



FRIENDSHIPS

Newsletter of the Friendship Sloop Society

Volume 7

Spring/Summer 1995

Issue 2

Commodore's Message

The tarp came off **Content** a month ago to reveal dull brightwork, chipped paint and the inevitable popped screws. In the Langton household this is the time in the annual cycle of boat ownership when we start wondering "Why do we own this old wooden boat?" After ten years of sloop ownership, however, our family is pretty used to this cycle. Every spring the daunting job of maintenance brings up thoughts of selling at any price. Ruthie and Robert insist that we **must** keep **Content**, or at least sell her to them. The work gets done. The boat is launched, and then... the miracle of that first sail. It's the first sail with the creaks and groans that are a part of **Content** as she sails to windward that makes it all worthwhile.

It is this intimacy with the sea, and involvement with the other families in the Sloop Society, which makes that spring ritual easily forgotten each summer.

Like other sloop owners, we really believe that our sloop is priceless, and that belief is reinforced each summer. This summer is no exception, as the events planned for the season will give sloop owners the opportunity to participate in many gatherings. The season kicks off in New London, continues in Southwest Harbor, moves to Rockland, then to Friendship and finishes in Marblehead.

The major change in this year's schedule is, of course, the Rockland Homecoming. By now everyone will have received the mailing outlining the schedule for the Society's premier annual event. Hopefully you have already registered your boat, made your hotel reservations, and sent in an order for t-shirts. Even if you are not sailing to Rockland, please join us. Crew is always needed and more than welcome.

Our yearbook editor told us that we sold more ads than in years! Let's make this a record-breaking gathering for Sloop Society members and friends as well!

Rich and Beth Langton, Commodores

Race Committee Chairman's Message

by Bob Rex

The Race Committee urges all the Friendship Sloop skippers to come and enjoy the July events at Rockland. Many people and organizations in Rockland have pulled together to offer the Society what appears to be a memorable inauguration of the 1st Annual Homecoming at Rockland and the 35th annual regatta.

We welcome all sloops whether we see you on the starting line or not.

This year we will be using the International Yacht Racing Union's new Experimental Right of Way Rules. These rules are an attempt to de-mystify and simplify what can be, to the uninitiated, an intimidating complex set of rules. Copies of these rules will be available at the skippers meeting. Hopefully these rules will encourage some skippers to give racing a try. We will have new waters and new courses to sail, so join us!

Please, to all those who hold permanent trophies, bring them with you to the Homecoming or get them back to us in the unlikely event that you won't be coming! See you there!

32nd Annual Friendship Sloop Regatta at Marblehead

by David Graham

The old saying "Time flies when you're having fun" never had a more poignant meaning than when applied to Friendship Sloop racing. It hardly seems a day or two ago when the first Friendship Sloop race was held at Marblehead. Suddenly, its three decades plus two years later - - - is it possible?

The announced dates for the 1995 Marblehead sloop races will be Saturday and Sunday, August 12 and 13. As in any sail race, we are always hopeful of averaging out the "too little" days with the "too much" days so that we can all enjoy some reasonably comfortable racing for Division I and Division II, though unfortunately we have to take the good with the bad and hope that the extremes will stay away.

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Southwest Harbor Rendezvous

by Marge Russakoff & Miff Lauriat

For the third straight year, on July 22nd, the Eastern Station for the Friendship Sloop Society will hold its no nonsense regatta: no entry fee, no handicaps, and no trophies. What do we have? Lots of wind, plenty of reaching, short beats, fantastic scenery, a growing contingent, and lots of fun! The fleet grew from 7 to 9 last year; we also enjoyed the arrival of the first Massachusetts boat - Charlie Burnham's **Resolute** which finished 2nd behind the thus-far perennial winner, Tad Beck's **Phoenix**.

On July 22nd (rain date July 23rd) we plan an after lunch start to a less-than-three-hour race. The post-race get-together will be at Southwest Lobster at about 4:30 PM. This is the ultra-casual lobster wharf restaurant serving chicken, clams, burgers and chowder as well as lobsters. BYOB, picnic tables on the dock enjoying the best harbor views in town, and very reasonably priced.

