

Eugene Yacht Club History

For several years in the late 1930's a number of boaters in the Eugene area had been getting together informally and traveling to various lakes in the area to boat together. In the spring of 1940, several of them got together and discussed the formation of a club to further the sport of boating in the area. They drafted a Constitution and By-Laws, and the Eugene Yacht Club was formed.

The membership totaled 25, and most of the boats then were power. For the first year, the activities consisted of traveling each weekend to a lake or coastal area. In 1941, a floating boathouse was purchased and moved to West Lake on Siltcoos Lake, and it was formally dedicated as a clubhouse for the Eugene Yacht Club.

In 1943, the members decided that Fern Ridge Reservoir would be a more likely location for a home base for the club, and the membership began using the point of land where Orchard Point Park is now. However, it soon became apparent that wind conditions made this a difficult area to sail from, and the group moved to Richardson Point, where the club is now located.

In 1944, efforts were made to lease a part of this point of land from the Corps of Engineers, which proved a difficult task. A lease was finally obtained in the name of the Boy Scouts of America, Oregon Trail Council, for a period of one year. The following year, a joint lease was obtained with the Scouts and EYC, and is still in effect today.

In 1945, a "Clubhouse" was constructed on the land, which was a 30' by 15' lean-to structure with a dirt floor and a cooking top fireplace. Docks were constructed on large logs, and a seawall was constructed and the basin dredged and the spoils used to fill behind the seawall to build up the land as it now exists. The first seawall was constructed of an old plank logging road which was torn up by the members and moved in. Later, quarry rock was poured over the face of this wood wall. Then, concrete was poured over the face of the rock, and the existing seawall and sidewalk were formed. In 1946, new docks were constructed to form the north basin of the club area, which has since been enlarged towards the lake.

The first moorage slips were driven by the members with a pile driver constructed by the members on an old log dock. Over several years, construction has continued, and the result is the existing dock and moorage area. The same was true with the clubhouse. The first stage was enlarged with a roof towards the lake, doubling its size to 30' by

30'. The sides were added and windows installed to close in the building. The next stage was to begin construction of the present clubhouse, which was done in two parts, the first being the kitchen half with the old clubhouse left for general use. Two years later, the old clubhouse was torn down, and the south portion enlarged to its present size.

Sometime around 1949 or 1950, Maxine Walder decided that it would be a good idea to have a directory of EYC members' names. So, she compiled the first EYC directory, and Victor updated and added to it. It has evolved into the handbook we have today, with the membership directory, by-laws, articles, activity schedules, and other useful information that we have come to rely on.

In 1972, the present restroom facilities were built with volunteer labor by the members. The project was nicknamed the "Yot Pot" and continues to be known by that name. In 1981, the "Emil Furrer Memorial Deck" was added to the east side of the clubhouse. In 1992/93, the clubhouse underwent a major remodeling, adding a pantry/storage room, a meeting room, new entry way, and modernizing of the kitchen.

Some of the earliest social events have become traditions, such as the Memorial Day Regatta, which started in 1945. The first Commodore's Ball was held in 1947, and is still the annual social event of the club. The first Skippers' Stag took place in 1948. This steak barbecue now includes the spouses and is called the Skippers' and Mates' Dinner, and it is the kick-off event each spring.

Smooth Sailing

The excellent wind and water conditions of Fern Ridge Reservoir have made the Eugene Yacht Club a very popular location for sailing events. The lack of current and commercial boat traffic, and the size and shape of the lake allow the use of the standard Olympic circle racing course. This and the availability of camping on the grounds make EYC an ideal place for regattas and other organized sailing events.

The now famous Memorial Day Regatta was first held in 1945 with some 23 boats participating. It is now limited to 150 boats with sailors coming from clubs from all over the West Coast area. The Harvest Regatta in September draws up to 100 boats each year.

In recent years EYC has hosted a number of major racing events including the nationals for the Coronado 15, Daysailer, Santana 20 and Thistle classes, the Laser North Americas, as well as many District

regattas. EYC has also hosted Mallory Cup eliminations, as well as several West Coast Championships.

In 1970, Dick Brust organized the EYC Sail School to teach the children of EYC members how to sail. This has become an established yearly event held for one week soon after school is out. With the exception of a paid cook, it is staffed entirely with member volunteers.

A few years later, Nan Culver formed a ladies' sailing school to provide an activity for the mothers who accompanied the young children to sail school. This was an instant success and eventually attracted some male students as well. It is now called Adult Sail School, and is in conjunction with sail school.

