

Telltale

November 2005

Monthly Newsletter

Board of Directors

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Im. Past Commodore	Doug Laws
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Buildings & Grounds	Bob Gallant
Harbor Master	Tommy Gairloff
Sail Training Commander	Neil Jones

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Sailing Director &	
Social Coordinator	Laura Leigh Barry
Office Administrator	Tina Pearl
Groundskeepers	Tom Cunningham Matt Elliott

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Newsletter

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

AYC Business Hours

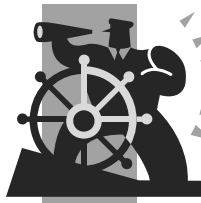
Tuesday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday: noon —5:00 p.m.

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



DOCK MOVES PENDING!

Docks 4, 5 and 6 need to be moved to the point while the Lake is above 665' msl or dock 3 may need to be swung to make more room complicating the process. Prospective dates are Thanksgiving weekend, probably Saturday-Sunday or the following weekend, December 3-4. A number of us are willing to work Thanksgiving so we can avoid conflict with the Annual Banquet the evening of December 3rd. (We may want to be able to make the early open bar call at 6:30.) Slipholders will need to move boats out for a day, assign that job to a friend or acknowledge rights to move your boat. Volunteers are needed to start the communication and signup for action. For now, please email laura@austinyachtclub.org with your name if you are available to work November 26 and/or 27 or call the AYC office. If you have not participated in a dock move recently at AYC, it is one of the more exciting demonstrations of our AYC member-volunteer efforts. **Tommy Gairloff** and his Harbor Committee and caretakers **Tom** and **Matt** have done a lot of prework with the divers to set this up.

We just wrapped up the Fall Series and I would like to thank **Larry Ratliff** and B-Fleet for the excellent after series dinner. It was an interesting series (3 weekends of no wind!).

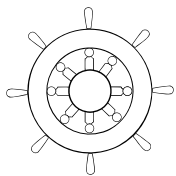
Lame but not Blue... It is mid-November and we soon will have a new slate of officers at AYC, and I am a lame duck. I may be lame but I am not a "blue duck" unless I make some big mistake (seen by others) in the next few weeks. Recall that we started this year with boats up in the AYC "barn-yard" due to flooding and, unless we get significant rain in the watershed we are likely to finish the year with docks at the point. Nothing changes---everything changes.

When I considered being commodore at AYC I was told by a friend that the best thing about it is that you get to develop friendships with so many people associated with the Club, most of whom are avid sailors! That turned out to be very true and is treasured. When I accepted I also developed an agenda of a couple things I thought should happen at the Club:

1. Organized Flood Parking: Just because we scatter our boats up around the barn we are not protected from flooding.

(Continued on page 7)

News from the Board By Danny Lien



New AYC Staff Member and Staff Contact Information –

I am pleased to announce that **Laura Leigh Barry** is our new Sailing Director/Social Coordinator. Her resume includes sailing instruction at clubs and sailing programs on the east and west coast, participation with and development of a Texas' collegiate sailing team, and work with the Boston Community Sailing Program including a successful community promotional project --- so with **Laura Leigh** we think we have a good match between her experience and the needs of AYC.

If you are currently involved with AYC sailing teams, sail training, or the current or upcoming sailing/social calendar, you may expect her to contact you and assist in coordination. Feel free to contact her with any planning/facilities-requests for the 2006 calendar. (Note: draft calendar already developed.) **Laura's** email in the office is laura@austinyachtclub.org. She will post her weekly schedule outside the office so you will be aware of her hours at the club if you need to find her. She works full time, is scheduled to work when AYC sailing/social/meeting activities are occurring throughout the week plus she will maintain club hours on all Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for necessary communication. For those of you highly vested in the Club, feel free to schedule an appointment during her office hours and explain her job description to her J.

Tina Moher our office manager is changing her name officially to **Tina Pearl** and the paperwork to do that is currently processed. **Tina** has efficiently kept the AYC office functioning during the recent staff transition. The office will be open Tuesday through Friday as it has been. Tina will also post her schedule, which is Tuesday thru Friday and on busy weekends. She is currently out Tuesday and Thursday early morning for college classes and will sign out of the office intermittently for necessary errands. For billings, cabin reservations, and all general office/secretarial and budgetary issues please contact her directly in the office, by phone or at tina@austinyachtclub.org.

For all facilities grounds and dock issues, keys, etc, you may contact the office to page **Tom** or **Matt**. You

(Continued on Page 10)

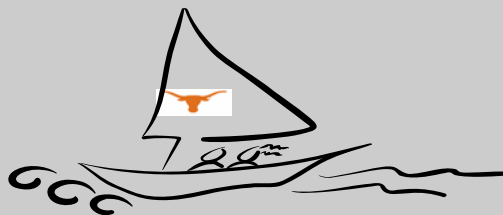


2005 Racing Schedule

November 6	Fall Race Series #6 (FWS 1:30 p.m.) & EOSBuffet
November 12	Wild Turkey Regatta
November 19&20	J24 Circuit

AYC Upcoming Non-Racing Events

November 15	Raft-up or watch the full moon from the clubhouse!
November 22	AYC Board Meeting
November 26/27	Dock Move—Docks 4, 5, & 6
December 1	Annual Membership Meeting (7:30 p.m.)
December 3	Annual Christmas Banquet
December 10	Annual Children's Christmas Party (2-5 p.m.)
December 10	J-24 Fleet Holiday Party at clubhouse
December 15	Raft-up or watch the full moon from the clubhouse!
December 31	New Year's Party



Please help support our 2005 UT Sailing Team!

