

BLACK ICE

November 2010

The Newsletter of the New England Ice Yacht Association
NEIYA hotline 508-481-1011
theneiya.org



Ed Atkeson
15 Francis Ave
Albany NY 12203



Endless Winter II DVD now on sale!

Follow the epic winter adventures of New England Ice Sailors as they tour the Northeast in search of fast hard ice and blistering speed runs. See Classic old time cruisers alongside carbon fiber ice jets. Catch rare HD film footage shot from onboard iceboats and iceboards! Experience the thrill of speed right from your easy chair... **without freezing!**

At last you can show family & friends what we really do! Send check payable to Jeff Brown to: Jeff Brown
17 Spinnaker Lane
Pocasset, MA 02559

Endless Winter II \$15 (2010 release, HD Widescreen format DVD, 62 min.)
Endless Winter I \$5 (2008 release, Standard format DVD, 40 min.)

Shipping charge \$5

Include payment total for one or both issues, or extra copies, plus \$5 flat rate shipping fee. Delivered one week of received payment.

Black Ice contributors

Ted Amaral
Eric Anderson
Ed Atkeson
Henry Capotosto
Bill Converse
Steve Lamb
Chad Lyons
Lloyd Roberts
Dicky Saltonstall
T Thieler

The commodore's welcome letter for the 2010-2011 season

On behalf of myself (Eric Anderson), Brian Langley, Henry Capotosto, Ed Atkeson, and the other officers of NEIYA, I would like to welcome you all back for the 2010-11 Iceboating season.

I trust you are all emerging from the workshop pale and covered with sawdust and epoxy as wondrous and sleek new boats take shape in the sheds and barns and basements.

I am looking forward to a great and safe season, with miles of black ice and plenty of wind. I would also like to publicly thank Steve Lamb for all his hard work the past 4 years as Vice Commodore and then Commodore of the NEIYA.

The one constant in iceboating is the need to travel. Whether it is Thetford Mines in Quebec for that November ice, Sebego Lake in Maine for epic black ice, Burlington VT for mid-season fun, or the many ponds of Southern New England, the ice beckons. So now is the time to change the oil in your car, buy yourself a new pair of driving gloves and get ready to hit the road.

Before you start driving, remember that it takes a lot of effort to find, check and report the ice we all enjoy. I would especially like to thank all the people that make it happen. First,

Ice checkers make it all possible. Next there is the voice of the NEIYA, Jeff Soderholm who puts in countless hours updating the hotline and keeping us all on track. Henry Capotosto keeps us in the black, and secretary Ed Atkeson edits the NEIYA news letter *Black Ice*. To support these activities and the Hotline we need your dues. If you're not up to date, please send a check to Henry.

Before the season starts in earnest I hope you all take a moment to think about safety. A bit of common sense on all our parts goes along way towards making iceboating safe and enjoyable. In each publication of Black ice this season, we will cover some aspect of safety. If there is any subject that you think needs to be covered, please let us know.

Last year there were two deaths of iceboaters in North America, one of which was in New England. Both were sailing alone in poor visibility and high wind. Let us all strive to make this a safer year.

Think Ice
—Eric Anderson US 5193

Photo: Ted Amaral captures the scene at Ames Farm Inn on Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire last February.



Ready Set! On Norton Reservoir

photo by Bill Converse

NEIYA hotline 508-481-1011 Call anytime. Ice conditions for the New England area

NEIYA schedule of events for 2010–2011

Oct	30	Annual Meeting, Banquet, and Swap	
Dec	4, 2010	NEIYA indoor tune-up clinic, hot dogs and snacks	Steve Lamb
Jan	1–2, 2011	Scratch racing if suitable site is found	T Thieler
Jan	8–9	Don "Doc" Fellows Regatta	T Thieler
Jan	15–16	Eastern Regional DN Championship	Eben Whitcomb
Jan	22–23	Alt date for "Doc" Fellows Regatta or Easterns if needed	T Thieler
Jan	30–Feb 5	DN Gold Cup, North Americans (IDNIYRA Western Region)	IDNIYRA western region
Feb	12–13	Big Boat Sail-In	Brian Langley
Feb	19–20	New England DN Championships	T Thieler
March?		Spring Frolic at Winnepesaukee conditions permitting!	

