

# Telltale

February 2006

Monthly Newsletter

## Board of Directors

Commodore	Paul Ballett
Im. Past Commodore	Danny Lien
Vice Commodore	Eric Nelson
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Treasurer	John Howard
Race Commander	Larry Ratliff
Buildings & Grounds	David Lewis
Harbor Master	Bob Gallant
Sail Training Commander	Johannes Brinkmann

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Office Administrator	Tina Pearl
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.net  
info@austinyachtclub.org

## Newsletter

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

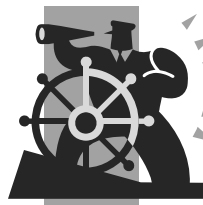
## AYC Business Hours

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	16 April
Independence Day	4 July
Thanksgiving Day	23 November
Shopping Day	24 November
Christmas Day	25 December

## From The Commodore By Paul Ballett



Opening Day is coming fast! March 5<sup>th</sup> will mark the official opening of our sailing season with

the usual day of activities planned. Brunch will be served from 10am and the Opening Ceremony will follow at 11am followed by the annual Series Skippers Meeting and the first series race of the season. Currently, our popular new arrangement for the Frostbite Series has been enjoying good winds, good weather and good food. Sounds good to me!

I encourage you all to visit the web-site often this year; we have made many improvements in this area thanks to the hard work of **Tom Lang** and many other people.

You will find lot's of great information regularly updated and easily accessible. For example, the events calendar lists a plethora of activities that go on at the club from every area of activity within the club. For the first time ever you can easily see the year's calendar of events in one place, updated in

real time. Filtering is simple to allow you to see just one type of event. On the racing page you can see the racing calendar that was recently approved.

We will be using the web-site as a way of quickly displaying the minutes of board meeting and various topics that we want to get out before the general membership. This certainly will not replace the notices in the bill's or this 'Telltale' but it is the best way we have at present to quickly make things available to as many members as possible. Last month we had a couple of problems concerning commercial launches at the club. The web-site allows us to publish a proposed rule change that was tabled at the last board meeting; we feel this proposal needs more work and would benefit from member input. It is placed there for you to do that.

As 2006 starts to build momentum it is exciting to see many things start to take shape at the club for the year ahead and beyond. Our Sail Training program is looking in good shape and developing for the future, summer camp and PB&J

(Continued on page 7)

## Race Commander News By Larry Ratliff



The racing this seasons has started out with beautiful weather and good winds, even if they have been from contrary directions. Finding a good weather leg has been

hard for RC with winds from the NE on the first week and SE and NW on the other two. Many thanks to all those who have come forward to help on RC for the Frostbite Series, including: **John Mandell, Bruce Foster, Bill Hawk** (with daughter **Erin**), **James Wilsford, Eric and Robbie Nelson, Joe Mancuso, Leon Lance, Bryan Baredorffer, Steve Eller and Valerie Bencivenga**. Two more race days; the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> so come on out. PS the post race food has been great and provided free. Once more thanks to **Robbie Nelson** for Beef Stew and **Frank Woodul** for Shrimp Gumbo; both excellent meals served as you get off the course.

The schedule for next year, with RC assignments, has been posted to the AYC Web site. Click on events on the Home Page then use the drop down box to change the view to "Racing" and the entire years' schedule will come up. Most fleets will have to do RC duty three times this year, which is due to the expanded schedule (three series have 6 race dates) and the fact that Keel Fleet will be going from 4 sub-fleets to 3. If there are concerns with the schedule please contact me either by e-mail ([wratliff@austin.rr.com](mailto:wratliff@austin.rr.com)) or phone 266-2262.

Last month I mentioned RRS 22, *Interfering With Another Boat*. Rule 22.1 states "If Reasonably possible, a boat not *racing* shall not interfere with a boat that is *racing*". This is important to us because of the way our courses are set up and the fact that many of our fleets have two races per day. For our series races all of our courses are set up with the start/finish line in the middle of the course with the line being poison. This means that boats waiting for their second race must constantly be on the lookout

(Continued on Page 11)



## 2006 Racing Schedule

February 4	UT Sailing Team Spring Qualifier #1
February 4	Frostbite Race Series #3 (FWS 1:30 p.m.)
February 11	Frostbite Race Series #4 (FWS 1:30 p.m.)
February 18	Frostbite Race Series #5 (FWS 1:30 p.m.)
March 4 & 5	H.S. Mallory/Baker Qualifier
March 5	Opening Day and Spring Race Series #1
March 12	Spring Race Series #2
March 19	Spring Race Series #3
March 25 & 26	TSA Jr. Roadrunner Regatta
April 1	J/80 Circuit
April 2	J/80 Circuit
April 2	Spring Race Series #4
April 8	Spring Long Distance Race
April 15 & 16	Easter Laser Regatta
April 22 & 23	SC-21 Intergalactics
April 23	Spring Race Series #5
April 30	Spring Race Series #6
May 6	TSA/ Area F Adams Elims (J/24's)
May 7	TSA/ Area F Adams Elims (J/24's)
May 21	Summer Race Series #1
May 27 & 28	Turnback Canyon Regatta
June 4	Summer Race Series #2
June 7, 8 & 9	Ensign Regionals (Wed., Thurs., & Fri.)
June 11	Summer Race Series #3
June 18	Summer Race Series #4
June 25	Summer Race Series #5

