



Telltale

December 2009

Monthly Newsletter

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January 1, 2010

Red Eye
Regatta



February 23,
2010

Start of
Frostbite Series

Opti Sailors check their ~~Santa lists~~ starting line twice

Board of Directors

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Im. Past Commodore Bob Goldsmith
Vice Commodore Steve Eller
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Treasurer Don Dwight
Race Commander Rick Smith
Buildings & Grounds Jim Rehage
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Sail Training Commander Bill Hawk

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General Manager Bob Woods
Bookkeeper Pam Radebaugh
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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: 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 12 April
Independence Day 4 July
Thanksgiving Day 26 November
Shopping Day 27 November
Christmas Day 25 December

Board Member E-mail addresses:

commander@austinyachtclub.net
buildings_grounds@austinyachtclub.net
race_commander@austinyachtclub.net
vice_commodore@austinyachtclub.net
past_commodore@austinyachtclub.net
sail_training@austinyachtclub.net
commodore@austinyachtclub.net
secretary@austinyachtclub.net
treasurer@austinyachtclub.net

Cover photo: AYC Opti Green Fleet sailors Max Fuller, Alexandra Mares, and Olivia Smith during race practice on November 28, 2009. (Photo courtesy of Doug Kern)

AYC 2009 Race Calendar

December 5 Fall Centerboard Racing Series (FWS 3:00 p.m.)
December 12 Fall Centerboard Racing Series (FWS 3:00 p.m.)
December 12 Junior Race Series #4 (FWS 2:00 p.m.)
December 19 Fall Centerboard Racing Series (FWS 3:00 p.m.)

AYC Proposed 2010 Race Calendar

January 1 Red Eye Regatta (Keel Fleet)
January 23 Frostbite Series Race #1 (Skipper's Meeting 12:00 noon, FWS 1:30 p.m.)
January 30 Frostbite Series Race #2 (FWS 1:30 p.m.)
February 6 Frostbite Series Race #3 (FWS 1:30 p.m.)
February 13 Frostbite Series Race #4 (FWS 1:30 p.m.)
February 20 Frostbite Series Race #5

AYC Opti Green Fleet on November 28, 2009

(Photos courtesy of Doug Kern)



AYC 2009 Non-Racing Events

December 5	2009 AYC Annual Banquet (6:30 p.m. Austin Club)
December 12	Children's Holiday Party (4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.)
December 12	J/24 Fleet Christmas Party (6:00 p.m.)

AYC 2010 Non-Racing Events

January 28	AYC Board of Directors Meeting (7:30 p.m.)
February 25	AYC Board of Directors Meeting (7:30 p.m.)

Saving Sailing By Steve Eller



Many of us remember AYC back in the 1980's when there seemed to be active racing boats everywhere and regattas routinely attracted 100 – 150 boats. I have heard many conversations around the Club over the past several years dealing with how we get more folks motivated to participate in our racing activities. I recently discovered a book, *Saving Sailing* by Nick Hayes, which delves into this participation issue. Mr. Hayes is a market researcher who is active in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, racing scene. He spent several years interviewing over 1,200 sailors worldwide and the book is an analysis of the data he compiled.

Mr. Hayes found a number of interesting things after he compiled his data:

- The average American sailor is white, male and 40.1 years old. The largest group of sailors (43%) is over 55 years old. The average age of boat owners is 54.8 years old.
- The average age of the sailing community is 11 years older than the general population.
- The number of Americans 30 - 45 has declined by 15% in the last decade while those older than 51 increased 25% over the same period. Even if sailing were to remain attractive to the same percentage of the population, the demographics suggest that there will be fewer sailors in the coming years.
- Participation in sailing activities has decreased 40% since 1997 and 70% since 1979.
- Junior programs still have good participation but a vast majority of these folks leave the sport after age 25.

According to Mr. Hayes, sailing as a leisure pastime really took off in the 1960's when the United States had the largest and most prosperous middle class in history. During this period, the boat building industry was beginning to mass-produce fiberglass sailboats which were

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"Adios" From The Commodore

By David Lewis



Wow! Here we are, it's December, and another year has come and gone. And what a year it's been! As I sat down to write this, my final Commodore's column, I went back and re-read the first one I wrote, for the January 2009 *Telltale*. In that article, with a tongue-in-cheek jab at the recent national elections, I declared 2009 to be the "year of Belief You Can Change In." And, so it *has* been.

