

Telltale

January 2006

Monthly Newsletter

Board of Directors

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

AYC Staff

Sailing Director & Social Coordinator	Laura Leigh Barry
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

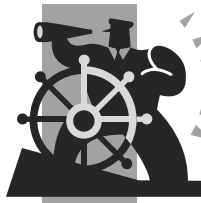
AYC Business Hours

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



Happy New Year! Could you think of a better way to start 2006? **Laura Barry** organized a fun New Years Eve Party to bring in the New Year, Keel Fleet brought us

Red Eye Regatta on what must have been the most perfect January 1st you could ask for, and the Longhorns are National Champions! I admit it, after that start I'm worried it can only go downhill from here! Strange to think the first week of 2006 could have only been better if it had rained heavily.

Our first week ended with a day long executive session for the 2006 Board of Directors to get everyone acquainted with each other and the matters at hand and to prepare the budget for 2006. First, let me say how fortunate I am to have been blessed with the Board members I have. You may not be aware (I was not) that, as Commodore, I have no input with regard to the other Board members. With that said, I could not have chosen better. I'm sure the Board will make me look good all year. Their names and position are posted next to this column.

Our clubs finances are in good shape and we have been working over the last few years to escrow funds for major repair and replacement projects. An example of one such project will be examined and presented to the board this year by the Harbor Commander: Dock 3 is due for replacement. One feature that may be incorporated into the new dock is for the design to enable the potential for Hydro hoists, an-

other is an improved walkway to the shore. Our current walkways have been a 'bone of contention' with the LCRA for a number of years. Other design features are also being discussed and the Harbor Commander is forming a sub-committee to consider all of these. Please give Bob Gallant a call with any questions.

Buildings and grounds also have a number of items to consider as we move through the year to maintain the facilities we all enjoy at AYC. One area that is under consideration is the lack of use and deterioration of the various shelters on the grounds. These shelters were originally conceived after the flood as simple floodable structures with bug screens and little else. Unfortunately they are little used and offer no real revenue stream to the club. Various ideas are being considered which may lead to a proposal to the Board for minor upgrades to some of the shelters to try to make them more attractive as a rentable space while retaining their simple nature. Another proposal converts one to a Sail-training Pavilion/Junior Clubhouse which would act as a training base for all ages and a center for our Junior Sailing Programs and Camps.

Thinking of Sail-training, I encourage you all to check out the web-site and spend some time talking to **Laura**, our Sailing Director, to get a good feel for what is happening in this area for 2006. Having **Laura** on staff has allowed us to get a better feel for how all our programs can work together and will allow us to make the most of past investments on facilities and equipment. I

(Continued on page 7)

Race Commander News By Larry Ratliff



The New Year has come and gone and all thoughts now turn to the next racing season. As the new Race Commander, I am looking forward to an active and exciting race calendar in 2006. The PRC is starting

with an experienced crew as many of the PRC members will be returning for the second year of their two year stint. The PRC will have its first meeting on the 12th of January and start the planning for the upcoming season.

As part of the planning effort, the proposed racing calendar has been posted to the web site. Please take a few minutes and look over the schedule.

One issue I need to bring up immediately is to ask for volunteers to help with scoring. Scoring is a responsibility of the Race Committee and **Jim Johnstone** has agreed to take over the coordination of the scoring efforts this year. **Jim** has only one person to help him at this time and we need at least 3-4 more people to work on this task. Volunteers need to have a working knowledge of computers and be familiar with the fleet structure and the boats at AYC. Please contact **Jim** or myself (wratliff@austin.rr.com or jjhonstone@austin.rr.com) if you are interested in helping.

Over the next couple of weeks, I will be organizing a meeting with the fleet captains to discuss issues concerning RC duties and RC training needs for their fleets.

I look forward to a full and exciting racing season both on and off the water. Before I sign off, many thanks to **Bill Hawk** for doing much of the background work on this years' schedule and for his excellent work as Race Commander last year.