## AYC Upcoming Non-Racing Events

February 4	UT Sailing Team Clinic
February 12	AYC Sail Training Boats Clean-up (2:00 p.m.)
February 16	Keel Fleet Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
February 18	AYC Grounds Spring Cleaning (9:00 a.m.-3:00)
February 19	AYC Sail Training Boats Re-fit (2:00 p.m.)
February 20	PB&J/ Summer Camp AYC member registration
February 23	AYC Board Meeting (7:30 p.m.)
February 25	Jr. Winter Training #1
February 25	C-22 Fleet Fix-Up and Tuning day
March 4	Jr. Winter Training #2
March 5	AYC Opening Day
March 11	Jr. Winter Training #3
March 18	Jr. Winter Training #4
March 23	AYC Board Meeting (7:30 p.m.)
April 1	Jr. Winter Training #5
April 8	Jr. Winter Training #6
June 2, 9, 16 & 23	PB&J (9:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.)
June 5-9	Jr. Sailing Camp, Week #1
June 12-16	Jr. Sailing Camp, Week #2

## Sail Training By Johannes Brinkmann



I'd like to encourage all of you to check out the new sail training section on the AYC website. If you, your kids, or your friends, are interested in any of the posted events, sign up fast! Due to increased publicity

for our events this year, we are expecting classes to fill up early. Club members will be given a short "head start" to sign up, after which sign up will be on a first come first served basis.

Enrollment for junior winter training is under way. **Neil Jones** will coach these Saturday afternoon classes for juniors ages 10-15 who want to learn to sail and gear up to participate in the March 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Roadrunner regatta. Classes start February 25<sup>th</sup>.

For our more advanced Middle & High School sailors, 2:00 pm Sunday afternoon practices will also focus on getting ready for the Roadrunner regatta. Many thanks to **Bill Hawk**, who has volunteered to chair the Roadrunner regatta.

There will be a work day for Middle & High School sailors on February 12<sup>th</sup> to clean, organize and assess the condition of our training fleet. Another work day is scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm, to perform needed repairs.

Finally, if you want to sign up kids for this year's Peanut Butter & Jelly camp, or the Summer camp, make note of the following important dates: For both of these camps, AYC member only registration starts February 20<sup>th</sup>, Open registration starts March 6<sup>th</sup>. These camps will fill up fast, so sign up early!

Johannes Brinkmann, Sail Training Commander

Austin Yacht Club Invites You To Our

### Opening Day 2006

Sunday, March 5

10:00 a.m. Brunch

11:00 a.m. Opening Day Ceremony

12:00 Skippers Meeting

1:30 p.m. First Signal, Spring Series Race #1

## Vice Commodore News By Eric Nelson



### AYC Website

Last month I spoke briefly on how the AYC website will be utilized more and more this year by the Board and Staff to get important information out to the membership. Of course it is also capable

of being a great resource for member to member information flow also. While **Paul** has stolen my thunder in his article this month (be sure to read it of course), I did want to add that all the membership should start making the website their first stop when a question arises in their mind related to club activities; racing, social and business! All members should at least go to their "My Account" page, obtain a password and make sure your member profile information is accurate.

### Frostbite

As many of you know, the Frostbite racing has been pretty successful so far with great weather and fun social activities afterwards. The extra flexibility we now have on course setup by also using the LCRA channel marks has been used by each Frostbite RC so far to give the competitors at least a square initial weather leg...if you have not been out yet, try to make it out for the last couple of races. Even if you can't make it out to race, always feel free to join the racers afterwards in the clubhouse. The great complementary food and drinks being served as part of Frostbite has really kept people around, try to stop by and join in the socializing (and maybe catch a great sunset, check out the picture of a Frostbite sunset posted in the News section of the website!).

### Feedback

I wanted to take a minute and also Thank those who e-mailed me with comments after reading my January Telltale article. I know I have not responded directly to some of them yet, however I wanted to encourage everyone to send me their ideas for club events (racing and otherwise) via e-mail. I know it is easy to have informal conver-

*(Continued on Page 7)*

## C-22 Fleet News

By John Grzinich



The C22 Fleet had a small turnout for the annual season kickoff and planning meeting with 7 in attendance on January 17th. However, the attendees were very enthusiastic and a lot of decisions were made. Many ideas for activities and fleet building for the new year were discussed. The attendees in addition to myself were: **Allen Breeze, Bob Jones, Bruce Foster, Peter Broburg, Jordan Owens, and Wade Bingaman.**

### Fleet Officers for 2006:

Fleet Captain: **John Grzinich**

Fleet Treasurer: **Wade Bingaman**

Race Committee Leaders: **Bruce Foster, Bob Jones, Wade Bingaman** ( alternate )

C22 Measurer: **Bob Jones** will be training **Allen Breeze** to eventually take over the measuring job.

Crew Coordinator: **Chris Bataille** has agreed to cover this job for the 2006 season.

Food Coordinator: **Roy Crouse** (Roy was not in attendance, but a unanimous choice )

Fleet Webmaster: **John Grzinich (Ryan Kucera** has offered to help shape up our fleet web site.).