It's been a tough year this year, in more ways than one. We went into the year with low water levels in the lake, had the hottest summer on record, and saw the lake drop to levels that we had never before experienced. At the same time, we were embroiled in a lawsuit that prevented us from moving our docks out onto the point like we had always done before in times of low water, forcing us to come up with never-before-tried configurations that kept the docks and anchors off of disputed land. And, just as the legal expenses and dock moving costs were piling up, we experienced the Great Recession of 2009, with the most unfavorable economic conditions since the Great Depression. Not a time when you would choose to be in an enterprise whose livelihood and well-being depend upon a discretionary-income driven endeavor like yacht racing—even if it weren't 105° outside and way too hot to even be thinking about sailing during daylight hours. But, it was the year of Belief You Can Change In. And we did.

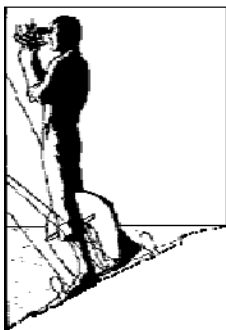
Christopher Dwight believed that if we swapped positions for Docks 1 and 2, we could keep Dock 2 in the harbor and off the point for 10+ feet of lake level more than we had ever done before. And if we would move other docks parallel to the shore we could keep them from going aground and keep as many boats racing as possible. And we did.

Molly Lewis, Susie McDonald, Pat Manning and the rest of the Social Committee believed that beer and food were the keys to sailors hearts and that we could keep people coming out to the Club if we provided these key ingredients with every race. And they did.

The Litigation Committee (**Bob Goldsmith, Lanelle Montgomery, Tom Romberg, Steve Eller** and I) believed that justice would prevail in the lawsuit and we would emerge as the legitimate owners of the land off the point. And we did.

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Vice Commodore Report By Steve Eller



As 2009 comes to a close, the 2010 Board is busy working with this years' Board to get things ready for another busy year at AYC. One of the best things that we have going for us at AYC is the sheer number of programs and activities that occur throughout the year. Getting all of these activities planned and implemented takes a lot of time and effort up front so

this is a busy time for the incoming Board. Of course, none of our programs could be possible without the dedicated efforts of AYC volunteers who form the backbone of our club. As you are considering resolutions for 2010, I hope that you will consider making a commitment to actively serving on one or more of the following AYC committees:

- **Social Committee** – we all love to eat and drink but it takes a lot of hands to make this happen. Contact Molly Lewis (returning as Social Chair) at mlewis@signaturescience.com if you are interested.
- **Regatta Committee** – be a Regatta Chairman or help organize one of our annual regattas. Contact Jim Tillinghast at vice_commodore@austinyachtclub.net.
- **Buildings and Grounds** – help make improvements to our facilities (and keep our dues low). Contact Bob Gallant at buildings_grounds@austinyachtclub.net.
- **Harbor Committee** – those docks do not magically move themselves (although Christopher and his team make it seem that way). Contact Christopher Dwight (returning Harbor Commander) at fleetcommander@austinyachtclub.net.
- **Sail Training** – the best way to get more people to race against is to teach new sailors, young and old, to race. Contact Bill Records at sail_training@austinyachtclub.net.
- **Race Committee** – we run a lot of races and score a lot of races every year. If you are interested in serving on the Permanent Race Committee or the Scoring Committee please contact Renee Ruais at race_commander@austinyachtclub.net.
- **Treasurer's Advisory Committee** – AYC is a decent sized business and needs good corporate governance. Contact Don Dwight (returning as Treasurer) at treasurer@austinyachtclub.net.
- **Membership Committee** – As much fun as it might be to haze new recruits, we are probably better off being more inviting. Consider serving as a mentor throughout the year to a new or prospective member. Contact David Lewis at past_commodore@austinyachtclub.net.

- **Technology Committee** – are you technically minded particularly in the area of website development? Join the Technology Committee and help keep the AYC website a truly excellent communications tool. Contact Linda Donovan at secretary@austinyachtclub.net.

- ***NEW* Family Committee** – help make AYC more appealing to members with small children. Contact Sarah Eller at sarah.eller.tx@gmail.com.

- ***NEW* AYC Survey Committee** – help the Long Range Planning Committee conduct a membership survey of AYC members. Contact Claude Welles at cawelles7104@sbcglobal.net.

As you can see, AYC has a wide array of committees requiring a variety of skills. Please look over this list and make a commitment to volunteer for at least one of these committees in 2010. I think you will find that you get more out of AYC if you put more into your club.

