

December 2009



# ROTON POINT REPORTER

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF ROTON POINT



*Regatta Preparations*  
painting by Hal Thormahlen  
[www.rotonpoint.org](http://www.rotonpoint.org)

# Club News



## From The General Manager

The budget season has just ended, all of our private parties on the weekends are over, RPSA celebrated the end of the season with the Commodore Cocktail Party, all of the signs of the 2009 season are locked away and our maintenance guys have just loaded the snow plow on the front of the truck, just in case.

It seems that 2009 is almost a memory but many great things happened that are certainly worth mentioning. The club took a huge step in the installation of pool heaters this past winter and spring. There are no official numbers but from the look of the people who have never seen the inside of the pool and the absence of all the blue lips on our children at swim team practice in early June, this was a great addition to our beautiful facility.

In budgeting for this past season no one really knew what to expect. Our country was in a quandary as many of the trends of the past seem to have changed. We continued to be prudent and careful with everything here at the club. After having a very challenging season under our belt, I am very happy to report that Roton Point weathered the storm very well. Our youth programs did exceptionally well. We had an explosion in numbers on the pool deck with over 50 children in the eight and under category. This gave us quite a challenge in two forms. First, we have never had this kind of enrollment in one particular class and second we did not have enough of our regular staff to teach them. Luckily, our new pool director, Adam Fielding, who came to us from Stratford CT with a bevy of swimming, teaching and coaching experience under his belt, quickly took charge and added his expertise to our very experienced staff. Thanks to their efforts, we had a very respectful season.

Junior sailing had its share of challenges this year also. With the addition of two brand new sailing instructors there were some growing pains in the sailing bay. Everyone again rose to the occasion; we hosted a great Green Fleet Regatta and sent a good number of sailors to champs. There was also a little sadness this season as we said goodbye to our very energetic

head sailing instructor, Caitlyn Connolly. Caitlyn joined us three years ago and has done wonderful things with the program and created such good rapport with parents and children. We wish her well and will miss her infectious smile and demeanor.

Tennis and youth social were run with the precision of a well oiled grandfather clock. Tom and his staff had a great season with the children. Monique and her staff had a record number of children in the program. Over 130 children participated in this year's Hobie Camp. A true testament of a well constructed, properly supervised program.

The club experienced some very high volume on a number of weekends this year. Memorial Day weekend, Fourth of July and Franks for the Memories had some tremendous crowds this year. Thanks to the efforts of our gate house guys and our maintenance and management teams we were able to handle the members and guests without incident.

In closing, let me say that I was very encouraged by the successes that we experienced this past season. We have already begun the planning for next year and we expect the same successes to be shared in the 2010 season. I would like to send a great thank you to my staff, which surround me and support me in bringing you the level of service that you have come to expect. Let me also thank all of you who have supported me in all my endeavors to bring a level of excellence to Roton Point. I look forward to seeing all of you in 2010.

My best wishes to you and your families for a comfortable, safe and warm holiday season and the happiest of New Years. Thank you for the opportunity to work for such a dedicated organization.

Sincerely,

*Ernie*

## Tree Replacement Program

As everyone knows, Roton Point's shady grove with its cool breezes and amazing views is our most dearly-loved asset. In order to preserve this, we have found it necessary to replace some of the trees and will need to continue doing so in the future. A licensed arborist has worked with the club to provide a plan for the location, number of and types of trees to be planted over the coming years. At the suggestion of members, the club began a donation program to give members the opportunity to donate trees in recognition of or as a memorial for someone.

A donation of \$600 per tree may be made by an individual or a group and while there will be no plaques/signs on or near the trees; a perpetual plaque listing donors has been hung inside the Hotel.

If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact the General Manager at the club office.

# Club News



## Election Results

The 2009 RPA Board election results were announced at the Fall Membership Meeting, held at the hotel on Sunday October 4th. Incumbents re-elected were Ellen Campbell, Joe Dixon and John Pullan; along with new board members, Chuck Cunningham and James "Chip" Romans.

They join fellow board members Michael Bair, Laura Drynan, Cameron Hutchins, Charles Janson, Jeffrey Konspore, Kari Murray, Peter Nolin, John Olsen, Caroline Robinson and Larry Warble.