Sponsor one of the members with a reservation to this year's AYC Annual Banquet on December 3rd.

If you are unable to contribute the full \$45, please consider donating \$20 to \$30 by contacting the AYC office: 512 266 1336 or tina@austinyachtclub.org.

Any help would be appreciated!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING DEC. 1, 2005 @ 7:30

Vote for the New AYC Board and enjoy snacks, hors d'oeuvres, & drinks!



Harbor News By Tommy Gairloff



As you have read in the Commodore's report we are faced with the dreaded task of moving the docks to the point once again. At the time of this writing (11/08/05) the Lake Travis level is at 665.74 and dropping .04' per day, this puts us at 665 Nov 25th. Our current policy is to move docks 4, 5 & 6 out to the point at 665'. Some of you may remember in years past we were able to fudge and push this trigger point to 664', the major factor why we no longer have that buffer is the distance between AYC docks and Keller's docks. If you look across the cove Keller has some very nice cat walks out to their docks which are a little longer than their old ones, which equates to less room. So there ain't no stopping, this exceptin' for rain and that ain't lookin' none too promisin'.

So here's the game plan: Dock 4, 5, & 6 Slipholders will need to move boats out for a day, assign that job to a friend or **acknowledge** rights to move your boat (if you or a friend absolutely can't make it out, a simple E-mail to me or the AYC office giving your OK to move your boat will do fine) tgairloff@datacomdesign.com. Volunteers are needed to start the communication and signup for action. For now, please email laura@austinyachtclub.org with your name if you are available to work November 26 and/or 27 or call the AYC office. (Yup I copied most of that straight from Danny's article so fire me, please).

Dock move Schedule:

Saturday - Nov: 26th

8:00 AM: Dock #4 Boat owners, volunteers and divers arrive to prepare and move dock #4.

12:00 (noon): Dock #5 Boat owners and volunteers arrive, divers (go back under) to prepare and move dock #5

Sunday - Nov: 27th (If Dock 5 was moved Nov 26th)

9:00 AM – Dock #6 Boat owners, volunteers and divers arrive to prepare and move dock #6

Sunday - Nov: 27th (If Dock 5 was not moved Nov 26th)

9:00 AM – Dock #5 Boat owners, volunteers and divers come back out to prepare and move dock #5

(Continued on Page 13)

Rules Seminar By Danny Lien



AYC Sailors Decide to Play by the Rules –

I am writing this for **Dave Broadway** as I sit in the rules seminar presented by **Gail Bernstein** the Sunday morning before the last fall series...while eating a wonderful breakfast prepared by **Barbara Prashner**. **Gail** does a great job and the participation is enthusiastic among the participants as different racing situations are illustrated and discussed.



Dave wrangled some sponsorship funds and spear-headed the presentation to help the J24 Fleet better engage in the close quarter racing they experience at starts and marks in the AYC series races. They want to better learn the racing rules of sailing.

Word got out and based upon the number of requests we received in the AYC office from individual members and Fleets to attend this class, I think there will be more classes in 2006. **Dave** and **Gail** offer their continued help. One end result for the J24s is that they actually intend to use their red flags on the course and then clarify incidents after the races in mediation or even protest hearings. The J24s hope to go one step further and allow "I" flags to be flown by boats that accept that they committed a foul. By that action a boat receives a percentage penalty after the race, but she can still continue to race up with the fleet and mix it up rather than doing a 720 and falling behind. **Larry Ratliff** says that the AYC scoring system can accommodate applying percentage penalties to boats flying an "I" flag across the finish line.

In short the J24s wish to change their AYC series current protest paradigm from "we never throw the flag

(Continued on Page 13)

C-22 Governor's Cup News

By Wade Bingaman



Governor's Cup/Family Reunion

Having raced my Catalina for several years, I now realize that C22 racing is more than just us here at AYC. I've gotten to know and become friends with people from all over Texas and beyond. With Governor's Cup over, I started thinking how much it reminded me of a family reunion. - lots of good fun and good friends.

The sailing was outstanding. The C22s had nine boats racing spinnaker. Four of them were from out of town. We easily had the largest one design fleet in the regatta. **Bruce Foster**, PRO, and **Bill Hawk**, the RC on the water honcho, did a great job. They set courses that were unusual for AYC. The windward and leeward marks were inside separate start/finish lines. This kept most of the congestion away from the crucial start/finish areas. The winds were good, 6 to 12, but with plenty of shifts. The courses on Saturday were short. My crew complained that they didn't have time to nap downwind. On the W3s it was set, douse, set, douse – again and again. Well, we went out there to race not to rest.

Racing, as usual, was close. There were a few lee bows that might have been too close. But we got off the water before anyone got too hot. The final results:

- 1st – **Gene Ferguson** (Ft Worth)
- 2nd – **Wade Bingaman**,
crew – **Ken Whiteside**, **Art Bussey**
- 3rd – **David Hayslip** (Grapevine)
- 4th – **Johannes Brinkmann**,
crew – **Patrick Brinkmann**, **Ted Owens**

Once we were off the water, the socializing began. There were Austin sailors swapping lies with Dallas sailors. It wasn't an AYC fleet anymore, it was a Texas fleet. This even carried over to the racing. **Chris Bataille** crewed on the **Boemer's** boat from Dallas. **Peter Broberg** got an invitation to sail with **Pete Harper** in the Galveston NOODS. By the time the regatta was over everyone in the fleet seem like one big happy family.

