



US 500

LAKE RONKONKOMA

February/March

<http://www.iceboatlongisland.com>

2021

Bantam brought us some JOY We were blessed with a long weekend of ice and wind! How often have we sat on a nice plate with no wind or a crappy plate with too much wind? Not this March weekend. Gusty wind with bumpy ice gave us a large uninterrupted plate of ice for those fortunate to spend 4-5 days sailing or those getting their 1 or 2 days in. Late season start and maybe an early season end but we sailed, and sail we did taking advantage of what we were handed.

A full range of boats from A & C Skeeters to some interesting homemade rigs. All boats were out to test the conditions. Many Skimmers were present from pristine yellow ready to run boats to some now red in color from rust found behind the barn and lashed to the roof of the car. Each boats patina was tested with the elements, some prevailed and some failed. As our Commodore reflects: "Mostly what broke, were home-mades that we're not made to established plans. There was some sort of wing boat thing that blew the back end out. The was some sort of lateen rigged boat that fell apart.

As with very windy and very shifty conditions, that's always hard on boats. Pete had his mast come down. It looked like the bolt with the tang pulled right through the chock.

There were many boats that blew right over in the pit area.

I was very glad to see so many club members get out and enjoy themselves.

Thanks to the Connecticut Ice Yacht Club for including us in there mailings and as always, being such fantastic hosts.

Message from the Commodore

Hello! The season is getting real short. You might have to travel to Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Pay attention to your ICE ALERTS!! If you are not sure put a message out on the ICE ALERT and someone will respond. For those who like to plan ahead, we are having our 100th anniversary in 2023. If you are looking for parts and gear, don't be afraid to contact me. As always, if anyone needs anything, please feel free to contact me at:



Bantam - March 2021.



Season Start



“Had a blast at Bantam this weekend- probably my whole season in 2 days but one of those runs, especially Sunday afternoon, that leave you smiling like an idiot and coming back for more. Very pleased to see such a strong turn out from LI - I think at least a dozen and a big percentage of the 30 or so boats on the lake. Good to see everyone and thanks to Scott and Jeff for helping me get the hull on and off the ice- back and shoulders feeling it a bit this morning but not from overdoing it trying to lift things. Good luck to the hold outs still there this morning- hope the ice holds.”

Peter Truesdell

The Hopeful were busy posting Ice Reports in one form or another.

Our Club members were diligent in checking Swan Pond and Lake Ronkonkoma, neither panned out for sailing. A reach out for volunteers to venture onto Lake Ronkonkoma and drill holes brought together 5 iceboat attired members, drills in hand with measuring sticks. As the Lake is an hour drive from my house I gave support putting pencil to paper while waiting for their report.



The results were posted with Photos of the hole drillers.



Fred Greis. March 10, 2021

“What was cool was we found three separate and different layers of ice separated by about 3 “ of water. And this was everywhere we drilled. The bottom layer was hard black ice and we could not penetrate it. So we don’t know how thick it was but the top and middle layers were about 2-3” each.”

Some sample Ice Reports

Dave Danielson, Bantam February 23, 2021

“35°F @ 3:15 PM. A little snow and rain today. 2”-3” of soft snow on top of the ice. Fisherman coming off South Bay said there’s at least a foot of ice there; more in some places. The hole has finally disappeared in the Big Bay...note the 2 flags still in the ice. Might be time for a sacrifice to the gods...any suggestions for a candidate?”

Bill Buchholz Damariscotta ME 03/03/2021

While at a long glance the plate looked good, and a short walk yesterday had us thinking that it will certainly be better further out, the only big improvement from last week was the elimination of the packed snow. The surface is still rough. With plenty of wind it's no problem, just loud and crashy.

There was a great turn out of boats today, and a few made it deep into the south end down the river nearly to The Mills.

There were open cracks and pressure ridges to navigate, and they won't be getting any better, so be careful: A couple of back door passes led us to our launch at Vannah Rd: The ramp is a bit rotten, but the ice down there sure was nice.

The forecast is nothing but wonderful so until a nicer plate of ice appears we'll be smashing and bashing around this one.