We ask that anyone planning to attend the race please contact us (20 East Ridge Road, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679 Tel. (207)-244-4313). We are preparing charts of the harbor and related information for all comers and we need to know numbers! Also, we will enjoy a better gathering at Southwest Lobster if we can give the Harpers an idea of the group size.

We look forward to greeting lots of boats!

New London Windezvous

by Jack Vibber

The New London Windezvous will be held Saturday and Sunday, July 8th and 9th. On Friday evening there will be a "warm-up" gathering for the big event of the next two days at Chuck's Steak House. Saturday evening there will be a beach party, and the awards will be presented on Sunday afternoon after the race at the Thames Yacht Club. Food is available at the club most of the time.

It is **NOT** necessary to enter the regatta to attend the Windezvous. The idea of the New London Windezvous is to have as many sloops in the harbor as possible and to make a showing.

Come with your sloop, anchor, or follow the participants around the course. The picnic is free to the race entries and crew. Members attending who do not race will be charged \$15 which includes the crew.

If you have any questions, please call Jack Vibber at (203) 442-7376.

Photos and Artifacts Needed

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Miff Lauriat and Marg Russakoff are creating a tri-fold board depicting a chart of the coast to show the homeports of Friendship Sloops. This board will be displayed at the Homecoming at Rockland for viewing by the general public to provide them information about the sloops. Photos of the sloops will be attached to the board with a line pointing to its homeport, along with a brief description of the sloop.

Miff and Marg need a standard-size snapshot of your sloop, preferably with the sail number showing, but that is not a requirement.

They are also looking for Friendship sloop artifacts which they could borrow for the '95 Homecoming. Needed are original trailboards, billetheads and other old parts which could be affixed to the tri-fold boards or otherwise displayed securely in the tent. Ideally, they would hope to receive these items by mid-July so that they could make the appropriate provisions for display. They would be returned to the owners at the Thursday evening awards ceremony.

Please send a photo of your sloop, or any artifacts, to Miff and Marge at: 20 East Ridge Road, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679. Note: The sloop photos will not be returned, the artifacts will be returned, however.

Marblehead Regatta

(Continued from Page 1)

As in the past, the Marblehead regatta will be hosted by the Corinthian Yacht Club race committee and we are delighted to report to all of you that the club has finally arrived, kicking and screaming, into the 21st century (it's almost too late to call it the 20th) with the implementation of a credit card system. Visa and American Express are now being accepted at the club.

You will shortly be receiving an announcement of the Marblehead regatta, hopefully before everyone shoves off for the Rockland races. The Corinthian Dockmaster, Bob Hastings, will have moorings available for assignment to the Friendship skippers who will be participating in the Marblehead races. Bob can generally be reached by calling him on VHF-FM Channel 69, CB Channel 13, or by cellular phone/land line at 617/631- 4745. All this data, plus more, will be spelled out in the upcoming announcement.

First and foremost, we sincerely hope you will participate in the Rockland races during July. If you like what Bob Rex et al deliver to you in July, we hope you will make every attempt to join us in August.

Fair winds and following seas.

Rockland Homecoming Schedule of Events

Monday, July 24th

All day Sloops arriving in Rockland
1700 Bring your own / cook your own
cook-out under the tent.
Evening Coast Guard demonstration of
life-saving techniques

Tuesday, July 25th

0800 - Breakfast under the tent
0900 - Skippers Meeting under the tent
1100 - Races start
1600 - Row boat races
1600 - Boat handling demonstration
1700 - Bring your own / cook your own
cook-out under the tent.

Wednesday, July 26th

0800 - Breakfast under the tent
0900 - Skippers Meeting under the tent
1000 - Parade of sloops
1100 - Races start
1600 - Tour of the sloops
1700 - Chicken Barbecue and entertainment
by a jug band.