RPA President Caroline Robinson congratulated the new board members, and offered a special thanks to retiring board members Ruth Noble and Mike Smith.



## RPA Board of Directors 2009-2010



Caroline Robinson  
*President*



Charlie Janson  
*Vice President*



Cam Hutchins  
*Secretary*



John Olsen  
*Treasurer*



Michael Bair



Ellen Campbell



Chuck Cunningham



Joe Dixon



Laura Drynan



Jeff Konspore



Kari Murray



Peter Nolin



John Pullan



Chip Romans



Larry Warble

# RPSA Sailing News

Regatta photos by Eric Tamme

## 50h Annual Fall Multihull Regatta: A Phenomenal Success!

This year marked the 50th year Roton Point has hosted its annual Fall Multihull Regatta, and it turned out to be an incredible experience. Visiting competitors for the regatta on September 19/20 started to arrive on Wednesday, many more on Thursday and by Friday evening, the parking lot was packed. One could feel in the eager air of anticipation that this was going to be a very special occasion.

And so it turned out to be. By the time formal registration was complete on Saturday morning, and scratch sheets drawn up, the number of entrants stood at 64 boats! These were grouped into five one-design fleets, an open fleet, and a small fleet of cruising trimarans. Registration time was also t-shirt time, with this year's regatta shirt designed by Roton Pointer Steve Fritsch. Contestants came from 12 states; the longest trailered were four boats from Maine, and the furthest away of all was former commodore James Bildahl who flew in from Montana.

The A-cat fleet was comprised of 6 very high-tech boats, all from New Jersey. These single-handers, often incorporating carbon fiber, are one of the fastest-growing fleets in the country. This is probably partly due to the fact that skippers do not need to look for crew.

The Formula 18 (F-18) fleet was comprised of 15 boats, while the largest fleet, Hobie 16s, had 17 boats. There were 6 boats in the Hobie 18 fleet and 6 boats in the Hobie 21



fleet. Roton Point is probably the only venue left where 21s are still raced. There is a strong historical significance in that it was at Roton Point that the Hobie 21 Continentals were held in 1996-1998. The H21 is the largest beach catamaran Hobie ever produced. Like the H18s, the H21 is no longer in production. The H21 was one of the first classes to carry a large spinnaker for downwind sailing. "The rest" of the boats (11 in total) sailed in the Open class, under the Portsmouth rating system.

The weather and wind gods smiled on Roton Point on Saturday, with sunny skies, balmy temperature, and a constant Northerly breeze of 7 to 15 knots. Mike Levesque (Principal Race Officer) was able to set a windward-leeward course (with short and long windward marks) and basically leave it set for the full day of racing. A steady breeze allowed five races to be run by all six classes. Race photographs contain many fantastic shots of boats beating to

windward and tacking downwind with windward hulls flying. The added benefit of flat water meant very few capsizes.

The Race Committee also gave a start to the "Cruising Fleet" of three large trimarans, which sailed their own 17-mile course and finished off the west jetty of Roton Point.

The day's racing was followed by cocktails and four tables of hors d'oeuvres provided by RPSA and Roton Point Club members. Sailors and guests could also go into the Hotel to view a fully edited slide show of the day's races provided by Roton Pointer Marty Milewski. This flowed into the traditional steak dinner for which about 150 lbs of steak were cooked by "the usual" Roton Pointers (Kevin Simmons, Marty Roth, Bruce Given, Dan McDermott and James Sebastian). Rumor has it that over 300 dinners were served. After the fantastic dinner, dance music was provided by the Jimmy Buffet tribute



band “Changes in Latitude.” As always, regatta festivities were open to all Roton Point members. The evening scene at Roton Point took us back to the days when the Grove was packed to capacity with tents of visiting sailors and the back lot was overflowing with boats and RVs.

The wind gods evidently decided they had been too kind to Roton Point on Saturday, or perhaps noticed that more than a few sailors had been out late, and so turned off the wind on Sunday. After waiting until noon the PRO declared further racing abandoned; this turned out to be a wise decision as the day remained calm.