Fleet Photographer: **Dane Ohe** has agreed to cover this assignment. Here's the kind of photo's we expect from Dane (truth is: this photo was taken by **Vic Manning** with Dane's camera), which is Dane at helm of **Kanaloa** on his way to victory

in the 2005 Fall Series).

**Fleet DUES:** \$40 per year for boat owners. This goes towards our after race snacks and liquid refreshments, plus the annual year end party plus trophies.

**RACE Formats:** (C22 fleet sets the format – Spinnaker, Non-Spinnaker – at the beginning of the season)

Spring Series starting opening Day March 4th will be Non-Spinnaker.

All remaining series will be Spinnaker, but the fleet will also be tracking the race results, and will be awarding a Non-Spinnaker trophy, and possibly a novice trophy, and a "most races" trophy depending on participation and budget.

**REGIONAL Regatta's for 2006:** The AYC C22 fleet will not be hosting any state or regional C22 regattas this year. However, for the planned Leukemia Cup in October, the goal is to host a C22 one design fleet that counts towards the C22 Region 8 travel series of regattas.

### The out of town regatta's:

May 6 & 7, Arlington Yacht club, Region 8 Genoa Regatta Championship

May 27-28 Fort Worth Boat Club, State Genoa Championship

At the Nood Regatta in late September at the Houston Yacht Club is the Region 8 Spinnaker Championship.

At the Wurstfest regatta in early November at Canyon Lake is the state Spinnaker championship.

**FIX UP and TUNING DAY:** (The fleet helps each other to get boats ready for opening day.)

SAT. Feb 25th , the weekend before opening day was picked. We also discussed including some crew training, and possibly opening up the event to non-AYC members as a vehicle to recruit new members. More Information on this event will be available soon.

**OTHER Events:** Many ideas for events for the season were discussed. These included having a

*(Continued on Page 11)*



**Frostbite Series Update:**

Well we are 3 races into the Frostbite series with great wind and competitive racing all around. Unfortunately, our Fleet's participation has been down and it has been a little embarrassing since crew have been coming out but not enough boat owners have for all of them to get a ride! However,

there are 2 more races scheduled so there is still some time to come out and enjoy the series. As you may or may not know, this Frostbite series differs from the past ones, in that there is no entry fee, J/24s have their own start and the race course configurations are more like the windward/leeward ones we get during AYC's regular Series racing. Because there is only one scheduled race per day, the RC has opted to give us longer courses, usually consisting of 3-4 times around the same two W/L marks and taking about an hour and a half in duration. As you know the weather has been fantastic and the three race days so far have provided ideal race conditions. Also with the addition of using LCRA channel markers as potential marks, RC has been able to give us square courses while still using permanent marks.



It was an all J/24 team doing RC on Total Recall for Frostbite Race 2: Tom Lappin, Hector Lujan, Eric & Robbie (taking the picture)



Team Out of Control slipping by Superman in Race 2 on that course right side...

As I said, despite the low turn out, there has still been competitive racing, with several lead changes in all the races. In Race 1, **Dave Broadway** lead at all windward marks, with **Joe Mancuso** passing him on the first two downwind legs. In the third upwind leg, **Joe** took a big gamble by going for the right side, but unfortunately it didn't pay out and **Dave** never looked back from there. In Race 2 **Joe's** boat was in the shop so some of his crew came out to help run RC (and to qualify to get the average of their scores applied for Race 2!) but while **Dave** was in the lead at all weather marks, this time it was **Stephen Burke** and **Team Out of Control** who was right on his tail at all roundings. All downwind legs, **Dave** would go down course left, while **Stephen** chose to go course right and in the third downwind, it finally paid off as **Stephen** took advantage of a big puff down the right side and put a nice lead on **Dave**. Unfortunately for **Team Out of Control**, experience always seems to pay off and **Dave** was able to gain it back with a tight mark rounding at the bottom of the course. **Dave** took the race, with **Stephen** in second and **Charlie Singstad**, working to knock off the New Year's cobwebs, ended up in third. In Race 3 **Joe** was back out to tag team **Dave** with **Stephen**. While I wasn't out racing due to being out of town, I saw in the posted scores that **Stephen** was able to shake off **Dave** (no doubt with some help from **Joe**) to win Race 3 and push **Dave** back to second.

(Continued on Page 7)

## Membership News By Danny Lien



**Mentors wanted:** The Membership Committee thinks that some of our new probationary members might have a better experience with the Club as new members and get an understanding of our racing and social activities if they had an AYC mentor/mentor-family paired with them for their first year. A mentor might help get them involved in Beer Can Races, in Race Committee perhaps as an observer, introduce them to the different Fleet gatherings, crew possibilities, work parties and real parties. We are very fortunate that our two new members accepted this past month have raced a lot at the Club and already know the social layout and where to seek out the best impromptu gatherings, but many new members could use some help breaking into our social structure. I have two mentor volunteers to date. Let me know at [dannylien@austin.rr.com](mailto:dannylien@austin.rr.com) if you are also interested and then we can set up an informal program.

**Membership Committee Business:** The membership committee met Thursday January 19<sup>th</sup>. We are scheduled to meet the third Thursday of each Month in 2006. The following was approved at the January Board Meeting:

**Bill Curra** has sailed and raced for many years and applied for senior probationary membership. He has been consistent crew on **Bill Hawk's** Ensign as well as participating in other events at AYC and on Galveston Bay/Gulf of Mexico for many years.