NEIYA contact list

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Ed Atkeson	Secretary	518-456-1913	edatkeson@gmail.com
Jim "T" Thieler	Race Chair	401-258-6230	t_thieler@yahoo.com
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Steve Madden	Massachusetts	508-954-9243	smadd@capecod.net

NEIYA online theneiya.org

Black Ice online edatkeson.com/neiya/BlackIce.html

Clip and save this page

NEIYA tune-up clinic

Place: Lamb Co., 85 Jackson St., Canton, MA

Time: Saturday, December 4, 11 to 3

This Sat. December 4th, is the annual New England Ice Yacht Association Tune up Clinic, 11 am to 3 pm. The Clinic will be held again this year at Lamb Co.'s shop at 85 Jackson St., Canton, MA. 02021. This event is open to anyone that is interested in iceboating, you do not need to be an NEIYA member to attend. We will have demonstrations of runner alignment, sharpening, and general tuning. There will be plenty of boats to look at and gear for sale. You will find a group of friendly and enthusiastic ice sailors, ready and willing to help you get into this sport. We will have hotdogs, snacks, coffee and drinks. Hope to see you all there.

—Stephen Lamb

Directions to tune-up go Mass Rt. 95 (north or south)
 Take exit 11A Neponset St., Canton MA (exit 11A is one exit south of Rt 128)
 Go less than 1 mile and take a left at the first light on Chapman St.
 Go 1/4 mile take the 2nd right 180 degree turn onto Jackson St.
 Look for a tan colored block building on the left (Lamb Co. 85 Jackson St.)
 For more info e-mail sl22ma@aol.com or call Steve Lamb 781-389-4681



Jeff Brown gives a runner honing workshop at the 2008 tune-up

Check out the new NEIYA website! theneiya.org

John Stanton has set up an up-to-date website for the club. Give theneiya.org a link on your browser toolbar and keep up with the latest news.

There are also two yahoo iceboating groups. One is for ice reports only, the other is for general iceboating information. You must join yahoo groups to access these sites. If you log onto yahoogroups.com you can sign up for both groups They are: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Icereports/> and <http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/IceBoating/>

A recent development that looks very good is Jeff Brown's Ice map database, linked from his Icereport site. Thanks Jeff!

Check your dues status on the mailing label!

If you are not paid up, please use the back of this sheet and get up to date. Mail \$10. to NEIYA treasurer Henry Capotosto, 78 Winchell Rd, Warwick RI 02889.



T Thieler gets a trophy from Eric Anderson at the annual meeting; outgoing commodore Steve Lamb on the right.

photo by Chad Lyons

Checking the Ice 1998 Reprint by Lloyd Roberts

Is the ice safe? Maybe, how do we tell? I have been checking ice for some 20 years now. My track record is pretty good, no one has gone through ice I have checked. They have sailed into open water, but never broken through the ice.

New ice is the usual subject, whether it is the whole lake or perhaps a frozen over hole in existing ice. There are a few rules of thumb. If there are cracks in black ice it is usually strong enough to walk or skate on, 1 1/2 to 2 inches. If there are no cracks in new black ice it is pretty thin. We want at least 2 inches of cold black ice to sail on, 2 1/2 is comfortable although it may crack when stomped on. I use a light axe to test ice as I am walking or skating. If I can give it a good swat with one hand and not draw water it is just fine, black or snow ice, probably at least 4 inches. If I draw water with the sharp side I try hitting the ice with the "eye" or back side, if the eye goes through it is too thin to sail on, if the eye doesn't go through it is probably OK. I prefer skating to walking as I can cover much more ice and the skates themselves give clues. Thin ice will crack with the thrust of the skate but still hold you up and is usually getting down to the scary minimum one inch.

Glassy black ice with no cracks is bad news, you just can't tell looking at it how thick it is, cracks give you something to judge it by.

Old Spring ice and shell ice from partially frozen puddles or slush are the hardest to judge. Shell ice is very dangerous to sail on as a runner going through at speed may tear the boat apart or pitchpole it end over end, a good way to get hurt as well as break the boat. It is terribly tempting because it often is the first new surface after being snowed out for a while, don't do it. Old

spring ice may seem quite solid first thing in the morning and then turn to mush in the morning sun to the point where it will not hold you. The best clue to this condition is a hollow sound of skates or runners, the ice really is hollow, just a skin of ice over waterlogged crystals, beware.

Needless to say the ice checking is safest when done by two people, both with hand picks and at least one with a throw line. I have done a lot of it solo, always with my ice picks and the axe. If the ice is thin enough to let you down, the axe could be driven through it for a good purchase. I think sailing alone to check the ice is crazy, the boat may go through before you know you are in trouble. On foot or on skates you have warning from cracking long before you are in danger of falling through.

