

CHAPTER XX

Frostbite Dinghy Racing—A School for Sailing

On January 1, 1952, Frostbite dinghy racing as we know it to-day came of age, with the Twenty-First Annual Regatta held by the Frostbite Yacht Club under the auspices of the Manhasset Bay Yacht Club. The Frostbite Yacht Club, an organization unique in the annals of yachting history, in that it has "no dues, no assets, no nothing," has prospered and grown to the extent that 1952 will see it run its first truly formal Regatta, a Championship YRA Race in September. This date was chosen late in the summer season to be as close to the Frostbiting season as possible. Surely no club in the country is better equipped from a manpower point of view to run a successful Regatta, for it is able to organize a Race Committee composed of the outstanding Committeemen of most of the various clubs in the New York and Connecticut area. Its own officers for the past twenty years make up a reasonably fair picture of the outstanding small boat skippers of the eastern seaboard.

Starting more or less as a joke in the "bath-tub gin" era of the thirties, winter dinghy racing quickly became nicknamed "Frostbiting," and the name has stuck and become synonymous with the sport. It has been my pleasure and good fortune to have been constantly engaged in dinghy racing on Long Island Sound and elsewhere since that first wet, cold and snowy New Year's Day of 1932 when the first winter Regatta was held and the Frostbite Yacht Club was founded.

It is my opinion that anyone who frostbites regularly is attending one of the finest schools in boat handling ever organized, and that includes boats of all sizes, not just 11½-foot cockle shells. In most cases your ardent frostbiter doesn't realize he is attending school. He is out for fun and fresh air, to try his skill against the