**John Adair** has sailed and raced for many years and applied for associate membership. He owns a Montgomery 12, which he keeps at home. He has been consistent crew on **Chris Dwight's** J22 and states he plans to help keep that boat on the line while Chris is off on work trips away from Austin.

**Craig and Lauren Bach** (and family) have more than successfully met their probationary requirements and were accepted as AYC Senior members. Upon acceptance as Senior Members, Craig and Lauren Bach requested AYC non-resident status as they are Currently refitting a 75 foot boat

in St. Maarten and plan a family sail abroad for about six years.

**Steve Wesson** qualifies for and was granted 10-year Ol' Salt status.

**Barbara Hawn and Trenton Wann** each individually met the requirements for full Ol' Salt membership and had requested the same. Rumor has it that they have begun racing their C&C in a New Mexico pond and sleeping over on the boat with some down bags for necessary warmth. They didn't win their first race there, but I bet they soon earn some silver.

**Carl Morris** has a South Coast 21 (again) and is reinstated as a Senior Member. Welcome back to the race line Carl!

There were four resignations from AYC since last November. Three of them were the result of probationary members not meeting their probationary racing and social activity requirements and citing they didn't have the time at hand to do so.

Also of note, Friday January 20<sup>th</sup>, the AYC office was notified that **Phillip Thompson**, senior member, had passed away December 8, 2005.

The total amount of paying members at AYC as of the end of the month of January are 398.

Membership totals and a little more information may soon be found on the AYC website in the Membership Report within the preliminary minutes from each past Board Meeting.

SAVE THE DATE!



The 2006 Leukemia Cup Regatta  
October 13—15, 2006

## Commodore... (Continued from Page 1)

are scheduled. The Racing calendar is about to begin a great year of racing. Our facility is in generally good shape and we are examining ways to best maintain and improve the great place we all enjoy. The level of the Lake is certainly not where we want it to be but it still offers us a great piece of water to enjoy. I hope to see you all at opening day.



Paul Ballett

## Fleet Commander News By Bob Gallant

**Did you know?** Harbor rule 15 states: *Loaning of slips* - No assigned storage space may be loaned without the prior knowledge of the Fleet Commander or Club Manager.

Harbor rule 16 states: *Slips are Non-Transferable* - Assigned storage spaces (slips) are not for sale or sub-lease by members.

There are violations of both of these rules going on at the present time, with the net result being that there are people in storage spaces (wet and dry) that do not belong there. There have been cases where non AYC individuals were occupying AYC storage spaces, with AYC members on wait lists for these spaces. This is wrong, and cheats AYC paying members.

Please read up on the harbor rules pertaining to storage spaces and their usage in the AYC handbook, and heed the rules. You never know when an audit might find your boat or trailer IMPROPERLY STORED. (Hint: see...fees, dues, and assessments.)

**Attention!** Harbor Rule #24 requires all boat trailers of AYC members to have "AYC" and the last name of the owner affixed to both sides of the trailer tongue. Please have all trailers appropriately marked by April 1, or be prepared to be assessed to have it done by someone else.

Also, the AYC point is getting cluttered. Be reminded that the point is not a permanent storage area for boats and trailers. They must be stored in their assigned DSA slot or the trailer storage area (trailers).

**RULES CHANGES PROPOSALS** - The AYC board is considering rules changes in two areas: (1) Rule #11. *Commercial Ramp Use*, and (2) the addition of a contractors section to the handbook (please see Page 12 in this Telltale for details). If you have an interest in this, and want to give constructive input, please contact the Fleet Commander (Bob Gallant [Puck\\_58@hotmail.com](mailto:Puck_58@hotmail.com)), or the Buildings and Grounds Commander (David Lewis [dlewis@signaturescience.com](mailto:dlewis@signaturescience.com)).

## Vice Commodore... (Continued from Page 3)

sations about this broad topic when we all get together at various times but I find that until someone is willing to put things in writing, they probably aren't that serious or really care...so if you really want to get me engaged, drop me an e-mail at [ennelson@us.ibm.com](mailto:ennelson@us.ibm.com).

Eric Nelson, AYC Vice Commodore

## J-24 Fleet... (Continued from Page 5)



Dave Broadway's Superman crew in a close "fly by" of the RC boat in Race 2

### Post Race Socials

In another change from past year's, as part of AYC being the organizing authority for the Frostbite, the club has been extremely generous in offering complementary beer and food after each race of the Frostbite. Past menus have included beef stew and seafood gumbo so even if you can't make it out to race, plan on joining the Frostbite fleet back in the clubhouse afterwards (and network yourself a ride or some crew for the following week!).

