

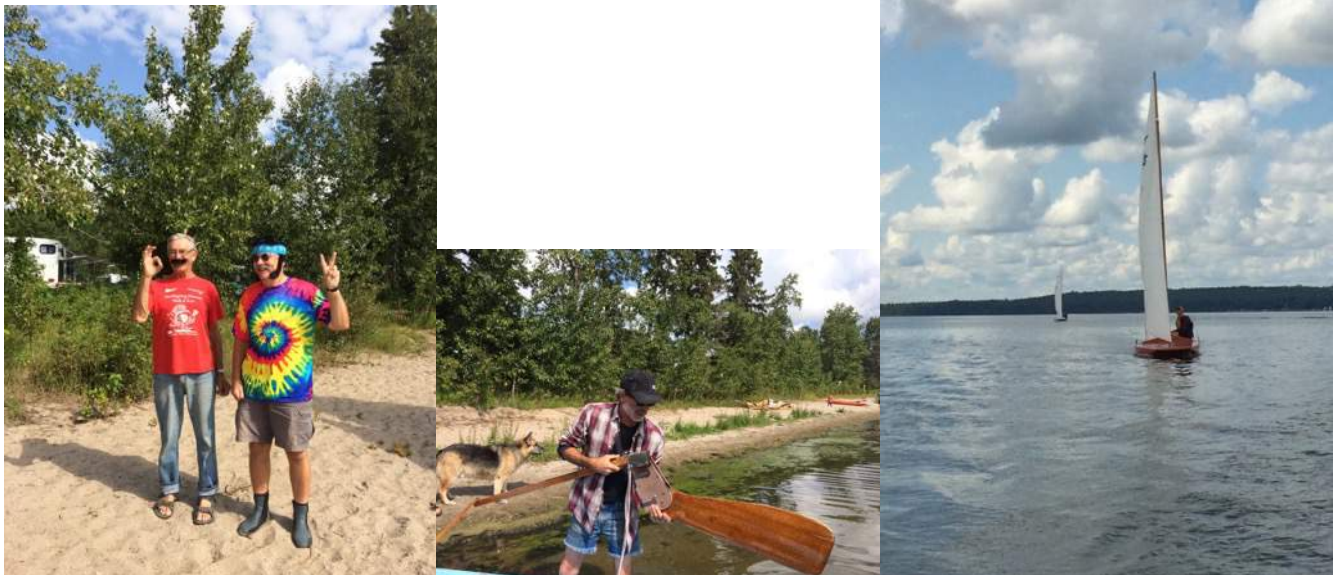
Western Y Weekend 2017

The third Western Y Weekend was held Aug 5-6. The event was hosted by Itaska Yacht Club at Pigeon Lake, Alberta. Participants were Gerald & Annie Swartz (Y 94), Steve Holmgren & friend (Y 693), Brian & Barb Johnston (Y 935), Bob & Jackie Mitchell (Y 1043), Richard Quinlan & Dee Kennedy (Y 1085), Paul & Theresa Johnston (Y 1093), and Gordon Mckenzie and his friend Brian (Y 2805).

By mid-morning Saturday the lake had set up for a classic central Alberta day of dodging thunderstorms, something that has become a Western Y Weekend tradition. But we went ahead, albeit cautiously.



At the “Y Flyer Show and Shine” we provided a nice lineup of classic and newer Ys along the beach. Several sailors donned attire that was appropriate for the era of their boats.



Because of the storm threat we shortened the Y Poker Run to go from Zeiner Park to Mitchell Beach, with Paul Johnston and Jake running the event from the dealer boat. Afterwards, under Paul’s supervision, the Johnston, Mckenzie, and Quinlan boats sailed across the lake to Itaska in an increasing wind. Flying Dutchman sailor David Alton, a friend to the Ys, had arranged a hoist for me to keep Y 1085 in overnight.

After a surprisingly tame thunderstorm we gathered at the acreage of Steve and Leslie Holmgren for our Western Y Barbecue. The evening included a fine potluck, fun music, and Y Flyer stories. Gerald displayed

his scale model of Y 94 again to provide Yambience. Paul did the final draw for the poker prizes, and then we had a Y Flyer trivia competition that was tightly contested by six teams and narrowly won my Dave Mitchell and Gordon Mckenzie.



Sunday morning served us a light wind. The Reynold/Ellis families did their best to get us underway and we managed to sail one race in 1-2 knot winds, before the air stopped moving. The Canadian Y Flyer Association (CYFYRA) plaques for top three finishers went to Richard and Dee (1st), Bob and Jackie (2nd), and Gordon and Brian (3rd). Glenmore Boats provided gift certificates that we gave out on draw to three participants.



Thanks to Itaska Yacht Club, the CYFYRA, Glenmore Boats, and those who helped organize this unique event – Steve Holmgren and family, Paul Johnston, The Reynold-Ellis family, Dee Kennedy, Brian Johnston, David Alton, Gordon Mackenzie, Bob Mitchell, and others.

Submitted by Richard Quinlan (Y 1085)