But by far the biggest hit was provided by **Bob Gross**. **Bob** headed the fabulous Nationals last June at Lake Canyon. He showed his genius again by unveiling his gas powered blender. Think Weed Eater with a tequila attitude. Helmet and goggles optional. When he fired that contraption up, our fleet easily doubled in size. We

had potential new C22 fleet members coming from everywhere. Forget the seminars and work days to build a fleet. Give me one of those five horsepower, five gallon blenders!



Bob Gross with the fleet builder



Winners - Gene Ferguson & Bret Stewart

It doesn't get any better than sailing and joking with good friends. We are lucky to have an easily trailerable boat that sails in a large one design fleet. So enjoy sailing with the C22 family whenever you can.

J[®] 24

Fall Series Ends on a Whimper...

Well it was a good thing that there were 6 weekends of racing scheduled for Fall Series as 2 out of the 5 past Sunday series races had to be abandoned due to no wind going into the last series Sunday of the year! So I guess it should not have been any surprise when the final Sunday of series racing was also abandoned, and with it the hopes of **Tommy Pullen's 3 Sheets...** and **Stephen Burke's Out of Control** teams of pulling ahead of **Paul Ballett's Rag Tag** team to take third overall in the series. I don't ever remember a series hit so hard with no wind conditions...certainly not during our normally windy Fall. While the racing for third was anticipated to be tight, with only a few points separating all 3 before mentioned boats, **Bill Smith** had **Box Lunch** locked in to a second overall behind, who else, **Dave Broadway** on **Superman** (who only had a single finish out of first, **Superman's** only second place finish was courtesy of **Dave Gamble's Ooh-Aah!**). We had 9 different J/24s participate in the series, check out all the scores at <http://austinyachtclub.net/scoring/s20051030-Fall%20Series-Summary.htm>.



*Bill Smith's **Box Lunch** crew waiting for the wind to come up so they can defend their second place Series standing.*

Corinthian Cup Recap: 5 AYC J/24s made the trip to Dallas Corinthian YC on Lake Lewisville late last month to be part of the first J/24 Texas Circuit Stop to be hosted there. With two painfully light air races on Saturday and one 'spinnaker shredder' (literally!) race on Sunday, the regatta barely qualified the minimum 3 scored races to be included in the circuit scoring. With RC abandoning for the day around 2ish on Saturday, the Terlingua in Exile chili cook-off goings on also at DCYC that day provided lots of entertainment for the

shore bound crews. Between the showmanship and great food samples, the circuit racers easily slipped into an early party mood...I guess having non-sailing events going on during regattas has some good aspects after all!

For those camping out (and there were plenty), the first clue of what Sunday's racing would bring was waking around 5 am to their tents being blown over. While the breeze was a steady 15-20 as the fleet sailed out, those who got the latest windcast knew that the real wind wasn't suppose to show up until 10ish...and it sure did! RC reported a steady 30 at the weather mark during the first beat and the shallow lake had some pretty good chop stacking up quickly also. So the first downwind there were plenty of surfing rides after the required quick jibe at the offset mark set. All the boats that flew chutes were having great rides, with stern wakes kicking up 4+ feet of rooster tail! The wind built for the second downwind leg, RC said 38+, and only **mr. happy** flew a chute that leg (after recovering from a knock down during the set!), others held off when the boat just behind **mr. happy** literally blew their chute into individual panels as they tried to set at the offset mark. But everyone still had a great downwind ride, literally surfing under jib/main. **Roger Harden's GucciWetSpot** finished fourth overall and had the best overall finish of the AYC Fleet. **mr. happy** was 5th overall with **Tony Slowik's Yikes!**, **Dave Gamble's Ooh-Aah!** and **Charlie Singstad's Code Blue** notching another circuit stop experience in their belts.

Fleet Rules Seminar a Huge Success!

As I am sure you heard, the J/24 Fleet hosted a Sailing Rules seminar the morning before the last set of Fall Series races. UK Sails sponsored the event, not only funding the great free hot breakfast that **Barb Prashner** put together for the attendees (good show **Barb!**) but also providing 25% discounts to the Fleet for any new J/24 sails ordered from their Galveston loft by the end of the year. **Gail Bernstein** was our very qualified instructor (Thanks again **Gail!**) and she drew a full (club) house of attendees. It was such a hit that there is already talk of doing another one early next year, most likely in conjunction with a early Frostbite race weekend.

Fall Finals, Our Stop of the J/24 Texas Circuit, Rolling Along

Things continue to come together for our circuit stop in a few weeks. The NOR and on-line entry forms are now posted at <http://home.austin.rr.com/j24district14/CurrentNotice.htm>. Local brewery [Independence Brewing](#) is supplying the microbrew and, don't worry,

(Continued on Page 9)

Membership News By Doug Laws



The following membership changes were approved at the October Board Meeting:

New Senior Members:

Gretchen & David Douglas resigned in good standing

last February. Their personal circumstances have changed and they have now applied for reinstatement as senior members. Welcome back.

Nancy & Tom Boulmay applied and were approved for senior membership. After many years on the staff at AYC, **Nancy** now wants to become active in AYC sailing and racing activities. Welcome **Nancy** and **Tom**.