It has been an honor to serve as your Vice Commodore this year. We accomplished a lot in 2009 and the Club is the better for it. I look forward to being your Commodore in 2010 and hope that the year brings us higher lake levels, fair breezes and nothing to distract us from racing sailboats. See you on the water in 2010!

Saving Sailing... (Continued from Page 3)

lightweight, durable and less expensive than previous sailboats. More importantly, during the period from 1950 – 1980, many people participated in sailing in family groups with the older generation teaching their children how to sail and race. Not surprisingly, a majority of US yacht clubs started during the same period that the explosion of new boats occurred. The mission of these clubs was to spread the high cost of storage and access to the water across a group of people to make the costs more affordable.

Starting in the 1970's, many US yacht clubs started expanding their services in response to demand from their memberships. These services included dining facilities and bars, slips and moorings, junior programs, and a number of country club style amenities. As the community of sailors has aged over the years, yacht club members as a group have become more prone to sit and eat instead of sail and race. At many clubs, existing members are dying (or leaving) faster than new members are joining and clubs are now facing difficult financial situations because they overbuilt their facilities during the heyday of sailing and cannot support this infrastructure with their declining membership.

At the other end of the age spectrum, young sailors are routinely sent off to junior sailing programs where they participate (actively) up through the college level but then

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Saving Sailing... (Continued from Page 4)

abruptly leave the sport. The author's data indicates that they leave the sport because the juniors-only aspect of junior sailing today makes sailing "just another activity" in competition with many other activities. This puts sailing in the same category as many other junior activities like soccer, football, band, and orchestra. These activities are fun for children to participate in but rarely become lifelong passions after college.

The loss of young sailors after college is a huge problem for the sport because they represent the pool of trained sailors that you would expect to become yacht club members. They also represent a community of people that can crew on other people's boats. Without these young sailors remaining in the sport, we have to recruit new people from outside sailing to participate in our sport. One of the great things about sailing is that the sports' complexity provides meaningful challenges that cannot be completely mastered despite a lifelong attempt to do so. This is also one of the things that make sailing a challenging sport to get into for the uninitiated. Given the number of other activities competing for our time and attention, sailing to many seems like too much work.

In response to these problems, Mr. Hayes offers a number of suggestions:

- **Make sure that sailing clubs have a robust mentoring program where new and prospective members are guided through the process of learning to sail and race.** This is more than a weekend learn-to-sail clinic – it is a long-term commitment to help get someone up to speed and competitive as a sailor.
- **Get back to sailing as a family.** It can be difficult to coordinate everyone's schedules but Mr. Hayes believes that family sailing is a way to bring families together and make lasting memories and therefore should be a priority for family time.
- **It is well known that people have a higher degree of affinity for causes that they volunteer time to.** The strongest yacht clubs are volunteer-based (like AYC) and Mr. Hayes suggests that programs be implemented by club members and volunteers instead of paid staff.

I found the information in *Saving Sailing* interesting and thought provoking and hopefully I have done a decent job in summarizing Mr. Hayes' book. While I found the book a sobering look at our sport it also left me feeling good about AYC since we are already doing many of the items that Mr. Hayes suggests. I encourage you to pick up a copy (available on Amazon.com) and make a personal commitment to help get new people into the sport.

The Commodore... (Continued from Page 3)

Tom Groll, Ray Shull, and Danny Lien believed that the unprecedented low water levels were an opportunity to extend our ramp and expand our launching capabilities to include lake levels that routinely have left our previous ramp high and dry and our dry-sailed boats trapped on their trailers. And that, while we were at it, we could improve vehicle access to the point and do some landscaping to boot. And they did.

Bill Hawk and the Sail Training Committee believed that if we offered a robust program of junior sailing, including coaches late into the season, we could keep the kids coming back for more. **Yolanda Mares, Doug Kern,** and other members of the Sail Training Committee believed that if they could generate enough interest and enthusiasm among the junior sailors we could build an active Green Fleet at AYC. And they did.

Nine other committees, and some 50+ volunteers on those committees, believed that they could make a contribution that would benefit the Club and sport that they love. And they did. They definitely, demonstratively did.

Tom Cunningham believed that if he went on vacation, leaving **Bob Woods** alone to man the dock cables, the skies would open and the rain would fall and the lake would come up, as it always has before. Well, that one didn't quite work out the way he believed it would...but hey, he had a good vacation anyway.

It's been a rough year in many ways, but it's been an amazing year. I wouldn't have missed it for anything. As Commodore, I've been blessed by having an awesome Board to work with. Thank each of them the next time you see them for all that they have done this year. We wouldn't have made it through the year without the time and dedication of each of them. I feel proud and privileged to have had the opportunity to serve with them this year.

