

# Telltale

March 2005

Monthly Newsletter

## Board of Directors

Commodore	Danny Lien
Im. Past Commodore	Doug Laws
Vice Commodore	Paul Ballett
Secretary	Renee Ruais
Treasurer	Thomas Lang
Race Commander	Bill Hawk
Buildings & Grounds	Bob Gallant
Harbor Master	Tommy Gairloff
Sail Training Commander	Neil Jones

## AYC Staff

General Manager	Nancy Boulmay
Office Administrator	Tina Moher
Groundskeepers	Tom Cunningham Matt Elliott

## Austin Yacht Club

5906 Beacon Drive  
Austin, Texas 78734-1428  
Office: (512) 266-1336  
Office FAX: (512) 266-9804  
Clubhouse: (512) 266-1897

## E-Mail & Web Site

www.austinyachtclub.org  
info@austinyachtclub.org

## Newsletter

Yolanda Cortés Mares, Editor  
E-mail submissions by 5th of  
month to: ymares@vvm.com

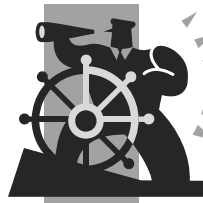
## AYC Business Hours

Tuesday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday: noon —5:00 p.m.  
Closed Mondays

### Closed Club Holidays:

New Year's Day	1 January
Easter Sunday	27 March
Independence Day	4 July
Thanksgiving Day	24 November
Shopping Day	25 November
Christmas Day	25 December

## From The Commodore By Danny Lien



I'm going to cheat a little this month. Most of my article comes straight and verbatim from **Jim Tillinghast**

and begins "**The Austin Yacht Club Bell**", parts of which I excerpted and used in Opening Day remarks. A few months ago Jim and **Doug Laws** jointly proposed the dedication of the Bell memorial. (See Below).

Opening Day was a success, which I wasn't sure would happen considering the rainy-day forecast and the overnight and early morning rain. Not only were the festivities a success, but also perhaps more significantly, we turned out a large number of boats on the water. I saw some faces from the committee boat I haven't seen for a while. Many thanks to **Claudia Bartlett**, **Lauren Foster** and their crew for the delicious spread and impressively decorated clubhouse and grounds. The best part for me was being able to watch **John Bartlett** and **Chris Block** place balloons around the front walkways at 8:30 in the morning rain.

Special thanks to **John Bartlett Sails** for the raffle donation. It was apparently as competitive as the racing on the water and was a draw for Opening Day. Also, thanks to the AYC Sea Scouts for the flag raising and to a cappella singer **Bonni Chambers** for leading the AYC choir in the national anthem.

**The Austin Yacht Club Bell** was purchased in 1981 in San Francisco, CA, with the plan to have it become the focal piece of a memorial to honor **Bill Levens** and all our deceased AYC members.

Bill, a very active AYC member and keel fleet racer for many years, was tragically killed in a car accident on FM 620 in 1980. Several AYC members worked on the idea of a memorial, and when **Jim Tillinghast** found the bell in a marine antique store in San Francisco, the concept of the bell memorial came together. The bell was purchased for around \$200 and shipped back to Austin. The planning for the memorial and the de-

*(continued on Page 7)*

## 2005 AYC Opening Day By Renee Ruais



*Photo courtesy of John Grzinich*

Opening Day at Austin Yacht Club is a wonderful opportunity to pause and reflect on our many blessings. This past Sunday, many members gathered to do just that. With the clubhouse decorated in festive red, white, and blue balloons and confetti, a bountiful brunch was served. I don't know if it was the optimism that generally accompanies the beginning of a new season, the pleasure of seeing old and new friends, or the Bloody Mary's and Mimosas, but everyone seemed to be especially cheerful in spite of the weather.



After feasting and visiting, members gathered under the clubhouse for the Opening Ceremonies. Commodore **Danny Lien** opened the day by recognizing the Founding Fathers, Past Commodores, and current Board Members,

*(continued on Page 12)*



## 2005 Racing Schedule

<b>March 6</b>	Spring Series #1 (1:30 FWS)
<b>March 13</b>	Spring Series #2 (1:30 FWS)
<b>March 19</b>	AYC Jr. Roadrunner Regatta, UT Alumni Regatta
<b>March 20</b>	AYC Jr. Roadrunner Regatta
<b>March 26, 27</b>	AYC Easter Laser Regatta
<b>April 2</b>	ISSA Mallory/Baker Qualifier
<b>April 3</b>	Spring Series #3 (1:30 FWS), ISSA Qualifier
<b>April 10</b>	Spring Series #4 (1:30 FWS)
<b>April 17</b>	Spring Series #5 (1:30 FWS)
<b>April 23, 24</b>	AYC Spring Regatta
<b>May 7,8</b>	AYC Centerboard Regatta
<b>May 28,29</b>	AYC Turnback Regatta
<b>September 17</b>	AYC Governor's Cup Regatta
<b>September 18</b>	AYC Governor's Cup Regatta

