



Telltale

January 2008

Monthly Newsletter

Frostbite Series Starting soon!

Inside this issue...

*Proposed 2008 race calendar

Late night no obstacle for AYC sailors on New Year's Day...

Redeye Regatta action at starting line:

2008 sailing season is on!

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Fleet Commander	Chris Dwight
Sail Training	John Grzinich
Commander	

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Bookkeeper	Pam Radebaugh
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Groundskeepers	Tom Cunningham Matt Elliott

Austin Yacht Club

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Newsletter

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

AYC Business Hours

Tuesday: noon—5:00 p.m.
Wednesday-Sunday: 9:00 a.m.—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

Board Member E-mail addresses:

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Cover photo: Starting line Action at Red Eye Regatta (photo by Bill Records)

Austin Yacht Club 2008 Calendar (Proposed)

1-Jan	Keel Fleet - Red Eye
19-Jan	Frostbite #1, RC Multihulls, PRO Steve Eller (FWS 1:30)
26-Jan	Frostbite #2, RC Keel Handicap A, PRC Bruce McDonald UTST Spring Qualifier
2-Feb	Frostbite #3, RC Keel Handicap B, PRO Scott Bryan UTST - SEISA Event
3-Feb	UTST - SEISA Event
9-Feb	Frostbite #4, RC Keel Handicap Non-Spin, PRO Jeff Avant
16-Feb	Frostbite #5, RC Centerboard Fleets, PRO Bruce McDonald
23-Feb	RC and Start Clinic
1-Mar	Restricted - Major Regatta Road Runner (TSA)
2-Mar	Restricted - Major Regatta Road Runner (TSA)
22-Mar	Restricted - Holiday Weekend Easter Laser Regatta
23-Mar	Restricted - Holiday Weekend Easter Laser Regatta
29-Mar	Spring Long Distance Regatta UT Sailing Team - Alumni Regatta
6-Apr	Spring #1, RC J/22, PRO Kenley Lawton
12-Apr	Mallory/Baker (High School)
13-Apr	Spring #2, RC Ensign, PRO Elliott Bray Mallory/Baker (High School)
19-Apr	UTST SEISA
20-Apr	Spring #3, RC J/24, PRO Jeff Avant UTST SEISA
27-Apr	Spring #4, RC Catalina 22, PRO Fred Ford
4-May	Spring #5, RC Southcoast 21, PRO Paul Horton
10-May	J/24 Circuit
11-May	Restricted - Holiday Weekend J/24 Circuit
17-May	SC21 Intergalactics
24-May	Restricted - Major Regatta Turnback Canyon
25-May	Restricted - Major Regatta Turnback Canyon
31-May	TSA/Area F Mallory Qualifier
1-Jun	TSA/Area F Mallory Qualifier
7-Jun	Summer #1, RC Keel Handicap A, PRO Bruce McFarland
14-Jun	Summer #2, RC Keel Handicap B, PRO Michael Haecker
21-Jun	Summer #3, RC Keel Handicap Non-Spin, PRO James Wilsford
5-Jul	Restricted - Holiday Weekend Keel Fleet Event
6-Jul	Restricted - Holiday Weekend Keel Fleet Event
12-Jul	Summer #4, RC Ensign, PRO Ted Owens
19-Jul	Summer #5, RC J/24, PRO Kenley Lawton
26-Jul	Summer #6, RC Catalina 22, PRO Bruce McFarland
2-Aug	Summer #7, RC Southcoast 21, PRO Scott Sousares
30-Aug	Restricted - Holiday Weekend
31-Aug	Restricted - Holiday Weekend
7-Sep	Leukemia Cup Warmup #1, RC Keel Handicap A, PRO Michael Haecker
13-Sep	Keel Fleet Night Race
14-Sep	Leukemia Cup Warmup #2, RC Keel Handicap B, PRO Scott Bryan
21-Sep	Leukemia Cup Warmup #3, RC Keel Handicap Non-Spin, PRO Paul Horton
27-Sep	UTST - Kathryn Hammond
28-Sep	UTST - Kathryn Hammond
4-Oct	Restricted - Major Regatta Leukemia Cup J/22 Circuit - part of Leukemia Cup
5-Oct	Restricted - Major Regatta Leukemia Cup J/22 Circuit - part of Leukemia Cup
11-Oct	Sunfish SW Regional Champs
12-Oct	Sunfish SW Regional Champs
19-Oct	Winter #1, RC Southcoast 21, PRO Scott Sousares
26-Oct	Winter #2, RC J/22, PRO Elliott Bray
2-Nov	Winter #3, RC Ensign, PRO James Wilsford
8-Nov	Senior Club Championship
9-Nov	Winter #4, RC J/24, PRO Fred Ford
16-Nov	Winter #5, RC Catalina 22, PRO Ted Owens
22-Nov	Keel Fleet - Wild Turkey
29-Nov	Restricted - Holiday Weekend
30-Nov	Restricted - Holiday Weekend