As we bring 2009 to a close, AYC is 80 acres larger than it was at the beginning of the year. We own the land off of our point, and off of Keller's point, to the south bank of the original channel of the Colorado River. We have a ramp that allows us to launch and retrieve boats to lake levels below 635' msl. Our membership is as strong as it was at the beginning of the year. Our financial position is sound. We are free of debt. Mount Gay and Spoetzel Brewery are both still in business. Life is good.

Thank you to all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve as Commodore of Austin Yacht Club this year. It's been a great experience, and certainly one I'll never forget. I've learned a lot. And I believe I've changed at least a little bit. See you on the water!



Photo Right: 'Dos Locos' with good speed in light air.

Fall Series Finale

Fall Series 5: Grey skies, light fog with occasional rain, and a gentle East breeze (eventually dying), greeted the Ensign fleet. At the start, **Carolyn and James Wilsford** managed to hold a good bit of the fleet up at the committee boat who were otherwise barging. **Jonathan Baker**, sailing with **George Dahmen**, ducked out to the right either to get some clear air or to get to what they thought would be the favored side of the course, if not both. **Danny and Norma Lien** were joined by **Deborah and Frans Dahmen** and they made it first to the windward mark and continued adding to their lead throughout the race. **Mitch Barnett** with assistance from **Randolph Bertin** and **J. Apgar**, rounded second and managed to hold of **J. Seagull** to maintain that position to the finish. **Dos Locos** with **Lewis, Meredith** and **Mike** aboard, picked up a fourth place, and **Carolyn Wilsford**, spending some time at the helm, edged out **Doug Laws** and **Elliott Bray** at the finish.



Photo Left: 'Gravy Boat' opens a can of bad air onto 'Spirits'.

In the second race, **Spirits** began by struggling in **Gravy Boat's** bad air. So they bailed and took a short hitch to the right.

That put **Mitch** inside the fleet and he managed to work that side to round the windward mark in first. That was about the time the wind more or less died. The boats ghosted down wind. **Jonathan Baker** went to the south side of the course to see if he could pick up either a little more pressure, more clear air, or catch a nice shift. In the end, it didn't pay off. But it didn't cost them too much either and they more or less held their position. **Lewis** and his crew seemed to be moving with good speed through the middle of the course downwind, especially in the light breeze. Meanwhile, **Danny** managed to make just a little more speed to pull ahead of **Mitch**. It was a close rounding at the mark, and though **Mitch** managed to get inside, **Danny** was more or less in a lee bow position and **Mitch** couldn't quite overtake. Falling further

astern, **Spirits** decided to play it safe and tack over to cover **J. Seagull**, leaving **Gravy Boat** to earn a second victory in as many races.

Fall Series 6: The final series race of 2009 was undertaken in what has to be regarded as highly unusual conditions. No, we're not talking about the water level, which now makes Travis almost resemble a lake again. We did not have to contend with any bizarre mishaps by the race committee. What made this day so strange was racing in a WEST wind. Rare is the day when we see even a passing shift coming from that quarter and here we managed to undertake two races in a moderate breeze. Quite a few Ensign sailors and their crews again took to the water for a few final turns around the buoys. Unfortunately, the Liens were not among them, as a prior commitment prevented them from coming out to try and maintain their hold on the top spot. Although Tom Groll, sailing single handed, took the early lead, the first race of the day went to Eagle, where Tom Romberg was joined by Vic Manning. Mitch Barnett sailed consistently well and managed to keep Spirits in front of J. Seagull, with Sarah Faust driving and Jonathan serving as crew. Tom finished in the middle of the fleet -- apparently, sailing with a #2 Genoa in light to moderate air isn't particularly competitive.



Photo Right: 'Esmeralda' Enjoying a beautiful day on Travis.



Photo Left: Sarah Faust at the helm of 'J. Seagull'.