## AYC Upcoming Non-Racing Events

<b>March 5</b>	Junior Learn To Sail Clinic
<b>March 5</b>	Race Committee Seminar
<b>March 6</b>	AYC 2005 Opening Day
<b>March 12</b>	Junior Learn To Sail Clinic
<b>March 13</b>	J-24 Fleet Social
<b>March 22</b>	Membership Meeting (7:30 p.m., AYC Office)
<b>March 23</b>	MALT Luncheon (11:30 a.m., Clubhouse)
<b>March 24</b>	AYC Board Meeting (7:30 p.m., Clubhouse)
<b>March 26</b>	Junior Learn To Sail Clinic
<b>April 2</b>	Racing - Spinnaker Clinic
<b>April 2</b>	Junior Learn To Sail Clinic
<b>April 9</b>	Junior Learn To Sail Clinic
<b>April 9</b>	First Aid / CPR Training
<b>April 9</b>	U.S. Coast Guard Safety Inspection
<b>April 10</b>	First Aid / De-fib Training
<b>June 11,18,25</b>	Children PB & J Clinic
<b>July 2</b>	AYC Island Holiday Party and Luau
<b>July 9</b>	Children PB & J Clinic

## 2005 AYC Regatta Championship

### All New Championship Format!

Races in Spring, Turnback, and Governor's Cup Regattas count toward the Championship. Please see the AYC website for more details, or contact Paul Ballett, Vice Commodore.

**20TH ANNUAL  
AYC PB&J SAILING CAMP  
SUMMER 2005**

**Attention, Junior Sailors!**

Come join the fun this summer and learn to sail. The annual PB&J program is for 4-9 year olds to learn how to sail, have fun on the water and be safe. PB&J will be held on four Saturday mornings this summer (June 11, 18, 25 and July 9). Sailors can choose from one of two time slots for each Saturday (9:30a-11:00a or 11:00a-12:30p) with each session including up to 20 sailors. Coach Doug (Kern) and Coach John (Morrان) are back for another year, with world famous PB&J lunches provided by the parents.

Sign-up sheets are now available from the AYC office and at [austinyachtclub.org](http://austinyachtclub.org). Email [doug\\_kern@yahoo.com](mailto:doug_kern@yahoo.com) for more info. PB&J is open to AYC members and non-members. Space is limited – so sign up soon! Remember Coach Doug only has 3 rules:

- #1. Wear Your Life Jacket
- #2. Listen to the Coach, and
- #3. *Have Fun!*

Tired of winter weather? Ready for a vacation? Then get in the summer mood by marking your calendar for the...

**AYC Island Holiday Party and Luau!**

**Saturday, July 2, 2005**

Here's what you can expect:

- Live island-style music featuring a steel drum player and the Mau Mau Chaplains (as seen on 6th Street)
- Fabulous luau feast hand prepared by yacht club members including spit-roasted pig
- Festive decorations and silk flower leis
- Crowning of the king and queen of the luau (more details on that later)

Attention fun-loving volunteers: If you would like to help out with this event, please call Robbie Nelson at 331-7983.

**Aloha!**



### Frostbite Report

Congratulations to **Running on Empty's** helmsman **Ryan Harden** and crew chief **Curtis Tarpley** for placing first among the 10 deep J/24 Fleet in this year's Frostbite Series! Their finish is even more impressive when you consider that they had to eat a DNC (11 competitors + 3 for 14 points!) in the 4 race series since a throw-out option was lost when race 5 was abandoned due to a dead breeze. They placed 3rd overall in the PHRF scored 'A' Fleet, just 4 points out of first overall...a significant accomplishment given the reachy bias of the race courses (favoring the A kite boats like J/80s) and that our Fleet was lumped in with boats that were rated up to over 233% faster (I also note that J/24s won outright 50% of the races)! **Pam and Butch Wilson's Aeolian**, helmed by guest driver **Kelly Holmes** (our very own District Governor), placed 2nd in our Fleet and 4th overall. **Dave Broadway's Superman** was next both in Fleet and overall. With 7 other J/24s also competing, there are plenty of additional scores to check out at [http://home.austin.rr.com/whawk/FRSTBT05\\_SUMMARY.HTM](http://home.austin.rr.com/whawk/FRSTBT05_SUMMARY.HTM).

### J/24 Fleet Member Returns to AYC Membership

Past Fleet Captain and owner of **Rag Tag**, **Leon Lance**, has recently been re-accepted as a member of AYC. While he and **Tanya** have all along been considered members of our Fleet, Leon had resigned from the club in good standing a little while ago. So **Rag Tag** is back on the AYC grounds again, recently sprung from it's detention in Kurt's Autowerks' 'back 40'. Hopefully we will be seeing **Rag Tag** back on the starting line soon during the Spring Series...welcome back Tanya and Leon!