Senior Probationary Review:

Michael & Brenda McCall have satisfactorily completed their Probationary requirements for senior membership.

Resignations:

Mark & Sharon Sandorf joined in August and unfortunately, **Mark** had heart surgery in September. They have asked to resign probationary associate membership until such time as **Mark's** health will permit participation at AYC. Best wishes for a speedy recovery and return to AYC.

John & Liza Shapiro rejoined AYC in August, but now have asked to resign their associate membership for personal reasons.

Carol Peterson has requested to resign her associate membership due to time restraints from job and household responsibilities.

Phil Keil and **Stacy Miller** have requested resignation from senior membership because of other commitments for time and resources.

Rob & Kathy Van Landingham have requested resignation from their senior membership. **Rob** has sold their boat and also cites difficulties in finding crew and dwindling participation in A Fleet as reasons.



Happy Thanksgiving!

Membership Status

	Sept EOM	Add	Sub	Oct EOM
Senior	345	2	2	345
Associate	21		3	18
Young Adult	6			6
Juniors	15			15
Ol'Salt				
10 Year	13			13
Non Resident	7			7
Total Paying Members:	407	2	5	404

Annapolis Sailboat Show

By Peter Dossing



My wife, Nancy and I just got back from attending the largest In-the-water Sailboat Show which was held in Annapolis this past weekend, October 6-10...we had a blast crawling in and out of sailboats of every

kind, plus the chance to meet with major manufacturers of sailing gear. It was raining most of the weekend, thanks to Tropical Storm Tammy, but that didn't slow down the sailors in attendance. They sold tons of sailing wet weather wind breakers during the show. I think everyone ought to go at least one time. We had a blast!

Pusser's Rum, the official grog of the British Navy, is mighty big in Annapolis...we had a drink they call "Pusser's Pain Killer" which they put in a tin cup...we felt no pain for the rest of the day.

Here's a photo of us with the notorious Bob Bitchin, editor and publisher of *Latitudes & Attitudes* magazine. I asked him how he finds time to publish



a magazine when he is sailing all the time...found out that he spends most of his time in his office in California and only gets to sail occasionally.

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

During the '91 storms, greater flow passed through the lake a week or two after the Clubhouse and Cabins had initially flooded. The reason we were not hit with a double whammy is that there was reduced rain downstream and LCRA was then able to open more gates for the second round.

My objective was to cut and trim some trees (done) and for staff to place peagravel in the soil (mostly done), to have a useable rear exit out of drysail and organized flood parking, such that we can move in a crane to drop masts and continue to move boats off the grounds if that later becomes necessary. This includes parking boats in the field across from the Allenwood-Beacon intersection, dropping a wire to a drysail light pole and cutting the fence to get out to Beacon Drive if and when needed. (Thanks to **Vic Manning** for all of his previous flood planning and charts.)

Grade: "A-minus" for effort and contingency plan.

2. Series trophies to be handed out while we are still eating the end of series buffet – This was a case of your Commodore thinking he could work out of his jurisdiction. Scoring is done under Race Committee purview. In watching this process closely though, I did develop a great appreciation for what the scoring committee accomplishes at AYC. They allow us to play in many fleets with different boats and then sort it all out in quick fashion. My hat is off to our scorers, they can have my parking place and I apologize if my penmanship on race committee score sheets is less than legible.

Grade: "A" to the scoring committee and "Excused Absence" for the Commodore.

Rumors – At risk of fanning the flames, "let me dispel a few rumors so they don't fester into facts" (Dead Poets Society). Apparently rumors are being heard around the AYC social scenes from founding fathers to new members gatherings. Maybe if I stir it up here we will once again have a large turnout at the annual meeting. I'll warn the Social Committee to prepare more food. J Rumor is that the Club/Commodore intends to build a bar and restaurant on a third floor of the Clubhouse and variants go so far as to state that when this happens the fleets will be restricted from serving liquor and food at their picnic-table after-race parties.

Infrastructure changes have been suggested throughout the year. As I recall, they include: (1) a sport court, (2) a hiking trail, (3) a longstanding member proposal to build Shelter 3 into a classroom for sail training classes and clinics, (4) another proposal to convert a shelter into a

child care facility where a group of club members with children and/or the Club can support a kids place, utilized while parents race or socialize, (5) a proposal to upgrade all shelters into floodable but rentable camp style bunkhouses with insulated walls, windows, and removable air-conditioning units concurrent with using the permitted septic facilities near shelter two to support its conversion into a small bathhouse, (6) consideration of adding a third floor to the Clubhouse as an air conditioned amenity with a view of the races to be used for social gatherings, after-race drinking, parties, etc., (7) a breakwater, and, (8) hydrohoists on docks. To my knowledge, items (5) through (7) had the most traction and continue to be discussed by board committee and/or planning committee in some fashion. Item (8) hydrohoists is enjoined with the breakwater cost issue because we are told that they render boats and docks less susceptible to waves and therefore lessen the need for a breakwater. To date, none of these items have been planned, discussed in any detail or yet included as a Board agenda item. There has been no development of preliminary designs or preliminary budgets. The Long Range Planning Committee did request an engineering feasibility report on whether the existing clubhouse could support a third floor. A subcommittee has discussed with Keller's Marina and LCRA the possibility of accepting Keller's breakwater as an AYC owned permitted and maintained structure, moving it south in the harbor to better protect both marinas and later upgrading it to a better wave attenuation design.

