

## US SAILING Yacht Club Summit *by Bruce Nowak*

May 2011

When America’s Cup veteran, US Sailing President and ESPN commentator Gary Jobson explained that this summit was a success simply because it occurred, a mild befuddlement set in. Befuddled just a bit more as all of the sailing organizations I’m informed of are and have been heavy recyclers of a dwindling “ten-percent”. And going into my third and John Washburn’s second US Sailing summit or symposium, we both wondered what took so long.

But Gary Jobson’s idea was met with rigid skepticism. A skepticism derived from a competition between instead of cooperation amongst clubs was how Gary Jobson’s elaborated it. Certainly the economic reality that all of us share marginalizes some of those social barriers, as we are after-all in the same business. The business of yachting.

Perhaps some may find that thought amusing while yet others appalling or perhaps just plain preposterous. But the idea that your inland sailing clubs are clubs in the same sense as the New York Yacht Club is, is nonetheless worth a musing.

Given that one’s own yacht may not be given such a status by another yacht owner, the common ground between the two isn’t the sailboat. Nor is it even sailing. Sailing in a club, as David Perry so eloquently explained, provides such a great environment making it, in my view, the reason all clubs are in the same business of yachting.

And that makes it frustrating to know that yacht clubs are often viewed pejoratively by many ...

### Greenwood Lake



[Home of the Rebel Nationals July 9th to 14th](http://www.selick.com/rebel/)  
<http://www.selick.com/rebel/>

... non-sailing people. It is not difficult to understand that negative view. Historically, the labels elitist, exclusive and expensive were worn as merit badges by many yacht clubs. So divisive was (is) the pejorative association that USYRA itself got rid of the word yacht entirely becoming US Sailing. How does one change that deep seated belief into a historical artifact?

Communication. At one level the environment we want to share is created and shared by memories that transcends generational boundaries. A level easy for us to share, but not so easy to communicate.

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# 2009 Nickel's Boat Works Open House 2009





## COMMODORE'S CORNER

Last Saturday, our members at Lake Opeka got together on a cold, rainy, morning, to pull Race Committee's pontoon boat from its winters storage. After some of the usual, and not so usual, snags, we had her rigged and launched. Then it started to snow. At least we were ready for our club's inaugural race of 2011, the aptly name Icebreaker series on Sunday. Saturday evening, the Quiniffs hosted the DPYC spring party, with a special guest appearance, by past NRCA Commodore, Bill Blaine, who happened to be in town. Sunday evening it snowed even more. Thus began the 2011 sailing season.

A few weeks earlier Bruce Nowak and I attended US Sailing's Yacht Club Summit, in Chicago. In past years the two of us have been to US Sailing's One Design Symposium, but this was the first event of its kind, targeting the innovations, programs and best practices used by some of the nation's leading sailing clubs and organizations. Among the hundreds of attendees were representatives from 185 yacht clubs, both large and small. Participants heard presentations from among others, America's Cup veteran and ESPN commentator, Gary Jobson and perennial favorite One-design racer Dave Perry.

In two days of presentations and breakout sessions, we learned how various clubs have approached some of the challenges we all share. Topics were broad and varied including communications, signature events, branding, building membership & race participation, junior programs and club owned fleets, to name just a few. There were some new and exciting programs involving extended race training programs, community outreach ...

... and match racing. Match racing will be the new women's event at the 2012 Olympics. It is generating a lot of buzz. A new state-of-the-art, training facility was built last year in Sheboygan, and match racing is springing up in many cities.

As the saying goes, "all politics are local". The clubs that our respective Rebel fleets call home are the very core of our organization. It is where most of our sailing takes place and their continued viability is essential to propagation of the sport we all enjoy. It was a valuable experience to share time with members of some historic and highly recognized clubs; I think our own Rebel fleets are equally blessed with good clubs full of active and highly engaged members. For those of you unable to attend, I would encourage everyone to visit US Sailing's website for a detailed summary of what went on at this important event, including several audio recordings. I am confident many of you will find actionable take-aways that can be applied at your own organizations. New on the table, at Des Plaines, is development of a promising new liaison with a local group of Sea Scouts.