### J/24 Midwinters Report

2 AYC J/24s, **Roger Harden's Thanks Mom** and **Bob Harden/Eric Nelson's mr. happy**, attended this annual International J/24 Class event at Davis Island Yacht Club (near Tampa, Florida) a couple of weeks ago. Race conditions for the 2005 Midwinters offered something for pretty much every-

body with the exception of 100% jib wind. From sailing in shorts to full foul weather gear to short breezy 3 leg races to a drifter that had to be abandoned due to time limit expiration, everyone used all their rig settings and sailing gears. Off the water Tampa offered a great pub crawl through Ybor City as well as plenty of mainstream and ethnic restaurants across the scale. We still had one day of no racing (but with better RC management we could have raced even that day) but we still got in 2 days of 4 races/day and the other day we got in 1 light air race (and that abandoned time limit expired second race) for a total of 9 races. **mr. happy** placed well in several races, including a bullet, but had to eat a DSQ in the no throwout scoring to end up 8th overall. **Roger** had several great moments on the race course but had trouble putting all the pieces together and finished mid fleet but in front of the other J/24 Texas Circuit boats that also attended. **Roger** also took the International theme of the event to heart by having on board a couple who own and race a J/24 in Sweden. You can checkout all the scores at <http://midwinters.j24d10.org/results.html>.

Oh, and that DSQ in **mr. happy's** scores?...well **mr. happy** finished 2nd in that race but was told by the race committee AFTER the race that they saw the RC boat's port outrigger (it was a 50+ foot sport fishing boat with tuna tower, etc.) 'touch' their rigging at the start. The boat was 10 degrees favored all day that first day so there was always a bunch up at the committee boat. While **mr. happy** filed for redress on the grounds that they were not notified in time to exonerate themselves, the Jury said that the RC, when protesting, does not have the same protest notice timing obligation when notifying the protested boat like competitors who intend to protest do (read the very slight differences in this obligation between 61.1a and 61.1b in the RRS). **mr. happy** was obviously right next to the RC boat but no hail...what's a competitor to do! And for those who understand karma, it is interesting to note that the very next race **Gekko**, the boat from Japan, found themselves in the same situation but they snagged the outrigger and ripped it right off the boat (a rumored \$5K worth of damage), in the process tearing up their main and thus **Gekko's** DNF in that race. The next day there was a different RC boat, sans outriggers!

(continued on Page 10)



The C22 fleet has done very little sailing recently; instead we have been busy improving our C22's to get them ready the 2005 racing season. Fleets that have old boats like ours can understand that owning boats that are 25+ years old need lots of TLC. To



get a boat designed for low cost family cruising upgraded to race in a very competitive one design fleet re-

quires handiwork. Many one design boats were designed as racing boats and have a "closed" set of design rules with very strict limitations on any alterations. The C22 is considered an "open" one design. There are allowable upgrades within the class rules racing purposes. For example, since the C22 has pretty flexible hull and deck, limited below deck reinforcement is allowed by the class rules. Over the winter, both **Neil Jones** and I removed our keels to improve the shape. **Bruce Foster** and I installed internal outhaul controls in our booms. **Peter Broberg** is having a bottom job done and is getting his keel shaped. **Ken Ayers** is getting a smooth bottom put on his boat. **Wade Bingaman** is filling some keel gouges and installed a boom kicker. **Bruce Foster** got a new main and genoa. **Wade Bingaman** and **Johannes Brinkman** had telltale windows installed in their Genoa's. With all that work going on, some us of made opening day, some didn't (including the fleet captain - bad example). But, I did get out and crew on a C22.

We had a reasonable turn out of 7 boats for opening day in spite of many boats down for upgrade work and a gloomy rainy day. Here **Chip** on foredeck is guiding **Andy Rogers** through the mist. **Wade Bingaman** had his boat on the rigging dock for the blessing of the fleet. It worked! Wade took 2 bullets for the opening day races in very light wet air. **Ted Owens** took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the first race.



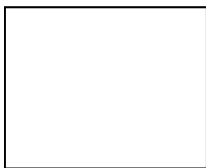
**Bruce Foster** took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 2<sup>nd</sup> race. **Jordan Owens** took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in both races. Way to go Jordan! By the way Jordan, is a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation C22 racer, having crewed with his dad in previous C22 races including the Nationals. After putting away all the wet sails, we dried out by finished up opening day with a traditional C22 fleet meal of chips, snacks, and rita's thanks to **Roy Crouse**, **Mary Ann Fitch**, and **Viva Rogers**. Notice the C22 teamwork with the rita's in this photo!

Speaking of the Nationals, we already have 4 boats registered for the Gold Fleet at the C22 Nationals in June at Canyon Lake (**Wade Binga-**



**man, Jordon Owens, Johannes Brinkman, and myself**). We have several other C22 sailors seriously thinking about going and are trying work out their schedules to make it.

C22 Fleet Captain - John Grzinich



The following actions were approved at the February Board Meeting:

**New Senior Members**

**Charles Singstad** was approved for senior membership. Charles is an Emergency Physican in San Antonio, and has been sailing cats and keel boats for several years. He is co owner of a J24 with **Michael Wellman**.

**New Associate Members**

**Gerrit DeVries** learned to sail in Amsterdam. He has crew experience here at AYC, but limited racing experience. He was approved for membership and is looking forward to adult sail training classes here at AYC, social activities, and crew assignments.