NEXT MONTH: Rule 22 and Pursuit starts and why they are important.

Larry Ratliff, Race Commander

Did You Know? US Sailing has a fun Sailboat Racing Test that you can finish in a couple of minutes online at www.sailingcourse.com/racing_test.htm. A passing score will earn you a US Sailing Introduction To Racing Course certificate that you can print and present at any participating US Sailing School. It's a good test for Junior and adult sailors alike!



2006 Racing Schedule*

January 1	Red Eye Regatta
January 21	Frostbite Race Series #1 (FWS 1:30 p.m.)
January 28	Frostbite Race Series #2 (FWS 1:30 p.m.)
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 5	Opening Day and Spring Race Series #1
March 12	Spring Race Series #2
March 19	Spring Race Series #3
March 25	UT Alumni Regatta
March 25 & 26	Jr. Roadrunner Regatta
April 2	Spring Race Series #4
April 8	Spring Long Distance Race
April 15 & 16	Easter Laser Regatta
April 23	Spring Race Series #5
April 30	Spring Race Series #6
May 21	Summer Race Series #1
May 27 & 28	Turnback Canyon Regatta
June 4	Summer Race Series #2
June 11	Summer Race Series #3
June 18	Summer Race Series #4
June 25	Summer Race Series #5

* Note: This schedule is tentative and all events after January 21 are pending approval by the AYC Board of Directors at it's meeting on January 26. The final schedule will be posted in the February issue of Telltale and on the AYC website after January 26.

AYC Upcoming Non-Racing Events

January 12	PRC Meeting
January 17	C-22 Meeting at AYC Clubhouse
January 19	Membership Committee Meeting
January 21	Ensign Fleet 30 Annual Party
January 26	AYC Board Meeting
February 4	UT Sailing Team Clinic
February 25	Jr. Winter Training
March 4	Jr. Winter Training
March 5	AYC Opening Day
March 11	Jr. Winter Training
March 18	Jr. Winter Training
March 25	Jr. Winter Training
April 1	Jr. Winter Training
April 8	Jr. Winter Training
June 13-17	Jr. Sailing Camp, First Session
June 20-24	Jr. Sailing Camp, Second Session

Sail Training By Johannes Brinkmann



In 2006 we will be building on the successes of last year's training programs and working to increase youth participation in the club. The addition of our Sailing Director, **Laura Barry**, will be a huge asset as she assists and coordinates the efforts of the many volunteers that make AYC's training programs possible.

By mid January you will find a banner on the AYC website with links to training program descriptions and registration information. Check it out and tell your friends about it!

This year's first program is the Junior Winter Training. **Neil Jones** will head coach these classes for kids ages 10 – 15 both with and without prior sailing experience. It's a great introductory and tune up program that's scheduled for Saturday afternoons from February 25th through April 8th. For those kids that want to participate in the March 25th and 26th Road Runner Regatta, this is an excellent opportunity to get ready. Check the web site or call the AYC office for details and registration information.

Johannes Brinkmann,
Sail Training Commander



Santa Claus sails into AYC on December 10, 2005 for the Annual Children's Christmas Party, after the reindeer dropped him off at Stearns Island. "Animals aren't allowed at AYC...", so he "...couldn't bring the reindeer along", Santa said.

Vice Commodore News By Eric Nelson



Opening Thoughts from your Vice Commodore

One of the key focus areas for the Vice Commodore is ensuring quality sailing events are put on by the club. Traditionally this has meant being on point to kick-off the front end planning required for our open AYC Regattas.

This year I want to expand that focus by working with the Race Commander and our new staff Sailing Director to develop and implement ideas to improve the planning, coordination and execution of the other types of AYC hosted sailing events, like our series racing as well as individual fleet regattas like the J circuit stops. I also include in this expanded focus the possibility of developing new sailing events that don't center around racing (what!), such as something oriented around social cruising.