In the second race of the day, **Eagle** again had an early lead, but trying to pinch up at the mark as they were too far below the layline led them straight into and over the pin. That penalty forced them back and **Elliott Bray**, sailing with **Fred Ford** and **Doug Laws**, found himself at the head of the fleet. **Mitch Barnett**, helped by crew work from **Randolph**, managed to catch 810 going downwind. **Sarah Faust** also closed the gap just before the leeward mark, bringing **J. Seagull** in just on the tail of **Spirits** (technically, just ahead of the tail for an overlap, but she let it slide). **Mitch** went left to cover **Sarah** while **Eagle**, now recovered from their earlier mishap was looking pretty strong on the right side. Splitting the difference, **Spirits** broke off and headed back to the right, perhaps a bit too early, as **J. Seagull** hung on a bit further and managed to ride a nice lift back to the finish to claim a victory in the final fleet race of the year, while **Mitch** finished ahead of **Tom Romberg** and **Vic Manning**. **Meredith, Mike** and **Lewis Price** showed

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SC-21 Fleet News By Mark Boelens



Racing News: Congrats to **Walk N On Water** skippered by **Linda McDavitt** and several South Coast trailer sailers including **Bruce McDonald** who won the honors of

the Spinnaker B fleet beating out J22s, J24s, and a Capri 25. As the fall series continued, rain allowed lake levels to rise and the opening of the ramp allowed more trailer sailed boats to compete. Lets continue to hope the rains hold and ramp remains open in 2010.

New To The Fleet: The South Coast 21 Fleet welcomes two new owners. **Cloud 9**, Sail #161 new owner is **Carl Wiseman**. **GI JOE** is in the process of changing hands to **Rob Stivers** who has been racing his Hunter 28.5 with much success. **Rob** was introduced to the South Coast during the Intergalactics when he volunteered for Race Committee and was kind enough to crew for one of our short-handed skippers.

The fleet has been blessed with several new members in 2009, which begs the question

"Top Ten Reasons To Own A South Coast 21":

- 1) Fun, lively boat designed for typical Lake Travis wind conditions
- 2) Designed by one of the all time great architects, Carl Alberg
- 3) Minimal initial investment and low maintenance costs compared to most one-designs
- 4) Largest one-design fleet on Lake Travis
- 5) Competitive but light-hearted group (who else would call their 'nationals' an 'intergalactic event')
- 6) Can solo sail or race with minimal crew
- 7) Annual intergalactic event held on Lake Travis (no need to trailer your boat)
- 8) Easy to trailer and launch
- 9) No marine head for crew to clog and skipper to clean
- 10) Gin and Tonics

"Top Ten South Coast 21 Events of 2009"

- 1) **John Cackle's** Overall Red Eye Regatta Victory Nudging Out All J boats
- 2) **Bartlett's** Awesome Intergalactics Victory on GI JOE
- 3) **McDonald's** Silver Cup Victory at Intergalactics
- 4) **Ray Shull's** Domination of the 2009 Spring Series (winning all but 2 races)
- 5) CoastBuster's, **Andy Hempel** 1st Place in FrostBite Series

- 6) **McDavitt** and Crews Fall Series Win, Beating Out J22s, J24s and Capri 25
- 7) South Coast 21 And Several Members Featured in Small Boat Magazine
- 8) South Coast 21 Not Winning a Blue Duck Award
- 9) Surviving a Hanging Of A South Coast 21
- 10) Great New Active Members of the Fleet

In Closing: A special thanks to everyone in the fleet for all your volunteer efforts this year. Our fleet always responded with plenty of volunteers for race committee duty (even when our fleet was unable to race due to ramp closing), dock moves and social committees to name a few. 2010 is going to be great!

Ensign Fleet... (Continued From Page 6)

that continuing sail together is paying dividends as they put together a nice couple of legs on **Dos Locos** to claim fourth. **Esmeralda** rounded out the fleet to give seven boats. By virtue of their effective performance on the final two races, combined with a solid series all around, **J. Seagull** ended the year on a positive note in winning the Fall Series. In spite of missing two weekends, **The Liens** finished second overall.



Photo Left: Tom Groll flying a spinnaker single-handed



AYC "Come as You Were" Party

(Photos courtesy of Bruce McDonald)



Tuesday Afternoon Sailing Group

By John Grzinich



Photo Left: Doug Laws heads out with the group on an early December afternoon sail on 'Que Pasa'.

Photo Below: Ian, John Howard, Jenny, Doug, and Elliott sail past Starnes Island.