**Membership Reinstatements**

**Mark Vories** and **Leon & Tanya Lance** resigned their memberships in good standing in 2003. Circumstances have changed and now they have requested reinstatement as senior members. We are most happy to welcome them back.

**Senior Probationary Review**

**Paul Violand** and **Jorge Martin-de-Nicolas** have satisfactorily completed their probationary requirements for racing and club volunteer activities. Welcome as full senior members.

**Membership Resignation**

The following have submitted their resignations from senior membership effective March 1<sup>st</sup>: **Gretchen & David Douglas**; **Carter Hobbs**; and **Dick Clark**. In addition, **Elena & Tom Olcott** have submitted their resignation from associate membership. We hope that some day you will all rejoin AYC.

**AYC Membership Status**

	Jan EOM	Add	Sub	Feb EOM
Senior	347	3	3	347
Associate	15	1	1	15
Young Adult	5			5
Juniors	11			11
Ol'Salt10 Year	12			12
Non Resident	6			6
<b>Total Paying Members</b>	<b>396</b>			<b>396</b>

**Fleet Commander Notice**

By Thomas Gairloff



First of all, I'd like to thank all of the volunteers for their efforts in making our opening day event the huge success that it was. I especially would like to thank those members that either moved or arranged to have moved their boats back into their designated slips in order to make the grounds much more attractive for this event.

I would also like to recognize those that did not bother to move or make arrangements to move their boats as requested. However, I won't do this in print because ya'll know who you are. Thanks go to **Terry** and **Vic** for getting the last few orphans home. In the future, dealing with moving boats in flood situations would be lots easier if your trailers had your names on them.

So, I will sign off for now and thanks again to everyone that made this opening day such a memorable time.

## Commodore...*(continued from page 1)*

sign and construction of the concrete base was spearheaded by several AYC members, including **Hap McCollum, Russell Painton, Dennis Awbrey, Jim Tillinghast, Claude Welles, Barry Bowden** and **Terry McDermott**.

Construction of the base was an exciting event in and of itself! Remember the old definition of sailing that included the phrase "... hour after hour of tedious boredom, interspersed by moments of stark terror"? Well, the concrete pouring event has few equals – just ask **Hap** for the details! After avoiding a near-collapse of the forms, the construction crew got the base poured and set. The bell was mounted a few days later, and it has been ringing to announce skippers meetings, award ceremonies, dinners, memorial services, parties and more for almost 24 years now!

While the bell was a part of these events over many years, a formal dedication of this memorial and the placement of an appropriate plaque was never finalized. In February, the Board approved the naming of the bell as the Bill Levens Memorial, complete with a plaque appropriately worded to honor **Bill** and all deceased AYC members. The memorial was officially dedicated on Opening Day 2005. The plaque will be completed and affixed to the memorial in about six weeks.

About the bell...

The AYC bell was cast in 1865 by Meneely Bell Company of West Troy, Ohio, a well known American bell manufacturer of the time. The Meneely family spawned several bell foundries in the 1800's and 1900's and together produced over 65,000 bells before the last Meneely company went out of business in 1952, largely due to the metal shortages brought on by the Korean war and the early beginnings of electronic music technology!

Most all Meneely bells were made for churches, higher educational institutions and schools. These bells were cast of bronze, an alloy of copper and tin. The tin content develops a silver patina over many years, like our own bell has. Our bell – a 20 inch diameter, 150 pound casting - was most likely a bell originally made for a small church or a school.

The majority of Meneely bells were delivered as caril-

lons, or arrays of bells numbering anywhere from 8 to over 70, and were installed in cathedrals, college campuses and even some large corporations, such as Metropolitan Life of New York.

Carillon bells were mounted in fixed racks, with clappers actuated through ropes connected to levers so that they could "played" as a musical instrument. Single tone church and school bells were mounted on a stand with a "wheel" device and a rope to swing it to ring – like our AYC bell.

The Meneely bell has a real pedigree list of installations – including our own Kniker Carillon in the University of Texas Tower! The Kniker Carillon was originally installed with 17 Meneely bells when the Tower was constructed in 1936. In 1987, 39 more bells, of Dutch manufacture, were added. The Kniker carillon is the 14<sup>th</sup> largest carillon in North America! Today, the Westminster 4-bell melody you hear at every quarter hour and the hour bell are all struck with Meneely bells. The "big bell" in the carillon, or "bourdon", that strikes every hour weighs 7,350 pounds!

Meneely bells are heard virtually everywhere, everyday, and have been for over 175 years! Highlights in the Meneely history are:

- Meneely bells rang for President Franklin Roosevelt's and President John Kennedy's funerals, and for President Lyndon Johnson's inauguration.
- The replacement for the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, as well as many church bells in that city, were Meneely bells. Nearly every church bell in Troy, New York is a Meneely bell.
- Other Meneely bells include bells at Cornell University, the Metropolitan Life building in New York City, and the West Point military academy.