Regarding the Club building a "bar": As far as TABC regulations go, AYC already has a bar, permitted for beer and wine, for takeout and consumption on premises. I know because my name is at the top of our liquor license and I am responsible as a "server" each time I lend out the key or open the beer box for you. (I can write a volume on that and discuss defined "premises" but that is a different issue for all of us and I am moving on.) Regarding a "third floor new bar" if built, proximate yacht clubs have variations of "bars" that serve their clubs in a non-commercial member operated manner, some similar and some different from AYC's current setup, with and without liquor licenses. We are not anywhere near that stage of discussion.

Regarding the rumor that there is a planned restaurant or other exclusive food or liquor concession to be offered to a vendor and concurrent build-out of commercial kitchen; doesn't that seem out of place with current AYC culture, our past traditions and our current fiscal structure? AYC was affordable to Norma and me as young schoolteachers with very young kids and a too-big boat payment. I sincerely hope we remain affordable to all current sailors we hope to attract.

(Continued on Page 10)



Onward Through the Fall: On the third race week, we were finally afforded some good weather (you know, blowing 5-12 out of the SxSW, and moderate temperatures—high 70s). Another very strong fleet turnout saw nine boats at the starting line. **Danny, Norma, and Rebeka Lien** got some help from **Carolyn Wilsford**, and

Tom and Kelly Groll teamed up to make the most of it, with each of their boats taking four points in the two races. With the **Baker's** having jumped to an early lead the week before, this made things very tight at the top, with three points separating **J. Seagull, Avalon, and No Name**. About a half-dozen further back, but not out of reach, were **Prickly Pair**, and **Esmeralda**. Another couple of races could make for an interesting finish to the year's series racing. Little did we know what lay in store for us....

The Austin contingent of Ensign Sailors (plus some former AYC



members you might recognize) having a good time during the Regionals.

Dog Days Still Not Over: With the Ensign fleet recording record turnouts to race the fall series, race day 4 unfortunately brought a return of the doldrums. Not even a hint of a faint breeze was in the offing: just dead calm. The Ensign fleet had planned a little post race gathering, but for the second time this series it became a mid-afternoon, meet at the lake, and look around at the calm, and talk about how nothing was happening wind-wise. At least **Kelly Groll** brought a delicious pot-o-chili for a round of Frito pie served up to all fleet members. Perhaps the most excitement for the day came when the haul-out of a boat (not an Ensign) started to experience difficulties. As strange as it may seem we were actually right in the middle of a discussion of blue duck awards! A handful of Ensign sailors

headed over to help right the ship, and disaster was averted. Then, a tad more hanging out and a short while later various sailors headed home to at least do something that day since sailing wasn't an option. **Bill Hawk** got out on the water, but in a motorized variety of boat, and he and **Kelly** were kind enough to take the little **Bertins** out for a joy ride.

Off the Water: The following weekend off was a good opportunity for a celebration, and a number of Ensign fleet members met at an undisclosed location (with some other non-sailing well wishers), to surprise JUNIOR sailor **Sarah Baker** with a happy 29th birthday party. It was fun and we only talked about sailing a little. Really. Well, anyway, only a little compared with how much sailors normally talk about sailing. Alright, so, actually, we probably spent most of the time talking about sailing (even with other party goers who didn't know port from starboard), but what do you expect?! But, I distinctly remember that some of us did once or twice bring up a subject that didn't have anything to do with sailing. Congratulations to **Sarah** on maintaining her youthful ways.

In news that wasn't, **Tom Groll** almost bought a shiny, newly refurbished Ensign. But, the seller got cold feet at the last minute. C'est la vie.

Back to racing: Our off week was followed by what was perhaps one of the best sailing days of the year. October 30 was just one of those beautiful days that scream: get outside and do something enjoyable! Well, quite a few boats (60 in all) showed up at AYC to do just that, and that didn't include the Ensign fleet! That's because we were handling race committee. Our turnout was still impressive: most of the fleet made it out so that we had a surplus of able bodies (and at least enough able minds) to make for a smooth race. A BIG THANKS to everyone (**Wilsford, Groll, Lien, Baker, Drummond, McKenna, DeBoes, Hawk, Jolly, Dahmen**, and apologies if I missed anyone in the big group) for helping out. Some other fleet members were also there to offer assistance (**Bertin, Nelson, JUNIOR sailor Sarah Baker**) but were rendered superfluous (didn't hurt at all) and decided to sacrifice themselves and take to the water for an afternoon cruise, so at least the day wouldn't be wasted as far as Ensign sailing goes. One Ensign fleet member did get to race that day, as **Jim Casto** sailed his catamaran in the multi-hull fleet. Nothing worthy of note was reported by race committee participants for the day, which I suppose is good news for everyone.

Ensign Sightings: If our eyes did not deceive us, En-

(Continued on Page 9)

sign 732 was seen heading out of the cove late one afternoon this past month. And a yellow hulled Ensign (#691 perhaps?) has apparently been spotted out on the water a couple of times as well. Whoever it was, glad you could avail yourselves of an opportunity to take to the wind, and we trust your excursions were most pleasant.