This won't be a closed process, rather for it to be on target we will need to understand what the membership thinks are areas that may need change and what kind...this means we need good communication channels and of course the collective desire to use them effectively! On this item my vision is to find ways to further leverage the hidden-to-most-of-us power of our new website to supplement the existing phone and e-mail channels...hey I now have a topic for next month's Telltale! :-)) but for now let's get back to discussing some near term AYC racing related items I think you will find informative.

2006 AYC Racing Schedule Proposal Status: The base AYC racing calendar won't officially be approved until the January board meeting. This is to give the membership time to review and comment to the board on it before there is a vote. If you want to look over what is being proposed, it is available on the AYC website (use the link in the 'News' section on the front page). The club is run by the membership via the board, get involved and let the board know what you think!

2006 AYC Regatta Plan: While on the subject of the race calendar proposal, I wanted to spend a minute with you to make sure the membership understood what was the thinking behind the proposed 2006 AYC regatta schedule. Basically over the years the club has experienced a significant participation decline in our open regattas (e.g. Spring Regatta, etc.). There seems to be 2 drivers of this; 1) fewer non-AYC boats

(Continued on Page 7)

C-22 Fleet News

By John Grzinich



The 2005 finale for the Catalina 22 fleet was a terrific Christmas party held Dec. 11th at the AYC clubhouse. We had 56 people attend including skippers, crew, family, and kids. **MaryAnn Fitch** prepared an outstanding entrée of bourbon chicken, cooked with genuine Texas bourbon. Tons

of snacks, side dishes, fabulous desserts, and wine for tasting were brought by party goers. Everyone was stuffed. Laptops projected all the great photos taken during the year. And, in what

has become a tradition for the Catalina 22 fleet Christmas parties, Blackjack gaming for gift baskets. Three adult prizes and one kid's prize were taken home. The Catalina 22 fleet awards 2 sailing trophies each year at the Christmas party, one for the most improved skipper, and one for the most improved crew. **Dan Ohe** took home the most improved skipper award this



Fleet 69 Cracked Pin

year for completing a retro fit of his C22 and then coming out to convincingly win four races. **Chris Bataille** took home the most improved crew award. She completed a weekend in an AYC woman's racing clinic and did an excellent job of crewing on several C22's this year. A new award was initiated this year, basically for the opposite reason. The trophy was built using a keel pin that was removed from a 1973 C22 that is being restored by **Allen Breeze**. The "Cracked Pin" honors are determined by a vote at the year end party for the biggest C22 "phoo-pa" of the year. This idea backfired on the fleet captain, who got the most votes for leaving his truck in gear and then disconnecting the truck from the trailer. With many people standing around watching, yours truly ran after his truck, jumped in, and hit the brakes just before the trailers across the parking lot. This was a wonderful social event to wrap up a year of C22 sailing.

The C22 Fleet is looking forward to a new sailing year, hopefully with some additional water in Lake Travis. On New Years day for the Redeye, I did successfully launch my C22 off the trailer on the north ramp using the trailer extension, so the dry sailors are still in good position to sail at current lake levels. We are starting 2006 by welcoming a new member, **David Shockley**. **David** joins AYC and the C22 fleet with extensive cruising and chartering experience and has purchased my

previous C22 "**Bebop**". **David** is looking forward to gaining lake sailing, and racing experience.

The C22 Fleet will be holding its annual season kickoff meeting the evening of Jan. 17th at the AYC clubhouse to elect officers, and plan out the events for 2006. All skippers and crew are welcome to attend.

John Grzinich, C22 Fleet Captain



*Sailors of all ages attended the Annual AYC Children's Christmas Party on December 10, 2005. Everyone enjoyed the magic act, the arts and crafts, the sailing talk, the food and drinks by **Bill Hawk**, and, Santa's visit, of course!*



Annual J/24 Fleet Holiday Party Recap

The J/24 Fleet closed out another great year with a great blow-out! With 50+ people, the AYC Clubhouse was packed with people enjoying plenty of great food, drink and socializing. The decorations and nice fire really made for that informal, cozy feeling that is the hallmark of our Fleet as well

as the club itself. And of course the Fleet scrapbooks provided some great laughs and remembrances from party's past!



