

Barnegat Bay Has Successful Racing Season

Catboats, Sloops and Sneakboxes Vie for Popularity — Championship Winners

By CHARLES E. LUCKE, JR.

FROM an almost obscure place in Jersey yachting affairs, sloops have gradually emerged during the past summer as the most popular class of the Barnegat Bay Yacht Racing Association. Out of a summer otherwise not particularly notable from the yachtsman's point of view, the rise of sloop racing has been



Spy, F. W. Thacher's Class A catboat. Champion for 1925.

nothing short of phenomenal. Sponsored by the Seaside Park Y. C., the Barnegat Bay Y. R. A. introduced this year the Class E Inland Lakes double-centerboard double-rudder sloops. Nine of these craft were ordered and all of them competed in each of the nine point races.

Sneakboxes, which for over 50 years have with the catboats held the crown of popularity, seem to have relinquished their hold and active measures are being taken to preserve this class, peculiarly unique to Barnegat Bay. Catboats still remain the largest class in Jersey waters, but from the rumors about Barnegat, the sloop division threatens to outnumber them for the 1926 season.

Conspicuous during the past summer was the absence of any outstanding performer in any of the classes, the championship point races being in doubt up to the final regatta on September 12th. Even more remarkable was the fact that no one yacht club on the Bay emerged with more than one championship. In previous years Seaside Park and Island Heights have had things pretty much their own way.

To the Mantoloking Y. C. went the Class E sloop honors, with *Konowingo* the champion, sailed on alternate Saturdays by Charles Day and Slade Dale. The Seaside Park Y. C. holds the Class A Marconi catboat crown, due to Commodore Frank W. Thacher's splendid work with

Park Y. C. holds the Class A Marconi catboat crown, due to Commodore Frank W. Thacher's splendid work with his Mower-designed *Spy*. Edward Schoettle's *Silent Maid* won the Class B catboat seasonal honors for Island Heights while Mac Crabbe's *Duster* walked off with the

20-foot sneakbox championship for Toms River. The Ocean Gate Y. C. secured the 15-foot sneakbox laurels in the Class A division with Captain Dilworth's *Bohunk*, while Bay Head copped the Class B junior championship with Dunbar's *Tip Top*.

Of the five Marconi catboats comprising Barnegat's fleet each took some share of the major honors during the season. The 22nd annual race for the Morgan Cup went to the *Mary Ann* of Island Heights, sailed by Tommy Brooks. Rodman Wanamaker's trophy was won by H. B. Atkin sailing Edward Crabbe's *Bat*, of Toms River. Bernie Truitt's *Lotus*, of Island Heights, was awarded the Sewell Cup after the 26th race for the celebrated trophy after *Tamwock* had been disqualified for failing to round a mark properly. The Toms River Y. C. Challenge Cup, first placed in competition in 1872 and raced for practically continually since then, went to the *Bat* of Toms River, sailed by Commodore Edward Crabbe. F. P. Larkin's Sweisguth-designed *Tamwock*, of Seaside Park, triumphed in the Middleton Cup contest.



Lotus, of Island Heights, winner of 26th Sewell Cup Race. She is owned by B. Truitt.

While the five perpetual trophies offered this summer for competition by sloops do not have the wealth of tradition which the famous catboat trophies carry, they were, nevertheless, the stimulus needed to encourage this newest class on the Bay. Ritner K. Walling's *Oh Min* took the Atkinson Cup and Ward Wheelock, sailing the *Rowdy*, won the Wolstenholme trophy, both of which remain in the trophy cabinet of the Seaside Park Y. C. until next summer. *Konowingo*, of the Mantoloking Y. C., won with ease the Ocean Gate Y. C. Cup, the Doan Cup, and the Stanger Cup.

From the very beginning of the racing season the Toms River Y. C. 20-foot sneakboxes had things very much their own way and the championship race in this

class developed into a duel between Mac Crabbe's *Duster* and Frank Doan's *Edith*. Consistently excellent generalship finally won the championship for the *Duster*.

The Class B catboat division for the boom and gaff catboats has proven a big success. H. B. Atkin, of the Seaside Park Y. C., developed a handicapping system which, despite adverse criticism at its installation, seems to have been the making of the class, as nearly ten entries have been the usual weekly quota. Edward Schoettle's *Silent Maid*, of Island Heights, took first honors with Snyder's *Spider*, of Toms River, last year's champion, in second place.

Barnegat sailors were more than amply repaid for their long jaunt down to Beach Haven for the annual races with the Little Egg Harbor Y. C. skippers, as the regatta there was a marked success. On July 31st the combined Barnegat yacht clubs raced from Seaside Park to High Point, about 18 miles, in a driving rain. The event was a dead beat to windward and went to F. P. Larkin's *Tamwock*, of Seaside Park. Clear weather and a howling two-reef breeze gave the races the following day at Beach Haven a kick which the prevalent light airs on Barnegat Bay during the summer failed to provide. A week later the Seaside Park Y. C. entertained the Beach Haven yachtsmen on the 26th annual Sewell Cup Day.