Speaking of new ideas... I know I am looking forward to the Awosting Yacht Squadron's, Long distance Portsmouth event, preceding this year's National Championship Regatta. At nine miles long, in the shadow of the Appalachians, Greenwood Lake may well be an ideal venue, for such a distance race. I sincerely hope everyone will make the effort to arrive early to experience this new event.

Judy and I are looking forward to that race as we will not be in Rock Hall on June 9, 10 & 11, 2011. Missing their river race and week end regatta wasn't what we hoped, but Rebels will be there. Bruce Nowak and Neil Robb plan to meet up with Bill Selick and friends from Awosting for another try at the traveling trailer series.

We know that traveling is not as affordable as it once was, but we'd like to see more of all of you at any and all of our regattas! Information for the Nationals is at <http://www.selick.com/rebel/>; Rock Hall <http://www.rockhallyachtclub.org/>; US SAILING Summit [http://media.ussailing.org/Special\\_Events/YC\\_Summit.htm](http://media.ussailing.org/Special_Events/YC_Summit.htm). You can find this and more at our home at [rebelsailor.com](http://rebelsailor.com). See you at the Nationals on July 9th for 9 miles of Rebel fun. John

**REBEL RABBLE**  
Official publication of the  
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**Member Boats and Parts**

**Pictures & Parts List on the Web at**

**[www.rebelsailor.com](http://www.rebelsailor.com)**

*If you wish to list your boat in 2011, please let us know by electronic or regular mail.*

**Next Issues and Deadlines:**

**Issue**

January 1  
April 1  
July 1  
September 1

**Deadline**

December 1  
March 15  
June 15  
August 15

Editor Endnotes: Please accept our apologies for running behind our published schedule. There are many antecedents to this particular inaction. All relevant, none I suppose necessary or sufficient by themselves but all relevant nonetheless.

Perhaps the most relevant being the slate of officers once again being nominated who, if elected—who are we kidding, will serve for six consecutive years as Rear, Vice and Commodore. In fact, it is difficult to recall when our Board of Governors had any new blood join the fun.

Right now, I'm in need of a co-editor to begin sharing some duties. No I'm not quitting. With help we can do better in advertising revenues, which in turn will help us create a fresher identity or brand with more creative ways to communicate.

The idea is increase participation not only of existing Rebel owners, but get some boats sold and sailing. Yes, it's the economy - particularly gas prices that make the going tough. But you don't always get following seas and gentle breezes when your sailing either. So do what you do when the weather is a bit rough, keep on sailing your Rebel.



**Advertising Rates**  
Includes Internet Listing

Issues	1	2	3	4
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Full Page	\$100.00	190.	270.	340.
Half Page	50.00	90.	135.	170.
1/4 Page	25.00	47.	67.5	85.
1/8 Page	15.00	28.	40.5	51.

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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.*

## Yacht Club Summit *continued from page 1*

Having understated the problem of expressing empathy to another without a shared reference point, consider the flood of adrenaline filled memories exchanged in the moment two youthful competitors meet decades later absent contact in the interim. We raced what was the Rebel trifecta. First, it was north to Huron-Portage Yacht Club, as it was known back then. Next weekend it was south to the Devil's Lake Yacht Club. Followed by the Clark Lake Regatta held every year the last weekend in September. All of those weekends, all of those races: time travel in the instant of recognition—"Hey I know you!"

Communicating that is, as John suggested in his Commodore's Column, personal. How Rebel sailors might help their clubs accomplish that cannot be better illustrated than the causal note sent to our treasurer Neil Robb. Ken Brink sailing out of Smithville, Missouri, said that Rebels donated to the Paradise Point Yacht Club's (PPYC) would be used in their learn to sail program.

As Ken and friends are going to provide instruction in both sailing and class racing, the donations certainly reflect the Corinthian nature of Rebel sailors. However, our casual demeanor towards it means that the community outside PPYC will never know of it. And the importance of our communities knowing was a key talking point during the summit.

During the summit a pair of stats stood out to me about communicating the business of sailing. Our business has both declined some 40 to 70 percent and yet shown a modest increase in first time participation. While the data may be viewed, as it was presented, in opposition; it may also be understood as the result of our shared economy. Membership of all varieties is down, but folks are out selling the product - or *giving it away free as it was suggested* at the summit.