Thursday, July 27th

0800 - Breakfast under the tent
0900 - Skippers Meeting under the tent
1100 - Races start
1500 - Return of sloops
1700 - Award ceremony
1700 - Bring your own / cook your own
cook-out under the tent.

Friday, July 28th

Breakfast under the tent
Depart Rockland for Friendship

Reminder: City of Rockland ordinances prohibit the use of alcoholic beverages on any city property, including docks and floats. Please observe these ordinances during our visit in Rockland.

Society Tee Shirts

Society Tee Shirts will be available shortly. They are available in two colors: White with Blue print, and Hunter Green with White print. Both are heavy weight 100% cotton.

The sizes that are available are as follows: Small adult (to fit the children), Medium, Large, X-Large and XX-Large Adult sizes. They will cost \$10.00 each and if you want them shipped to you, please add \$3.00 each. Contact our secretary, Caroline Phillips with your orders, or if you like, pick them up at the Rockland Homecoming.

Rockland Update

by Rich and Beth Langton

The schedule for the Rockland Homecoming is firming up. Since mailing out the preliminary schedule in April we have had another meeting with the Share-the-Pride organization and now have a few more details.

First, the Coast Guard demonstration on Monday evening will include a helicopter rescue. This will be easily observed from the sloops' vantage point in the harbor.

Second, we have finalized plans for the Wednesday evening events. The meal will be an "all you can eat" barbecue (despite warnings about the Sloop Society's appetite) that includes both racks of baby back ribs and chicken, beans, potato salad, coleslaw, corn on the cob, garlic bread, watermelon, beverage and coffee. The cost will be \$15.00 per person. This is to be followed by Jugg Band music on the stage near the public landing. Also, speaking of meals, the Rockland Deli will be offering boxed lunches at a reasonable price, delivered at our skippers meetings each morning, for those who want to concentrate on sailing rather than sandwich preparation.

Although we have scheduled three days of sun and modest breezes for the Homecoming, there are some alternatives if this message doesn't get through to the weather department. There is the walking tour of the Rockland waterfront. This guided tour takes you from the public landing to the ferry terminal and includes a history of the harbor. The Shore Village Museum is also within walking distance of the harbor and includes one of the largest collections of lighthouse memorabilia on the east coast. There is also the Farnsworth Art Museum and, finally, the Owls Head Motor Museum which is only a short drive out of Rockland.

All boats that register for the races will be sent a package of information by the Chamber of Commerce which will include a series of brochures on all the "options" in the Rockland area. If you aren't sailing into town but still plan on being part of the Homecoming celebrations call the Chamber at (207) 596-0376 and they will be happy to send you the information package.

Handicap Reminder

The Society Measurer and Handicapper, Dick Salter, reminds us that if you are planning to race in a Sloop Society sponsored event, you must have a current handicap sheet on file. The Executive Board has set **July 1st** as the deadline for submitting the form to Dick.

If you have any questions, need a form, or would like a set of instructions on how to measure your sloop, call or write Dick at:

151 Bridge Street
Manchester, MA 01944
Tel: (508)-526-1004

Gloucester Schooner Festival

We received the following press release from the Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce.

The eleventh annual Gloucester Schooner Festival, a celebration of Gloucester's historic fishing schooners, will be held September 2-3, 1995. There will be shipboard visits, day sails, a parade of sail, sailing races for eight classes of traditional vessels, as well as a Yankee Fish Fry and musical entertainment.

The Gloucester Schooner Festival celebrates the history of Gloucester's fishing schooners, and features the last remaining few examples of these great old vessels as they compete for the Esperanto Cup. For two days, the City's harbor, the oldest fishing port on the East Coast, provides the backdrop for a unique mix of old and new, as modern-day draggers and trawlers share their home port with the traditional vessels of an earlier era. Approximately 50 schooners and other classic craft have participated annually in recent Festivals. The U.S. Navy has scheduled the **USS Philippine Sea** (CG58) for a visit to Gloucester over the Labor Day weekend, which will add much to the excitement and enthusiasm of the festival.