The Eugene Yacht Club continues to grow and improve to meet the needs of the members, with the members generously donating their time, talent, building materials and equipment. It's a far cry from the original lean-to shelter to what most of us believe to be the best yacht club in the Pacific Northwest, and this belief is held by many from other yacht clubs as is evidenced by the use made of our facility by members of other clubs. The Eugene Yacht Club has been featured in both Sunset magazine and Sail magazine.

General Information

AN ORGANIZATION OF VOLUNTEERS

Membership participation is the key to successful operation of the Eugene Yacht Club. Providing the labor to make the club function is what keeps our dues and fees low. During the year, each family is asked to help out in the following ways:

Workparties - Each member is to put in a specified number of hours or be billed for each one not fulfilled. In late winter and spring, workparties are scheduled on some weekends for general repair and the construction of new projects. These workparties are under the supervision of the Port Commission.

Your obligation can be fulfilled in two days or less, depending on how many members of your family pitch in. Specific information appears in the handbook and is also in the bulletin from time to time.

Ship/Shape committee - Some members will be assigned to help in the kitchen with the potluck dinner. You will find your assigned date and the details of this duty on the ship/shape assignments page of this handbook.

Race committee - You may be asked to be part of the race committee on a given Thursday night or weekend. This involves setting out marks, determining the race course, timing the races, recording finishes, picking up the marks and staffing the rescue boat.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

These are held on the last Saturday of the month at the Clubhouse at 7:30 pm, following the potluck dinner.

BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm at the EYC Clubhouse. Members are welcome to attend.

POTLUCK DINNERS

Potlucks are held at 6:30 pm on the last Saturday of the month except November and December. Generally, a main dish plus a salad or dessert and table service/drinks for your family should be brought.

EYC Club Trophies

The Eugene Yacht Club has a number of established trophies which are presented to the winners each year at the Commodore's Ball in November.

SPENCER ALEXANDER AWARD - This award is Eugene Yacht Club's most prestigious award. Established in 1965, it is a service award named after Spencer Alexander, the community's "Ultimate Volunteer." He owned Alexander's Dept. Store in Springfield, and was a very kind and generous man, giving freely donations of time, materials and services to numerous organizations. Our row of Locust trees and the Yot-Pot fixtures are part of his legacy to EYC. Our club would not exist without volunteers such as Spencer Alexander. This award is presented to the person considered to have done the most effective work for the club, outside of duties required by the office held, in any year. Originally, the Board made the selection, and it is now made by past holders. The selection is secret until the awarding at the Commodore's Ball. Recipients are: Francis Kelley, 1965; Bill Cooley, 1966; Victor Walder, 1967; Dr. E.D. Furrer, 1968; Jack Culver, 1969; Dick Brust, 1970; Bill Wolfe, 1971; Gene Davis, 1972; Frank Trocino, 1973; Dave Wallace, 1974; Clare Davis, 1975; Jim Skeen, 1976; George McBride, 1977; Nan Culver, 1978; Ken Higgins, 1979; Doug and Dolly Chambers, 1980; Bill Fisher, 1981; Jon Otto, 1982; Lee Eggers, 1983; Larry Beggs, 1984; Ron Bloom, 1985; Patricia Skeen, 1986; Dave Brown, 1987; Mike Gerot, 1988; Bob Jackson, 1989; Susan Bloom, 1990; Evert Slijper, 1991; John Mahoney, 1992; Rich Johnson, 1993; Bill Seider and Mandy Miller, 1994; Judy Eggers, 1995; Fred Welsh, 1996; Nan and Daryl Loveland, 1997; Ronalee Kincaid, 1998; Marji Clune, 1999; Dave Andrews, 2000; Dan Weber, 2001; Rich Aaring, 2002; Bill Slattery, 2003; John & Susan Pfanner, Ken Miller, 2004; Gordon Mattall, 2005; Phillip Klingensmith 2006, John & Sandy Franklin 2007, Wayne and Pam Previti 2008, Anne Ellsworth 2009, Judy Slijper 2010.