AYC FROSTBITE SERIES

BEGINS

Saturday, January 19, 2008

Competitor's Briefing 12:00 Noon

First Warning Signal 1:30 p.m.

AYC Office will be CLOSED
January 12 & 13

AYC Non-Racing Events

January 5	Ensign Fleet Business Meeting/Social (7:00 p.m.)
January 17	New Member Candidate Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
January 24	Board of Directors Meeting (7:30 p.m.)
January 29	Catalina 22 Fleet Kick-off meeting (7:00 p.m.)
February 21	New Member Candidate Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
February 28	Board of Directors Meeting (7:30 p.m.)

From The Commodore

By Bob Goldsmith



Welcome to AYC 2008! The **Frostbite Series** starts January 19 and its five races will run until the middle of February. This will be a very active year for series races with lots scheduled.

Let me share some thoughts with you about issues which we will be addressing at AYC in 2008.

1. *Increasing participation within our own membership.* Only about 20-25% of AYC's membership is fully active in the club. If you are one of those members who has not yet gotten really active, let me invite you to take a look at all that AYC has to offer and particularly at racing your boat in the series races. It takes a while to get competitive, but when you do, it is an incredibly rewarding skill.

2. *Building a harbor that will be viable for the future.* The LCRA believes that swings in the lake level are likely to increase in severity and frequency in the future, and a major goal for AYC is to improve the harbor to eliminate the dock moves during low water periods.

3. *Completing the staff rebuilding.* Everyone seems to agree that last year's office reorganization was a huge plus. It should just get better this year. Serving you, AYC's members, is the priority.

4. *Refocusing sail training.* Sail training had to be retooled in the middle of last year. It is now focused, as it should be, on serving AYC's members and their children with less emphasis on trying to make money by attracting non-members. A hope is that, as the year progresses, programs aimed at getting currently non-racing adult members competitive on the race course, and improving the skills of those who are already there, will emerge and expand.

5. *Continuing to upgrade the clubhouse.* Last year, the air conditioning was repaired and the ladies room remodeled. Look for more upgrades.

See you out there!

Photo right: Cavalry to the rescue... your Commodore horseback riding in front of Koki Beach.



Race Commander Report

By Steve Eller

Happy New Year! I am looking forward to an exciting year of racing at AYC in 2008. My goal is to provide frequent, high-quality racing opportunities for all types of racers at AYC. I welcome any ideas on how to improve the racing at the club. Please email me at steve.eller@sbcglobal.net if you have any comments, questions or suggestions.

I appreciate the feedback that I have received regarding the proposed 2008 Racing Calendar. I have done my best to incorporate as many of the comments and suggestions as possible into the final draft of the calendar. A copy of this final draft is included elsewhere in this Telltale. I will be submitting this final draft for approval by the Board at the January Board meeting.

Notable changes from the original proposal are:

The Spring Long Distance Race is back in lieu of the Spring Regattas concept

The Spring Series will occur over 5 uninterrupted weekends between 4/6 – 5/4 (we did not schedule racing on 5/11 due to Mother's Day)

Summer Series will be 7 races scheduled over 7 Saturdays in June – August

The date for Leukemia Cup was firmed up and will be the weekend of 10/4 – 10/5. This caused us to change the "Fall" Series to a 3 weekend Leukemia Cup Warmup Series

The Winter Series will now be 5 uninterrupted Sundays

Centerboard Regatta is not currently on the calendar but will be added once a suitable date can be found

In order to ensure that we provide the type of racing that you want, please make sure that your Fleet Captain knows your preference on courses and racing format. The Permanent Race Committee will run the Series Races based on the input provided by the Fleet Captains.

