

PRESS RELEASE

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Sigrid Festersen and Mary Ann Rix named Honorary Co-Chairs of the 2019 U.S. Women's Snipe National Championship Regatta

As part of the festivities surrounding the 2019 U.S. Women's Snipe National Championship Regatta, Lincoln Snipe Fleet #567 named Sigrid Festersen and Mary Ann Rix Honorary Co-Chairs for the event. In addition, they were each appointed an [Admiral in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska](#) by Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska.

These two women have made significant contributions over several decades to the sport of Snipe sailing as evidenced by their attached sailing biographies. In their acceptance remarks, they each spoke of the special memories they have from the many years of sailing Snipes and the lifelong friends they made along the way.



Mary Ann Rix proudly displays here Honorary Co-Chair cup and Admiralship presented by Mary Buckley, SCIRA USA District 2 Governor.



Sigrid Festersen enjoys a laugh during the presentation along with her skipper, Pat Flood.

Lincoln Snipe Fleet #567 is pleased to recognize

Mary Ann Rix as Honorary Co-Chair

of the 2019 U.S. Women's Snipe National Championship Regatta — August 24, 2019
for her significant contributions to the sport of Snipe sailing.

Her first date with late husband Ken was a trip to the lake to sail on his father's Snipe. A few months later they were married and the final weekend of their two week honeymoon was a trip to Lake Manawa IA, so Ken could crew for his father in the Snipe regatta. Mary Ann sat on the shore and took photos, but quickly realized she would need to learn to sail if she didn't want to always be on shore. She did learn to sail, eventually having her own boat - painted red - named "Hot Flash" to complement her husband Ken's blue boat, named "Cold Chills". They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary right here in Lincoln at the Fire on the Water regatta in 2014.



Mary Ann, Ken and son James, who sails "Cold Chills" these days and generously loaned it to Tarasa Davis for this regatta, sailed in too many District and National level regattas to count. As James said at the time of Ken's passing, "They travelled the country going to regattas and had lots of adventures such as the infamous mast straightening party after the storm at the Lake Carlyle Nationals, having their car stolen on the way to Boston, wearing lots of layers on the Puget Sound, having the AC quit in Louisiana on the way back from Pensacola. However, through all the ordeals associated with dragging the boats to over 100 regattas, (they were) always eager to travel to more. What better way to escape from the stresses of the world than to do some serious racing and have some serious fun."



One memorable regatta, as James mentions, was one I've heard many stories about. In 1980, the Nationals were sailed on Lake Carlyle, just outside St. Louis with 106 boats competing. With 3 flights of boats all on the water, a sudden thunderstorm with 60-70 mph winds came roaring through, resulting in much chaos on the lake. Boats were on screaming planes everywhere, breaking masts and capsizing, and trying to take refuge wherever they could. Mary Ann remembers having a young teenager, no bigger than she was as crew. Mary Ann and her crew somehow managed to make it back to the harbor, and she remembers someone sailing by her with a broken mast yelling at them to catch him...which was of course something they didn't have a chance of doing!

Her "claim to fame" is the time, in 1983, when she won the District 2 Championship, thereby qualifying her for the Heinzerling Series of the US National Championships which was sailed on Puget Sound that year with a total of 59 registered boats. For those of you unfamiliar, in those days the Nationals were split into 2 fleets after a qualifying round, with roughly 33 boats sailing in the Heinzerling Series and the rest sailing in the Wells or consolation series. It was a thrill for Mary Ann to sail in the championship series. She has two specific memories of that regatta... she didn't finish last, and she was competing against an up and coming teenager named Tarasa Davis in that regatta.

She served the Snipe Class as Fleet Captain and District 2 Governor, and encouraged countless others to sail a Snipe, encouraging them all to do some serious racing and have some serious fun.

Thank you, Mary Ann for your contributions to the Snipe Class!

— Mary Buckley

Lincoln Snipe Fleet #567 is pleased to recognize

Sigrid Festersen as Honorary Co-Chair

of the 2019 U.S. Women's Snipe National Championship Regatta — August 24, 2019
for her significant contributions to the sport of Snipe sailing.

Sigrid has been an avid Snipe sailor and dedicated servant to the Snipe Class International Racing Association (SCIRA) for over 50 years.

She wasn't born sailing – she didn't start crewing until her mid 20s - but she did give birth to three kids while actively sailing Snipes 12875 and 20875.

Her late husband Paul Festersen was Commodore of the Iowa-Nebraska Sailing Association, a District 2 Governor, SCIRA Board Member and Legal Counsel (Sea Lawyer), and the International SCIRA Commodore in 1981. Not to be outdone, Sigrid was also a District 2 Governor and was the Iowa-Nebraska Sailing Association Fleet Treasurer for decades training dozens of new Commodores over the years who soon learned who was really in charge.



Paul liked to call himself the “Concrete Duck” and said his sailing record sparkled with mediocrity. In truth, however, Paul and Sigrid were competitive sailors on the local and regional regatta circuit and won their fleet championship (before Henry Davis was fully grown) and also won the national master's regatta. They also competed in numerous national championships including Annapolis, Seattle, Pensacola, Dallas, Oklahoma, Mission Bay, Kansas, and the legendary blow down at Green Lake, Wisconsin. And as SCIRA representatives, they attended the World Championships in Nova Scotia, Los Angeles, Norway and Portugal.

Sigrid is a legendary hiker, brave first mate, and also a dedicated mother. As the kids got older, her

daughters became crews for Paul on Snipes 25052 and 28482 and she became the crew for her son on Snipe 29917. Snipe sailing was a family affair and it seemed like nothing to pack up two boats on the double deck trailer to head for various weekend regattas. Sigrid once drove a van hauling the double-deck trailer with three young kids from Omaha to Seattle almost running out of gas in the middle of Yellowstone National Park. Paul flew of course.



People used to tease Sigrid's brother, a Four-Star Admiral in the U.S. Navy and Commander of the Pacific Fleet, that Sigrid was the better sailor. And he agreed!



In recent years, Sigrid continued to pursue her passion of sailing by teaming up with skipper Pat Flood. They dominated the Iowa-Nebraska Sailing Association fleet standings for many years, and won several Missouri Valley Championships.

Sigrid is grateful for the great competition, comradery and adventure she found through Snipe sailing and her involvement with SCIRA. And most of all she is thankful for the memorable times together with family and lifelong friends.

— Pete Festersen