Our AYC bell comes from one of the finest bell foundries in American history, and has a long, yet elusive, history in and of itself. Given the date of casting, we believe that this bell most likely was originally installed in a small church or school somewhere in New York or New England. Where it traveled before it was found in San Francisco and ultimately shipped here, we don't know. But we do know that it has a fantastic ring, is a beauti-

*(continued on Page 9)*



AT LAST! There were a number of AT LASTs worthy of mention as AYC and the Ensign fleet opened the 2005 season on a cool Sunday afternoon with light wind (bordering on even lighter wind) and on-again-off-again rain. There were also some 'not quite yet's to mention as well. The first and biggest *at last* can best be summed up by an email sent from **Tom Groll**: "I don't have any news to report other than I can't wait to get back sailing!" A sentiment shared by just about everyone who came out for opening day -- at last, we are racing as a fleet again! Coming out for opening day were **Jim Casto, James and Carolyn Wilsford, Tom and Kelly Groll, Frans Dahmen, Jonathan and Sarah Baker, Tim and Julie McKenna, and Randolph Bertin** (along with various and sundry crew). Also coming out to enjoy the opening day celebration, but forgoing the opportunity to mix it up on the course, were long time AYC and Ensign fleet members **Larry Niemann and Cliff Price**.

Indeed, the Ensign fleet began 2005 the way we finished 2004, having six boats on the line for the first start. On the line, *or over it*, as **Jonathan and Sarah Baker** with **Will Angst** were just a little too anxious to get started on their racing season. Having to return and make an official start the second go around didn't prevent them from claiming the top spot, though, as they worked their way through the fleet to finish first in the opening race.

Another *at last* was claimed by **Randolph Bertin** as he managed to sail to his first finish aboard an Ensign (whether as skipper or crew) without being DFL, a feat that was even repeated in the second race. Maybe he was helped by the fact that his boat was extra-blessed, having been used to represent the Ensigns in the blessing of the fleet ceremony. Or maybe it was due to the fact that he pressed into service **Bill Hawk's** regular crew, **Fred and Nick DeBoes**. Most likely, he was at an advantage in light winds because his Ensign had been on the hard for the past two months and he



Getting ready for the blessing of the fleet on opening day.

had just launched it the day before, leaving him to race with a nice clean hull.

For those Ensign sailors out there who are shying away from the starting line because of concerns about Spinnaker handling, please take note: The **McKennas**, aboard the recently named **Erin Go Braugh** finished *FIRST at last* in the second race of the afternoon, after finishing second in the opening race, all without breaking out a spinnaker. Great work!

In the "not quite yet" category, **Robin Drummond** and her father, in spite of putting in considerable time and effort (and as with all sailboat refits, money) over the past few months on Ensign 716, didn't manage to get things wrapped up in time for opening day. Surely the end is near, though, and we are very much looking forward to them joining us *at last* on the water, if not next week, then before the end of the Spring Series.

**Bill Hawk**, as AYC Race Commander had the duties of Race Committee to tend to on opening day, and he did *not quite yet* get to resume the sailing season (at least as an Ensign skipper) either. But he plans on coming out for the end of the series, and we are looking forward to his joining us.

(continued on Page 9)

## Ensign Fleet... (Continued from Page 8)

Also, rumor has it that **Larry Niemann** is planning to return to the water a bit more this year as he winds down on working. We don't know if that will include racing or not, but hopefully he will enjoy his time on the Ensign however he spends it. And the boat owned by **Tom George** and **Michael Thomas** was recently spotted getting a new paint job. Does that bode for more time on the water as well?

Even **Fred Schroth** talked about mixing it up with us, as he has acquired an Ensign Night-Sleeper (otherwise known as an **Electra**). After he fixes all of our boats, maybe he will get around to fixing his own, and hook up with another Electra sailor, **Ken Jolly**, to join us for some Ensign/Electra races.

While spring at the AYC came in like a (fairly sudden) lamb, rather than a lion, everyone seemed to have a good time, in spite of the weather. After the race, during the usual post race analysis and re-counts, we noted that, if it weren't for the AYC organizing races, almost none of us would have been out on the water on a day like that (let's just say we had the lake to ourselves, as almost no one else saw fit to enjoy a pleasure sail that afternoon). You can draw your own conclusions as to whether that makes us sane or not. But at least among those present, the sailing was worth it!

While we are starting to gel on the water as a fleet, we still have some more work to do on the clubhouse side of things. **Jonathan Baker** had apparently bought some Scotch so that we could inaugurate the season with our new official beverage, Scotch Mist. But with places to go and things to do, most of the fleet headed out after a few handshakes. Sure, we were cold and wet. But in that case, it sounds as if a round of Scotch Mist would have been a strong antidote. And perhaps having a few munchies would be in order as well. Hopefully before too late in the year, we can organize a some post race socials involving food and drink.

**One final item: Please note on your calendar that the Ensign Fleet has Race Committee duty on the third round of the Spring Series. On the AYC calendars that is scheduled for Sunday April 3. Make every effort to be there so that we can conduct a smooth race.**

## Commodore... (Continued from Page 7)

ful example of 19<sup>th</sup> century American manufacturing and, over the years, has become an integral part of AYC's own tradition and history.

Plaque suggestions:

In Memory of William S. Levens, Sr

And all AYC members sailing with him in the ocean of the heavens

And all AYC members sailing with him past the sunset of life on earth

And all those sailing with him beyond the sunset of life on earth

And all who sail with him beyond the sunset of our days on earth



Other suggestions??