Giving it away means having club boats not only for learning, but available especially for that elusive age group twenty to thirty-five. There are any number of variables that diminish this group's opportunity to sail. One variable that our fleets and clubs should be able to help remedy is access to sailing. ...

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General Membership Meeting-National Rebel Class July 9, 2010, 7:45pm

Old business-none.

New business- tentative bid for Rebel Nationals 2011-Greenwood Lake-Awosting

Nominations for 2010-2011 officers.

Commodore: John Washburn

Vice Commodore: Bruce Nowak

Rear Commodore: Al Vorel

Secretary: Karel Vorel

Treasurer: Neil Robb

Measurement committee:

Jack Sanderson

David Nickels

Al Vorel

2yr directors:

Jack Sanderson

John Hudak

Dan Hockenberry

1yr directors:

George McCarger

Shannon Shank

Kevin Nickels

Rebel Rabble Editor: Bruce Nowak

Webmaster: Neil Robb

Motion to accept slate of officers by Bill Selick, seconded by Neil Robb-Motion carried.

Bid for Rebel Nationals 2011-Greenwood Lake-Awosting-Motion to accept by Bruce Nowak, seconded by Nick Tanis-motion carried.

Discussed keeping boat molds at Nickels boat works for now. May need to discuss more at spring meeting, plus possibility of finding a new builder, Nickels boat works will only build if have a minimum of 5 boats.

Awarded special T-shirt to Al Schoenborn for all his help and promotion of the Rebel Class-inscription on t-shirt was "It was a dark and stormy nite, A lone Wayfarer stumbles upon a group of Rebels"

Move to adjourn meeting by Neil Robb, seconded by John Hudak Sr. Motion carried at 8:01pm Adjourned meeting.



2007 Pictures at:

[http://www.selick.com/rebel/RebelRegatta2007/07RN\\_index.html](http://www.selick.com/rebel/RebelRegatta2007/07RN_index.html)



Spring Board meeting, Feb 19, 2011

Attending: Jack Sanderson, John Hudak Sr., Pat Vorel, Kevin and Dave Nickels, Neil Robb, Bruce Nowak, Al and Karel Vorel, and John Washburn. Meeting started at 10:40am. Dave motioned to waive the reading of the July 9, 2010 minutes of the general membership meeting, Kevin seconded-motion passed.

Old Business:

Paid Nickels Boat Works for storage of molds. Molds are inside building and shrink wrapped.

Discussion of moving molds, possibly to John Hudak's barn for storage. Hugh needs an order of 5 boats to build to make it economically feasible at this time. This may or may not change with the economy. Discussion that gang in Jackson is not getting younger and they are not getting in new sailors to get into a boat. Jackson only has Rebels sailing as a fleet. Coldwater and DesPlaines also having trouble getting people out to sail. Grand Rapids has some new sailors with some used boats but even though total numbers are up, still having some trouble getting enough to sail on a weekend. Lake Fenton is also having trouble getting people out to sail-all classes.

Kevin reminded us that until #4200 is sold it will be hard to get anyone interested in building boats again. Agreed by all, we need to continue to pay the storage fee.

Treasurer's Report:

Increase in trophy fees received from increase in participation at GR Nationals. Increase was due to increased participation of local fleet. Probably won't get the increase because of longer travel time next year.

Had some large donations from different fleets.

No requests from girl scouts or boy scouts for donations this year.

Decals were purchased last year, so won't have that expense this year.

Mold storage fee was not budgeted in, but can be added.

Motion to approve treasurer's report by Bruce, seconded by John Hudak Sr. Motion carried.

Budget Report:

2009 trophy fees paid in 2010. Contributions are up this year from members.

Will add \$600.00 into budget for storage of boat molds.

Karel recommended that we budget \$150.00 for junior activity due to increased numbers of juniors. Bruce would like to increase the Rebel Rabble' budget to \$2500.00. Revenue Comes from Nationals and ads in the Rebel Rabble. Also may be offset by contributions and increase in revenue. Motion by Kevin, seconded by Bruce to approve budget report.

Motion carried.

