



## Testimonial of a 40 year Rebel sailor

January 2010

by Morgan T. Ridington, 81 years young and a Rebel Skipper. Melfa, VA



I purchased a "Ray Green" Rebel in 1969 from a gentleman who sailed it on Lake Wallenpaupack in the Pennsylvania Pocono Mountains. He said he was getting too old to sail this #1562 Rebel. The boat and trailer cost just \$600. I replaced the worn out trailer for \$300. I sailed on a lot of PA lakes like Marsh Creek and French Creek for the next 5 years which were close to my home in West Chester. For a few years I was involved with teaching Boy Scouts how to sail and obtain their "sailing merit badges". I recently heard from a young man, whom I had taught to sail in the 70's in scouting. He is now 52 years of age. He mentioned how sailing ...

*[continued next page]*

## Testimonial of a 40 year Rebel sailor

continued

... changed his life. He was a kid without a passion and discovered his passion one summer with this Scouting sailing class aboard my Rebel, Minnie. What a pleasure to hear that! (CLYC Rebel



*volunteer instructors will be glad to add that Sara Burnett recently advised that learning to sail was the best thing she ever did and thanks us all. Editor)*

As a family we started going to VA, on the Delmarva Peninsula and always had "Minnie" on a trailer behind the car. We sailed mostly in Mogothy Bay and sometimes in the Atlantic Ocean, for about 15 years. In 1980 my wife and I retired to the Eastern Shore of VA in a coastal town on the Pungoteague Creek which feeds into the Chesapeake Bay. Twenty nine years now sailing here.

Minnie has been 4 different colors; originally a Robin's Egg blue, then Black, Marine Blue and now "Arrest-me-Red". To complete this surreal story Minnie still has her original sails, mast, boom, rudder, and center-board. And so far I've only had to replace one starboard shroud that broke while docking. WHAT A DEAL! I've been sailing for 40 years for \$600. That's \$15.00 a year - - amazing.

**R**

## Clark Lake Invitational

Sailors at the annual Tim Dowling Memorial Regatta were treated to the return of Ed Kent's boat named "Regenerated Rebel" this last fall. Below, Ed with



crew Lee Nowak are shown launching. Ed has added rowing blocks to get out of their channel to open water. When they are heading out to the race course we can take good a look at the original Ray Greene main-



sheet assembly attached to the stern eye bolts. Ed also hand made the tiller and extension.

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847-550-9908, [jwashburn1851@cs.com](mailto:jwashburn1851@cs.com)

**Vice Commodore Bruce LJJ Nowak**

517/784-3348 [b1now@juno.com](mailto:b1now@juno.com)

**Rear Commodore Al Vorel**

616/784-0294 [vorelcpa@netscape.net](mailto:vorelcpa@netscape.net)

**Secretary Karel Vorel**

616/784-7144 [vk1vet@netscape.net](mailto:vk1vet@netscape.net)

**Treasurer Neil Robb**

517/787-3673 [nerobb@mtu.edu](mailto:nerobb@mtu.edu)

**Rebel Rabble Editor Bruce LJJ Nowak**

517/784-3348 [b1now@juno.com](mailto:b1now@juno.com)

**Immediate Past Commodore Al Vorel**

616/784-0294 [vorelcpa@netscape.net](mailto:vorelcpa@netscape.net)

**One Year Directors**

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John Washburn 847-550-9908, [jwashburn1851@cs.com](mailto:jwashburn1851@cs.com)

**Rabble Photographers:**

Sharon M. Nowak [nowaksharon3@yahoo.com](mailto:nowaksharon3@yahoo.com)

Al Schonborn [uncle-al3854@cogeco.ca](mailto:uncle-al3854@cogeco.ca)

**Official Builder Nickels Boat Works Flint, MI**

810/767-4050 [hugh@nickelsboats.com](mailto:hugh@nickelsboats.com)

**Rebel Website Originator Chris Fromme**

**Webmaster: Neil Robb** [nerobb@mtu.edu](mailto:nerobb@mtu.edu)



**Oh Bloody H....**

One might expect that on occasion we would struggle to gather enough content for a Rabble, but this issue is a personal disappoint. It is a personal disappoint as I've been unable to devote as much time to its publication as I would like. That is because my merry-go-around that is life seems to add more spinning tops than those removed. As I know this symbolism may be applied to all of us, ranting about not receiving fleet reports is tantamount to political speak but we are all still responsible for the content of the Rabble.

One of the more maddening consequences of technology is our reliance on it in a way that displaces emotive conscientiousness. Yes, it is true that the results are posted for the season, the regatta or the nationals but what does that information really tells us about how we as people interacted. What was the competition really like, who laughed, who cried and who choked as Ed Cox so pungently illustrated at our 2009 awards banquet. So when fleet captains submit your data, tell us about the happiness and sadness not just where the damn data is—oops a rant.

June 11, 12 and 13 are the dates for the Rock Hall Invitational.. The 11th is the River Run, followed by 2 days of racing. We need 5 boats for a fleet and Sharon and I are committed to being there provided we have 4 other boats to race with. On the 12th and 13th Lets start a new annual Rebel event! Bruce

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[www.rebelsailor.com/constitutnbylaws.7.15.2002.pdf](http://www.rebelsailor.com/constitutnbylaws.7.15.2002.pdf)



## COMMODORE'S CORNER

Shortly before Thanksgiving, I received an e-mail, containing pictures from this summer's Nationals at Portage Lake. When I wrote back thanking the sender, they didn't know what I was talking about. Looking again at the original message I found it had actually been sent months ago, and for some strange, unexplained, reason, had been floating around in cyberspace, all this time before ultimately landing in my inbox. The delay however seemed somehow appropriate, and I think it only made me enjoy the pictures that much more. The pictures were not of boats and sailing action, but of friends enjoying being together. Coming so close to Thanksgiving, they reminded me that it is these connections that I am most thankful for.