Therefore Saturday’s scoring became final scoring; with five races sailed, one discard was allowed. Full results are available on the club’s website. First prizes went as follows:

**A-Cat Fleet**

*Danny Goriski*

**F-18 Fleet**

*Mike Easton/Alex Wright*

**H16 Fleet**

*Bob Merrick/Eliza Cleveland*

**H18 Fleet**

*Colin Walklet/Eric Peret*

**H21 Fleet**

*James Bildahl/Marty Roth*

**Open Fleet**

*Rick Bliss/Julie Chalue*

**Cruising Fleet**

*Pat Harris & Crew*

The Masters’ Trophy went to the husband-and-wife team of James and



Nora Zellmer, long-time competitors at RPSA regattas.

During the awards ceremony Joe Valante, a long-time supporter of Roton Point, was recognized for the donation several years ago to Roton Point of a revolving plaque presented to the year’s best H21 sailors. The plaque is always on display in the trophy case. It bears quite an impressive list of sailors’ names. Past Commodore Ron Borge awarded the trophy for 2009 to H21 sailors and class winners James Bildahl and crew Marty Roth.

Another special presentation was a large framed photograph of PL3, which won the “Little America’s Cup in 1976. Some of the original “Patient Lady” team and Ron Borge handed this to Rick Bliss in recognition of Rick’s long-term support of RPSA regattas. His “parts truck” has assisted many a sailor after an equipment breakdown at our regattas.

Volunteers were numerous and invaluable to the success of an event as large as this regatta turned out to be. Regatta Chairman was Ron Borge, and the Race Chairman was Mike Smith. On the signal boat assisting the PRO were Joze Roth, Shelli Skeels, Woody Bliss, Dan McDermott and Laszlo Papp. The mark boat was skippered by Rob Steckel (who generously lent his boat for the event) and crewed by Pax Gifford and Bruce Given. The pin boat was manned by Tom Failla and Pete

Weber. Hal Thormahlen performed the demanding job of Beach Captain, while Marilyn Atkin, Bruce Wilson and Chip Romans handled this year’s registrations.

Anyone who enjoyed the meal at the regatta knows full well that if Laura O’Brien, Nancy Given, Debbie Douglas and Nancy Borge weren’t there, we would never have been treated so royally. It seemed that every Club member volunteered in some way to ensure the visiting sailors and guests were never in need of anything. The list is far too long to print but those who helped can enjoy the satisfaction of knowing their job was well done and much appreciated. The Roton Point staff did its usual great job in assisting all the Club volunteers.

And so the much-anticipated Golden Anniversary has come and gone, leaving indelible memories for all who participated. Now it’s on to the next fifty years!

## Stamford-Denmark Friendship Race

The 44th running of the Stamford - Denmark Friendship Race took place September 12th – just one week before our 2009 Fall Regatta. Nine years ago, as a long time member of the Denmark race committee, Roton Pointer Ron Borge brought multihulls into this well known race that his family have been supporters of from its beginning. The very first trophy for this race was presented on Ron's father's boat! Eight multihulls from three separate clubs (Stamford YC, Norwalk YC and Roton Point) sailed in this year's multihull division. The 2009 Nancy and Ronald Borge Multihull trophy went to Kevin Simmons and Marty Roth sailing the 'Little America' Cup' winning C Class catamaran, Patient Lady III. Second place finish went to Greg and John Byrne sailing Nell, their H21. A very trick, very large carbon trimaran, Milk and Honey, from Stamford YC finished third.

## Friday Night Races

The 2009 Friday Night races were plagued by either no wind or far too much wind (thunderstorms). This severely limited the number of races that were sailed. Last time we looked, Commodore John Pullan and Hal Thormalhen were still battling out to see which one of them was the eventual series winner.

## Hambone Race

The 7 millionth running of the Hambone Race was, as usual, a big success thanks to this year's race organizers John and Jodie Pullan. With a one-day weather delay, the tradition continued, and we are all still amazed at what's able to float and compete in this wacky race!

## Here Come Old Flat Top, Groovin' Up Slowly

The ever-popular 'Flat Top' rides offered our landlocked Club members a different view of Long Island Sound as well as a view of Roton Point from the water. The intent is to do more of these rides next year.

