick Dorris, George & Nick Hunnewell, 1:38:23
DNF Sandpiper, Dan & Allison Robb
DNF Owl, Hillary & Colby Davis

Herreshoff 12½ footers
Posponed, then cancelled – no wind

Cutline: Labor Day race committee Ted Burt, Mike Garfield and Ben Morris drift aboard Cornelia Carey with Answering Pennant signalling postponement gently waving on the port mast. They got the Handicap Class race off after a 10 minute postponement, but cancelled the Herreshoff 12½ footers' race after about an hour's wait for wind. Photo by Janet Chalmers.