It is this kind of interpersonal networking, what some who study these things, call social capital that I value most about sailing. The bonds formed during our time together on the water are strong, spanning generational and demographic differences. It is surprising that given this valuable experience, participation has declined and recruitment efforts have yielded limited results. We are not alone in this many clubs, social organizations, fraternal orders have experienced steady and dramatic declines over the last few decades.

A little to the North is the Milwaukee Community Sailing Center. Their motto is "Sailing Is for Everyone", and they work hard to make our sport more accessible. A member of their board, Nick Hayes, has written a book, *Saving Sailing*. In it he provides an informative combination of quantitative data and anecdotal testimony. This is recommended reading for anyone interested in building participation in their fleets.

*continued from previous column*

While conventional wisdom has it that recruiting young sailors will replace aging ones, this is not born out in the numbers. Actually youth sailing programs are at an all time high, but few continue as young adults. Many clubs run youth sailing in the morning and us "old guys" sail afternoons or evenings. He makes a strong case that when sailing is a family activity, meaning young and old, or very old together in the boat, it is more likely to produce life long sailors.

I find this true in my case. My sailing experience started out as being taken on as extra weight. Eventually, I was assigned to certain lines and sheets that became my responsibility. The key is I was sailing with family, building experiences and memories. Arguably this is the reason I feel such a bond, and continue sailing more than forty years later. From another perspective, one of the things my wife, Judi, commented on as a newcomer to sailing, was the obviously strong connections evident in parents sailing with their children.

Family sailing is one of the strengths in our class, and is likely the reason for our continued albeit somewhat diminished participation. One need only to look at the pictures, in last September's newsletter to see how we, as a fleet value, family interaction. It is the real jewel we have to offer. While I am admittedly prejudiced, the Rebel's design is well suited for families to begin sailing together. Newer Nickels Mark Vs are large enough to be comfortable yet require little of the logistics and maintenance typical for even slightly larger vessels. Last year we revised the Rebel ad, in *Sailing World* to deemphasize the Rebel as the "first fiberglass sailboat", in favor of the Rebel as Family fun, for today's families. This has produced a few inquiries, and maybe sold a boat or two.

Looking out at the snow covered ground, I think we are all looking forward to the coming 2010 sailing season. *Strictly Sail* opens in Chicago, January 28-31. Grand Rapids Yacht Club is already preparing for what promises to be a great Nationals. I hope everyone had a great holiday season and look forward to seeing you all next year.

Next year begins with our Spring Meeting which will be held at the Grand Rapids Yacht Club on Saturday February 27th, 2010 at 9:00 am.

John

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**Welcome Back Don**

# NOTICE OF RACE

## **Grand Rapids Invitational**

TBD  
vklvet@netserve.net

## **Rock Hall One-Design Regatta**

June 11,12 &13

## **Rebel Nationals**

July 2010

Reeds Lake in Grand Rapids, Michigan  
vklvet@netserve.net

## **Des Plaines Invitational**

August 2010  
phil.faulkner@sbcglobal.net

## **Tim Dowling Memorial Regatta**

CLYC September 25-26, 2010  
clarklakeyachtclub.org



## **Advertisers Invited**

Members and non-members alike can support NRCA by advertising their products and/or services in the Rebel Rabble. Let us know about your business and support the NCRA at the same time. The cost for a business card size ad is \$25.00 for four issues. For larger display ads, a complete list of advertising options and rates can be found on the in the next column. Members can advertise their boats and sails for sale at no cost. Advertising as well as editorial copy deadlines for each issue follow below.

### **Next Issues and Deadlines:**

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
January 1	December 1
April 1	March 15
Post GRYC Invitational	June 1
September 1	August 15

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1/4 Page	25.00	47.	67.5	85.
1/8 Page	15.00	28.	40.5	51.

Business Cards Ads for NRCA members will be placed in four issues at a cost of \$25.00. NRCA members only may advertise to sell their boats and sails at no cost. Other items for sale by NRCA members is \$0.15 per word. Non-NRCA members may also advertise their boats, sails and other boating items at a cost of \$0.25 per word.

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Advertisements will be run and placed on the internet when payment and copy is received.

No Advertisements will be placed on the Rebel website, <http://www.rebelsailor.com>, without a corresponding ad in the Rebel Rabble. *Visit our advertisers, buy a new boat.*

# Clark Lake Invitational

*Continued from page 2*

As has become the expectation the members of the Clark Lake Yacht Club put together yet another excellent regatta with food and entertainment that added to



excitement of five one-design classes racing. There were 14 rebels, 9 Interlaces, 6 Buccaneers, 4 Snipes and 4 Wayfarers on the water. CLYC hopes to have the Sunfish return to the Regatta in 2010 since there should not be a national Sunfish qualifying event held on that same weekend of September 25th and 26th.

Dave Nickels with crew Melissa Shank took first overall in a Regatta that was filled with light air, if light air



can be said to fill anything. Neil Robb and crew Brian Johnson came in second followed by Mary Vorel and crew Jason Sager. Rounding out the top five were the fourth place family team of Steve, Alice and Katie Cummings, followed in fifth place by Bruce Nowak and crew Blake Metcalf. All are shown in order in the next column.

**R**



Broedy Fugate, grandson to Sharon and Bruce Nowak, decides to replace his Dzia Dzia (grandfather) as skipper after a 10th place finish in race number four.



National Rebel Class Association  
Bruce LJJ Nowak, Editor  
b1now@juno.com  
PO Box 4114  
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**Well, not soon enough... see you at the Nationals in July**