The J/24 Fleet's Perpetual Trophies, Photo Archives and Officer Gifts Looking Pretty!

As reported earlier, **Joe Mancuso** was recognized by the Fleet with the inaugural Fleet Participation Award and **Roger Harden** was the proud recipient of the Fleet Championship award (for his winning of the Austin 'Fall Finals' circuit stop). The Fleet also was very appreciative of the efforts from our Social Committee of **Amy Davidson, Barb Prashner** and **Robbie Nelson**, which was represented by gifts of some nice wine to them. And **Tom Lappin** made it official in accepting by acclamation the 2006 J/24 Austin Fleet Captain position.

Of course I have to make some comments about the Gift Exchange also...several of the Fleet 'adult' gifts were, shall we say, 'regifted' but if you weren't there I am not going to disclose any identities! But one of the more popular gifts this year was the oversized hot pink party hat, wonder if we will ever see that again at a Fleet party? :-)) I also wanted to note that several people ended up with the gift they brought, which tells me

some folks need to get a better understanding of the rules of this fun game...sorry **Kurt!**

One last item; I saw lots of camera flashes throughout the party evening but they all must have been 'too' good as no one seemed to want theirs published! So I guess it is 'can't see so can't ask!'.

Red Eye Regatta

As you know, the weather was perfect for this year's annual hangover cure (or is it a curse?) with 80 degree 10-15 SW breezes...and 40+ boats took advantage of that. I saw lot's of J/24 folks crewing on other boats (recruiting new J/24 crew for 2006 I assume!) but only 2 J/24s actually made it out; **Evil/Wicked/Mean/Nasty** and **mr. happy**. The J/24s were scratch boat in the PHRF 2 Class, racing against South Coasts, Ensigns and some miscellaneous 168+ rated Keel Handicap Fleet boats. It is near impossible to correct over the South Coasts with their very generous 252 rating (which means J/24s give them almost a minute and a half a mile!) and the 'no tactics' reachfest course (we tacked once the whole race...just after the start). Let's just say that both J/24 crews' reward that day were getting to practice lots of close spinnaker reaching on a fantastic Lake Travis January day!

Frostbite Outlook

It isn't too early to start thinking about plans to race this true Winter series since the first weekend of Frostbite racing is Saturday, January 21...and no worries about having to deal with bogus ratings for the series as we will be scored as a one design class (see more about the new Frostbite format in this Telltale's Vice Commodore article). This series has always brought out a large J/24 presence as it is great practice for both the upcoming local AYC series racing as well the J/24 Texas circuit. It is also a good time for some crew swapping and learning new boat handling tricks. As always let me know if you are looking for crew or a crew ride for this series, which runs 5 Saturday's in a row with a 1:30pm first signal.

Regards,
Eric Nelson, J/24 Fleet Reporter

DID YOU KNOW? The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society is the world's largest voluntary health organization dedicated to funding blood cancer research and providing education and patient services.



SC-21 Fleet News By Ian Fink



The Southcoast 21 racing season finally wound down last year with the annual Wild Turkey regatta with the Southcoast 21s fleeting-out. Some others of us who did not

sail a Southcoast 21 sailed other types of boats, perhaps in an effort to maximize the amount of Wild Turkey brought home by a single fleet. We would like to thank all the volunteers and race committee that made the regatta possible.

John and Claudia Bartlett graciously hosted our end of year party at their lovely home. There we consumed some great appetizers and various libations and exchanged white elephant gifts. After the white elephant gift exchange, some were able to take home some very fresh wine (almost a 2005 vintage). Thanks **John and Claudia** for putting together the party and sharing your home with us.

