

# ICE YACHTSMEN READY FOR WINTER'S SPORT

## Many New Boats Out for Cham- pionship Honors.

### CHALLENGE PENNANT RACES

#### Hudson River Sailors Would Like to See a Western Club Try to Win the Trophy.

Over one hundred ice yachts within a few miles of New York have been ready for several days to spread their enormous sails over a long stretch of smooth, hard ice and show the army of speed lovers that they, too, can make their mile a minute, if not in a few seconds less. On the Shrewsbury River the racing has already commenced. Plenty of ice and a long, cold Winter are necessary for the complete enjoyment of the rare sport of ice yachting. It is a difficult matter to obtain these for any length of time in the vicinity of New York, but despite the drawbacks due to the weather ice yachting has continued to grow, and more boats are ready for the sport this season than in any previous year.

The headquarters for the sport in this locality are on the Hudson River near Poughkeepsie, at Orange Lake near Newburg, and on the Shrewsbury River, New Jersey. Half a dozen clubs race their boats on the Shrewsbury, and some of the most daring sailors that ever handled one of these risky boats have learned all they know about the sport on the broad stretch of ice opposite Red Bank. Two or three clubs have recently been organized in Maine, and there is plenty of activity on the St. Lawrence near Cape Vincent and Clayton, but the latter clubs practically combine during the racing season with the Canadian clubs at Kingston and neighboring places on Lake Ontario.

In the West there has been a great revival of the sport in the last three years. In Wisconsin, on Lakes Winnebago and Pepin; at Kalamazoo, Mich., and at Lake Minnetonka, Minn., ice yachting has grown much faster than it has in the East.

A challenge from one of the leading Western clubs for the Ice Yacht Challenge Pennant of America would be joyfully received by the Easterners. Such a challenge would add a great stimulus to ice yacht racing.

This Ice Yacht Challenge Pennant of America is the most important trophy in ice yachting in this country. It is open to the world, but no foreign boat has ever competed for it, and all of the races have been held on the Hudson River, near Poughkeepsie. This pennant is to ice yachting what the America's Cup is to deep-sea yachting. The pennant is an elaborate piece of blue silk, thirty feet long, with the name inscribed upon it in gold letters. It was the gift of Irving Grinnell, and was presented for perpetual ice yacht competition through the New Hamburg Club, on the Hudson River. The first race was sailed over the New Hamburg course, a few miles below Poughkeepsie, in 1881, and the Phantom, owned by William Van Wyck of the New Hamburg Club, won in the rather slow time of 57 minutes 14 seconds over a twelve-mile course.

Since that time there have been thirteen races, most of which have been over a twenty-mile course, and of these events Archibald Rogers has won five and John A. Roosevelt four. Archibald Rogers, however, won two victories under the new deed of gift in the last competition for the trophy in 1902. It was then stipulated that the races should consist of the best two out of three, or three out of five, so that while Mr. Rogers's two victories were necessary for the holding of the cup he has won the pennant only four times—in 1883, 1887, 1893, and 1902, tying with John A. Roosevelt, whose victories were in the years 1888, 1889, 1892, and 1899.

The names of these two men are known throughout the length and breadth of the ice yachting world in America. Mr. Rogers is called by his friends the most skillful ice yacht sailor in the country. He has been sailing ice yachts for over twenty years, while Mr. Roosevelt is a veteran of over forty years' experience, his first boat being a crude craft that he built in 1861. In his boat house on the Hudson at Hyde Park Mr. Rogers has the largest fleet of ice boats belonging to one man in the country. Mr. Roosevelt's boat house, a few miles below that of Mr. Rogers, contains almost as many.

The Hudson River Ice Yacht Club, of which Mr. Rogers is the Commodore, is the headquarters of the sport on the Hudson. Its fleet of boats is the most valuable of any club in the country, and many of its members are among the enthusiastic yachtsmen of the New York Yacht Club. Its racing rules, with a few variations, are practically the same as the rules of the New York Yacht Club.

Archibald Rogers, while owning several boats, has never had but one name for his chief boat, Jack Frost, and the same is true of Mr. Roosevelt's racing boat, which has always been known as the Icicle. The present boats bearing those names are totally different from the originals, although the Icicle has undergone little change since 1888. The Icicle is forty-seven and one-half feet in total length and carries 735 square feet of canvas. The Jack Frost is a foot longer than the Icicle and carries 754 square feet of sail. The Icicle is known as the steadiest and one of the most reliable ice yachts ever seen on the Hudson, and it holds the record for the twenty-mile course in the Challenge pennant contests, of 46 minutes 19 seconds, made in 1892.

Yachts with small sail area are the popular boats to-day. The members of the Orange Lake Ice Yacht Club did nearly all their racing last year, with boats carrying from 200 to 300 square feet of sail. There is more all-around fun in such boats, and they are less difficult to handle. Commodore H. C. Higgenson of the latter club, who owns the largest yacht in the club, the Windward, carrying 665 square feet of sail, did not put her on the ice at all last year. He has his own private boathouse on Orange Lake, where he keeps five or six boats all the time, and his sailing last Winter was confined to the Gale, a boat carrying 250 square feet of sail, and with which he won several trophies. His yacht is a sister boat of the Junior, owned by James S. Taylor of Newburg, and which won the championship of the lake. W. A. Kidd sailed the boat in all its big races, among which were events for the Jackson Cup, the Van Nostrand Challenge Cup, and several pennants.

The Junior is 30 feet long, carries 250 square feet of sail, and holds the Orange Lake ten-mile record for boats of her class—19 minutes. Mr. Kidd, however, says he has frequently gone a mile a minute, and perhaps less, in some of his straight runs. The old Snowdrift, owned by Dr. Willett Kidd, but now in Maine, did the ten miles at Orange Lake about five years ago in 17 minutes 14 seconds, a record that has never been beaten. The Snowdrift, however, carried over 500 square feet of canvas, and during her career was practically unbeatable. Several new boats have been recently built by members of the club, and a number of trophies have been offered for competition this year. The club has over fifty members and a fleet of thirty boats. H. C. Higgenson is the Commodore, Dr. Willett Kidd Vice Commodore, and W. A. Kidd Secretary and Treasurer.

#### De Witt Clinton Wins at Basket Ball.

The basket ball team of the De Witt Clinton High School visited Stamford, Conn., yesterday and defeated the Stamford High School five by a score of 15 to 11. The line-up:

De Witt Clinton, 15. Position.	Stamford, 11.
Manly, Roberts, Left forward.	H. Doty
Barstow, Kostink, Right forward.	W. Doty