You might be thinking as you gaze at these photos that this is a polar sailing expedition. No, it is just the



"Tuesday

Afternoon Sailing Group" from AYC out for an early December sail on Lake Travis on a day when the temperature was 46 degrees with a 10-15 knot breeze from the north. The "Tuesday Afternoon Sailing Group" is an informal social sailing thing that has been going on for many years, originated by **John Mandell**, it is now facilitated by **Doug Laws**. Participants are mainly AYC sailors who are retired or their work situation allows the flexibility to sneak out for casual sail during the workweek. The way it works is **Doug** checks the weather forecast for Tuesday afternoon on Sunday or Monday and sends out an invitation via email. Folks on distribution respond letting everyone know if they will come out to sail. Also, someone volunteers a boat to sail on. Some days we may even have a large enough group for 2-3 boats. **Doug's** San Juan 7.7 **Que Pasa** seems to be the primary boat as it is very comfortable, even with a crew of 6. **John Howard** launches his trimaran on many days. Everyone brings some liquid refreshment, and some bring tasty snacks. We take turns on the tiller until the person at the helm cannot take any more sailing advice. The afternoon consists not only of sailing, but includes the sharing of sailing and boating stories. Discus



Elliot, Jenny, and Doug pack sails from John Howard's trimaran following a spring afternoon sail.

sion occasionally drifts into politics or sports when we need more wind. Some days we do get serious and do spinnaker sets. If there is some time left after sailing, we finish up with popcorn prepared by **Jenny Meadows** and a critique of the days sailing. Regulars in addition to **Doug** include **John Howard**, **John Grzinich**, **Jenny and Ian Meadows**, **Elliott Bray**, **Frank Woodul**, **Deke Dekeyser**, with occasional visits this year from **Chuck Strehli**, **Gary Payne**, and **Ron Betz**. Friends and guests are brought along on occasion. Even with the lake at its lowest level we managed to just barely squeeze out **Doug's Que Pasa** each Tuesday, although we bumped the big rock near dock one on occasion.

Anyone interested in joining in on this fun casual sailing activity and can break loose on Tuesday afternoons please send an email to **Doug Laws** (TEX-SAIL@aol.com) and ask to be added to "Tuesday Afternoon Sailing Group". Let **Doug** know if you would like to add your boat to the mix. We always welcome new boats to try out. We typically start at 3PM, and shift to 4PM during the summer getting in about 2 hours of sailing time.

Photo Right: John Grzinich rides the foredeck on 'Que Pasa' during a cold December Tuesday sail.



The Centerboard Fleet wishes the Club a
Happy Holiday Season!
We'll see you next year.
-Charlie Arnold

Socially Speaking By Molly Lewis



Congratulations to all of the perpetual award winners this year:

Jimmy B. Card Memorial Trophy:
 Max White Memorial Trophy:
 Jessie McIlroy Smith Bowl:
 Corinthian Woman Sailor Trophy:
 Liz Bauman Memorial Trophy:
 Ron W. Harden Memorial Trophy:
 Old Salt of the Austin Yacht Club:
 Blue Duck Trophy:

Doug Casey
Pat Manning
Claude Welles
Meredith Massey
Lucie Bossart
Reeves Smith
Ray Shull
Bob Gallant



We had a fun time at the Annual Banquet celebrating the end of an eventful year at AYC and recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of so many of our members. Although the banquet was not

without a few hiccups (the original band had to cancel just days before the party, the side vegetables were somehow omitted from the buffet, and the awards ceremony started a bit late), most people seemed to have a really fun time and barely noticed the glitches (the replacement band – **Don Chani** – was incredible, the Austin Club agreed to give us an extra hour of free beer and wine in exchange for no sides, and all the awards managed to be given out). All-in-all, a fun time! Special thanks go to **Susie and Bruce McDonald** who made some really neat posters recognizing the perpet-



ual award winners and put together a great slideshow that highlighted many of the AYC 2009 events.



We don't have any more social events in 2009 to "advertise" this month, but we hope everyone is looking forward to another great year in 2010. Many of this year's social committee members have agreed to come back for one more year, and we're anxious to take all the lessons learned from this year and enjoy an even better year in 2010. And, best of all, we are planning to continue with post-race beer and food!



We're always looking for more help on the social front, so if you are interested in helping in 2010, please talk to **Molly Lewis, Susie McDonald, or Pat Manning**. As many of you

know, I agreed to be the social chair this year under some duress. My arguments included: I do not have time, I don't know many people at the club, I'm not very outgoing, I don't really cook much, I don't want to miss out on the sailing, and the list went on. I'm happy to say that I was proven wrong on almost all fronts. I somehow found the time – which was helped mightily by an incredible social committee and lots of great volunteers for every event. I got to know a lot more people at the club, which has been a lot of fun. I'm still not really outgoing, but it doesn't seem to matter much. I've actually learned a few new recipes. And I've gotten to sail plenty, thanks again to the other members of the social committee and lots of great event volunteers. So, if you are even a little bit tempted to get involved on the social front, get over your excuses and join us. You can help as much or as little as your other commitments and your sailing priorities allow. I think you'll find it very rewarding!