## Kayak Fun Day

Just as billed, fun! The turnout was impressive, thanks to the work of RPSA members Margie Neaderlander and Kathy Weller. A few cases of beer on the island made the trip back to Roton Point seem as though Roton Point was much closer than it was getting out to the island. As support/safety boat skipper, Ron Borge enjoyed the luxury of twin throttles and no paddling! Fair skies and calm seas insured that paddling out to the Norwalk Islands would not be intimidating for first timers. Kayak Fun Day is guaranteed to be a regular summer feature.

## A Second Set Of Condos At Roton Point

Don't be alarmed, we have not sold more lockers. But Ernie's maintenance team has added more "Kayak Condos" for the safe, undercover keeping of kayaks. Members who have managed to get a spot in the new berths are lucky indeed.

## Thanks to Larry Warble

A special word of thanks is extended to Larry Warble for taking over from Bud McGarry this very important liaison role as Parent Representative to the Sailing School.

## RPSA Meetings

The Sailing Association board meets at 7:30 PM on the first Tuesday of each month in the conference room in the hotel at Roton Point. Meetings are open to all RPA members and your input is always welcome.



# Junior Sailing News



Roton Point Junior Sailing, under the leadership of Caitlyn Connolly and her assistants Tally Thoren, Kevin McGehee, Sarah Smith and James Kammert produced another excellent summer for our Roton Point Junior Sailors.

Eleven junior sailors were part of our inaugural Race Team. The team competed in five regattas over the course of the summer. During that time, their skills improved so much that seven of the sailors were eligible to compete in the Long Island Sound Optimist Championships.

Another a new addition to our program this year was our Navigation Team. This team learned nautical navigation skills while plotting courses throughout Long Island Sound. Along their travels they visited a few shipwrecks.

Our Pixel boats were out in full force this summer. Over nine sailors learned to sail these fast and fun boats. We hope to increase the Pixel usage next year and perhaps sail a few of them competitively.

The highlight of the year was when our beginning sailors participated in our annual "Green Fleet Regatta." Roton Point had an impressive showing as 3 sailors finished in the top ten. This was hopefully the first of many successful races for our future competitors.

Green Fleet Regatta July 22 2009 ▶



# Hobie Camp

We had another successful year at Hobie Camp. During this past summer, our staff of 20 was lucky enough to host over 130 eager campers. If you were lucky, you were at Roton Point to watch our annual 4th of July parade where the campers were clad in Statue of Liberty attire and sang their newly learned patriotic songs. It was amazing to watch the kids dance away during our Halloween-in-July Monster Mash, race for the "gold" during field day, and groove out in their handmade tie-dye shirts. We are already looking forward to next summer. We are in the process of planning new and exciting activities as well as inviting back old favorites. Start planning ahead for the summer season and hand your paperwork in early to ensure your child(ren)'s spot. We look forward to seeing old friends and welcoming new ones to Hobie Camp!



# Swim Team News



Congratulations to the Roton Point swim, diving and water polo teams on a terrific 2009 season! Having moved up to a new, tougher division this year, the Rock Lobsters finished their 2009 Fairfield County Swimming League (FCSL) Division 2 swim season with 3 wins and 3 losses. We had a wonderful group of kids this year which included an unprecedented FIFTY-SIX 8 and unders. Their positive attitude and team spirit was recognized by all and also brought the Roton Point Rock Lobsters the prestigious Skip Lehman Award. This award is presented at the FCSL County Championship, and honors "Skip" Lehmann, a very dedicated, long-time FCSL Board member, long-time Greenwich Country Club Head Swim Coach, and FCSL Referee, who embodied the spirit of the Fairfield County Swimming League. The award is given to the swim team in each Division that best represents the concept of Team Spirit.

Thank you to all our coaches for a great season! And special thanks to Marty Milewski for the team photos and dvd.