The high point of every Festival is the Mayor's Race. This race consists of two classes: one for the large schooners (over 85 feet, on deck), sailing for the Esperanto Cup; and the second for the "small" schooners (from 45 feet to 85 feet, on deck), which compete for the Ned Cameron Trophy. The Esperanto Cup was one of the trophies from the first International Fishermen's Races held off Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1920, between the Canadian schooner **Delawanna** and the U.S. flag schooner **Esperanto**, which won the initial series. Previous entries in the Mayor's Race have included: **Spirit of Massachusetts**, the race's only four-time winner; **Adventure**, the last of Gloucester's great fishing schooners, and a two-time winner; **American Eagle** and **Pilot**, both past winners, as well as many other schooners. This race will start off the Eastern Point Light at 11:00 AM on Sunday, September 3rd.

Each year, the schooner competition attracts many shore-side spectators around Gloucester Harbor and a growing spectator fleet, which gathers from many ports along the mid-New England coast to witness the stirring sight of these classic vessels re-enacting a page from marine history. Spectator boats, ranging from sleek luxury yachts to small family cruising boats, have numbered more than 100 vessels in recent years.

In addition, six separate classes of classic smaller craft will compete in preliminary races on Saturday, September 2nd. These classes include: Traditional, gaff-rigged; Traditional, Marconi rigged; Friendship sloops; Rhodes 19 and International 210 one-design classes; and, for the first-time this year, a class for Multi-Hull vessels.

Enhancing the public's opportunity to participate in the Festival, a Yankee Fish Fry is held adjacent to the berths of several of the large schooners on Saturday. Deck tours of the schooners, musical entertainment provided by a local popular band, and a complete fish dinner make for a great evening. On Sunday evening, a buffet dinner is served at the nearby U.S. Coast Guard Station for crews of participating vessels, and trophies are awarded to all race winners.

The Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce invites all Friendship Sloop owners to attend and participate in the Festival. For additional information, please call Michael Costello, Executive Director of the Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce at (508)-283-1601.

1995 Schedule of Events

New London Regatta

July 8 & 9

Southwest Harbor Rendezvous

July 22 & 23

Homecoming Rendezvous at Rockland

July 25, 26 & 27

Cruise to Friendship

July 28

Memorial Service & Friendship Day

July 29

Marblehead Regatta

August 12 & 13

Gloucester Schooner Festival

September 2

Annual Meeting - New England Center

November 18

New Crew for Tannis

Our Society Secretary, Caroline Phillips, and her husband Richard, are proud parents of Matthew Joseph, a new crew member for the **Tannis**. Matthew was born May 5th and weighed 8 pounds 9 ounces. Everyone is doing fine. Caroline expects to have Matthew in Rockland aboard the **Tannis**.

Plumer Wins Chamber Pot

The above headline appeared in the February 24th edition of the Newburyport, MA "The Daily News". It apparently concerns our Vice-Commodore Larry Plumer. There isn't enough room in this edition to carry the complete story, so you'd better ask Larry about his Chamber Pot when you see him in Rockland.

Membership News

Doug Amsbary, Membership Chairman, has provided the following information about our members:

#46 **Dirigo** has been sold to Windjammer Cruises of Newport Inc. It was reported by Charlene Churchwell (sister of Judy Oneal Brooks, owner of **Morning Star**), that she saw **Dirigo** in Marathon, FL apparently involved in the charter trade.

#126 **Whim** has been sold to Bob Clay of Cambridge, NY.

Member and illustrator Bruce Alderson is in the process of doing an oil painting of a Friendship Sloop and when it is completed, would like to offer it as a perpetual trophy. Having seen Bruce's art and graphics work when he attended his first annual meeting, it will no doubt be a prized trophy to be awarded.

Mary Cronin recently spoke with Tom Ash owner of #32 **Nomad**, and learned that he is replanking her now and it is starting to look like a sloop again.

Mary also mentioned that #52 **Rights of Man** has a new mast in the making and that extensive rebuilding of her hull is necessary.