Speaking of Fleet Captains, there are a 3 fleets that have been a topic of conversation during the development of the 2008 Calendar. The first is the J/22 Fleet who have been gaining in numbers in recent years. The J/22 Fleet is willing to fulfill their RC obligations so they will be scored as a fleet this year (although they may still start with the J/24's). The other 2 "fleets" are more loose confederations. The Multihull fleet (beach

cats and tri's) has been making gains in recent years and has offered to provide RC this year in exchange for getting a start. The Centerboard Handicap fleet also expressed a willingness to "earn" their start. With Series Races on 25 weekends this year I think that the extra RC help is a great thing!

Frostbite Series will commence on 1/19 and run through 2/16. The Notice of Regatta is posted on the website for review. Please note 2 important things: 1) all boats will race handicap and 2) the requirement to check in each week has been reinstated. The Race Committee assignments for the Frostbite Series are:

1/19 – Multihulls

1/26 – Keel Handicap A

2/2 – Keel Handicap B

2/9 – Keel Handicap Non-Spin

2/16 – Centerboard Handicap

Fleet Captains for these fleets will be contacted soon by PRC Representatives to make sure that Series Race Committees are properly staffed.

Have a great year sailboat racing at Austin Yacht Club!

From AYC Photo Archives...



Pat Kimbrough sailing his hand built double-ender T25 in the 1954 Turnback Canyon Regatta . (Photo Courtesy of Bruce McDonald.)

Sail Training Report

By John Grzinich



Linda teaches sailboat basics to adults during 2007.

In my first Telltale article as the new Sail Training commander I want to briefly review the primary sail training objectives for 2008. I've been getting fire-hosed with information in an effort to get myself up to speed with the many areas of sail training at AYC. I've been recruiting volunteers the help me put plans in place. I especially need to thank **Linda McDavitt** for all the time she's investing in helping me get on board, as well as offer to assist me in 2008. Linda did an outstanding job in 2007 thereby setting the bar very high for me. Our new commodore, **Bob Goldsmith**, also sent me some objectives for sail training, so with that input in mind, here's a start at the major high level objectives and strategy for the 2008 sail training programs.

- Leverage "Sail Training" to increase participation within our own membership. Only about 20-25% of AYC's membership are active in the club. Those members are where we need to look first to find more racing participation, more volunteers, more social activity. Establish a sail training program focused on the needs of our members, including currently non-participating adults who might be encouraged to participate if they could be given instruction on how to get competitive on the race course.

Adult Training Strategy:

- Offerings to build confidence with Racing.
- Increase the scope of subjects.
- Offer short—1/2 day—maybe Saturday morning specific topics.
- Build off the successful Adult 2007 program.
- Work with Race Commander, Fleet Captains, and

- Membership Committee to identify training interest and needs.
- Leverage ASA training.

- Reconstructing the "Junior Program". Last year a very expansive junior program was planned, but it was too ambitious relative to the number of potential summer campers, and then the flood shut down the program, impacting AYC's financial results for 2007.

Junior Program Strategy:

- Continue successful PB&J program.
- Concentrated 4-6 week summer camp schedule.
- Closely manage summer camp expense and risk.
- Ensure camp instructor qualifications.
- Continue weekend Junior coaching sessions.

I encourage you to email at me as soon as possible at grz22ebox-sailtraining@yahoo.com with your ideas, needs, and suggestions for sail training activity during 2008 so I can bake them into the 2008 AYC budget. Also, if you are interested in volunteering for sail training planning, or teaching, please let know. I am looking forward to a fun filled year.



Will Hawk and Patrick Brinkman sailing FJ's in a recent Sunday afternoon junior coaching session.

RED EYE REGATTA PHOTOS

Photos of the 2008 Red Eye Regatta are ready for viewing. Use the link to Bruce McDonald's photography located on the home page of the AYC web site. It was a great day for a race!