Towards the end of the party, we held a fleet meeting. The meeting included a discussion regarding possibilities to strengthen or build new decks for our aging boats. **John Bartlett** told us about his ideas and research and will continue refine and/or create new ideas for building new decks, among others. We also discussed hydro-lifts. As of recently, Austin Yacht Club has determined that hydro-lifts could prove advantageous. Several issues (e.g., power on some docks, size/weight limitation(s), etc.) regarding using hydro-lifts still need to be worked out by the club before we may proceed using hydro-lifts with our boats. Nevertheless, in our meeting, we discussed acquiring used hydro-lifts from marinas on the lake. **Doug Powell** said he could help keep an eye out for used hydro-lifts.

These possibilities for improving our boats and fleet will cost money, and some perceive a "slippery slope" in too many improvements to our one-design class will increase the cost of the boats such that the cost will be prohibitive. Contrary to this belief, I, among others, believe that we currently faced with a "slippery slope" of having the cost of the boats diminishing to the point where they become "disposable." For example, someone broke a mast almost two years ago. He decided that the cost of replacing the mast was too much, and he was probably right, since his boat was probably valued at most at \$1500 with a non-broken mast. That boat now sits on a trailer, and who knows how long until we will see her back on the water. Do you think if she had been worth more that she would have re-

ceived the repairs she needed and would have been back out on the water? I believe so for at least one reason: it can be difficult to ignore or abandon a good investment rather than a disposable boat.



Values of our boats can be increased whether it is a lot or a little, and either will make a difference to the owner of the boat. For instance, one could install a new tiller extension or even a new cup holder bringing more value to the boat's owner, and when the boat is worth more, the owner is probably going to sail the boat more and would be less likely to ignore or abandon his or her boat.

Towards the end of our fleet meeting, I was elected (horn-swaggled) to be the Southcoast 21 fleet captain for 2006. Accordingly, I am looking forward to a great year of sailing with all of you and organizing various fleet activities. In addition to the GnT's and an end of year party, having more social activities/events in 2006 were suggested to me by **Claudia Bartlett**. **Claudia** also volunteered her time and effort to help organize these additional social activities. If you have any ideas and/or would like to help with these social activities, please let me know. In addition to social events, I will be calling on you during the year to help with the regattas that Austin Yacht Club sponsors in 2006. Many thanks in advance for helping Austin Yacht Club and promoting the Southcoast 21 fleet by volunteering and helping with these events.

At some point during the past summer, folks started to bring up the subject of the rules of racing. As the fleet becomes larger and/or faster, more boats will be in closer proximity than before. With this, a good and working knowledge of *The Racing Rules of Sailing* can possibly provide a more enjoyable and/or safer racing experience. The same folks who brought up the

(Continued on Page 9)

Commodore...(continued from page 1)

firmly believe that the success of our club long term rests on the excitement felt by everyone as standards of performance rise, whether through improving people's racing skills on the course or improving their general boating skills. I also know that, as a parent, if a club offers opportunities for my children to grow, that club will get my support!

Do not forget the NEW 'Frostbite Series'. Frostbite has become an AYC event, not really a full blown series, but an opportunity for PRC to tryout some new ideas for race formats etc. See the web-site and elsewhere in this newsletter for details. See you on the Water!



Paul Ballett

SAVE THE DATE!



The 2006 Leukemia Cup Regatta October 13—15, 2006

Come get ready to set sail for a cure! Mark your calendar for **October 13, 14, and 15, 2006** for the first annual **Leukemia Cup Regatta** on Lake Travis, to benefit The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Central Texas Chapter. The Austin Yacht Club will join more than fifty Yacht Clubs around the country in an effort to cure blood cancers and improve the lives of patients and their families.