From up North Neil Betts 03/03/2021

Tara's

"Checked Chautauqua and said the ice was 10 to 12 inches and it had a 1/2" or so of slush on it. We are hoping that the slush hardens tonight. If it does Colin, Phil AND I will be heading up around noon tomorrow with the hope's of sailing thru the weekend. Tara's did say the ice is ruff from the ice fisherman and the snowmobiles we will just have to wait and see what it is like sailing it. I will forward Taras text on what he found."

I post these as samples of some of the things an Ice report should have. We are helping others decide on travel and expectations of sailing not to mention safety with our reports. If you sail describe to the best of your ability the experience you had, speed, time on ice, broken parts, you and others and prediction for conditions in the near future. Those reading the reports should be following weather conditions on their hopeful sailing sites and use the reports as confirmation of ones expectations of sailing a specific site.

Mike Acebo

What we do when walking the Pits between outings sailing

Take a break from sailing and walk the pits looking at boats, how they are set up, equipment used, rig settings and ask questions. Don't just look at boats similar to yours, check them all out. Some of the old boats incorporate interesting details you might find useful when building your next cruiser, take pictures, ask questions. I learn from what I see and I learn from the questions asked of me. I was asked why I tightened my headstay when leaving the boat overnight. I do it so the rig is tight and doesn't flop around all night.

A few things I noticed on the Ice:

Fred Greis needed to "soften up" his plank to reduce the abrupt and nerve racking hikes. He worked his plank into an airfoil section removing wood on top and bottom while rounding off the nose. The reduced stiffness in the plank was noticeable when he sailed the boat. I now will undertake a similar project.



I reviewed the plank I am using on 21 as George Neyssen told me he installed and trued up the chocks on the plank I am using. No 21 uses a Fred Greis J14 plank, a spare OIYC J14 spring board, a used DN mast from Warren Darress, etc. I built her to accept spares from across the iceboat fleets.

The chocks are set up with wedges between the chock and plank to guarantee the runner is perpendicular to the ice when the boat is sitting with the skipper on board, rigged and under the load of light air sailing. Light air sailing is the most difficult part of our sport requiring spot on

adjustments. Having your chocks aligned and perpendicular to the ice is required. Well done George & Fred. Reach out to Scott, George, Fred or me if you need clarification.

I also noticed many boats using headstay turnbuckles with cotter pins which works to hold the headstay in position but makes adjusting the rig for different wind conditions difficult. I and many others use a "stay master" which allows us to quickly loosen or tighten the headstay (loosen for heavy air, tighten for light air). I never adjust my side shrouds as they are self adjusting with the headstay tension.



Now is the time to work on your boat, make repairs and adjustments, oil and store runners, what the heck sharpen them now.

Great time to upgrade, some real good boats for sale now and you can up your game next winter. We got some ice time this winter and you have to have faith we will get more next year. Get ready to cruise and race, own the right boat and gear.

Here is a Gem!

FOR SALE

High Rig, Sailing/Racing Yankee Ice Boat- Ready to sail!

Restoration completed in 2016

Blue Boat/ white plank, mast, boom. Finished in Interlux blue with white 23' high rig sitka mast. This boat features a shaped aerodynamic sitka spruce plank. Adjustable mast step. redundant steering for safety, Runners and all hardware restored or replaced. New stainless throughout. All hardware restored or replaced with new. Custom boat cover. Comes with an older sail. Other sails available. Building and outfitting a new one would be over \$20K.

2021 Priced to sell: \$3,900.00

Bonus: I will cover a one year membership in the ISA or the club of your choice.

Inquire with Owner/Restorer Fred Greis - Yankee skipper.

Restoration photos available. Cell 516-313-7788 or fredg@wettechnologies.com

There are about two dozen Yankees in the north east and here on Long Island. Boat comes with set up, tuning, and sailing help from the seller and/or others actively helping to build the sport and class. Can deliver. Yankees are the Cadillacs of ice boats. They can be sailed and raced by a single skipper and also carry a passenger for one of the most thrilling rides you'll ever have!

Reason for selling: I sail and race my own Yankee. I purchased and restored this boat as a labor of love and to help build the fleet. Plus, boat is stored indoors, and I need the space.

Boat can be seen in Northford, CT.