



APPARITION at the NYYC Invitational Cup 2011 (photos by Jan Harley)

Boothbay Harbor Yacht Club and Southport Yacht Club member Ken Colburn and his wife Ginny put together an incredible summer season of racing during 2011. Ken and Ginny, who live in Dover, MA and summer on Green Island in Ebenecook Harbor, Southport, campaign two boats during the summer – J/105 *GHOST* and Swan Class 42 *APPARITION* (“a fancy name for Ghost”). *GHOST* is primarily sailed in Maine (hailing from Southport) and *APPARITION* is primarily sailed in Rhode Island (hailing from Newport) but does come to Maine on occasion to participate in local racing. The Swan Class 42 is the 8th one design class created by the New York Yacht Club since 1905. Very proud of their Maine connection, they regularly reference their memberships in the BHYC and the SYC along with their NYYC membership when they race.

As is typically the case, their summer season began in Rhode Island. They started the season with consecutive class wins in the Rhode Island Leukemia Cup Regatta, the 157th New York Yacht Club Annual Regatta and Block Island Race Week. They had a poor showing in the Coastal Newport Regatta (7th of 9 boats) in early July but they raced with older sails and didn’t have the full complement of their regular crew on board. Their objective for the event was to use it as a warm-up for the upcoming Nationals. They won the four day Swan Class 42 Nationals (1st of 19 boats) later that week by winning a tie breaker based on their five first place finishes. At the Nationals their daughter Liz (a graduate of the Boothbay Harbor Yacht Club junior program and former sailing instructor at BHYC and the Portland Yacht Club) was on board along with well known Maine sailor Carter White who had raced with them on each of their earlier victories. Former Maine resident Jeff Sammis is a regular member of Ken & Ginny’s crew and Gretchen Kinsey Sullivan (SYC) along with her husband Brent Sullivan also participated on the crew on *APPARITION* on occasion this summer. Molly MacMillian White was on board at times last summer.

Ken and Ginny with Liz and former BHYC instructor Bob Wallace aboard then returned to Maine and won the Boothbay Harbor Regatta Division 2 in *GHOST* winning each of the five races held. They viewed the Boothbay Harbor Regatta as a terrific opportunity to re-familiarize themselves with *GHOST* with good competition in advance of the NOODs and J/105 North American Championships which were held in Marblehead the next weekend and the middle of August respectively. *GHOST* finished 5th of 29 boats at the NOODs and 5th of 42 boats at the J/105 North American Championships. The latter success putting them on the podium for event and ahead of the 2009 North American Champion.

After the J/105 North American they were right back racing in Maine winning Racing Division 2 at the MS Regatta in Portland with *GHOST*. Because of the current they were able to port tack the start and led for their division throughout the race around Portland Harbor (with Don Logan's J/105 Keemah nipping at their stern the whole race). Liz was aboard for both this event and the NOODS and represented the family at a wedding during the J/105 North Americans.

Their attention then returned to *APPARITION* and preparation for the upcoming NYYC Invitational Cup. Based on their wins in the NYYC Annual Regatta and the Swan Class 42 National Championship they won the right to represent the NYYC in this very prestigious event (beating out 5 other contenders including the 2009 winner). The Invitational Cup is an amateur regatta hosted by the New York Yacht Club who invites teams from the world over to compete in a fleet racing format of 11 races over 5 days in Swan Class 42 boats which have been equalized to the greatest extent possible. The NYYC supplies the sails, sets the rig tune the same for each boat, and limits the instrumentation that can be used while racing. Twenty two yacht clubs from 16 countries competed in this year's event, the 2nd time the regatta has been held. There are strict amateur guidelines for the event and participating yachts have very specific crew criteria to assure it is raced in the best Corinthian spirit.

To compete in the event, Ken and Ginny needed to reformulate their team replacing regular crew members with NYYC members in order to meet the strict crew requirements. They spend August getting organized for the event and 3 days over Labor Day weekend practicing with their new crew. In order to best represent the club they invited the 2009 winner aboard as tactician. They raced well throughout the event putting themselves in a virtual tie for the lead after 9 races (4 points separated them from the first place boat from the Royal Canadian Yacht Club). In the last two races of the series they found themselves in a match race within the fleet race. Their Canadian opponent, former Olympian and America's Cup challenger skipper Terry McLaughlin, had a distinct advantage in this situation. Over the last two races the Canadian team was the better of the two boats and *APPARITION* ended up 2nd of 22 boats beating out other American teams from the Annapolis Yacht Club, Eastern Yacht Club and Newport Harbor Yacht Club along with all the other international teams. In Ken's words, "although we could not repeat the 1st place finish for New York in this spectacular event, we are extremely pleased with the team's performance and the overall result. We raced against some of the best amateur sailors in the world and finished 2nd. A great culmination to an incredible season. I thank my team for their effort and their invaluable contributions to our success."

Additional information on the Invitational Cup can be found at <http://invitationalcup.org> and some exciting videos of the event can be found at <http://invitationalcup.org/photo-gallery/videos>.

APPARITION is hull number 15 and has the NYYC burgee on its sail. You may also want to tune in to ESPN2 on Sunday, October 30, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. or ESPN Classic on Friday, November 4, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. to see Gary Jobson's broadcast on the 2011 New York Yacht Club Invitational Cup. The event will also be broadcast as part of Rolex's '*Spirit of Yachting Series*' that is on the BBC World network across the globe.