Since 1993, more than \$15 million has been raised through Leukemia Cup Regattas throughout the United States under the leadership of National Chairman and world-renowned sailor and ESPN commentator Gary Jobson. The 2006 Leukemia Cup Regatta will feature a pre-event gala celebration on the evening of October 13 with live and silent auctions, entertainment and dinner for sailors, non-sailors, spouses and friends; the Regatta on Lake Travis will be held on October 14 and 15. For more information about the event or to get involved on our planning committee, please contact Jane Sierra, Development Director at The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society at (512) 491-6610 ext. 23 or via e-mail at sierraj@lls.org.

Vice Commodore...(continued from page 3)

are traveling to our regattas and 2) fewer AYC members are participating. There isn't a lot we can do about out of town participation as that is the result of a wide spectrum of things from higher gas costs to schedule conflicts (look in the mirror and ask yourself when was the last time you even considered traveling to another club's open regatta and I think you will see my point). But there is something we can do about local participation...what was heard on this is that a lot of the membership viewed our open regattas as just rehashed AYC series keel racing, with the privilege of having to pay extra to do so!

So the conclusion was do something 'unique' and 'special' for our regattas to give the local participants something apart from the series keel racing experience. The outcome of this is that Turnback, Centerboard and Road Runner will stay 'as is' since they don't overlap our series keel racing format but Spring and Fall will be dropped. In the place of Spring Regatta the club will put on a Saturday only distance race for the membership with no registration fees and scored like a series race with a social/trophy presentation afterwards similar to how we do that at the end of each series. We will fill out our regatta schedule with the Leukemia Cup, which with its big name sponsors, many encompassing social events, and charity competition angle will provide a completely different experience from our series racing! See elsewhere in this Telltale more on this exciting regatta.

Frostbite Update: First, some quick nomenclature review...while AYC 'hosts' by definition all the sailing events held at AYC facilities, the club itself does not 'run' (i.e. is not the "Organizing Authority" in ISAF parlance) all the events hosted by the club. For instance while the club is the official Host for both the Red Eye Regatta and the Centerboard Regatta, the Keel Handicap Fleet is the Organizing Authority (OA) for the former and AYC is the OA for the later. This is actually a big distinction; for example the OA carries all financial and liability responsibilities as well as those dealing with logistical items like rounding up RC, planning/running the social activities, etc.

Why should you care you might ask? Well one of the first outcomes of working toward the goals I mentioned at the beginning of this article is that AYC proper will be taking over the OA responsibilities for Frostbite from the Keel Handicap Fleet starting this year. But Frostbite won't be turned into just 'another' AYC series, rather it will be our incubator to test out new ideas on how to improve the way we run our

(Continued on Page 9)



Here Comes Santa Claus

It was a beautiful afternoon when the jolly old soul came 'round for a visit to the Austin Yacht Club, and what better way to arrive than on an Ensign, right down to the matching red and white color scheme. Yes, St. Nick cut quite a figure on the foredeck as he eased into dock

2 under the skillful guidance of reindeer substitute **Jim Casto**. I hope that Santa managed to deliver a nice new motor (or at least a decent salvaged one) under **Jim's** tree for Christmas in return. **Bill Hawk** was also on hand to make sure the party was running smoothly. And it was, with snacks, crafts, and a great magic show for children of ALL ages.

New Fleet List

Thanks to the dedicated sleuthing of **Larry Niemann** we now have an as-complete-as-is-humanly-possible listing for the AYC Ensign fleet and trusty crew. So, at least until some new people come on board and/or others drift away, we can actually contact just about everyone (and we will try to keep it up to date when there are changes; but, given the laws of Entropy, odds are we may not ever have it this ordered again). You won't be able to plead ignorance when you miss out on something. Thanks to **Larry** also for sending out to the fleet a rather substantial handful of helpful and informative bits and pieces concerning the Ensign. Hopefully the restoration process is coming along and he can join us on the water soon.