At the Awards Dinner held this past August, the following team awards were presented:

## SWIMMING

### MVP

8 & U Boys - Hudson Pokorny  
Runner up - Henry Pfeifle

8 & U Girls - Mason Maloney  
Runner up Skyler Keelips

10 & U Boys - Alex Milewski  
Runner up - Andrew Benz

10 & U Girls - Hailey Keelips  
Runner up- Allison Works

12 & U Boys - Mathew Benz

12 & U Girls - Lexi Devlin

14 & U Boys - Chris Janson

14 & U Girls - Hadley Merrill

17 & U Boys - Kenneth Jimenez

### MOST IMPROVED

Girl: Allison Works

Boy: Peter Stolpestad

### COACHES AWARD

Girl: Emma Janson

Boy: Alexander Williams

### JALET AWARD

*Winter swimmer, swims all meets, leadership* - Emma Byrne

### RICHARDSON AWARD

*Embodies RP Spirit - dedication*  
Sam Schrenker

### SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Girl: Jenny Schrenker

Boy: Hayden Puff

### UNSUNG HERO AWARD

Sydney Schrenker  
Andrew Benz

### ROCK LOBSTER AWARD

*Graduating from the team*  
Lauren and Katie Timmerman

## DIVING

**COACHES AWARD** - Sydney Schrenker

**MOST IMPROVED** - Hudson Pokorny

**MVP** - Jake Bowtell

**DEDICATION** - Cooper Murray

## WATER POLO

### JUNIOR MVP's

Sam Merrill and Mathew Benz

### JUNIOR COACHES AWARD

Drew Gold

### JUNIOR SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Timmy Scolaro

### JUNIOR MOST IMPROVED

Emma Janson

On behalf of Roton Point swim & diving chairs Noreen Benz, Stacy Devlin, and Kathy Finnegan, thank you and see you on the pool deck! And keep swimming all year - swim in the winter, win in the summer!

If you are interested in volunteering for the swim/dive and water polo teams, please contact Ernie LaRocca at: [manager@rotonpoint.org](mailto:manager@rotonpoint.org). or call him at 203.838.1606.

## The Season Ahead

The 2010 Swim & Dive Dual Meet Schedule for Division 2 is now posted on the Fairfield County Swimming League web site: [www.fcsl.info](http://www.fcsl.info)

## Our Newsworthy Roton Point Youth

Roton Point Swimmers Take 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Spots in FCSL County Championships.

Swimming in the boys 10 and under category for Roton Point, Alexander Milewski set a new Fairfield County Record in the 25 meter butterfly.

This was Alexander's second time he shared a first place finish at County Championships. Alexander also finished first in the 50 meter freestyle, and a second place finish in the 25 meter backstroke 17.38.



*Alexander Milewski*

## Swim Team News CONTINUED

Chris Janson swimming for Roton Point in the 14 and under category finished 2nd in the 200 IM with a time of 1:06.23 and took third for the 50 meter butterfly with a time of (28.85).



*Chris Janson*

In addition, Hailey Keelips (10/under) swimming for Roton Point took second place in the girls 25 meter breaststroke with a time of (20.19).

## Talk About A Great Catch



*Connor Sovak*

Connor Sovak showed us what it's all about. During a great fishing day with his family he captured this beauty right off of our west jetty, the fish measured 29 inches and weighed 9.5 lbs. Congratulations, Connor!

## Roton Point's History Committee

By Lisa Wilson Grant

A very successful "Roton Point History Day" was held this year on June 28th. In addition to the usual postcards, photos, and ephemera usually displayed, we had several exciting special events which included the recognition of our "25th Anniversary" of the 1984 signing that resulted in our club's current configuration of member-owned shares. Mary Ellen Pastore put together the photo board which now hangs in the Hotel hallway.

Also on History Day, attendees were able to view screenings of Dave Hogoboom's new film *Roton Point*, which, in the spirit of the old amusement park was enjoyed with popcorn and salt water taffy.



*Hotel Theatre 2009*

(Note: If you missed out, there are still copies available for purchase through the office - would make wonderful Christmas gifts!) A preview of the film is on our website.