Dog Days Still Not Over: Finally, November 6, the last series race of the year, was upon us. With a very close series in progress (yes, 'in progress' is a bit of a stretch, but technically accurate), we were looking to end things on an edge-of-your-seat-exciting kind of note. All the top spots were up for grabs, after all, and a good day or bad day by any of a handful of skippers (or crew) could make a big difference in the final standings. Instead of a great finish to a great year of racing, however, what we were cursed with was another abandonment due to LACK OF WIND. Though we didn't know it at the time, we had actually wrapped things up racing-wise way back on October 9. So, after a total of two race days, and four races (with one throwout), the hardware was handed out to (1) the **Bakers + Will Angst** (2) **Tom and Kelly Groll** (3) **Team Lien** with **Carolyn Wilsford** (4) **James Wilsford**. Although it was certainly anti-climactic as far as racing goes, when was the last time the Ensign fleet had four trophies to distribute? We had a GREAT turnout for the races we were able to get in (and also on those days we weren't). The fleet has experienced tremendous growth over the past two years. Hopefully we will remain strong in 2006! Maybe we can even get **Fred Schroth** to finish up the work on his Electra and join us on the water next year (and provide some company for **Ken Jolly**).

Looking Ahead: The next Ensign Fleet event is going to be our annual party, perhaps at the **Hawk's** house, which has been volunteered. This will likely be in January, and everyone will be notified so you can plan to be there. Make sure you show up, or you might be assigned some onerous task like serving as fleet captain, writing the Ensign Fleet news for the Telltale in 2006, or being the coordinator for Ensign regionals. Though we will be having to settle a bit of official fleet business, for the most part the evening will be dedicated to having a good time.

There is, of course, the KHF frostbite series to consider in January/February. Last year, most of the Ensign sailors who got involved did so in drier boats than an Ensign, but perhaps we will get a few cold-hardy souls to come out and represent the fleet in some handicap action.

[SailTime Austin](#) with [Bartlett Sails & Awnings](#) are funding the commercial light beer for those who prefer that :-). [Mauri Pro Sailing](#) is providing the crew trophies as well as five 10% discount coupons per registered boat for gear ordered from their website. The hand made wooden J/24 half hull w/sail plan skipper trophies are being funded by [Lewis & Prashner, LLP - CPA](#). The Saturday lunches, available for preordering as part of early registration, are from [Thundercloud Subs](#) (large sub, chips and a cookie) like in year's past and an inexpensive Sunday lunch will be offered on-shore after the races by a local high school sailing team as a fund raiser even if not racing in the regatta, come out Sunday to support the fund raiser!).

Of course we still have some openings for volunteers (and you don't have to be a Fleet member to help out!) for both RC and the registration desk Friday evening and Saturday morning, drop me a line if interested.

Fleet Holiday Party Date Set

While the Fleet is very focused on the plans and activities required to make Fall Finals a big success, a little looking forward is also going on and December 10th has been set for the J/24 Fleet Holiday Party. The current plan is to hold it in the AYC Clubhouse. Of course, this always presents a decorating challenge so if you have any ideas, drop me a line. More on this year end Fleet blow-out coming via the Fleet's e-mail coconut telegraph!

Regards,

Eric Nelson, J/24 Fleet Reporter



Full Moon Alert!

November 15, 2005 at 7ish
in the AYC Clubhouse.
BYOB & favorite hors d'oeuvres.

Commodore . . . (Continued from Page 7)

If you have read this far, I still have your attention. I'll lobby for my proposal but only as a member in 2006, not as your current Commodore. The Clubhouse was built with consideration of an additional story. The roof is flat and therefore has been expensive to maintain. For at least a decade of being either the Commander or a member of past B&G committees, I have participated in many discussions concluding that it would be a cost effective maintenance plan to build a pitched roof over the flat roof---if and when major repairs were needed. If we went that far, increasing the roof pitch to accommodate an upstairs room or useable attic storage is not a costly stretch at all. Building out the interior with side closets and placement of windows and decks with volunteer AYC labor would be a fun project for some of us. This idea hit me more than once as I stood on the roof spreading tar or painting while looking out at the lake. I agree, stairs and other access could add significant cost. Who would use my make-believe third story? Maybe, our older members or our spouses and friends who want a comfortable place from which to watch us race and to visit. It could support a raucous gathering after the races if we let it become that. A member contingent might consider dominoes, or poker, or TV or bunko. We would likely argue over the uses allowed, and we would certainly get all tied up over whether there would be any carpeting or upholstery, at AYC! But, it would be a very nice place, windows at the ends and a deck and an outside stairs descending to the concrete deck on the south side of the Clubhouse. Inexpensive to my mind, especially considering the amenity gained and that the structural foundation already exists. So if you have heard me discuss this (for more than 10 years or so) please indulge my fantasy, but please do not put me into a group that wants a commercial restaurant, or proprietary concessions at AYC. I guess I started this rumor when I asked the Long Range Planning Committee to add this to their list of things to consider.

I was asked to comment on this from a number of members. At first it all thinned my skin a little, but now I realize the folks airing the issue may have the same intention as those wanting the rumor dispelled, being, "we have a good thing here at AYC, don't mess it up".

Rumor Number Two – "New test hydro-hoists will be installed by members in early December, sans approval, when the new Board is buried in transition and budgeting." If you are interested in this topic, the Commodore and Fleet Commander nominees and I all request that you consider being on the 2006 Harbor Committee. We are likely to build a new dock in 2006. Get involved in new dock planning and overall planning for our harbor.

Club Complaints - I heard only a handful of Club complaints this year; two were significant in that they were repeated.