Spoke with Rodney Flora, co-owner of #70 **Wings of the Morning**. He mentioned that they are having her refastened below the waterline and a new deck beam or two replaced. He went on to say that the list of things that need to be done seems to grow with each passing day. They hope to make it with **Wings of the Morning** to the Rockland Homecoming.

We recently heard from Tom Miller, owner of #97 **Gannet**, that he plans to relaunch her at Marblehead Trading on June 2nd or 6th and will plan on keeping her in Salem Willows. He hopes to make it to the Rockland Homecoming. (Ed. Note - **Gannet** was launched on June 2nd.)

We were pleased to learn that after having acquired #221 **Seal** from Al Zink, Bill & Olive Davison of Milford, NH have become a part of our Society.

A new sail number (#260) has been assigned to a wooden 25' Pemaquid from Halifax, Nova Scotia named **Nimble**.

Frank & Jane Muddle, owners of #11 **Shulamite**, have joined our ranks. Look for them out sailing in Muscongus Bay from their homeport in Cushing, ME.

The Membership Committee sent out a two page questionnaire to 24 members that had not renewed their membership. Only 2 responses were received back as of May 17th. Four members have renewed their membership as a result of our inquiry. The results of the questionnaire brought forward the apparent desire to host more "cruises in company" with other Friendship sloops. It also indicated that we appear to be doing a good job in keeping members abreast of activities within the Society.

I had incorrectly stated that the purchaser of #49 **Surprise** had changed the name of his sloop to **Windrose**. It should have read **Windhorse**.

Both Art and Louise Toncre of LaPoste, TX and Rex and Rebecca McKeever from Houston, TX have decided to avail themselves of the benefits of membership in the Society. The McKeever's indicated that they are in search of a suitable Friendship to purchase.

Alex Moir, 54, Owner of #1 Voyager

Alex Moir, of Staten Island, a landscape architect who founded the Serpentine Art and Nature Preserve in Stapleton, New York, died Friday, February 3rd in his Brighton Heights home after a long illness.

Born in Jamesville, Wisconsin, Alex lived in Madison, Wisconsin before moving to Stapleton in 1969. He settled in Brighton Heights in 1984. A landscape architect for the city Department of General Services, he was a senior project manager overseeing the design of buildings for the Correction Department and other agencies. He also taught at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn from 1979 to 1981 and was an adjunct professor at the College of Staten Island between 1980 and 1983. Alex graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1969 with a bachelor of arts degree in landscape architecture.

He is survived by his wife, Christina Bliss; his mother, Doris Broughton Moir, and a sister Johanna Elliott.

Ed. Note: The above was taken from an article sent by Tina Moir. Alex and Tina have spent a large amount of time restoring **Voyager**. She wrote: "... it is with deep regret that I will have to put the boat up for sale." If anyone is interested in continuing the restoration, call or write Tina at: 116 Silver Lake Road, Staten Island, NY 10301 (719) 816-8752.

Support Our Supporters

Our move to Rockland has had a positive impact on our yearbook - it will have more pages than the editions of the last few years, thanks to the increase in the number of advertisers. When you read the articles in the yearbook, take some time to notice the advertising. Then, when you stop in the store or restaurant, make a point of telling the waitress, manager, or anyone that will listen, that you saw their ad in the Friendship Sloop Society publication. There are an increasing number of local publications, guides, etc., and we are competing with them for the merchant's advertising dollars. If a store or restaurant owner doesn't believe they are getting anything back for their investment they stop supporting us.

Please help us keep the yearbook afloat by supporting our supporters.

The Essex Traditional Boat Rendezvous

by Harold Burnham

Although at low tide the Essex River Estuary supports less water than the average drainage ditch, most of the great Gloucester fishing schooners took their maiden voyage through its winding channels. Perhaps it is because of the close resemblance of the Friendship sloops to the Gloucester schooners that in recent years, Essex has been home port to as many sloops as any town outside of Muscongus Bay. Anyway, when the Essex Shipbuilding Museum, The Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce and Salt Marsh Charters all got together and decided to sponsor a traditional boat race in the Essex River to try and re-establish that town as a shipbuilding MECCA, it was only natural that the Friendship sloops were well represented.