**Did you know?** Bell metal is an alloy of copper and tin that forms a crystalline structure when cast under just the right conditions. The elasticity of the resulting metal gives the bell its "ring" which has enchanted mankind for centuries.



Photo courtesy of John Grzinich

### **Opening Day**

In spite of the marginal weather, Opening Day ceremonies, including the great Brunch put on by **Claudia Bartlett** and her helpers, went off very well, including a nice formal dedication of the **Bill Levins, Sr.** memorial bell. **Mike Wellman's** and (is it official yet guys?) new co-owner **Charlie Singstad's Shadowfax** represented our Fleet as part of the Opening Day AYC Fleet recognition display on the rigging dock. **Shadowfax** stood out from the crowd by flying a large J/24 pennant, courtesy of **Tony Slowik**. Speaking of Tony, he was down on Galveston Bay representing the AYC J/24 Fleet at the J Boat Roundup & Rodeo, held at Houston Yacht Club (see his report below).

Besides **YIKES!**, we missed several others of our ranks at Opening Day's Spring Series races, which saw only 6 J/24s race I think: **Running on Empty, Superman, Aeolian, OOH-AAH!, Shadowfax** and **3 Sheets to the Wind**. While the weather was marginal like I said earlier, including some on and off rain, the wind held for at least our races enough that as long as you avoided the big holes and paid close attention to sail trim (with wet telltales no less!), you could always keep the boat rolling. And that was the key to **Running on Empty's** ability to smoke the Fleet in both races...staying in the better left pressure on the first beat of race 1 to round first at the weather mark as well as keeping the chute filled in a quick jibe to scoot away from the Fleet at the first weather mark in race 2 after having to duck the whole Fleet that as coming in on the starboard layline. The racing for second and beyond in both races was a lot closer though, with **Aeolian** and **Superman** trading positions several times and **OOH-AAH!** playing spoiler all along the way. To be honest I could not tell who finished where in both races after **Running on Empty** since things were very close at both finishes, so check out the scores under 'Race Results' at <http://www.austinyachtclub.org/ayc.htm> to get the official word. I also wanted to give a special mention to **Charlie Singstad** on **Shadowfax**, as he helmed his first J/24 AYC Series race at Opening Day...Congratulations!

Once again though crews rides could be had as **Hap's Bon Temps** was ready to go out except for lack of crew (even though I saw at least one J/24, maybe two, with 6 people on it!). Hopefully everyone will get whatever kept them from coming out for Opening Day sorted out quickly (and those with plenty of crew maybe consider making some available to the less fortunate!) so our Fleet can get back to the numbers we saw during Frostbite in the following weeks. RC has given us our own start again this Series, let's not let that slip away!

### **J Boat Roundup & Rodeo (from Tony Slowik)**

First day. 16 mile around the Bay Race. Winds 5-10 mph. **Bill Worsham's Flood Tip** punched out at the start. We (**YIKES!**) caught him 3 miles into the second leg downwind. Leg was a total of 6+ miles. Didn't take the lead for long. We stayed high and followed the 150 degree heading per the chart. He stayed low. Paid off for him. As soon as we passed him 8 J/80's, 2 J/100's, 3 J/105's, 3 J/109's and bunch of other big ass J's rolled over the top of us and fouled our wind for about 10 minutes. Jibed around the mark right on Bill's stern for the next downwind mark on the opposite jibe. Local boat named **Heartbreak Hotel** slipped between **YIKES!** and **Flood Tip** for a moment. We did the wang dang poodle scoodle and left **Heartbreak** with a broken heart. Last upwind leg to the finish we footed off for speed. Caught **Flood Tip** and even finished in front of him by over two minutes after watching his stern all day.

Second Day. 9 mile twice around triangle course race. 15 to 20 mph with gusts to 25 by the finish. Awesome close starts by all fleets. All three 109's were OCS on a very small line. What a sight to see! Three large powerful yachts hustling back to the line with the agility of a J/22. This time **YIKES!** got a great start. **Flood Tip** inched out in front. They did not make the same mistake again. They covered **YIKES!** on every tack and jibe around the two laps of the triangle course. One thing is for sure **YIKES!** and **Flood Tip** made each other work for the dead even tie in the J/24 Fleet and kept each other fast as evidenced by the rest of the fleet off in the horizon.

This is a regatta that all J-Boat enthusiasts need

(continued on Page 11)

## J-24 Fleet... (Continued from Page 10)

to put on their calendar next year! Free entry, free dinner, free lunch, FREE BEER and unbelievable trophies! <A couple of additional comments from Eric: I understand in the spirit of the event that both **YIKES!** and **Flood Tip** will be getting First in Fleet trophies. There were 10 J/24s registered, making the J/24 the largest Fleet even though not all registered J/24s participated. This year they did not recognize an overall champion boat across the Fleets, probably because **Flood Tip**, who was last year's J Rodeo overall winner, and now **YIKES!**, would have been at or at least near the top and the organizers didn't want to publicize that a 25+ year old J design can still win over the newer A kite J boats!>.