On the water

With the holidays in full swing, there wasn't much racing going on. However, there has still been plenty of sailing going on. Although these weather patterns have kept the lake level low, we have also been provided with a plethora of gorgeous fall and winter afternoons. The day after Christmas was just about as fine a day on the water as one could ask for as a present. **Jonathan Baker** took advantage of the opportunity to get out and get in some time on his Laser, while **Randolph Bertin** and **Tom Nelson** were trying to improve their multi-hull sailing. Meanwhile, **James Bené** was out cruising aboard his Ensign under mainsail. Just after the New Year, the **Turners** and the **Lees** set out for a day sail on a mild, sunny day. They challenged **Randolph** to a race, but **Randolph's** crew (**Audrey** and **Andrew**) thought better of it and decided they would wait for a better opportunity (like PB&J camp) to showcase their sailing prowess. I'm sure there are others who have taken advantage of the weather to

get in a little sailing. **Tom Groll** reports that he hasn't seen his boat in a while, recalling that it might be blue, and hopefully is still afloat.

The Red Eye ushered in a new year of racing, and five Ensigns made it out for another beautiful day: Though **Bill Hawk** apparently led much of the way, **Danny Lien/Dave Gamble** managed to edge in front as the first Ensign and fourth boat (corrected time) in their handicap group, with **Bill** one place back. **Frans Dahmen** made it out as well and finished a few places after that. **James Wilsford** raced single handed, and reports that he managed to finish the race. **James Bené** was also on the water, competing in another group sans spinnaker.

Annual Meeting and Fleet Party

The Ensign Fleet 30 Annual party will be held at **Bill & Kelly Hawk's** house at 7 pm on January 21st, 2006. Our gracious hosts will provide some sodas, chips and queso, and maybe a few extra beers or a bottle of wine. Everyone is recommended to bring something to drink for themselves, and an appetizer or snack to share.

The party will be before, during, and after the meeting. But yes, there will be a meeting, where we will discuss a few topics that need to be addressed: (1) Election of officers for 2006, (2) Regionals in June at the AYC, (3) Fleet dues?, (4) Frostbite Series, and (5) Fleet trailer.

2005 Year in Review

Well, what kind of year was it sailing-wise for Ensigns in 2005? While the Ensign fleet does not have an officially bestowed crown, one would have to recognize that for **Jonathan Baker**, with help from his sister **Sarah** and **Will Angst**, it was a great year. They began the year winning the Spring series and finished the year winning the Fall. They finished in the top half of every race where they competed but two. Not far behind was **Tom Groll** and **Kelly Groll**, who won the Summer series. Although Team **Lien** got a late start, hooking up with the Ensign fleet beginning with Dog Days, they consistently sailed near the front and look like they will continue their push toward the top into 2006. However, even with all the great sailing of those just mentioned, I think one would have to say that the real winner of 2005 was the Ensign fleet as a whole. In series racing, we averaged 6 boats a start over the course of the year (up from less than 4 in 2004)! We had six boats compete in over half of the series races [**Wilsford, Hawk, Groll, Dahmen, Bertin, and Baker**] with one skipper [**Bertin**] starting all 29. Our largest start of the year was ten boats to open the fall series, and our smallest start was three boats (two times on a dog day). Compare that with 2004 where the largest start was seven boats, and we had two boats competing in nine races. Twelve different Ensigns came out to race

(Continued on Page 9)

Ensign Fleet... Continued from Page 8

in 2005, which is two more than the previous year, and we had eight different skippers pick up a bullet this past season, compared with five the year before. We also managed to schedule a handful of post race cook-outs to add in some off-water activity. Hopefully we can continue this excitement into 2006, as we look forward to another season of good times and good sailing.

New year's resolutions: sail more, sail better, enjoy it.

SC-21 Fleet... Continued from Page 6

subject of the rules of racing would also like to see the rules enforced and may start flying their protest flags when rules infractions occur. Enforcing the rules can make better sailors out of all of us and can especially benefit those who also sail at out-of-town regattas. For instance, would it better incur a possible rules infraction from a possible confusion or misunderstanding during a series race, which may be thrown out, rather than learning the rules in a protest committee room hundreds of miles (or farther) away?