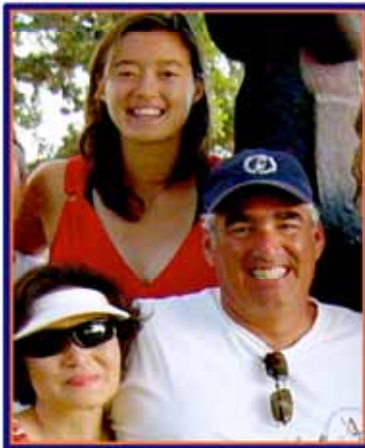
Lastly, I want to send a special thanks to all of the 2009 social committee members. Y'all have been great to work with, and have made this a very fun year for AYC: **Susie McDonald, Pat Manning, Linda Donovan, Stacy Tucker, Muffet Livaudais, Joan Houck, and Margo Bower!**

2009

Austin Yacht Club Perpetual Awards

JIMMY B. CARD MEMORIAL TROPHY

This trophy is to recognize the beginning sailor, who enthusiastically, bravely, and with a real zest and enjoyment for life, becomes a reasonably competitive sailor in their first or second year of sailing.



Doug is a homebuilder based out of Lago Vista, where he and his family have lived for the past 15 years. Doug's company, Casey Homes, builds custom homes and light commercial projects on the North Shore of Lake Travis. Since buying the J-29 Boat II and joining Austin Yacht Club, sailing and racing have become a large part of Doug's life. His enthusiasm for the sport is shared by his wife, Sun Hi and daughter Amanda, who both enjoy racing with Doug and participating in other AYC events.

Doug Casey

CORINTHIAN WOMAN SAILOR

This trophy is to be given annually to a woman, who, as an individual or family member, has exhibited good sportsmanship, enthusiasm, and participation, thereby making an overall contribution to the enhancement of the sport of competitive sailing.

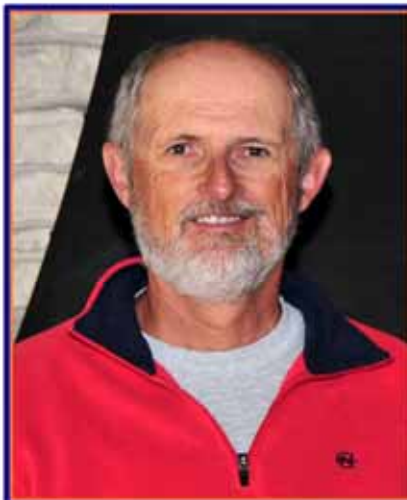


For Meredith, this January's Frost Bite Series marked two years of sailing competitively on Ensign #929, Dos Locos. During the rest of the year, Meredith crewed with her stepdad, Lewis Price, and her boyfriend, Mike Atkins, in almost every series. She experienced the whole spectrum of Lake Travis weather – from 100+ degree summer days when the lake was at its lowest to 25 knot gusts and constant rain. Meredith raced in the 2009 Ensign Regionals and plans to participate again next year. Meredith's primary responsibility on the Ensign has been flying the main sail. Like a true sailor, she has begun to recognize the fine tuning required and predict how to respond to the changing wind. She hopes to begin working with the spinnaker in 2010. Meredith's current project is an investment partnership with Lewis to outfit Dos Locos with some new equipment and a new paint job to recon- ditio her for racing season next spring.

Meredith Massey

JESSIE MCILROY SMITH BOWL

This award recognizes a club member for outstanding service to yachting or racing achievement beyond the club level, or an individual's accomplishments that are not within the normal scheduled activities of the Austin Yacht Club such as significant application of sailing skills in a rescue, ocean crossing, yacht construction, etc.



A long-time member of Austin Yacht Club, and former Commodore (1988), Claude Welles has a long track record as a well-known and well regarded emissary of AYC in racing events throughout the U.S. This year and last, Claude raced with Rick Smith on Rick's Flying Tiger in Pensacola Yacht Club's West Florida Ocean Racing Circuit and their Jubilee Regatta, and in the St. Petersburg NOOD Regatta. Claude also campaigned his J-80, Wild Hare, at the J-80 Nationals in Houston.

Claude Welles

2009

Austin Yacht Club Perpetual Awards

MAX WHITE MEMORIAL TROPHY

This trophy is awarded to the individual who has given freely and unselfishly of their time and/or talents over and above what might otherwise have been necessary or expected of them.