PAST COMMODORE'S AWARD - Established in 1987 by the active past commodores, for the purpose of honoring the fleet whose members contributed the most for the benefit of the club during the fiscal year, excluding racing activities. The award is made annually by active past commodores, and is secret until the awarding at the Commodore's Ball. Holders are: Hobie fleet 1987; Laser fleet 1988; Santana 20 fleet 1989; Daysailer fleet 1990; PHRF fleet 1991; Laser fleet 1992; Lightning fleet 1993; Santana 20 fleet 1995; Junior fleet 1996; Daysailer fleet 1997; Thistle fleet 2002; Santana 20 fleet 2003;

Lido fleet 2004; Santana 20 fleet 2005 & 2006; Wavelength fleet 2007, Multihull fleet 2008 & 2009, Thistle Fleet (& esp. Leta Sellers) 2010.

VICTOR R. WALDER AWARD - Established by the club in 1988 to honor Victor R. Walder, who was a member for forty-three years and executive secretary of the club for over twenty-five years, prior to his passing in 1992. The award is presented annually to the member between the ages of 12 and 20 considered to have done the most effective work for the benefit of the club, in any year. The member must be either a Junior member or the child of an active member; and can be, but is not limited to, junior fleet members. The selection is made by a committee of two, consisting of the sail school chair and one member of the board. The selection is secret until the awarding to the parents of the recipient at the Commodore's Ball. The award is presented by the parents of the previous year's recipient. Holders are: Carrie Anderson 1988; Shannon Patrick Clune 1989; Heidi Barker 1990; Tom Schwieger 1991; Jennifer Ballenger 1992; Mike Rosado 1993; Carolyn Slijper 1994; Ross Fleischman 1995; Gabe Schroeder 1996; Lindsay Vaughn 1997; Johanna Schroeder 1998; Anna Tabet 1999; Jeff Lamont 2000; No Award in 2001 or 2002; Brandy Harris & Chris Morrow 2003; Nick Genovese, Blake Bale, Chris Morrow 2004; Alex Tabet 2005; Marissa Balough 2006; Alex Aaring 2007, Evan & Kell Thomsen 2008, Nick Genovese 2009, Erin Holt 2010.

JACK CULVER TRAVELING TROPHY - Established by Jack Culver in 1978. To be awarded to the racing sailor(s) participating in the greatest number of away regattas sponsored by yachting organizations other than EYC. Ron & Leeanne Fish, 2009, Lyle Mayer and Mike O'Bryan 2010.

NAN CULVER LADY SAILOR TROPHY - Established by Nan Culver in 1978. To be presented to the lady sailor, chosen by previous winners, who has best promoted sailing among women by participation in racing, a thorough knowledge of sailing, and participation in class activities. Holders are: Rey Otto/Dolly Chambers 1979; Patricia Skeen 1980; Rey Otto 1981; Karen Vesterby 1982; Nancy Bollinger 1983; Loal Scofield 1984; Dolly Chambers 1985; Nan Loveland 1986; Kay Lee Brown 1987; Betsy Reid 1988; Barbara Sherlock 1989; Rebecca Mikesell 1990; Jennifer Drake 1991; Betsy Reid 1992; Margaret Brust 1993; Vicki Jack 1994; Nan Loveland 1995; Mary Van Cura 1996; Marilyn Miller 1997; Marji Clune and Kim Magers 1998; Mandy Miller 1999. Nadine Powell 2000, No Award was given in 2001; Cindy Morgan 2003; Sue Rosado 2004; Leanne Bale-Fish 2005; Leta Sellers 2006. Angela McFarland 2007, Michelle Wood 2008, Sharon Mosley 2010.

EYC WOMEN'S CUP - Evolving from the earlier "Hen's Cup" sailed in El Toros, this event was established in 1981 by then commodore, Jim Skeen, to encourage EYC women to sail and competitively race Lasers. Later, Susan and Ron Bloom, donated the impressive antique sterling silver bowl, which is now presented to the winner of this EYC women's regatta. Winners have been Nancy Bollinger, Patricia Skeen, Nancy Loveland, Tina Swangard, Kay Lee Brown and Kim Magers; Rebecca Mikesell and Kay Lee Brown. Leeanne Bale-Fish, Toby Lewis, Angela McFarland, Iris Young (Jr Women's cup).