The race began at noon on Saturday, September 28th with a staggered anchor start. There were thirteen boats on the starting line in a sixty foot channel including Friendship sloops, catboats, sharpies and even one Story built Polynesian fishing trimaran. This starting procedure worked perfectly for these traditional non-racing vessels. There were no tacking duels, no barging contests, no collisions, no hot tempers, and best of all, no protests. We all just hauled anchor and went commencing what turned out to be a true gentleman's race.

Although the race committee encouraged the use of engines to prevent collisions and groundings, the narrow winding channels of the Essex River, with its strong currents and fluky winds, still produced an aura of excitement not found on any other race course anywhere. Naturally the race was won by the Sloop **Resolute** skippered by Ahab himself. It must be mentioned, though, that he had help. Aboard the **Chrissy** Ahab's faithful son took a back channel so that **Chrissy** might get far enough ahead to mark the rocks in the narrows for Ahab as he sailed by.

Anyway, the event ended with a bang up awards ceremony at the Essex Shipbuilding Museum's new Education Center located at the former Story Shipyard. Each participant was asked to bring munchies, grog and a trophy. Everyone had a good time and decided to make the Essex River Rendezvous an annual affair. Therefore, I would like to welcome any sloop owner who dares to cross the Essex River Bar to attend this year's rendezvous on Saturday, September 30th. Contact Harold Burnham for details. Even Class E sloops are welcome!

Sloop Society Pins Available

Lapel pins, in the form of the Society burgee, are available for purchase to benefit the general treasury. These pins are 7/8" long and are a cloisonne finish, and feature a military type clasp. They can be purchased for \$6.00 each. If interested, send a check made payable to the Friendship Sloop Society to: John Wojcik

347 Lincoln Street
Norwell, MA 02061

Members Wanted

If you know of sloop owners who are not members of the Society, or past members and owners, please encourage them to join or re-join the Society as the case may be. We are hoping to have as many members (past & present) and sloops at the Homecoming in Rockland. Spread the word around, we're looking to have a grand time in Rockland.

Also, if you haven't sent in your annual dues to Caroline Phillips, Society Secretary, please send them to Caroline at:
164 Sturbridge Road
Charlton, MA 01507

A Stove Top Recipe

We have tried to include in our editions of this newsletter, helpful tips and ideas that one can use for cruising, fitting out, repair, etc, but it seems that we rarely have room. In this edition, we decided we would get an idea or two in, and this case, a "cruising recipe".

Onboard the **Banshee**, cooking on a two-burner alcohol stove is always a challenge, and to find recipes that are one burner stove top meals that are easy and fairly quick, can be a little difficult.

One of our favorites is "Lobster Cove Scallops", so-named after the anchorage where Carole first cooked it up. Here's how it goes:

3/4 Pint Scallops
2 Tablespoons Butter
1 Leek or Green Onion, Diced
1/2 Cup Bread Crumbs
3/4 Cup Dry White Wine
1 Teaspoon Finely Chopped Parsley
Salt
Parmesan Cheese

Slice the scallops and saute gently for three minutes in the butter with the onion. Add 2 tablespoons bread crumbs and wine and simmer the scallops for 8 minutes or until the sauce is slightly reduced and thickened. Add the parsley and salt, if necessary. Brown the crumbs in butter in another skillet, mix the Parmesan with the crumbs and sprinkle over the top generously just before serving.

Ed. Note - If you have a favorite recipe, galley tip, and idea on maintenance, safety, etc., please send it along. We'll try to find room.

Cruise Downeast

Cruising in company along the New England coast, headed Downeast has always been a good time for us. It's an opportunity to meet new members, to socialize, and to provide a certain safety factor, especially for those who would otherwise be hesitant to undertake the trip.

The crew of the **Banshee** will be leaving Buzzards Bay on Saturday, July 15th. The possible schedule (contingent of course upon the weather) will be:

Saturday, July 15th - Scituate

Sunday, July 16th - Portsmouth

Monday, July 17th - Biddeford Pool

Tuesday, July 18th - Sebasco Estates - Cape Small

Sebasco has showers, a salt water swimming pool, a lounge and restaurant. They also have a 9 hole golf course should we get there early in the afternoon. Clubs available.