### Crew Looking for J/24s...

Calling all J/24 owners! As I mentioned earlier, there has been a big shift toward more available crew than J/24s coming out during Frostbite...one of the reasons for this has been that the UT School of Architecture has selected AYC as a test ground for their students to design various new buildings. As a result, you may have noticed a lot of college age students spending time around the club taking pictures, measurements, and drawing designs on the weekends. After seeing all

(Continued on Page 10)



**Not Exactly Frostbite:**

The great wind we didn't have in the Fall Series finally filled in a month or two late, with plenty to spare. Although the official racing season doesn't begin until March, the new format for Frostbite has given us a

jump on fleet racing. Although it is supposed to be winter, it has felt quite a bit more like fall. The January 21 start was represented by six Ensigns: four real and two virtual crews made their appearance. "**Frying Dutchmen**" and **Avalon** were sailing in very close contact the whole race, with the later pulling in front at the finish to win by a half boat length. Meanwhile, MUCH further back, **Festina Lente** was dueling all afternoon with **Panacea** (if you don't recognize the latter, it is not a new Ensign in our fleet, but a South Coast 21 sharing our start). And **Robin Drummond** aboard **Puff Daddy**, said that she is out there competing against herself, trying to get better. Our two virtual Ensigns were **Bill Hawk** and **Jim Wilsford** who served on race committee. After the race, we were treated (by **Robbie Nelson**?) to a hearty beef stew to take the edge off the (not so) cold.

**Segue to Fleet Party:** The Ensign fleet held their annual meeting and fleet party the evening following the Frostbite opener. **Kelly and Bill Hawk** served as our gracious hosts, and a special thanks is due for all their hard work in getting things ready as well as dealing with cleanup. Opening up one's home to a bunch of Ensign sailors is a dubious proposition, after all. We had a fine turnout for the event, with guests including (and not limited to Ensign sailors): **Bill and Kelly Hawk, Robin Drummond, Tom Lappin, Tom and Kelly Groll, Frans and Deborah Dahmen, Tom Nelson, Jonathan Baker, Bill Curra, Larry Ratliff, Sarah Baker, Larry Smith and Amie Rodnick, James and Carolyn Wilsford, Jim Casto, Fred and Isabelle Deboes, and Randolph and Suzanne Bertin.**

We interrupted the usual business of munching, imbibing, and chattering, to conduct a little official



fleet business. The main topic was our hosting of the Region IV championships this June. **Tom Groll** agreed to spearhead the effort, but

he will need and was promised plenty of support in pulling it all together (I'm pretty sure we won't be putting the banquet on Tom's credit card this time). The likely format is to have a Wednesday check in and casual event that evening, a full day of racing on Thursday, with a banquet that night, and the final races on Friday, followed by the presentation of awards. Hopefully, everyone in the fleet will be able to participate in some way or another, whether you are racing or helping with logistics (or preferably, both). Let's all work to make this a very successful event.

Other business conducted included the assessment of Ensign fleet dues. We voted to assess modest dues, with the money to be used as needed (fairly vague, I know, but with the virtue of allowing a great deal of flexibility). No timetable has been set, but you can expect to be contacted by your fleet treasurer. Which brings us to the final order of business: the selection of new officers. We made it easy for everyone to remember—the new officers are the same as the old officers: **Jonathan Baker, Randolph Bertin, and Bill Hawk** agreed to renew their duties as fleet captain, secretary, and treasurer respectively. We also filled the vacant post of social coordinator, voting in the absent (though quite capable) **Norma Lien.**



To cap the evening off, as we broke up the party,

*(Continued on Page 9)*

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

it began to rain for the first time in what seemed like forever. Coincidence?!

**Frostbite 2 and 3:** Another strong fleet made it out on January 28, this time all of the boats were real. **Danny Lien** skippered **Avalon** to a second consecutive win, with **James Wilsford** claiming second and **Bill Hawk**, third. **Robin Drummond** returned for round 2, as did **Randolph Bertin** (with help from **Tom Groll** in battling mechanical problems, and accompanied by a captive crew of architecture students), and **James and Amy Bené** celebrated getting a wet slip at the AYC by making a wonderfully short trek out to the starting line giving us a half dozen boats in all. The beautiful, gusty afternoon of great winter racing was topped off with another tasty meal, courtesy of **Frank Woodul**.

The glut of incredible Texas winter days continued on Feb 4, for the 3rd race in the apparently misnamed Frostbite Series. Because your verbose Telltale correspondent was not able to be present at the event, and everyone else was too busy watching the super bowl to comment, I can only speculate that those who made it out had a FANTASTIC time, with plenty of excitement and great sailing! The race also witnessed the return of **Amie Rodnick** and **Larry Smith**, who rejoined us on the water (after crewing for **Bill Hawk** the previous week) to add yet another active boat to our resurging fleet! As far as the standings go, **Avalon** notched yet another first. Their apparent 10 point lead would seem to be insurmountable, as it is the only boat to have finished all three races. But **James Wilsford** aboard **Esmeralda** is keeping the heat on. A DNC due to RC duty will later be scored at average. And, with another second place finish on the day, average right now is 2. Factor in the possibility of a dropped score and... well, let's just say that the series hasn't been decided yet. And, **Bill Hawk** with another third, is also looking pretty good. How will it all end? Don't wait to read it about here next month when you can be a part of making it happen on the water.