Membership Report

Increase in membership in 2010, both active and associate memberships. Have 25 new members who have purchased Rebels and obtained free memberships, usually retained 50% as paying members. Neil is pretty sure membership is increasing but he's representing membership a different way-thinks is more accurate than the previous years.

John Washburn motioned to approve, Karel seconded, motion carried.

## Website report:

Forty four updates to the site in 2010. Domain name, Rebelsailor.org purchased as a security measure. Rebuilding website to Word Press from Microsoft Front Page to use latest website technology. Visits are up from 64,459 to 82,148. Neil would like people to call him if they think of ideas for the website. Needs to check on links to US Sailing to Rebelsailor.com. Motion to approve by Karel, seconded by Kevin, motion carried.

2011 Nationals: some info in most recent Rebel Rabble, information is on Greenwood Lake Website. No update on sailing instructions or sailing calendar for regatta at this time. Bruce made a motion to accept Awosting schedule as posted on their webpage.

Bruce will contact Bill Selick and can set up NRC and approve sailing instructions. Jack seconded, motion approved.

Nominating Committee: Dan Hockenberry unable to continue as director.

Commodore: Bruce Nowak

Vice Commodore: John Washburn

Rear Commodore: Al Vorel

Secretary: Karel Vorel

Treasurer: Neil Robb

2 year directors: Dave Nickels, Shannon Shank, Kevin Nickels

1 year directors: Pat Vorel, John Hudak, Jack Sanderson.

National Race Committee: Bruce Nowak, Jack Sanderson, Karel Vorel, Kevin Nickels, Awosting Member. Will also ask Al Schoenborn

Measurement Committee: Dave Nickels, Al Vorel, Jack Sanderson (chair)

Audit Committee: Al Vorel

12: 17 motion to adjourn for lunch by John Washburn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al, adjourned.

General Membership meeting started 12:57

Motion to waive reading of board minutes by Neil, seconded by Bruce, motion carried.

Audit report-Al said appears in order, motion to approve by Bruce, seconded by Karel, motion carried.

No old business

New business: Discussion of Boat # 4200. Kevin mentioned the possibility of a raffle depending on if the boat sells this year.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Bruce, seconded by Neil, adjourned at 1:16 pm





## Yacht Club Summit continued from page 5

... How do you try to connect? Regular Rabble readers know of the efforts made by our fleets on Clark Lake, Lake Opeka, Paradise Point and Reed Lake, but what is going on your pond? Seriously, just send a note. You never know when your going to be the Rabble headliner!

