

HISTORY OF LAKE CAMPBELL SAILBOAT REGATTA

Starting about 1980 the local regattas were held mainly at Lake Poinsett and Oakwood Lakes. The Poinsett Regatta was organized and run by Rob Hauschild, the Poinsett Fleet Commodore. These races, held from approximately 1980 to 1985, were strictly catamarans (twin hulled boats) and were highly competitive. This is when I was first introduced to racing and was hooked by the speed of the "cats".

From 1985 to 1989 the regattas were at Oakwood Lakes and were hosted by Dr. Paul Bommersbach, his wife Marilyn and two boys. All the activities were held at the Bommersbach lake home where there were sailors from all over the state. It was a two day affair with everyone camping in their front yard and were treated to a great breakfast on Sunday mornings. Here again the majority of sail boats were "cats" but Paul was gracious enough to let Andy Jensen, myself and a few monohulls (single hulled boats) into his regatta, where we were on a handicap system to make everyone equal.

After Paul's boys grew up and moved away there was a year without any regattas. This is when Andy and I decided to try to hold the regatta at Lake Campbell. In 1990 the first regatta was held in my front yard, with the food and trophies furnished by Lance Park and the Country Kitchen. At this time we included the sailboards and monohulls; but left out the catamarans to try to attract the novice and less competitive sailors and to make it more of a family affair. The first year was a big success and we quickly out grew my front yard and decided to move to the south side of Lake Campbell.

In 1991 Bob Schamp, who managed Southside Concession at the time, catered the meal and again everything went great. In 1992 we saw the opening of the new Danceland and Lake Campbell Yacht Club and decided to move the regatta there, where it has been ever since. Danceland and Lake Campbell Lutheran Church has catered the meals and have been super hosts—helping set up for registration and refreshments.

There have been a number of trophy sponsors over the years: Einspahr Ford, Fite and Pierce attorneys, Danceland, Country Kitchen, Eidsness Funeral Home,

North Shore Sails, and Lake Campbell Yacht Club. We thank them for their help.

We have added other activities to include more participants including paddle boat and canoe races. We even had a used boat and marine type flea market, which failed miserably. We decided all proceeds should go to the improvement of boating on Lake Campbell and have place docks at Danceland, north side State ramp and are part owners of a dock at the Country Club.

The number of boats sailboats in the regatta over the years has varied with weather conditions. We have had as high as 35 boats when the sailboards were included, but usually average between 15 and 18 boats, which makes for a less congested race. Everyone starts the race at the same time, with the Sunfish boats as one class and the other monohull boats on a handicap rating.

Andy Jensen and I have had a great time putting on these regattas and encourage anyone even remotely interested in sailing in the regatta to contact us for use of a boat or to crew with another sailor.

See you in July,
Ron Eggen

We have 101 members in our Lake Campbell Improvement Association. This is the most members we have ever had!

HANDICAP FISHING AREA

Just over a year ago, the board started to discuss the idea to build a handicap fishing area near the south side bridge. We are in the process of determining who owns the land, obtaining necessary easements/releases, deciding who will maintain the area, gaining financial support/funding and getting approval from the state of South Dakota.