### Fleet Social

With all the hoopla planned for Opening Day, the Fleet decided to hold our traditional 'first races of the series' Social the following weekend on March 13th. The centerpiece for this will be Ms. B's Festy Gumbo Ya Ya (a.k.a chicken & sausage gumbo), provided by the Fleet along with several cases of real beer. Of course we will also have some French bread and rice along with assorted hot sauces and file' powder. But to make it complete the Fleet is encouraging you to bring a side dish or dessert to share (drop **Robbie Nelson** a line at [robbienelson@austin.rr.com](mailto:robbienelson@austin.rr.com) or 331-7983 if you want a suggestion). We will start the "fais do do" (that's Creole talk for "party!!!") after the races in the J/24 picnic area near the North ramp. **Laissez les bon temps roulet!** Hopefully you can come out and race also (like I said above, crew rides will assuredly be available) but if not still plan on joining us at the social after the races, probably around 4:30 or so.

### Fleet Dues

Yeah, it is that time again and Thanks to those that have already paid their dues during our Fleet activities at Frostbite or during Opening Day. But we still need the rest of you to chip in, particularly this year since our big Fleet revenue generator (the Austin Circuit Stop) is now at the very end of the season in November...the cash flow kitty needs to be fed! It is still a great deal for individual crew that are Friends of the Fleet (\$10) as well as

skippers (\$50, which includes your crew of the day). Next time you are out (say at the upcoming Social, hint)..please hook up with our Fleet Captain, **Tom Lappin**, or our Treasurer, **Robbie Nelson**, to fill out a membership form and pay your dues. You can also e-mail me if you want me to e-mail you a form to fill out so you can just mail your dues in.

### Beasley Cup Update

With the Junior Road Running break in the Spring Series calendar the weekend of March 19th/20th, why not consider taking your J/24 down to Houston Yacht Club for the Beasley Cup, the first stop of the 2005 J/24 Texas Circuit? Gosling's Rum is sponsoring the event, which includes a free Friday evening Dark 'n' Stormy happy hour plus a complementary crawfish boil on Saturday evening. **Jim Tichenor** will once again be PRO so you can expect great races and race management from his crack RC team. And of course the HYC facilities are top notch. Checkout the details and who is already registered on the J/24 Texas Circuit website at <http://home.austin.rr.com/j24district14/CurrentNotice.htm>.

Regards,

Eric, Austin J/24 Fleet Reporter

## B & G Note of Appreciation

By Bob Gallant

Thanks to all who participated in the Saturday Feb 26 cleanup day. Special thanks to **Frank Woodul** for food, and **Tom Cunningham** for tractor and tool work. Those in attendance were:

<b>Bobby Crouch</b>	<b>Joe Gallant</b>
<b>Rocky Hutchinson</b>	<b>Winston Bumpus</b>
<b>John Howard</b>	<b>Dave Speed</b>
<b>Paul Blanke</b>	<b>Tom Nelson</b>
<b>Jane Scott</b>	<b>Brielle Bataille</b>
<b>Ben Bataille</b>	<b>Chris Bryant</b>
<b>Melody Bryant</b>	<b>John Bargh</b>
<b>Jim Johnstone</b>	<b>Willis Thorstad</b>
<b>Danny Reible</b>	<b>Kristi Gallant</b>
<b>Emily Gallant</b>	<b>Josiah Gallant</b>
<b>Missy Gallant</b>	<b>Robby Nelson</b>

Thanks.....Bob Gallant

## Opening Day...(Continued from Page 2)

followed by a dedication of the AYC Bell in memory of **Bill Levens** and other AYC Members who have passed on. He also recognized Fleet Captains and impressed upon us the important leadership role that these people play in generating participation, encouraging volunteers and supporting fleet activities. As boats of all types floated in the harbor with their sails aloft, Vice Commodore **Paul Ballett** blessed the fleet, the Sea Scouts raised the American and Texas Flags and the Star Spangled Banner was sung.



On the surface, Opening Day seems to be just another party, perhaps an old-fashioned, tradition, but, as I mentioned, it is a wonderful and I believe important opportunity to pause and reflect on our many blessings. So, as the Founding Fathers stood to be recognized, I found myself thinking about the legacy they have created for us all to enjoy. It is because of their dreams and efforts that we have the land that the club sits on today and the wonderful organization that rests on it. I recalled an opportunity that I had this past December at the Annual Banquet, to speak with **Hap Arnold**, one of the Founding Fathers. I told him how much I respected and enjoyed what they created and what a wonderful gift it is. His response surprised me; he said that I had it all wrong. It is you, he said, the members, volunteers, and sailors, who have fulfilled the dreams of the Founding Fathers, through your continued efforts to make AYC what it is today, a place where people gather to race, for friends and family to share in and promote the sport of sailboat racing. Opening Day is

our opportunity to recognize all of those in the past, present and future who are a part of the AYC legacy.

