

One Design Regatta Award Nomination

By
Bill Ross, Flying Scot Sailing Association



Banner at home of Bill & Rosie Klein

They said it couldn't happen. The Club is too small, facility will not handle 50-60 boats, people have no experience, town regulations are too strict and on it went.

Well, Ephraim Yacht Club (EYC) and the people of Ephraim, WI stepped up and showed that it can be done. It was the Flying Scot North Americans (NAC) to be held in upper Wisconsin's Door County; August 2-7, 2009, a town with winter population of 353. The Regatta Chair, and Vice Chair. each lived more than 1,000 miles away in NC and LA. Carol Claypool and sister Nancy spend summer vacations at Ephraim where the EYC has only a summer program geared to youngsters and 300 non resident members who scatter across the country at season's end; not to be seen again until next year. They have one small regatta a year.

Planning began two years ago with recruitment of a regatta committee exceeding 30 people with limited experience, equipment, space, and all that is needed to support a fleet of 60 or more Flying Scots with trailers, cars and the like. No room for social events on the city owned clubhouse property and of course no beer on city property for thirsty sailors at the end of the day. Hotel / motel accommodations were limited, but one by one each hurdle was attacked and resolved. Housing was provided to many. Local sponsorships helped with cost issues. A B&B donated two out cottages for race committee at no charge. Many sailors were housed in local homes.

With the economy and remote location there was apprehension about the attendance issue. Who is going to make the trip to the northern end of Green Bay where it joins Lake Michigan? The club played it conservatively and did lots of promotion on its website and at regattas with a short slide presentation of the locale. Follow this link to review the show:

http://www.scribd.com/full/13668969?access_key=key-6wp2pcz18mf2jih2ett.

Tents and more tents were rented (Cost \$4,000) for various functions held around town, and the Old Ephraim Village Hall became the primary location for breakfast, home made bag lunches, meetings, and trophy presentations. A club member at his home hosted a Beer-Brats- and Corn night. Another overlooking Green Bay hosted an awesome Bar-B-Q for the fleet and all EYC members, and Ephraim dignitaries. The annual EYC Commodore's Party went off on schedule with all visiting Scot sailors invited.

What to do about the thirsty sailors? A local resident across the street from the EYC offered space on his property for the club to install an "R&R" tent. That is where the after race,

"recuperation" took place with adequate supplies of certain items. 🍌🥤

Equipment was a major challenge with only a few hippity hops and a few flags for the race course. The MC Scow Fleet from Lake Norman YC purchased new tetrahedrons and LNYC furnished a complete set of flags and other necessities for the race committee. All the equipment travelled in boats from LNYC to Ephraim. What about the race Committee? Jim Tichenor was

recruited to be the PRO with assistance of people from Lake Norman's "A" Team and others from Milwaukee YC. Local boats were recruited with owners to handle all the support.

In addition to the usual sail makers and builder EYC enlisted a host of local sponsors. The website lists 6 pages of sponsors who stepped up to support the event. Here is a link:

http://www.scribd.com/full/17213212?access_key=key-cmfw8l36t4xtshb6yse

Dock space was another constraint. EYC dock might handle 35 boats. They squeezed in 45! The Club's junior sailors dressed in uniform handled all the launch/retrieval from the Club dock hoists. When the whopping 77 boats showed up they needed more room. The Town of Ephraim gave the overflow Scots free space and launching for the week with towing through a narrow channel to temporary moorings installed for rigging. Measurement took place at the local high school.

Racing on Green Bay with Jim Tichenor and his race committee was spectacular. The area is beautiful, the water crystal clear. It was cool but not so cool so as to keep the Texas crowd from initiating a Green Bay swim party during a postponement. Racing conditions overall were perfect.

From a thousand miles away Carol Claypool made this event become a reality from what was initially thought to be a tough, almost impossible, venue. As the regatta approached she flew to Ephraim from Charlotte, NC on 3 successive weekends to make final preparations. Many say that Ephraim YC has raised the bar for future NAC's. With the entire town putting on its largest event ever, Ephraim will long remembered.

Submission by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William B. Ross". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Ross