Annual Banquet

Most of the Ensign fleet was in attendance at the AYC annual banquet, and all were in a festive mood. A couple of fleet members were awarded for their efforts during 2007: **Tom Romberg**

earned the Old Salt trophy for his contributions to the club, and **Hap Arnold** was co-winner of the Blue Duck award for inadvertently using the mast of his boat to take a small coastal town temporarily off the power grid. Congratulations to those Ensign sailors for distinguishing themselves during the past year, and setting a standard for the rest of us to follow.

Not Too Red Eyed

The new year brought more of the same: great weather, great wind, great sailing! The Red Eye was yet another in a growing string of great regattas at AYC. Eleven fleet members came out (none of whom seemed to be particularly bleary eyed) and squeezed themselves into two Ensigns -- **James Wilsford** at the helm of *Esmeralda*, with **Randolph Bertin** and **Danny Lien** assisting regular crew **Tom Holdridge** while **Tom Groll** took the helm of *Brews 'er*, with **Karel and Frans Dahmen** on board, and Tom's nephew who was enjoying a respite from the Pittsburgh winter -- a J-22 as **Sarah Baker** strayed from the fold to crew in the world of the faster craft, and **Doug Laws** and **Eliot Bray** stuck with the San Juan. **Bill Hawk** served as PRO for the event.

The two Ensigns hooked up with a Southcoast to form a small fleet in the spinnaker class, and early on, it looked to be a fairly mundane affair as Tom stretched out a sizable lead over James on the opening weather leg to D mark (under a north breeze, blowing around 15+). However, the sailors in back didn't intend to give up so easily. They kept sailing as well and as fast as they could and started getting back a little bit here and a little bit there, eschewing reaches for more of a direct line course back down wind toward each mark until finally they came within spitting distance (except for the breeze, of course) of the competition. From there, it was a long beat upwind. On the approach to the finish, Tom tacked away early, and James went farther out to East to get a little leverage, hoping for a late shift to aid their cause. Not laying either end, Tom had to tack back onto port, and cross James, but not by more than two boat lengths. James was inside the pin with everyone focused on sailing as fast as possible to the finish. Tom tacked one last time, giving up some of his lead to cover and stay in the same general wind (a late shift

back to the northeast would have been bad news for him on the opposite tack). From there it was a dramatic head to head finish with neither boat sure who came out ahead. The final standings show Tom holding onto his position by 2 seconds. Oh, and both boats finished well behind the high pointing Southcoast.

Eric Faust's J-22 (with Sarah on board) finished first overall to win the Hap McCollum trophy, and Eliot steered *Que Pasa* to an award with a fourth place finish in their group.

Fleet Growth

Fred Ford is a new member of the AYC and of the Ensign fleet (or he will be just as soon as his boat arrives here from Florida). Fred also jumped right into club service and is serving on PRC in 2008. Welcome Fred. We look forward to seeing you on the water.



Ensign sailors and groupies enjoy the annual gathering.

Annual Meeting

On Saturday, January 5, the Ensign fleet held its annual meeting and party at the AYC clubhouse. Everyone brought something to eat so we were treated to a veritable smorgasbord of dishes: incredible salads, appetizing appetizers (the stuffed Jalapenos disappeared faster than a show of hands to serve as fleet social coordinator), mouthwatering side dishes, and a mess of venison chili and seafood gumbo.



Ahhhh.... fresh fruit

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Of course in addition to the good food and conversation, we had a little business to conduct, which **Sarah Baker** dispensed with in short order: fleet dues were assessed (\$25 per skipper plus \$25 for permanent crew), and fleet bigshots were elected (no need to be present to win):

Jonathan Baker - captain

Randolph Bertin - secretary

Norma Lien - treasurer

Tom Groll - social chair

Frans Dahmen - fleet poet

Danny Lien - boat maintenance

Amie Rodnick - travel coordinator

If you don't find your name on the above list, don't worry, we will find something for you to do as the year progresses.



Next year's officers?



No Ensign Fleet party would be complete without a round of dominoes.

Winter Series

No, it isn't the frostbite series anymore, so you cold fearing types feel free to come out. Winter on Travis can resemble summer in Minnesota, as the day of our annual meeting amply demonstrated with temperatures in the mid to high 70s, good breeze and clear skies. It was a perfect day for sailing, and **Amy and James Bene** took *Hedonist* out and **Lewis Price** enjoyed some time on the water with family in *Dos Locos*.