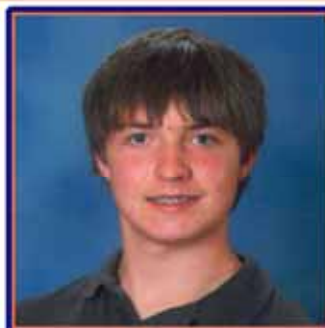


Since joining the club in 1983, Pat has contributed in numerous ways, from becoming a competitive sailor, working in various fleets, to volunteering for many club events and committees. This year was no exception, as we recognize her, for her outstanding contribution to the Club by volunteering to work on the Financial Advisory Committee; stepping up to work as Treasure for four months; giving of her time in the office to support the Staff and Audit Team; then helping on the Social Committee in the kitchen at every social event for the Club this year.

Pat Manning

RON W. HARDEN MEMORIAL TROPHY

This trophy is to be given to a young man who, though not necessarily the most accomplished, demonstrates those traits of cooperation, discipline, willingness to learn, and good sportsmanship that are the goals of the junior sailing program.



Reeves learned to sail in a junior program at the Hayling Island Sailing Club on the south coast of England, while he lived in London for almost 10 years. He attended two one-week sessions at a sailing training center in Minorca, Spain, where he had the privilege of learning from European dinghy champion sailors in a family atmosphere.

Last year, Reeves sailed with his father (and an Italian and English crew) on a 40-footer in the Round the Island Race, which is a 50-mile, daylong race around the Isle of Wight in England. 1700 boats and about 13,000 sailors compete in this event annually. He enjoyed it (while learning how to use colorful Italian sailing language!) and plans to race again this year.

Reeves has really enjoyed sailing with the Juniors at AYC since moving back to the US a couple of years ago. He is a freshman at St Andrew's Episcopal School, is on the Varsity soccer team, sings in the choir and plays the saxophone.

Reeves Smith

Liz Bauman Memorial Trophy

This trophy is to be given to a young woman who, though not necessarily the most accomplished, demonstrates those traits of cooperation, discipline, willingness to learn, and good sportsmanship that are the goals of the junior sailing program.



Lucie moved to Austin with her family from Grenoble, France three years ago. She grew up in the mountains and started skiing when she was two years old. Two years ago she started sailing on Optis during the AYC Sailing camp. Her best memories of the whole two weeks was her experience on a Laser. She's sailed on a regular basis with the Junior team, but was somewhat bored on Optis and FJs. During one Green spirit broke and she ended-up sailing her father's full-rig Laser. She had a blast and decided to sail Lasers only from that moment on. Lucie just turned 13 and she's looking forward to improving her racing skills with Alan, Meredith and others from the Junior team.

Lucy Bossart

OL' SALT OF THE AUSTIN YACHT CLUB

To the club senior sailor who has exhibited enthusiasm, sportsmanship and a competitive zeal over a period of time, and has a quality of life that can be admired by all.

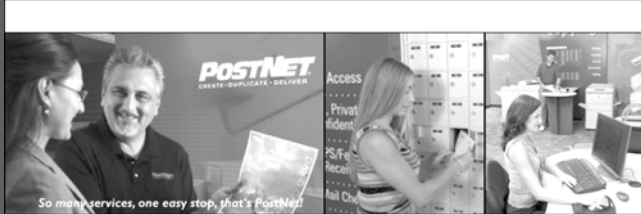


Ray Shull joined AYC in 1979, bringing with him two Lasers. In 1980 he bought a Coronado 15, then bought his South Coast in 1982. With one-design competition a little lean, starting in 1990 he brought one South Coast a year from Shreveport for ten years in a row to expand the one-design fleet. For large boat sailing, he started with a Pearson 26, then a San Juan 7.7 and in 1995 he started racing his beloved J-29. A former AYC Commodore (1996), Ray also served PRC from 1983-1986 and as Race Commander in 1987 and 1990. He has served as the Regatta Chairman for multiple regattas, including this year's Turnback Canyon Regatta, and as PRO for over 30 regattas including the J22, J24, and J80 circuit races. He also has been an instructor in multiple sailing clinics and seminars over the years. This year Ray was instrumental in the Harbor Improvement Committee's efforts to take advantage of the unprecedented low water levels to extend the AYC ramp to new lows.

Ray Shull

Austin Yacht Club

5906 Beacon Road
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The Austin Yacht Club
Wishes You and Your Family

A

Very Happy Holiday Season

and a

Safe

and

Prosperous New Year