In keeping with this legacy and the volunteer spirit of the Austin Yacht Club, the Opening Day event wouldn't have been a success without the efforts of the social committee and other volunteers. Special thanks to **Claudia Bartlett** and **Lauren Foster** for the decorations and the brunch, to **John and Claudia Bartlett** for the Mimosas and Bloody Mary's, and to John **Bartlett/Bartlett Sails** for the prize giveaway of \$2000 for canvas. The



prize was won by **Tommy Gairloff**. Thanks to **Bob Gallant** and the B&G Committee for their efforts to clean up the grounds and flower planting, and thanks to the AYC Staff for their support in countless ways!

THE FAIRHOPE YACHT CLUB CORDIALLY INVITES ALL AYC MEMBERS WHO ARE 50 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER TO PARTICIPATE IN ITS

### 2005 National Senior Games Championship Festival

Mobile, Alabama

Sunday, October 23 thru Saturday, October 29, 2005

This Festival is a four sport competition where senior competitors compete for Olympic medals in Tennis, Cycling, Golf and Sailing. The focus of the sailing event is racing one-design sailboats.

For more information, please contact Carl Hinrichs, Fairhope Yacht Club ([www.fairhopeyachtclub.com](http://www.fairhopeyachtclub.com)) or [hinrichs@ksu.edu](mailto:hinrichs@ksu.edu).

## New Regatta Championship

By Paul Ballett



### New For 2005 - Regatta Championship!

As some of you know, I like to break the Status Quo by trying something new or something we have not seen for a while. This year our Regatta Schedule looks a little different from the past and we have added a Regatta Championship.

The Regatta Championship will score across our three open regattas for all classes. We start with Spring Regatta, which will be a two-day Regatta this year with a long distance course format. Saturday boats will race toward Lakeway and back. Sunday will be long distance courses in the basin. Turnback will have its usual overnight at Lago Vista format. Governor's Cup has been moved to the fall and will have a multi-race 'Round the Buoys' format for both days.

How can you win the Regatta Championship? Compete and encourage others in your fleet to compete!

Scoring will be via US Sailing's High-Point Percentage System. This assigns a score to a boat only for those races in which she competes. Each race in the combined regattas scores (we would expect the maximum number of races would be 10. 3 from Spring, 2 from Turnback, 5 from Governor's Cup), some fleets will have less. However, the system allows a boat to miss some of the races without penalty provided she sails in sufficient races to qualify. You must sail 70% of the races to qualify.

The system rewards a boat that wins a race with a larger number of entrants in its class. So encouraging participation of your fleet can only help you! This system can be a little complex to understand but anyone familiar with baseball's batting averages will see some similarities. Scoring details for the system and regatta championship details can be found on the A.Y.C. web site.

**Don't Forget – Compete and get others in your fleet to compete!!!**

## AYC 2005 Season Regatta Schedule

Jr. Roadrunner	March 19th/20th
Easter Laser	March 26th/27th
Spring Regatta	April 23rd/24th
Centerboard Regatta	May 7th/8th
Turnback Regatta	May 28th/29th
Governor's Cup	Sept' 17th/18th



# FREE

## U.S. Coast Guard *Safety Inspection*

**April 9, 2005 – Noon to 4:00pm**

Find Out (The Cheap Way) Whether Your Boat is Legal

Passing Boats Get a Bow Sticker Indicating Compliance

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/boat/wsdigest.phtml>

We'll be checking boats in wet slips, boats in dry slips, or bring a boat on a trailer.

Call Bill Hawk at 266-4661 for more information

**STILLHOUSE SAILING CLUB CORDIALLY  
INVITES ALL AYC MEMBERS TO ITS**

**2005 BRIDGE TOO FAR RACE**

LAKE STILLHOUSE, BELTON, TEXAS

**SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2005**

SKIPPER'S MEETING 11:00 A.M.

For more information, please contact Steve Wesson  
[sailsoul@vvm.com](mailto:sailsoul@vvm.com)

## Austin Yacht Club

5906 Beacon Road  
Austin, TX 78734-1428



Many Thanks to the continued support of our  
AYC Telltale Sponsors!

### **BARTLETT SAILS**

512-266-1895  
[www.bartlettsails.com](http://www.bartlettsails.com)



### **THE BALLETT GROUP**

#### **Merrill Lynch**

Paul Ballett 512-795-2524  
[http://fc.ml.com/Paul\\_Ballett](http://fc.ml.com/Paul_Ballett)

 **Merrill Lynch**



### *The Sailboat Shop*

[www.sailboatshopaustin.com](http://www.sailboatshopaustin.com)

604 Highland Mall Blvd., Austin, TX 78752  
Local: 512-454-7171 Toll-free: 888-747-8849  
Fax: 512-454-0509 Tues-Fri 10-6, Sat 9-4

**Thank you, AYC Members, for your support!**

**Sailboat Shop owners and AYC members, Jacque and Claude Hargrave, appreciate your patronage.**

**Please let us know how we can help you with your sailing needs, in addition to:**

- **Competitive prices on new & used parts and boats**
- **AYC discount on parts & boats (present AYC membership card)**
- **Free delivery to AYC on most call-in orders. 454-7171**
- **Saturday evening delivery on call-in orders on major regatta days**