*What are you waiting for? Get out and sail!*

## J-22 Fleet News By Renee Ruais



When is the last time you read a J/22 update in the Telltale? Too long, I'm sure. Well, the J/22 fleet is back in the saddle with 8 (or more?) local boats ready to sail. We are still, according to the internet, Fleet 11, in the Southwest District. J/22 racing in our district is strong; it's something of an anomaly that activity at AYC has

been low in recent years. In my short 'career' in J/22's, it has been very clear to me that while circuit racing is important to some people, others are only interested in local racing. I believe that neither can thrive without successful local fleets, and to that end, I will be focused on local activities for our fleet.



*Photo Courtesy of Mike Kilpatrick*

I'm very happy to report that we are well on our way to increased local activity! At the time of this writing, we've had 2 Frostbite races each with 4 J/22's participating! We also launched a new Fleet Page on the AYC website to let people know that we are here. It has paid off with 2 contacts so far, one J/22 aficionado looking to crew while he's away from his boat and a couple displaced from New Orleans/Southern Yacht Club who are thinking of bringing their boat here. They're nervous about the ramp launch process, so we're going to show them how it's done with this Saturday's Frostbite race. If you are interested in participating in the revival of the J/22 fleet at AYC, send an email to [RMRuais@austin.rr.com](mailto:RMRuais@austin.rr.com)! We're building our crew/fleet mailing list...drop us a note if you want to hear more about what's happening in the J/22 fleet!

Renee Ruais

Over the past year the club's website has been evolving and growing. If you haven't been there lately, check out <http://austinyachtclub.net/>. We have been moving many things that were formerly handled with paper to the website. For example, this **newsletter** is still available in print but also can be viewed online. This year we're also reducing the amount of stuff printed in the club directory as we move things to the web page.

Take a look at <http://austinyachtclub.net/information>. You can find all the information from the printed club directory. Note that some information can be seen only by other club members, who sign in with their member ID and password. For example, the general public can't see addresses, phone numbers, or email addresses but your fellow members can find this information easily.

With this month's bill you should receive a printout of your information in the directory. Please review it promptly and sign in to the web page (click the My Account link at the top of <http://austinyachtclub.net/>). You need your member number and password to sign in, and this information was included on the printout. We encourage you to make sure your information is up to date, since it is printed in the club directory.

In addition, this web page has a link to a new website feature: **Classified Ads**. Members and non-members can post ads for boats, equipment, etc. There are also lists of **people who want to crew**, and **people who need crew** for their boats.

There are also links to racing information, such as **series instructions** and the **latest race results**. The scoring committee uploads results shortly after completion of races.

You will also find links to **Fleet Home Pages** and **Members Home Pages**. Any fleet can have their own space to present their own information. If you want to help out with any of the Fleet pages let me know.

The Members Home Pages contain things uploaded by various members. Anyone can set up their own web page and upload boat pictures, pics of your last trip to the BVIs, or whatever. It's easy!

Just click the My Account link up top, sign in to your account, and click the My Home Page link on the left.

Speaking of pictures, I'd love to have more pictures for the website. Two members are already providing pictures, **Bruce McDonald** and **Mike Kilpatrick**. I'd be happy to link to anyone else's picture website, just let me know.

Finally, I'd like to emphasize, the website is a work in progress and it continues to evolve. I look forward to hearing suggestions and comments. Drop me a note at [tlang@halsoft.com](mailto:tlang@halsoft.com).

Tom Lang, Your Web Page Guy

### J-24 Fleet... (Continued from Page 7)

the fun that we have out on the course, many of them have expressed much interest in coming out sailing and experiencing the great sport of sailboat racing. So far we have had several people come out and race on J/24s and all have had a really good time and expressed a desire to continue coming out. Additionally, **Tom Lappin** has been receiving emails from others outside of the club wanting to come out and start racing, so if you need crew, please contact **Tom** ([tom@bevobus.com](mailto:tom@bevobus.com)). And lastly if you have not checked out the AYC website lately (<http://www.austinyachtclub.net/>), there have been major updates made to the web pages, including a new sections for classified ads and crew lists (want to crew/need crew). There's also a new Racing section that has all of AYC's 2006 racing events posted on the Calendar, Racing and Events section...check it all out as all the information you need to get your AYC racing program rolling is there.

#### Looking Ahead

**Tom** is looking at some dates and places to have our Fleet's traditional Happy Hour mixer to kick-off our 2006 Austin J/24 Fleet activities...if you have any ideas on this, drop Tom a line...who knows, I heard we did "OK" on the 2005 circuit stop financials, maybe the Treasurer will allow Tom to spring for some comp'd beer at this upcoming Happy Hour! I will send something out in a Fleet e-newsletter as details get firmed up.

Eric Nelson, J/24 Fleet Reporter



Frostbite Series #3 was a huge success! The wind gusted to 23 knots, and everyone enjoyed the delicious Southwest Chicken Chili afterwards. Kudos to RC and all the event organizers!

## Race Commander...(Continued from Page 2)

for boats that are still racing in order to avoid interfering with them. If you are sailing around prior to your second race be aware of the racers who may be coming up to finish or are in the middle of a race and avoiding the start/finish line. Please do not sail back and forth across the course on the leeward side of the start/finish line. Remember that a wind shadow could be "interference" so don't get too close to any boat still racing.

During the start sequence this rule also applies. By definition "A boat is *racing* from her preparatory signal....". This means that, once the P flag is raised for a class they are racing, Rule 22.1 comes into effect. So if you're late getting out to the starting area wait until the class flag for your start has been raised to check in and while waiting for your start stay out of the vicinity of the start/finish line so as not to foul boats that are in their starting sequence.