*History Day 2009*

There was also a very special dedication ceremony of (4) buildings which exist now that were formerly part of the Roton Point Amusement Park. We now have

Rowayton Historical Society plaques mounted on the following buildings:

The Roton Point Hotel. c.1880

The Roton Point Merry-Go-Round & Bath House c.1880

The Roton Point Gazebo c.1926

The Roton Point Roller Coaster Platform c.1914

(now 6th Taxing District's Bayley Beach Pavilion)

Nancy Borge and Lisa Wilson Grant were interviewed on the show "Carousel" aired on Cablevision, and shared the highlights of Roton Point in its days as an amusement park.

The History Committee is currently working on assembling an amusement park postcard history book - if you have old photographs or postcards or newspaper articles which you'd like to share with us, please let us know. We would be happy to scan them in for our archives.



*Building Plaques 2009*

Any member interested in joining the History Committee should contact the office, or committee chair Lisa Wilson Grant at [lisawgrant@yahoo.com](mailto:lisawgrant@yahoo.com). We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the conference room, and would love to have more people join us who are interested in Roton Point's History!

# Tennis News



The 2009 Roton Point Tennis summer season was a season that wasn't! The weather certainly did not cooperate at all, yet despite this setback, we managed to crown the following victories. Congratulations to all of the winners and runners up.

And if the courts ever dry out, see you all in May!

## Men's Senior Singles

**Finalist** - Simon Little

**Winner** - Bob Eydt

## Mixed Doubles

**Finalists** - Sarah Zepeda  
Simon Little

**Winners** - Kelly Hogan  
Bob Hogan

## Mixed Doubles

**Finalists** - Mary Cunningham  
Jeff Williams

**Winners** - Mallory Close  
Sean Durkin

## Ladies Doubles

(Gally Reynolds)

**Finalists** - Mary Cunningham  
Robin Ziolkowski

**Winners** - Cindy Holland  
Karen Schrenker

## Century (Cogie)

**Finalists** - Robin Ziolkowski  
James Hansford

**Winners** - Mary Cunningham  
Mike Frost

## Men's Seniors Doubles

**Finalists** - Joe Dixon  
Jose Zepeda

**Winners** - Jim Bradford  
Joe Fucigna

## Men's Doubles

**Finalists** - Shannon Bass  
Sean Durkin

**Winners** - Steve Kroll  
Tony Scolaro

## Ladies Singles

**Finalist** - (Judith Robinson)  
Grace Hansford

**Winner** - Melissa Noonan

## Men's Singles

**Finalist** - Andy Timmerman

**Winner** - Roy Skinner

## Youth Social

This was our best season for our young Roton Pointers to date! Our Family BINGOs were as big as ever. We started with a small intimate group at our first BINGO and had record attendance at our Labor Day BINGO of over 130 players! It was great to see all those eager players anxiously awaiting the next number called. The early start to the annual Sandcastle contest and Beach Games didn't keep the diehard participants away, And this year's Family Campout was our best yet! The sea of tents at Roton Point is always a great sight. After a delicious dinner, we were lucky enough to have a special guest, Danny Magic, entertain campers of all ages. We ended an evening at Roton Point with the movie *Night at the Museum* shown in the hotel. If you have any ideas about events for our children, just let us know. We are already arranging other exciting opportunities for our youngsters next season.



## Roton Point

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Photos taken of Members and their Guests at the Club and at Club functions will be used from time to time in this magazine, Club displays, and on the Members-Only area of the Club's website.