COMMODORE'S TROPHY - Bill Cooley established an EYC champion's trophy in 1968, calling it the Commodore's Cup. That trophy and the event held to decide the winner lasted until 1995 when the trophy was lost. Previous winners for this trophy are: Jim Skeen 1968; Robert Campbell 1969; Dick Rowell 1970; (no races in 1971 1972 or 1973); Doug Chambers 1974; Paul Wallace 1975; Evert Slijper 1976; (no race in 1977); Evert Slijper 1978; Dick Rowell 1979; Rodney Dunn 1980; Evert Slijper 1981; Rob Fisher 1982 and 1983; Jerald Skeen 1984; Rob Fisher 1985; Jerald Skeen 1986 and 1987; Mike Sherlock 1988; Jerald Skeen 1989; Rich Aaring and Shannon Patrick Clune 1990; Ron Fish 1991; Jerald Skeen 1992; Rich Aaring 1993; Mike Sherlock 1994.

Nancy and Daryl Loveland, both past commodores, built and donated another trophy in 1995, naming it the Commodore's Trophy. The deed of gift stipulates that the presiding commodore is to invite the best sailors in the club who have behaved in a Corinthian manner during the year to come together for a final championship. The winner may keep the trophy from the time of its presentation until Skippers and Mates at the beginning of the next season, whereupon it is to return to EYC grounds. Winners include Ross Fleischman 1995; Daryl Loveland 1996; and Phil Root 1997 & 1998; Phil Root 1999. (None in 2000); Jerald Skeen 2003; Paul Stephens 2004; (none in 2005); Jerald Skeen 2006; Gordon Mattatal 2007, Leeane Bale Fish 2008, Jerald Skeen 2009, Judy & Evert Slijper 2010.

CORINTHIAN SPIRIT AWARD - Established by Ron and Susan Bloom in 1991 to promote good sportsmanship by club members. It is awarded to a sailor from each class at Sail School who exemplifies the characteristics of the Corinthian spirit: honor, integrity, helpfulness, courtesy, respect, and good sportsmanship. Nominations are made within each class and may include both students and instructors. Vote is by secret ballot on the last morning of Sail School. Winners are announced at the Sail School Awards Ceremony and their names are

engraved on the Corinthian Spirit trophy which is kept in the clubhouse trophy case. Holders are listed on the trophy in the clubhouse trophy case.

BOOBY HAT - A sailor hat given for the outstanding blunder, blooper or gaffe of the year. It is to be worn by the "winner" at all yacht functions. The 2010 winner was **Jim Martinez** (he'll be happy to explain why)!

Junior Fleet

The Eugene Yacht Club, being a family club, promotes and supports the activities of a special organization - the Junior Fleet. To be eligible for membership in the Junior Fleet, one must be between the ages of twelve (12) and twenty (20) and be either a child of an active member or a junior member of EYC. All members of the Junior Fleet pay the required annual dues as set by the Junior Fleet officers. The Junior Fleet is to be supervised by a Junior Fleet committee consisting of four active members of EYC, appointed annually by the Commodore. They may attend Junior Fleet meetings, and assist in coordinating junior activities with the general program of the club, and undertake such other duties as may be required for the effective operation of the Junior Fleet.

The Junior Fleet affairs shall be managed by a board of five (5) trustees who are members of the Junior Fleet, to be elected at the annual meeting of the Junior Fleet. The Board of Trustees of the Junior Fleet shall be composed of the following officers: Commodore, Vice-Commodore, Rear-Commodore, Secretary-Treasurer, and Trustee. The Junior Fleet Committee shall appoint such committees as they may deem appropriate.

Meetings of the Junior Fleet are held monthly. Races are usually held once a week during the racing season and the learning of racing techniques is emphasized at these races. Members of the Junior Fleet are allowed to race free of charge in any major regatta sponsored by EYC if: they have five boats racing, and they police the grounds.

The Eugene Yacht Club Web Site

www.eugeneyachtclub.org

The Club's official web site includes pictures, racing information, and lots of interesting stuff for everyone.

There is also a "members only" area. This area includes information from the club handbook, member-related information, recent bulletins and much more.

Members in good standing can access this area of the website using an assigned user name and password.

If you have not signed up for a user name and password please send an email to webadministrator@eugeneyachtclub.org and include the following:

- Your first, middle, and last name

(Your user name will be your first and middle initial and last name in all lower case. Robert B. Smith would be **rbsmith**.)

- The password you wish to use

(Case matters on this. **MyPassword** is NOT the same as **mypassword**)

We are also encouraging members to download their monthly EYC bulletin from the web site instead of by regular mail. You get your bulletin sooner and you help the club save on postage expenses.

If you would like to get your bulletin electronically, just send an email to webadministrator@eugeneyachtclub.org. You will receive an email each month telling you when the latest bulletin has been posted.