The first involves protection of boats by breakwater and/or hydrohoists because of the increased occurrence of big boat wakes and some interlocked masts in our harbor. A Long Range Planning Committee-subcommittee is studying breakwater-dock options. With a new dock to be rebuilt next year overall harbor planning should be done, perhaps to design criteria which assumes that docks are located off the point.

A second complaint surprised me. A few members shared their early Club experiences and stated that as new members the Club seemed clique-ish and not an easy place to socially mingle. These folks are all active members now but some tell of other sailors who slipped away. It seems that one of AYC's best assets is our active fleets with their separate after-race jams, but it may also be one of our weaknesses. As we present ourselves to the Club's newer members maybe we should try to be more inclusive and invite everyone.

Danny Lien, Commodore (30)



Board News . . . (Continued from Page 2)

may contact **Tom Cunningham** by email at tom@austinyachtclub.org to put a request on the caretaker's day log or just leave an email message.

Even though **Laura** has only been here a couple weeks, our staff is working well as a team, a team with differing responsibilities but covering for each other when there is necessary absence or need. They meet with the commodore once a week (they'll tell you 'much more often') and they all submit a brief weekly report, which is compiled and presented to the Board each month.

Of Note: **Tom** and **Matt** have coordinated the divers in cable replacement and marking anchors location to be ready for impending dock moves when scheduled by **Tommy Gairloff**, Fleet Commander. The move is likely within the next couple of weeks. Winter grounds projects are also being scheduled, so if you have comments/suggestions please contact **Tom Cunningham** and/or the B&G Commander, currently **Bob Gallant**.

Laser Fleet News By Renee Ruais



Since Wednesday Night Racing ended at the end of September, the Laser Fleet has been focused on Laser District 15 events, of which there have been two. The first was Fall Dinghyfest at Rush Creek Yacht Club near Dallas. **David Grogono, Renee Ruais, and Mike Mashl** traveled to the event. Saturday was un-eventful, though we sailed well and enjoyed the day. On Sunday, as folks in both Dallas and Austin can attest, a big, windy cold front came through pumping up the breeze to 30-35 with gusts near 40. (what was I thinking...not bringing the radial rig?) Since I had finished well on Saturday and was in 4th place, I had to give it a try, so I rigged up and headed out to the course. The screaming broad reach out to the course was a blast, but it was very clear to me that I didn't need to try to race in that...I couldn't even imagine trying to jibe in those conditions, and I didn't really feel that I needed an excuse for a new mast, sail, or any other parts on my boat (or body for that matter). I'd like to say that I made a beeline for the shore, but it wasn't quite that graceful... about 4 capsizes and 30 minutes later, I made it...in one piece. Although 10 boats ventured out to race, only 6 managed to finish, one of them completing the race with a broken mast! Two boats were towed in without their sailors, unfortunately, one of those was **David's**, who wound up with a gash in the head from a jibe gone bad and went to the ER to get taken care of. He was in 2nd place when the injury happened...and so very disappointed. While **David** was at the ER, I managed to get our boats loaded on the trailer with the help of several other Laser sailors and then I picked him up at the hospital on the way out of town. He's recovering well and vows to consider using his kite-boarding helmet next time he sails his Laser in those conditions. Apparently staying on shore is not a valid option ;-).

Back in Austin, **Scott Fish** and **Phillipe Bettler** took advantage of the super-sized wind and took their Lasers out to play. As **Phillipe** was returning to the dock, **Scott** was sending his 13 year old son **Collin** out for a spin with the Laser 4.7 rig to give him a taste of the Laser in a breeze! Scott said..."Several capsizes in gybes and tacks resulted, but also some good screaming reaches and a "hands-on" experience for what it means to plane and what a real gust feels like." If that doesn't hook the kid on Laser sailing, I don't know what will!

Just as much fun, but not quite one for the books (other than it wasn't too cold, too rainy, too windy) was this past weekend's Wurstfest Regatta at Lake Canyon

Yacht Club. Wurstfest is always in the fall and you never know what you're going to get weather wise. This year's event had 18 Lasers and started out with a healthy 15-20 mph breeze on Saturday that calmed down to 10-12 later in the day, and maybe even a bit less than that in the last race. With sunshine and a temperature around 80 degrees, it was a very pleasant day for Laser sailing! Several Austin Sailors participated, including **Renee Ruais, Billy Eno, Fred Schroth, David Jessich, Eric Faust, Mike Mashl, and Simon Elliot**. We were joined by sailors from Houston, Dallas and even Oklahoma! On Saturday night, we all boarded the "Wurst bus" bound for the actual Wurstfest in New Braunsfels. I could tell you about it, but what happens at Wurstfest has to stay at Wurstfest...let's just say that there is a lot of beer involved. Surprisingly, I think everyone made it out to the course on Sunday morning...for what looked to be promising wind. Shortly after the start, however, the wind up and died on us. We drifted to the weather mark and then even more slowly drifted to the Leeward mark where they wisely shortened course and sent us in. If you're wondering, yes, the notorious steep ramp is still there and after 2 days of sailing and one night of partying, it is a very daunting hill indeed. Considering that my Laser with all its gear and the dolly weighs a bit more than I do, it was a battle against gravity to get the boat up to the top. From what I saw, however, I think Canyon Lake is doing better than Travis on water levels...I shudder to think of how long that ramp could get.

Fall and "Winter" will most likely present a few opportunities for pleasant Laser sailing...so don't put the boat away entirely...but it is a good time to get in those repairs and to give the boat a good looking over to make sure that it's ready to go in the Spring.