Wednesday - July 19th - Christmas Cove

Thursday - July 20th - Tenant's Harbor

Friday - July 21st - Perry's Creek

Saturday - July 22nd - Vinalhaven

Sunday - July 23rd - ??????

Monday - July 24th - Rockland

If you're interested in joining other sloops for this cruise, please call John Wojcik at (617) 659-2820.

Buzzards Bay Rendezvous

Plans are being finalized for the second annual rendezvous of Friendships to be held in Buzzards Bay. The date of the gathering has been set for Saturday and Sunday, September 9th and 10th at Red Brook Harbor at the eastern end of the bay.

The site of the rendezvous will again be Parker's Boatyard. Last year Raz Parker provided dock space for everyone attending and it's possible that we can again get usage of the floats.

No racing is currently planned, but a sail in the bay together as a fleet is a possibility for Saturday afternoon with dinner in the evening at a local restaurant.

If you're in the Buzzards Bay area, we look forward to seeing you at this event. If interested, or need further information, please call Bill Whitney, owner of Gaivota, at home: 617-449-2063 or at work: 617-238-2388.

The Friendship Fog

by Bennett Noble

As a veteran observer of Friendship Sloop Days, and a chronicler of what they do to a man's metabolism, I can say without reservation that nothing affords a better time than the advent of a good fog.

Now, you take 1967 Sloop Days...

Things started out in rather hum-drum fashion on Thursday with sparkling seas and galloping winds, and visibility so sharp you could see Portland Head Light. There are some who recall that Thursday as the only clear day of Summer, 1967. But then, there are those who say August 23rd wasn't too bad either... but that's splitting hairs.

Well, anyway, Friday was different. Friday started off with a fine healthy fog which got finer and healthier as the morning wore on. By noon it was an absolute bisque, and the Race Committee canceled everything except lunch.

Now, you'd think there'd be a problem with twenty boatloads of Friendship people locked into a harbor that doesn't even have a poolroom. But Friendship people are an inventive breed, and a decent fog tends to set them in character.

For instance, a fog affords a man a fine chance to brush up on his lying. Let him test reaction to his story of how America dipped her colors to him when he passed her to leeward leaving Newport, or how he's going to make it back up to Boston on three tacks against a sou'west drifter.

Then there are those who can kill a foggy morning posing. Eagle was down from Massachusetts for the races, and her skipper, Don Huston, spent Friday morning posing for National Geographic. Or at least the fellow said he was from National Geographic. At any rate, he picked Don because Don had on his foul weather gear, the dirty ones he clams in up in Nahant, plus his go-to-hell hat, his allowance cigar, and a two-weeks growth of beard. This Geographic fellow draped Don all over Al Roberts' lobster gear, and most of us got busy watching Don.

Then there was the New Jersey fellow in the harbor, and he was working hard on a Maine accent. Cornered a fellow from Massachusetts who worked with him until mid-afternoon - trying to get him to back and fill, throw out his under jaw and talk slow. They both found out eventually you can't make a Yankee out of a Dutchman.

Betty Roberts works pretty hard at setting up alternative programs when Friendship is fogbound. For instance she organizes car pools for a trip up into the Camden Hills so you can get a better look at the fog. And she arranges for the bait truck to arrive with a load for Al's fishermen when it appears the crowd on the wharf is getting restless.

Now, Saturday was just enough different to keep you guessing. It lifted enough so that Friendship's unique homecoming parade of sloops brought a lump into your throat,

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Rockland

From the Rockland-Thomaston Area Chamber of Commerce Guide

Rockland is a growing modern community that has maintained a vital connection to its colorful past. The Rockland of the present - with an expanding economy and a diversity of investment potential - is never too far in spirit from the Rockland of the past, when sea captains strolled down Main Street and four-masted schooners waited in Rockland Harbor.

