

Summer 2010



Squaw at the Herreshoff Regatta 2009.

From the Commodore

It's August, fresh breezes have replaced muggy air for a few days, and the Herreshoff Classic Regatta is around the corner.

We have not launched Fish Hawk this year, due to other commitments, but we are still looking forward to seeing you at the regatta on the 28th. I returned on the ferry from Prudence Island this evening, to see Rhode Island Red looking splendid as she sailed across the harbor. One of the Marine Museum 12½'s was out there as well, also looking great. It is lovely to see the Marine Museum's boats being sailed regularly.

The Wind Hill last year was sailed on a shorter course around Dyer Island. After two years of being cancelled for lack of wind, the Livingston's chose to run the race a bit later when the wind arrived, using a secondary course. The sea breeze came in, and the new course was a great success. The Wind Hill Trophy was and won by David Bush-Brown in Remora, although Qetenis (a Haven 12½) was first across the line. See results later in the newsletter.

We also have an interview with Martie Livingston which is interesting for the details of the 1938 "Great Storm" among other things.

Good luck with your 2010 season, and I hope to see you on the water or at the HMM Regatta in a few days.

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August 16th, 2010.

Interview with Martie Livingston

At the Gam before the Wind Hill, Martie spoke with Janice Williams, Shel Sheldon, and Andrew MacKeith from which the following reminiscences were obtained ...

In the early 1930's all the boats had white sails, but later various boats had colored sails. **Black Maria**, owned by the A. T. Wall family, [Brooke Wall?] which had a black hull, had orange sails, the Fulton's boat, **Rhode Island Red**, had yellow sails. The Nicholson's boat, **Remora**, had Red sails. "Red Rover, come on Over". Someone, I can't remember who, had horizontal stripes on the sails.

In the hurricane of September 21st 1938, the Nicholson's boat went to the bottom, which was fortunate, because most of the other boats in the fleet had been put up and were in the Herreshoff shed when it was reduced to splinters, together with all the stored boats, in the hurricane. Martie remembers the day. "I cycled up to the Yacht Club [for location, see below] and rowed out to pump out the boat. I rowed back and pulled up the dinghy, because the wind was building. Then I cycled home. My mother decided to drive home to Providence because the weather was worsening. We had to abandon the car at North Farm (in Bristol). We started to walk back on foot, avoiding the road, we went by the fields. This was not easy because my mother always wore high heels, and of course I was in a dress because one would never go to Providence in anything but a dress. Eventually a truck gave us a lift back to the center of Bristol and dropped us at Union Street from where we walked home. By that time the wind was lessening. One of the funny things about the day was that my mother and I were both wearing dresses of a new-fangled fabric which shrank when it got wet, so we walked along with our petticoats below our dresses."

All the boats in the Bristol fleet had sails were made by William P. Paine of Britain St. in Bristol. He had worked for the Herreshoff Manufacturing Company, but left to start on his own, but the fleet insisted that sails must be bought from him. Mr. Paine put up a trophy for the 12½ footers. At the time the Bristol YC was at the bottom of Constitution Street, at the site now occupied by the Elks Club. Since Mr. Paine had put up the trophy, he could choose the course, and he wanted to watch the whole race from the Yacht Club, so the course would be from the YC to Poppasquash Bell, to Middle Ground, to the buoy off the Weherhauser lumber yard, and back to the YC.

Another of the regular races was for the Pardee Trophy, presented every year in the mid 1930's. This was held for 6 or 7 years.

During the years the Haffenreffers owned the HMC, they gave a large Revere bowl for a trophy. The competition was for teams from all around the area, sailed in Bristol boats (at the time there were about 16 or 17 boats in the Bristol fleet). Each team would sail a different boat for each race. Martie sailed with Breck Marshall and Paul Rockwell. 8 to 12 teams raced for the trophy, but it was only held once. We think the bowl is at the BYC - must check this out.

Membership

Membership fees are now due. Please send \$15.00 to NBH12, P.O.Box 506, Bristol, RI 02809. The fees just pay for the mailings. If you would like the group to keep in touch, please join. A membership form is enclosed with this mailing. If you have been a member before, and I have your details, just send in the form with your name and phone number only.

Members 2009

Joan Bartram
Bill Beardsley
Kim Clarke
DeWolf Fulton
Richard Gentile
James Goff
Halsey Herreshoff
Washington Irving III

Stan Livingston
Ted Livingston
Nicholas Long
Andrew MacKeith
J D & Autumn MacLeod
Alfred Maybach
Steve Nagy
Susan Maffei Plowden

Christopher Sheldon
Irving Sheldon Jr
Jeffrey L Staats
John Steel
Anne Vivian & Doug Viehmann
Dudley and Janice Williams
Shawen Williams

Please contact me if you're interested in being the new Commodore..

Herreshoff Rendezvous August 22nd, 2009

Herreshoff 12½ Division Results

Two races were held. The first on the west side of Hog Island, and the second around Hog Island. The wind was south-westerly, backing later to SSE.