Your Yacht Club Need YOU!

ENSIGN FLEET HAS RACE COMMITTEE DUTY: JANUARY 26. Please come help out. More details via email in the near future.

J22 Fleet News By Renee Ruais



Well, I heard that some J/22s were out for the Red-Eye Regatta, but I couldn't make it myself. I had a full holiday travel schedule and I'm sure you'll all forgive me for missing the race when you hear the great news...part of that schedule included bringing a J/22 back from North Carolina for **Billy Eno!** He is the new owner of *Scorcher*, a red hulled J/22. I think it is #104, but if I'm incorrect, no worries...he'll be easy to find with the red-hull. Maybe he can give those red J/24s a run for their money...if not, he can use them for cover on the start line! When you see Billy, congratulate him on his new boat and welcome him to the fleet!

The Frostbite series starts on Saturday, January 19th, details will be available on the AYC website and probably even elsewhere in this issue of the Telltale, so rest up from the holiday madness and be ready to race in a couple of weeks!



Billy's boat ...with sign on it that says 'caution, hot boat'.



The 2007 Catalina 22 sailing year wrapped up December 1st with several boats sailing the Wild Turkey Regatta. **Wade Bingaman, Johannes Brinkman, and Peter Broberg** raced in the spinnaker C fleet. **Derek Miller** raced in non-spinnaker E fleet. I crewed for Derek and passed along some C22 sail trim methods as Derek is new the C22 racing. It turned out to be an excellent sailing day after the morning showers and the heavier winds subsided. Congratulations to **Wade Bingaman** for winning the spinnaker C fleet in the regatta.



The edible Paradox. (Photo left)

The C22 Fleet finished with one more major event for 2007, PARTY! The annual C22 Fleet holiday party was held the evening of Friday Dec. 14th in the AYC clubhouse. Over 40 people attended. Plenty of delicious food was prepared by fleet members. We are blessed to have many great cooks in the fleet. This also is a birthday celebration for **Peter Broberg** and **Meri Shepardson**, and this year we got to eat Peter's C22, **Paradox** for dessert. It was quite tasty! The evening was rounded out with plenty of blackjack action, socializing, and guitar picking with a sing-along to wrap up a fun party and a very enjoyable year. **Gary Payne** took home the adult blackjack prize basket, and **Patrick Brinkman** took home the junior prize basket. Many thanks to **MaryAnn Fitch** for building those beautiful prize baskets for the party.

We kicked off 2008 with 2 C22's racing the Red Eye, **Paul Jensen** and **George Robison** raced **Dumbo**, and **David Grogono** sailed with friends on chilly breezy day but sunny day.

Notice to all the C22 sailors, on Tuesday Jan. 29 at 7pm at AYC we will be holding the kick-off meeting for the C22 fleet where we will be crowning a new fleet captain as I am moving over to work on Sail Training this year. I certainly want to extend my appreciation and thanks to everyone in the C22 fleet who made my 3 years as fleet captain a pleasurable experience. We have a great spirit of volunteerism that makes the job easy. At the meeting we will also establish the other fleet officers, and plan out the events and activity for the year. 2008 presents a major racing opportunity for our C22 sailors as the C22 Nationals are being held at



Patrick Brinkman, Gary and Paulette Payne with their winnings. (Photo left)

New C22 Fleet Captain spotted? (Photo below)



Grapevine up in Dallas, so we will be working to encourage a lot of AYC's competitive C22 sailors to participate in this nearby major C22 racing opportunity.

Fleet Commander Report

By Christopher Dwight

It is the first week in January and we have a full lake at **681.86 above MSL!** With Lake LBJ being seasonally lowered, we can expect Lake Travis to rise one to two feet more by the time you read this. This is quite an improvement over the January average (669.86 MSL) and compared to last year (644 MSL) when we had only Dock 1 still in the main harbor basin. Be sure to take advantage of our full lake and often windy weather to enjoy an afternoon sail or participate in the upcoming Frostbite Series (January 19 and 26, February 2, 9 and 16; first signal is at 13:30).