Today, Rockland plays a pivotal role in Maine's mid-coast economy. But the city's economic expansion has not extinguished its rich historic heritage. The presence of the past still graces Rockland's Main Street, a designated historic district and the center of the city's downtown retail economy. Rockland's Main Street, with vivid examples of Italianate, Greek Revival, and Colonial architecture, is recorded on the Historic Register of Historic Places.

Rockland Harbor enriches the city economically in a variety of ways, providing a home for maritime industry and a magnet for recreation. The mix of uses on the waterfront extends its appeal and vitality - a healthy diversity accommodates restaurants, lodgings, lobster boats and seafood processing plants.

Rockland is the shiretown of Knox County and the center of the richest lobster-producing area of Maine, and truly the "Lobster Capital of the World." Not only are freshly caught lobsters available locally, they are shipped worldwide. Rockland is home to other aspects of the seafood and maritime industries.

Rockland's harbor is a picture of vitality. All types of pleasure craft frequent the harbor against a backdrop of commercial activity. Rockland's seaport charm is devoid of pretense - its maritime character is as genuine as the large number of local fishermen who make their living from the sea.

Rockland's working waterfront has a new claim to fame as the "Schooner Capital of Maine." Two- and three-masted schooners offer daily and week-long cruises from several points on Rockland Harbor. Many fine waterfront restaurants offer fresh servings of the day's local catch. Shorefront accommodations, with close-up views of the harbor, are available at competitive rates.

From Main Street to shorefront to shopping centers, Rockland offers a strong appeal to visitors. Intermixed are a wealth of cultural activities - art galleries, nationally acclaimed museums, public libraries and interesting historical sites that offer stimulating experiences to visitors from around the world. This unique mixture of being a commercial and cultural center of the coast, combined with a rich maritime and industrial heritage, has earned Rockland the distinction of being named one of the 100 best small towns in America.

Few places match Rockland's scenic interest. Rockland's unmistakable lighthouse, one of the many picturesque lighthouses in Penobscot Bay, forms a stunning entrance to the city's busy harbor. Windjammers and lobster boats navigate the local tides, and offshore, undisturbed coastal islands provide rich habitat for countless varieties of birds and shore life.

Rockland's inland areas are no less remarkable, with vivid green landscapes and sky-blue lakes. Throughout the town, handsome Victorian architecture provides well-balanced proportion and strong visual interest.

Rockland is a year 'round community. Although tourist add to the population in the summer, stores and attractions are open and there is a wealth of year 'round activities. Rockland mixes the conveniences and services found in metropolitan areas with a small-town atmosphere.

Rockland's most important attribute may be its quality of life. However elusive the term, the qualities that enrich life in Rockland are many.

Friendship Fog

(Continued from Page 7)

and even the down-harbor start was in bright sunlight.

But from there on into early evening it got interesting again. The fog shut back down and most of us groped around in the wool all day hoping we wouldn't miss the lobster feed. However, rumors to the effect some of the boys who found their moorings in Friendship Harbor, but rowed all the way to Round Pond to get ashore, are somewhat exaggerated.

Matter of fact, the only things that disturb the tranquility of a Friendship fog and a Friendshipper are the damned fools who come driving up to Al's Wharf to say "Sun's out in Waldoboro!" or "Somebody" just called from the Rockland paper and wants to know who won."

Reprinted from the 1968 Sloop Society Yearbook.

Rockland Guided Tours

The Rockland Share the Pride Association, a volunteer organization devoted to promoting the quality of life and attractiveness of Rockland, has formed a group known as Rockland Ambassadors. This group of interested citizens has formulated several interesting and informative tours of Rockland, including the waterfront, museums, historic downtown district and historic homes.

Depending on availability, Ambassadors will offer their services free to groups of visitors during the summer. Visitors can learn about the city's rich history, which included the lime and granite industries, fishing, shipbuilding and commerce.

For more information, or to book a tour, write Rockland Share the Pride, PO Box 785, Rockland, ME 04841 or telephone (207) 596-0002.