Position	Race 1	Race 2	Sail Num	Boat Name	Skipper & Crew
1	1	1	11	Quetenis	Shelley Sheldon Louise Sheldon
2	4	2	4	R I Red	DeWolf Fulton Christian Weeks
3	2	5	582	Pooka	Luke Rian Bridget McCoy Bobby Robertson
4	3	4	H40	Squaw	Ben Smith Jonathan Enright
5	5	3	22	Fish Hawk	Andrew MacKeith Arthur MacKeith

The 2010 Herreshoff Rendezvous will be held on Saturday August 28th, 2010.

Wind Hill Trophy August 23rd 2009

Expecting similar conditions to last year, Stan and Martie had prepared an alternate course, between Poppaquash and around Dyer Island, see the Notice of Race. All the participants enjoyed the challenge of the new course.

We had a pleasant social hour and brunch at Wind Hill before the race, and started at 1.15pm, when the South Westerly came in.

Many thanks to Stan and Martie Livingston for their kind hospitality.

Position	Boat Name	Sail Num	Skipper & Crew	Time Hrs:Mins
1	Quetenis	11	Shelley Sheldon Kay Sheldon Louise Sheldon	2:30
2	Remora *	17	David Bush-Brown	2:31
3	Fish Hawk	22	Shawen Williams Hope MacKeith	2:36
4	Pooka	582	Luke Rian Bridget McCoy	

*** The Wind Hill Trophy was won by Remora.**

Shel Sheldon writes ...

Well, at the Wind Hill Regatta yesterday, Quetenis, with me at the helm and Louise and Kay urging her on, took line honors, with the prize going to Remora, the Livingston's/Nicholson's venerable Herreshoff 12½ skippered singlehandedly by David Bush-Brown, son-in-law of Marty and Stan Livingston. They hosted race participants at a beautiful Sunday brunch before the race on the terrace of Wind Hill, with an unobstructed view of the East Passage, and the filling southerly following the rapid and welcome vamoose of Hurricane Bill.

In a departure from the norm, the course was around Dyer Island, an islet in about the same latitude as Prudence's southern end, and then up to the Poppasquash bell, or vice versa (i.e. circumnavigating Dyer and Hog islands), if you chose to sail that way. The delta was about 15 seconds. It's always exciting when two yachts meet at the finish line, having followed different tracks around the course.

The race began at 1315 on a strong ebb and the breeze quickly freshened. Remora and Pooka headed east to the bridge to ride the current out of Mount Hope Bay, while Quetenis and Fish Hawk headed west to round Poppasquash bell and enter the main channel down the Bay. All four yachts found fast water and Dyer quickly rose on the horizon. On Quetenis, we first discerned the eastern fleet and two mere specks on the Portsmouth shore, but the Witch of Saunderstown went to work, and the hapless ones loomed bigger with each tack. It was fast, wet and wild. Remora, with new, better fitting sails, had opened a substantial lead and led at the windward mark. Quetenis followed, having dispatched Pooka on the last tack. Then we threaded the narrow channel inside Dyer, strewn with menacing rocks.

Only Remora remained, and while she had half-mile lead, she still had to go to Poppaquash, while Quetenis had the finish line in her sights. David got Remora's spinnaker flying and Quetenis hoisted hers, only to have the halyard shackle break. The skipper grabbed the last of the chute before it disappeared under the bow and hoisted it again on the jib halyard. After a few jibes we were on port tack crossing the shoal at the Hog Island Light at slack water and the finish line was a few hundred yards away. At the same moment, Remora emerged from behind Hog Island reaching toward the line on starboard, but Quetenis had the edge. Unfortunately, her skipper misread the race instructions and crossed the line in the wrong direction, with Remora finishing before Quetenis, hampered by the lack of an available jib halyard, could cross again. Another dramatic and wonderful Wind Hill Regatta.

The 2009 Wind Hill Trophy Race will be held on Sunday August 29th, 2010.

First Gun will be at 11:50 am.

Wind Hill is South of Bristol Harbor, on the East shore.

See the Notice of Race for more details.

<http://nbh12.org/2010/WH2010/WindHillNotice2010.pdf>

NBH12.org

Don't forget the Association's web site **NBH12.org**. There are many more photos on the web site than can be put in the newsletter, and of course, they are in full color too. There are links to other yacht clubs, and local weather stations, and I always post the results on the site as soon as I can. If you have 12½ footer news that you think the world should know, it can be posted on the site. Just let me know. Several of the newsletters are also on the site, if you want to review the old ones, or if you want to see this one with color photos.

NBH12 Finances

April 1 2009 to March 31 2010

	debit	credit	balance
Brought forward			2398.31
Income from Membership Fees		345.00	2743.31
Bank interest:		2.80	2746.11
Mailing and printing expenses	79.64		2666.47
Carried forward			\$2666.47



R I Red, Squaw, Quetenis at the end of the first race, Herreshoff Regatta 2009.
(Pooka was 2nd, but is not in the picture).

The Saunderstown Yacht Club 12½ Trophy Regatta 2009



Your Commodore sailed from Prudence Island to see the Saunderstown YC 12½ Trophy Regatta on August 9th 2009 where this picture was taken.

The race was won by Shel Sheldon in Quetenis.

More photos at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/nbh12/sets/72157621869727505/>