Along with generous lake levels, 2008 greets us with other changes. It is transition time for the board of directors, and I am taking over as Fleet Commander from **Vic Manning**. My sincere thanks to Vic for helping to put everything in good order prior to the transition. Our harbor and storage facilities are comparable in scale to many commercial marinas, so it takes a good deal of organization, data, and paperwork to keep it all running. We are also very fortunate to have the terrific help of **Bob Woods** as our General Manager, who joined AYC last summer. Bob brings to AYC his professional experience in both commercial marina management as well as yacht club leadership. In harbor matters, we are leveraging Bob's skills to assist in some of the administrative tasks related to boat storage. I feel this will improve the quality and consistency of day-to-day harbor matters such as filing and tracking requests, billing for storage, and other related administration.

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Thanks to **Susie Corcoran** and **Bruce McDonald** for serving as the SC21 fleet Co-Captains for 2007, and hosting a great Fleet Christmas Party. The party was also a celebration of **Carl Morris's** 85th birthday. Congratulations to Carl also for a spectacular first place finish in the Red Eye Regatta Non-Spin B fleet!



Carl Morris at his 85th Birthday party on December 22, 2007 (Photo above), and holding up a photo of himself sailing in the 2007 Leukemia Cup at AYC (Photo below right) . (All photos courtesy of Bruce McDonald.)



Along with the festivities, yours truly was elected to serve as the Fleet Captain for this coming year. Thanks **Ray Shull** for that, and I look forward to your help in that role. 2008 promises to be a good year for the fleet as participation remains enthusiastic, and growing. The fleet welcomes our newest Member, **Mark Boelens**. Mark purchased the blue #153 boat, and has dove headlong into an ambitious restoration project. Mark hopes to be on the water for Spring Series. **Bruce McDonald** has completed a beautiful restoration of **Rogue Wave** #169, and my own boat **Gone Coastal** #150 is undergoing some restoration as well. It looks like this well loved fleet of 30 year old boats is going to be around for some time to come!



Building & Grounds Com'der Report

By Jim Casto

Having survived the grueling AYC election season & inaugural banquet, I'm pleased to serve as your Buildings & Grounds commander this year. Even as I thank you for electing in a landslide, allow me to take a moment to introduce myself to those of you who don't know me well.

Since joining AYC in 1988, I've mostly been labeled a "catamaran guy" or an "Ensign dude". The first boat I owned was a catamaran, but somehow the Ensign fleet hooked me, even while I continued to race catamarans. I have also raced in many different keelboats, Sunfish and C15s. Though **Cynthia** used to race with me, she has retired from sailboat racing. She still loves our very red Ensign and she is still very supportive of my catamaran racing habit. Our two sons, **Jonathan & Jason**, love boating & sailing on Lake Travis, and we've had several fun sailing vacations on charter cats in the Caribbean. I still race my catamaran(s) when I can, both at AYC, and on our Texas "circuit" of regattas.

But, most of the above activities I count as "taking" enjoyment from sailing. By serving on this year's board, I hope to "give back" something to sailing and to AYC. Since I'm on the topic, I need a few more volunteers for the Buildings & Grounds committee. Thanks to **James Bene & John Vance** for already volunteering, and please let me know if you're interested - I'll be calling you anyway.



Racing, Smiles and fun for all, Brown takes First in Non-Spinnaker-A (photo by Bill Records)

Red Eye Regatta Recap

Red Eye Regatta on January 1st was a grand event and a super way to start racing in the New Year. We had winds from the north at 14 to 18 mph, sunny skies, and temperatures in the mid 50's. There was hearty participation and brisk competition with 43 boats comprising six fleets and over 150 bundled up skippers and crew. The day started out with Bloody Mary's (courtesy of Bartlett Sails) and breakfast tacos. After the race, participants enjoyed black eyed peas, snacks, and a keg of Shiner Bock. Trophy presentations rounded out the day.



Cain and Faust start the contest in Spinnaker-B (photo by Bill Records)

The Hap McCollum Cup was awarded to the spinnaker fleet boat and skipper with the lowest corrected time. Eric Faust won the trophy in a J-22 with a corrected time of 1:03:47. Eric's time was 2 1/2 minutes faster than the second place boat, also a J-22, skippered by Jimmy Cain.