The other topic I wanted to mention was the possible use of a pursuit start for either The Spring Long Distance Race (April 8<sup>th</sup>) or the Turnback Canyon Regatta (May 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>). A pursuit start is what we use for the Friday Night Beer Can races. It is based on the premise that the handicap is given at the start and we all finish together. It is used successfully by many clubs across the country. It is based on a race of a given length and scratch sheets are provided to competitors prior to the start that give the start time for all boats competing. This allows one-design fleets to all start at the same time, and will allow boats of the same rating to compete head-to-head. We will break the PHRF competitors into sub-fleets as appropriate. The finish becomes easy....whoever gets there first wins.

I have gotten both positive and negative comments on using this approach, but am looking for more input. If you have a view point, good or bad, on using a pursuit start let me know. See you on the race course.

Larry Ratliff, Race Commander



**Editor's Safety Note:** Please remember to inform RC if you decide not to finish a race. They can be reached on Channel 72. If RC does not record your finish, they'll assume something serious may have happened to you and your crew and will start looking for you and your boat. With the wind gusting like it has been, and the water temperature being so low, RC takes these DNF's very

seriously. Please be considerate to them and keep in mind that safety comes first.



**Emergency**

## C-22 Fleet...(Continued from Page 4)

C22 cruise, either a day cruise or overnight, and having a raft up, possibly after a race. We really need more input from the fleet on level of interest in these type of activities.

FLEET BUILDING was established as one of the key goals and activities for 2006.

Many ideas were discussed to address growing the C22 fleet, and what activities could be pursued to gain more C22 sailors in the fleet. Having C22 Technical Information Day for everyone in the area was a popular idea, and we are working on linking this with the "Fix Up" day. Having Mentor's to work with people just starting out in sailing and racing C22's is another idea we discussed. Experienced racers would volunteer to help the newer sailors not only with advice, but with sailing experience, crewing, or rotation at the helm. We also will set up a few race days to invite some C22 sailors from the other marinas in the area. We also are planning more pro-active crew recruiting efforts along with some crew training activities.

The sailing year has started. Frostbite has a lot of new things going this year, including one design fleets; hopefully the C22's will come out and enjoy it. The objective is to have a record C22 turnout for opening day.

Fleet Captain, John Grzinich

## Laser Fleet News By Renee Ruais



Zzzzzzz...hibernating. Seriously... Laser sailors are fixing their boats, whining about the water being too cold, and sailing on other boats. In spite of that, we did pick up one new Laser Sailor that I know of. **John Adair**, a new member at AYC, has purchased a Laser and is ready to sail with us! I think he actually went out sailing last Sunday, but I got word of the activity too late to invite anyone (myself included) to go join him. This winter really has been extremely kind to us in Austin and it looks to continue that trend. We really ought to take advantage of that! I'm hoping that we'll see some high 70/low 80 forecasts in February and will try to arrange a fun-sail/race day.

## AYC Rules Change Proposals

As stated in the Fleet Commander News article on Page 7 of this Telltale, the AYC board is considering rules changes in two areas: (1) Rule #11. *Commercial Ramp Use*, and (2) the addition of a contractors section to the handbook. For comments, please contact the Fleet Commander (Bob Gallant [Puck\\_58@hotmail.com](mailto:Puck_58@hotmail.com)), or the Buildings and Grounds Commander (David Lewis [dlewis@signaturescience.com](mailto:dlewis@signaturescience.com)). The proposed changes being considered by the AYC board are as follows:

### **Rule #11. Commercial Ramp Use, Original text:**

*(From Page 28, 2005 Handbook: )*

An AYC member launching or hauling a boat from AYC property in connection with a commercial venture will be charged the Commercial Launch Fee shown in AYC Fee Schedule which appears in the "FEES, DUES, AND ASSESSMENTS" section of the handbook. The member will be responsible for any damages incurred to the roadway, ramp, bank, or dock during the launch as determined by the appropriate club official. The member must contact the Club Manager for a launch appointment in order to ensure that the launch will not interfere with other club activities.

### **Proposed Contractors Section Philosophy**

The contractors section of the handbook should be added to the handbook to protect our corporations, and by extension, our membership and club. The contractors section should establish a working method and policy for dealing with contractors that speaks to:

- Safety of operations of the contractors and subcontractors to include:
  1. What to do in emergency
  2. Their use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
  3. Role of AYC staff
  4. Consequences for operating in an unsafe manner
- Office requirements to include:
  1. Establishment of insurance coverage levels for contractors. (Board established with input from AYC Insurance co.)
  2. Verification of appropriate insurance coverage
  3. Verification of board approval in the cases of non-member contractors working on site
  4. Payment of appropriate fees
  5. Setting of appointments for the work to be performed

### **Rule #11. Commercial Ramp Use, Proposed changes:**

*(To Page 28, 2005 Handbook: )*

Intent: The intent of this policy is to ensure that AYC facilities, including the AYC ramps and launching facilities, are reserved primarily for non-commercial use by AYC members. It further is intended that AYC members, as necessary and convenient, may employ outside contractors to assist them in launching or hauling vessels on AYC property. However, AYC members may not use AYC facilities in the operation of a commercial venture unless they are acting as a contractor or subcontractor in the employ of AYC or an AYC member. Although facilities are intended primarily for use by AYC members, it is the intent of this policy also to provide leeway for the AYC board occasionally to permit commercial or other use of AYC launching facilities by non-AYC members.