The question of the relative speed of the new Class E sloops and the Barnegat catboats and sneakboxes is an open one, even on Barnegat Bay, but the following times from the last regatta of the season, which was held on September 12th, are illustrative. Racing in a two-reef breeze over a 14-mile triangular course of three legs the winner of the sloop race, the *Konowingo*, sailed by Slade Dale, made the record time of 1 hour and 57 minutes, while the winner in the catboat class covered the distance

totalling in all about 25 miles, proved the supremacy of the sloops. Matched against sneakboxes and catboats the Class E sloop *Rowdy*, sailed by Ward Wheelock, of Seaside Park, came home the victor, despite the fact that the air was light and favored the sneakboxes. Times of all the races during the season are not available at this writing but in every case, with reefing or fresh breezes, the sloops



One of the new Class E sloops, sailed on Barnegat Bay and imported from the Inland Lakes. *Trident*, owned by Dr. G. H. Thatcher



Close work in the Catboat Class on Barnegat Bay. *Spy* (the windward boat), owned by Commodore Frank W. Thatcher, champion of her Class, and *Lotus*, owned by J. P. Truitt, Jr.

in 2 hours and 19 minutes. Moreover, the sloops had no chance to use their light sails as they were continually on the verge of capsizing.

Another race, the all-night affair from Seaside Park to Waretown and return, which was a dead beat and a run,

made better time for the courses than any other class on the Bay.

An incident showing very well the spirit which is attracting so many racing "fans" to Jersey waters occurred on September 12th. Captain Mitchell Chance of Seaside Park, who with his brother, Edward, introduced the Inland Lake sloops to Barnegat, was hovering about the starting line in the *Dawn* preparatory to the race. A puff hit him, which was a little more than he could handle, and the boat upset. Unassisted except by his own crew he righted his boat and the preliminary gun went off. Just before the starting gun he capsized a second time and once more righted his boat and, although a tailender, proceeded with the race. Upsetting twice within five minutes is remarkable, but the fact of each time re-righting and proceeding is even more so.

This is only one of many incidents which have gone to make these frail, speedy sloops so popular. It is not alone their speed but the thrills which they provide which endear them to owners and spectators alike. Their ease of handling, their cheapness, and their surprising speed have won them their popularity with Barnegat racing men.

SUMMARY: POINT STANDING

CLASS A — CATBOATS

<i>Spy</i>	F. W. Thacher	S. P. Y. C.	28
<i>Tamwock</i>	F. P. Larkin	S. P. Y. C.	25
<i>Mary Ann</i>	T. Brooks	I. H. Y. C.	22
<i>Lotus</i>	B. Truitt	I. H. Y. C.	21
<i>Bat</i>	E. Crabbe	T. R. Y. C.	17

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Barnegat Bay Racing Season

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CLASS E — SLOOPS

<i>Konowingo</i>	C. Day	M. Y. C.	29
<i>Rowdy</i>	W. Wheelock	S. P. Y. C.	26
<i>Sandpiper</i>	E. Schoettle	I. H. Y. C.	19
<i>Jean</i>	T. Horrocks	I. H. Y. C.	17
<i>Oh Min</i>	R. Walling	S. P. Y. C.	13
<i>Shadow</i>	E. Chance	S. P. Y. C.	11
<i>Dawn</i>	T. M. Chance	S. P. Y. C.	7
<i>Viking 2</i>	F. Schofield	S. P. Y. C.	7
<i>Trident</i>	G. H. Thacher	S. P. Y. C.	4

20-FOOT SNEAKBOXES

<i>Duster</i>	M. Crabbe	T. R. Y. C.	30
<i>Edith</i>	F. Doan	T. R. Y. C.	27
<i>Stormalong</i>	Kean	L. Y. C.	18
<i>Shirrand</i>	Runyon	M. Y. C.	17

15-FOOT SNEAKBOXES — CLASS B

<i>Tiptop</i>	Dunbar	B. H. Y. C.	27
<i>Baybee</i>	Merrill	B. H. Y. C.	20
<i>Nancy Lee</i>	R. Cox	B. H. Y. C.	20
<i>Betsey Bobbit</i>	Miss Cox	B. H. Y. C.	17
<i>Curlew</i>	Downer	M. Y. C.	8
<i>Marmor</i>	Abbott	I. H. Y. C.	6

Hobo, 5; Brushby, 4; Heron, 4; Argo, 3;
Bo By, 2; Kid, 1; Pollywog, 1; Seadog, 1.

15-FOOT SNEAKBOXES — CLASS A

<i>Bohunk</i>	Dilworth	O. G. Y. C.	24
<i>Squidunk</i>	Jefferies	O. G. Y. C.	22
<i>Bay Rum</i>	Kean	L. Y. C.	18
<i>Mab</i>	Hardin	I. H. Y. C.	14

C-U-Later, 10; Heron, 8; Hey Hey, 7; Sally,
5; Shiner, 5; Lydia, 3; Petrel, 2; Igo, 2.