Many thanks to all who helped make the day possible including:

- Bill Hawk and his hardy race committee of Susie

& Bruce McDonald, John Maddalozzo, Ed Mary and Bill Records who once again got everyone on a well chosen course that perfectly matched the day's sailing conditions.

- Jim Johnstone and Jim Rehage who tackled the thankless tasks of rating and scoring to facilitate a successful race.
Debbie Galloway, Shirley Laws, Susie McDonald and Frank & Sharon Woodul who shared the kitchen and food chores to keep everyone fed and happy during the down times.
Rob Stivers for managing the registration and sorting out crew sign up.

Red Eye Winners:

- Spinnaker A Greg Buck
Spinnaker B Erick Faust
Spinnaker C Jim Brown
Non-Spinn A Steve Brown
Non-Spinn B Carl Morris
Multi-Hull John Kuc



Mitchell rounds out the top three for the J/22's in Spinnaker-B (photo by Bill Records)

Caribbean Sailing Charter Anyone???

Your Friendly Neighborhood Keel-Fleet is considering organization of a Caribbean bareboat charter Flotilla this year. The first item of planning on such an event is to first determine if there is significant AYC membership interest in participating. To proceed we are looking for at least 20 interested participants.

The concept for this potential event is to have AYC members cooperatively charter several yachts in the British Virgin Islands for the same week in the late spring (May or June) or winter (November or December) and cruise together through the islands. We plan (Continued on Next Page)

Keel Fleet... (Continued from Page 10)



to utilize yachts with 2 or 3 state-rooms that could accommodate up to 3 couples per boat. The objective would be to arrange crewing for each boat to include a charter experienced AYC

skipper. Assignment of skippers and crews to each boat would be strongly influenced by individual interests but the overriding concern would be to insure every yacht has adequately experienced skippers and crew.

For planning purposes the cost for this event should be considered to be the prevailing charter rates and air-fares which are between \$1500 and \$2000 per person (not including food provisioning). Strong efforts will be made to negotiate better group rates than prevailing individual rates, but the primary objective of this Flotilla is to provide a different sailing venue for our AYC sailors.

If you have an interest in participating in a 2008 Caribbean Sailing Charter or would like to help organize the event call or send email to **Steve Vaughan** at vaughansm@gmail.com indicating your interests by February 1.



With a well bundled crew, Moran and Kern try to make it three in a row for Avalanche (photo by Bill records)

Prepare for Frostbite!

In less than two weeks, we'll be back into series racing at AYC. The weather has been especially cooperative over the last year (well except for that one event), the

lake is full, the grounds are well manicured and we have plenty of new faces and long-standing worthy competitors. We have produced a remarkable turnout for the last two regattas, let's keep the momentum and build the fleet (and the club) back to the shining level of the glory days. Remember, the more folks that show up, the better the bragging rights when you win.

Keel Fleet Business

We are up to 30 new members for 2008. That means that half of the active fleet is new for this year. With the increased participation, we are keeping the best of the Keel Fleet traditions and adding new ideas as fast as we get them. It is not too late to join us or add your input for the coming year.

There are about a dozen folks left that have not yet renewed their membership. Don't miss out on the sailing, the parties, and the chance to have your say. You can email the fleet secretary at remus@lobos.net to have dues charged to your account. Or better yet, come race the Frostbite Series and talk to any fleet officer.

Your friendly neighborhood Keel-Fleet

Fleet Commander Report

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Bob and I will be working together closely to ensure that AYC facilities are available and used for the promotion of active racing. Note that decisions regarding wait-list priority still rest with the Fleet Commander per section 13 of the Harbor Rules. As such, be sure to direct any issues or concerns regarding slip assignment or wait list priority to me.

I do not envision any dramatic changes in how harbor matters are handled in 2008, but I do hope to continue to streamline harbor processes. It is a delicate job to manage the sometimes competing individual interests of members. In all decisions, it is the job of the board members to consider foremost the overall benefit to the club, the club's goals, and our membership community. Furthermore, I will strive to promote a sense of consistency and fairness in all harbor decisions. I know that I can count on our members and our board to support me in these goals.

Enjoy a great year of racing and sailing in 2008!

ChristopherDwight, Fleet Commander
fleet_commander@austinyachtclub.net

Austin Yacht Club

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Happy New Year!



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