Although *The Racing Rules of Sailing* were rewritten in 1997 by the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) to provide a short and less complex set of rules, the rules may still require effort to understand and attain a working knowledge. Several good books have been written to help one understand *The Racing Rules of Sailing*. For instance, **Gail Bernstein**, who is a U.S. Sailing Judge, recommends *Understanding the Racing Rules of Sailing through 2008* by Dave Perry. This book is available at bookstores or the Austin Yacht Club office.

In gaining a good and working knowledge of, a presentation and/or discussion may also help. The J/24 fleet was able to provide to their fleet a rules seminar presented by **Gail Bernstein** late in 2005. This seminar was targeted towards an audience with an intermediate to advanced understanding of *The Racing Rules of Sailing*. J/24 crew and skippers were encouraged to attend which made their seminar a success. It has been discussed that **Gail** might provide one or more rules seminars at Austin Yacht Club in 2006. Beginning and/or intermediate rules seminar(s) may be presented. If another seminar is planned that the South-coast 21 fleet can attend, I will send out a reminder in email.

I am looking forward to enjoying the coming year with y'all. See y'all at the lake!!

Ian Fink, SC-21 Fleet Captain

Vice Commodore...(continued from page 7)

series racing. We all have ideas on what is and isn't an improvement and there is no surprise that in many cases there isn't automatic agreement on that so we have to experiment sometimes!

One of the Frostbite experiments will be to include the LCRA 'channel' markers as possible marks of the course, along with the usual permanent and temporary inflatable marks we are used to now from our series racing. Another one will be very flexible level class scoring so that say the J/29s can be scored together even though they are not a club recognized Fleet. Of course this idea can be extended to any group of boats that want to be scored together (regardless of their handicap spread). The current thinking, pending some validation with the membership, is that Frostbite will score classes for J/22s, J/80s, J/29s and multihulls in addition to the established Catalina 22, Ensign, J/24, South Coast and PHRF scored spinnaker/non-spinnaker classes. Along these lines, if a subset of closely rated Keel Handicap Fleet boats want to be scored together, let me or our Race Commander know ASAP! Note, current thinking is that centerboards and 'beach cats' will not be eligible to race in consideration of the water temps and possible weather conditions. From a course selection standpoint there will be much more emphasis on setting W/L type courses for at least the level scored Classes. And plan on a full blown, club sponsored social program in the clubhouse after each race (and of course no registration fee!)

One last twist will be how the RC/PRO duties will be handled. The first race will be run by the PRC as a training exercise for them. But the next 4 race days will done on a come one, come all basis as opposed to being pre-assigned to specific PHRF and One Design Fleets. I have agreed to be PRO for the second race (I am looking for helpers by the way!) and some others have agreed to PRO later dates (but will need help also!). Since you will get the average of your scores for any dates you help on RC, you should consider helping out when asked...this is a club event now, support it!

In closing, always feel free to drop me a line at 512-838-0100 (voice), 512-838-3509 (fax), or e-mail me at ennelson@us.ibm.com with your thoughts related to our AYC hosted sailing events...

Eric Nelson,
AYC Vice Commodore

Austin Yacht Club

5906 Beacon Road
Austin, TX 78734-1428



Lake Travis Yacht Services

Rick Spencer 512-203-1881

Sailboats • Powerboats

Detailing - Repairs - Maintenance

Capt_rick_2005@yahoo.com
www.laketravisyachtservices.com



THE BALLETT GROUP

Merrill Lynch

Paul Ballett 512-795-2524

[http://fc.ml.com/Paul Ballett](http://fc.ml.com/Paul_Ballett)

Merrill Lynch



The Sailboat Shop

www.sailboatshopaustin.com

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

Thank you, AYC Members, for your support!

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

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

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

BARTLETT SAILS

512-266-1895

www.bartlettsails.com