Till then...Renee



Mark your calendars for the annual

Children's Christmas Party

**Saturday, December 10th,
2-5p.m.**

Magician John Maverick will be performing for children and adults

Holiday Arts and Crafts
And a visit by Santa Claus himself

If you'd like to volunteer to help, please call Kelly Hawk at 266-4661.



The fall series arrived at AYC with the expectation of cool breezes. It turned out we could have called it the Dog Days Series II at the Austin Yacht Club, with 3 days of racing cancelled due to lack of wind. For dry sailors, we had plenty practice and action launching in shallow water. Some of us really needed to break the rust loose on the trailer extension anyway. We did get in 3 days of spinnaker racing for the C22 fleet with good participation. **Dane Ohe**, with crew **David Rehberg** became the new C22 king of hill and the person to beat, scoring 4 bullets in 4 races to take first in the Series. **Dane** just completed an excellent retrofit of his C22. You can read about on the link to **Dane's** website that can be found from the AYC website. He's done an excellent job setting the boat up for easy handling by a crew of two, even when flying the spinnaker.



Dane and Dave give the C22 Fleet a tour while waiting wind to arrive.

Peter Broberg finished 2nd in the fall series and **Roy Crouse** took the 3rd place.

Dane had already mounted the sailboat trophy to the hood of his pickup by time the photo to the right was taken. All kidding aside, **Dane** deserved the win after doing a great job on boat prep, as well as an excellent job helping the boat with **David** as crew, racing the spinnaker with only 2 people on board.

The other news is the arrival of the first Catalina 22 Sport at AYC. I surprised the C22 fleet by showing up with the boat in the next last fall series races. The deal on the boat actually started back in June when **Doug**



Roy (left), and Peter (right) show the additional trophy bases they won as they were winners of previous 2005 series. Dane, (center) pretends he's holding a sailboat trophy for winning first place.

Laws and I met **Vince Morvello** at Roy's Cajun restaurant down at Canyon Lake after a hot day of racing in the C22 Nationals. **Vince** was racing his C22 Sport in the Nationals. **Vince** won the Ensign Nationals last year. He is blind and the owner of Sea Lake Yachts Sales in Kemah. **Vince** mentioned he might be selling the C22 Sport in October after he finished racing the boat during the summer series of racing on Clear Lake. I bit, and sure enough **Vince** called in October and the next thing I knew I am the owner of a C22 Sport outfitted nicely for racing.



Vince (right) and I swap sailing stories and racing advice after closing the deal.

(Continued on Page 13)

C-22 Fleet News . . . Continued from Page 12



While waiting for wind during the last series race day the C22 fleet gathers on the C22 sport.

Plenty of good advice was offered how to set up the boat. While it was fun showing everyone the boat, it was pretty frustrating being ready to race a new boat in a last day of series racing, but stuck at the dock due to lack of wind. That's sailboat racing.

John Grzinich, Captain

You are cordially invited to attend
The Austin Yacht Club Annual Banquet



Saturday, December 3, 2005

Waterfall Room, The Hills Country Club

6:30 p.m.—11:00 p.m.

2-hour Open Bar

Hors D'Oeuvres

Dinner Social

Annual Awards

Music and Dancing

Eveningwear; Black-tie Optional

\$45 per person

512 266 1336 or tina@austinyachtclub.org

Please make your reservation by 5:00 p.m. November 23, 2005

For details: www.austinyachtclub.net

Harbor News . . . Continued from Page 3

1:00 PM – Dock #6 Boat owners and volunteers arrive and divers (more than likely still under) prepare and move dock #6

Dock 6 boat owners and volunteers can call 266-3793 after 7:00 PM Nov 26th for a recorded message as to the Nov 27th schedule or call the AYC office maybe we'll be sober enough to answer.

Well there's the plan, so as Danny mentioned, If you have not participated in a dock move recently at AYC, it is one of the more exciting demonstrations of our AYC member-volunteer efforts. So come on out and help and bring a camera cause there's bound to be a Kodak moment or two. (But please do not bring any left over Turkey we'll all be sick of that by then)

And remember what goes out must come back so be prepared for another one of these AYC call to arms when the Lake starts fillin' back up.

We will do our best to keep informed those affected by this operation, if there are any schedule changes. (Or just call the AYC office, Tina will tell ya if it rained out here)

Thanks in advance to Ya'll for jumpin' in and helpin' out, after all that's the Sprit that built this club,

Respectfully,
Tommy Gairloff
2005 Fleet Commander
tgairloff@datacomdesign.com

AYC Office: Info@austinyachtclub.org

PS: If the Lake Travis water shed and/or immediate area receive sufficient precipitation between now and 7:59 AM Nov 26th kindly disregard this article.

Rules Seminar . . . Continued from Page 3

on a friend" to "we throw the flag to help friends determine the rules in close quarter racing" or something touchy-feely like that. Presupposing they have identified a few active volunteers to run mediations and protests I think this is a great development. Personally I hope it is a little contagious among all AYC racing fleets. I would also support front parking spaces for all who offer to be Judges.

Did You Know? Doug Kern has a PB&J Blog online! Click on the link for "PB&J photos" at the AYC website to get to it.

Austin Yacht Club

5906 Beacon Road
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Many Thanks to our AYC Telltale Sponsors! Please contact Renee Ruais for sponsorship info.

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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:

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