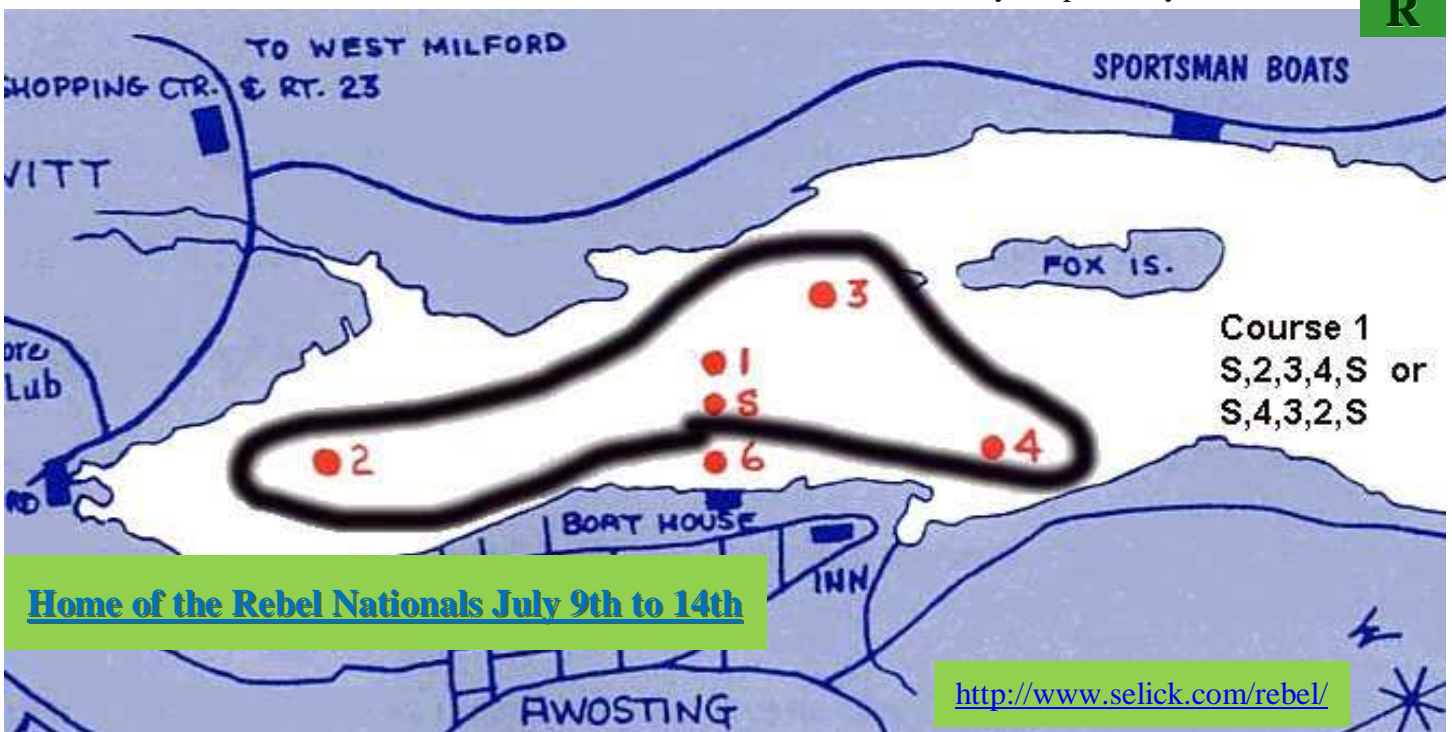
The Summit was also the kick off for the National Sailing Center & Hall of Fame's new website a: [www.nshof.org](http://www.nshof.org). Until now our sport was the only major sport that lacked a hall of fame. "The National Sailing Center & Hall of Fame is a non-profit educational institution dedicated to preserving the history of sailing and its impact on our culture, honoring those who have made outstanding contributions to American sailing, teaching math, science and American history, inspiring and encouraging sailing development and providing a landmark for sailing enthusiasts."

US Sailing also provides us opportunity to brag it up a little, show off and share our memories. "Sailor of the Week" is one such vehicle and is located at [http://media.ussailing.org/Sailor\\_of\\_the\\_Week.htm](http://media.ussailing.org/Sailor_of_the_Week.htm). Once you are there, you may find something more that will be of a help to your club's unique local problems. Then tell us how you went about increasing your participation and the number of 10-percenters in your club. How do you take those adrenaline filled memories and make them part of your larger community? ...

... Using US Sailing and the National Sailing Center & Hall of Fame as our megaphones can only be accomplished via participation, linking the local with the national. And my sense of it is that the more you participate, the greater will be the reward for your community and you.



Finally, here's a way that our national association may assist hosting fleets and clubs. The idea is to partner up with a local charity or school reading room to run a 50/50 raffle remembering the NRCA is a non-profit. Somewhat easier may be to offer a 50/50 on business card ads to be included in a local zip code mailing before our regatta. Is there time in everyone's schedule to get it done July 1st is a pending question? Hope to see you at both Rock Hall and Awosting's Greenwood Lake in June and July, respectively.



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May 28, July 2, August 6, September 3, 10, 17  
[www.clarklakeyachtclub.org](http://www.clarklakeyachtclub.org)

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

June 10, 11, 12 2011  
<http://www.rockhallyachtclub.org/>

### **Rebel Nationals**

July 9 -14, 2011  
Greenwood Lake, Awosting NJ  
[bill@selick.com](mailto:bill@selick.com)

### **Des Plaines Invitational**

August 2011  
[phil.faulkner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:phil.faulkner@sbcglobal.net)

### **Grand Rapids Invitational**

September 2011  
[vk1vet@netserve.net](mailto:vk1vet@netserve.net)

### **Tim Dowling Memorial Regatta**

CLYC September 24 & 25, 2011  
[www.clarklakeyachtclub.org](http://www.clarklakeyachtclub.org)



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