

WHEN IS A CATBOAT NOT A CA FOR THE YACHTSMEN

"What is a catboat?" This is a problem to be taken up soon by a special committee appointed at the annual meeting of the Barnegat Bay Yacht Racing Association. To it is attached a bit of interesting history. The catboat is one of the more prominent types of pleasure boats found on Barnegat Bay, and consequently of much interest in racing matters. There are two prominent cups on the Barnegat Bay which are raced for annually, one the Morgan Cup and the other the Sewell Cup. These cups were donated years ago to encourage the building of boats of that type. Originally the definition of a catboat was assumed to mean the real old type of catboat such as was generally used in those days. Later the rules were amended, and changes made in the deeds of trust, which permitted the catboats to race with catboats on Narragansett Bay. Several races were held between Barnegat Bay yachtsmen and Providence yachtsmen, in which one of the Barnegat boats proved a victor.

The Barnegat Bay cats which may enter races as of today are of the old type Cape Cod cats, being of heavy tonnage, and with requirements such as are not needed for general use in the shallow waters of Barnegat Bay. The definition as it now reads also calls for walled in cabins, which are no longer deemed necessary for Barnegat Bay pleasure sailing. The purpose of the desired change is to encourage the building of cats to meet latter-day requirements. It is pointed out that

there are now cats on the bay which might under revised definitions become entrants in the annual contests which are a factor in the racing programme on Barnegat waters.

The Regatta Committee is likely to be called together within the month to take up the task of preparing the programme for the season's races. The weekly sneak box races will be the all-important factor, although the special events will first be taken care of. Dates first will be fixed for the Sewell Cup race and the Morgan Cup race, with possibly the Schermerhorn Cup race should there be a challenge therefor. Seaside Park usually has the second Saturday of August for its big event, and on this day includes in the general programme a series of motorboat races, and as well one of the allotted sneakbox races for the summer series. This club usually has the opening races for the season on July 4, which is a great Barnegat Bay event. Island Heights also has a fixed date that has come to be recognized by common usage. This date agreed upon the committee then proceeds to build around them in such a manner as to fill out the season. It is anticipated that the committee will return to the full season schedule as in vogue before the war.

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Commodore George Irving Merrill, president of the Barnegat Bay Yacht Racing Association, talking of activities on those waters, said: "You can take it from me that the coming season will be one not only of old-time activity, but of much added interest. Our boys are coming back, and the girls,

ATBOAT IS QUESTION OF BARNEGAT BAY TO DECIDE

too. All that war gloom has been dispelled by the grand victory, and enthusiasm for the race will be marked. I look for the keenest kind of rivalry, and I shall be much disappointed if the racing fleets of sneak boxes will not far outnumber those of the palmiest days before the war."

The officers of the Barnegat Bay Yacht Racing Association are: George Irving Merrill, Seaside Park, president; Daniel Whitney, Bay Head, vice president; Frank W. Henry, Island Heights, secretary; George B. Ferrier, Jr., Seaside Park, treasurer.