#### Definitions:

Commercial venture—A commercial venture is defined as any activity that occurs where consideration is given in exchange for a service rendered.

Consideration—Payment given in exchange for a service rendered, to include any form of recompense, monetary or otherwise.

Contractor/Subcontractor—A person or company engaged in providing a service for payment or other consideration. The person or company may be either a primary contractor or a subcontractor working under a primary contractor.

Policy: An AYC member may not use AYC facilities in connection with the operation of a commercial venture unless they are acting as a contractor or subcontractor in the employ of AYC or an AYC member. An AYC member launching or hauling a boat from AYC property in the operation of a commercial venture is considered a contractor/subcontractor, and is subject to the requirements laid out in the Contractors section of the handbook. Contractors/subcontractors will be charged the Commercial Launch Fee shown in AYC Fee Schedule which appears in the "FEES, DUES, AND ASSESSMENTS" section of the handbook. Contractors/subcontractors, including members acting in such capacity, will be responsible for any damages incurred to the roadway, ramp, bank, or dock during launching or hauling activities as determined by the appropriate club official.

On occasion it is necessary or desirable for a non-AYC member contractor to haul or launch a boat. AYC board approval must be obtained before this activity can be scheduled to happen. Upon board approval, the

contractor is subject to all requirements in listed in the contractor section.

**Verbiage of Proposed Contractor section:**

Intent: The intent of this policy is to ensure that contractors who perform work on AYC premises, whether on behalf of AYC or on behalf of an AYC member, do so in accordance with specific requirements pertaining to insurance, safe work practices, scheduling of work, payment of fees, and check-in with the AYC office.

Definitions:

Consideration—Payment given in exchange for a service rendered, to include any form of recompense, monetary or otherwise.

Contractor/Subcontractor—A person or company engaged in providing a service for payment or other consideration. The person or company may be either a primary contractor or a subcontractor working under a primary contractor.

Policy: A contractor performing work in exchange for payment or other consideration on AYC premises, whether in the employ of AYC or an AYC member, shall have an insurance certificate on file with the AYC office showing general liability coverage in the minimum amounts shown in Table 1 below. Prior to performing any work on AYC premises, contractors shall check in at the office to receive a copy of AYC Contractor Guidelines and Requirements and a work permit that they must keep in their possession at all times while on AYC premises. A copy of the work permit will be kept in the AYC office. The work permit will indicate who has authorized the work (AYC member for work on member's property or AYC Board member if work on AYC property), the work to be performed, and the inclusive dates of the scheduled work. If the work requires longer than originally agreed, a revised work permit must be obtained from the office. A contractor launching or hauling a vessel shall pay the commercial launch or haul out fee shown in the AYC Fee Schedule which appears in the "FEES, DUES, AND ASSESSMENTS" section of the handbook prior to receiving a work permit.

An AYC member may not use AYC facilities in connection with the operation of a commercial venture unless they are acting as a contractor or subcontractor in the employ of AYC or an AYC member. AYC members acting as contractors or subcontractors must meet all contractor requirements described above.

Any contractors found to be operating outside of these requirements will be contacted by the Fleet Commander, and the requirements reviewed. Additional violations will result in the contractor's operations to be

brought before the AYC board for review. Resultant actions may include banning the contractor from operations on AYC property.

Fees and assessments:

The following table will be added to this section for commercial launch or haul out fees:

**Commercial Launch and Haul-Out Fees1**

<u>Length</u>	<u>Member-Owned Vessels</u>		<u>Non-Member-Owned Vessels</u>	
<u>Overall</u>	<u>Sailboats</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Sailboats</u>	<u>Other</u>
Up to 30 feet	\$10	\$100	\$100	\$200
31 to 33 feet	\$15	\$150	\$150	\$300
34 to 36 feet	\$20	\$200	\$200	\$400
37 to 40 feet	\$30	\$300	\$300	\$600
40 to 50 feet	\$50	\$500	\$500	\$1000
Over 50 feet	\$100	\$1000	\$1000	\$2000

1Haul-outs and launches of the same vessel within a 30-day period are subject to a single fee for haul-out and launch. After 30 days, a separate fee shall be assessed.



**AYC Grounds Spring Clean-up Day  
February 18**

**Come out and help us spruce up AYC's grounds for Opening Day!**

We plan to focus on replanting the flower beds—out front by the sign, by the anchor, and by the bell—but there is some general clean-up needed, as well. The planned scheduled is 9:00 to 3:00—but you are welcome to come out for just the morning and then race the final race of the Frostbite Series in the afternoon. Lunch will be provided around 12:30. Volunteers should bring gloves, spades, hoes and the like. E-mail our Buildings and Grounds Commander, David Lewis (dlewis@signaturescience.com), for more information and to sign-up, or call the AYC office.



**Parents!**

**AYC member registration for PB&J and Jr. Sailing Camp starts February 20! Don't forget to register!**

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