



The Yeoman

Des Plaines Park District Yacht Club

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Float Boat Day – Terry Schraub Visits Lake Opeka

by John Ciborowski

Mother Nature cooperated beautifully on April 8th for our 2006 Float Boat Day. The sky was blue, there was a gentle breeze, and for early April the temperature was relatively pleasant. Joe Stoodley and Bill Kaempfe once again were the point men for setting up and launching the committee boat. There was also a good turnout of DPYC members to help the Sunfish make their annual migration from the boathouse to the storage racks. The highpoint of the morning though came as we were finishing our chores and heard a female voice calling out to us from the parking lot. It was Terry Schraub. She had come back to Chicago for the Cubs home opener (and of course to visit her old Lake Opeka friends). As luck would have it she was free that evening to attend the annual spring party at Mark and Peggy Quiniff's house.



Spring Party Kicks Off the 2006 Sailing Season

by John Ciborowski

The spring party was the perfect opportunity for members to have a glass of wine and catch up with what's new in the lives of fellow sailors. After a long winter of no sailing, you could tell that everyone was really itching to get back on the water.

We were all happy to see Terry and learn about her new life in Texas. While she has not sailed her beloved Sunfish, Salti Ladi, since moving to San Antonio, she recently discovered that one of the largest Sunfish fleets in the country is only a short distance from her Texas home, and she plans to get back on the water soon. This will become much easier given that she will be retiring at the end of the month. She will however be teaching Business Communications part time at the DeVry Campus near her home. She couldn't help but tease us though with the fact that her winter coat had not been out of the Chicago cleaner's bag since she moved to Texas.

Dave and Peggy Janson announced that they were the proud owners of a new (to them) 470 that had competed in one of the Olympics Games. If anyone is interested in buying a boat, the Janson Fleet is downsizing and Dave is selling his older 470.

John Washburn and his wife have joined the Yacht Club and will once again be sailing in Des Plaines. John grew up across the street from the lake, and after moving away and sailing on other lakes has finally brought his Laser home to Lake Opeka. John and Ellie VandenBrink, Joe and Janet Stoodley, Tom and Chris Laskowski, and John and Judy Ciborowski also attended, and judging from the laughter and lively conversation, we were all happy to see old friends and look forward to a summer of sailing and socializing.

Park District Report

Lake Park will be getting a new LED-equipped sign, to be located along Touhy Avenue. Earlier in the year there were plans to repave the parking lot, replace the docks, and create an artificial "beach" area between the boat ramp and the paddleboat dock, but these ideas were shelved for budgetary reasons. There is still a chance that the parking lot could receive a tar recoating this season, but this project will be difficult to schedule given that the lot is now filled with boats. Most likely it will be delayed until the off-season.

The club is still attempting to get some minor repairs made to the docks, including the replacement of missing cleats and padding of the dock posts. The lake itself has recovered significantly from its low water level in 2005. Hopefully this season will bring more rain and less need to pump water out of the lake to irrigate the golf course.

The problem with winter storage boats not clearing out at the start of the sailing season seems to have grown worse this year. Please move your boat to its proper slot if you have not done so already. If your slot is currently occupied by some mysterious craft of unknown ownership, contact the Park District to arrange for its removal.

Boats for Sale to Good Homes, Cheap!

At the last monthly meeting, the board discussed selling several abandoned Park District boats to raise money. These boats include the orange Rebel, the Snipe, and a little boat known as an Anchor (yes, really!). The suggestion was to price these boats inexpensively (at around \$300-\$600 each), with a requirement that they remain moored at Lake Opeka for a specific, though yet to be determined, number of years. This solution would raise money for the club, bring in additional mooring revenue for the Park District, provide for maintenance of several long neglected boats, and hopefully result in new members to the club. The idea is being further explored with Park District management.

Sail-a-Sailboat Day

This year's Sail-a-Sailboat day is quickly approaching. Every year the club hosts this event at Lake Opeka as an opportunity to introduce members of the public to the sport of sailing. On Saturday June 10th from 11:00am to 2:00pm, anyone can come down to the lake, sign a waiver, and go for a ride. Invite your friends and coworkers if you think they might have an interest in sailing. Last year we had great weather, good wind, and a large turnout. After last year's success, John Ciborowski will again be organizing this year's event. Please contact him if you can help out in any way. We could use skippers to provide rides in their boats, dock and shore crew, registration desk workers, and help with food service.

2006 Event Schedule

Phil Faulkner, our Vice-Commodore extraordinaire, has finalized the 2006 schedule. The full schedule is attached as a separate document sent with this newsletter. The racing season was slightly shortened this year to lessen the risk of bad weather when dry-docking the float boat. Last year we were lucky not to be packing things up in the snow! A few holes remain in the schedule for race committee duty; if you have yet to sign up for your slots (2 Sundays and 1 Wednesday), please contact Phil and he will update the list.