If you do check ice, and we need those ice reports, don't just walk out 100 yards and decide it is OK. Take the time to really thoroughly check it out. If it is a big lake do the initial check on foot or skates and then get someone else and sail it. Drive by ice checks are only useful to tell us that there is

or isn't ice present with or without snow cover.

If you leave a message on a hotline answering machine give the date, your name, and phone number where you can be called back. We take the ice checking very seriously and do not sail on rumors, second hand reports, or reports by non sailors. Ice fishermen are quite conservative and generally don't drill holes in ice that is too thin to sail on.

Pressure ridges and cracks can be totally unpredictable, ruining ice in a few hours. You, the skipper, are ultimately responsible for your own safety, trust the ice report enough to go to the lake, then judge for yourself, don't sail on word of mouth alone.



Lloyd Roberts on Chickawaukee, February 07

photo by Dicky Saltonstall

2010 Swap, annual meeting, and banquet

The NEIYA Swap meet was another fine event this year. It was held a bit earlier than usual at the trusty hotel parking lot in Westbrough, MA and we were lucky enough to have good weather- There was quite a crowd in the parking lot and it looked as though plenty of gear was changing hands, always a good sign of a busy season to come... Steve Duhamel from Northwind Iceboats was a blur behind his table and there was a ton of gear for sale by individuals. All kinds of cool stuff! Hopefully we'll see some new boats and faces on the ice this winter. Seems like everyone was just a little extra psyched this year, also a good sign.

At around 11am the powers-that-be started shoo-ing everyone into the conference room for the annual NEIYA meeting. And not just any conference room... Oh no, certainly not. We have moved up in the world, gang. We have outgrown the room we used the last few years and now have the luxury of one of the larger conference rooms—very cool. As always, the buffet was excellent. I apologize to everyone for wolfing down all of the shrimp.

The meeting was well run, with Steve Lamb and Jeff Kent ending



At the swap: *Icywood*, a fine example of Maine Iceboat architecture.

their reign as commodores and welcoming in Eric Anderson and Brian Langley to take their place. All sorts of topics were discussed, including scheduling for races and clinics, speed sailing, our slick new website, safety and of course, membership... Good news here as our membership is at an all-time high and the club is in the black financially.

Officers were chosen, duties doled out... Yours truly was appointed to be the official RI ice-checker while out of the room; good thing it's a small state with only a few lakes or I would have raised hell. Awards were presented as well, some good looking trophies changed hands. On a more somber note we did take a break from the festive atmosphere for a moment of silence to reflect on ice-sailing colleagues that we've lost.

All in all another fun and productive get-together. Great to see everyone, got a lot done, and it seems like the club is in good hands and on a good track. Looking forward to seeing everyone there out on the ice in a few months!

—“T” Thieler

2010 Membership Report

The flag officers and membership of NEIYA extend a warm welcome to the following new members who have joined the association since our last edition of *Black Ice*:

Tom Childs	Standish, ME
Gary Clark	Halifax, MA
Dave Denby	Wolfboro Falls, NH
Robert Howe	Vernon, VT
Derek Lugg	Duxbury, MA
Lisa McElrath-Popek	Meredith, NH
Matt Melvin	Scituate, MA
Ann Rowe	Wolfboro, NH
Ralph Skaar	Old Lyme, CT
Bob Stockbridge	Weymouth, MA
Scott Woodman	Jefferson, ME

Following the NEIYA 2010 Annual Meeting the club has a total of 233 active members.

The breakout of members by State/Province is: CA 1, CT 27, FL 1, MA 86, ME 17, NH 37, NJ 9, NS 2, NY 23, PA 1, QC 5, RI 16, VT 7.

Your 2011 NEIYA Dues are now being accepted.

Please check the date on the mailing label of your *Black Ice*. That date indicates the last year for which the club has a record of your payment for dues. Kindly send your dues, \$10., payable to NEIYA, to:

Henry Capotosto
78 Winchell Rd.
Warwick, RI 02889

NEIYA Financial Report 2010

Assets	
Checking Account	
Beginning Balance on 11/01/09	\$3,553.80
Income	
Checking Account Interest	\$9.11
Association Dues	\$1,895.00
"Think Ice" Sales	\$45.00
Decal Sales	\$26.00
Annual Meeting Revenue	\$1,400.00
Total Income	\$3,375.11
Expenses	
Verizon	\$643.61
Recognition/Awards	\$752.20
Postage	\$276.35
Printing	\$302.45
Annual Meeting Expense	\$1,619.25
Tune Up Clinic	\$120.00
Total Expenses	\$3,713.86
Ending Balance on 10/31/2010	\$3,215.05
Net Cash Flow	-\$338.75

—Henry Capotosto