# Season's Greetings 2009

It's winter here at Roton Point  
A howling wind blows through the joint;  
A ringing phone awakes my room  
Hello! It's David Hogoboom!  
[This year, he made the Roton movie  
Did you catch it? Very groovy!]  
"Hey," he says, "I took a lunch  
With Hollywood - the show biz bunch -  
And here's a thought on which to chew  
A sequel film called *Roton 2!*  
[perhaps *Electric Boogaloo?*]"  
He's right - though skies may fill with snow  
We have a beach - let's have a show!  
Let's show them all about our year,  
It's quite a story, have no fear!  
From May until the start of school  
From rainy courts to heated pool  
From fireworks to big regatta  
Let's tell the story like we oughtta!  
And so without further distraction  
Roton Point - lights, camera, action!  
Now running through the bath house halls  
Here come the folks for casting call!  
James Sebastian, Carolyn Diehl  
Here come Barlow and Beth Peelle  
And now the center stage please yield  
To Mike and Kelly Frankenfield!  
[The snow is falling faster now -  
hope our pickup has a plow!]  
From mending fences that need fixin'  
Here come Joe and Sally Dixon!  
And here by kayak, swiftly rowin'  
Hello, Mark and Stasha Cohen!  
And here's the Romans' - Chip and Bobbi  
Getting popcorn in the lobby  
A couple waves from on the docks -  
Hello, Christine and Barry Knox!  
As members graze the Grove a-carolin'  
Hollywood says we need a "Marilyn" -  
So as the snowy clouds grow darker  
Atkin, Gifford, Hutchins, Parker  
Come to heed the casting call  
Come, Roton Pointers, one and all!  
At the front and at the rear,  
Thank you, member volunteers!  
We like your gung-ho attitude  
But now, what should our film include?  
This summer started very fast

The Cosmos dance, a rockin' blast  
From vintage wear we all were stylin'  
To osprey nests out on the pilings!  
And here's the kids from Hobie Camp  
Chasing, racing, down the ramp  
They dance, they play, they're tie-dye dirty  
How many? It's 130!  
[Glad our new boat ramp is sturdy!]  
Our History Day could not be neater  
As our hotel became a theater  
And history folks compiled the facts  
So now our buildings have the plaques  
Read them all and solve the mystery  
About Roton's fabled place in history!  
The water's warm, the scene is cool  
But who showed up beside the pool?  
50 children, 8 and under!  
Would the pool be torn asunder?  
No, Adam Fielding saved the day  
That's the pool director's way!  
Then came the Fourth with table tags,  
Fireworks, and flapping flags;  
The shells go up, the boats salute -  
A flash, a boom, and then a toot!  
Every movie needs a chase  
We call ours the Hambone Race!  
Next music danced across the sand  
Welcome to the Ratso Band!  
The Family Campout came and went  
And filled the beach with rowdy tents  
By morning, parents might lament  
And wonder where the night just went!  
Hey, look who's ringing on the doorbell  
Welcome, welcome, Larry Warble -  
Parent rep to sailing school,  
Where Bud McGarry used to rule!  
So now let's give a meet and greet  
For Optis in the great Green Fleet!  
And - from tennis - greet the winners  
Melissa Noonan and Roy Skinner!  
They dodged the rain and made it through  
Let's thank Tom Wright, and Charlene, too!  
And hope the weather's wet-wet-wet  
Didn't ace the pro's net-net!  
Yet still we got to play the tourneys  
And enjoyed "Weekend at Ernies!"  
Our swim team swam up to Div 2  
And won three meets 'fore they were through

With such team spirit tried and true  
They won something extra, too -  
The other teams were in accord  
Rock Lobsters won Lehmann's award!  
Then Labor Day, end of season!  
But, for cheering, here's a reason:  
The memories, for which we thank,  
Taste much sweeter with a frank!  
[The hot dogs served, in case you wondered  
Numbered just about six hundred!]  
Then came good winds, never shifty  
For Roton's Fall Regatta 50!  
Looking back on fifty years  
Of multihulls (and multi beers!)  
We cannot help but give three cheers  
To visionary T. DiMauro.  
Who sailed RP into tomorrow  
We owe a debt and know that we  
All hitched a ride from PL3!  
The sailors raced, and came to eat  
300 dinners, what a feat!  
Thank the chefs, you know their names:  
Kevin, Marty, Bruce, Dan, James  
And after that, a great surprise  
The Buffett tribute band's reprise  
Happy sailors danced the floor  
As others watched slideshows indoors  
All in all, the thing was nifty  
Here's hoping for another fifty!  
The movie ends, the credits roll  
Outside, the weather takes its toll.  
With reels of footage, comes instruction:  
"The magic happens post-production."  
- like summer memories we hold dear  
To savor in the winter year.  
As Roton keeps us warm inside  
With friends as constant as the tide  
A special place upon the Sound  
A place where summer lasts year round  
So welcome, winter  
While we stand  
Heart to heart and  
Hand to hand!

Happy New Year!  
- Cam Hutchins

